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Bulletin of Euroregion Silesia

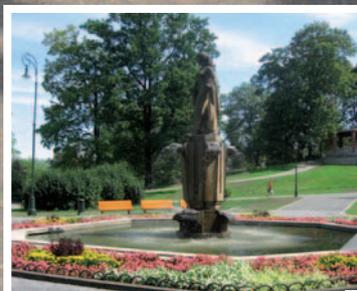
September 2013 • No. 7



**We are looking back at 15 years
of cross-border cooperation...**



**THE BEST of
Euroregion Silesia**



**Opava and Racibórz
the capitals of Euroregion**



Foreword by Presidents of Euroregion Silesia

Dear readers,

after a year's silence you are holding another issue of our bulletin and what is more, it is a special issue. On 20 September 2013 it will have been 15 years since the agreement on the cooperation between Polish Metropolitan Association of the Upper Odra River Basin District and the association of Euroregion Silesia – CZ, which jointly form Euroregion Silesia.

After both the countries entered the European Union and Schengen Area, euroregion, originally founded to support and realize Czech and Polish cooperation in the cross-border areas of Polish Silesia and Czech Silesia and Moravia, focused on developing partnership by means of providing support to other entities with acquiring money from European sources. Thanks to the involvement of both capital cities of the euroregion – Opava and Racibórz – and significant support from all the other member municipalities, strong personal and technical background in the form of secretariats, which were able to take over the role of European sources distributors while cooperating and being supervised by regional and governmental institutions. Since 1999 Euroregion has provided receivers with over EUR 7.7 million to realize nearly 700 projects on cross-border cooperation between municipalities, schools of all levels, rescue services, libraries, museums, sport clubs, associations and many others. Since the very first years of its existence Euroregion Silesia has actively taken part in the activities of Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-border Cooperation, whose role is to remove business, social and cultural barriers not only in cross-border areas. Currently, on behalf of all the Czech-Polish euroregions Euroregion Silesia is actively participating on the preparation of the new programme period of cooperation for 2014 - 2020.

We absolutely do not hesitate to say that Euroregion Silesia is now after 15 years of its existence a stable and experienced partner for many Czech, Polish and European institutions which are engaged in the development of cooperation in cross-border areas. On the occasion of looking back upon our activities, we have prepared a bulletin, which reminds us what has been the most interesting and significant for our euroregion. Enjoy your reading.

Prof. PhDr. Zdeněk Jirásek, CSc.

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President of the Council of
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Bulletin of Euroregion Silesia

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News from Euroregion Silesia

Premiere of the film about Euroregion Silesia

On 18 September 2013 a new film about Euroregion Silesia will be premiered on the occasion of Czech-Polish meeting in Szymocice (Poland) to celebrate the 15th anniversary of Euroregion Silesia foundation. After the premiere the film will be available on www.euroregion-silesia.pl and www.euroregion-silesia.cz.

Meeting of Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-border Cooperation

On 22 and 23 October 2013 there will be the 19th meeting of Czech-Polish Intergovernmental Commission for Cross-border Cooperation. This year's meeting will take place in the capital city of the Polish part of Euroregion Silesia – Racibórz. More detailed information about the intergovernmental commission including the reports on previous meetings is available on www.euroregion-silesia.cz.



Realization of EUREGIO PL-CZ project carries on

The common three-year long project made by all the six Czech-Polish euroregions called 'EUREGIO PL-CZ' is carrying on its realization. Apart from study stays in two of these euroregions, some other events for 2013 have been planned, i.e. participation and presentation at an annual conference of Association of European Border Regions in Liège (Belgium), a study visit to French-Belgian euroregion of West-Vlaanderen / Flandre – Dunkerque – Côte d'Opale, and especially intensive work on the analysis of the problems arising from Czech-Polish cross-border cooperation, which should be one of the results of this project. Further information on the project and Czech-Polish cross-border euroregions could be found on the common website made for the project www.euroregions.org.

Common map of Czech-Polish euroregions

As a part of 'EUREGIO PL-CZ' project the first common map of Czech-Polish euroregions has been issued. This map in Czech, Polish and English versions called '6+1 day in Czech-Polish euroregions' should raise awareness about the euroregions as well as introduce Czech-Polish cross-border district as an interesting destination for tourists. If you are interested, you can get the map free at the secretariats of the individual euroregions.

Development strategy of Euroregion Silesia for 2014 - 2020

The project called 'Development Strategy of Euroregion Silesia for 2014 - 2020' started to be realized at the beginning of this year. The aim of the project is to make conditions for systematic development of cross-border cooperation and support for the entities which will realize cross-border cooperation in the district of Euroregion Silesia from 2014. The realization will be made through the first common strategic document of the euroregion.

From Phare CBC to Objective 2

Czech Polish meeting called 'From Phare CBC to Objective 2' took place in Opava (Czech Republic) on 13 June 2013. The aim of this meeting was to use the 15th anniversary of Euroregion Silesia and evaluate the previous Czech-Polish cooperation in this euroregion and the use of 'small project fund' for the realization of cross-border projects, including the evaluation of the most successful projects and their implementers from the district of Euroregion Silesia from Phare CBC programme up to the current programme. One part of the meeting was also promotion of the new programme of Czech-Polish cross-border cooperation, which will be a part of Objective 2 of Cohesion Policy of the European Union in the new period 2014 - 2020.



Euroregion Silesia 1998 - 2013 - 2028

or Ab origine...

Feuilleton is a specific journalistic style, which funnily deals with a seemingly unimportant though interesting topic, and it shows everyday issues in a new light while authors are very subjective and use their own experiences.

September 1998

So I have done it after all! I've got a new job – since today I've been the Chief Secretary of the Czech part of EUROREGION SILESIA! I don't exactly know what 'euroregion' is but it sounds lovely, doesn't it?! I'm a bit worried I'm going to be the only staff member and I don't know exactly what I'm expected to do. Hopefully, though, somebody will let me know. And I was said there is a Polish part at the other side of the border and this part belongs to our office as well. I have to admit I've never been there, even though I've been living near the border all my life. Actually, how can I get there? I've got a passport but I don't know if there's a border crossing nearby. I was told a lovely woman called Urszula is working at the Polish secretariat. Are we going to be able to communicate considering the fact I can't speak any Polish? (The interviewers didn't ask me about that when I was applying for the job. I can speak only English and Russian, but I understand only a little bit of Polish and guess what - I can't speak a bit of it!) I have to do something with the office as well. It's so empty and shabby here – one old creaky desk, uncomfortable chair, old computer... Oh my God, where's a phone? There is NO phone here! And neither is an Internet connection here! Never mind – I'll be brave and will survive somehow. I'm not going to run away the very first day only because I don't know what 'euroregion' is, what I should do, how to get to the other side of the border, I can't speak Polish, the office reminds me of a warehouse of old junk and there is no connection with the world outside! Tomorrow it might be better...

September 2013

I'm sitting in my own air-conditioned office, next door my colleagues are working hard, phone ringing seems to be far away and while drinking my afternoon coffee I'm looking back and trying to remember how it all started. I'm thinking of Urszula and our first encounter fifteen years ago. What might she be doing now? Actually, I don't know why she decided to quit the job at the euroregion. I think we got on very well, even though my Polish was quite rusty and she couldn't speak any Czech at all. We experienced and managed to do so many things together. It's been many years since I last saw her, and only a huge glass vase in my flat reminds me of her. I can still see her at the meeting of euroregional committee, which we attended a few days after my wedding, drawing an enormous box and then she took the huge vase as a wedding present for me out of it. I was so moved! It was this moment I think I realized cross-border cooperation isn't only tackling problems together, projects or a lot of meetings, but mainly relationships and friendship between people on different sides of the border. The

life went on and nowadays I've got a new colleague and friend – Daria. We get on really well. My Polish is quite good now and Daria is learning to speak Czech. We get on even though Daria is much younger. We're like sisters – sometimes we have an argument, one wants to gain the upper hand on the other, but then we realize we can't be (and work) without each other and we make up. And all the other colleagues working at the Polish secretariat are actually likeable. There are a lot of them there, so I sometimes get their names wrong. I do believe, though, they aren't angry with me about that. They know I'm really busy. And so, back to work! Otherwise, I'm not going to make it all today! I have to check the report from last meeting of the euroregional committee, deal with the supply of new computers for our office (shall I buy another laptop?) and sort out some appointments and then I have to drop by at Daria's in Poland to discuss agenda for next month. Skype isn't the right thing for that – I'd rather discuss it in person and we both can have a cup of good coffee. I guess I'm going to get home in the evening today. Tomorrow it might be better...

September 2028

This morning it was really hard to get out of bed as we had worked late with the colleagues from the other Czech-Polish euroregions yesterday. 'You aren't that young any more,' I tell myself looking at the mirror. Then I remember Vaclav, who worked for the neighbouring euroregion until he was 80, and tell myself off: 'You aren't that old, even though you can be retired by now. So get a grip and off to work!' I must admit, though, that at my age and after 30 years doing the same job I don't hurry there with the same enthusiasm as I used to. Have I made a mistake I haven't made up my mind to change the job? Has all my effort had some sense? Yes, I can tell myself I was there when we started with the first European cross-border programmes, when our countries became the members of the European Union, when – literally hand in hand with Daria and Vaclav – we symbolically entered Schengen at that freezing December midnight, when we changed our euroregion into a European grouping of territorial cooperation (what disputes we had then about which country it should be based in...I'd rather forget about it!), when the crisis of the euro area had finally finished and both our countries became its members...yes, I was part of all this. Have I had, though, any personal hand in the fact that it is going so well between the Czechs and Poles? The medal I was given at the Ministry twenty years ago for my personal contribution to the development of Czech-Polish cross-border cooperation is quite faded now and unfortunately, I have never got another one. Actually, I have! Daria made a beautiful medal on her own for my sixtieth birthday. All those memories are so gorgeous but I do feel tired. And tomorrow it won't be better...

With a friend at your side no road seems too long.

Japanese proverb



Opava and Racibórz



the capital cities of Euroregion Silesia



Silesian Museum was founded in Opava in May 1814 and it is the oldest museum in the Czech Republic. It was founded even earlier than National Museum in Prague.

Euroregion SILESIA was founded in 1998 as a coalition of administrative units in the nearest surroundings of the two most important cities in Czech-Polish border areas – Opava and Racibórz. It was very natural as both the cities have been the main business, political and cultural centres of this part of Silesia for centuries.

The city of Opava lies near the confluence of the Opava and Moravice Rivers. Opava was first mentioned as a hamlet situated on the intersection of trade routes dates as early as in 1195. Racibórz is about 35 km northeastwards Opava. The earliest documented note about Racibórz upon the Odra River dates back to 1108. Both hamlets had probably existed even earlier.

Opava received city rights in 1224 while Racibórz received them in 1217. It was as early as then that both cities lying on the southern parts of Silesia were very important. Despite similar historical experience – Mongol invasion in the 13th century followed by colonization from the west –, each city has different political development. In the 13th century both principalities had already been divided – the Principality of Opava and the Principality of Racibórz. The Principality of Opava was a fief of the Bohemian Crown, while the Principality of Racibórz was

a part of Polish Kingdom divided into domains. There are still historic buildings dating back to this period. In Racibórz we can admire among others the Chapel of St. Thomas Becket (of Canterbury) built at the end of the 13th century as a votum to end the conflict between Bishop Thomas of Wroclaw and Duke Henryk Probus. This chapel, which is quite understandably called a jewel of Upper Silesian Gothic architecture, is currently under restoration and together with an already restored Piast Castle it belongs to the most significant historical sights in Racibórz. Concathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Opava belongs to the sights built in the same period. The cathedral built by the Order of Brothers of the German House of Saint Mary in Jerusalem is a jewel of gothic architecture. The Teutonic Order is still active, which is the fact that many do not know, and Opava, which – as well as Prague – became the seat of their first commandries in 1204, is currently the seat of the Order's Provincial Superior for Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

From 1327 when Duke Leszek of Racibórz pledged homage to King John of Bohemia Racibórz and the whole principality belonged to the Bohemian Crown. And this is how both Opava and Racibórz belonged to one country –



the Bohemian Kingdom – for the following 415 years until 1742. The Bohemian Kingdom was a part of Holy Roman Empire controlled by Habsburg Dynasty. In 1742 after Austria was defeated by Prussia, Opava became the capital city of so-called Austrian Silesia and at the same time the seat of administration and Royal authorities, while Racibórz became a part of Prussia. Since then both the cities have developed as parts of different countries.

The 19th century meant a period of dynamic development in both cities. The number of inhabitants was rising and the industry developed significantly. By the end of the century there had been a good transport connection between Opava and Racibórz – a new road was built and from 1895 there was a railway, which does not exist now. The 20th century was full of wars tragic in their consequences and mainly in this region where the border changed several times. At the end of World War II material loss was enormous and the number of inhabitants decreased substantially in both cities.

Nowadays both Opava and Racibórz are attractive cities not only for their inhabitants but also for visitors. Current Opava is an important culture centre of the region. There has been Silesian theatre since 1805, which offers a wide repertoire of excellent dramas, operas, operettas and musicals. Opava is the seat of Silesian Museum, which was founded in 1814, and is the oldest museum in the Czech Republic. It belongs to well known institutions in the Czech Republic (offering scientific and historical expositions dedicated to Silesia, development of the lifestyle, and art from Gothic up to now).

The education is on high level in Opava, too. In September 1991 Silesian University was founded. The university might be considered a successor of the Jesuit school which operated here in the 1670s. Opava offers a lot of sights – churches, monasteries and numerous palaces. The above mentioned Concathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Franciscan church and monastery, and Church of the Holy Spirit built before 1269 and rebuilt in Baroque style in the 18th century belong to the oldest preserved sights here. In the crypt of Church of the Holy Spirit there are the corpses of Opavian dukes of the Premyslid dynasty. The famous Polish alchemist Michal Sędziwój is said to have been buried here in 1636. Another interesting sight is Church of St. Adalbert built in 1676-1681, which was originally Jesuit and later baroque. The church is adjoined by former Jesuit college, which is currently the seat of Provincial Archives, as well as baroque palaces called Sobek's and Blücher's built in the 18th century. Opava is also interesting for its green spaces and well known for the fact how its citizens take care of the city. The interesting historical centre with the pedestrian zones decorated with palm trees reminds us of the atmosphere of Prague and at the same time the atmosphere of peace and contemplation. Another interesting thing for visitors could be trolleybuses, which serve here as public transport.

Racibórz is considered to be a strong economic and business centre with a long-lasting tradition of machinery engineering, chemical, furniture as well as food processing industries. The city is currently trying to maintain a good level of education and culture. Thanks

to numerous and various cultural events organized in the city and its surrounding municipalities the offer of leisure activities is very multifarious. A significant sight is the museum where you can see – among others – a 2800-year-old mummy of an Egyptian woman, feel the atmosphere of an old dentist surgery, and learn about the history of the city and the region. There are numerous architectural sights here as well.

Racibórz is a green city convenient enough for the development of recreational tourism. The network of cycling routes, The Moravian Gate Arboretum, Łęczok natural preserve near Racibórz and border meanders of the Odra River offer many opportunities for leisure activities in the countryside.

The city authorities also support the development of sports – for many years the clubs of Racibórz have been successful in wrestling, swimming and lately women soccer, too. A powerful feature of Racibórz is the tradition of education on university level. Since 2002 there has been State Higher Vocational School, which develops these traditions very well. It is this school that signed an official cooperation contract with Silesian University in Opava in 2012. This contract is one of many examples of the cooperation between Opava and Racibórz – the cooperation, which develops and strengthens not only on the level of the cities themselves, but mainly on the level of particular institutions and the citizens. Cooperating schools, sport clubs, cultural associations and many other institutions help to show the fact that both cities – albeit separated with a border – get 'closer and closer'. The location of Opava and Racibórz – the main centers of Euroregion Silesia – near the border predetermines both of them for cooperation. It is important to bear in mind that the level and quality of this cooperation might influence the development of all Euroregion Silesia in the future.



The building of the historical town hall, which is a significant feature of Opava, is the seat of the municipal authority as well as the Czech part of Euroregion Silesia.

15 years of Euroregion

Euroregion Silesia as the name tells us follows the common history of Czech and Polish Silesia, which was unseparated region of Austro-Hungarian Empire until 1742. After Austria had been defeated by Prussian King Frederick II the Great, a bigger part of Silesia fell upon Prussia and the newly established border slowed down and later put the development of mutual contacts to a complete end. Even after World War II the two separated regions were not connected – Upper Silesia became part of Poland while Czech Silesia became part of Czechoslovakia. Even though the two countries were divided only by 'a green border', the cross-border areas were closely controlled and it was only possible to cross the border in the places of official border crossings and there were not many of them. It might be surprising that there was not a single one on the area of the current Euroregion Silesia. It was as late as after the democratic changes in both countries in 1989 when contacts between people on both sides of the border started to be renewed and cross-border cooperation started to develop.

The climax of the cross-border cooperation in Czech-Polish cross-border areas is represented by gradual establishment

of euroregions over the 1990s. Euroregion Silesia, which was founded in September 1998, is one of the latest. While at the beginning of Euroregion Silesia there were only a few municipalities on both Czech and Polish side, and personnel and technical background of the euroregion was minimal, Euroregion Silesia is currently formed by nearly 80 members and its background is represented by two strong secretariats – Czech in Opava and Polish in Racibórz. Currently, the Euroregion Silesia authorities are dealing with possible connection of the national associations forming Euroregion Silesia into one legal entity – a European grouping of territorial cooperation following the corresponding regulation of the European Parliament and Council.

Statistic data on Euroregion Silesia dated to 1 January 2013

EUROREGION SILESIA	Czech part	Polish part	total
area in km ²	1,240	1,500	2,740
number of inhabitants in thousands	496	282	778
number of member municipalities	57	19	76
involved regions/voivodeships	Moravian-Silesian Region	Silesian Voivodeship Opole Voivodeship	3
administration seat	Opava	Racibórz	2

THE BEST of Euroregion Silesia

The largest city

The largest city in Euroregion Silesia is Ostrava, which is with its 300 thousand inhabitants the third largest city in the Czech Republic. Ostrava is the city which has successfully been changing its industrial character into a modern and lively metropolis. <http://www.ostrava.cz>

The oldest museum

The oldest museum in the Czech Republic is the Silesian Museum in Opava, which was founded in 1814. It offers visitors six exposition buildings and areas. In the main building there is a permanent historical and scientific exposition which introduces the history of Silesia. <http://www.szm.cz>

The most beautiful castle



Hradec nad Moravicí, whose history has been very long, belongs to the most beautiful castles of Euroregion Silesia. Hradec used to be a border fortress and according to legends, the wedding procession of Doubravka, the daughter of Bohemian Duke Boleslaus I, met here with the procession of her future husband – Polish Duke Mieszko I in 965. The castle complex is formed by the White Castle with rich historical interiors, the Red Castle with a hotel, restaurant and mainly a large concert hall. The whole complex is surrounded by the castle park, which belongs to green jewels of the area. <http://www.zamek-hradec.cz>

The biggest underground gallery

The biggest underground gallery on the Polish side of Euroregion Silesia is in Wodzisław Śląski. It is a set of training mines, which are a few metres under the ground. It imitates the underground of a mine in its structure. <http://sztolnia.wodz.pl>

The scariest museum

Horror Museum in the castle in Wojnowice is the place which offers unforgettable experiences. The atmosphere of the old castle as well as scary museum exposition provides everybody with a substantial dose of adrenalin. <http://www.muzeumhorroru.pl>



The best preserved historical towncentre

Nowy Jicin has the best preserved towncentre in Euroregion Silesia. Its heart is a unique square in the shape of a square with many historical houses and arcades on all the four sides of the square. Zierotin Castle, which is the seat of the Museum of Nowy Jicin Region, is a part of historical centre. <http://www.novy-jicin.cz>

The hottest island of attractions

The Tropical Island in Marklowice is a great place to have a rest, and for children it is the place where they can have their fling. In the area of the Tropical Island there is a skatepark, fitness centre, fountains, playgrounds and many other attractions. <http://gmina.marklowice.pl/start.html>

The vastest university campus

The vastest university campus in the Czech Republic (and one of the vastest in Central Europe) is the one of VSB-Technical University in Ostrava. More than 23 thousand students study at seven faculties of this university. It is the only university in the Czech Republic that has its own astronomical observatory and planetarium. <http://www.vsb.cz>

The most beautiful town hall

The town hall in Głubczyce is the most beautiful town hall in the Polish part of Euroregion Silesia. It was first mentioned in 1383. Now you can go up the town hall tower and admire picturesque countryside of Opole region. <http://www.glubczyce.pl>

The most interesting garden

Moravian Gate Arboretum shows a number of plant, fungi and animal species. It is situated on the eastern edge of Racibórz and lies on the area of 162 ha in the Obora forest. Besides beautiful forest countryside in the area of arboretum there are also other attractions – an enchanted garden, the path of health, educational paths, playgrounds, places for rest and a mini zoo. <http://www.arboretum-raciborz.pl>



Small project funds in Euroregion Silesia

An integral part of the EU programmes supporting the cross-border cooperation is represented by a „small project fund“ used to finance the smallest projects, especially the non-investment ones.

Since the first programme of Phare CBC Czech Republic – Poland 1999 a part of financial sources has been used for so-called *Joint Small Project Fund*. These sources were meant to finance non-investment people-to-people projects and euroregions were assigned to select them. Even though Euroregion Silesia belonged to the latest established euroregions in Czech-Polish cross-border areas and did not have much experience with the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programmes, its secretariats gained trust of the responsible ministries and were entrusted tasks within this Fund. The projects within *Joint Small Project Fund* of the Phare CBC 1999-2003 programmes for both sides of Euroregion Silesia obtained EUR 900,000, which were divided among 135 small projects by euroregion. Over the realization of these one-year-long Phare CBC programmes Euroregion Silesia gained much experience and built itself a reputation of a hardworking and reliable partner.

After Czech Republic and Poland joined the European Union in May 2004, both countries could join the Initiative INTERREG IIIA meant for member countries, and thanks to the success of *Joint Small Project Fund* of previous preentering programmes, another ‘small project fund’ became an integral part of Czech-Polish programme – now called a *Micro-project Fund*. Thanks to the obtained experience from previous years, euroregions were assigned to manage the *Micro-project Fund* with the allocation of EUR 5.1 million (15% of total financial sources of the INTERREG

IIIA Czech Republic – Poland programme). This amount was divided on the basis of the size of each area managed by each individual euroregion and each euroregion was responsible for the correct use of these sources on the area. The total amount of the sources for Euroregion Silesia was similar to Phare CBC – EUR 897,000 – and these sources managed to have been used on both sides of the euroregion almost by 100 per cent.

In April 2008 Euroregion Silesian started to realize the current *Micro-project Fund*, which is a part of Operational Programme of Cross-border Cooperation the Czech Republic - the Republic of Poland 2007-2013 (OP CBC CZ-PL). In this programme, which belongs to the biggest programmes of cross-border cooperation in Europe, the Fund represents 20% of the whole programme allocation, which represents the EU financial sources of nearly EUR 43.9 million. Euroregion Silesia obtained EUR 6.9 million out of these sources, EUR 5.9 million of them for the ‘microprojects’, which represent projects with the maximum subsidy of EUR 30,000 in this programme.

Overview of ‘small project fund’ in Euroregion Silesia in 1999 - 2013

Programme	Allocation for projects	Number of approved projects
Phare CBC CZ-PL 1999-2003	901 800 EUR	135
INTERREG IIIA Czech Republic – Poland 2004-2006	897 551 EUR	147
Operational Programme of Cross-border Cooperation the Czech Republic – the Republic of Poland 2007-2013	5 918 550 EUR	413*
Total	7 717 901 EUR	695

* up to 31 August 2013



The projects to be financed from the Micro-project Fund are approved by so-called Euroregional Steering Committee of Euroregion Silesia, comprising of 11 Czech and 11 Polish representatives of various institutions on the euroregion area. Although the materials for the meetings of this Czech-Polish committee are prepared in both languages, the meetings themselves are without interpreters. Thanks to the long-term activities of the committee, the language barriers are minimal. The all day long meeting is still demanding, though. The meeting of the committee, which took place on the Polish side of the euroregion in Racibórz in June 2013, was the last one so far.

Until August 2013 more than 400 projects were approved to obtain financial sources from the current *Micro-project Fund* in Euroregion Silesia. In contrast with the previous programmes of Phare CBC and INTERREG IIIA, this programme does not cover only non-investment projects, but also small investment projects focused on minor touristic infrastructure, restoration of historical heritage or protection and safety of the inhabitants on the euroregion area.

Even though the end of 2013 is approaching, *Micro-project Fund* does not cease in Euroregion Silesia. More projects could be handed in at both secretariats until 16 September 2013 and if there are some more savings from the incomplete projects towards the end of the year, there might be another round where new applications for subsidies will be accepted. The Fund will be closed in 30 June 2015 when euroregions will provide Czech and Polish ministry with the final report on the Fund realization.

Currently, a new Czech-Polish cross-border cooperation programme for 2014-2020 is being prepared intensely. The programme will be a part of the Objective 2 of the EU regional policy called ‘European Territorial Cooperation’. Euroregion Silesia has its representatives in the work group, which is preparing the new programme. Although the preparation of the programme has not been finished yet, we already know about some changes, which will have to be taken in account in the new period. Among the main ones there will be thematic narrowing of all the programmes, which will have to focus on smaller number of thematic priority areas than it used to so that the programmes in the individual member countries could contribute to fulfilling of the economic strategy called ‘Europe 2020’. It has not been clear so far how these changes will affect ‘small project fund’, which should still be a part of Czech-Polish programme. Hopefully, the interest in this financial measurement for small cross-border projects, which is traditional in Czech-Polish programmes, will not decrease and it will be possible to realize many lovely projects within the Fund in the new period.

All information about ‘small project funds’ in Euroregion Silesia are available on www.euroregion-silesia.cz, www.euroregion-silesia.pl and www.euroregion-silesia.eu