



EGTC
TRITIA

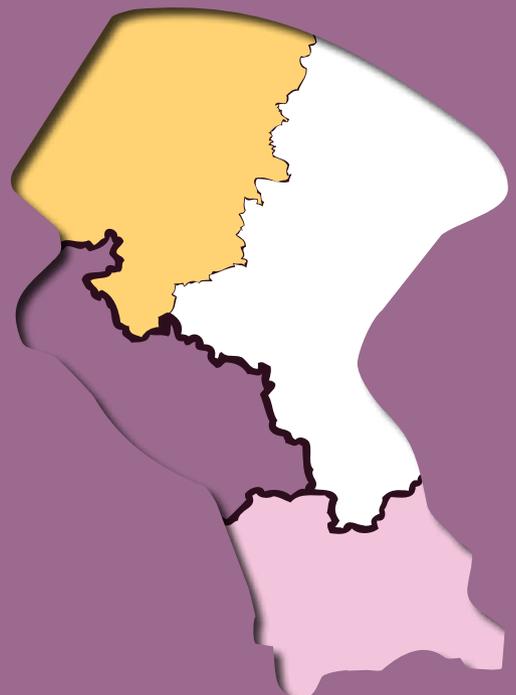


Moravian-Silesian Region

Silesian Voivodeship

Opole Voivodeship

Žilina Self-Governing Region



EGTC TRITIA

In 2009, leaders of partner regions, with not very diverse structure of public administration throughout Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, decided to continue their previous bilateral cross-border co-operation and create a space for its further intensification and expansion into multilateral co-operation among four regions from three countries through newly created EGTC. All these regions are quite far from their national capitals and have historical relations with their neighbours. All regions have experienced economic transformation, brain-drain and development of new industrial branches, especially IT and automotive industry.

With its area of 34,069 km² and 7,855,000 inhabitants, which includes Katowice and Ostrava, the largest cities (both over 300,000 inhabitants), the region of future EGTC TRITIA has an enormous potential to build their extensive multilateral cross-border co-operation on the basis of complementarities of all partner regions and is able to contribute to higher attractiveness of all TRITIA founding regions, which shall lead to a functional polycentric metropolitan region. With its strong business background, seven public universities and a high amount of tertiary education providers, TRITIA region also offers a space with considerable R&D and innovation potential. All four founding members also provide large opportunities for tourism, mostly in their local mountains.

The EGTC seat, registered according to the Polish law, shall be in Cieszyn (Poland, Silesian Voivodeship) and its secretary office in Český Těšín (the Czech Republic, Moravian-Silesian Region). Twin-cities of Cieszyn and Český Těšín, situated on the two banks of the Olza River, are easily accessible from all parts of EGTC. The EGTC director will be appointed by Žilina Self-Governing Region (Slovakia). Secretary Office is expected to launch its operation with three full-time employees plus supported clerks qualified from all regions.





MORAVIAN-SILESIA
REGION

Area: 5,427 km²
Population: 1,243,220
Capital: Ostrava



ŽILINA SELF-GOVERNING
REGION

Area: 6,788 km²
Population: 694,129
Capital: Žilina



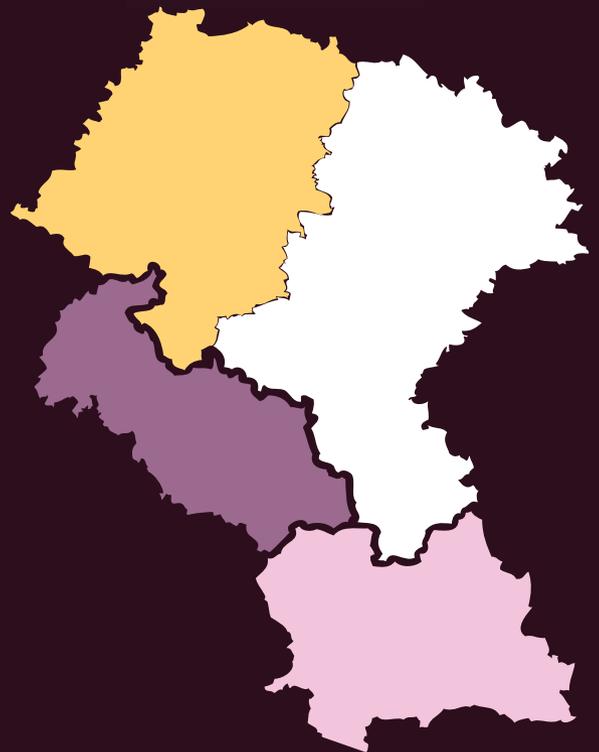
SILESIA VOIVODESHIP

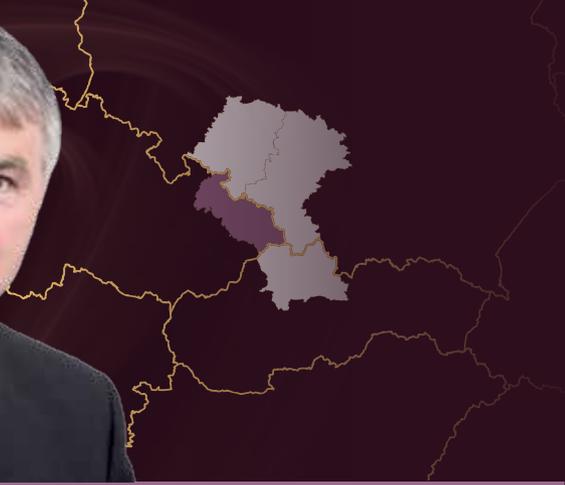
Area: 12,334 km²
Population: 4,654,115
Capital: Katowice



OPOLE VOIVODESHIP

Area: 9,412 km²
Population: 1,037,088
Capital: Opole





MORAVIAN -SILESIAN REGION



Moravian-Silesian
Region

„EGTC TRITIA is being created above all to ensure better and more effective identification of needs of nearly 8 millions of people living in the area of 34,069 km² and to help and facilitate allocation of funds provided by European Union.“

Jaroslav Palas, President of the Moravian-Silesian Region

Moravian-Silesian Region is rightly called the “region of contrasts and opportunities”. Firstly it belongs to the most important industrial regions in Central Europe and secondly it abounds in natural and traditional beauties.

With the area of 5,427 km², the region covers 7% of the area of the Czech Republic and therefore it is the 6th largest region in the country. The Moravian-Silesian Region, with its 1,243,220 inhabitants, is one of the most densely populated regions in the Czech Republic.

During last two decades the Moravian-Silesian Region has noted a significant transformation of its industrial branch structure. The metallurgical and mining industries continue to form an integral part of the Region but many old branches have been converted not only into automotive industry, but also development of information and communication technologies, chemical industry or civil engineering. Thanks to the highly skilled labour forces and successfully developing educational facilities, a substantial number of investments can flow into the Region. Therefore it is rightly designated as one of the most rapidly developing regions in the Czech Republic.

Moravian-Silesian Region can be proud of its natural heritage, diversity of the countryside, folk traditions and crafts, historical and cultural sites, spas, well equipped sportgrounds, excellent food and beer and many others. In the Region we can find a wide range of chateaus, castles, towns and cities with a long and interesting history, numerous technical monuments which result from a long industrial era of the Region. Moreover, beautiful countryside of Beskydy and Jeseníky Mountain Ranges together with protected landscape area Poodří can offer a wide range of recreational, tourist and sport facilities.





ŽILINA SELF-GOVERNING REGION

„Žilina Self-Governing Region is a rapidly developing, cooperating and competitive region with strong innovation potential. It lies on a major artery of the economy in Central Europe and has appropriate capacities for systematic development, progress in business, information technology, tourism and in particular transport infrastructure with suitable road, rail and air connections... these are the reasons why we are joining the EGTC ...”

Juraj Blanár,
President of the Žilina Self-Governing Region



ŽILINA
self - governing region



Žilina Self-Governing Region shares borders with Poland and the Czech Republic. It is one of the most beautiful regions in the Slovak Republic. Its area covers 6,788 km² with almost 700,000 inhabitants. The region consists of 5 very specific subregions. Žilina region is recognized for its high diversity of the countryside from the valleys remained from high human impacts on the area with developed industry to beautiful agricultural and forested countryside with many cultural monuments and desolated area of high mountains. The national parks and protected areas cover more than 50% of total area.

Žilina Self-Governing Region is the 2nd most visited region in Slovakia - tourists can find folk traditions folklore and folk architecture together with modern architecture, transport and a lot of attractive opportunities for active winter and summer relaxation in

the spas, thermal aquaparks, water reservoirs, ski and mountain centres... The history of the region can be tracked through its cultural monuments (castles, castle ruins, sacral architecture including wooden churches, folk architecture at Vlkolínec which is declared as part of UNESCO cultural heritage, a few open air museums ...).

Žilina city with its rich history and busy economic and social life is the regional centre as well as the real metropolis of the Northwest Slovakia. Žilina region is crossed by several important international routes and railways corridors (Poland – Austria – Hungary and Germany – Czech Republic – Ukraine). Small international airport is located near Žilina.

Industrial nature of the region is impacted by close neighbourhood of industrial areas

in the Czech Republic and Poland. Structural development of regional economy has been determined by strengthening the service sector in recent years. There are more than 10,000 companies registered in Žilina region. Main industries include automotive, metalworking, construction, engineering, pulp and paper manufacture. The fastest growth is marked in the sectors of water supply, manufacture of cars and transport equipment as well as textile production. With its revenues from industry, Žilina region takes the third best position in Slovakia, as shown by the figures for the whole country.

There is well developed school network with 4 universities. The highest innovation potential is concentrated in engineering industry, electrotechnical industry (including information and communication technologies), wood processing industry and tourism.

SILESIAN VOIVODESHIP



 Silesia. Positive energy

„Silesian Voivodeship is the most important Polish industrial region, located in the southern part of Poland. The unique economic position occupied by the Silesian Voivodeship is owed to the fact that its GDP share is one of the highest in the country. In connection with our cross-border partners we can create a region with a huge potential.”

*Adam Matusiewicz,
Marshall of the Silesian Voivodeship*



The region neighbours Opolskie, łódzkie, Świętokrzyskie and Małopolskie voivodeships, having borders with the Czech Republic and Slovakia from the south. Six European capitals are within the reach of 600 kilometres from Katowice, such as Warsaw, Prague, Bratislava and Berlin.

Silesia is polycentric, with no central seat to perform metropolitan functions (administration, finances, insurance systems, universities, culture). The systems of administration, universities, cultural establishments, and major companies are mostly concentrated in large cities belonging to the Silesian agglomeration, such as Katowice, Sosnowiec, Bytom, Gliwice, Zabrze, Tychy and Chorzów. Significant role is also played by the capitals of sub-regions, such as Rybnik, Bielsko-Biała and Częstochowa.

A high degree of urbanisation is reflected by the fact that almost 79% of Silesians live in 71 cities, of which:

- 3 have over 200,000 citizens,
- 9 have from 100,000 to 200,000 citizens,
- 11 have from 50,000 to 100,000 citizens.

The above facts indicate that every third Polish major city is located in the Silesian Voivodeship. The Voivodeship is the 14th largest, and 2nd most populous in Poland. This relatively small territory, covering an area of 12,334 km², which is 3.9% of Poland's total area, is inhabited by 4,645,665 people, that represent 12.2% of Poland's population – the highest in the country's population density index, i.e. 377 people/km² against 122 people/km² for Poland and 116 people/km² reported in

EU. Such high human concentration in a relatively small area creates a potential ready market for consumables.

Being the largest urbanised area in the Central-Eastern Europe, the Upper Silesian agglomeration decides about the uniqueness of the region. The local urban network is very dense and consists of cities and towns which are actually interconnected, expanded up to approximately 70 km – from Dąbrowa Górnicza to Gliwice. This network covers around 18% of the total Voivodeship area (1,200 km²), and the average population density amounts to approximately 1,900 people/km². The region boasts more than 30 universities, hundred thousands of companies and Poland's most concentrated railway and streetcar networks.

OPOLE VOIVODESHIP



"Opole Voivodeship is a dynamically developing region in the social & economic area, whose solid partner is the local government. High level of industry and the regional innovation systems are the priorities in planning the distribution of the European funds and implementation of development strategy. We also support education, culture and the development of renewable energy. Our activities clearly manifest our efforts to find all partners for the major issues of Opole Region, no matter if over the borders. We believe that participation of our region in the European Grouping of the Territorial Cooperation "TRITIA" will improve coordination of the cooperation with our foreign neighbours as well as our quality of life."

Józef Sebesta, Marshall of the Opole Voivodeship



Opole Land stands out nationally due its large economic and investment potential and quick rate of ownership transformations. Industry is characterised by a uniform distribution across the Voivodeship and by a diversified structure. Building and construction industry, electric machinery and metal industry, chemical industry, fuel and power industry, fertilizer industry, furniture industry, light and food industry are predominant industries. Coke, cement, lime, nitrogen fertilizers, alimentary fats and oils, trucks, tractors and machine tools for metal plastic working account for a dominant share of the country's production and employment.

Opole Region in figures:

- Total population – 1,088,000
- Area – 9,412 km²
(3% of Poland territory)
- Poviats (Districts) – 12
- Gminas (Communes) – 71

Opole Voivodeship offers a variety of education opportunities and specialties. Six region's higher education institutions provide the necessary research infrastructure. City of Opole is the largest academic centre of the Region, home to the Opole University, the Technical University of Opole, the State Medical Vocational School and the School of Management and Administration, with over 31,000 university students.

The city boasts of several prominent cultural institutions, such as Józef Elsner Opole Philharmonic, Jan Kochanowski Theatre, or Alojzy Smolka Theatre of the Puppet and Actor in Opole. And last but not least, there is Opole Millennium Amphitheatre, hosting annually held National Festival of Polish Song.

The Region has excellent climate and natural assets offering a wide range of outdoor activities. Summer and winter

outdoor recreation and adventure opportunities are some of the finest you will find anywhere in the Region that is characterised by diversified topography (Silesian Uplands, Silesian Lowland and a portion of Sudeten Foothills, Oder Valley). Large part of the territory is covered by forests with four natural parks, many protected natural areas and biosphere reserves.

Lovers of swimming, sunbathing and water sports can enjoy their leisure time at Region's dam lakes in Turawa near Opole or Nysa Lake and Otmuchów Lake at the bottom of Opava Mountains. Opole Silesia is rich in locations of historical and archaeological interest, with its ancient monuments of various historical ages. When visiting Opole Region, one cannot help but visit Krasiejów, a place in Gmina of Ozimek, where one of the world's greatest palaeontological discoveries has been made recently.

INTERREG 4A PROGRAMMES HELP US!

At the very beginning of EGTC preparation, the following four vertical and one horizontal co-operation principal topics have been formulated:

- Transport and infrastructure,
- Energy and environment,
- Economic co-operation,
- Tourism,
- Smart implementation of projects and programmes.

One of the frequent gaps of multilateral cross-border co-operation is missing joint strategy. Therefore in 2009, all partner regions

decided to elaborate a common EGTC strategy, which would formulate the principal steps to be undertaken by EGTC secretary office once it is established in 2011. The following three bilateral INTERREG 4A projects are prepared and currently implemented by the partners (funded by Operational Programmes of Cross-Border Cooperation CZ-PL, SK-CZ and PL-SK):

- "Strategy of systemic cooperation" between Moravian-Silesian Region, Silesian and Opole Voivodeship,
- "Cooperation" between Moravian

-Silesian Region and Žilina Self-Governing Region,

- "Innovative cooperation" between Žilina Self-Governing Region and Silesian Voivodeship.

The main goal of these interlinked projects is to create three bilateral strategies for the cross-border cooperation of all above mentioned partner regions, these strategies will be then merged into one single EGTC binding strategy in 2012. Until that time, all partners shall try to involve also other relevant players into cross-border cooperation within TRITIA territory.





PROJECT: „COOPERATION AND STRENGTHENING OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION BETWEEN REGIONAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ŽILINA SELF-GOVERNING REGION AND MORAVIAN-SILESIA REGION“

Total budget: € 101,130

Co-financing rate by EU: 85%

Partners: Žilina Self-Governing Region, Moravian-Silesian Region

Main activities:

- Creation of a strategic document improving the cross-border cooperation between partner regions
- Study visit to Greater Region (Grande Région)
- Study visits of public institution staff
- Organisation of a conference summarizing project results

PROJECT: „INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF SILESIA VOIVODESHIP AND ŽILINA SELF-GOVERNING REGION“

Total budget: € 270,695.11

Co-financing rate by EU: 83,90%

Partners: Cieszyn Castle, Development Agency of Žilina Self-Governing Region, Silesian Voivodeship, Žilina Self-Governing Region

Main activities:

- Creation of a strategic document improving the cross-border cooperation between partner regions
- Study visits of public institution staff
- Project website creation
- Organisation of language courses and thematic conferences

PROJECT: „STRATEGY OF SYSTEMIC COOPERATION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF MORAVIAN-SILESIA REGION, SILESIA AND OPOLE VOIVODESHIP“

Total budget: € 346,617.45

Co-financing rate by EU: 85%

Partners: Moravian-Silesian Region, Silesian Voivodeship, Opole Voivodeship

Main activities:

- Creation of a strategic document improving the cross-border cooperation between partner regions
- Study visit to Eurometropole Lille – Kortrijk – Tournai
- Study visits of public institution staff
- Organisation of thematic conferences

CROSS-BORDER PROJECTS - BEST PRACTICE

„For a truly unique experience, why not stand in three countries at the same time? We invite you to Hřčava, Itebna and Čierne, the point where three countries come together – Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. Triple point (known as Trojmezí in Czech) is in the valley of a small stream. The valley is 8m deep and 34m wide, and the exact location of triple point is at the centre of triangle formed by three 240cm high granite monoliths. These imposing stones were erected on 22 June 1995, and their bases contain various everyday items preserved for future generations – documents, newspapers from that day, and coins.“

Tesin Silesia Euroregion





PROJECT:
**MEETING POINT OF THREE COUNTRIES –
CREATING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TOURISM**

Project partners: Association of Jablunkov Municipalities, Municipality of Istebna

Operational programme: Fund of microprojects of Tesin Silesia Euroregion - Operational Programme Cross-Border Cooperation CZ – PL 2007 - 2013

Project budget: 35,334 EUR (CZ), 13,825 EUR (PL)

In 2007, as part of the cooperation set up within the Association of Municipalities in the Jablunkov Region, an 18 m long wooden footbridge was built to connect Polish

and Slovak banks of the stream, and a smaller bridge was erected over the ditch marking the Czech-Polish border. In the same year a shelter for hikers was put on the Slovak side. Two years later within the frame of the Czech-Polish project a campfire site was built on the Czech part. Thanks to system of useful signs, paved path for pedestrians, cyclists, visitors with prams and baby buggies, promotional materials and map of „Meeting point of three countries“, this place became a favorite place for Czech, Polish and Slovak visitors.



PROJECT:
**THE MAGIC OF FAIRY TALES
HIDDEN IN THE WOOD**

Project partners: Region Beskydy based in Frýdek-Místek, Región Beskydy based in Žilina

Operational programme: Operational Programme Border Cooperation SR – CZ 2007 – 2013, Fund for Micro-Projects of Region Białe Karpaty

Project budget: 23,000 EUR

Goal of the joint Czech-Slovak project was to organize two carving symposiums. Twenty wooden sculptures were made there. Now these sculptures decorate kindergartens and basic schools in Frýdek-Místek and Žilina.



PROJECT:
TRACK VIA THE HISTORY

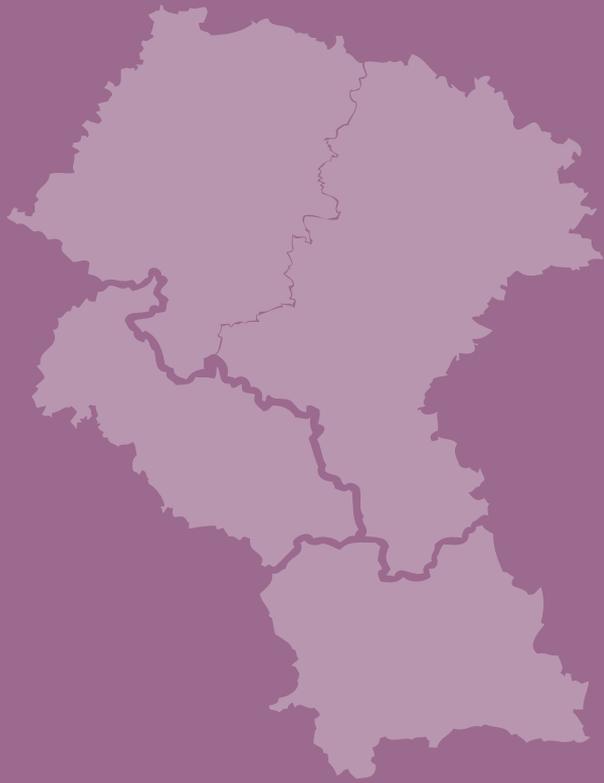
Project partners: two Czech and Polish high schools

Operational programme: Operational Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation CZ –PL 2007 - 2013

EU grant: 15 376 EUR for the Czech partner, 17 335 EUR for the Polish partner

period of Nazism. It consisted of the wide range of common activities: visits to the places associated with this period, art and photo exhibitions, musical performances, students' film show etc. After its completion, the project was followed by another one focused on the historical period of communism, which was also common experience for both countries.

Czech-Polish educational project focused on the historical



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