

Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Document

for the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty in 2014–2020



**CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION
PROGRAMME**
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
CZECH REPUBLIC



**EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN FUND
OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
TOGETHER WITHOUT BORDERS



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CONTENTS

1. Introduction

— 1.1. Programme Preparation Process Ing. Soňa Hustáková	4
— 1.2. Programme Structure Ing. Soňa Hustáková	4
— 1.3. Relation to EU Regulations Dagmar Lišková	5
— 1.3.1 Cross-Border Cooperation	5
— 1.3.2 Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2014–2020	6
— 1.4. Assessment of Cross-Border Cooperation in ER BBK until 2013 Dagmar Lišková	7
— 1.4.1 Assessment of ER BBK JPD	7
— 1.4.2 JPD Strategy Fulfilment	10

2. Territory Description and SWOT Analysis ||| Dagmar Lišková et al.

— 2.1. Location of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty	11
— 2.2. SWOT Analysis	12

3. Strategy of Cross-Border Cooperation in ER BBK Before and After 2020

— 3.1. Medium-term Strategy of Sustainable Development of Cross-Border Cooperation in ER BBK (2014–2020)	
— 3.1.1. Programmeme Priorities Dagmar Lišková, Ing. Soňa Hustáková, Mgr. Josef Zdražil	18
— 3.1.2. Specific Objectives and Measures Ing. S. Hustáková, Ing. V. Birošíková	19
— 3.2. Long-term Strategy of Sustainable Development of Cross-Border Cooperation in ER BBK (2020–2029)	20
— Dagmar Lišková, Ing. Soňa Hustáková, Bc. Andrea Molnárová, Mgr. Josef Zdražil	23
— Ing. S. Hustáková, Ing. V. Birošíková	23

4. Projects and Financial Plan ||| Ing. Soňa Hustáková, Dagmar Lišková

— 4.1. Projects	24
— 4.2. Project Selection Criteria	24
— 4.3. Financial Plan	24

5. Programme Implementation ||| Ing. Soňa Hustáková, Ing. Viera Birošíková, Bc. Andrea Molnárová

6. Monitoring the Progress of Objectives Attained and Programme Evaluation

— Dagmar Lišková, Ing. Soňa Hustáková	25
— 6.1. CBC PD Implementation Plan	25
— 6.2. CBC PD Evaluation	25
— 6.3. CBC PD Evaluation Indicators	26
— 6.4. CBC PD Evaluation Plan	26

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Programme Preparation Process

Cross-border cooperation on the Moravian-Slovak border originates from natural cultural and traditional values and relationships that evolved during the long years of living in one country; however, this cooperation intensified only after the country was split into two independent entities. The initiative to develop and maintain cross-border cooperation in the Zlín Region and the Region of Trenčín originally came from the association of legal entities called “The Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty” (ER BBK). This association was established by regional entities, towns and municipalities to promote further development of cross-border cooperation and of the territory along the border, and at first the association enjoyed a sort of monopolistic position in this respect. Subsequently, the newly created regions took over a great part of the initiative, in particular with respect to investment activity promotion. Although cross-border cooperation is rather a complementary element in the sustainable development of the territory, both regions involved pay sufficient attention to this aspect and, together with the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty, they significantly contribute to sustaining and further developing this kind of cooperation.

The demonstrable interest of the territory and of the competent institutions in sustaining cross-border cooperation and developing the border areas has led the stakeholders to discuss the actual needs of the border regions and the option of how to accommodate these needs comprehensively with a view to maintaining and improving the quality of life. Based on these input requirements, both regions have acceded the WC ER’s initiative to establish a Programme for Sustainable Development of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty or in the territories of both regions that form the Euroregion as such.

The Programme and its structures were prepared and implemented under a project supported from the Micro-Project Fund of the OP CBC SK-CZ in 2007–2013, which was managed by the White Carpathians Euroregion, specifically by the Czech national part of the Euroregion.

The programme structures were subsequently involved in preparing the Programme Document for 2014–2020. The PD preparation was also supported from the Micro-Project Fund of OP CBC SK-CZ in 2007–2013.

Programme preparation plan:

— Appoint the Programme Core Team	= October – December 2012
— Appoint working groups by specific programme pillars/priorities	= December 2012 – March 2013
— Prepare a Programme Document	= December 2012 – June 2014
— Public commenting on a draft version of the Programme	= February 2014 – March 2014
— Public presentation of the document	= March 2014 – June 2014
— Document published	= June 2014
— Prepare strategies for each of the programme pillars/priorities	= from June 2014
— Appoint working groups to implement measures	= September – October 2014
— Prepare and implement specific projects	= from November 2014 onward

1.2. Programme Structure

The Programming Document of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty has a core structure in place that will be used to manage and implement specific activities and projects within the Programme.

The Programme idea is promoted by the Programme Core Team, which includes representatives of the Zlín Region, Trenčín Self-Governing Region, ER BBK, Association of Non-Government Organisations in the Zlín Region, and the Society for Permanent Sustainable Development, the White Carpathians Branch Office. The Core Team also approves partial outputs of the Programme, communicates them on the regional level, and communicates with other programme and project partners.

This Programme Document has been prepared to facilitate Programme implementation, with contributions supplied by a joint Czech and Slovak expert working group of 48 members, consisting of representatives of all the defined Programme priorities.

The Programme Document will be submitted for approval to the General Meeting of ER BBK and also to the competent bodies of the Zlín Region and the Trenčín Self-Governing Region so that it can become a primary document for developing cross-border cooperation in the given region.

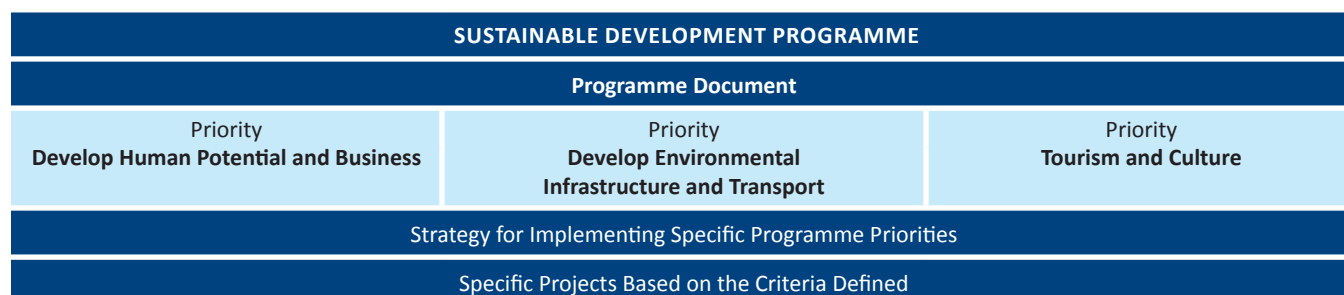


Fig. 1: Programme Structure

1.3. Relation to EU Regulations

The framework document for medium-term and long-term cross-border development of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty (ER BBK), **Programme Document of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty in 2014–2020** (hereinafter the Programme or PDPS), the previous seven-year framework document of the Euroregion for 2007–2013, *The Joint Programming Document of Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty on Cross-border Cooperation in years 2007–2013 and the related documents of “Development of the Territory of the Zlín Region” and “Economic Development Programmeme of the Trenčín Self-Governing Region”*. At the same time, this Programme is consistent with

- the strategic objectives of *Europe 2020* – with the intelligent, permanently sustainable and inclusive growth and the cohesion policy of the *Joint Strategic Framework for 2014–2020* for the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund;
- the global objective of territorial coherence of the *European Territorial Cooperation in 2014–2020*, making it possible to perform joint activities and policy exchange among national, regional and local stakeholders from the Member States, supported from the European Regional Development Fund;
- the strategy and priority axes of the *Operational Programme for Cross-Border Cooperation Between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in 2014–2020*;
- cross-sectional principles of territorial authority; reduction of disparities in regional development levels; resource effectiveness, synergy and complementarity; topical focus and investment priorities of programmes and their orientation on results; partnership; equal opportunities and non-discrimination; environment protection; risk prevention and management.

1.3.1 Cross-Border Cooperation

Cross-border cooperation should in the upcoming seven years focus on dealing with jointly identified challenges in the border regions, such as **poor accessibility, unsuitable business environment, lacking cooperation between local and regional authorities, research, innovation and ICT implementation**, environment pollution, risk prevention, negative attitudes toward citizens of the neighbouring country or the need to exploit the existing potential in the border area, for example to build **cross-border research and innovation facilities and clusters, cross-border labour market integration, cooperation among universities and healthcare centres** etc.

Investment Priorities

Specific support of investment priorities in cross-border cooperation by means of sharing human resources, facilities and infrastructure will focus on:

- a) Integration of cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local initiatives in employment and joint education (under the topical objective of “Support employment and labour mobility”);
- b) Cross-border enforcement of gender equality and equal opportunities as well as cross-border support of social inclusion (under the topical objective of “Support social inclusion and poverty elimination”);
- c) Preparation and implementation of joint education and training programmes (under the topical objective of “Invest in skills, education and life-long learning”);
- d) Supporting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation among citizens and institutions (under the topical objective of “Increase institutional capacities and public administration effectiveness”).

Distribution of Funds

With its resolution the Commission put together a list of supra-national areas meant to be supported, with the cooperation programmes structured on the NUTS 2 level and on the NUTS 3 level for regions along the internal and external borders. The Commission considered the continuity of programme areas from the 2007–2013 programming period. The existing programme areas may be increased or decreased by means of adjustments, yet they may also geographically overlap.

The population was used as a criterion to distribute funds to the Member States from the total sum allocated to the 7-year period – **EUR 11.7 bn**, which rendered the following results for the 3 areas:

73.24 % for cross-border cooperation	EUR 8.569 bn – project financed from the ERDF at 85%
20.78 % for supra-national cooperation	EUR 2.431 bn
5.98 % for inter-regional cooperation	EUR 0.7 bn

The Slovak Republic plans to fund the ETC objective in 2014–2020 from the European Fund Regional Development with EUR 223.40 mn according to the Commission’s Decision C(2013), of which **EUR 45.0 mn is planned to be allocated to the Slovak-Czech border** (while EUR 60.10 mn has been allocated to the HU-SK border, EUR 55.0 mn to the PL-SK border, EUR 35.0 mn to the SK-AT border, and EUR 6.0 mn to the SK-UA border – under the ENI programme).

The Czech Republic has obtained EUR 303.15 mn for the objective of European Territorial Cooperation, of which **EUR 45.149 mn is planned to be used for the Operational Programme of CZ-SK Cross-Border Cooperation** (while EUR 91.223 mn is planned for the CZ-PL border, EUR 59.898 mn for the AT-CZ border, EUR 57.101 mn for the DE (Saxony)-CZ border, and EUR 49.176 mn for the DE (Bavaria)-CZ border).

Emphasis on Making Bureaucracy Simpler, More Structured and Reduced

In the new programming period, the conditions and requirements will be simplified in programme implementation, fund management and audit. The number of bodies involved in programme

1.3.2 Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2014–2020

The programme follows up on the good experience from the previous period of Slovak-Czech / Czech-Slovak cross-border cooperation in the period of 2007-2013. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic, Department of Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes, and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Department of European Territorial Cooperation, the programme was also co-created by euro-regional associations together with the self-governing regions concerned, which also improved their mutual understanding and relationships.

The strategic objective of the programme for 2014–2020 is to increase the attractiveness of the cross-border region for the citizens as well as visitors by means of intelligently using the existing potential of the territory. Apart from technical assistance (Priority Axis 5 with an allocation of EUR 5.408 mn, which is 6% of the total contribution of EUR 90,149,871 mn from the ERDF), the programme will be used to support the following priority axes, investment priorities and specific objectives:

- Priority Axis 1: Utilising Investment Potential**
- **Investment Priority 1.1:** Create and implement joint education programmes and preparation programmes
 - **Specific Objective 1.1.1** *Improve the content and quality relevance of the education process by means of closer cooperation of education institutions and employers in order to improve the people's value in the labour market*
 - **Specific Objective 1.1.2** *Improve the attractiveness and quality of life-long education for the labour force in the cross-border region*
 - **Investment Priority 1.2:** Support business investments in research and development and the development of interconnections and synergies among businesses, centres of research and development and of higher education
 - **Specific Objective 1.2.1** *Targeted support for a more effective interconnection and cooperation of the research and development base with an emphasis on utilizing the results of applied research*

Allocation to this priority axis: EUR 14.422 mn – 16 %

- Priority Axis 2: Quality Environment for the Population**
- **Investment Priority 2.1:** Protect, promote and develop natural and cultural heritage
 - **Specific Objective 2.1.1** *Create a suitable framework to effectively utilize cultural and natural heritage in the cross-border region with an emphasis on creating integrated products attractive for visitors*
 - **Investment Priority 2.2:** Protect and renew bio-diversity, protect and renew soil and promote the services of eco-systems including NATURA 2000 and the green infrastructure
 - **Specific Objective 2.2.1** *Protect the bio-diversity of the cross-border territory by means of cooperation in the protection and coordinated management of protected areas*

Allocation to this priority axis: EUR 60.393 mn – 67 % the original PA 2 Transport Accessibility was cancelled and the funds were divided between PA 2 and PA 3

- Priority Axis 3: Develop Local Initiatives**
- **Investment Priority 3.1:** Increase institutional capacities and improve public administration effectiveness
 - **Specific Objective 3.1.1** *Increase the intensity and quality of cross-border cooperation between local self-governing authorities and local entities*

Allocation to this priority axis: EUR 9.915 mn – 11%, of which EUR 9.014 mn to the Micro-Project Fund – 10%

4. Technical Assistance an allocation of EUR 5.409 mn – 6 %

Programme financing:

The following table shows allocations from the European Regional Development Fund (i.e., 85% of eligible expenditures in EUR mn) for each of the years in the programming period:

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
4.507	6.310	9.014	17.128	17.128	18.029	18.029	90.149
5%	7%	10%	19%	19%	20%	20%	100%

Project financing:

On the Slovak side: **85 % from ERDF + 10 % state budget + 5 % beneficiary's investment**
 On the Czech side: **85 % from ERDF + 5 % state budget + 10 % beneficiary's investment**

Small projects: from EUR 3,000 to EUR 30,000
 Big projects: from 30,001 without a limit

Eligible territory for the programme:

Regions of Trenčín, Trnava, Žilina, South Moravia, Moravia-Silesia, and Zlín.

1.4. Assessment of Cross-Border Cooperation in ER BBK till 2013

The main task of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty during the implementation of the Joint Programme Document for the ER BBK on cross-border cooperation in 2007-2013 (JPD) was to fulfil the following planned objectives:

1. Systematically build Euroregional awareness and sense of belonging to the ER BBK in the relevant territory – this objective was fulfilled on an ongoing basis as part of the priorities and measures of JPD ER BBK 1-3 by means of specific projects, publishing activities and by making the ER BBK logo more visible, all that thanks to funds from the Micro-Project Fund along the entire border. Due to its significance, this objective has been retained for the next programming period as well.

2. Provide support to projects and institutions in line with the JPD priorities and measures. This objective was fulfilled on an ongoing basis by providing advisory, assistance in preparing and implementing projects and related activities, in particular under Priority 1 and the related measures, and based on requests from the territory also for Priorities 2 and 3.

3. Enforce effective financial support and obtain funds for cross-border cooperation. This objective has been fulfilled in cooperation with the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2007-2013 and the Management of the Micro-Project Fund and the Region Bílé Karpaty; moreover, systemic annual support of Slovak euroregional associations was successfully made part of Act No. 539/2008 Coll., and members of the Management Council of the ER BBK participated in the Task Force for preparing the OPCBC SK-CZ in 2014–2020.

4. Monitor and evaluate the effective use of funds according to the JPD priorities and measures – this objective has been implemented by means of annual monitoring in the annual reports of the national associations of the ER BBK, evaluation reports of the Working Group of the ER BBK Management Council presented to the General Meeting of the Euroregion, and by preparing interim (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014) reports and the final evaluation report (2015), which is also the source of data and information used for this chapter.

To ensure that the aforementioned objectives are fulfilled professionally and in good quality, the Euroregion, in cooperation with other institutions on the regional, national and European levels:

- supported the legislative inclusion of the Euroregions in national structures – cooperation on making effective Act No. 539 of 4 November 2008, on supporting regional development, Part 4 “Other Entities of Territorial Cooperation”, Section 13 Euroregion and European structures – by cooperating with the Association of European Border Regions, the Office of the Trenčín Representation Office in Brussels, and with the Representation of the Zlín Region in Brussels;
- organized information, working and presentation forums as part of implementing the JPD implementation and the Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2007-2013 – implemented directly by national associations of the ER BBK within specific projects, but primarily by the Region Bílé Karpaty as the manager of the Micro-Project Fund of the OPCBC SK-CZ;
- prepared a promotion strategy – Version 1 was prepared, with an updated version to be prepared in the years after 2014;
- actively participated in building a permanently sustainable professional advisory and training service for cross-border cooperation – in 2007–2009, it was mostly managed on the Slovak side with the cooperation of the Czech party in the ER BBK; from 2009 onward the service was systemically built and professionally implemented on the Czech side with some contributions from the Slovak party in the ER BBK;
- closely cooperated with the competent bodies and institutions on the NUTS III and NUTS II levels as part of the interconnected cross-border and regional development – with an ever closer cooperation with the Trenčín Self-Governing Region and the Zlín Region, regional universities and chambers of commerce on both sides of the border as well as with other social partners from the territory.

1.4.1 Assessment of JPD ER BBK

Due to the availability of certain data, the interim and the final evaluation reports focused primarily on the qualitative, quantitative and comparison indicators of each of the priorities and measures in both JPD ER BBK and OPCBC SK-CZ, which are very close and, thus, comparable in terms of their strategic objectives and measures in particular.

Capital and non-capital projects, aimed at implementing the priorities and measures of the Joint Programme Document ER BBK, observed the regulations of the EU’s structural programmes of assistance and the rules that are from time to time promulgated by competent authorities: the Joint Technical Secretariat for the OPCBC SK-CZ, Regional Development Agency with the Slovak Ministry of Construction and Regional Development, then by the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Regional Development, and later on by the Ministry of Transport, Construction and Regional Development on the Slovak side, and by the Ministry of Regional Development on the Czech side or by other designated institutions on the national levels of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

Specific projects for the JPD implementation by the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty were annually proposed by the Working Group of the ER BBK Management Council, and as part of the annual activity plans and budgets were approved by national and joint General Meetings and implemented jointly by both national associations of the two (SK and CZ) bordering Bílé and Biele Karpaty Regions. In the period under review, these included mainly non-capital projects of umbrella nature that pertained to the entire Euroregion territory, but also projects related to the five long-term programmes of the ER BBK: ■ Service activities for the members and territory of the ER BBK, horizontal and vertical partnerships ■ Tourism development ■ Rural and human potential development in the ER BBK ■ VITRUM PRO FUTURUM – ER BBK, the Euroregion of Glass ■ Environment.

The projects selected by the Working Group of the ER BBK Management Council were determined primarily by the JPD ER BBK priorities and measures; secondly, they also followed the project selection criteria that also applied to partner projects with social partners from the Euroregion’s territory:

* Cross-border nature * Feasibility – actual need * Possibility of financing * Interest in taking up responsibility for the project * Permanent sustainability * Preparedness of the plan (documents – level) * Uniqueness* Level of promotion– rendering the Euroregion more visible.

While implementing the priorities and measures of the first and second JPD ER BBK, the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty created, due to the willingness of regional experts to cooperate, the following JPD cross-border working groups:

1. *Programme Working Group* – in place since 2002 (JPD Priority 1)
2. *Human Potential Development Working Group* – since 2003 (JPD Priority 1)
3. *VITRUM PRO FUTURUM Programme Core Team* – since 2003 (JPD Priority 1)
4. *Tourism Working Group* – since 2002 (JPD Priority 2)
5. *Environment Working Group* – since 2005 (JPD Priority 3)

which were during the period under review responsible for preparing and implementing the umbrella projects of the Euroregion and also for preparing documents for monitoring and assessing programme fulfilment within the entire ER BBK territory. The Working Group of the ER BBK Management Council was responsible for fulfilling short-term and long-term strategies, and both national secretariats of the ER BBK bore responsibility for cross-border service activities and for information, education and coordination assistance provided to project sponsors and applicants, implemented in the Euroregion according to the JPD ER BBK priorities and measures.

Overview of funds and ER BBK cross-border cooperation projects implemented to fulfil the JPD priorities and measures as of 31 May 2014 by both national associations (including their own mandatory investment):

JPD Priorities	Human Potential and Business		Develop Env. Infra.		Develop Tourism Infra.	
	Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR	
Region Biele Karpaty (SK):						
SPERA (2007-2008)	9	94,178.66	3	25,975.25	2	22,120.43
ZOPRR (2009-2013)	3	50,732.28			9	234,447.94
TSGR (2007-2011)	4	2,991.62			1	1,000.00
Intern.Visegrad Fund (2010)	1	29,592.99				
Ekopolis Foundation (2009)			1	2,577.54		
Total	17	177,495.55	4	28,552.79	12	257,568.37
Region Bílé Karpaty (CZ):						
Micro-Project Fund (2007-13)	1	6,653,262.00				
Projects from MPF (2008-2013)	6	142,926.60	1	20,997.00	3	65,337.34
Zlín Region (2007-2010)*	4	4,541.75			1	1,000.00
City of Zlín (2007-2011)*	subsidies	20,824.85				
Total	11	6,821,555.20	1	20,997.00	3	65,337.34
<i>The average yearly exchange rate of the SNB for 2011 was applied (1 EUR = 24.55 CZK)</i>						
By means of the national associations, the WC ER implemented projects in the period under review totalling (by priorities)						
	28	6,999,060.75	5	49,549.79	15	322,906.71

Overall, 48 projects were implemented worth EUR 7,371,507.25.

When compared to the previous JPD in 2001-2006, when the Euroregion implemented 32 projects worth EUR 1,168,483.48 in total in the same priorities, we can observe a growth in both the number of projects implemented and the volume of funds expended. While during the first programme this rendered (considering a ER BBK population of 1,190,528) **0.98 EUR/citizen**, in the second programme (considering a ER BBK population of 1,188,499), the financial benefit was **5.89 EUR/citizen**.

- The greatest benefit, as in the previous programme, that the ER BBK enjoyed was the management of the **Micro-Project Fund** by the Region Bílé Karpaty in partnership with the Trenčín Self-Governing Region. Apart from the financial benefits, the Euroregion became more visible within the entire eligible territory of the OPCBC SK-CZ as well as on the inter-governmental level, and the relationships with the TSGR have significantly improved.
- **The plan and execution of the financial overview for 2007–2013** (as of 31 May 2014) **for the OPCBC SK-CZ in EUR mn in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty, based on the JPD ER BBK priorities**, was defined on the basis of the programme and project preparedness of the region to absorb such funds, its ability to guarantee its own investments and to pre-finance projects in each of the JPD ER BBK priorities, considering that the ER BBK takes up the longest section of the Slovak-Czech / Czech-Slovak border, being a bilateral Euroregion, thus having no other sources of funds than the neighbouring Euroregions of Beskydy (CZ/SK/PL) and Pomoraví (AT/SK/CZ/HU).

Funds for the priorities in 2007-2012		Plan	Projects approved	Number of projects	Of which SK - CZ acc. to lead part.
Capital and non-capital projects	Develop human potential and business (with MPF)	5.26	25.97	54	19 - 35
	Develop environmental infrastructure	6.45	11.09	17	10 - 7
	Develop tourism infrastructure	7.35	4.30	12	5 - 7
	"Major" projects total	19.06	41.36	83	34 - 49
Micro-Project Fund	Cultural and social cross-border cooperation	2.07	3.40	165	67 - 98
Total support for OPCBC SK-CZ in 2007-2012		21.13	44.76	248	101 - 147

Sectoral distribution of the applicants' approved projects under OPCBC SK-CZ and the Micro-Project Fund according to the lead partner, i.e., regions, municipalities, schools, non-government organizations, cultural facilities in the ER BBK territory (as of 31 May 2014) is shown below:

OPCBC SK-CZ Applicant's sector	LP SK		LP CZ		Total in ER BBK	
	Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR	
Regions – TSGR, ZR	1	1,573,992.44	-	-	1	1,573,992.44
Towns, municipalities	20	11,926,628.53	19	7,724,052.22	39	19,650,680.75
NGOs	7	813,438.78	18	15,929,727.11*	25	16,743,165.89
Cultural institutions	5	398,199.72	1	172,084.00	6	570,283.72
Kindergartens, elem. sch.	-	-	6	557,541.16	6	557,541.16
Secondary schools	-	-	4	1,324,305.50	4	1,324,305.50
Universities	1	716,458.00	1	223,324.84	2	939,782.84
Total	34	15,428,717.47	49	25,931,034.83	83	41,359,752.30

* with a project for the MPF

- The above table illustrates that the non-governmental non-profit sector and virtually schools at all levels of the Slovak part of the ER BBK territory have a significantly lesser ability to pre-finance "major" projects as compared to the potential of the Czech party. The number of lead partners from the public self-administration sector is fairly balanced, and when we consider the project value (excl. MPF), it is basically equal.

Of the 87 projects approved in the OPCBC SK-CZ in ER BBK territory, 4 (3 LP SK and 1 LP CZ) were not implemented in the total value of EUR 1,272,938.40.

MPF projects excluding 20 projects that have not been implemented:

Applicant's sector	LP SK		LP CZ		Total in WC ER	
	Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR	
Regions – TSGR, ZR	-	-	4	69,769.00	4	69,769.00
Towns, municipalities	40	791,607.41	45	922,649.94	85	1,714,257.35
IGOs, NGOs	12	190,556.21	33	828,771.72	45	1,019,327.93
Cultural institutions	11	201,011.19	2	43,780.99	13	244,792.18
Kindergartens, elem. sch.	1	23,475.37	5	118,966.70	6	142,442.07
Secondary schools	2	40,660.00	4	70,189.68	6	110,849.68
Other	1	21,045.52	5	83,907.46	6	104,952.98
Total	34	1,268,355.70	98	2,138,035.49	165	3,406,391.19

Of the 76 projects approved, 9 micro-projects were not implemented on the Slovak part of the Euroregion (3 municipalities and towns and 6 NGOs) in the total value of EUR 153,981.20, while on the Czech side 109 projects were approved, of which 11 micro-projects did not get implemented (5 municipalities and 6 NGOs) in the total value of EUR 242,702.28.

- In the ER BBK, under the Operational Programme of SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2007-2013, only 87 projects in total were approved, which is 31.6 % of the total number of projects approved for the Slovak-Czech border, but their aggregate value was EUR 42,632,690.70, which accounts for 41.5 % of the total value of projects approved for this border.

Total number of projects approved that are funded from the EU and the financial benefits in EUR for the ER BBK territory according to the JPD ER BBK priorities as of 31 May 2014:

Priority	OPCBC SK-CZ		MPF in ER BBK		Total	
	(with major MPF)		(without major MPF)		Number of projects / in EUR	
1. Develop human potential and business	56	26,235,434.31	109	2,365,386.87	165	28,600,821.18
2. Develop env. infrastructure	19*	12,102,203.82	11	217,232.57	30	12,319,436.39
3. Develop tourism infrastructure	12	4,295,052.57	65	1,220,455.33	77	5,515,507.90
Total programmes	87	42,632,690.70	185	3,803,074.77	272	46,435,765.47
- projects not implemented	- 4	1,272,938.40	-20	396,683.48	- 24	1,669,621.88
Projects and total benefits	83	41,359,752.61	165	3,406,391.29	248	44,766,143.59

* Including 8 projects for transport development worth EUR 7,079,718.10

Comparison of the number and value of projects according to lead partners, sources of RBK CZ and RBK SK and specific priorities (in EUR):

Priority	JPD 2001-2006 in EUR		JPD 2007-2013 (as of 31 May 2014)	
	Number of projects / in EUR		Number of projects / in EUR	
	SK+CZ = total		SK+CZ = total	
1. Develop human potential and business	52+82 = 134	1,646,628.60	73+98 = 171	28,264,907.98
2. Develop env. infrastructure	7+32 = 39	6,003,323.29	22+10 = 32	11,335,157.28
3. Develop tourism infrastr.	14+30 = 44	5,316,534.94	39+43 = 82	5,634,236.79
Total	73+144 = 217	12,966,476.83	134+151 = 285	45,234,292.05

- Compared to the first programme, the total number of projects approved on the Slovak side increased and so did the total number of projects in the ER BBK territory, not speaking of their value growth by nearly four times. While in the previous programming period the average value of 1 project was EUR 59,753.35, in this programming period the average value has so far reached EUR 158,716,81.

As part of the OPCBC SK-CZ implementation, the following issues were dealt with in the 2007–2013 cross-border cooperation programming period that had been identified in the ER BBK still in the period of 2001-2006:

- The allocated funds should be distributed on a pro-rata basis to the priorities and measures so that they reflect the most demanded needs of cross-border cooperation based on the years of 2004–2006 – **in view of the requirements, the demand was too great and there were limited funds for cultural and social activities and tourism development**;
- The new programming period should truly focus on cross-border aspects, i.e., on joint and mirror projects and options how to finance certain items also on the other side of the border – **fulfilled**;
- Ensure that funds from the Micro-Project Fund are accessible to the poor in the poor border regions and so that these can cooperate, i.e., make it possible to grant advance payments to selected applicants, e.g., municipalities up to 1,000 citizens, schools, non-profit organizations etc. – **not fulfilled; however, the use of funds from the MPF has shown that the territory has been successful in using the pre-financing system**;
- Find within the eligible beneficiaries a method of accepting organizations operating within the territory yet having their superior legal entity outside the eligible territory (such as Protected Landscape Area Administrations, regional branches of the Slovak Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ...) – **under implementation**;
- Accept positive procedural examples from the Czech side – simplify and unify the process of implementing the cross-border cooperation operational programme, improve the centralized service for the border and communication with recipients, and prepare a better quality information service in the regions as it was in 2004-2006 on the Czech side – **partially implemented, yet it still needs to be finalized in the future OP CBC**;
- Improve the project selection process and the use of funds on the Slovak side of the border according to the actual project quality and not according to the funds allocated to the regions regardless of the border length – **fulfilled**.

1.4.2 JPD Strategy Fulfilment

Fulfilling the strategy was based on the long history of cooperation among the population of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty, which has evolved and encompassed all cultural, social and economic areas. At the same time, it respected relevant strategic documents of regional and national importance, the Operational Programme of SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation, and Objective 3 European Territorial Cooperation.

The long-term cross-border cooperation fulfilled its objectives to implement joint development programmes and projects aimed at achieving a balanced cultural, social and economic development and preserving natural heritage in a quality worthy of the 21st century, which in terms of quality and quantity

▪ strengthened regional identity and sense of belonging to the ER BBK ▪ improved the level of education ▪ supported equal opportunities ▪ supported nature and environment protection ▪ reflected environmental principles and principles of permanently sustainable life in all areas ▪ rendered the region more attractive and visible for tourism ▪ improved the quality of cross-border communication by using information technologies and by creating social and economic networks ▪ to some extent, the region was made culturally, socially and economically attractive, which is evidenced by the aforementioned tables of implemented projects and the list of projects attached.

In the long run, there has been little success at mitigating the depopulation of the border areas and at improving employment sustainability in the border regions, which remains a challenge for the future programming period as well.

In conclusion, it can be said that thanks to the well-defined parameters of the Joint Programme Document on Cross-Border Cooperation in the ER BBK in 2007-2013, as defined by the JPD ER BBK Working Group, and since it was consistent with the Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2007-2013, its fulfilment can be viewed as positive not only in terms of quantity, i.e., the number of projects and the financial benefit for the territory, but also in terms of content and quality. It has become evident that a separate programme document will be required also after 2014 to ensure permanently sustainable development of cross-border cooperation in the ER BBK territory. A programme is required that will on the one hand respect the needs of the Euroregion and, on the other hand, that will follow up on the Operational Programme for SK-CZ Cross-Border Cooperation in 2014–2020; at the same time, it should identify additional sources for developing territorial cooperation.

2. TERRITORY DESCRIPTION AND SWOT ANALYSIS

2.1. Location of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty

The Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty (hereinafter the “Euroregion” or ER BBK) is a cross-border regional association situated in the northwest part of the Slovak Republic (SK) and in the eastern part of the Czech Republic (CZ). The area of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty covers two administrative regions on both sides of the border. The Slovak part corresponds to the Trenčín Self-Governing Region, while the Czech side covers a portion of the Zlín Region. For these reasons, the description of the Euroregion shows statistical data for the Trenčín and the Zlín regions. The total area of the ER BBK is 8,465.5 km², of which 3,963.5 km² is in the Czech Republic and 4,502 km² in the Slovak Republic.

The total length of the shared border is 120 km, which is basically one half of the entire Slovak-Czech border; the Euroregion has not common border with any other country.

The altitude above sea level of the Euroregion ranges from 165 m a.s.l. (a floodplain of the Dudváh in the cadastre of Horná Streda) to 1,346 m a.s.l. (the top of the Vtáčnik mountain). Both places are in the Slovak part of the Euroregion. On the Czech side, the highest point is Čertův mlýn (1,206 m a.s.l.) and the lowest lying point is the level of the Morava river at Uherský Ostroh (173 m a.s.l.).

In terms of orography (geomorphology), the Euroregions territory is rather varied. It belongs to the area of the Western Carpathians. On the Slovak side, it includes the White Carpathians, Javorníky, Myjava Foothills and the Povážské Lowlands, and to some extent also the Low Carpathians, Povážský Inovec, Strážovské Hills, Súľovské Rocks, Hornonitrianska Valley, Žiar, Trábeč, the valleys of Považské podolie. The Podunajské Foothills reach up to the Euroregion from the Podunajská Lowlands. On the Czech side, the territory covers the Moravskosliezske Beskydy, Javorníky, White Carpathians, Hostín–Vsetín Highlands, Vizovická Highlands, Chříby, Upper Moravian Basin and Lower Moravian Basin. In terms of hydrology, the territory is within the catchment area of the Morava river in the western part, the Váh in the central part, and the Nitra in the eastern part.

The administrative territory of the Euroregion comprises of 9 districts on the Slovak side (Bánovce nad Bebravou, Ilava, Myjava, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Partizánske, Považská Bystrica, Prievidza, Púchov and Trenčín) and 4 districts on the Czech side (Kroměříž, Uherské Hradiště, Vsetín and Zlín). Of the total number of 580 municipalities, 48 enjoy the status of towns or cities. The total population is 1,180,852 and the average population density is 140 citizens per km², which exceeds the country average values on both sides of the border.

The Euroregion has an advantageous position potential from the national point of view, also considering the geopolitical arrangement of the environment in Central Europe and the whole of Europe as such. Important European routes pass through the region in the northwest-southeast direction, and it is located alongside the most significant natural connecting routes of the Mediterranean area with Central and Northern Europe.

Furthermore, the programme contains detailed statistical data in the following chapters: **Demographic developments and settlement structure** * **Healthcare and social affairs** * **Economics, employment and tourism** * **Public administration** * **Schools** * **Education, science and research** * **Environment** * **Transport** * **Tourism** * **Culture** from both sides of the border and jointly give names to the issues established in the given area, which are suitable to be dealt with within the Programme. Considering the scope thereof, they are not part of the translation.

2.12. SWOT Analysis

PRIORITY 1		DEVELOP HUMAN POTENTIAL AND BUSINESS	
Area	Strengths	Weaknesses	
Human Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Adaptable and qualified labour force — Strong links of the population to the region and interest in its development — Educated population — Sufficient system of elementary schools, traditional structure of secondary schools, presence of universities with new fields of study, with some fields of study being of supra-regional importance — Traditional cooperation, an agreement between the Trenčín Self-Governing Region and the Zlín Region — Advantageous geographical location for population migration — Active labour market policy with an emphasis on creating new jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Unsuitable qualification structure of the population with a view to the labour market needs — Declining population in the pre-productive age and a rising share of the population in the post-productive age — System of social services — Prevailing issues of growing numbers of the long-term unemployed — Insufficient pace of creating new job opportunities — Wage level compared to the average levels of the two countries — High unemployment rates of specific groups (those with special health conditions, seniors, unqualified, women, graduates) — Outgoing migration of people in the productive age — Prevailing traditional sector and industry stereotypes in the qualification structure of human resources — A high share of citizens receiving unemployment benefits and material need benefits — Missing comparable indicators of social service quality measurement 	
	Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Industry tradition combined with its restructuring — Scientific and research base — Long-term tradition and diversification in many industries — Existence of sources of raw materials, in particular construction materials and wood — Transit position of the region — Existence of glass-making and rubber-manufacturing centres of international importance — Existence of free and unused areas and facilities — Existence of supporting infrastructure for innovative enterprising (industrial and technology parks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Reduced innovation and upgrading activities in the industry — ICT infrastructure quality — Cross-border cooperation among business entities and with education, research and development institutions — Cross-border cooperation support processes — Low share of finalisation — A lack of business infrastructure and insufficient use of the service potential to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (incubators, business parks, enterprise and innovation centres) — Attenuation of some traditional industries — Insufficient financial support, in particular for small entrepreneurs — Problematic use of old manufacturing facilities — Insufficient interconnection of development, production and education — Weak cooperation and coordination of joint activities between the countries — Unsatisfactory technical condition of many main roads and railways and insufficient public transport service within the territory — Poor economic situation of a majority of farming businesses, with negative impacts on rural development — Lack of links between agricultural production and the processing industry

PRIORITY 1

DEVELOP HUMAN POTENTIAL AND BUSINESS

Area	Opportunities	Threats	
Human Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Actively prepare for the consequences of changes in population development – education system adaptation, life-long education, requalification, social services — Create programmes to prevent socially pathologic phenomena — Develop a system of life-long education with an emphasis on information society development — Adapt the education system to ever lower numbers of children and find new ways to use the free capacities of schools — Regionally coordinate secondary schools and achieve a greater degree of interconnection of the secondary education of the youth and the needs of the labour market — Create better opportunities for requalification according to the labour market needs, support the development of vocational fields and emphasise the dual education system — Improve the quality of university education on both sides of the border — Support the inclusion of hard-to-place groups of the population in the labour market — Increase the share of non-government non-profit organisations in the system of social, healthcare, environmental, cultural, education, information and publishing services — Use support programmes for the traditional industries in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Growing long-term unemployment, in particular of the young generation and some other groups of the population (people with special health conditions, seniors, unqualified people, women) — The structure of schools does not match the labour market requirements — Insufficient capacities of social facilities and system of services for the growing number of people in the post-productive age — Growing vulnerability of some population categories (people with special health conditions, older employees, unqualified, women, graduates) — Growing outflow of qualified labour outside the region — Growing share of older citizens in the labour process — Lack of interest of the young generation in studying technical fields of study — Jeopardised level of education due to school financing derived from the number of students — Some well-educated and qualified workers relocate abroad 	
	Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Improve competitiveness in basic and applied research — Support all forms of cooperation among businesses in the region (clusters, joint projects, topical networks) — Utilise the scientific and research potential, in particular for industrial innovations and productive service development — Increase the activity of support institutions (chambers of commerce, employer associations etc.) — Improve access to international markets by connecting the region to the European transport system — Improve ICT availability of the border areas — Promote an integrated approach to developing agricultural and forest production (integration of economic, energy and environmental components) — Support the development of a network of sales centres (of associations) for agricultural produce and ensure functional and territorial interconnection with the processing industry — Improve farming publicity to stimulate the origination and support of privately enterprising farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ageing labour force — Insufficient creation of new job opportunities — Insufficient support of business development — Further deepening of negative trends in industrial development with impacts on employment and industrial service development, including the loss of domestic and foreign markets (or failure to acquire new markets) — Ongoing decline of the competitive position of main regional centres and the entire region compared to more successful regions — Ongoing policy of low protection of the domestic market against subsidised imports of agricultural products — Lower eligibility for co-financing and pre-financing projects from EU assistance programmes — Delayed construction and reconstruction of roads and railways

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses	
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Above-average quality of the environment in the border mountainous and foothill area — High share of land with large-area protection of the landscape and water sources and of other protected areas — Sufficient capacity of water sources, presence of mineral water springs and healing springs as well as quality forests — Terminal technologies have been installed by the most important polluters (in terms of air protection and waste water treatment) — Attenuation of some industries — High degree of gas pipeline availability, in particular on the Czech side — Long-term tradition in specialised fields of agricultural production fields, a great share of forests in suitable positions, more resistant to negative influences — Well-maintained preserved forests – forests meant for wood harvesting as well as protected and special-purpose forests — Quality network of marked tourist trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Insufficient retention ability of the landscape, which poses a risk of floods and landslides — Pressure on renewing the excavation of mineral resources in protected areas and the building of waste elimination facilities in unsuitable locations — Insufficient global environmental information system and lacking environmental education of the population — No network for monitoring and assessing emission and noise levels in the territory — Ongoing pollution of a significant part of the hydrologic system with subsequent negative impacts on the costs of drinking water treatment, missing waste-water treatment plants and sewer systems in small settlements — Growing emissions of solid pollution substances from small combustion sources in households — High degree of threat to agricultural land due to degrading factors — Quickly declining numbers of livestock with negative impacts on agricultural development in more difficult natural conditions, a crisis of shepherdry and bee-keeping — Insufficient care for non-forest vegetation – excessive growth of invasive plants — Insufficient level of investments in heat and electricity consumption reduction, leading to a high energy-intensity of industries and households, insufficient use of alternative sources of energy — Insufficient extent of recycling, in particular on the Slovak side, and waste and secondary resource processing, as waste is mostly deposited at dumpsites — No established method for handling biodegradable waste and insufficient capacity of facilities for utilising such waste — Insufficient approach to handling mixed (residual) household waste, a high number of unauthorised dumpsites in the territory and a low degree of waste handling awareness in the population — Low degree of using environment-friendly materials in the building industry — Just formal environmental education at Slovak schools and insufficient financial independence of environmental education and training programmes on the Czech side — Lack of personnel and equipment to ensure environmental protection on the Slovak side 	
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Transport infrastructure upgrading aimed at improving transport and traffic safety — Significant transit function in international transportation and a strategic position of the territory — Existence of civil transport and sport airports — Railway routes of supra-regional and international importance pass through the region, the railway system in the region has been stabilised in the long run — The extent of Class I roads in principle meets the needs of transport connections and service of the region (except for some specific sections with local problems) — A long-term stable zoning plan for the entire region that provides a framework for the transport infrastructure — Unified strategies of the Czech and Slovak transport systems to interconnect the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Possibility and willingness of the local population from the border areas to commute to more distant towns for work is made possible by the transport infrastructure quality — The state border throughput capacity conflicts with the current and development needs of the region – the major roads have an insufficient throughput capacity and the cross-border sections have low-quality connections — Non-finalised process of preparing and implementing superior transport network – highways and speedways, and an insufficient throughput capacity of the CZ/SK border — Lack of cross-border sections interconnecting the D1 highway on the Slovak side and the D1 highway on the Czech side in the west-east direction — Absence of a backbone speedway in the regions of the Morava and the Váh rivers, incomplete existing connecting roads to the highways and trans-European transport networks, — High transit traffic congestion in towns and cities (missing bypasses, transit routes through city centres and municipalities are not suitable) — Insufficient transport accessibility of the populated rural areas and a missing integrated transport system (ITS) in the region — Overall neglected condition of the transport infrastructure and the related technical and auxiliary facilities, in particular of regional and local importance — No direct public transportation lines between the regional cities

Area	Opportunities	Threats	
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Cooperate in waste handling, prevent waste creation, and enforce a new system of priorities in waste handling while approaching the EU standards; improve the system of bio-waste collection — Support and promote environmentally friendly management while using renewable and alternative sources of energy — Support food consumption independence using regional and traditional products — Create and implement regional and local concepts of supplying utilities to the population and firms, in particular those generated from renewable sources — Accept the EU standards pertaining to the implementation of sewer systems and WWT plants in municipalities, WWT technology levels (Degree 3 cleaning) – in particular on the Slovak side, build alternative WWT plants — Intensify programmes for revitalising the landscape and water network, for example with a linkage to building the USES and NATURA 2000 projects — Build systems for monitoring and assessing specific environment components — Place a greater emphasis on the non-production functions of agricultural and forest production, reflecting the interests of protecting farming soil, landscape and water sources — Support farming to maintain and preserve landscape structures — Inter-sector cooperation in environmental education and education toward sustainable development and education — Utilise the potential of cross-border cooperation and exchange experience as part of sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, water management, construction and energy industries — Support the suitable planting of forests including fast-growing trees and their subsequent utilisation for energy generation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Ongoing water pollution with a negative impact on the costs of drinking water treatment — Declining agricultural production, which threatens the chances for a systemic rural development and food independence of the region — Underestimation of the negative impacts of polluted environment on the health of the population and the environmental landscape stability — Jeopardised quality of life and landscape in the territory due to pressures on resuming the exploitation of mineral resources due to lobby interests, in particular in protected territories — Pressure to build facilities to destroy / recycle waste in unsuitable locations — Development of individual transport in cars and reduction of public transport — Illegal logging and thefts of logs — Underestimated negative visual impacts on the landscape when planning and implementing new projects — Lack of funds for project co-financing 	
	Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — The territory includes plans for future transport infrastructure incorporated in the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) with a potential for sustainable transport and elimination of obstacles in key network infrastructures, improvement of the cross-border regions' competitiveness — Improvement of transport accessibility and throughput capacity of the region — Build a network of highways and speedways, increase the throughput capacity of the territory and the state border, and improve transport accessibility — Build, reconstruct and upgrade Class II and III roads that are used by the local population to access the neighbouring regions and countries — Build, reconstruct and upgrade cycling trails — Upgrade the transport infrastructure to improve transport and traffic safety — Stimulate effective international coordination of building highways and speedways and cooperate with neighbouring regions and countries to improve the quality of transport accessibility as part of cross-border cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Low quality of upper-level transport infrastructure and the periphery nature of the territory in both countries, low technical condition of roads — Insufficiently functioning and developing transport infrastructure negatively affects the quantity and quality of investments in the region and limits the region's development — Worsening issues of transport accessibility in the territory as several regional and local railway sections might be cancelled — Postponing of building road connections between the border areas and the main transport routes — An imbalance in terms of the funds needed and the available budgets for infrastructure and services as well as road repairs

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses	
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Strong natural and cultural-historical potential for the development of tourism — Development of new quality regional tourism products — More frequent visits positively affecting employment development — Good conditions for exhibitions on the Slovak side and developing exhibitions on the Czech side — Attractive natural environment, conditions for summer and winter recreation (baths, municipal and country tourism) — Attractive and internationally important sports and tourist activities — Existence of traditional tourism centres, historical buildings and heritage sites of sacred, bourgeoisie and folk architecture, including small forms of cultural heritage (chapels, crosses at roads, etc.) on the territory — Favourable geographical location of the border region — Reasonable prices, especially for the foreign clientele — Transportation connections between both sides and a relatively short distance from large cities (Bratislava, Brno) — Potential of unexplored territory, authenticity, and originality of cultural heritage, mostly unaffected by negative tendencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Different levels of developed tourist infrastructure (accommodation, sports – recreation services, country tourism offering, swimming pools, ski centres, etc.) — Unequal quality of presentation, quality of provided and absence of supplemental tourist services, compared to the developed countries — Small percentage of workers in tourism, compared to the whole state and Europe — Limited interest of companies in building tourist infrastructures due to the uncertain return of investments — Territory with limited activities due to public interest protection – large protected territories and zones — Unequal numbers of quality regional tourism products (tourist programmes and paths with quality services) — Big differences in the density and quality of identified hiking trails and cycling paths — Insufficient support of tourism development, especially in country zones and cultural heritage located in less accessible localities — Unequal representation and quality of regional gastronomy — Lower purchasing power of the local population 	
	Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Historical, cultural, language, and human cohesion of the regions with similar customs and traditions — Existence of cultural facilities, a network of cultural centres, museums, galleries, and libraries with traditional cultural activities — Supra-regional social importance of some of the borderland zones — Growing interest in partnership in cross-border cooperation – establishing new partnerships and intensifying the traditional ones — Relatively sufficient number of subjects, producers, and volunteers who support culture and folk traditions, numerous art groups, and traditional craftsmen — Developed and stable system of contests, parades, and festivals of traditional culture and arts and their representatives — Network of cultural facilities and culture centres providing professional and methodical counselling — Growing of old and regional species and fruit woody species, and keeping of traditional breeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Poor condition and facilities of cultural and historical heritage sites that affect the area's presentation — Insufficient support of intangible traditional folk culture and artistic works — Poor availability of resources for the cultural infrastructure recovery, especially in terms of smaller seats — Insufficient personnel support of cultural events in villages – insufficient support of organizers and live culture producers and interpreters, as the bearers of intangible cultural heritage, which identifies a locality-region — Existence of significant regional disparities in the availability of cultural events and culture support — Insufficient investments into material-technical support of local culture – culture home interiors – technical equipment, lighting, sound systems, exterior stages – both permanent and mobile ones, mobile uniform stands for folk artists, party tents, etc. — Small number of digitized cinemas in villages and inadequate commercial cinema offerings — Long-standing barriers preventing the exchanges of craftsmen across the border due to the valid legislation (bureaucracy, taxes, etc.) — Worsening economic conditions of folk producers further worsened by the population's decreasing purchasing power

Area	Opportunities	Threats	
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — High development potential – attractive natural environment, conditions for summer and winter recreation (baths, municipal and country tourism) — Newly built developed tourist infrastructure in the region (accommodation, dining, sports-recreational services, newly added material support for live culture, country tourism, agrotourism, and cyclotourism offerings, congress tourism development, etc.), considering the territory’s environmental limitations — Cultural tourism, the possibility of developing and establishing historical paths — Region tourist image improvement through focused promotion, implemented service certification system, and information system with positive impact on its visit rate — Support and development of regional gastronomy based on local raw materials — Creating of job positions in tourism with emphasis on the support of small and mid-sized businesses, development of cooperation between non-profit organisations, businesses, and public and state administration — Creating new quality regional products, intensifying the development of cross-border tourism programmes and projects with emphasis on different target groups — Recovery of the current tourist infrastructure — Utilisation of the low-cost tourism potential (agrotourism and country tourism, recreational stays, and cyclotourism) — Development of services supporting tourism, creating new regional tourist organisations on the Slovak side — Network and joint offering of specific tourist products to foreign or specialised travel agencies — Joint exhibitions and expositions with unifying elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Only seasonal utilisation of the tourist capacities — Transit character of the territory – big number of visitors not staying overnight — Growing tourism offerings of other Czech, Slovak, and foreign competitive regions — Permanent destruction of non-recovered cultural heritage sites, especially on the Slovak side, and vandalism — Permanent sustainability of new or completed projects and programmes in tourism — Low and slow return of investments 	
	Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Renewal of historical and cultural heritage sites and tourist infrastructure, revival of cultural life and local traditions and customs — Systematic cultural, historical, and social mapping and research of things, phenomena, and events in the borderland in order to co-create and build a knowledge database of seats and regions and to publish — Utilisation of people’s interest in traditional folk culture, traditional technologies, and their application in the current modern life — Personal attention paid to traditional folk crafts in terms of the specific conditions of their existence and development, providing protection and continuity of technical procedures and techniques, improving the working conditions of folk art producers — Improved conditions for the presentation of folk artists’ products, digitisation of traditional folk culture documents and making them accessible to the public — Support of the partnership of local culture representatives with emphasis on sharing professional knowledge, know-how, and competencies in culture — Development of material-technical support of interior cultural activities; improved cultural offerings and stopped decline of cultural life at some seats — Utilisation of cultural heritage and its uniqueness, as space for interconnecting culture with tourism — Greater usage of structural funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Worsening economic conditions of folk craftsmen also due to the population’s decreasing purchasing power — Visitors’ decreasing interest in cultural, tourist, educational, sport, and gastronomic activities — Insufficient investments in material-technical support of cultural exchange – furniture – lighting and sound equipment, exterior roofing of concert stages (mobile), uniform stands for folk artists (mobile) — Insufficient support of organisers, producers, and interpreters of live culture, as representatives of intangible cultural heritage identifying the locality – region — Worsening conditions of cultural centres, historical heritage sites, and urban wholeness of municipal heritage reservations and zones — Cultural traditions only maintained by older generations or individuals may lead to their gradual destruction, low level of authenticity or shallow activities

3. CROSS-BORDER STRATEGY IN THE EUROREGION BÍLÉ-BIELE KARPATY BY AND AFTER THE YEAR 2020

3.1. Mid-term strategy of Sustainable Development of Cross-border Cooperation (2014–2020)

Mid-term Horizon

The basic fact that was verified in practical life and through the results of completed conferences and/or outcomes of the inter-governmental cross-border committee is that the basic values and goals on which the cross-border cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty was established are still valid. However, time and social events, including value structure shifts, bring development requiring flexible responses in order to make the Euroregion a strong and effective territorial platform of cross-border cooperation in the future as well. It is necessary to present and support specific examples of cross-border cooperation and organic integration of local, regional, national, and international approaches and activities.

The strategy concerns institutional development and especially the further development of the territory.

Institutional Development

Already at the moment when a border was established and cross-border cooperation became necessary, there were discussions on the partnership between local governments, non-profit organisations, and entrepreneurs. The emphasis on cooperation of all the three sectors should be an opportunity for further development.

During the past 14 years, the self-administered regions established themselves and developed their positions both within both states, and also in the cross-border cooperation field. They heavily invest in infrastructures and services; therefore, they logically accepted some of the Euroregion's tasks and goals.

Regarding the cooperation at the people-to-people and small infrastructure level, municipalities or their groups and associations themselves found their positions and actively participate in specific programmes. Non-profit organisations and societies participate more actively especially thanks to the Micro Project Fund.

Although the completed cooperation and projects follow the development strategies of both regions and the Joint Programme Document of the Euroregion, the partners are not sufficiently interconnected to share information and set their joint approach to more efficient planning and development. Therefore, all the partners primarily strive, in terms of their mid-term projects, to support **comprehensive cooperation and involvement of local governments in cross-border cooperation with the emphasis on specific municipalities associated in micro regions, groups, or associations. Another critical issue rests in the more efficient involvement of businesses in the cross-border cooperation development.**

The institutional development vision is as follows:

Development of a functional network of cooperating bodies in order to support sustainable, integrated economic, environmental, social, and cultural development of the cross-cultural region.

Therefore, it is necessary to develop the current platform of cross-border cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty through more active involvement of specific parties in self-administration, businesses, and non-profit organisations. This will be achieved through the provision of effective service in cross-border cooperation in the Zlín and Trenčín regions and active cross-border cooperation promotion focused on the specified target parties and mutual inspiration based on positive activity examples.

Territory Development

The territory must identify its own needs and strategic goals, including its capacities that are necessary for their fulfilment. The territory may develop if stronger relationships at the region – municipality – country level are established.

Specific long-term programmes of cross-border cooperation are the basis of the systemic development of the borderland regions, and their support contributes to the territory's development and competitiveness. The partners will continue working on their preparation and realisation, and they will require their systematic support by the individual governments and ministries. For example, during arranging support of cross-border cooperation after the year 2013 in line with Act No. 539/2008 Coll., on the Support of Regional Development in Slovakia and through recommendations on similar support to be provided by the cross-border cooperation parties in the neighbouring countries.

The EU's cohesive policy in 2014–2020 supports the development, not change of the current programmes of European territorial and cross-border cooperation. The territory development will be focused on growing cohesion and convergence of the cross-border region. In cooperation with the responsible ministries and territorial local governments, the Euroregion will strive to maintain the current principles of European territorial cooperation and to possibly extend the macro-regional strategy; providing it will not lead towards new legislatures, new bodies, and that none of the European territorial cooperation funds will be necessary. There will also be a desire to maintain the possibility of borderland infrastructure financing and the well proven Micro Project Fund or other forms of support of smaller cross-border projects administered by regional structures or Euroregions directly on the territory.

Following the long-term programme of the Euroregion's development and the developmental programmes of the Zlín and Trenčín regions, the future support of territory development in the defined areas, which are still valid and critical for the territory, will be intensified:

1. Development of human potential and entrepreneurship
2. Development of the environmental infrastructure and transportation
3. Development of the tourist and cultural infrastructure

Their support is to make the Euroregion competitive and to create favourable conditions for its population's life.

Another important element rests in the thorough protection of the natural and cultural heritage and its reasonable utilisation. It is one of the main prosperity preconditions of the White Carpathian region and the neighbouring borderland territories in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, while following the principles of permanently sustainable development and protection, management and planning of territorial development, planning of economic and social development, developing territorial planning documentation of regions and municipalities, and the whole planning and execution process.

The Euroregion's tourism is based on its beautiful nature and cultural-social traditions. Due to the natural conditions, active tourism is very important – especially cyclotourism and hiking. The Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty strives to support the methods and forms of practical and moral support of activity organisers and long-term programmes of cross-border tourism. Most importantly, the cross-border project organisers must limit formalities and cooperation proclamations and focus more on specific outcomes of mainly realised and permanently sustainable outcomes and implemented results of studies and analyses. It is not necessary to create synergic effects through interconnecting the individual national economy sectors either. For example, it is important to get processing industry subjects involved in tourism projects and products. Specifically, on the Euroregion's Bílé-Biele Karpaty territory, it is the glass industry. This will create room both for the maintenance of technical traditions and firm, congress, and incentive tourism.

The borderland territory development vision is as follows:

Realisation of joint development strategies, programmes, and projects supporting balanced cultural-social and social-economic development and strengthening of the territory's regional identity and belonging through the preservation of its natural values.

The main goal is to bring funds into the territory, not to remove them.

3.1.1 Programme Priorities

During the preparation process, the PDPS working group again agreed upon specification of the three priority goals that should be implemented through the Programme in the future, in terms of the sustainable development of cross-border cooperation supporting the development of the Euroregion's borderland territories as a whole. The priorities are basically the same as in the previous programme; however, they respond to the current and expected future problems, which must be jointly solved across the borders.

Priority 1: DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Like in the last planning period, the current planning period must put the greatest emphasis on human potential development. In this area, the demands shifted from the population's growing qualification structure to targeted education, including the lifetime one, to support the labour market needs and eliminate growing long-term unemployment. The accelerating decline of pre-productive age population, outflow of the productive age population, and growing of post-productive age population bring new challenges concerning not only unemployment, but mainly insufficient social service systems. It will become inevitable for public administration and self-administration to create preventive programmes against socio-pathological phenomena in cooperation with non-profit organizations.

Presently, one of the most critical current problems is qualified labour and its stabilization. Entrepreneurs see a partial solution in training facilities, which may be a part of a technological and innovation centre. The ideal solution rests in the education system review and much tighter cooperation with practice. Another serious problem is the fact that newly trained employees leave their firms and get hired abroad despite their current high wages. The entrepreneurs find the growing quality of life in the region very important (social infrastructure building). When trained employees decide on leaving their firms or the region their quality of life may play an important role.

Regarding the strategic and project solutions of the specific problems, the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty may rely on strong foundations in the form of the population's ties to the region, its interest in the development, adaptable and qualified labour, sufficient elementary school network, traditional grammar school structure, regional colleges with new important and supra-regional study fields. Last but not least, it may rely on traditional cooperation starting from historical administrative structures till present ones – ranging from the municipalities to the Trenčín self-administered region and the Zlín region.

In the future, the Euroregion must increase the level of education and counselling for innovation management, human resources, and marketing, also in relation to international business activities, financial management, and intellectual ownership. The regional universities may be very useful, providing this education and counselling.

The main challenge in enterprising sphere in cross-border cooperation will be the support and preservation of some traditional sectors (e.g. glassmaking, rubber industry, etc.), increasing the share of product finalisation, innovation activities and modernisation in industry, as well as improving quality of ICT infrastructure in the Euroregion's territory.

Another important goal is the cross-border cooperation of businesses among themselves, together with educational institutions, and research and development facilities. It is important to intensify cooperation and coordination of joint activities between both states, including their transportation systems. Regarding entrepreneurship, it will be necessary to deal with the lack of business infrastructures and insufficient utilization of services supporting the development of small and mid-size businesses. The Euroregion's Bílé-Biele Karpaty territory was affected by the bad economic situation of agricultural companies and farmers, unavailable connections between agricultural production and processing industries. This leads towards the limited development of countryside and population stabilization.

In this area, the Euroregion may utilize the long-term industrial traditions – glassmaking and rubber industry centres at the international level, scientific-research basis, available sources of raw materials – especially, building materials and wood, un-built and unutilized areas, supporting infrastructure for innovative entrepreneurship, and, last but not least, the region's transit location.

The most important factor of the development of small and mid-size businesses is the development of suitable business environment. That inevitably requires simplified and clearer legislation, reduced administrative and tax burdens, and quality of labour.

The whole priority, including other ones, would primarily benefit from simplified administrative support of cross-border cooperation and quicker investment returns.

Priority 2: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

The priority concerning the development of the environmental infrastructure and transportation includes a wide area of support, which is quite costly. The majority of problems, which are still found manageable by both parties, depend on financing. The cross-border cooperation investment funds are limited both by the measures of the Programme and the possibility of releasing regional resources. Despite that, smaller projects still do get completed. However, the cross-border cooperation potential should be utilised much more, especially in terms of mutual experience exchanges concerning sustainable development.

The territory of the Zlín and Trenčín regions features a high quality environment in the borderland zone. There are preserved forests and sufficient water sources and mineral and healing water wells. For this reason, a large part of this territory is state-protected. This condition specifically determines the possibilities of the territory's future development and requires more thorough environmental protection, improved monitoring, global information system implementation, and the population's intensified environmental education. To preserve the quality environment, it is acutely necessary to cooperate in waste handling and waste generation prevention and to improve the biological waste collection system. Another critical factor is the general increase of electric power consumption when our territory is able to provide sufficient renewable sources of energy. It could facilitate the completion of regional plans of supplying the population and economic sphere. Another challenge rests in the territory's food production self-sufficiency based on the regional and traditional products.

Regarding transportation, both regions feature a low level of higher order transportation infrastructures and technical obsolescence of ground roadways. The territory is covered with territorial planning documentation, which stabilises the proposed transportation infrastructure and creates conditions for the territory's transportation accessibility and efficiency from the perspective of the TEN-T Trans-European Transportation Network. It is able to increase the competitiveness of both borderland regions.

Motorless transportation is also an important transportation component. Its more suitable infrastructure is available in the Zlín region; however, it is one of the mutual cooperation priorities.

Priority 3: TOURISM AND CULTURE

Tourism and culture are very much interconnected in our region. Cultural development positively affects the region's visit rate and tourism generates funds that may be used to support cultural heritage preservation activities.

The region may still provide much more supplemental or follow-up services to tourists. Compared to the other regions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the number of people working in tourism is below the average. The region's other negative aspects include its insufficient cultural activity facilities and deteriorating or insufficient infrastructure. Regional disparities were defined not only in terms of infrastructures, but also in terms of the number of marked paths and cycling paths, and the promotion of the region as a tourist destination. Tourism and culture must develop together with environmental protection. Beautiful nature, numerous heritage sites, and peace are the competitive advantages of our region, as a tourist destination.

Our region features a large fortune of current and preserved traditional culture. Traditions, traditional crafts, folk art, and technical procedures inherited from predecessors represent the region's cultural fortune. Research and our desire to preserve and present this fortune and to forward it to future generations is the very essence of our support of culture. The expected results of our support of tourism and culture include growing overnight stays in our region and improved offerings and visit rates of cultural activities.

3.1.2 Specific Goals and Measures of the Priorities

Priority 1: DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN POTENTIAL AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Specific Objective 1.1 *Creation of growing employment conditions based on the labour market*

follows creating of conditions, improving quality and deepening the cross-border cooperation by all the relevant institutions in labour market development with the focus on its needs and labour development in order to decrease unemployment in the region through the following measures:

- Mutual cooperation of labour offices, economic and social partners and regional educational institutions of all levels in the labour market needs development;
- Monitoring of the labour market cross-border needs, mid-term and long-term strategies of labour market development;
- Systems of joint education and certifications for the labour market needs on the White Carpathian Euroregion's territory;
- Programmes of improved marketability of disadvantaged job applicants;
- Joint counselling programmes in education and career;
- Promotion of specialized education in the Euroregion's Bílé-Biele Karpaty territory.

Specific Objective 1.2 *Support of education modernization and development of science and research*

deals with active preparation for consequences of changes in development of population, education adaptation, lifetime education, re-training, and new utilization of available educational capacities. It is also focused on development of information society and higher quality of university education in the region through the following measures:

- Investments into modernization of education infrastructure within joint education projects, programmes, and fields with emphasis on education quality, implementation of new technologies and learning elements focused on actual needs of the cross-border labour market;
- Cooperation of schools at all levels and their mutual converging and utilization of education systems for the region's needs;
- Development of capacities for evaluation of education needs, labour market qualification requirements, and reaching higher quality in the region's education system;
- Support of education programmes focused on needs of the region's traditional industrial sectors;
- Creation of joint science-research programmes for applied research;
- Support of joint projects of small and mid-size businesses with research and development organizations;
- Joint scientific conferences;
- Obtaining, educating, and stabilizing scientists and teachers;
- Support of lifetime education programmes;
- Support of access to new findings and information.

Specific Objective 1.3 *Support of cooperation and competitiveness in business*

should help the development of small and mid-size businesses, including the region's competitiveness, using synergic effect of cooperation between business and public sector, supporting programmes in the region's traditional industry, supporting trade and technical schools development, through these measures:

- Implementation of joint programmes of entrepreneurship development and innovation activities;
- Creation of cooperating public and private networks in various fields;
 - Support of quality improvement and ICT structure in the Euroregion's territory's borderland;
 - Support of cooperation programmes of research and development institutions and businesses;
 - Information activities and assistance in gaining support to improve competitiveness of businesses with cross-border impacts from the state and EU resources.

Specific Objective 1.4 *Programmes of solving joint social problems*

should solve the growing present and expected social problems in the systems providing social and health care services, socio-pathological phenomena prevention, environmental, cultural, educational, and information services through a greater number of non-state non-profit organizations. Measures:

- Programmes dealing with the problems caused by progressive population aging in the borderland of Euroregion's Bilé-Biele Karpaty territory;
- Educational activities focused on prevention of socio-pathological phenomena;
- Innovations in provision of health care and social services;
- Protection of traditional social values and role of traditional family in society;
- Comprehensive approach to people's quality of life.

Priority 2: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

Specific goal 2.1 *Biodiversity protection and renewal*

The Euroregion's territory features a great environment quality. The goal of the proposed measures is to support the current monitoring and protective systems and simultaneously contribute to the preservation of countryside quality and its effective utilisation for the production of traditional and regional products, including the systemic development of the country regions.

Measures:

- Development of information systems and monitoring of biotopes and species;
- Economic support focused on countryside maintenance and preservation;
- Joint programmes of systemic solutions for the development of country regions
- Support of the utilisation of regional and traditional products to achieve territorial food production self-sufficiency;
- Promotion of small farmers and regional producers

Specific goal 2.2 *Protection of other environmental sectors*

Due to the persisting differences and insufficiencies in the national legislation during waste handling and processing, it is necessary to produce joint concepts of eliminating hazardous waste impacts on soil, water, and water resources in the borderland regions with greater land preservation levels. It is important to focus on the utilisation of biodegradable materials and higher quality sorting and processing of waste, including its potential usage for power generation. In terms of preventing emergency flooding and associated situations and also in terms of the desire to increase soil quality, it is necessary to focus on the renewal of the countryside's retention capabilities.

The Euroregion's territory faces good conditions for the utilisation of renewable energy resources, especially those based on biomass. Due to the aforementioned facts, it is also necessary to improve the quality of and expand the current environmental monitoring systems and set environmental limits. Effective environmental and countryside protection requires the active participation of the territory's population. Its motivation should primarily come from promotion and higher quality environmental education.

- Creation of a joint waste management concept and programmes;
- Creating joint concepts and projects in the countryside's retention capabilities;
- Support of projects with positive impacts on the territory's climatic conditions;
- Support of new emission and noise burden monitoring networks;
- Joint environmental educational activities;

Specific goal 2.3 **Improvement of transportation accessibility and efficiency**

The improvement of quality of life and competitiveness in both regions' territories requires improved transportation accessibility and efficiency in terms of the connection to the TEN – T supra-national network. This applies to lower level roads whose quality and traffic safety must be increased, as well. Both regions also strive to increase the state border permeability.

- The region's connection to the TEN – T European transportation network in order to improve the economic development and competitiveness of the borderland regions;
- Support of sustainable transportation and elimination of obstacles in key network infrastructure;
- Activities increasing the state border permeability;
- Increased quality of the class II and III roads ensuring their connectivity to the surrounding regions and states;
- Increased road traffic safety, especially on the class II and III roads.

Specific goal 2.4 **Support of environmental forms of transportation**

One of the most frequent forms of environmental transportation is cycling. The Czech side features a relatively dense network of quality cycling paths and biking routes; however, there are not perfectly connected to the Slovak network. Also, the Slovak one is still being built. In addition, the initially functioning cross-border road transportation system is currently optimised by transportation companies in such a way that it makes both territories less accessible to individuals without means of transportation, including tourists. One of the priorities shared by both regions should be the development of functional integrated transportation systems.

- Building, recovery, and modernisation of a cycling infrastructure;
- Cooperation projects improving the territories' accessibility;
- Support of the concept of integrated systems in suburban transportation.

Priority 3: TOURISM AND CULTURE

Specific goal 3.1 **Improved local tourist infrastructure**

Tourism features a standard competitive environment; therefore, it is necessary to support the tourism infrastructure and also protect economic competition. Especially outside of the intense tourism support centres, it is possible to make accommodation facilities available and improved. Supplemental services, which would generate other revenues and also improved offerings of services for tourists, are generated especially due to the very uncertain return of investments in tourism. Another disadvantage rests in the fact that sport and tourist activities are not mutually connected and sufficiently varied. One of the opportunities and also a factor that may increase the region's attractiveness is the support of regional gastronomy and tourism associated with traditional regional food products. Another area that must be developed includes cultural and historical heritage sites and their tourist facilities.

- Greater accessibility and quality of accommodation facilities
- Support of higher quality small wellness services and spas
- Development and improvement of sport and tourist activities in the region
- Support of gastronomic facilities focused on regional cuisine and regional products
- Support of greater accessibility of cultural heritage sites

Specific goal 3.2 **Support of pro-tourism activities**

Tourism support is one of the areas that progressed significantly in the past. It is also an area in which regional disparities were identified. The region promotion must be further developed. It is also necessary to continue developing offerings for tourists, identify new target groups, introduce new activities, and support tourism. The utilisation of information and communication technologies was poorly developed. It is important to interconnect supplies and cooperate in promotion across the region.

- Promotion of the region, as a tourist destination
- Development of new tourism products and follow-up marketing activities
- Cooperation of organisations supporting tourism and promotion of the regions

Specific goal 3.3 **Support of activities focus on the preservation and development of the local culture, traditions, and folk crafts**

Culture strongly influences the quality of life in the region, and it also contributes to the national economy. Culture helps create the region's image in support of other industrial branches. The preservation of cultural heritage is the society's important tasks. The support of culture will include a few areas. One of them will be the traditional folk culture (for example, folk craft markets) in order to promote

tradition supporters. It is also necessary to support live culture through festivals, shows, performances, etc. Educational activities will be used to share traditions and skills associated with traditional crafts and techniques and to improve the awareness of cultural traditions. The preservation of culture also very much depends on cultural research and associated publication activities.

- Traditional folk culture support
- Live culture (festivals, shows, performances, etc.)
- Educational activities (workshops, seminars, lectures, etc.)
- Research and publication activities
- Investments into a new and improved infrastructure providing cultural services.

Specific goal 3.4 **Increased cohesion of organisations and individuals supporting culture**

The support of organisations and individuals supporting culture must be further developed. Mutual exchange of information, cooperation during programme and project completion, including marketing activities, will help preserve the region's cultural heritage. It is also important to eliminate the weakness, which is the insufficient readiness of organisations to organise cultural and educational activities in the region. Cooperation in the region should further increase the effective utilisation of technology and equipment. Jointly completed events should contribute to greater relationships among people living on both sides of the border.

- Development of information and communication cohesion
- Joint promotion and activity networking
- Technical and other equipment to be used jointly
- Marketing activities linked to tourism marketing activities.

3.2. Long-term Strategy of Sustainable Cross-border Cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty (2020–2029)

A joint cross-border cooperation implementation, monitoring, and evaluation system will improve the long-term sustainability of cross-border cooperation in both territories. Also, it will become possible to deal with cross-border cooperation comprehensively, while involving partners from all the three sectors.

It will be necessary to take measures in securing cooperation financing in regards to the planned changes in the system of European funds and the European territorial cooperation system changes after the year 2020 in order to preserve and improve cross-border cooperation or at least to make it stable and financed independently of the European funds. The specified system development must start already during the 2014–2020 planning period.

It will be necessary to discuss the possibilities, suitability, and necessity of developing the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. Another component, which may affect cross-border cooperation, is the new planned system of regions in the Slovak Republic.

The long-term strategy will be expanded during the document update in the year 2017, based on current information and completed meeting results.

4. PROJECTS AND FINANCIAL PLAN

4.1. Projects

- **Project types**
 - Projects with investment plans in the selected OPPS priority directions
 - Soft character projects – IVF, OPPS, FMP
- **Partnerships**
 - The majority of projects will be completed from OPPS, which will keep the current Project Lead Partner system. This system is also used in IVF, Central Europe and Danube.
 - All the projects supported by the European funds feature clear rules for partner involvement – especially project suitability and contribution, proven intensified cross-border cooperation and cross-border impacts.
- **Types of applicants**
 - Regional and local local governments
 - State administration bodies
 - Non-profit organisations
 - Educational institutions
 - Businesses.

4.2. Project Selection Criteria*

- Relevancy – solving current cross-border needs and challenges identified by the programme.
- Cross-border character (impact) – provable and clear contribution of the project and its outcomes for target groups on both sides of the border.
- Solution suitability – internal project logic (i.e. problems – strategy – objectives – activities – outcomes – results) and overall suitability of the proposed solution..
- Cross-border cooperation – demonstrating joint and coordinated approach during the development, implementation, and financing of the project with active participation of partners.
- Partnership – involvement of institutions with necessary competencies and specialized capabilities, institutional balance of the partnership.
- Economic effectiveness – adequacy of necessary funds in relation to complexity of proposed activities' implementation and generation of services/products at adequate quality and scope.
- Value added – it would be impossible to advance in a given area without the implementation of the project.
- Sustainability – ability to secure accessibility and utility of outcomes after project implementation.

*Drawn from the draft OPPS SR – CR 2014 –2020

4.3. Financial Plan

Priority	OPPS SR – ČR**	Small Project Fund**	Other resources*
<i>Development of Human Potential and Entrepreneurship</i>	6,30 MEUR	1,08 MEUR	3,40 MEUR
<i>Development of the Environmental Infrastructure and Transportation</i>	8,51 MEUR	0,00 MEUR	2,03 MEUR
<i>Development of Tourism and Culture</i>	14,38 MEUR	3,42 MEUR	8,07 MEUR
Total	29.19 MEUR	4.50 MEUR	13.50 MEUR
		47.19 MEUR	

* Zlín region, Trenčín self-administered region, International Visegrad Fund, Danube, Central Europe, ZoPRR SR, state budget of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, foundations, etc.

** The individual amounts were determined based on the experiences with drawing on the Zlín and Trenčín territories during the 2007–2013 programme period. ERDF items are provided.

5. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The development of a cooperation structure for the regions, the Euroregion, and other regional partners in order to implement the programme and monitor and evaluate supporting information will be finished after the meeting of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty and the Zlín and Trenčín regions in June 2014.

6. GOAL COMPLETION MONITORING AND PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Even during the next seven years, the main role of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty, while implementing the Programme Document of cross-border cooperation in the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty for the years 2014–2020, is the completion of the objectives as follows:

1. Develop the awareness and collaboration to the territory of Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty – Zlín and Trenčín regions, on a long-term basis.
2. Provide support to projects and institutions in line with the Programme's priorities and measures.
3. Promote effective financial support and obtaining resources for cross-border cooperation.
4. Monitor and evaluate the effective utilization of resources in line with the Programme's priorities and measures.

To meet these objectives effectively, all the Programme partners, cooperating with other institutions on the national and European levels, must:

- Organize information, work, and presentation fora, while implementing PDPS and OPCS of the SK-CZ for their territories,
- Develop a constantly sustainable professional counselling service for cross-border cooperation,
- Closely cooperate with competent bodies and NUTS III and NUTS II level institutions during their cross-border and regional development.

6.1. PDPS Implementation Time-schedule

Upon the approval of the Programme Document of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Territory of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty for the years 2014–2020 by the relevant bodies of both regions (municipalities, councils, committees) and the General Assembly of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty, its implementation time-schedule is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Public presentation and release of PDPS 2014–2020 | by 03/2014 |
| 2. PDPS update based on the annual monitoring interval | by 12/2017 |
| 3. PDPS promotion and implementation for the years 2014–2020 | from 03/2014 |
| 4. Preparation of PDPS for the years 2021–2027 | 2019–2020 |
| 5. PDPS monitoring and completion evaluation for the years 2014–2020 | Continuously |
| 6. PDPS completion evaluation for the years 2014–2020 | by 05/2021 |
| 7. Public presentation and release of PDPS 2021–2027 | by 03/2021 |

6.2. PDPS Evaluation

The continuous and final evaluation of the Programme Document of Cross-Border Cooperation in the Territory of the Euroregion Bílé-Biele Karpaty for the years 2014–2020 will derive from implemented projects in the Euroregion's territory by various subjects and from various resources, based on priorities and measures associated with a relevant method:

- Selection of qualitative and quantitative evaluation criteria,
- Evaluation methodology for individual criteria,
- Corrective measures – elimination of conflicts between the programme and reality,
- Presentation and enforcing of evaluation results.

6.3. PURCS Evaluation Indicators According to the Priorities

The specified evaluation indicators are illustrative. They respect the specified indicators of European territorial cooperation; however, they do not exhaust all the possibilities that will derive from cross-border cooperation specific aspects (the blue indicators were drawn from the indicators of Regulation EKaP(EU) 2014+):

Priority 1:

- Number of social cohesion programmes in measures 1.1-1.4
- Number of programmes focused on lifetime education 1.2
- Number of schools (elementary, grammar, college) involved in joint projects in measure 1.2
- Number of scientific-research projects and programmes in measures 1.2-1.4
- **Number of companies cooperating with supported research institutions** in measures 1.2 -1.3
- Number of projects increasing the ER BBK territory's competitiveness in measures 1.2 and 1.3
- Number of programmes dealing with the ER BBK territory's borderland population aging in measure 1.4
- Number of educational activities focused on the prevention of socio-pathological phenomena in measure 1.4
- Number of projects focused on protection of traditional social values and the role of traditional family in society in measure 1.4
- Number of projects focused on graduates marketability

Priority 2:

- Number of projects dealing with the individual measures 2.1 and 2.2
- Number of joint programmes dealing with development of country zones and promotion of small farmers and regional food producers in measure 2.1
- Developed infrastructure of alternative sources of energy and network of emission and noise burden in measure 2.2.
- Number of joint environmental education projects and programmes in measure 2.2
- Number of projects increasing the common border capacity in measure 2.3
- Number of km of rebuilt and newly built cycling paths and number of installed cycling path infrastructure components in measure 2.3

Priority 3:

- Number of joint tourism programmes
- Newly built or rebuilt tourism infrastructure (number, location, area, km, etc.)
- Increased tourist visiting through completion of measures 3.1 to 3.3
- Number of projects linking cultural activities to tourist activities in measures 3.1-3.4
- Number of projects designed to renew and preserve traditional folk culture, including educational, research, and publication activities in measures 3.3-3.4
- Number of joint cultural activities, their potential recurrence and expansion in measures 3.3-3.

Priorities 1–3:

- Number of administered strategies, programmes, and feasibility studies
- Number of submitted and approved projects in the individual priorities and in total
- Value of completed projects and involvement of individual sectors (self-administration, schools, specialized institutions, entrepreneurs, and non-profit organizations)
- Number of approved projects and their value in the Programme, compared to SPD 2007–2013

6.4. PURCS valuation Time-schedule

By the year 2020, the completion of the priorities and measures will be monitored and annually evaluated by the PDPS Basic Team in cooperation with the Euroregion Białe-Biele Karpaty PDPS members in line with the following time-schedule:

By 2021	- 2014–2020 Programme completion continuous and final evaluation
Years 2019, 2020	- Ex ante PDPS evaluation for the years 2021–2027
Years 2014-2017	- Continuous evaluation, programme updates
Year 2020	- Final evaluation for short-term projects
Years 2018, 2019	- PDPS comparative form and preparation of a new one
Years 2021, 2022	- Ex post evaluation of PDPS for the years 2014–2020 and new form preparation

