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# Common Perspective

Cross-border Academy of Development

**ENI CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
POLAND-BELARUS-UKRAINE 2014-2020**

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Cross-border Academy of Development



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# HOW TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF PROJECT SUMMARIES

Janów Podlaski, 1 December 2016

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# CROSS-BORDER DISCOURSE WITH EXPERTS' PARTICIPATION

Shared EU projects, friendly borders and free movement across them, with the observance of security standards, but also issues of the cultural heritage of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine, and – which is important – notable benefits arising from cross-border cooperation between science and culture of those three countries. The answer to these and other issues was the first Cross-border Academy of Development with the participation of independent experts – scientists, representatives of uniformed services and specialists in obtaining funding from the European Union. The event took place on 1<sup>st</sup> December in the Janów Podlaski castle.

The first Cross-border Academy of Development was attended among other by: Adam Hamryszczak, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Development, Leszek Buller, Director of the European Project Centre, or Oleksandr Hanushchyn, Chairman of the Lviv District Council.

During their presentations they provided valuable guidelines concerning the acquisition of EU funding under the ENI Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020.

## FREE AND SAFE BORDERS

One of the key issues discussed in Janów Podlaski was free, efficient, but also safe movement across borders of the three countries involved in the cross-border cooperation programme. During the first edition of the event, the stormy discussion was not short of many valuable observations concerning this still under-addressed matter in the age of EU cross-border programmes. As Prof. Marek Lisiecki from the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, the organiser and first chief of Border Guards, stated – achieving these divergent goals is possible when the group of interested and neighbouring states has not just stable, comparable level of economic development, but also conducts a uniform visa policy, among other things with regard to the abolishment of visas for Ukraine citizens by the European Union, and while waiting for the Belarusian side to ratify the agreement on local border traffic towards Grodno via Kuźnica, Białowieża to Białowieża Forest and Rudawka when crossing river border crossings.

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*- The developing cross-border cooperation between Poland, Belarus and Ukraine requires cooperation with regard to improvement of the border protection organisation and border traffic control. Border plenipotentiaries, heads of border and customs units, border crossing administrators should play a significant role in this respect. However, the extent of possible changes on borders, at border crossings, is restricted by the EU requirements, requirements of the Schengen Group states. Farther reaching changes require the consent of other EU states, the Schengen Group states, Prof. Marek Lisiecki summed up his speech.*

## BORDERS AND PROJECTS...

The implementation of the ENI Cross-Border Cooperation Initiative Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020, as Chief Superintendent Miroslaw Sienkiewicz from the Customs Chamber Department for Crime Fighting noted, is facilitated by the increased throughput on border crossings, but also improved security. In order to increase the throughput on borders it is necessary to improve infrastructure and border procedures, with the observance of security standards.

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*- Borders cannot divide, but at the same time they must be safe. Friendly borders allow the building of good relationships with our neighbours. However, we must remember that it is conducted under safe conditions, remarked Chief Superintendent Sienkiewicz.*

As regards the preparation of cross-border projects, as the expert from the Customs Chamber in Białystok noted, both the role of the voivode as a government representative within the area, who manages road and railway border crossings and cooperates with the combined and non-combined administration, and the role of Intergovernmental Commissions and Sub-commissions for cross-border cooperation should be taken into account. According to the expert, active cooperation of partners on both sides of the border, and use of previous experiences of beneficiaries and partners from the previously implemented projects are also important.



## NOTABLE BENEFITS FOR BORDERLAND RESIDENTS

An important issue which the experts focused on was providing an answer among other things to the question whether the current form of development of the borderland area was actually working and bringing notable benefits to local communities. As Dr Piotr Zasada, Vice-President of the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency, noted during the first Cross-border Academy of Development, representatives of one organisation from Belarus turned their attention particularly to this type of activities, suggesting measures based on locally produced food, with particular focus on the specific character of regional recipes, method of preparation, storing, as well as promoting its unique nature in the community.

Moreover, an expert from the Ukrainian side suggested that an “information fiche” should be prepared to promote the remaining elements of the Przemyśl Fortress on the Polish side and to include them into more extensive activities, involving associations and foundations operating on the other side of the

border, where the condition of military installations is much better than those within the administrative boundaries of Przemyśl. The involvement of a partner on the Ukrainian side has also been pointed out, so that the necessary requirements of participation in this project are met.

In turn, in the thematic panel entitled “Joint challenges in the security and protection area” six experts took part:

Dr Leszek J. Buller, Dr Marcin Zarzecki and Dr Rafał Wiśniewski – all representing the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, as well as Prof. Yuri Pachkovsky and Prof. Volodimir Shvets from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, and Dr Piotr T. Nowakowski, professor from the Lublin Catholic University, Faculty of Law and Social Sciences in Stalowa Wola. The last one of the panellists listed, complementing his predecessors’ speeches, stated that security was a multifaceted and dynamic problem. Which is more Prof. Piotr T. Nowakowski pointed out that it was these two aspects, i.e. multifaceted and dynamic nature, that should be particularly taken into account in order to effectively prepare projects and increase their chance for a positive assessment by reviewers.

## NOT ONLY SAFETY ON BORDERS...

Besides many opinions of panellists from the first Cross-border Academy of Development about safety of the cross-border traffic safety, Prof. Włodzimierz Szvec from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv mentioned the issue of safety of hotel services.

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*- Analysing the possible directions of cross-border cooperation under the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Programme, I believe it is necessary to pay particular attention to safety in hotel services. This type of safety is important for people who conduct commercial or industrial activity and who travel on business, but also tourists within the territory of the neighbouring country. The improper performance of duties by the hotel personnel and the failure to observe the service quality standards in hotels has a significant impact on the safety of such persons. Unlike large hotels in cities which have security guards, CCTV and are always full of people, small hotels in the borderland area cannot boast such parameters, stated Prof. Włodzimierz Szvec. In consequence, according to the expert from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, cross-border cooperation on the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine line will be more effective thanks to the improved safety in hotel services for foreign guests through the introduction of monitoring and appropriate training of personnel.*



## MANY CULTURES IN ONE PLACE

The subject of culture in the borderland region was raised by Prof. Ihor Hrabynskyy from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv in his presentation. During his speech, the expert first presented an outline of the history of the cross-border areas in terms of nations residing there. He indicated that these were lands with mixed communities, multilingual and multicultural, and which is important not only with Polish and Ukrainian roots.

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*- Today we are witnessing a paradoxical situation (for a modern, integrated Europe). Tourists coming from Lviv to Poland walk around the Marketplace, they climb the High Castle, they visit the Cathedral, the Lychakiv Cemetery, in the evening – the Opera, and they go home. Tourists from Austria are interested in the building of the Galician Parliament, Lviv Polytechnic, Opera, they visit locations connected with the names of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch or Ludwig von Mises... Tourists from Israel visiting Majdanek come to Lviv for a walk around the Jewish quarter, they visit the synagogue ruins, the memorial within the Lviv ghetto, they walk near the house in which Sholem Aleichem used to live... Tourists from Armenia, Germany and Hungary do the same, explained Prof. Hrabynskyy.*

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*- In turn, the Ukrainians who travel to Przemyśl visit the Marketplace, the castle, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic cathedrals, Ukrainian military cemetery in Pikulice, and the grave of Michał Werbicki in Młyny, added the expert from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. In consequence, these multicultural influences which for years have been interpenetrating in the borderland areas, made the Ukrainian-Polish heritage culturally and historically unique. This means that the values of the Polish-Ukrainian borderlands constitute an exceptionally attractive tourist offer not just for Ukrainians and Poles themselves. Which is important, according to Prof. Hrabynskyy, this is still an undiscovered direction, very interesting from the cultural and historical point of view.*

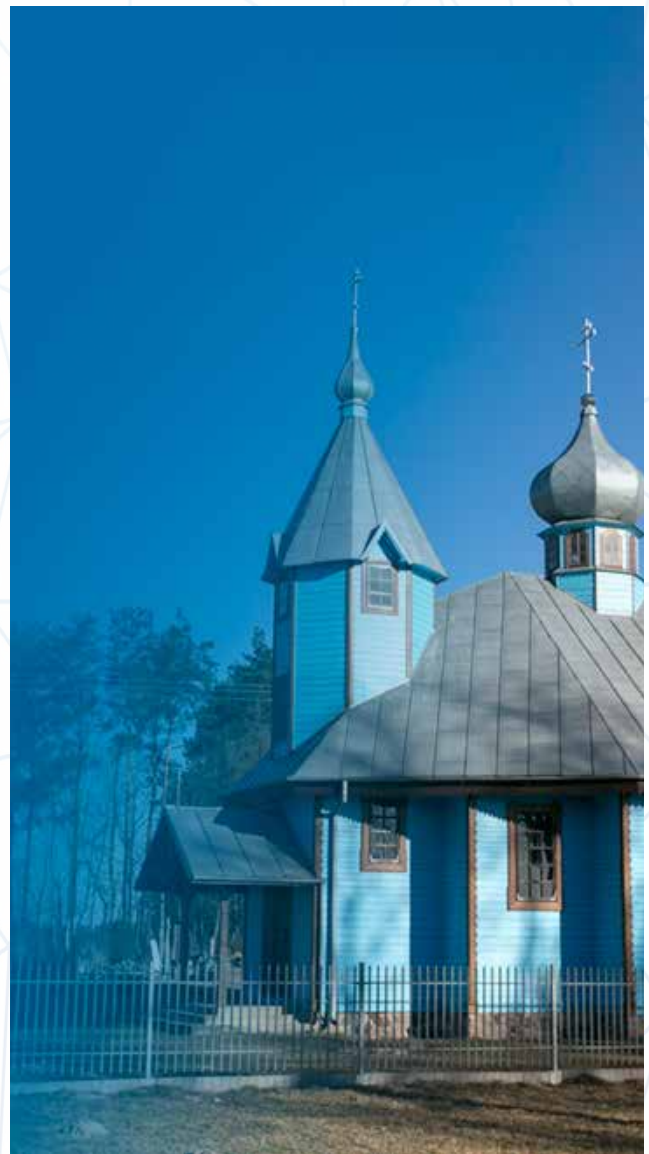




## PROJECTS AND JOINT AGREEMENT

To sum up, in the first Cross-border Academy of Development in Janów Podlaski, over 300 persons took part – these were potential beneficiaries of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2014-2020, who for another month, i.e. until the end of December 2016, can still submit applications for project concepts in the first call for proposals. The maximum subsidy for a project is EUR 2.5 million. The applications may be submitted by government institutions, local governments, universities, non-governmental organisations, or foundations. In this year's first call for proposals (continuing from 11 October to 31 December), over EUR 80 million were planned for distribution among the winning projects. The effects of the seminar could be noticed already during the Cross-border Academy of Development in Janów Podlaski. Under the "border" panel, the discussion led to the initiation of a preliminary partnership between officers of the Border Guards from the Headquarters and representatives of the chief of the Belarus border guards from Minsk. A decision was made to commence preparation of a joint project concerning the future selection clearance on Polish-Belarus border crossings.

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