

# COOPERATION OF POLISH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ENTITIES



WIELKOPOLSKA  
REGION

with regional and local authorities  
as well as other units from

Eastern Partnership states

Eastern Partnership states

as well as other units from  
with regional and local authorities

ENTITIES

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

COOPERATION OF POLISH





**KAPITAŁ LUDZKI**  
NARODOWA STRATEGIA SPÓJNOŚCI



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# COOPERATION OF POLISH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ENTITIES WITH REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS OTHER UNITS FROM EASTERN PARTNERSHIP STATES

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## FOREWORD

Ever since the accession of Poland to the European Union in 2004, it has been perceived as the advocate of bringing the Eastern European states closer to the European Union.

Undoubtedly, the European Neighbourhood Policy, as well as its assistance mechanism is the convenient platform for such activities. With the political support of Sweden, Poland proposed the idea of creating a new initiative, i.e. the Eastern Partnership (EaP), targeted at those eastern neighbour states of the European Union, which show European aspirations, as well as the states of Eastern Europe and southern Caucasus, which are related politically, economically and socially with the European Union.

The Eastern Partnership was launched in May 2009 and it has proved to be a comprehensive tool to introduce the EaP target states to EU foreign policy. The efforts of Poland in that respect were primarily focused on winning support for this “offer of tightening the widely understood political, social and economic cooperation, as well as transferring good practices and experience in the field of political transformation. On the other hand, the defined institutional and financial framework of the EaP was supposed to facilitate a faster democratisation of the region, stronger economic stability and effective cross-border cooperation.

It is worth stressing that the initiative of the Eastern Partnership was also favourably received by the local self-government (LSG) entities. Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) launched in September 2011 is one of the executive mechanisms of the EaP in the field of self-governmental cooperation. It is the platform of regular dialogue and cooperation between regional and local authorities of the EU Member States and EaP states.

This study presents the self-governmental aspect of the Eastern Partnership. The subject of the analysis is the international cooperation of local self-government entities with regional and local authorities, as well as other units from the Eastern Partnership states.

This assessment was commissioned by Marek Woźniak, the Marshal of the Wielkopolska Region\*, who is also the Head of the Polish Delegation to the EU Committee of the Regions. It was prepared as part of the project “Good Law – Effective Governance” co-financed by the European Union within the European Social Fund. This project has been performed by the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation in cooperation with the University of Łódź. This study is a practical document, which is intended to serve as a guide for Polish LSGs to facilitate their international cooperation with EaP partners.

The first part of the analysis presents the structure and the institutional framework of the cooperation with the European Union and the Eastern Partnership states; it includes the review of available support mechanisms and instruments at the national and EU levels, also those that were launched following the initiatives of the Republic of Poland.

The following section of the document stresses the role of the regional and local authorities in the new approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy, in particular the Eastern Partnership, and it discusses the role of the Committee of the Regions and the recently launched Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP). Activity of Polish self-governmental entities, including their specific nature, is the subject of a separate analysis.

A survey was conducted to reach the most reliable conclusions on the involvement of Polish LSGs in the performance of the EU programme directed towards the EaP. The analysis covered the survey results obtained from all levels of local and regional authorities. The questionnaires were forwarded to Marshal’s Offices, County\*\* Authorities and Commune\*\*\* Offices, as well as - via the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation - to the Union of Polish Metropolises, the Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland, the Association of Polish Cities, the Union of Polish Towns, the Union of Polish Counties.

The research was conducted in April 2013. It enabled definition of the specific character of activities of Polish LSGs in the areas included in the Eastern Partnership, their motives of commencing cooperation with EaP recipient states, as well as the subjective and objective frameworks of such activities. It also helped to define the related difficulties and challenges. This document also includes a guide to current assistance initiatives and mechanisms for EaP available for Polish self-government entities.

*Jolanta Taczyńska*

Translator's notes:

\* "Region" [in Polish "województwo"] - each of the 16 self-governed voivodships, Poland's territorial division units at NUTS 2 level in EU Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics.

\*\* "County" [in Polish "powiat"] – self-governed territorial units at LAU 1 level (Local Administrative Units) in EU Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics.

\*\*\* "Commune" [in Polish „gmina"] - self-governed territorial units at LAU 2 level (Local Administrative Units) in EU Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics.

## INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In the last two decades, the importance of regions in Europe has increased significantly, which was the consequence of the decentralization process, as well as growing regional awareness and activities. As a consequence of high costs and inefficiency of central governance, the transfer of competences, as well as objectives and funds for their execution to lower levels took place. Undoubtedly, in the age of globalisation, not only state problems, but also local issues can be better resolved by international cooperation. The slogan “think globally, act locally”, which was first<sup>1</sup> used in the context of environmental protection, today is the perfect indication of the place held by regional and local authorities in resolving problems of the macro scale. The presence of self-governments in the international arena is the consequence of the dynamic changes in international relations, which had been in place for a long time, however, now is emphasised in the context of intensified regional integration, mutual dependence and globalisation.

The multi-tier character of international relations matches the status of local self-government in Poland. The Constitution of the Republic of Poland in Article 172 gives the local self-government units “the right to join international associations of local and regional communities, as well as cooperate with local and regional communities of other states.” The significance of the self-governmental dimension in the foreign policy is also reflected in the Polish Foreign Policy Priorities adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2012. The document stresses the close relation of the activities of self-government entities with the performance of the economic and educational policies, as well as the promotion of Polish culture, arts, science and technical achievements abroad, as well as tourism in Poland<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the perception of the role of local self-governments. It is also important to define the expectations of LSGs towards the central administration (in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and to apply similar logic to assure synergy within Polish regions. The idea of multi-tier governance is also of particular importance within the European Union and is based on the principle of subsidiarity, as one of the principles of law. After the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty of 2007, the above principle included not only the relations of the EU with the Member States on the central level, but also at the levels of local and regional authorities. It is worth stressing that since the time of the Maastricht Treaty, the Committee of the Regions, which represents the interests of the regional and local authorities in the EU, has become an active participant of the legislative process within the EU. Furthermore, after the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, it was entrusted with competences enabling efficient control of the observance of the principle of subsidiarity on the EU level. Moreover, the financial support from the EU also had a significant impact on the development of international relations on the part of regional and local authorities of EU Member States. Undoubtedly, the external relations of the European Union include not only relations between the states, but also more and more frequently those relations involving numerous various participants.

From the very beginning, the Committee of the Regions stressed the significance of cooperation among regional and local authorities to achieve the objectives of the Eastern Partnership. In the opinion issued by the CR of 2009 “The role of local and regional authorities within the Eastern Partnership” it was indicated that the cooperation between the EU and the Partnership states based on the intergovernmental model cannot lead to permanent solutions unless local democracy is at the centre of the debate, bearing in mind its growth, as well as a direct cooperation of the local and regional authorities within the EU and in the states of the Eastern Partnership<sup>3</sup>.

From the European perspective, self-governmental institutions are active players in the economic integration process, where international cooperation constitutes its crucial element. At present, international cooperation is also considered to be a development factor, as well as a tool to acquire and exchange information. In that respect, regional self-governments that establish international relations execute the principal objective of the European integration, in particular the stimulation of the social and economic development<sup>4</sup>. This is of crucial

1 The slogan „think globally, act locally” was used for the first time in 1992 during the United Nations conference in Rio de Janeiro on the environment protection and development, and it was popularized by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

2 Cf. Polish Foreign Policy Priorities for 2012-2016, Warsaw, March 2012, p. 2 (available at: [www.msz.gov.pl](http://www.msz.gov.pl)).

3 Opinion of the 22 April 2009 „The role of local and regional authorities within the Eastern Partnership” (CdR 78/2009) O.J. C 200 of 25.8.2009, item 11.

4 M. Kołodziejski, K. Szmigiel, MIĘDZYNARODOWA WSPÓŁPRACA TRANSGRANICZNA I MIĘDZYREGIONALNA W KONTEKŚCIE POLITYKI REGIONALNEJ PAŃSTWA NA LATA 2007-2013, Centrum Rozwoju Lokalnego, Warszawa 2004, p. 3.

importance from the point of view of future association agreements with the EaP states and the creation of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTA) with them.

The involvement of local and regional authorities in the development of the Eastern Partnership may also have a considerable social significance. It increases the interest of citizens in transformations taking place in the region, intensifies their participation in this aspect of policy and it counteracts the impression that it is exclusively the national governments and the Brussels institutions, which are responsible for governing our continent. In this sense, local and regional authorities can also help to overcome dangerous tendencies of the times of economic crisis, such as isolationism or renationalisation, which may otherwise jeopardize the stability of countries and regions both inside and outside the EU<sup>5</sup>.

Furthermore, the neighbourhood policy executed in the regions and by the regions may also be an effective tool to promote the basic values of the European Union, which are defined in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union<sup>6</sup>, primarily: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Undoubtedly, the support for democratic transformations should be perceived as a process, which includes both the central and the regional levels. It must also be associated with building a committed democratic society. The existence of a strong and effective local democracy in the Eastern Partnership states constitutes a crucial objective, which in turn is the foundation of a from-the-bottom-up sustainable democratic stability of those countries. Regional and local authorities must enjoy the trust of those, whom they serve, respond – as far as possible – to their current needs and be free from corruption. For that purpose, the democratic administrative reforms at the central level, executed in the majority of the Partnership states, must be complemented with activities on the regional and local levels. Although in recent years, in the majority of the EaP states, one may observe activities directed towards creation of local representative democracy, it is still necessary to work out mechanisms enabling the local societies to govern their own issues, to understand the essence of democracy, active at the regional and local level and to perceive the governing institutions within the local societies as those, who safeguard their interests and respond to their needs<sup>7</sup>. A stable and safe neighbourhood cannot be achieved without cooperation at the local and regional levels. The regional and local authorities are predestined to define and satisfy the needs of local societies.

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5 Opinion of the Committee of the Regions „European neighbourhood policy review“ (2012/C 54/04), O.J. EU 23.02.2012, C 54 p. 18-23, item 9.

6 Treaty on European Union <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/pl/treaties/new-2-48.htm>

7 Cf. Opinion of the Committee of the Regions „A strong European neighbourhood policy“ CdR 134/2008. 56, p. 2.

# A

## THE EASTERN DIMENSION OF THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

Pursuant to the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union “shall develop a special relationship with the neighbouring countries, intended to establish an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness, founded on the values of the Union and characterised by close and peaceful relations based on cooperation” and for that purpose it can “conclude specific agreements with the countries concerned. These agreements may contain reciprocal rights and obligations, as well as the possibility of undertaking activities jointly”<sup>8</sup>.

For the execution of the above assumptions, a special EU initiative was announced in 2004, namely the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), the purpose of which was to bring the European Union closer to its neighbours. It was significant that the idea of ENP occurred just after the fifth extension of the EU with 10 new states of Central Europe. This time, this purpose of the new policy was to avoid the creation of a division line between the extended EU and its neighbours and it was intended to serve to foster the prosperity, stability and safety in the whole region. After ENP launching, reciprocal relations between the EU and the neighbouring countries gained greater recognition.

At present, the Neighbourhood Policy supports implementing and carrying out political and economic reforms in seventeen countries being neighbours to the EU along its eastern and southern borders. It provides for political association and deeper economic integration, increased mobility and strengthening of interpersonal relations, however, it does not mention “extension”. Nor does offer a possibility to join the EU to the participating states. Its main purpose is the promotion of good governance and social development in the neighbouring countries by establishing closer political relations, partial economic integration and bringing national legal regulations closer to the EU standards.

Unquestionably, ENP is perceived by the European Union as an efficient way to build and deepen reciprocal neighbourhood relations, based on joint values, such as democracy and human rights, rule of law, effective governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development. ENP also constitutes an element of the EU strategy intended to strengthen security in neighbouring countries, including cooperation in the key priorities of the EU foreign policy, such as counteracting terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is therefore an initiative, whose implementation requires activities of both sides, the EU and its neighbours, according to the jointly adopted the “more-for-more” rule and the principle of “mutual accountability”. The neighbouring states, which are ready to carry out internal reforms to improve the standards of democracy and human rights, increase the access to the EU market, improve the environment conditions or to intensify the cooperation with the EU in such fields as the climatic changes, power, transport or migration, have the possibility to collaborate with the EU in these areas. They may also expect political support, as well as technical and financial assistance from the EU.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is originally a very dynamic policy and it deals with actual cooperation with countries, which have common land or sea borders with the EU, i.e. the countries in Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and on the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. In the south, the recipients of the European initiative include Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian National Authority, Syria and Tunisia, and in the east: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus Moldova and Ukraine.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is therefore a bilateral policy between the EU and each of its partners, which was further enriched with regional and multilateral cooperation initiatives, such as: the Eastern Partnership (initiated in Prague in May 2009), the Union for the Mediterranean (formerly known as the Barcelona Process, re-launched in Paris in July 2008), the Black Sea Synergy (launched in Kiev in February 2008). The financing of the ENP takes place within the so called European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)<sup>9</sup> and covers 16 partner countries mentioned above, as well as the Russian Federation.

<sup>8</sup> Art.8 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).

<sup>9</sup> ENPI is going to be replaced soon with the European Neighbourhood Instrument – ENI.



The ENPI launched at the beginning of 2007, introduced fundamental changes in the mechanisms of EU financial assistance mechanisms and it replaced various assistance instruments for the indicated regions (e.g. TACIS addressed to all countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Central Asia and Mongolia, as well as MEDA, applied in the countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin). Together with the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy and launching its regional character (the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UM) in 2008 and the Eastern Partnership (EaP) in 2009), ENPI became the basic tool for financing activities within two neighbourhood sub-initiatives<sup>10</sup>. In case of the Russian Federation, ENPI supports the performance of the “roadmap” resulting from the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Russia.

Due to the subject matter of this document, the analysis includes only the instruments and mechanism, which are addressed to units of the Eastern Partnership region, in the context of supporting international cooperation of Polish local self-governmental units (LSGs) with the assistance beneficiaries from six countries of Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

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<sup>10</sup> The so called Eastern Partnership and the Union for the Mediterranean.

## A.1. EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

The purpose of the Eastern Partnership, initiated at the Prague Summit in 2009 by 27 EU Member States and six partner states<sup>11</sup>, is to tighten the relations between the EU and its eastern partners by deepening political cooperation and economic integration, especially in its horizontal aspect. The EaP initiative offers to the partner-states a deeper integration with the EU structures by encouraging and supporting them in the performance of political, institutional and economic reforms according to the EU standards. However, it neither promises nor excludes the perspective of EU membership.

The evolution of mutual relations and the development of events in the region quickly proved that the idea of the Eastern Partnership considerably exceeds the general assumptions of the ENP. There was a need for a systematic deepening of bilateral cooperation and introduction of new mechanism of multilateral collaboration, which would be complementary in that respect to the existing regional programmes.

At present, the path of bilateral cooperation means mainly formulating new types of bilateral agreements<sup>12</sup>, concerning deepening of the sector cooperation in a wide range of fields and simplifying visa regimes with an intention of their abolishment in a long time perspective. The execution of the stated objectives<sup>13</sup> is supported with the Comprehensive Institutional Building Programmes, whose aim is to increase and improve the administrative and institutional capacities of individual states of the Eastern Partnership.

The multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership is primarily based on the introduction of an innovative mechanism supporting cooperation between the EU and the EaP states, and also between individual partnership states.

In exchange for launching political and economic reforms, the EaP offers new legal relations, conclusion of deepened and comprehensive trade agreements and commencement of activities towards the liberalisation of the visa regime. To achieve these objectives, the EaP provides for multiple frameworks of cooperation, which are preformed according to four **Thematic Platforms**:

- Democracy, good governance and stability.
- Economic integration and convergence with EU polices.
- Energy security.
- Contacts between people.

The platform for **Democracy, good governance and stability** concerns the issues related to the reform of the civil service, counteracting corruption, cooperation in the fields of judiciary and police, security issues, freedom of mass media and the electoral standards.

The subject scope of the platform for **Economic integration and convergence with EU polices** includes the economic and trade issues, sectoral reforms, issues related to the social and economic development, equal opportunities, health protection, environment and climate changes, poverty reduction and social exclusion.

The platform of **Energy security** includes issues related to the harmonisation of energy policies and adaptation of legal regulations in individual EaP states in line with the EU legislation and practice.

Finally, the platform of **Contacts between people** gives the possibility to undertake activities related to cultural cooperation, support for the NGOs, student mobility programmes, undertaking joint media projects, or inclusion of partner states in the Research Framework Programmes.

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11 Joint declaration was adopted in Prague, 7 May 2009 <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/pl/09/st08/st08435.pl09.pdf>

12 They are to replace the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) of the 1990's, which have been in place so far.

13 Within the bilateral assistance only, within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) for 2010-2013, the European Union designated almost €1.5 billion for eastern partners, including: for Armenia - €185 million; Azerbaijan - €129 million; Belarus - €80 million; Georgia - €127 million; Moldova - €339 million and Ukraine - €596 million.

## A.1.1. STRUCTURE AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Apart from undertaking activities to support economic development, strengthen the rule of law and democratic standards, and build stronger institutional and administrative potential, the Eastern Partnership is also intended to facilitate and strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the whole EaP region and among the partnership states. For that purposes, specific structures and institutional frameworks were created, which enable adequate cooperation.

Table 1  
MULTILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL

Institutional framework	Objectives	Participants	Operational framework
<b>Eastern Partnership Summits.</b>	Review of the EaP development and definition of general priorities and strategic directions.	Heads of States and Governments of all participating countries of the initiative (27 EU Member States and 6 partner states).	Meetings take place every two years; the last meeting took place in Warsaw on 29-30 September 2011; the next summit is planned for November 2013 in Vilnius.
<b>Meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.</b>	Review and definition of guidelines for the Eastern Partnership: supervising the work of multilateral platforms.	Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EaP states.	Annual meetings.
<b>Ministerial meetings and sectoral conferences.</b>	Supporting activities in individual sectors (e.g. economy, power, environmental protection).	Ministers responsible for specific sectors.	<i>Ad hoc</i> meetings.
<b>Multilateral platforms.</b>	Exchange of information and experiences in four thematic domains: Platform 1 - Democracy, good governance and stability Platform 2 - Economic integration and convergence with EU polices Platform 3 – Energy security Platform 4 - Contacts between people	Senior level officers of the European Commission, UE member states and partner states.	Bi-annual meetings.
<b>Working panels.</b>	Supporting the work of thematic platforms and focusing on implementation of specific projects in the EaP region.	Public administration officers of EaP states.	Meetings several times per year.



<b>Flagship initiatives.</b>	Implementation of specific projects and allocation of technical and financial support for the partner states according to the thematic scopes of 6 Flagship Initiatives: Integrated border management, Improved facilities for SMEs, Regional electricity markets, renewables and energy efficiency, Good environmental governance, Prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made disasters, and Diversification of energy supplies, the Southern Energy Corridor.	Participants of the Eastern Partnership initiative, as well as external benefactors (e.g. international financial institutions, private sector) can also participate in the financing of the EaP initiatives.	All flagship initiatives have already been implemented with the exception of " <i>Diversification of energy supplies...</i> "
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It is worth emphasising that the Eastern Partnership initiative also facilitates cooperation on other levels than governmental. For that purpose various cooperation forums have been created, which gather representatives of parliaments, regional and local authorities, representatives of business and social organisations.

Table 2  
COOPERATION ON LEVELS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENTAL

Institutional framework	Objectives	Participants	Structure	Operational framework
<b>Civil Society Forum (CSF).</b>	A group whose purpose is to foster the development of civil society ("the third sector") in the partner states. The Forum's ambition is also to promote cooperation between civil organisations from the EU and EaP region, as well as participation in the works of other EaP bodies. By its opinions and recommendations of activities issued within the thematic platforms and addressed at the meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EaP, the Forum may indirectly influence the EaP implementation process.	Meetings are attended by the representatives of NGOs, trade unions' associations and analytical centres of the UE and the EaP states.	The plenary session gathers several hundred NGOs. The activities of CSF are coordinated by the Steering Committee, which is also responsible for communication and lobbying of four working groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• democracy, human rights, good governance and stability,</li> <li>• economic integration and convergence with EU policies,</li> <li>• environmental protection, climate changes and energy security,</li> <li>• contacts between people.</li> </ul>	Plenary sessions agreed in November 2009 take place annually. So far, there have been four meetings: (Brussels - 2009, Berlin - 2010, Poznań - 2011, Stockholm - 2012).
<b>Group of Friends of Eastern Partnership (currently known as Information and Coordination Group).</b>	It is an informal group of representatives of states, NGOs and international bodies, which constitute a specific advisory committee concerning initiatives related to the EaP.	Representatives of the EaP non-member states, NGOs and international bodies, which want to participate in the performance of projects within the EaP, as well as the states ready to co-finance the projects.	Informal group convened ad hoc.	Not defined yet.
<b>Eastern Partnership Business Forum.</b>	The purpose of the Forum is to strengthen the cooperation of the business and economic communities from EaP states and EU Member States. It constitutes the platform for the exchange of experience, establishment of business contacts and of discussions on investment possibilities and joint projects.	Representatives of business communities, governments, the European Commission and economic experts.		Initiated in September 2011 in Sopot.



<p><b>EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly.</b></p>	<p>The platform for meetings and ideas exchange between the deputies to the European Parliament and the deputies to national parliaments of the EaP in the fields of common interest, such as stability, democracy, convergence of legal regulations, trade, energy, environment, contacts between people, and many others. Systematic EURONEST meetings are to create the future strategy of the EaP activities and to monitor the current EaP activities.</p>	<p>According to the assumption - 120 members: 60 of the European Parliament and 10 from each partner state. However, at present there are 110 members (due to political reasons it was impossible to accept the Belarusian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly).</p>	<p>EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly operates according to the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly,</li> <li>• Bureau</li> <li>• committees - political issues, human rights and democracy, economic integration, law adjustment and convergence with EU policies; -energy security; - social issues, culture and civil society)</li> <li>• Secretariat.</li> </ul>	<p>Initiated in May 2011 (without the participation of the Belarusian delegation). The forthcoming third session of the Assembly and the meeting of the Euronest Committees are planned for the end of May 2013 in Brussels. The Plenary of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly gathers in principal once a year, alternatively, in one of the East European partner states and at one of the European Parliament offices, following the invitation of the European Parliament or the parliament of the East European partner state, where the meeting is to be held. The Bureau and the committees of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly shall meet as laid down in the Rules of Procedure.</p>
<p><b>Constant Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP).</b></p>	<p>The platform of regular dialogue and cooperation between the regional and local authorities of EU Member States and EaP states in the fields of strengthening local democracy, human rights on regional and local levels, and participation of citizens in public life. The objective of the Conference is to develop the EaP initiative at the self-governmental level, supporting democratic reforms and transformations, conducting dialogue on the reform and decentralisation of governance and facilitating cross-border and regional cooperation between the EaP states.</p>	<p>Representatives of regional, local and municipal authorities.</p>	<p>Created by the Committee of the Regions; comprises 36 members.</p>	<p>The first meeting took place in Poznań in September 2011; in 2012 CORLEAP held a meeting in Chisinau (Moldova).</p>

## A.1.2. FORMS OF EU SUPPORT, FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS AVAILABLE WITHIN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

At the time of launching the Eastern Partnership in 2009, the European Union designated directly for the execution of the EaP the initial amount of €600 million (including €350 million of new funds and €250 million of funds re-allocated from the ENPI Eastern Regional Programme) increasing later the total amount of ENPI funds for eastern partners to €1.9 billion in the period 2010-2013.

There were also additional funds within the “more-for-more” principle, generated by the European Commission on the occasion of the review of the ENP in 2011 and relating the amount of EU support to the dynamics of internal reforms. In 2012, the new programme initiated according to this principle was entitled the **Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation**<sup>14</sup> (EaPIC) and was established from the indicative provision of €130 million for the years 2012-2013. This supplement to the EU support for 2010-13 is addressed to Europe’s eastern partners and amounts to €1.9 billion. The first tranche of the fund allocation from the EaPIC was assigned in 2012 to the sum of €65 million, including €28 million for Moldova, €22 million for Georgia and €15 million for Armenia.

According to the data of the European Commission, in 2009-2013 within the ENPI, the sum assigned for six Eastern Partnership states amounted to €2.8 billion. It is also worth stressing that after the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw in 2011, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland announced a further increase of the EU funds allocation for eastern partners by €150 million in 2011-2013.

Since the Eastern Partnership was initiated during the seven-year EU financial perspective 2007-2013, it has not formed a uniform initiative from the financial point of view. It is rather a “basket” for many different instruments and support programmes. To achieve the substitution of a systematic character and greater clarity of the initiative and its mechanisms, there have been calls to review and reorder the Eastern Partnership. Such activities are planned to be undertaken within the following budget perspective. However, the current EU budget allows for the existence of many “scattered” sources for financing activities within the Eastern Partnership.

In the present multi-annual budget perspective, the greatest part of financial resources originates from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which shall be replaced by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) from 2014. It is worth adding that out of almost €12 billion of the total budget for 2007-2013, 1/3 (i.e. ca. **€4 billion**) was allocated for the development of cooperation with the eastern neighbours of the European Union (including **€1.9 billion** for 2010 – 2013). ENPI constitutes therefore a comprehensive tool for the EU financial support and its scope of application is extremely wide and refers to numerous forms of cooperation, starting from bilateral, regional, interregional or cross-border.

Apart from ENPI, the beneficiary states may also join a number of other EU programmes and instruments, such as the **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)**, the **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)**<sup>15</sup>, the **Instrument for Stability (IFS)**<sup>16</sup>, **Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument (NSCI)**, or the **Humanitarian Aid Instrument**. Additionally, there are initiatives supporting the Eastern Partnership, which are international or national as well as those, which originated from the initiatives of individual EU states, such as the **International Visegrad Fund** or **Polish Aid**.

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14 Cf. [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_MEMO-12-491\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-12-491_en.htm)

15 Created in 2006.

16 Initiated in 2007, currently it is used by 28 states from different regions of the world.

### A.1.2.1. EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT (ENPI)

The idea of the European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>17</sup>, presented by the European Commission in 2003, indicated in the subsequent initiatives the necessity to create a separate financing instrument, which would serve for the effective performance of ENP. For that purpose the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument<sup>18</sup> was created in 2006 as a flexible financing instrument for 2007-2013. Together with the implementation of the EaP, the ENPI became the basic financial instrument of the EU, oriented for supporting the implementation of the Action Plans / Agendas adopted by the EaP states, i.e. political documents, concluded for several years and comprising a catalogue of priority issues for a given period. It is worth stressing that the said Action Plans / Agendas focus primarily on gradual economic integration and deepening of political cooperation with the EU, which means that they exceed the traditionally adopted framework of cooperation.

The principal support areas of ENPI include: firstly, *the political and social dimension* (democracy and human rights), secondly, *economic dimension* (economic zone, currency and macroeconomic zone, zone of infrastructure and economic links), and thirdly, *the security zone* (judiciary and interior affairs, foreign and security policy).

The ENPI differentiates three strategic objectives, which support democratic changes and promote human rights; the activities intended encourage a market economy and development towards sustainable development and the common interest policy (i.e. collaboration in the fields of anti-terrorism, non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons, cooperation in the field of conflict resolution, observance of the international law regulations, etc.)

Within the listed goals, the European Commission and the partner states agreed also four axes of cooperation based on: implementation of a closer dialogue on the subject of priority multi-sectoral reforms, legislation adjustment, institutional support and the performance of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument is undoubtedly the key financial instrument of the Eastern Partnership<sup>19</sup>; it is divided into several envelopes: 1) bilateral assistance for specific neighbouring states, for supporting specific reforms provided in the Action Plans / Agendas agreed by individual EaP states and the EU, 2) regional assistance programmes, 3) inter-regional assistance programmes, 4) cross-border cooperation programmes, 5) *Neighbourhood Investment Facility* and 6) the rarely used instrument - *Management Support*.

With respect to the implementation mechanism, the funds are usually transferred to the administration of the beneficiary state, but also to companies, NGOs and other entities, which have concluded contracts by tenders or received subsidies in the course of competition.

The European Commission, and in particular the EU Representatives in the partner states are the main entities responsible for the implementation - in various forms - of assistance programmes (for example within the budget support<sup>20</sup>, implementation of specific projects or mixed forms). All funds for the Eastern Partnership programme are administered by the European Commission and allocated according to the existing procedures of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

Currently, the allocated funds are used for the execution of **the main tree initiatives / programmes** for the partner states:

1. Comprehensive Institutional Building Programme - CIB.
2. Pilot Regional Development Programmes – PRDP,
3. implementation of the multilateral dimension of the Eastern Partnership.

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17 Commission of the EC, Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Wider Europe – Neighbourhood....

18 Regulation No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council.

19 For its operation, for the years 2007-2013 the European Union generated from its budget the amount of 12 billion €, including almost 4 billion €, for the assistance for the eastern partners.

20 The logic of the "budget support" is that the funds are transferred to the State Treasury (the beneficiary) in case of carrying out a general reform(s). In 2011 the EC issued a Communication introducing the new EU Policy for Budget Support, which introduced a number of innovations, e.g. greater budget responsibility and transparency as a new additional eligibility criterion, greater support for legal institutions and supervisory institutions, civic organisations and better framework for risk management. The policy was implemented in 2013.



Ad.1 **Comprehensive Institutional Building Programme (CIB)** was created as a bilateral assistance programme for improving the institutional effectiveness of the Eastern Partnership states and compatibility of institutions of the recipient states with the EU institutions. According to the CIB assumptions, its objectives are to be achieved with the Twinning programme and TAEX instrument, as well as by the exchanges, training courses and internships, study visits of delegations from partner states to the twin institutions in EU Member States and within the scholarship systems for professional training. The recipients of CIB are public administration institutions of the partner states, EU Member States, as well EU institutions involved in training and other programmes of institutional reforms. The Comprehensive Institutional Building programme was launched in 2011, and the funds designated for its performance in 2011-2013 amounted to €175 million, including almost €32.81 million for Armenia, €19.20 million for Azerbaijan, €30.86 million for Georgia, €41.16 million for Moldova and €43.37 million for Ukraine. For Belarus, for which a separate mechanism was provided, (i.e. Joint Interim Plan), the allocation for 2011-13 amounted to €5.88 million.

#### Ad.2. **Pilot Regional Development Programmes – PRDPs.**

The Eastern Partnership promotes deep political dialogue and bilateral cooperation in the field of regional development by way of the “pilot regional development programmes” (PRDP). They are developed according to the experiences of the EU cohesion policy, and their purpose is first of all, to equalize all differences between individual regions taking into consideration the needs and the territorial specific character of each of the EaP states. The performance of the PRDPs is based on the exchange of experiences in reducing social and economic inequalities between the regions within the same country, support for the development of local infrastructure, human capital, as well as SMEs in the most poorly developed regions.

It is worth emphasising that in case of PRDPs, the issues of the regional development and the possible bilateral cooperation with the EU in that scope constitutes part of the EU political dialogue with each Partnership state separately. As in any other area, the proposed solutions are individualised and defined according to the needs and obligations of the interested partner and they interact with the whole EU assistance package, taking into consideration the activities of individual EU Member States and the coordination mechanisms characteristic for other “benefactors”. This programme does not foresee cooperation at the regional level with the concurrent participation of several recipient states.

The support of the European Union for each beneficiary state in 2012 and/or 2013 includes the element of “the pilot regional development” (PRDPs). It may be executed as an independent project, or as a part of a wider institutional development programme or support for a specific sector. Depending on the strategic interests and needs of the recipient state, the regional development and the development of rural areas may constitute a component of one programme.

In some countries, such as Ukraine or Georgia, the EU cooperation already focuses on regional development. For example, Georgia implements the regional development programme, which helps individual regions to develop ideas and specific strategic documents, e.g. development strategies or assistance for local partners in increasing their institutional competences (e.g. by establishing regional development councils).

Other countries, such as Moldova and Armenia, are only beginning to use the EU funds in this sector. For example, in Moldova the purpose of financing will be to improve the regional statistics and develop proper institutions, such as the Regional Development Agencies. In Azerbaijan, on the other hand, some of the preparatory activities in this field take place within general programmes of institutional development and political advice.

Undoubtedly, the involvement of the civil society and the local communities in this case plays an important role and is complementary with other EU instruments, including the Civil Society Facility instrument.

The total amount allocated for the Pilot Regional Development Programmes (PRDPs) amounts to €62 million from the ENPI budget for 2012-2013. It is part of €350 million of additional funds, which accompanied the launching of the Eastern Partnership. The PRDPs funds are related to considerable amounts from bilateral assistance packages.<sup>21</sup> The total allocation of PRDPs is divided among five EaP states, excluding Belarus.

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21 [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/prdps\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/prdps_en.htm)

Ad.3. **Multi-lateral dimension** of the Eastern Partnership concerns, first of all, the performance of the Flagship Initiatives, to which were allocated almost €160 million from the total amount of additional funds (€350 million) designated for the EaP programme. A minor part of the funds is designated for organisation of the Civil Society Forum and the financing of activities within the thematic areas.

The said **Flagship Initiatives** include:

- **Integrated Border Management (IBM)**, created in 2009 with the total budget amounting to €44.5 million for the years 2010-2013. Within this initiative, a number of projects have been executed with the intention of adjusting local legal regulations and practices to EU standards. Other areas include the exchange of experience, providing adequate trainings or building potential in the field of border management. Currently, there are six training programmes in the EaP states in progress: assistance in demarcation of the Belarussian and Ukrainian border, establishment of an electronic system of information exchange between the customs offices of Ukraine and Belarus, creation of adequate infrastructure and providing equipment for border crossing at Bavra and Bagratashen (between Armenia and Georgia) and the construction of a new border crossing point at Unguri – Bronnitsa (between Moldova and Ukraine).
- **SME Facility** – with a total budget on the level of €57 million, executed within three projects:
  - East-Invest, with the budget of €8.75 million (of which €7 million is the EU contribution), which is an advisory programme, with the goal of improvement of the investment climate in the EaP states, as well as the establishment of a network of relations between SMEs of the EU and the EaP.
  - Financial Instruments in Support of SMEs, with the budget of €30 million of the EU funds and probably €350 million from the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), as well as commercial banks. The funds are assigned to support the development of loan markets for SMEs in the EaP states by way of loans and sureties to be issued by EIB and EBRD. The instrument operates on the basis of cooperation of EIB and local financial intermediaries.
  - Turn Around Management and Business Advisory Services (TAM/BAS). The amount of €20 million was designated for this programme.
- **Regional electricity markets, renewables and energy efficiency**. This initiative provides for advisory activities and financial support with the aim to connect and harmonise the energy markets, strengthen the institutional capacity for sustainable energy management within the INOGATE<sup>22</sup> programme, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable sources of energy. The budget of €41 million is going to be used for the performance of such projects as: the technical assistance<sup>23</sup>; feasibility studies<sup>24</sup>; support for the development and implementation of the “action plans for the sustainable energy usage” addressed to the cities participating in the Covenant of Mayors<sup>25</sup>; as well as promotion of participation of the Eastern Partnership states in the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme<sup>26</sup>.  
It is worth adding that within this initiative Sweden started to execute projects in the field of energy savings and environmental protection, first in the Ukraine and later in other EaP countries.
- **Environmental Management** is the initiative to increase the accessibility to reliable and credible information on environmental protection in the partner states by including them in the UE Shared Environmental Information System. The amount generated for this objective is €12 million, which shall be spent to commence activities in the following fields:
  - creation of information systems about the environmental protection in individual EaP states, and
  - providing access to adequate information via access to the EU system.

22 More about the programme at: <http://www.inogate.org/>

23 The execution has not commenced yet.

24 The execution has not commenced yet.

25 More at: [http://www.porozumienieburmistrzow.eu/index\\_pl.html](http://www.porozumienieburmistrzow.eu/index_pl.html) and [http://www.eumayors.eu/about/covenant-of-mayors\\_en.html](http://www.eumayors.eu/about/covenant-of-mayors_en.html)

26 More at: <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

- **Prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made disasters**

The performance of this initiative takes place in two stages; its goal is to increase the capacities of disaster management and to improve the cooperation between the EU and the partner states, as well as among EaP states.

The amount designated for the performance of the first stage, i.e. the review of legal frameworks concerning the disaster management and civil protection mechanism, amounted to €6 million, and another €6 million is going to cover the cost of undertaken activities (internships, training programmes, purchase of equipment, etc.), intended to strengthen the cooperation between the EU and the EaP states, as well as among the EaP states in that field.

All of the above mentioned initiatives have already been initiated. At the moment, they are either at the planning stage, or at the beginning of their execution. Each initiative comprises projects focused on a number of key issues. In practice, they will resemble classic projects within the ENP, which the EU executed in the region prior to the implementation of the Eastern Partnership.

The financing of the above mentioned Flagship Initiatives shall be executed with the funds of the Regional Programme for the East within ENPI, but also from the funds transferred by the Eastern Partnership states, international financing institutions, as well as the private sector.

Alongside the Flagship Initiatives, the multilateral dimension of the EU assistance for the Eastern Partnership states also refers to the projects which support the development of the civil society (Civil Society Facility, EaP Civil Society Forum), educational programmes (Erasmus Mundus, Tempus), cultural programmes, as well as programmes targeted at the youth (Youth in Action).

**EaP Civil Society Forum** was created in response to the decisions of the Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit. The initiative was finalised in November 2009 during the meeting of representatives of over two hundred NGOs from the EaP and EU states. The idea was that the civil society and NGOs have a key role to play in the field of promoting new initiatives and controlling the activities of public authorities. The Forum's objective is to support the development of a civil society in the Eastern Partnership states and intensify cooperation between the organisations of the civil society of the EU and partner states. Through its opinions and recommendations for activities targeted at inter-governmental thematic platforms and forwarded to the meetings and the ministers of foreign affairs of the EaP states, the Forum has the ambition to have an indirect impact on the process of the EaP implementation.

**Civil Society Facility**<sup>27</sup> - this instrument has been in place since 2011; its goal is to consolidate the involvement of the EU and civil societies of neighbouring countries, so that the community organisations can become stronger partners for the EU and the authorities of the partner states in the fields of formulating, implementing and monitoring reforms and policies. According to its assumptions, it provides financial support for NGOs who execute projects closely related to the execution of national reforms; it strengthens the capacity of the civil society entities in the region and promotes their participation in the performance of sectoral policies. The Instrument's Budget for 2011-2013 is estimated for over €37 million for the whole EaP region<sup>28</sup>.

**European Endowment for Democracy (EED)** serves to support the democratic transformations in the neighbouring countries of the European Union and it will also be available for the partner states from Eastern Europe. The total budget generated for this instrument by the EU, Switzerland and individual EU states amounts to ca. €14 million. The EED financial instrument is going to be implemented in the middle of 2013.


According to the assumptions of the **Erasmus Mundus** programme, special attention is paid to the development of cooperation among higher education institutions from Europe and third countries. Within this programme, it is possible to receive subsidies for the exchange programmes for students of all levels of academic education, as well as researchers, academics and higher education staff between the higher education institutions in Europe

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<sup>27</sup> Eastern Partnership, <http://www.msz.gov.pl/Partnerstwo,Wschodnie,19887> 14.08.2012; A. Dorywalski, Szczyt Partnerstwa Wschodniego w Warszawie – przebieg i analiza, [http://www.psz.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=39784](http://www.psz.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=39784) 14.08.2012 r.

<sup>28</sup> More at [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/csf\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/csf_en.htm)

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and the Eastern Partnership states. Erasmus Mundus for the EaP states has the sum of €114 million for 5000 scholarships in the EU countries for 2007-2013. In 2013, the allocation for cooperation with higher education institutions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine amounts to more than €29 million.

**Tempus** is another EU assistance programme, which supports the reforms of higher education in the partner states. Its goal is the improvement of the teaching standards in the higher education institutions, as well as their modernisation. It also contributes to reinforce the cooperation between the schools of higher education in the EU and the beneficiary states. From 2007 to 2013, TEMPUS IV, a subsequent phase of the programme has been implemented<sup>29</sup>. It is also addressed to the EaP states. TEMPUS IV is managed by the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, in cooperation with other Directorates involved in the execution of the EU external policy.

In the partner states there are national TEMPUS's offices, which participate in the process of formulating national priorities, are involved in the procedure of assessment and selection of supplied proposals, participate in the progress monitoring of the projects. In each of EU Member States there is a national contact point, which serves the informational and promotional function. The function of the Polish contact point is maintained by the Foundation for the Development of the Education System<sup>30</sup>.

**Youth in Action**<sup>31</sup> is the programme developed to support young people and to encourage them to participate in public life. Special attention is paid to promoting creativity and enterprise, particularly among the handicapped and the disadvantaged. The goals of the programme contribute to the development of individual policies of the European Union, and they complement the EU activities in the sphere of vocational training, employment, culture and sports. The undertakings are focused on achieving such goals as: promoting active citizenship of the youth; developing the sense of solidarity among the youth; promoting mutual understanding among the youth in various countries; increasing the quality of systems supporting youth activities and the development of the capacity to organise the civil society and supporting European cooperation in the field of youth. Individual activities are the forms of support for non-profit projects, created on the local, regional and national levels, which include organisation of similar projects to be performed in different participating states. The programme budget for 2007-2013 amounts to €885 million.

On the other hand, the **Europe for Citizens** programme is targeted at the staff of self-governmental units, representatives of NGOs, public institutions and charitable bodies. The main goal of the programme for 2007-2013 is the support for the activities of the European states citizens and assistance in the performance of international social, educational and cultural projects. The Programme's subsidies support both the specific grass-roots initiatives of international nature, as well as operating activities of the civil society organisations existing on the European level<sup>32</sup>.

In Poland there is the Programme Contact Point<sup>33</sup>, which offers free of charge training, consultations concerning funding applications, and distributes information materials in the Polish language<sup>34</sup>.

Additionally, the Eastern Partnership states may enjoy the financial resources originating from the **inter-regional** financial instruments, such as:

- **Governance Facility (GF)**, which was created as a result of the initiative of the European Commission in 2006, which enables the allocation of a maximum of €50 million per annum for all ENP states, including EaP states. Due to the considerable importance of democratic practices, observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well the rule of law in the state governance, the listed areas constitute the basic and necessary criterion (*conditio sine qua non*) for the assessment and

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29 More at [http://www.tempus.org.pl/tempus\\_4](http://www.tempus.org.pl/tempus_4)

30 More on FDES at: <http://www.frse.org.pl/>

31 Decision No. 1719/2006/WE of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 November 2006 establishing the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007–2013; more at [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/education\\_training\\_youth/youth/c11080\\_pl.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/youth/c11080_pl.htm)

32 It is possible to download the Programme Guide at: [Http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme/programme\\_guide\\_en.php](Http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/programme/programme_guide_en.php)

33 More at <http://www.europadlaobywateli.pl/>

34 Cf. Strategia Wspierania Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Obywatelskiego na lata 2009-2015 <http://www.mpips.gov.pl/userfiles/File/pozytek/SWRSO%202009-2015.pdf>

the basis for allocation of adequate funds. The reforms leading to the improvement of governance in other areas, such as economy, in this case cannot be deemed as sufficient grounds to allocate assistance within this instrument.

- **Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC)** joins the regions of EU Member States and the countries, which have common land or sea border with the EU, which are eligible for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

In the perspective of increasing cooperation with the countries adjacent to the European Union, ENPI includes the element focused on the cross-border cooperation (CBC), which serves to strengthen the cooperation along the external border of the European Union.

The CBC strategy is based on four main objectives, i.e. the promotion of the economic and social development in the cross-border areas; definition of joint projects; assurance of safe borders and encouraging communities to cooperation. In view of the aforementioned goals, two types of programmes were created:

- Programmes concerning land borders between two or more countries, which have a common border (or a short sea crossing).
- Multilateral programmes within the area of the Mediterranean Sea basin.

In the period from 2007 to 2013, there have been 13 cross-border cooperation programmes for the eastern and southern borders of the European Union (9 concerning land borders, 1 - sea crossing and 3 referring to the sea basins) of the total value of €950.516 million. For comparison, in 2008 only, the amount of ca. €25.6 million was designated for activities within CBC East.

To assure effective performance of programmes of cross-border cooperation, the regional and local partners on both sides of the border were entrusted with a particularly important task. They have to observe and conduct thorough analyses of common needs, define priorities and define activities corresponding to the needs resulting from the local situations. In this case, the programme management is entrusted to a local or national body selected jointly by all countries participating in a given initiative.

To a great degree, CBC presents the approach applied with the EU structural funds, such as multi-year programming, co-financing and acting on partnership basis, taking into consideration the specific character of principles and European Commission regulations. The main innovation of CBC is the fact that the programmes involving the regions on both sides of the EU border have one budget, they have joint managing structures and they operate according to the same legal framework and implementing arrangements.


The cross-border cooperation is also financed with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

- **Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)** operates according to a collective subsidy together with funds from EU Member States; it serves to activate additional funds for financing projects by the European Investment Bank (EIB). With this instrument, the European Union is able to allocate loans from EIB, the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to support EU projects in neighbouring countries<sup>35</sup>. NIF mostly focuses on the priorities of the power sector, transport and environmental protection, but it can also support SMEs and the development of the social sector<sup>36</sup>.
- The **Twinning** programme is the initiative of the European Commission, which initially was intended to support the candidate states in gaining skills necessary in the accession process, implementation and enforcement of the EU legislation. Since 2003, Twinning is also available for the eastern European

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<sup>35</sup> The Commission provided such support to Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

<sup>36</sup> In 2008, NIF allocated almost €70 million for the projects in the East.



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countries, as well as the Mediterranean Sea basin states. Usually, it takes the form of delegating civil servants from the EU to the public institutions of the hosting country. The main idea of the Twinning projects is the transfer of know-how, sharing knowledge, methodology and experience of the public sector of EU Member States with the public entities of the beneficiary states.

- **Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX)** was introduced within the European Neighbourhood Policy. Its purpose is to provide assistance in political and economic cooperation in various areas, primarily in the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation. This instrument, which was initiated in 2006, is managed together by the EuropeAid and the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission. TAIEX is largely demand driven and facilitates the delivery of appropriate tailor-made expertise to address issues at short notice. Undoubtedly, it is an efficient tool to promote know-how and good practices, since it delivers short-term technical assistance and advice.
- **SIGMA** is a joint initiative of the European Union and OECD created to provide specialised assistance and strengthen the public governance system, as well as the capacities of state public administration. The assistance is provided in five key areas: civil service management and administrative legal framework, public finance and audit, public procurement, policy making and co-ordination, public governance strategy and reform. SIGMA's experts cooperate closely with the EC's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DG DevCo), and the beneficiaries of their services are the executive bodies of governments, State agencies and other public institutions, and Parliaments.

### **A.1.2.2. MODIFICATIONS IN THE FINANCING OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP BY THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE NEW BUDGET PERSPECTIVE 2014-2020**

The new budget perspective for 2014-2020 is going to introduce certain modifications in the financing mechanisms in general, including the financing of the Eastern Partnership.

From 2014, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument shall be replaced with the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), which will be the main source of financing of the Eastern Partnership states. The new instrument will correspond better to the political needs, providing greater diversification, greater flexibility and at the same time, stricter selection criteria, but also a range of incentives for the best contractors.

The proposed ENI budget, both for the EU eastern and southern neighbours for the period from 2014 to 2020 shall be higher than in the previous years, however, the final value of assistance has not been approved yet, since the negotiations on the multi-annual budget are still in progress. It is expected that the value of assistance funds may subtotal to €18.2 billion, i.e. by 40 % more than the amount available within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in the period from 2007 to 2013. For comparison, in the period from 2009 to 2013, the European Union generated €2.9 billion of aid funds for the Eastern Partnership states.

It is also expected that changes will be introduced in the mechanism of implementation of UE measures. Following the proposal of Germany, it is probable that the position of the European External Action Service (EEAS) will become stronger by including several financial programmes (also the European Neighbourhood Instrument) within its scope. Such change would mean in practice that the office of Catherine Ashton would have control over the financing of the Eastern Partnership states. Currently EEAS does not deal with aid programmes; it indicates political directions of operation in non-EU countries, and projects' implementation is within the capacity of a different unit of the European Commission, i.e. Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DG DevCo). According to the authors of this new solution, the previous situation hindered field activities and, as the result, the procedures tended to be long and complicated. The intention of the proposed modifications is that the aid funds should be more efficiently transferred to beneficiaries.

### A.1.2.3. OTHER FINANCIAL MECHANISMS AVAILABLE FOR THE EaP REGION

Apart from the main instrument for financing the Eastern Partnership, which is the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, there are also other aid mechanisms available to the beneficiaries from the EaP region. To have a complete understanding of the European support for political, social and economic transformations in 6 EU neighbouring countries, it is necessary to present the following key aid funds.

#### 1. Development and Cooperation Instrument – DCI

The Development and Cooperation Instrument was launched in January 2007 to increase the effectiveness of the EU development cooperation. It replaced a wide range of geographic and thematic instruments, which were created over time.

The entities eligible for funding are partner countries and regions and their institutions, decentralised bodies in the partner countries (municipalities, provinces, departments and regions), joint bodies set up by the partner countries and regions with the EU, Non-State Actors, international organisations and EU agencies.

DCI covers three components, from which one is targeted at states financed with European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument:

- 4) geographic programmes supporting cooperation with 47 developing countries in Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf Region (Iran, Iraq and Yemen) and South Africa.<sup>37</sup>
- 5) thematic programmes benefiting all developing countries, including those covered by ENPI. These programmes support actions in the following fields: investing in people, environment and sustainable management of natural resources, including energy, supporting non-state actors and local authorities in development, food security, migration and asylum.
- 6) programme of accompanying measures for 18 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, i.e. Sugar Protocol countries.

The budget allocated under the DCI for 2007-2013 amounts to €16.9 billion and is divided as follows:

- €10.06 billion for the geographic programmes (60% of the total),
- €5.6 billion for the thematic programmes (33% of the total),
- €1.24 billion for the ACP Sugar Protocol countries (7% of the total).

#### 2. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights - EIDHR

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was launched in 2006 and it replaced the European Initiative (2000-2006).

The key aim of the instrument is to provide support for the development of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries. Furthermore, the activities within EIDHR include the enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk; strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of groups of interests and in consolidating political participation and representation; supporting actions in areas covered by EU Guidelines, such as dialogue on Human Rights, the death penalty, torture, children and armed conflicts, violence against women; supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy; building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular through monitoring electoral processes.

<sup>37</sup> These programmes support actions within the following areas: poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, essential needs of the population, in particular primary education and health; social cohesion and employment; governance, democracy, human rights and support for institutional reforms; trade and regional integration; sustainable development through environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources; sustainable integrated water resource management and fostering greater use of sustainable energy technologies; developing infrastructure and an increased use of information and communication technologies; sustainable rural development and ensuring food security; assistance in post-crisis situations.



The entities eligible for funding depending on the specific objectives of each action / call for proposal are: civil society organisations; public and private sector non-profit organisations; national, regional and international parliamentary bodies, where the proposed measure cannot be financed under a related Community external assistance instrument; international and regional inter-governmental organisations; private individuals, where their help is necessary for achieving the aims of EIDHR.

For the budget perspective 2007-2013, the EIDHR has a budget of €1.104 billion. Assistance may take the form of projects and programmes; subsidies to finance projects submitted by civil society and/or international organisations; small subsidies to human rights defenders; subsidies to cover operating costs of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC), human and material resources for EU election observation missions.

### **3. Instrument for Stability - IfS**

The Instrument for Stability (IfS) has been in force since 1 January 2007 as a complementary tool for the fast response mechanism of the European Commission. It is a strategic tool implemented in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and the peace building process. It constitutes the framework to undertake activities to address a number of global security and developmental challenges in complement to geographic instruments. It replaces several instruments in the field of drugs, mines, displaced people, crisis management, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Crisis response projects under the Instrument for Stability focus on a wide range of issues, such as support to mediation, confidence building, interim administrations, strengthening the rule of law, transitional Justice or the role of natural resources in conflicts. Activities can be supported under IfS in the situation of crisis or emerging crisis, when timely financial help cannot be provided from other EU sources.

*Peace Building Partnership* is the innovative part of the IfS. It was established to deepen the dialogue between civil society and the EU institutions. It is targeted, in particular, at civil society organisations and think tanks, but also international organisations and agencies in EU Member States.

The Instrument for Stability also enables the EU to help building long-term international, regional and national capacity to address transregional or global threats.

### **4. Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument – NSCI**

Since 1 January 2007, the Nuclear Safety Cooperation Instrument (NSCI) has replaced the TACIS Nuclear Safety programme, which had covered safety of nuclear installations in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and was created as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union. NSCI finances measures to support a higher level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries. Although the Instrument covers all third countries and its geographical coverage is wider than in the previous TACIS Safety programme, the most attention is paid to the CIS, mainly Russia and Ukraine, also Armenia and Kazakhstan. The Instrument was designed to provide a new strategy dealing with political crisis in third countries, as well as global and transregional threats arising from organised crime, trafficking, proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The aim of NSCI is to finance action in the priority areas such as: improving nuclear safety, particularly in terms of regulatory framework or management of nuclear plant safety (design, operation, maintenance, decommissioning); the safe transport, treatment and disposal of radioactive waste; the remediation of former nuclear sites and the protection against ionising radiation given off by radioactive materials; emergency preparedness (accident prevention as well as reaction in the event of an accident); and promotion of international cooperation in the field of nuclear safety.

All actions in that respect are implemented by EuropeAid, with the collaboration of DG for External Relations, at the DG for Energy and Transport and the technical support of the Commission's Joint Research Centre. The assistance is implemented on the basis of multi-annual strategy documents and multi-annual indicative programmes, for one or more countries, for a maximum of seven years. NSCI has the budget of €524 million for the period from 2007 to 2013.

## A.1.3. SUPPORT FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP REGION BY EU MEMBER STATES WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

### A.1.3.1. CENTRAL EUROPEAN INITIATIVE

The Central European Initiative (CEI)<sup>38</sup> is one of the oldest and the largest platforms of cooperation in Europe. CEI was created in 1989 as an international political, economic and cultural forum of member states, whose main objective was the assistance in the transformation of central European countries and their approximation to the EU structures.

The Central European Initiative<sup>39</sup> has currently 18 members, i.e. Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The core mission of CEI is to strengthen the cohesion and stability of Europe, in its political, economic and social dimension, as well as assuring safety. For that purpose, CEI undertakes various measures, such as political consultations, supporting democratic institutions, cross-border cooperation, execution of various economic and social tasks. CEI operates following its mission: *"regional cooperation for European integration"*. This initiative also serves the function of an intermediary among the states of macro-regions of the Baltic, Danube, Adriatic and Black Sea Regions.

The areas of activity under CEI competences include climate, environment and sustainable energy; enterprise development including tourism, human resources development, information society and media, intercultural cooperation including minorities, multimodal transport, science and technology, sustainable agriculture, interregional and cross-border cooperation. The priorities within the adopted areas of cooperation are defined in the Action Plan made for three years.

CEI operates through annual meetings of head of states (during CEI Summits) and annual meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, as well as regular meetings of National Coordinators. Additionally, each member state holds (according to the alphabetical order) one-year presidency of CEI<sup>40</sup>. The main office of the Initiative is in Trieste (Italy), which is also the seat of its Executive Secretariat.

The Central European Initiative also cooperates with many international organisations and institutions, such as OECD, the Council of Europe, OSCE, EBRD, World Bank, UN Economic Commission for Europe as well as with various regional entities. From the Polish side, the cooperation with CEI is coordinated by the Department of European Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the cooperation involves, for example, Polish offices and state institutions and the Polish Parliament, which participate the works of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly, as well as universities (e.g. the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań).

The Initiative also has adequate funds and instruments, which are used to support projects in various sectors of its activity. CEI accomplishes its mission through:

- CEI Cooperation Fund, which facilitates the financing of "soft projects" (e.g. seminars, conferences, specialised trainings, experts' meetings, cultural events, etc.).
- CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (it is an instrument of bilateral technical aid for the promotion and support of transfer of experience and best practices between CEI countries who are EU Member States and non-EU CEI states).
- CEI University Network (the Founding Charter of the CEI University Network was adopted at the Heads of Governments Summit of CEI states in November 2003 in Warsaw). Joint projects executed

38 The origin of CEI lies in the creation of Quadrangone (initiative created in 1989 by Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Italy). After the admission of Czechoslovakia in 1990, it was renamed Pentagonale, and after the accession of Poland in 1991 – as Hexagonale. The organisation was renamed Central European Initiative in March 1992 following the proposal of Austria.

39 More about the Central European Initiative at: <http://www.cei.int/>

40 Poland has held the Presidency of CEI twice – in 1995 and 2003.

within this Network<sup>41</sup>, include Master's courses, exchange programmes for academic teachers and students, specialised seminars and trainings, etc.

- CEI Science and Technology Network whose objective is to facilitate contacts between scientific centres of member states and, if possible, execution of joint projects.
- The Division of EU-funded projects (unit of the CEI Executive Secretariat, intended to identify multilateral EU projects, that may be joined or initiated by CEI).

### A.1.3.2. SUPPORT UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND

Under the International Visegrad Fund, established in 2009 by the governments of four Visegrad Group countries (V4), funds are available for the execution of projects supporting the cooperation with the Eastern Partnership states. The general purpose of the Fund is to promote and facilitate cooperation among citizens and institutions of V4 countries, as well as the V4 regions and other countries, especially the Western Balkans and countries of the Eastern Partnership. The beneficiaries of the programme can be NGOs, regional and local self-governments, schools and universities, but also companies or individual citizens.

In 2011, the Visegrad 4 Eastern Partnership Programme was initiated to enhance cooperation between the Visegrad region and the countries of the Eastern Partnership. The Programme, with the initial budget of €1,456,800, also supported from June 2012 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (€1.5 million), was launched in early 2012. Its main purpose is the transfer of experiences of the Visegrad countries in the areas of social and economic transformations, democratisation and regional cooperation, particularly through the development of civil society and cooperation among local self-governments, universities and individual citizens. The Programme is comprised of four components:

- Flagship Projects.
- Standard Grants - EaP.
- Visegrad University Studies Grants - EaP.
- Visegrad Scholarships for EaP.

The aim of the flagship projects (with an annual budget of €600,000) is to support long-term projects of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access of EaP states to the unique experiences and know-how of the Visegrad Group countries within the processes of democratic transformations and integration, as well as regional cooperation.

Entities eligible to apply for project subsidies include private individuals and legal entities from V4 and EaP countries, however there is a preference for projects of NGOs and non-profit organisations, as well as public cultural, educational and research institutions, as well as local self-governments. The necessary condition is the partnership of entities from all countries of the Visegrad Group, as well as partners from at least two EaP states. The Programme provides for the possibility of multiple applications for subsidies provided the Fund has approved the correct performance of the previous project. Flagship projects can be executed parallel with other projects financed with the Fund.

Standard Grants must involve project partners from at least two Visegrad Group countries and at least one EaP state. Cross-border cooperation projects should involve three entities, two of which must be neighbouring EaP countries (the following combinations are possible: AM–AZ, AM–GE, AZ–GE, BY–UA and MD–UA).

The projects within the above described components, i.e. flagship projects and standard grants, should be focused on supporting reforms, association and economic integration with the EU, the processes of strengthening institutional capacities and the development of civil society and system transformations in the Eastern Partnership countries. The remaining two programme component concern grants supporting projects of the development of new courses of study at public and private universities of the EaP countries<sup>42</sup> and scholarships for students from EaP countries, who intend to study or research at the institutions of higher education in V4 countries<sup>43</sup>.

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41 From Poland – the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

42 More at: <http://visegradfund.org/v4eap/vusg-eap/>

43 More at: <http://visegradfund.org/v4eap/scholarships-eap/>

### **A.1.3.3. "POLISH AID" AS THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP**

Already in the pre-accession period, Poland tried to strengthen the cooperation with the countries of today's EaP, trusting that the commencement of such activities would prevent the arising of new division lines in Europe after the EU enlargement. The principal areas of Poland's activity referred to economic cooperation and facilitation of contacts between people. An interesting initiative was the Riga Initiative of 2002, which provided for the cooperation of 17 countries to support the transformation processes and combat crime and terrorism. Just before Poland's accession to the European Union, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the proposal of contacts of the enlarged European Union with its eastern neighbours.

Poland is actively involved in the Eastern Partnership, acting for example, in favour of extending this initiative with new elements and additional support for societies in the partner states. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was one of the initiators and it actively supported the creation of the Group of Friends of Eastern Partnership (currently known as Information and Coordination Group), which is the forum of cooperation with the non-EU countries, which are interested in supporting the Partnership, with the United States, Norway, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Russia or Turkey. Some of those countries are ready to act as the donors to provide financial support to the EU initiative.

The Eastern Partnership was also one of the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011. Poland consistently aimed at strengthening the eastern dimension of the neighbourhood policy, for example, through deepening the sectoral cooperation and inclusion of the EaP states in the cooperation under EU programmes and agencies. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Eastern Partnership took place in Warsaw in September 2011. It was attended by heads of states and governments of 27 EU Member States and 5 partner states (Belarus resigned from participation in the meeting), as well as the senior representatives of EU institutions.

It is also significant that during the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, Polish representatives of the local and regional authorities also undertook a number of activities intended to promote the self-governmental dimension of the EaP. It is worth stating that the first meeting of the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) took place in Poznań and during the Polish Presidency there was a conference entitled "Local and regional dimension of the Eastern Partnership", organised by the representatives of Polish regions in Brussels, which took place at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels on 9 November 2011.

For the implementation of the Eastern Partnership objectives the Polish government allocates a considerable part of the funds allocated for international aid (there were ca. 100 projects performed in the partner states in the period from 2010 to 2011). Currently, the support for the Eastern Partnership states is granted under development cooperation.

Pursuant to the Development Cooperation Act of 16 September 2011<sup>44</sup>, development cooperation includes a number of measures undertaken by the state administration to grant development and humanitarian aid to the developing states, as well as execute educational activities in those countries to raise the awareness and understanding of global problems and interrelations. The development cooperation is carried out according to a Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme, which defines the targets, thematic and geographical areas of Polish development cooperation, as well as defining its fundamental principles. The current Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2012-2015<sup>45</sup> was developed according to an analysis of strategic documents, needs and development paths of the partner states in cooperation with the representatives of the state administrations, civil societies and independent experts. The programme covers the period of four years and constitutes the basis to develop annual plans announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs<sup>46</sup>.

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44 Journal of Laws 2011 no. 234 item 1386. The Law came into force on 1 January 2012.

45 The Programme was approved by the Council of Minister on 20 March 2012.

46 Cf. Development Cooperation Plan in 2013. Available at: [www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/Dokumenty\\_i\\_Publikacje/Plan\\_wspolpracy\\_2013/PLAN\\_2013\\_22.10.2012.pdf](http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/files/Dokumenty_i_Publikacje/Plan_wspolpracy_2013/PLAN_2013_22.10.2012.pdf)

Goals of the Polish development policy are cohesive with the European Neighbourhood Policy, executed on the EU level (in this context, the EU is treated as one of the external partners of Poland) and it provides for the creation of conditions for sustainable development of developing countries, in particular, through promotion and consolidation of democracy, observance of human rights and support for the development of modern and efficient state institutions, supporting their constant social and economic development, undertaking actions for reduction of poverty, improvement of social health, education and vocational training of citizens<sup>47</sup>. The Polish policy of development cooperation is also based on a number of principles, among which *solidarity* is of superior importance. It is also the driving force and the objective of Polish involvement in the development cooperation. Furthermore, the programme stresses the following principles:

- *subsidiarity*, taking account of social, cultural, economic and political conditions of local communities, seeking the greatest possible inclusion of local partners and beneficiaries in deciding about their own development,
- *coordinating actions* with other donors,
- *improving aid effectiveness*, in particular, by adhering to the principle of alignment, harmonisation, managing for development results, transparency and mutual accountability in relations with partner states,
- *respecting and protecting human rights*, by safeguarding equal opportunities, counteracting any forms of discrimination, in particular, based on ethnicity, religion, disability, sex, and empowerment of women,
- *concern for natural environment and sustainable management of natural resources*,
- *ensuring coherence between programmes and government strategies with the objectives and priorities of development cooperation*.

Polish development cooperation is implemented through bilateral channels (for financing activities directed at partner countries), as well as through multilateral cooperation via international organisations, programmes and funds. It is also possible to act jointly with other donors in the performance of activities addressed to specific partner countries. In such an event, there is an option of co-financing or providing technical assistance with the financial measures, in particular from the budget, of other donor states, the European Union or other international organisations.

Bilateral aid activities may be executed by the public finance sector agencies, research institutes, NGOs and private sector entities. In cooperation with external partners, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs runs a number of its own initiatives, including initiatives under the Small Grants System implemented via Polish diplomatic missions. Organisation of training and consultancy support will also boost the potential of partners in the development cooperation.

The Small Grant System includes projects aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and has a great importance for local communities. For that purpose, a wide cooperation is undertaken with local social organisations and charitable bodies.

Development cooperation tasks may be also commissioned to the Polish Foundation for International Cooperation and Development "*Fundacja Wiedzieć Jak*" ("Know How Foundation"). Moreover, funds may be transferred directly to the recipient country's general government budget. Polish aid also includes measures undertaken by other government administration agencies, which include scholarships, assistance to refugees, credits and loans, debt reduction and restructuring.

Within the multilateral aid, Poland is involved in joint projects and financial programmes by, for example, making payments to international organisations, including contributions to specialised organisations, programmes and funds dealing with international development cooperation. ENP constitutes an important part of the multilateral cooperation.

The Eastern Partnership states were included in a separate geographic area of Polish assistance. In terms of their developmental needs, these countries struggle with many similar problems. On the one hand, they still suffer from the consequences of the command-and-quota economy, numerous transitional challenges, bloated agricultural sector that is uncompetitive with respect to EU economies, but on the other hand, each

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47 Cf. Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme, p. 4.



of the Eastern Partnership countries has its distinctive features, which are taken into consideration under the Polish Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme. Poland intends to foster changes in the EaP region, which will ensure long-term and stable functioning of democratic systems, respect for human rights and support for political and economic transformation that will bring Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries closer to the European Union.

60% of the financial envelope for bilateral assistance implemented by the MFA and its external partners is reserved for projects in the Eastern Partnership countries.

For the period from 2012 to 2015, Poland selected two cross-cutting thematic areas: democracy and human rights, and political and economic transformation.

The purpose of the assistance under the thematic area of democracy and human rights is to create space of civil liberties, building the state based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and the development of the civil society. These goals are achieved, in particular, through the following activities:

- supporting democracy and good governance, including the cooperation of public administration with NGOs and civil society organisations,
- strengthening the state based on the rule of law, promoting human rights protection,
- promoting gender equality and empowerment of women,
- ensuring better access to information, including stronger independent media and more effective social control over the media,
- supporting pro-democracy institutions, activists and movements,
- strengthening civil society organisations,
- developing local governments,
- improving access to high-quality education and civic education,
- enhancing social and inter-cultural dialogue,
- supporting democratic and transparent electoral procedures.

The goal of the thematic area of political and economic transformation is the support for the transition of the state and society from the authoritarian regime to democracy, and the centrally planned economy to free market. Polish experiences in that respect could be of special interest for countries that start from a similar position and want to learn how to carry out reforms in almost all fields of government. Polish experts can also share knowledge on how to manage the transformation process itself. The discussed area includes a number of specific subjects, such as the development of SMEs, development of rural areas, environmental protection, or climate changes. The activities in the area of political and economic transformation will include in particular:

- reforming public administration at central, regional and local levels (including self-governments), building a non-partisan and effective civil service, supporting anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the central and local governments, and NGOs,
- ensuring more consistency with EU standards of law and institutions of partner countries that closely cooperate with the EU,
- developing SMEs,
- developing agriculture and rural areas,
- helping to solve social problems that stem from the political and economic transformation, including problems affecting disadvantaged groups,
- counteracting environmental degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- building a modern information management system order, in fields such as: the media, IT and access to high-quality public information.

Within the process of supporting democratisation and political and economic transformation, bilateral projects implemented by the MFA and its external partners aim at improving the functioning of state institutions, promoting good governance, protecting democratic standards and human rights, and building and enhancing civil society. Taking these into consideration, each country has been assigned specific priorities.

They were selected following the analysis of a given country's needs and reform ambitions, contacts with its administrative agencies and citizens, as well as the competitive advantages of Polish aid and other donors' offers. Below, there is the catalogue of tasks defined individually for each of the EaP states:

Table 3

PRIORITIES IN SUPPORTED AREAS "DEMOCRATISATION AS WELL AS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION" IMPLEMENTED FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP STATES BY THE MFA AND ITS EXTERNAL PARTNERS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AID

<b>Horizontal priority: to improve the functioning of state institutions, to promote good governance, to protect democratic standards and human rights, and to build and enhance civil society.</b>			
<b>EASTERN PARTNERSHIP</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Specific priorities</b>		
<b>Armenia</b>	Support for disadvantaged groups.	Environmental protection.	Agriculture and rural development.
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Support for disadvantaged groups.	Environmental protection.	Agriculture and rural development.
<b>Belarus</b>	Support for independent media, organisations and civil society, youth and education cooperation.	Support for disadvantaged groups.	
<b>Georgia</b>	Support for disadvantaged groups.	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government.	SMEs and job creation.
<b>Moldova</b>	Public security and border management.	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government.	Agriculture and rural development.
<b>Ukraine</b>	Public security and border management.	Regional development, strengthening public administration and local government.	SMEs and job creation.

Source: Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2012-2015.

In the plan for 2013, the following objectives within the Programme's priorities shall be accomplished under the projects of NGOs, local self-governmental entities, public and private higher education institutions, research institutes, the Polish Academy of Sciences and its organisational units selected in the "Polish Development Aid 2013" competition:



Table 4  
PRIORITIES OF THE "POLISH DEVELOPMENT AID 2013":

<b>ARMENIA</b>
Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups.
Enabling persons from socially excluded groups to become vocationally and socially active.
Priority 2 - Environmental protection.
a. Improving the operation of the waste management system.
b. Implementing pro-ecological mechanisms in water management.
c. Increasing the number of pro-ecological and energy-saving solutions in the public housing sector.
d. Implementing renewable energy solutions.
Priority 3 – Agriculture and rural development.
a. Bolstering and increasing the number of small agricultural producers' associations and the professionalisation of the marketing system for agricultural produce and agricultural advisory.
b. Enabling the rural population to become vocationally and socially active.
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>
Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups.
Enabling persons from socially excluded groups to become vocationally and socially active.
Priority 2 - Environmental protection.
a. Improving the operation of the waste management system.
b. Implementing pro-ecological mechanisms in water management.
c. Increasing the number of pro-ecological and energy-saving solutions in the public housing sector.
Implementing renewable energy solutions.
Priority 3 - Agriculture and rural development.
a. Implementing elements of an efficient and effective system of agricultural advisory services.
b. Enabling the rural population to become vocationally and socially active.
<b>BELARUS</b>
Priority 1 – Support for disadvantaged groups.
a. Enabling persons from socially excluded groups to become vocationally and socially active.
b. Boosting the competences of social organisations, including organisations active in disease containment.



## GEORGIA

### Priority 1 - Support for disadvantaged groups.

- a. Enabling persons from socially excluded groups to become vocationally and socially active.
- b. Improving access to inclusive education and the mechanism of equalising of education possibilities for children and youth in rural areas.
- c. Improving the system of support for persons addicted to narcotics and psychotropic drugs.
- d. Improving the foster parenting system.

### Priority 2 – Regional development, strengthening of public administration and local governments.

- a. Streamlining mechanisms for implementing the Strategy for Regional Development of Georgia by central, regional and local governmental bodies.
- b. Streamlining mechanisms for preparedness and disaster risk reduction at the regional and local level.
- c. Bolstering cooperation mechanisms at local-level between public administration and NGOs focused on regional development.

### Priority 3 – SMEs and job creation.

- a. Streamlining the vocational education system and vocational in-service training with a view to adapting to labour market requirements.
- b. Building the potential of producers' groups, cooperatives and small enterprises, as well as boosting micro-enterprises.

## MOLDOVA

### Priority 1 – Public security and border management.

- a. Boosting the competences of entities responsible for counteracting organised crime, drug crimes, trafficking of goods, illegal emigration and human trafficking.
- b. Supporting entities responsible for civil security, crisis management and environmental protection.


### Priority 2 - Regional development, strengthening of public administration and local governments.

- a. Developing an effective and transparent system of local governmental financing.
- b. Preparing regional and local administration for effective absorption of international funds. ,
- c. Boosting the competences of institutions responsible for regional development in drafting their own strategies (incl. Moldovan decentralisation strategy) and implementing activities stemming from these strategies.

### Priority 3 – Agriculture and rural development.

- a. Building potential of SMEs, farmers' cooperatives and agricultural advisory units.
- b. Enhancing the competitiveness of agricultural production by improving the veterinary and phytosanitary inspection regime and supporting the development of laboratory facilities involved in the food production.

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c. Implementing innovative solutions and technologies on farms (including projects based on unconventional and/or diversified energy sources, energy-saving technologies and technologies associated with water and sewage treatment, as well as waste management) and modernizing rural infrastructure.

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d. Modernizing infrastructure with a view to improving the functional quality of the education system, healthcare and social policies in rural areas.

## **UKRAINE**

Priority 1 – Public security and border management.

a. Supporting entities responsible for civil security, crisis management and environmental protection.

Priority 2 - Regional development, strengthening of public administration and local governments.

a. Mobilising local self-government and housing cooperatives in the area of municipal services and real estate management.

b. Implementing energy-saving solutions and boosting energy efficiency at the oblast and commune levels.

c. Boosting the attractiveness of small cities (pop. 10,000-50,000) for foreign investors.

Priority 3 - SMEs and job creation.

a. Boosting micro-enterprises and increasing the competitiveness of small enterprises.

b. Developing innovative technologies related to renewable sources of energy and energy-saving technologies in SMEs.

c. Introducing business education as a school subject and stimulating the development of academic business incubators.

*Source: 2013 Development Cooperation Plan.*

# **B** ROLE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE NEW APPROACH TO THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

To use of the available resources properly and efficiently, it is necessary to establish stable and decentralised administrative and institutional structures because only powerful and well-organised regional and local authorities shall facilitate the co-operation on levels lower than the national level as well as improve the efficiency and good governance, thus authority structures are of basic importance for the process of democratisation. However, the *"more for more"* principle, promoted by the European Committee, should not pose an obstacle to the activities undertaken by the self-governments at the regional level.

An extensive knowledge thereon can be drawn from the experiences of networking and experiences of associations of local, regional, national self-governments as well as the European and international self-governments, which co-operate on a decentralised basis with the entities operating in the Eastern Partnership. For that reason, it is necessary to increasingly undertake joint activities and harmonise the objectives of decentralised co-operation with those of the Eastern Partnership programmes to obtain the optimum results. First steps in that direction were made in 2011 alongside the organisation of the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP).

## B.1. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AND CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (CORLEAP)

### B.1.1. THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Since the very introduction of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument, the Committee of the Regions has been involved in its monitoring<sup>48</sup>, and since the establishment of the Eastern Partnership the Committee has given a number of opinions on both the co-operation mechanism<sup>49</sup>, and the progress made by respective countries of the Eastern Partnership<sup>50</sup>.

Furthermore, the Committee of the Regions has aspired to actively participate in the implementation of the programme intended for the six eastern neighbour countries of the EU. Initially, the Committee of the Regions was invited to take part in the works of Platform 1 (democracy, good governance and stability) and Platform 4 (contacts between people); however, the Committee applied for the participation in all four topic areas. It was only possible in 2012 when the Committee of the Regions was granted the consent for joining Platform 2 (economic integration and convergence with EU policies) and Platform 3 (energy security). In accordance with the priorities adopted by the Committee of the Regions, the Committee shall focus its attention mainly on Platforms 1, 2 and 3. Democracy, good governance and stability as well as the economic integration and convergence with EU policies make up the foundations for the co-operation between the EU and the countries making up the Eastern Partnership. Whereas, the electric power issues, in this the security of energy supplies, increased efficiency and use of renewable resources are also important areas for the activities of the local and regional authorities, so are the local and regional democracy, cross-border co-operation and the promotion of the European integration<sup>51</sup>.

The contribution of the Committee of Regions into the work of the Platforms is to be closely coordinated with the activities of CORLEAP members and monitored by permanent observers such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (CLRAE) and Civil Society Forum.

The Committee of the Regions also actively participates in the debate over the future of the European Neighbourhood Policy, in this over the Eastern Partnership; in this scope, we must also stress the active role and significant contribution of the members of the Polish delegation of the Committee of the Regions to the development of the Eastern Partnership programme.

48 Opinion of 14 April 2005 concerning the Communication of the Commission – European Neighbourhood Policy – strategic (CdR 336/2004).

49 The Committee of the Regions supported the idea of the creation of the Eastern Partnership in its opinion "A Strong European Neighbourhood Policy" CdR 134/2008. Also see: the Opinion of 22 April 2009 "Role of local and regional self-governments in the development of the Eastern Partnership" (CdR 78/2009) Official Journal. C 200 of 25.8.2009, p. 31–36.

50 Opinion of 27 January 2011. "Local and regional government in Azerbaijan and the development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the EU" (CdR 235/2010 fin.) Journal of Laws. C 104 of 2.4.2011, p. 18–20; Opinion of 2 December 2010 "Local and regional government in Ukraine and the development of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU" (CdR 173/2010 fin.) Journal of Laws C 42 of 10.2.2011, p. 64–66; Opinion of 2 December 2010 "Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Initiative in Belarus and the development of cooperation between local and regional authorities in Belarus and the EU countries" (CdR 169/2010 fin.); Opinion of 2 December 2010. "Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Initiative in Armenia and the development of cooperation between local and regional authorities in Armenia and the EU countries" (CdR 168/2010 fin.) Journal of Laws 42 of 10.2.2011, p. 59–63. Opinion of 6 October 2010. "The implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy and in particular the Eastern Partnership: modernisation, reforms, and administrative potential of territorial self-government in the Republic of Moldova" (CdR 106/2010) Journal of Laws C 15 of 18.1.2011, p. 46–50; Opinion of 6 October 2010 "Local and regional government in Georgia and the development of cooperation between the EU and Georgia" (CdR 107/2010) Journal of Laws C 15 of 18.1.2011, p. 51–56; Opinion of 11 October 2007 "Local and regional government in Ukraine and the development of cooperation between the EU and Ukraine" (CdR 34/2007) Journal of Laws C 305 of 15.12.2007, p. 20–24, Opinion of 2 December 2010. "Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Initiative in Belarus and the development of cooperation between local and regional authorities in Belarus and the EU countries" (CdR 169/2010 fin.).

51 The Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP), UACTION Plan, The Way Ahead – CORLEAP Activities in 2012 and Towards CORLEAP in 2013. Available at [www.toad.cor.europa.eu](http://www.toad.cor.europa.eu)

## B.1.2. CONFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (CORLEAP)

Local and regional authorities of the EU member states play an important role in the implementation of the assumptions of the Eastern Partnership. The importance of direct contacts and joint initiatives of local and regional self-governments, in particular such as the local area development, improvement of business relations, respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as facilitation of mobility have all been stressed by the Committee of the Regions from the very beginning of the Eastern Partnership.

The relevance of the involvement of the authorities of the level lower than the central government as regards the transformation process in the Eastern Partnership territory was also underlined by the European Committee, which in its Communication on the Eastern Partnership dated 8 December 2008, encouraged the Committee of the Regions to set up the Eastern Europe and Caucasian Regional and Local Self-Government Assembly as the institutional platform for regular dialogue and co-operation between the representatives of local and regional authorities from the EU countries and the countries from the Eastern Partnership. This initiative was finalised with the establishment, in September 2011, of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities (CORLEAP), which lay the foundations for the regional volume of the Partnership.

The establishment of CORLEAP enables the political co-operation between local and regional authorities in the EU and the countries from the Eastern Partnership and constitutes another aspect of the contribution of the Committee of Regions into the European Neighbourhood Policy. On the other hand, direct participation of local and regional authorities from the Eastern Partnership countries, shall strengthen the contacts with the citizens, and thus, reinforce the role of local and regional self-governments in the partner countries.

The aims set forth for CORLEAP include:

- making the participation in the political initiative of the Eastern Partnership available to the local and regional authorities due to the coordination on the part of the Committee of Regions and making the contacts between parties interested in the co-operation with the Eastern Partnership countries at the local and regional levels available,
- supporting the initiatives of the Commission and the interested Parties from the EU and the partners from the Eastern Europe to meet the objectives of the Eastern Partnership. CORLEAP should be a chance for the extension of the co-operation between the local and regional authorities from the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries and for turning such co-operation into an integral element of the relations between EU and the partners from the Eastern Europe. Practical examples of co-operation shall ensure CORLEAP the highest position possible as regards its recognition and future role in the shaping of politics,
- propagation of concepts, which shall foster close relations between the Eastern Partnership countries and the EU countries, implementation of internal reforms and the creation of the potential opportunities at a local and regional level<sup>52</sup>.

CORLEAP meetings are held once a year, and the first one took place when it was presided over by Poland in 2011 in Poznań. The meeting ended with the adoption of the guidelines relating to the necessity to account, in future bilateral contracts between the EU and the partner countries, for the provisions on the strengthening of local and regional self-governments and the necessity to increase funds for projects supporting local democracy, human rights at local and regional levels as well as the citizens' involvement. The leaders of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries and governments were informed by the Chairperson Mercedes Bresso about the results of the meeting. The leaders, in their official declaration, expressed their contentment with the set up of CORLEAP and stated that the Committee of the Regions and its partners from the Eastern Partnership shall continue the works to establish permanent, institutional framework of the co-operation<sup>53</sup>.

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52 Cf. NOTE FOR MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS 130th MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – 10 May 2011 – Point 7 Annual Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP).

53 "Participants of the Warsaw Summit are happy to acknowledge the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly Euronest, playing an important role in supporting progress in the implementation of the goals of the Eastern Partnership. They are also happy to acknowledge the launch of the schedule of annual Conferences of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership under the auspices of the Committee of the Regions. They hereby call upon the Committee of the Regions to work with the local and regional authorities of the Eastern partners to set up the institutional Framework of the co-operation" - Joint Declaration of the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit, point 21.



The postulate to impose institutional framework of local and regional co-operation was an important step forward towards the shaping of local and regional self-governments in the Eastern Partnership. During the meeting in Chisinau, CORLEAP declared its readiness to increase the involvement in the implementation of the objectives of the Partnership. At the same time, it assumed that it might serve four fundamental functions<sup>54</sup>:

- 1) *a strategic thinker*, which would work out and propose long term plans specifying the direction of the development of local and regional self-governments, including the schedule of works and activities to be undertaken,
- 2) *a timely intervention body*, both at the level of the EU and the Eastern Partnership in order to ensure that the financial aid designated for development is allocated to important and socially significant local and regional projects,
- 3) *a skilful advocate*:
  - a) providing convincing arguments as regards the key role of the local and regional self-governments in the preparation of the local and regional reforms,
  - b) facilitating access to European institutions (in particular The European Commission and the External Action Service of the European Union) and to the governments of the countries of the Eastern Partnership,
  - c) providing arguments for the decentralisation of the competences both in the sphere of the politics and in the fiscal sphere,
- 4) *a propagator of good results*, showing how to create the culture of good results at the local and regional level, focused on the improvement of training and skills of the officials working for the local and regional self-governments.

During the meeting, the participants identified the key problems arising at the local level at the implementation of the Eastern Partnership and reforms carried out in the countries of the Partnership, moreover, they indicated the activities to be undertaken by CORLEAP in this respect.

Firstly, it was indicated that political and fiscal autonomy of the local and regional authorities needed to be increased as an important factor enabling efficient functioning of the multi-level system of the government. CORLEAP declared it would closely follow the European and international debate on the delegation of powers to the authorities of the lower level and to pay particular attention to decentralisation efforts presently undertaken by the EU member states, it reiterated the need to increase local democracy, in particular on the basis of the European Charter of Local Self-government and on the basis of the reference framework for regional democracy adopted by the governments of the European Council member states as the instrument for meeting the objective.

Secondly, the Conference participants paid attention to the necessity of the extension of capacities of local institutions. It was stressed that knowledgeable and skilful politicians and those in charge of management at the level of local authorities will contribute to the creation of efficient, open and transparent governance. Therefore, CORLEAP declared its support to the training of the representatives of local and regional authorities from the Eastern Partnership countries as well as to the commencement of the dialogue thereon with the European Training Foundation and other interested parties.

Thirdly, it was postulated that the local and regional authorities and their public services should be able to use all the EU instruments financing the policy of the Eastern Partnership. The Pilot Regional Development Programmes, proposed within the framework of the Eastern Partnership, could assist in solving the problems experienced by local and regional authorities and could, at the same time, show the influence of different

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<sup>54</sup> Conclusions from the annual Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership, Chisinau, Moldova – 17 September 2012. Available at: [www.toad.cor.europa.eu](http://www.toad.cor.europa.eu)

policies of convergence upon the area development, progress and employment. Support granted to the activities undertaken by the local and regional authorities for the benefit of the development of local communities, and the share of the activities in the process are of horizontal nature and must not be limited to one single instrument. CORLEAP also appealed for granting the local and regional authorities from the Eastern Partnership countries direct access to respective financial instruments (European and domestic), at the same time demanding that limitations or even requirements of co-financing the EU aid programmes by the local authorities should be eliminated as such requirements limit even more the meagre funds at the disposal of the local authorities.

Finally, the important role of the EU support for the local self-government associations in the Eastern Partnership countries was underlined, as these self-governments are the main propagators of local autonomy and democracy and can be called a collective spokesman for the opinions of the local authorities. Increased institutionalisation and extension of powers of domestic associations representing local and regional authorities shall contribute to the increase of the role of these authorities at the multi-level system of governance. Domestic associations are to serve as the domestic mechanism of assistance and international co-operation of local and regional authorities; they are also a perfect platform for debates and the exchange of information and verified solutions between the local and regional authorities at domestic level<sup>55</sup>.

Presently, new approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy is being worked out and the priorities of self-governments of the Eastern Partnership should be in particular accounted for. It seems that due to the activities of the Committee of Regions and CORLEAP this objective will be successfully met. The Agenda of the Eastern Partnership, in the period prior to the summit of the Eastern Partnership in Vilnius, in autumn 2013, envisages that CORLEAP should be addressed with the issue of the monitoring of the execution of the action plan, so should the European Parliament/The EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly<sup>56</sup> and Civil Society Forum, furthermore, the agenda also confirms that the establishment of CORLEAP *"gave foundations for the regional aspect of the Partnership. Further development of CORLEAP shall facilitate boosting relationships between the authorities in the countries with their citizens to meet the goals of the Eastern Partnership"*. The fact that the Eastern Partnership was approved of as the priority of the Lithuanian Presidency falling to the second half of 2013 is worth noting. The Presidency, on their part, proposed co-operation, the aim of which focuses on the next meeting of CORLEAP in autumn 2013 to become one of the four most important events preceding the summit of the leaders of the countries and governments held from 28 to 29 November 2013. The undertaking of the future Lithuanian Presidency in this area was approved of at the 8th meeting of the Platform and the Eastern Partnership (democracy, good governance and stability)<sup>57</sup>: *"Lithuania fully supports the main priorities specified in CORLEAP conclusions of September 2012, with regard to which the consensus was reached, first of all such priorities as: the reform of public administration, fiscal decentralisation and co-operation between the regions. It is believed that in 2013 the number of seminars, training events, meetings and projects implemented by the local and regional authorities of the Eastern Partnership countries should be higher"*<sup>58</sup>.

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55 Conclusions from the annual Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership, Chisinau, Moldova– 17 September 2012. Available at [www.toad.cor.europa.eu](http://www.toad.cor.europa.eu)

56 EURONESTParliamentary Assembly is composed of the European Parliament and delegation of partners from the Eastern Europe (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine). European Parliament sends 60 delegates and each of the Eastern partners – 10 delegates.

57 The meeting was held on 15 November 2012 in Brussels.

58 Note from the meeting of the Committee of the Regions of 30 April 2013.

## B.2. ROLE OF THE POLISH REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

At the accession of Poland to the European Union, the eastern frontier of the Republic of Poland became the EU frontier. The co-operation with the regions of East European countries thus acquired a new meaning and the efforts were directed towards the development of the border regions co-operation, development of border regions infrastructure, tourism and the co-operation regarding the environmental protection as well as sharing the Polish experience with the regions of the EU Eastern neighbour countries.

The co-operation between the Polish regions with their eastern neighbours is here of great importance and is viewed as *sine qua non* condition for the improved investment attractiveness, well-designed development of the transport infrastructure and as a result thereof, the development of economy, in this cultural and political development<sup>59</sup>. Undoubtedly, these activities also constitute, from the point of view of the Polish entities, an important element preventing the marginalisation of the Polish eastern regions. Polish regions thus play a particularly significant role in the development of the Eastern Partnership that is determined with political, geographical, historical as well as social conditions.

Since the double-sided approach to the Eastern Partnership is to boost the relations between the EU and each Eastern Partnership member state, on the basis of bilateral agreements, and will depend on the readiness of the given country to access the Partnership and on the country's involvement into the implementation of the assumptions of the Eastern Partnership, then the regional and local self-governments should be also included in the preparation of the bilateral agreements, strategic documentation and the action plans regarding the relationships between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries. As early as at the first meeting at the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) in Poznań in 2011, the representatives of the local and regional authorities appealed for the inclusion of separate provisions on the strengthening of local and regional self-governments in the negotiations over new bilateral agreements between the EU countries and the Eastern Partnership countries<sup>60</sup>. Such postulate was even included in the text of the Association Agreement with Ukraine, signed in March 2012<sup>61</sup>. Without a doubt, it is a move forward in a positive direction, which constitutes a clear signal for both the EU regional self-governments and their partners from the Eastern Partnership member states and is of great importance for the ideal of a multi-level management system, for the democratic and social transformations as well as for the creation of the framework of the economic co-operation.

From the point of view of the units of self-government, negotiations over agreements between the EU and respective Eastern Partnership countries should be monitored, at the EU level - by the Committee of the Regions, and at the domestic level - within the framework of the joint committee of the government and local self-government. It seems that the experience of Polish local and regional self-governments regarding the democratic transformations and building structures for the regional development support, could significantly contribute to working out of the legal framework of the co-operation between the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries.

The transition from the centralised governance system to democracy not only requires changes in the Constitution but also in the system itself. As the Committee of the Regions rightly observed, decentralisation and governance at the local level do not go together with the participation of the citizens therein. In some EU countries and outside the EU, local and regional self-governments jointly face the challenge of how to increase the participation of the citizens in the elections and how to propagate the participation of the citizens and associations in the strategy formulation process and the elaboration of important municipal and regional projects. Building trust for local democracy is a process requiring time and should be viewed as the long-term objective of the Eastern Partnership<sup>62</sup>.

59 M. Kołodziejcki, K. Szmigiel, op. cit., p. 3.

60 Cf. Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP) future of CORLEAP: activities in 2012 and prospects for 2013, p. 1

61 Cf. Art. 446-448 of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU and its member states.() Art. 446 envisages that the parties to the Agreement shall promote mutual understanding and bilateral co-operation in the field of regional politics regarding the methods of formulating and implementing such cooperation, in this Multi-level management and partnership with particular account for disadvantaged areas and territorial cooperation to create channel of Communications and reinforcement of the Exchange of information between national, regional and local authorities as well as social and business entities and civil communities.

62 Cf. Opinion of the Committee of the Regions "Role..." op. cit. point. 16.



In the scope discussed herein, the multilateral aspects of the Eastern Partnership, in particular undertaking of joint tasks within the four thematic platforms gains particular importance.

Platform 1, which includes the thematic panel "Public Administration Reform" deserves special attention. Presently, the works focus on the improvement of the decision-making process in the Eastern Partnership countries and the increase of professional qualification and ethics of the local and regional administration in the Eastern Partnership member states.

From the point of view of the Republic of Poland, cross-border co-operation gains particular importance being an element of the neighbourhood policy and support for the Eastern Partnership. Because of its geographical location Poland is a natural environment for the co-operation between Polish regions with border regions of the Eastern Partnership countries. In this context, we must also name the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013 (PL-BY-UA) implemented within the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument<sup>63</sup>. The said programme continues and extends the co-operation in border areas of the three countries, previously developed within the framework of the Neighbourhood programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine INTERREG IIIA/Tacis CBC 2004-2006 Neighbourhood programme). Presently, the main objective of the programme is to support the cross-border development processes, the beneficiaries of the programme are the institutions contributing to the implementation of the programme priorities, which run their activity on non-profit basis, in this e.g. local and regional authorities, non-government organisations, public institutions and Euroregions.

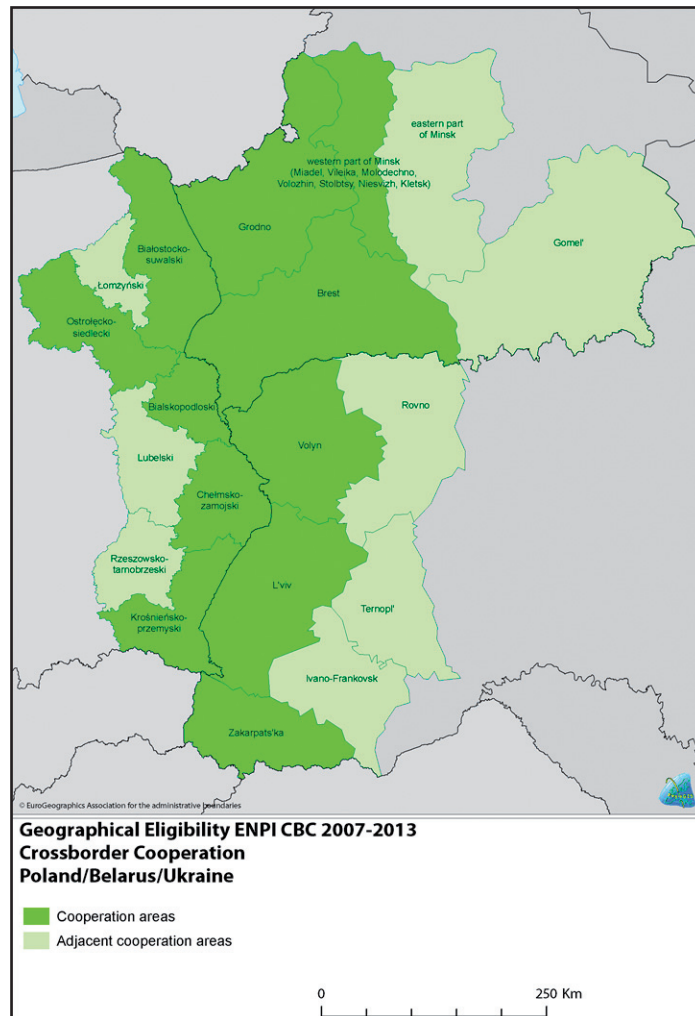
The Programme covers eastern frontier areas of Poland, Belarus and Ukraine, situated alongside the eastern frontier of the Republic of Poland (which at the same time represents the longest, land borderline of the EU) of 953 km and its total budget from the EU funds for the years 2007-13 amounts to €186.2 million.

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<sup>63</sup> In fact, within the framework of EIPS another programme with the Polish participation is financed, i.e. the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Lithuania-Poland-Russia, yet because the Russian Federation is not a recipient of the Eastern Partnership, the said initiative exceeds the scope of this document and is not discussed herein.

Chart 1

AREAS INCLUDED IN THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND PARTNERSHIP INSTRUMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PL-BY-UA



Source: Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013<sup>64</sup>.

PL-BY-UA Programme covers the following areas:

- **Polish sub-regions:** białostocko-suwalski, ostrołęcko-siedlecki, białkopodlaski, chełmsko-zamojski, krośnieńsko-przemyski, and also the so-called adjoining sub-regions: łomżyński, lubelski and rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski,
- **Belarusian oblasts:** Brestki, Minsky (7 western regions: Miadziolski, Vileika, Molodechno, Volozhin, Stolpce, Nyazvizh, Kleck) and Gordnenskiy, and as the adjoining regions: eastern part of Minsky and Homelskiy regions,
- **Ukrainian sub-regions:** Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattia and as adjoining regions: Ternopil, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk.

Subsidies for the projects implemented in the adjoining regions are to certain extent limited, that is the aid designated for such a region may not amount to more than 20% of the entire funds allocated for the programme and only non-investment projects may be subsidised.

The main aim of the Programme is to support the cross-border development processes and the respective assumptions thereof are implemented through non-commercial projects within the framework of the three Priorities:

64 [www.pl-by-ua.eu/pl](http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/pl)


- increase of competitiveness of the cross-border areas, which objective is met via:
  - *creation of better entrepreneurial conditions* (funds will be allocated to activities directed at: promotion and marketing of the region, trade and investment promotions, development of small and medium businesses, development of local and regional labour markets, development of the information society, new technologies, improvement of co-operation between business and education, social and economic recultivation and renewal at degraded areas (in this contaminated areas)<sup>65</sup>,
  - *development of tourism* (financial support focuses on the development of infrastructure and tourism services and on the promotion of 'soft' instruments, in this: promotion of the region, tourism and agrotourism development as well as protection of cultural heritage)<sup>66</sup>,
  - *improvement of the region accessibility* (the initiatives aimed at the improvement of the accessibility and quality of the social and economic infrastructure, with particular attention paid to transport, energy supply, logistics systems, transport security and water supply)<sup>67</sup>.
- improvement of the quality of life, thanks to:
  - *environmental protection in cross-border areas* (within the framework of this priority, undertakings aimed at the protection of natural environment and natural heritage will be promoted)<sup>68</sup>,
  - *safe and efficient borders* (in this scope, the aim is to increase the efficiency of the infrastructure and border-crossing procedures and to improve the safety in border areas; increased throughput of movement across borders and its safety are the prerequisites for the implementation of the remaining objectives of the programme. The use and expansion of the social and economic potential of a region covered by the programme shall first of all require the removal of the administrative, institutional and infrastructural obstacles to free, movement of goods, services and persons across borders. The activities undertaken to increase the transparency and efficiency of customs and duty procedures are supported. Their objective is to speed-up the across border movement procedures and as a result ensure quick and safe border crossing. Undertakings related to local cross-border movement, in this the activities implemented in accordance with the Regulation on Free Movement of Persons across Borders shall be supported within this task.

65 As the examples of such activities, the Programme names: joint initiatives as regards the regional marketing and trade and investment promotions; joint initiatives of agencies intermediating as regards the funds allocated to small and medium enterprises (development agencies, business foundations, commercial and industrial chambers, Craftsmanship Chamber, technological parks, business incubators etc.) intended for increased absorption of innovation and increase of competitiveness in business, joint initiatives for the reinforcement of the co-operation network between small and medium enterprises in the region covered by the programme, joint initiatives promoting and supporting co-operation between the businesses and research and academic institutions and strengthening the research networks (universities and R&D institutions) to work out better relations with the enterprises and with the local and regional authorities, joint initiatives aimed at development of practical solutions increasing the possibilities of the application of the results of international research in practical business activity; joint initiatives intended for promotion and support of recultivation and social and economic renewal of degraded areas (in this contaminated areas) and technologically transformed; joint initiatives of the labour market to improve mobility and quality of labour; joint initiatives of the labour market institutions to counteract the negative phenomena on the cross-border labour market (in this 'brain draining', unemployment of young people, age or sex discrimination, aging of the society etc.); joint initiatives of employment agencies, business organizations, workers' unions and educational institutions to work out practical solutions concerning the education and continuous education adapted to constantly changing labour market requirements; joint initiatives to work out practical solutions increasing the accessibility to educational services and new forms of learning (np. e-learning) in the labour market covered with the programme.

66 Examples of activities: preparation and implementation in investment projects in the area of tourist infrastructure and agrotourism, as well as tourist services; joint initiatives focused on protection and promotion of cultural heritage; joint creation of sustainable tourist products (such as cross-border thematic trails) which respect the need for the protection of natural and cultural heritage; joint projects promoting tourist values of a cross-border area.

67 An example of an activities catalogue includes: investments aimed at improving the availability and quality of social and economic infrastructure, with a focus on the infrastructure of transport, energy supply, logistic system, transport safety and water supply; preparation and implementation of feasibility studies for transport systems on the area covered by the programme; joint initiatives of owners of infrastructure, carriers and transport services providers focused on quality improvement and creation of new transport connections, implementation of practical solutions increasing the quality and degree of sustainability of passenger transport and cargo transport on the area covered with the programme, exchange of knowledge, development and implementation of joint activities in the area of renewable sources of energy and models of energy saving, joint research, testing and preparation of small-scale pilot projects in the area of renewable energy sources, development of cross-border protection strategies and utilisation of natural resources, areas and landscapes, creation of cross-border protected areas and their management.

68 Examples of activities: investment in infrastructure of environmental protection of regional and local impact, with a focus on water and wastes management, joint initiatives increasing on the local and regional level the preparedness for natural and ecological disasters, including the development of cross-border systems of crisis management and related infrastructure, fostering the development and cooperation between local and regional authorities in the area of planning water reserves and modern water resources management.



Services provided in and around the border areas are planned to be developed. The programme is to support: the construction of new border crossings - additionally to the construction and extension of the border infrastructure financed from the External Borders Fund. The plan includes co-financing of large strategic projects concerning new border crossing and modernisation of the existing ones. The projects shall be selected and agreed upon at a later stage by the Joint Monitoring Committee. Undertakings aimed at increasing the safety of borders, mainly preventing and combating illegal migration and smuggling, organised crime, preventing the spreading of human, animal and plant diseases across borders as well as preventing and eliminating illegal trade in rare and endangered species) shall also be executed; and so shall be

- networking and the initiatives of local communities, the said execution shall be realised through:
  - *Development of local and regional options for the cross-border co-operation (to improve the cross-border capacity for the co-operation at the local and regional level)<sup>69</sup>;*
  - *Support to the initiatives of local communities.*

**Euroregions**<sup>70</sup>, are of crucial importance from the point of view of the cross-border co-operation. These regions, in the case of the Central European countries, Poland included, have become an instrument assisting in the accession process, and after EU accession - a useful tool for regulating the relationships with the neighbours from outside the EU. As the conducted research shows, the characteristic feature of the Euroregion institution is the fact that it enables a wide range of activities, starting from the economic activities finishing with cultural activities. It enables launching spontaneous co-operation processes with the participation of a third sector. Intensive co-operation between the Polish local and regional self-governments with the Eastern Partnership partners within the framework of such Euroregions as Bug, Carpathian, Neman or Białowieża Forest may serve as an example thereof. The co-operation not only enables the extension of contacts between the people and strengthening of the civil society but also for the implementation of a number of undertakings regarding the infrastructure. Thus, a Euroregion is viewed as a flexible and extremely efficient tool for the activities undertaken in border areas of the Central and Eastern Europe.

Existing Euroregions will definitely be supported with the application in future of the instrument called **European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - EGTC**. As rightly pointed out by the Committee of the Regions, it will contribute to the improvement of the application of the proper law by the interested parties and transparency of the established institutional structures. The draft of amendments regarding Regulation 1082/2006 concerning a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)<sup>71</sup> is to improve the flexibility via opening of the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - EGTC to all aspects of territorial co-operation (except for programme and financial projects management by European Regional Development Fund) and to ensure legal bases for the participation of authorities and regions of third parties as member states<sup>72</sup>. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation - EGTC and macroregional strategy as innovative instruments of territorial co-operation at the interregional and international levels make up an important added value as, due to more rational allocation of financial funds and reinforcement of the role of the local and regional authorities, they serve the strengthening of convergence and co-ordination of political activities in a variety of fields. Moreover, Euroregions as the institution, may efficiently support the tools of the European

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69 For example: joint initiatives creating the structures of cross-border cooperation, creation and development of permanent cooperation networks between NGOs and non-profit in specific areas, e.g. culture and cultural heritage, environment and natural heritage, youth, social care and healthcare, development of local communities, activities for the growth of institutional capacities aimed at the development of the cross-border networks of cooperation of authorities responsible for management of, for example, culture and cultural heritage, environment and natural heritage, youth, social care and healthcare, development of local communities, etc.

70 General framework of cross-border cooperation of regional and local authorities is created by: European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (the "Madrid Outline Convention") passed by the Council of Europe on 21 May 1980, European Outline Agreement on Transfrontier Cooperation between Territorial Communities, passed by the Council of Europe in 1980 r., European Charter for Border and Cross-border regions passed by the Council of Europe on 19 November 1981 and European Charter of Local Self-Government approved by the Council of Europe on 15 October 1985.

71 Cf. Proposal of the Commission, regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council revising the regulation (EC) 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation to clarify, simplify and improve the process of creating such groupings and their operation (revised version), Brussels, 14.3.2012 r., COM(2011) 610 final/2.

72 It is worth stressing the role of the Committee of the Regions in the preparation of the revised version of the project. The CoR has conducted a wide range of consultations in that respect, which were taken into consideration by the Commission. The results were published in the conclusions of the Committee of the Regions from joint consultations - „The review of regulation (EC) 1082/2006 on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation, Committee of the Regions, 2010”.

Neighbourhood Policy such as TAIEX, SIGMA, Twinning or the cross-border co-operation programmes of the European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>73</sup>.

Without doubt, the aims of the Eastern Partnership may be efficiently met at the local and regional levels, also within the framework of the existing transnational programmes. Presently, it is possible to develop the co-operation with Ukraine within the framework of '**Central Europe' Transnational Co-operation Programme**, and with Belarus - within the framework of the **Baltic Sea Region Programme**.

The main aim of **the Central Europe Programme** is the strengthening of territorial cohesion, promotion of internal integration and improvement of competitiveness in Central Europe<sup>74</sup>. The said goal was divided into 3 parts. First, territorial cohesion understood as the sustainable distribution of human activities of all types that is equal access of all the citizens and business entities to all types of services, irrespectively of their territory. Territorial cohesion shall mean the transposition of the goals of continuous and sustainable development into the territorial framework; in this case, this means specific activities, which shall bring about optimum distribution of resources and optimum access to services. Second, integration, having its social, economic and territorial parameters and referring to the principle of the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital in their physical, social and economic aspects. Third, competitiveness understood as not only the economic efficiency but also as a more complex issue covering with its scope the so-called 'soft' factors positively influencing the economy (quality of life, sustainability, gender equality). Competitiveness in this aspect is understood as the capability of territorial, cultural and social development of the communities, firms and institutions. Regional focus and specialisation, on the other hand, mean competitiveness in investment acquisition.

Programmes supporting the establishment of administrative and institutional units and the improvement of their capacities and powers are of particular, practical importance for the local and regional aspects of the Eastern Partnership. These programmes have already been verified in practice both in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its extension. At the moment, the possibility of using TAIEX and the manner of its utilisation as well as other mechanisms and technical assistance programmes aimed at supporting local and regional authorities in the Eastern partnership countries are under consideration<sup>75</sup>.

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73 Opinion of the Committee of the Regions "Overview..." op. cit. points 49-50.

74 The goal was formulated on the basis of Assumption and motions of Lison and Gothenburg Agendas.

75 JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Eastern Partnership: A Roadmap to the autumn 2013 Summit.



# INVOLVEMENT OF THE POLISH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU PROGRAMME OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Seeking an answer to the question about the level of involvement of Polish local self-governments in the implementation of the EU programme of the Eastern Partnership, it was found that for that purpose, it was necessary to carry out respective surveys and opinion polls regarding all levels of activities undertaken by local and regional authorities. This approach enabled the reliable determination of the specific nature of the activities of Polish local self-governments in the regions of the Eastern Partnership, for the determination of the motivation behind the activities undertaken by these self-governments within the scope of the international co-operation with the countries intended for the Eastern Partnership and for the determination of the subjective and objective scope of these activities.

The surveys and opinion polls were carried out in April 2013. To obtain the results possibly best reflecting the actual state of affairs, the surveys and opinion polls were addressed, via the mediation of the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation by means of ePUAP platform, to 16 Marshal Offices, 314 County Authorities and 2479 Commune Offices as well as to the Union of Polish Metropolises, the Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland, the Association of Polish Cities, the Union of Small Polish Towns and the Association of Polish Counties.

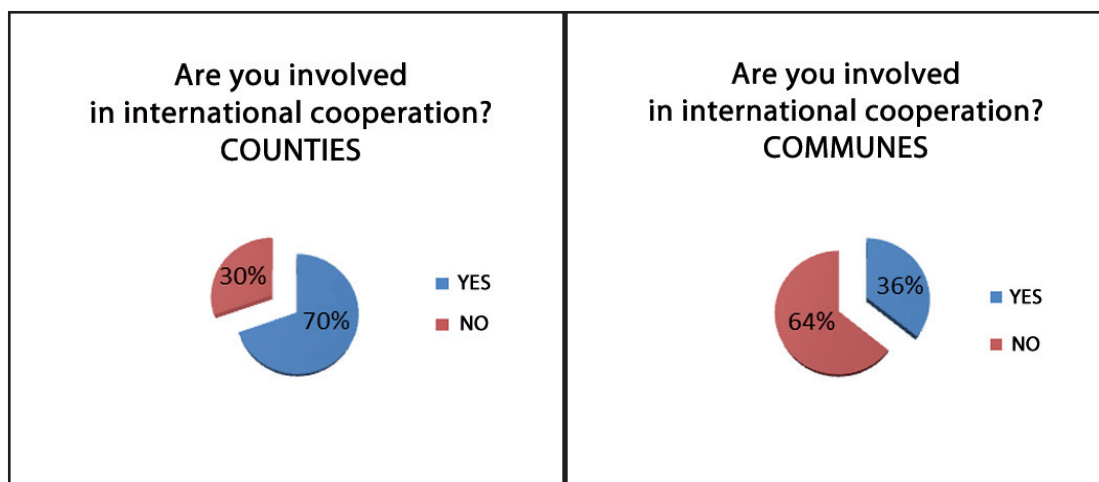
For the reason of incomplete surveys or opinion polls or their delayed submission, the final number of the surveys and polls accounted for in the research results was as follows: for the communes <sup>76</sup>- 803, for the counties - 112 and for self-government regions - 15, for self-government corporations – 2.

Because of the nature of the research, with regard to some of the questions - the total number of communes / counties / regions accounted for in the results was assumed to be 100%, with regard to some other questions - such number was the number of units co-operating on international scale and/or co-operating with the Eastern Partnership countries, which was indicated in indices/references under the charts.

## COMMENCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION BY LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

Chart 2

CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION BY POLISH COMMUNE AND COMMUNE SELF-GOVERNMENTS



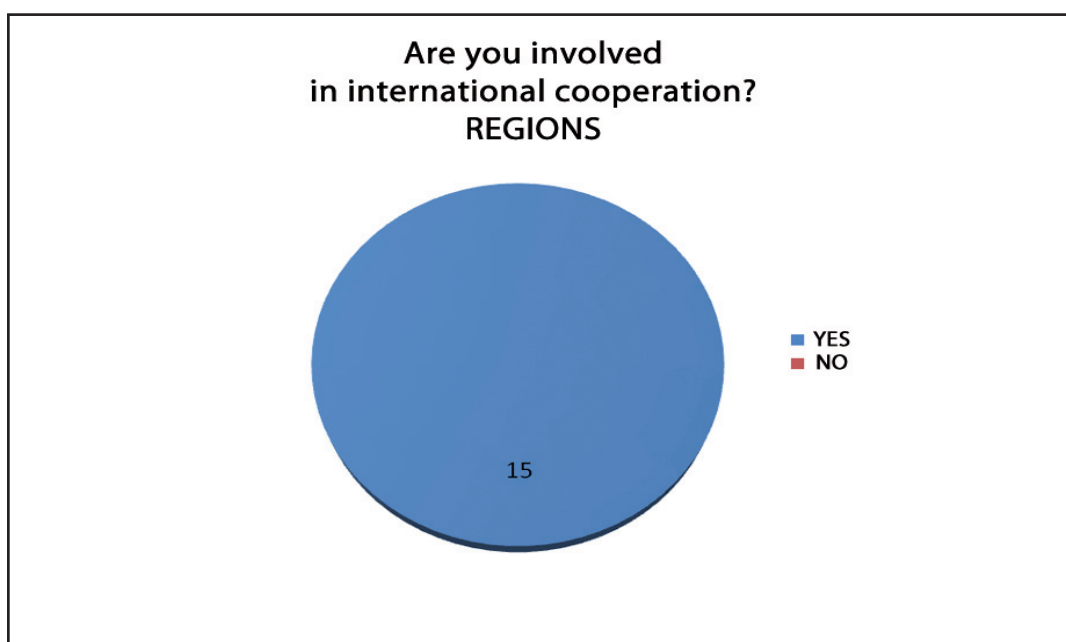
Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

<sup>76</sup> Towns and municipalites were classified In the category of communes.

Only 40% of the Polish county and commune self-governments are engaged in the international co-operation. Out of 112 counties, which took part in the surveys/opinion polls, almost 78 declared themselves to be engaged in the international co-operation, whereas out of 803 communes - 287 of them declared such co-operation. The research result is thus significantly different from the result obtained by the Institute of Public Affairs within the research on international co-operation of self-governments<sup>77</sup>. This difference most often is due to a significantly higher number of respondents from rural communes. Out of 167 communes, which took part in the surveys/opinion polls on the cities (in this big cities show the most intensive activity as regards the international co-operation) 98 are engaged in such co-operation. Low activity in the field of international co-operation of rural communes may result mainly from financial reasons, difficulties in the identification of partners for such co-operation and lower requirements of the local communities in this regard.

Chart 3

CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION BY POLISH SELF-GOVERNMENTS ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

15 regions participated in the survey/opinion poll (namely Lower Silesian, Kuyavian-Pomeranian, Lublin, Lubusz, Łódź, Opole, Podlaskie, Pomeranian, Silesian, Świętokrzyskie, Lesser Poland, Greater Poland, West Pomeranian), all of them declared engagement in the international co-operation. It is in line with the general tendency of the internationalisation of the regions, which is not the only characteristic feature of Poland. International co-operation meets the basic functions of the regions in the globalised world and Polish regions have at their disposal the biggest potential of all local self-governments. At the same time, they bear the highest liability for the creation of international co-operation in the regions.

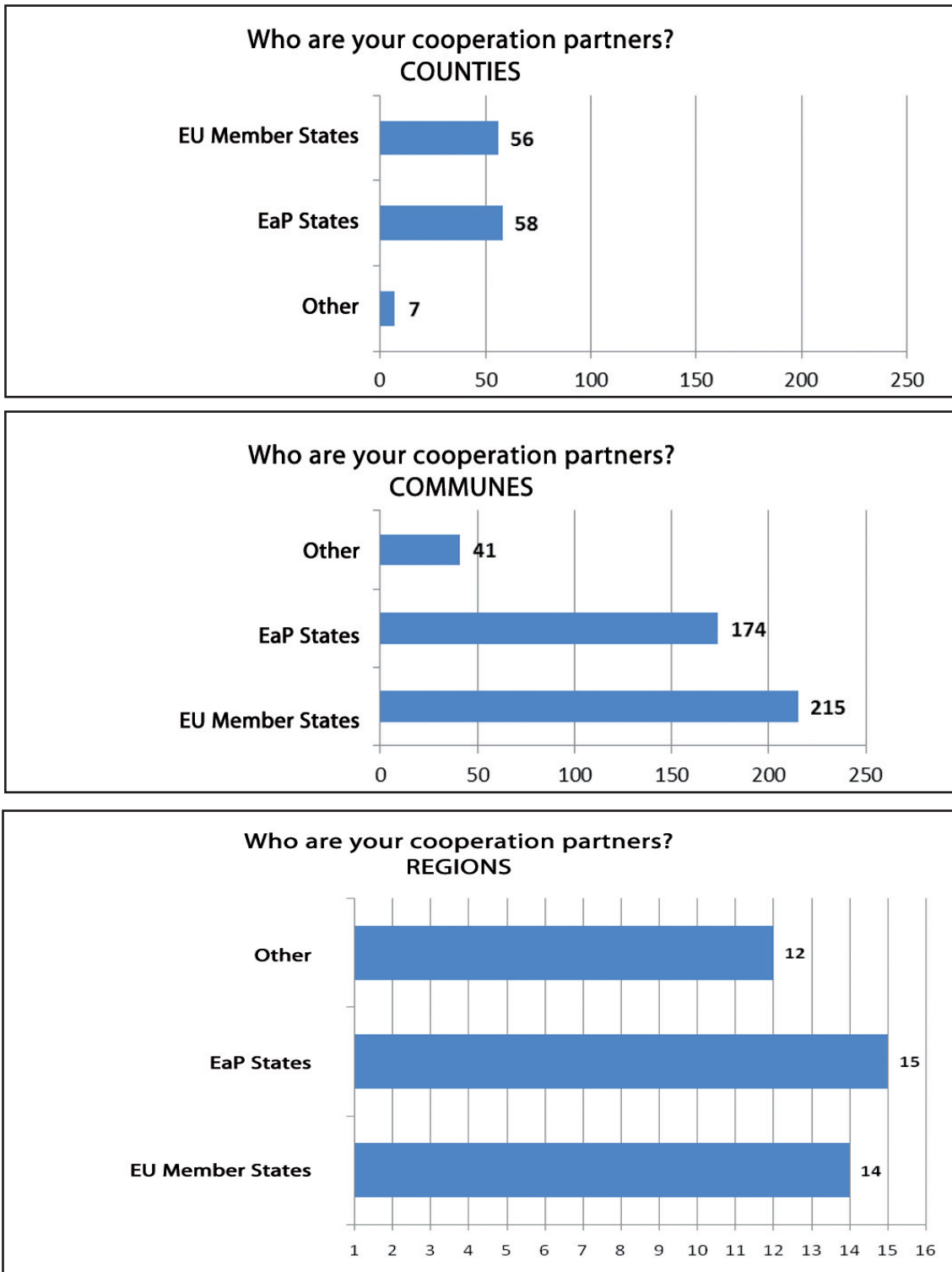
<sup>77</sup> Fuksiewicz, A., Łada, A., Wenerski, Ł., *Współpraca zagraniczna Polskich samorządów. Wnioski z badań, [International co-operation of Polish self-governments, conclusions from research]*, Warszawa, Instytut Spraw Publicznych, 2012 (Raport ISP).



## SUBJECTIVE SCOPE

Chart 4

PARTNERS OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION WITH COUNTY AND COMMUNE SELF-GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS REGIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS <sup>78</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

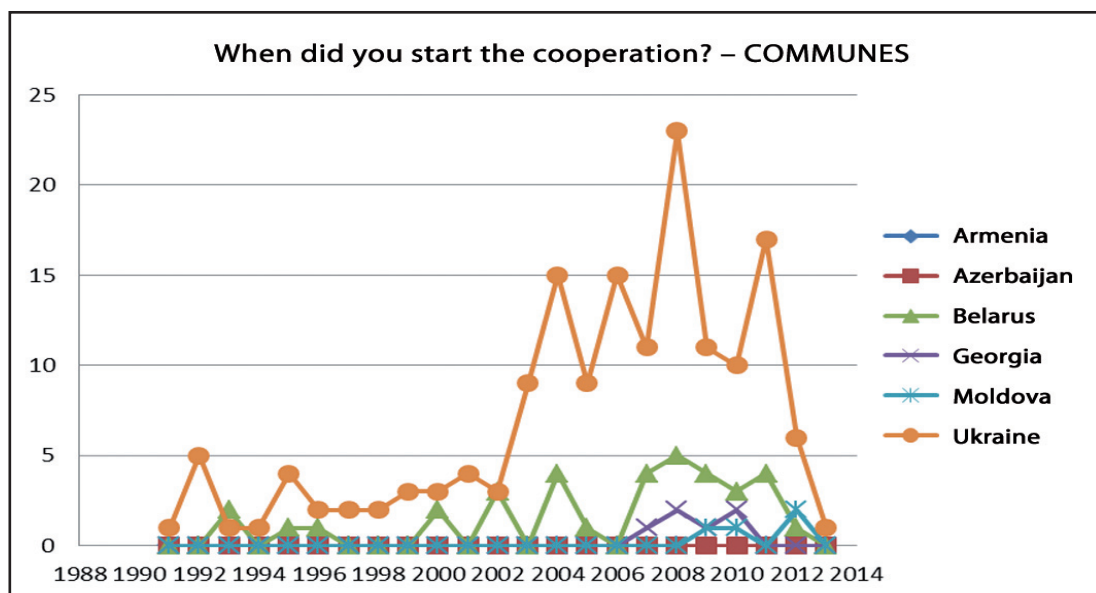
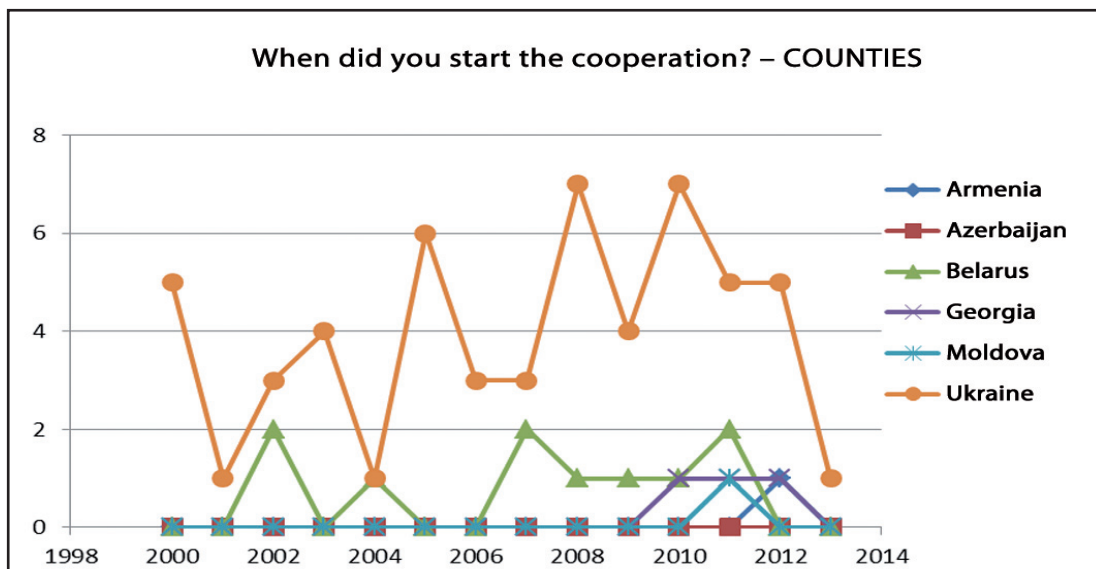
<sup>78</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.



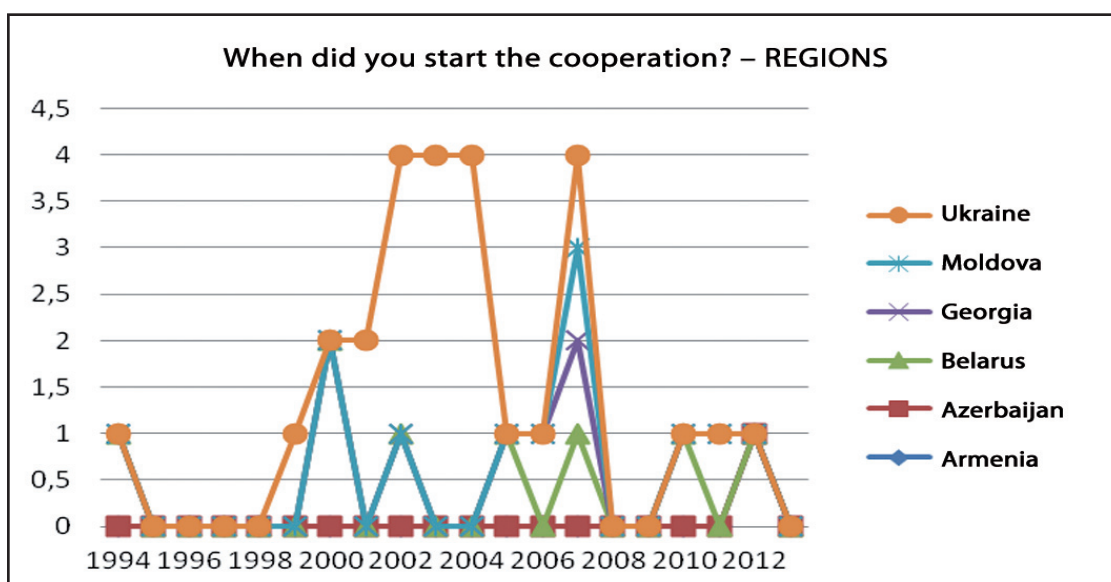
**Co-operation with the Eastern Partnership countries is the second largest area of the international activity of the Polish self-governments, following the co-operation between the EU member states.** 58 counties, 174 communes and 15 regions declared to co-operate with the Eastern Partnership countries. Although the important role of close geographical location (usually also historical and cultural relationships, in particular in the border regions) can sometimes be depreciated, it is indeed still crucial. It enables the regions, firstly, to identify potential partners more easily, secondly, to reinforce and develop the existing, for the fact of closeness, interpersonal relations and thirdly, to identify common goals of the co-operation.

## TIME RANGE

Chart 5  
PERIOD OF TIME FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CO-OPERATION BY COUNTY AND COMMUNE SELF-GOVERNMENTS AND REGIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS WITH THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PARTNERS<sup>79</sup>



79 The question was addressed to all respondents involved in international cooperation.



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

Concerning the time frames for the establishment of co-operation, the first co-operation agreements with the Ukrainian partners were concluded by the surveyed counties in the year of 2000 and with Belarusian partners in 2001. One may observe a distinct increase in the establishment of co-operation since 2005, and in particular since 2009, not only the general number of the established contacts has increased but also new countries opened up for the co-operation (Georgia, Armenia).

In the case of communes, the first co-operation agreements were concluded in 1991, and since 2004 one may observe an increase in the general number of the established contacts as well as the extension of the geographical area of co-operation by new Eastern Partnership countries.

In case of the regions, first formalised contacts with the eastern partner were established in 1958 between the Kielce region and Vinnitsa region (now in Ukraine). Moreover, some agreements were concluded in the 1990s but since the year 2000 one may observe both an increase in the number of concluded agreements and an increase in the number of partners from the Eastern Partnership.

Without doubt, the dynamic development of the co-operation between the countries of the present Eastern Partnership is closely related to the accession of Poland to the EU and with the implementation of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. The first agreements, dating back to the end of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s, however, mainly concerned the implementation of the international aspects of the administrative reform of the state. Furthermore, the dynamic establishment of Euroregions also affected the scope of pre-accession funds allocated from the Phare programme. Another wave of intensified activities in 2004/2005 must be viewed as related to the fact that Poland was a EU member state and the INTERREG IIIC/TACIS programme was in the process of implementation. The creation of the Eastern Partnership and political changes in the countries thereof (in particular in Moldova) significantly contributed to the establishment of new contacts after 2009.

## MOTIVATION BEHIND CO-OPERATION <sup>80</sup>

Motivation behind the co-operation as indicated by the respondents may be divided into several, overlapping categories, which however do not make up an exhaustive catalogue. It must be stressed that local self-governments in border areas face unique social and geographical conditions.

The first category includes motivation related to the political system. In this category, the following areas may be named: promotion of the European integration in the East, development of co-operation started at the

<sup>80</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.

regional level, willingness to support the process of the transformations of the political system in the Eastern Partnership countries via the exchange of information, propagation of good practices, know-how and ethics in offices, convergence of nations, willingness to assist the Poles in the East and to establish co-operation with Polish communities; teaching the Polish language, new possibilities of development of own self-government in the broad meaning of the word; development of the international co-operation.

The second category includes motivation related to social aspects of the co-operation, such as improvement of the quality of life of the local communities, among others via the promotion of employment and counteracting unemployment, development of co-operation between the civil society entities, in this women's organisations, co-operation and exchanges between the social groups, research groups, professional groups, cultural groups, sports groups, young people, and in particular those forms of co-operation that facilitate mutual recognition of the communities living in the border regions, creation of bonds between the people, including removal of barriers, fighting stereotypes, promoting open approach and mutual understanding; strengthening of existing bonds between the people.

The third category includes economic motivation, which comprises the willingness to initiate and boost contacts with business entities and institutions engaging the representatives of the regional business life, co-operation for innovation and creativity, supporting the setting up of joint enterprises, development of trade and industry as well as the technical infrastructure, mutual participation in fairs, willingness to share opinions and experiences facilitating further development of business and social relations, in particular within the scope of economic and social development and co-operation, agricultural business activity, municipal services, environmental protection, health care and medicine, school system, education, culture, sports and recreation, tourism, sanatorium and spa treatment, tasks of a social nature in general, promotion of the regions and scientific and technical co-operation and finally the co-operation of business and financial institutions.

Another list of motivating factors comprises factors related to the areas of mutual interest such as prevention of natural disasters and threats, protection of natural environment in border areas (e.g. Białowieża Forest), waste management, water reservoirs, renewable sources of energy, monitoring of the environmental pollution, improvement of the access and quality of such infrastructure as roads, energy supply, logistics systems, safety of transport, water supply, prevention of natural disasters and threats of such disasters as well as neutralisation and removal of the effects thereof, creation of municipal and industrial waste disposal systems.

The fifth category of motivation is determined with geographical, historical and cultural factors. In particular, the following are deemed such factors: close distance to the frontier, no language barriers and multicultural local communities, in this national minorities in such local communities (e.g. Morąg commune, Łambinowice commune), care for the preservation of the old traditions, cultural heritage, customs, historical and architectural sights, spatial management of the border areas, in this the development of the cross-border infrastructure, which enables the local communities living in the cross-border areas to continue practising their original traditions or maintaining their bonds with the family, which is connected with the territory of the partner state (e.g. visiting the graves of the family members).

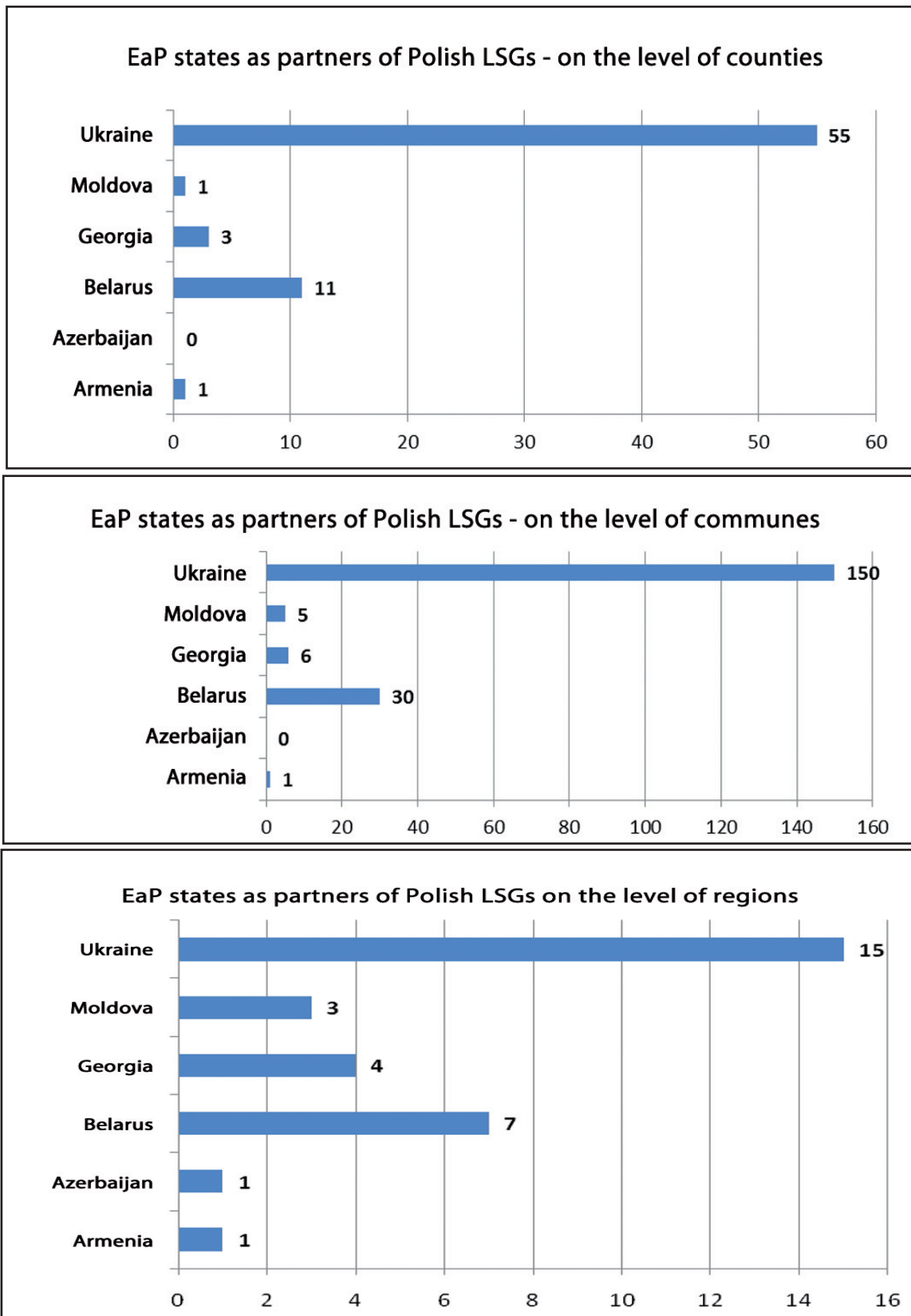
The last, sixth category includes pragmatic motivation, the following shall be classified therein: willingness to acquire funds via filing joint applications and joint implementation of the cross-border projects, transnational projects and trans-regional projects financed from the EU funds, state budget and by other institutions, as well as the promotion of a given region.



## GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS

Chart 6

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP STATES COOPERATING WITH POLISH LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF COMMUNITIES AND COUNTIES, AS WELL AS REGIONS<sup>81</sup>



Source: Author's own survey results.

<sup>81</sup> It includes responses of LSGs who declared cooperation with EaP states.

The above conclusion concerning the geographical proximity as the factor determining international cooperation of local self-governments is the evidence that **Ukraine is the unquestionable leader**<sup>82</sup> among the countries of origin of Polish LSGs' partners. All regions, which took part in the survey declared cooperation with entities from this country, i.e. 55 counties (94.8% of counties which are involved international cooperation with the EaP countries) and 150 communes (86.2% of communes, which are involved international cooperation with the EaP countries). Moreover, the cooperation in many cases involves more than one Ukrainian partner.

Apart from the geographical proximity, also the openness of individual states for commencement of cooperation plays an important role. The approach of Ukraine towards the EaP may be a good example. Initially, the multilateral EaP policy was perceived as a departure from bilateral cooperation, which was later replaced with a pragmatic approach. Despite the change of government, the integration with the EU is still an important item on Ukraine's agenda, which has the most advanced relations with the European Union and is the only one of the EaP states, which completed the negotiations with the EU with respect to the association agreement<sup>83</sup>.

Unfortunately, according to the assessment carried out by the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of May 2012<sup>84</sup>, Ukraine was assessed negatively despite its greatest advancement in the process of integration with the EU. The basic problem (of a political nature) was the selective justice and the imprisonment of the former Prime Minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, as well as other opposition leaders, which was assessed by the Community as politically motivated actions. It was the reason why the EU suspended the procedure of endorsing the negotiated accession agreement. Moreover, the criticism also pointed out the high level of corruption and little progress in the implementation of structural reforms, implementation of the accession agenda and obligations with the European Energy Community. In the conclusions of the Council for Foreign Affairs, it was confirmed that involvement tempo with respect to the Ukraine within the EaP will depend on the progress achieved by Ukraine in three areas: compliance of parliamentary elections in 2012 with international standards and actions undertaken as a result of them; Ukraine's achievements in coping with the issue of selective justice and preventing it in the future, and implementation of reforms defined in the jointly agreed association agenda<sup>85</sup>. Although the elections in 2012 were received with reservations, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States during their visit in Kiev on 29 April 2013 stressed the open and constructive climate of discussions with Ukrainian authorities. Taking into consideration the pro-EU aspirations of Ukraine, they confirmed their joint involvement in favour of political association, as well as economic integration with the EU, on the basis of respecting the common values and their effective promotion. Ministers expressed their hope that Ukraine will follow the direction towards democratisation and reforms, which will allow for its further deepening of political and economic relations with the European Union<sup>86</sup>. At the moment, the most important challenge for Ukraine is to maintain the progress in the relations with the EU and continuation of efforts for complete implementation of obligations defined in the Conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council of 10 December 2012 and the joint declaration adopted during the EU-Ukraine Summit on 25 February 2013<sup>87</sup>.

The territorial division of the Ukraine comprises the cities Kiev and Sevastopol, 24 regions (*oblast*) and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which are further divided into counties (*raion*) and towns/municipalities or regional/county subordinations. There is, however, no clear separation between the responsibilities of central and local governments. In practice, the scope of local self-government is limited. Some non-governmental organisations stress that local governance still remains one of the weakest points in Ukraine<sup>88</sup>.

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82 According to the research conducted by the Institute of Public Affairs (ISP), Ukraine is the second important (after Germany) partner for international cooperation of Polish self-governments.

83 The EU-Ukraine Association Agreement has been only initialled. It is expected that its formal signing may take place at the EaP Summit in Vilnius in the second half of 2013.


84 JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Ukraine Progress in 2011 and recommendations for action Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy, Brussels, 15.5.2012, SWD(2012) 124 final, [http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012\\_enp\\_pack/progress\\_report\\_ukraine\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012_enp_pack/progress_report_ukraine_en.pdf)

85 Council conclusions on Ukraine, 3209th FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting, Brussels, 10 December 2012, [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/134136.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/134136.pdf)

86 Declaration of Poland, Denmark, Lithuania and the Netherlands after the visit to Kiev on 25 April 2013.

87 [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/135667.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/135667.pdf)

88 See: Reform Initiative for Local Self-government and Public Service, Ukraine profile, available at: [http://lgi.osi.hu/country\\_datashet.php?id=181](http://lgi.osi.hu/country_datashet.php?id=181)



Despite the official declaration of the government of its support to strengthen local authorities, it is indicated that in practice, a reverse process is taking place in Ukraine. The national leadership abandoned the previous administration's attempts to reform local government. Now the power is consolidated in the executive branch through the annulment of the 2004 constitutional amendments and return to the constitution of 1996. The key problems hindering the development of local self-government include: the absence of strict delimitation of powers of different self-governing entities; vagueness of the criteria and procedures for establishing various territorial units; extreme fragmentation of lower-level administrative units; absence of an adequate financial basis for local government budgets through fiscal decentralisation; unfair and inefficient accumulation of funds by the central government; and poor staffing of local self-government bodies<sup>89</sup>. According to the opinion of 2010 concerning Ukraine's progress the Committee of the Regions indicated the importance of the plan of administrative reform, with a special attention paid to the competences of local and regional authorities, fiscal decentralization and territorial reform. In view of the lack of complete decentralization, the CoR expressed its support for strengthening administrative capacities and good governance in this country taking into consideration the following issues:

- complete harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with the European Charter of Local Self-Government,
- allocation of greater capacities to authorities of a level lower than national,
- making the regional administration partially independent level of governance,
- promotion of financially independent regional and local self-government.

It is worth adding that in August 2010, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Concept of the State Programme of cross-border cooperation development for 2011-2015 (No. 1838-r of 15.08.2010). It is noted that cross-border cooperation in Ukraine is carried out under considerable disparities of socio-economic development of border areas, as well as the level of employment of these Ukrainian territories and border regions of neighbouring states, which leads to social instability of the subjects of cross-border cooperation<sup>90</sup>. Another crucial step forward is the adoption of the Concept of the Reform of Local Self-government, as well as the territorial division of competences in Ukraine by the Ukrainian authorities on 8 April 2013<sup>91</sup>.

**Belarus** is the second most popular geographic area for cooperation (11 indications – 19% of counties cooperating with EaP states, 30 indications in case of communes – 17.2% of communes cooperating with EaP states, and 7 indications in case of regions – 46.7% of regions cooperating with EaP states).

The considerably smaller intensity of cooperation with Belarus results, first of all, from the internal system of the country. Belarus has seen the complete disappearance of local self-government and its replacement by local government in which local authorities are a constituent part of the 'presidential vertical', with the executive branch dominating the representative one (the Soviet model). Local and regional authorities may not be considered as a separate self-government institution representing interests of the local community and protecting the latter from excessive interference from the state. Moreover, the participation of Belarus in cross-border cooperation projects involving local and regional authorities has encountered some serious problems: the difference between the interests of potential partners in neighbouring states or the complex, bureaucratic and time-consuming procedures. In addition, all projects must be approved by relevant ministries and agencies after which the Council of Ministers makes the final decision<sup>92</sup>.

Both the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission in the reports of 2012 and 2013 stressed that even taking into consideration lack of reforms at the central level in Belarus, it is extremely important to maintain widely construed, open and organized dialogue with the authorities, opposition movements and civil society in Belarus. It is the message for Belarus that it is still possible to ratify the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and efficiently apply the complete European Neighbourhood and Partnership

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89 <http://www.undp.org.ua/en/local-development-and-human-security>

90 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, REPORT: CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK AND OPPORTUNITIES, [http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/26604605/461409169/name/Report\\_Aston\\_final.pdf](http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/26604605/461409169/name/Report_Aston_final.pdf)

91 The concept was prepared with the expertise support of the Council of Europe under the programme "Strengthening Local Democracy and Support for Local Government Reforms in Ukraine".

92 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, REPORT: CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK AND OPPORTUNITIES, p. 40., ENPI CBC Project Implementation in Belarus. A Guide to National Requirements in Belarus relevant for the implementation of projects financed under ENPI CBC Programmes, [http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/upload/pl/Guide%20to%20National%20requirements%20for%20implementing%20ENPI%20CBC%20projects\\_EN.pdf](http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/upload/pl/Guide%20to%20National%20requirements%20for%20implementing%20ENPI%20CBC%20projects_EN.pdf)

Instrument and its economic benefits, should the government, in exchange, be ready to introduce actual transformations, respect the rule of law and human rights and execute the reforms to strengthen local self-governments. The new approach should provide for the continuation and development of the existing forms of territorial cooperation with Belarus and, at the same time, encourage the authorities of such regions and NGOs to further projects to foster cross-border contacts and gradual opening of borders<sup>93</sup>.

Despite the favourable attitude of **Georgia** to the process of European integration, the cooperation of Polish LSGs with Georgian entities is considerably limited – 9 LSGs at the level of communes and counties (3.9% of those involved in cooperation with the EaP countries, 2.5% of those involved in international cooperation) and 4 regions. The political leadership and society of Georgia are enthusiastic about the EU and see no alternative to integration with Western structures. The EU, in turn, offered its full support on the issue of Georgia's territorial integrity and praised progress made by Georgia, although it did also raise concerns over the extent to which local electoral processes may be described as democratic, the dominance of the executive authority in the political system and restrictions on the freedom of the press<sup>94</sup>.

Georgia is organised into two autonomous republics (Adjara and Abkhazia – the latter proclaimed independence) and ten regions (including separatist South Ossetia, which proclaimed independence), which are further divided into counties. New amendments to the constitution adopted in 2010 became valid in January 2011, established a separate chapter on local self-governance. The new chapter sets and defines some institutional guarantees for the independence of local governance. However, the ruling party's monopoly on power would need to loosen for political competition to flourish at regional and local levels. Adjara remains the only regional entity with limited autonomy. The head of Adjara's regional government is elected by the local Supreme Council, but proposed by the President of Georgia. The President currently has extensive rights to dismiss Adjara's parliament and government, but in the new version of the constitution, effective since 2013, he is required to seek the government's approval in advance. The autonomous republics, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, are beyond the central government's control, since they were declared Russian-occupied territories by the 2008 Law on Occupied Territories.<sup>95</sup>

The ruling United National Movement party controls all local councils (the lowest level of self-government). The ruling party's monopoly on local councils has diminished political competition on the local and regional levels, and opposition parties play a limited role in the decision-making process, although the participation of opposition in the local councils increased from 11% in 2006 to 14% in 2010. Furthermore, the central government uses decentralization as a way to transfer costs onto local budgets<sup>96</sup>.

According to the State Strategy for Regional Development of Georgia 2010-2017 "effective regional governance implies a coordinated initiative of central and regional authorities as well as individual or joint efforts of civil society at the regional level, which ensures the effective exercise of the authorities of governmental bodies and the provision of quality services to the population."<sup>97</sup> However, the priorities for regional development in Georgia are defined by Ministers and government representatives (Commissioners) according to the Government information. There are no legal instruments to ensure the involvement and participation of local authorities in the preparation of regional development programmes. Currently, the local authorities do not have any rights to conclude agreements with local authorities of a foreign country<sup>98</sup>. Therefore, the European Commission underlined that it is necessary to strengthen the involvement of Georgian government in the reform to be focused not only on the form, but also including the contents and measures assuring actual changes<sup>99</sup>.

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93 The opinion of the Committee of the Regions. „The implementation of the Eastern Partnership Initiative in Belarus and the development of cooperation between local and regional authorities in Belarus and the EU“; Summary of the opinion of the European Commission is available at: [http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012\\_enp\\_pack/georgia\\_memo\\_2011\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/docs/2012_enp_pack/georgia_memo_2011_en.pdf)

94 Cf. JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Georgia Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Neighbourhood Policy: Working towards a Stronger Partnership, Brussels, 20.3.2013, SWD(2013) 90 final.


95 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, REPORT: CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK AND OPPORTUNITIES, p. 41-42.

96 Op. cit., p. 43.

97 Government of Georgia (2010), „State Strategy for Regional Development of Georgia for 2010 – 2017“, available at: [http://www.lsg.gov.ge/files/\\_2335\\_719149\\_STATESTRATEGY2010-2017ENG.pdf](http://www.lsg.gov.ge/files/_2335_719149_STATESTRATEGY2010-2017ENG.pdf)

98 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 42.

99 JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Georgia Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action, Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, European Neighbourhood Policy: Working towards a Stronger Partnership, Brussels, 20.3.2013, SWD(2013) 90 final.



Certainly, strengthening local self-government in Georgia should be perceived as the priority of cooperation within the EaP. Further development of skills of local authorities staff in the field of a complete utilization of the EU funds and the partnership opportunities seems to be of key importance to support the transformation process. In view of this, it seems justified to conclude agreements, direct cooperation, exchange of experiences and mobility between local authorities of EU Member States and the local authorities of Georgia, to exchange experiences and grant assistance in the development on the local and regional level. As suggested by the Committee of the Regions in 2010, it is recommended to increase the funds for improvement of administrative capacities on the local level.

Only 3 regions, 1 county and 5 communities are involved in cooperation with **Moldova**. Recently, this country has been perceived as the leader of transformations and the most enthusiastic about European integration<sup>100</sup>. In the report of the European Commission Moldova was ranked highest among the EaP countries. The European Commission also pointed out that the key challenges that remain there include the implementation of structural reforms (of the judiciary, the police and security forces and the public administration)<sup>101</sup>.

Moldova is organised into 32 counties (*raioane*), three municipal cities, the Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia and the Transnistrian Region. Overly centralized administration has been an ongoing problem in Moldova throughout the post-socialist period, similarly to the financial dependence of self-governments – their budgets are largely under the control of central authorities. Remuneration for those working in local administration is quite low, undermining professionalism and service delivery. One important impediment to effective local government is corruption, whether in the form of misdirected public funds, favouritism in the granting of contracts, or cronyism<sup>102</sup>. Moldovan local authorities themselves struggle with a very low level of local autonomy, both at the administrative level and at the financial level. In fact, in terms of decentralised fiscal capacities, Moldovan local authorities have only very low levels of discretionary spending. These problems of local autonomy are further compounded by a lack of human resources at the local level and an outmoded, uncorrelated and contradictory legislative framework<sup>103</sup>.

The new National Strategy for Decentralisation presented in 2011 provides for an increased autonomy of local governments by giving locally elected officials greater decision-making autonomy and independent access to resources. In June 2011, local government elections were successfully carried out and were generally considered free and fair. In April 2012, the National Strategy for Decentralisation<sup>104</sup> was approved by the Parliament. The aim of the Strategy is the transfer of competences and financial resources from the central to regional and local levels.

Certainly, in order to ensure the proper functioning of local self-government in Moldova it is necessary to build an adequate legal framework – in the context of decentralization – which will provide regional and local authorities with competencies regarding cross-border cooperation. Another important goal is ensuring even levels of regional development through specific regional strategies, in order to avoid the increase of social and economic differences as a result of the greater capacity to use EU funds by more developed regions<sup>105</sup>.

It is worth pointing out that Poland has been involved in the public administration reform in Moldova. In 2012, the Polish Ministry of Regional Development with the participation of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of Moldova executed the first development project for the Moldovan administration

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100 In the report of 2013 it was stated that Moldova have fulfilled most of the recommendations included in the previous documents, in particular in the assessment of 2012. JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Republic of Moldova Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action, Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Neighbourhood Policy: Working towards a Stronger Partnership, SWD(2013) 80 final.

101 Cf. JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in the Republic of Moldova Progress in 2011 and recommendations for action Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy Brussels, 15.5.2012 SWD(2012) 118 final.

102 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 45–47.

103 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 45.

104 Government of the Republic of Moldova (2011) „National Decentralization Strategy”, Chisinau, available at: [http://www.descentralizare.gov.md/public/files/temp/The\\_draft\\_National\\_Decentralization\\_Strategy\\_eng.pdf](http://www.descentralizare.gov.md/public/files/temp/The_draft_National_Decentralization_Strategy_eng.pdf)

105 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 46.



entitled "Strengthening public administration capacity in Moldova within the scope of preparation of regional development programmes and infrastructural projects". In 2013, the MRD is going to execute another project for the Moldovan administration entitled "Strengthening public administration capacity in Moldova within the scope of preparation of regional development programmes and infrastructural projects - continuation".

Only 1 Polish region, 1 county and 1 community cooperate with **Armenia**. It is the result of the geographical distance of this country from Poland, but also the modest ambition on the Armenian side of becoming closer to the European Union. Armenia sees the EU as a way to diversify its global contacts and improve its economic situation. However, Armenia's position is highly dependent on the regional context and on Turkey in particular. Armenia's interest in the EU has grown since the launch of the Eastern Partnership in 2009. In contrast to some other countries, the Armenian authorities, opposition and civil society are optimistic about the EaP's potential to generate substantial benefits for their country.<sup>106</sup> However, the European Commission still underlines the need for reforms of Armenian public administration and judiciary<sup>107</sup>.

Administratively, Armenia is organised into the city of Yerevan and ten provinces (*marz*), which are further divided into communities (*hamaynkner*). Armenia's local self-government is clearly defined by legislation, instituting representative and executive bodies in all communities. However, in practice local self-government bodies are not as strong as they need to be, not always transparent and dependent to an extent both politically and financially on regional governors, who are in turn appointed by the central government. Often, voters are (understandably) economically motivated and therefore economic elites tend to play the role of community leaders. Little authority is left to local governance bodies, which often lack transparency, accountability, a clear understanding of the division of powers and adequate human resources.<sup>108</sup>

The constitutional amendments in 2005 that consolidated the independence of local self-governance bodies seem to be insufficient. The Union of Communities of Armenia, the collective body representing all 915 local self-governing bodies in the country, stresses the need for enhanced self-governance capacities at the local level, a greater level of financial autonomy for local authorities in the country, as well as an overall need for further decentralisation of governmental competences.

Since 2009, the Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia has been making plans to merge communities in order to increase their financial and managerial potential. On 10 November 2011, the government adopted a concept for the enlargement of communities and began planning practical steps for reducing the number of communities to about 200 nationwide (down from nearly 1000). One of the greatest challenges is the consolidation of local self-governmental bodies and restructuring their financing. However, as proven by experiences from other countries, in a short time it should have an impact on the self-governmental bodies and authorities operating in the neighbourhood of the capital. In the opinion of the Committee of the Regions, at the current level of the development of the political system in Armenia, it would be helpful to promote more widely the experiences of other countries, which have experienced the process of self-governmental consolidation. It is also worthwhile to spread information (through thematic seminars and conferences) about the experiences of successfully completed changes of relations between the capital and other self-government bodies. The exchange of good practices in specific fields, particularly among entities, which have up-to-date practical knowledge and the representatives of Armenia, should be permanently included in the EU assistance programmes<sup>109</sup>.

In April 2012, Armenia expressed its interest to participate in a wide range of programmes open to partner states of the European Neighbourhood Policy. In September 2012, the Protocol to the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, on the other part, on the general principles for the participation of the Republic of Armenia in Union programmes<sup>110</sup>. Under this Protocol, Armenia will be able to participate in all current and

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106 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 29.

107 JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Armenia Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS, Brussels, 20.3.2013, SWD(2013) 79 final.

108 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 28.

109 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 31.

110 The Protocol was attached to the Proposal of the Commission of 19.09.2012. COM(2012) 517 final 2012/0246 (NLE), available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0517:FIN:PL:PDF>

future EU programmes open to Armenian participation, in accordance with the relevant provisions for adopting these programmes. Moreover, according to the Protocol's stipulations, the representatives of Armenia shall be allowed to take part, as observers and for the points, which concern Armenia, in the management committees responsible for monitoring the programmes to which Armenia contributes financially.

None of the Polish communes or counties cooperates with **Azerbaijan**<sup>111</sup> and only one region indicated cooperation with Azerbaijani bodies. Azerbaijan is lukewarm towards the EaP and seeks to communicate with the EU on an equal basis, mostly discussing the initiative's economic aspects. Within Azerbaijan, support for the EaP is difficult to secure because of the perceived lack of EU support for the country's territorial integrity. Therefore, the EaP is predominantly seen as a means of asserting the country's role as a major regional and international energy player and obtaining the EU's support for the development of its strategic energy infrastructure. Azerbaijan's elites emphasize their modest aspirations for cooperation with the EU. They ask to be treated as a self-reliant 'partner' rather than a recipient of EU guidance and assistance<sup>112</sup>. In the report of 2013<sup>113</sup> the European Commission underlined that despite certain though modest<sup>114</sup> progress in implementation, it is still necessary to undertake reforms for democracy and human rights.

Administratively, Azerbaijan is organised along 59 counties (*rayon*), 11 cities and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (which itself contains 7 counties and 1 city). The counties (*rayon*), which are directly subordinate or accountable to the central government are further divided into elected, self-governing "municipalities". In September 2009, the "Law on the unification of municipalities" reduced the number of municipalities to 1,766. Authorities argued that the reform increased the efficiency of local self-government, especially in territories with a small population.

Municipalities and representations of executive bodies function in parallel, even in small administrative territorial units, which may lead to less effective governance and create favourable conditions for the executive bodies to keep municipalities under informal control. Limited progress has been made in promoting effective local self-government. Contrary to the guidelines of the European Charter for Self Government, local authorities in Azerbaijan lack both strong political status and significant sources of finance<sup>115</sup>.

The call of the Committee of Regions to develop with the assistance of experts from the EU and the Council of Europe a comprehensive strategy for improved governance and realization of democracy on the local level and to define realistic goals and deadlines for the strategy implementation is still valid. Of great importance would be the support for the programmes of exchange of tested solutions between the Azerbaijani and EU local authorities in the fields of providing services, as well as on the national level, through enabling the transfer of professional expertise in this field to municipalities by local executive authorities<sup>116</sup>.

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111 It is worth adding that in February 2013, the Mayor of Konstatynów Łódzki (Łódzkie Region) signed the letter of intent concerning cooperation with the Mayor of Shamakhi (Azerbaijan). The cooperation is going to be focused on economy, education, culture, and tourism. More at: <http://portal.konstatynow.pl/portal/index.php?t=200&id=14286>

112 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 32.

113 JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Azerbaijan Progress in 2012 and recommendations for action, Accompanying the document JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS European Neighbourhood Policy: Working towards a Stronger Partnership, Brussels, 20.3.2013, SWD(2013) 88 final.

114 Mainly in the energy sector.

115 N. Copsey, C. Rowe, op. cit., p. 33

116 The Committee of the Regions, Opinion „Local and regional government in Azerbaijan and the development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the EU”. Also see: Local and regional democracy in Azerbaijan, Monitoring Committee, Rapporteurs: Jos WIENEN, The Netherlands (L, EPP/CD), Gudrun MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Austria,(R,SOC), CG(23)12FINAL 26February2013, <http://wcd.oe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1982467&Site=COE&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=CACC9A&BackColorLogged=EFEA9C>

## THEMATIC AREAS OF COOPERATION<sup>117</sup>

### Counties and Communes

The thematic scope of cooperation of the Polish counties and communes with the EaP entities seems to be similar. The major fields of cooperation include these sectors, which have traditionally been the areas of cooperation for self-governments<sup>118</sup>. There were 213 indications in the area of cultural cooperation, 183 - in the area of youth and sports, 169 – in tourism and 70 in territorial cooperation. It seems that the areas of cooperation, related directly to the execution of the EaP goals, take the crucial role on the agendas of the Polish self-government units. In the field of development cooperation there were 151 indications, with 106 indications in the area of strengthening local self-government and 44 – in the area of local democracy. What is important, the support in these areas has been extended not only to those countries, which have traditionally cooperated with Polish self-governments, but also to Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

The responders also pointed to: mobility of students, teachers, scientists and youth – 94 indications, trade and economic contacts – 81 indications, schooling and higher education – 75 indications.

The areas with little cooperation of Polish local self-governments on the level of communes and counties include the human rights protection – 4 indications, counteracting corruption – 4 indications, electricity market – 2 indications, energy safety – 2 indications, research infrastructure – 1 indication.

Below, there is a detailed list of thematic areas of cooperation, undertaken by the Polish self-governments according to the number of indications.

Table 5

THEMATIC AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTIES (*POWIAT* - P) AND COMMUNES (*GMINA* - G) WITHIN EaP

Thematic areas of cooperation	Armenia		Azerbaijan		Belarus		Georgia		Moldova		Ukraine		Total indications for EaP countries	
	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P	G	P
<b>Culture</b>		1			26	9	4	2	3	1	121	46	<b>154</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Youth and sports</b>		1			18	8	3	2	4	1	107	39	<b>132</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Tourism</b>		1			13	10	2	3	2	1	99	38	<b>116</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Development cooperation</b>		1			16	7	3	2	1		82	39	<b>102</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Fostering local self-government</b>		1			5	3	3	1	2	1	64	26	<b>74</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Mobility of students, teachers, scientists and youth</b>					8	4	2	1	3	1	54	21	<b>67</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Twinning towns cooperation</b>	1				11		3	1	2		43	6	<b>60</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Territorial cooperation</b>					9	1			2		42	16	<b>53</b>	<b>17</b>

<sup>117</sup> This question was addressed to all respondents involved in cooperation within the EaP.

<sup>118</sup> cf. Report of the Institute of Public Affairs (ISP) p. 22-23.



<b>Trade and economic contacts</b>					2	4	3	2	1	1	46	22	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Education and higher education</b>		1			7	4	3	1	1		41	17	<b>52</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Cross-border cooperation</b>					13	5					30	12	<b>43</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>					8	2	1				34	6	<b>43</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Reducing development disproportions</b>	1	1			4	2	3	2	1	1	32	14	<b>41</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Territorial development</b>					3	4	4		1		30	15	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Civil participation (including NGOs cooperation, increasing social awareness)</b>		1			4		3	1	1	1	30	10	<b>38</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Training</b>		1			4	1	3				28	5	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Local democracy</b>		1			5	1	3	1		1	22	10	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Trainings and networking of local authorities</b>					2	1	3		1		22	8	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Building administrative capacities on the regional and local level</b>					2		4				22	3	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SMEs</b>						2	2	1		1	25	14	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Municipal services</b>					1		3				17	2	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Cooperation of other public services</b>					2	2	2	1	1		15	9	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Media</b>					1			2	1		11	4	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Administration reform</b>							2				11		<b>13</b>	
<b>Renewable energy</b>											12	4	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Democratic transformation</b>							1		1	1	9	4	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Waste management</b>											10	2	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other</b>					1				1		7	7	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Cohesion with EU policies on regional and local level</b>					2					1	7	5	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made disasters</b>					3	1					6	4	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Research and innovation</b>											9		<b>9</b>	
<b>Civil protection and crisis management</b>		1			3						3	5	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Labour market</b>							2				3	4	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Police cooperation</b>											4	5	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Human rights</b>					1						2	1	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Counteracting corruption</b>											3	1	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Regional electricity markets</b>											1	1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Energy security through increasing energy efficiency</b>							1					1	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Research infrastructure</b>												1		<b>1</b>

Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

The thematic scope of cooperation between communes and counties with individual EaP states is basically similar. Of course, due to the number of cooperating entities and the diversity of executed projects, the scope of cooperation with **Ukraine** is the widest, and includes, first of all, culture (86.3% of counties and 80.7% of communes involved in cooperation), youth and sports (70.9% of counties and 71.3% of communes) and development cooperation (70.9% of counties and 54.7% of communes), tourism (69.1% of counties and 66% of communes), and also: fostering local self-government (47.3% of counties and 42.7% of communes), trade and economic contacts (40% of counties and 30.7% of communes), and mobility of teachers, scientists and youth (38.2% of counties and 36% of communes). Initiatives in the areas of human rights, counteracting corruption and cooperation in the area of regional electricity markets were of little popularity.

The cooperation of Polish counties and communes with **Belarusian partners** is narrower than that with Ukrainian partners (counties – 19 areas, communes – 27 areas of cooperation). The most often indicated areas include: tourism (90.9% of counties and 43.3% of communes), culture (81.8% of counties and 86.7% of communes), youth and sports (72.7% of counties and 60% of communes), and development cooperation (63.6% of counties and 53.3% of communes). The crucial place in the communes' cooperation with the Belarusian partners is held by development cooperation (53.3%) and cross-border cooperation (43.3%).

Counties and communes cooperating with Georgia, Moldova and Armenia declared a wide scope of joint activities, which probably results from generally and widely formulated agreements on cooperation and letters of intent, which constitute the grounds for partnerships. It is difficult to specify clearly if in the past they have been translated into specific projects in all declared areas, or they only constitute areas of potential cooperation.



However, in each case, indications of such areas is an important information about the wide opening of Polish LSGs to cooperation with entities from those countries.

Three counties cooperating with **Georgian partners** declared as many as 15 of the surveyed areas of cooperation; however, six communes – 24 areas out of 39 included in the survey. The counties most often indicated: tourism (100% of respondents cooperating with Georgia), also development cooperation, media, culture, youth and sports, trade contacts and reducing development disproportions (66.7%). Among areas of cooperation with partners from Georgia, indicated by the communes included in the survey, most indications were given for: culture, territorial development and building administrative capacities on the regional or local level (these areas were indicated by 67.7% of respondent on the level of communes cooperating with Georgia). However, the communes, which took part in the survey, did not commence cooperation with their partners from Georgia in the areas related to the cohesion with the EU policies on the regional and local levels, human rights protection or counteracting corruption.

With respect to the cooperation of Polish counties with partners from **Moldova**, the answer was provided by one respondent, who indicated 12 different areas of joint activities out of 39 surveyed areas. As was the case of previous EaP countries, the areas included: culture, youth and sports, and tourism. Respondents on the level of communes indicated 18 areas, including, in particular, youth and sports (80% of respondents on the commune level, who cooperate with Moldova), culture (60%), mobility of students, teachers, scientists and youth (60%).

Cooperation of the only county which indicated the cooperation with a partner from **Armenia**, concerns 11 thematic areas and it also includes the most popular areas of cooperation, indicated by other surveyed counties, i.e. culture, tourism, youth and sports and development cooperation. The area of cooperation of the only commune, which has a partner from Armenia, includes only two of the surveyed thematic areas: twinning towns' cooperation and reducing development disproportions.

## Regions

Table 6  
THEMATIC AREAS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN REGIONS

Thematic areas of cooperation	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine	Total indications for EaP countries
Trade and economic contacts	1		7	2	1	14	25
Development cooperation	1		2	4	3	10	20
Mobility of students, teachers, scientists and youth			7	2	1	9	19
Tourism			4	2		13	19
Culture			4	2		12	18
Youth and sports			4	1	1	11	17
Fostering local self-government	1		2	2	2	9	16
Local democracy			4	2	1	8	15

<b>Education and higher education</b>			3			<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Training</b>	1		2	2	1	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Territorial development</b>			2	3	1	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Administration reform</b>				2		<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Civil protection and crisis management</b>			1			<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Twinning towns cooperation</b>			3	1		<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Democratic transformation</b>	1		1	2	1	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SMEs</b>			4	1		<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Reducing development disproportions</b>			1	2	2	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Training and networking of local authorities</b>			2	2	1	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Building administrative capacities on the regional and local level</b>			1	2		<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Civil participation (including NGOs cooperation, increasing social awareness)</b>			2	1		<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Territorial cooperation</b>			2			<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Waste management</b>			2			<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cohesion with EU policies on regional and local level</b>				2		<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Media</b>			2			<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Renewable energy</b>			2			<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Prevention of, preparedness for and response to natural and man-made disasters</b>			1			<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>			1			<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cross-border cooperation</b>			2			<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Other (describe)</b>			1			<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



<b>Labour market</b>				1		3	4
<b>Police cooperation</b>			1			2	3
<b>Energy security through increasing energy efficiency</b>						2	2
<b>Cooperation of other public services</b>						2	2
<b>Research infrastructure</b>						1	1
<b>Research and innovation</b>						1	1
<b>Municipal services</b>						1	1
<b>Counteracting corruption</b>							0
<b>Regional electricity markets</b>							0
<b>Human rights</b>							0

Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

According to the survey results it transpires that the international cooperation of regions is focused on other areas than cooperation of counties and communes. On the regional level, trade and economic contracts are the most popular – 93.3% of indications concerning Ukraine, 100% of indications concerning Belarus and Armenia, 50% for Georgia. Development cooperation – 66.7% of indications for Ukraine, 100% - for Georgia, Moldova and Armenia (Belarus is exception – 28.6% of indications); cooperation in the areas of: mobility of students and academic teachers – 100% of indications for Belarus, 60% for Ukraine, 50% for Georgia, 33.3% - Moldova; cultural cooperation (80% of indications for Ukraine, 57.1% for Belarus, 50% for Georgia); other areas: youth and sports (73.3% for Ukraine, 57.1% for Belarus, 33.3% for Moldova, 25% for Georgia), tourism (86.7% for Ukraine, 57.1% for Belarus, 50% for Georgia), local democracy (53.3% for Ukraine, 57.1% for Belarus, 50% for Georgia and 33.3% for Moldova), education and higher education (73.3% - Ukraine, 42.9% - Belarus).

The structure of thematic areas of cooperation on the regional level, so different from that declared by counties and communes, results from the different character and conditions of such cooperation, including available own resources for cooperation, as well as the representative status of regions on the regional level. The primacy of trade and economic contacts results from a wide range of promotional activities on regional level, as well as region's activities in the area of organizing economic events, such as fairs, exhibitions or economic forums. On the level of counties and communes, such activities are not possible in the majority of cases due to limited financial resources. Furthermore, undertaking such activities by small towns or rural communes would not be justified.

Regions are also involved in a wide range cooperation in the areas related to political and economic transformations of the EaP states. These types of cooperation includes the areas of: local democracy (53.3% of indications for Ukraine, 57.1% for Belarus, 50% for Georgia and 33.3% for Moldova), democratic transformation (100% indications for Armenia, 50% for Georgia, 33.3% for Moldova, 40% for Ukraine, 14.3% for Belarus), civil participation (46.7% - Ukraine, 28.6% - Belarus, 25% - Georgia), administration reform (73.3% - Ukraine, 50% - Georgia), cohesion with EU policies (26.7% indications for Ukraine, 25% indications for Georgia); and development cooperation (Georgia, Moldova, Armenia - 100% of indications, Ukraine – 66.7%, Belarus - 28.6%). Actually, when the surveyed regions indicated their commenced activities, they listed projects or events with the objectives of to promoting democracy and civil society. To recapitulate, entities from all EaP countries (with the exception of Azerbaijan) cooperate with Polish regions in the fields of development cooperation, trade and economic contacts, fostering local self-government, democratic transformation and trainings.

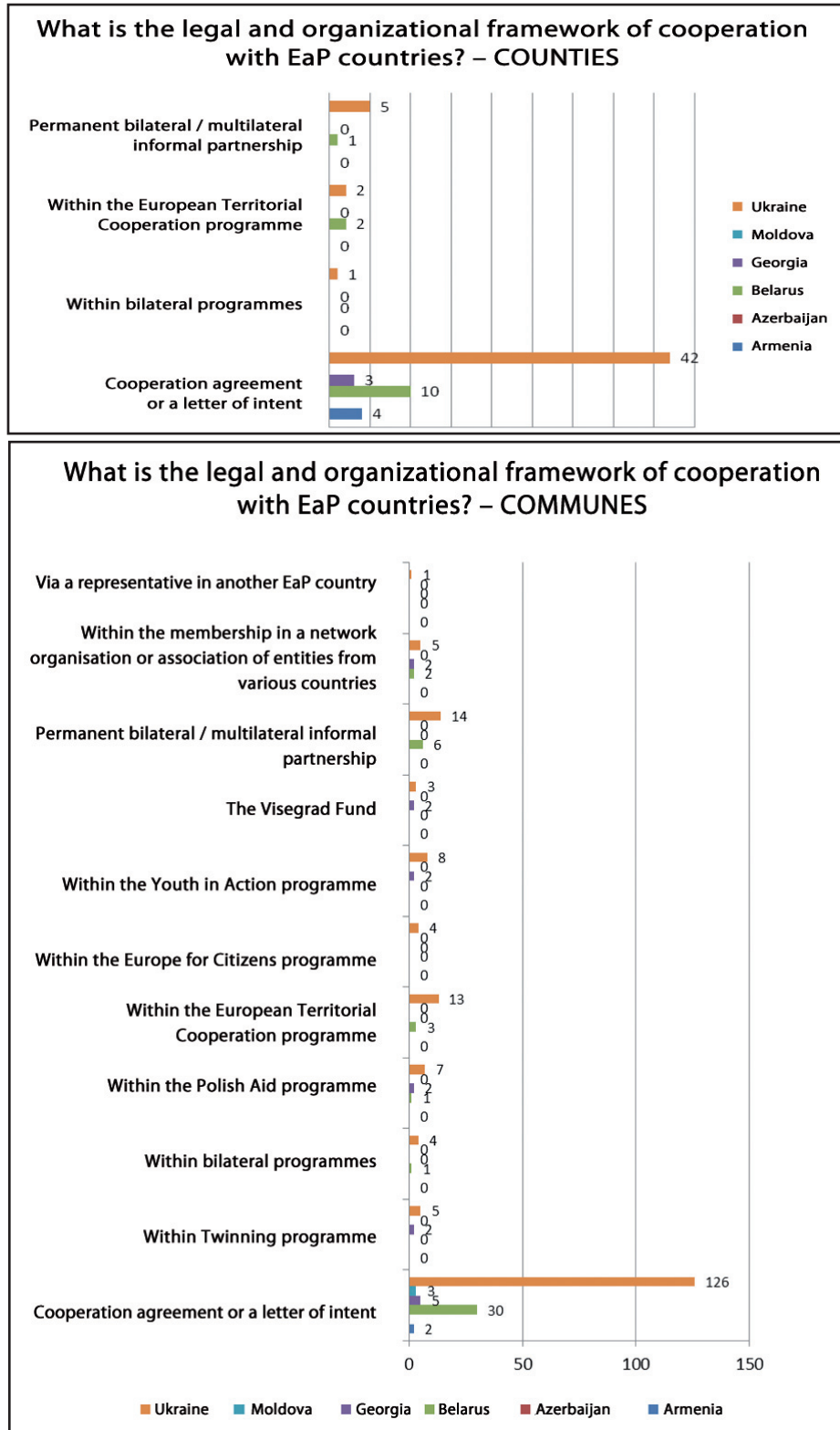


## ORGANISATIONAL AND LEGAL FORMS OF COOPERATION

### Counties and communes

Chart 7

ORGANISATIONAL AND LEGAL FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF COUNTIES AND COMMUNES WITH PARTNERS FROM EaP COUNTRIES<sup>119</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

<sup>119</sup> This question was addressed to all respondents.

International cooperation may take various forms. Depending on its type, subject and the size of cooperating bodies, it may be formalised, long-term, rely on contacts within self-governmental networks, or performance of joint projects. In that respect, the cooperation of Polish LSGs is not much different from the forms of their international cooperation in general<sup>120</sup>. The most popular organisational and legal form of cooperation between the Polish LSGs on the level of communes and counties with bodies from the EaP countries is the cooperation agreement or a letter of intent (225 indications). Permanent biannual or multiannual informal partnerships are much less popular (26 indications).

More and more frequently, Polish county and commune authorities cooperate with the EaP countries by the execution of joint projects. Cooperation under the programmes of: the European Territorial Cooperation was declared by 20 LSGs, the Visegrad Fund – 5 LSGs, the Polish Aid – 10 LSGs, the Youth in Action – 10 LSGs, and Twinning – 7 LSGs. 9 LSGs executes cooperation within a network.

The survey results prove again that the partnership agreements are not an out-dated solution; on the contrary, they are treated by LSGs as a mechanism, which is still efficient and useful, also in cooperation with the EaP countries. One has to admit, that although at least some of them are not related to any specific actions, they are an important factor creating grounds for joint projects, which are the most advanced form of cooperation. The knowledge of the partner, possibility to identify common needs, or ease of contacts are the factors, which facilitate joint actions. In case of some programmes, the fact that there is a history of previous formalised cooperation is one of the conditions required when submitting an application for financial support for a joint project. It is also necessary to consider the cultural conditioning of Eastern European countries, where direct contacts play an important role.

### Examples of joint projects

The survey analysis indicates that the communes carry out more projects (mainly infrastructural projects) than counties. It is related to their scope of responsibilities, which is much wider than that of counties. It is worth stressing that according to the respondents' statements, some of the joint projects prepared in cooperation with Eastern Partners were not awarded financing and because of that reason they were not implemented. The good news is that new projects are also being prepared.

#### CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME „PL-BY-UA 2007-2013”

##### *Czeremcha Commune*

The project „Improvement of cross-border environmental protection system by the construction of water and sewerage system on the territory of Czeremcha commune”<sup>121</sup> completed in 2008<sup>122</sup>.

The project included the development of:

- a complete technical documentation for the construction of a water supply system (from village Wólka Terechowska to villages Opaka Duża, Pohulanka),
- a complete technical documentation for the construction of a sewerage system (Czeremcha, villages Stawiszczce and Kuzawa),
- Project Feasibility Study for the water supply system construction,
- Project Feasibility Study for the sewerage system construction.

##### *Dołhobyczów Commune*

The project “Improving the environment and the quality of life of residents of border communities and Khorobriv Dołhobyczów systems by streamlining the collection, storage and waste separation”<sup>123</sup>.

120 Cf. Raport of the Institute of Public Affairs (ISP) p. 19-20.

121 Information from the questionnaires was supplemented with data from: [http://www.czeremcha.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=116:ogoszenie&catid=12&Itemid=20](http://www.czeremcha.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=116:ogoszenie&catid=12&Itemid=20)

122 Project was executed within the agreement no. IG-2004/PLUB/2.20/1.2/U-41/08 for funding of the project no. NEB/PL/PDL/1.2/07/70 within the Neighbourhood Programme Poland-Belarus\_Ukraine INTERREG IIIA/TACIS CBC 2004-2006. The total project value – PLN 310,734.00; Funding from ERDF – PLN 191,025.00; Total eligible costs – PLN 254,700.00.

123 Priority 2. Improving the quality of life, Measure 2.1 Natural environment protection in the borderland.

The overall objective of the project is to prevent environmental degradation. It is planned to purchase specialized equipment to streamline the system of collection, storage and segregation of waste. The activities include also development of joint cross-border Environment Programme and a campaign to promote environmental protection based on utilisation and segregation of waste. The investment part of the project involves purchase of 2 rubbish disposal trucks, a backhoe loader, a dumper truck with HDS, 25 garbage containers on wheels and 4 rubbish containers for waste segregation (glass, plastic, metal, paper). The project aims at reducing the number of "unauthorised rubbish dumps" by the improved waste disposal service. The partners want also to increase the level of knowledge and experience of local governments, NGOs and institutions in the area of the hazards of improper disposal of waste. Expected results of the project shall contribute to the gradual elimination of disproportions in the border area and to the rise of the living standards.

#### *Hajnówka County*

Project "Didactic infrastructure modernization of Poland-Belarus cooperation in aid of the handicapped"<sup>124</sup>

The main goal of the project is the creation of a possibility of a wider and long-term cooperation between two centres supporting handicapped children and youth due to the creation of adequate infrastructure.

The main goal is going to be achieved through the execution of direct goals:

- Reduced number of special care children and youth taught at home.
- Increased number of special care children and youth, who have overcome the barriers hindering integration.

The following measures are executed under the project:

- Project opening meeting.
- Establishing an Internet portal for the exchange of experiences.
- Adjustment of didactic infrastructure to the needs of the handicapped.
- Organisation of inter-school exchange programmes.

As a result of the project, there will be: 100 places to study for the special care children and youth in both centres, 26 places for round-the-clock stay (20 in Poland, and 6 in Belarus), 8 classrooms with suitable equipment (7 in Poland and 1 in Belarus), 5 rooms for rehabilitation and treatment (4 in Poland and 1 in Belarus).

#### „POLISH AID” PROGRAMME

##### *Poznań – Kutaisi (Georgia)*

In 2013, the city of Poznań received the fifth grant from the "Polish Aid" programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is going to be utilised for the cooperation with the partner city of Kutaisi – project entitled "Partners against exclusion. Exchange of experience between Poznań and Kutaisi in the area of assistance for the handicapped".

From 7 to 25 May 2012, a group of 26 students and teachers from the partner city of Kutaisi (Georgia) had an internship in Poznań under the international project entitled "Profession and Market. Increasing the opportunities of professional development and enterprise among students and teachers of vocational schools. Exchange of experience between Poznań and Kutaisi". It was the fourth international project completed by the city of Poznań with the partner city of Kutaisi, financed with the resources of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the programme of "Polish Aid"<sup>125</sup>.

##### *Hrubieszów County*

The project executed under the „Polish Aid” programme was entitled "Safer Together – cooperation of the local governments and police in favour of strengthening democracy and the rule of law in the partner Ukrainian

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Ref. no. IPBU.02.01.00-06-643/11; Total budget €377,487.51; Funding €339,738.75; Execution time – 12 months.

124 Priority 3. Networking and people to people cooperation, Measure 3.1 Regional and cross-border cooperation capacity building. Total project value €743,221.97; Funding (90%) €668,899.77; Own contribution €74,322.20, including the Leading Partner i.e. Hajnówka County €58,450.41; Partner, i.e. Kamianiec County, Belarus €15,871.79; duration - 15 months. Information from the survey was supplemented with information available at <http://sosw-hajnówka.fc.pl/o-projekcie.html>.

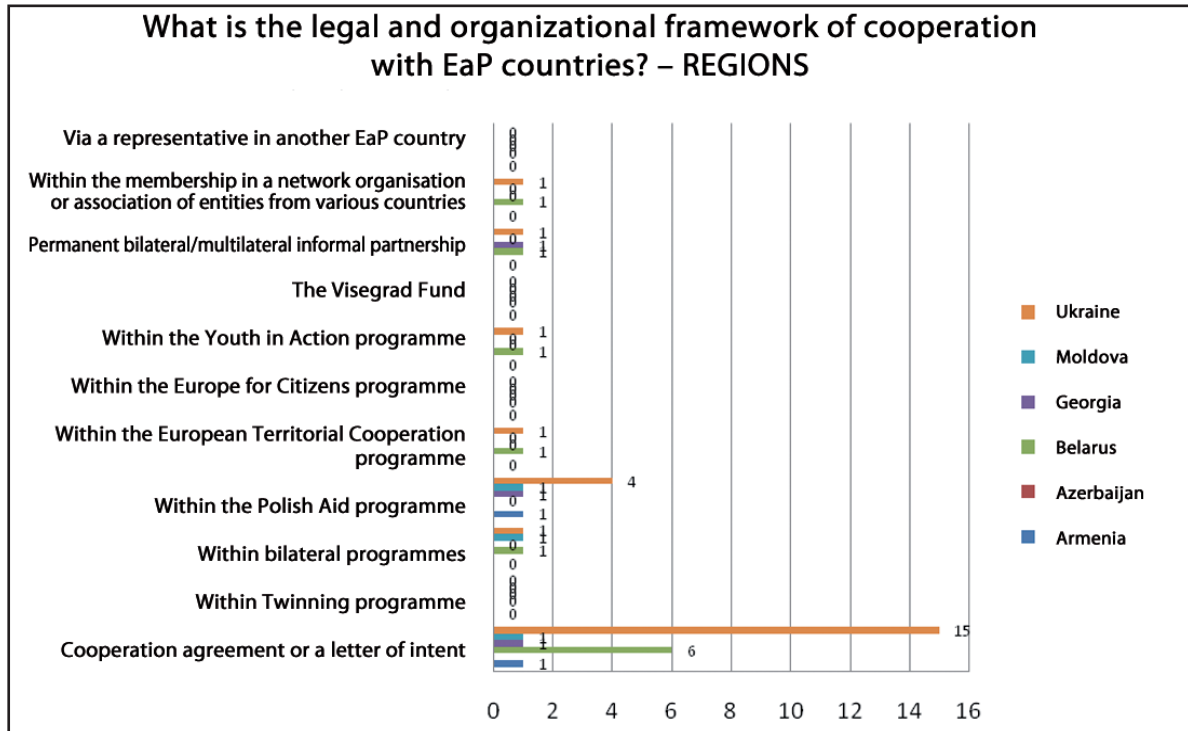
125 The funding amount: PLN 105 348.00.

regions through the implementation of European operation standards of public security units". The goal of the project was the exchange of experience concerning European standards in the areas of: youth targeted preventive programmes, traffic safety, improvement of operational and non-operational cooperation in the area of safety and counteracting corruption, coordination of activities in the field of civil protection – securing mass events and general improvement of procedural transparency in the area of police operations.

## Regions

Chart 8

ORGANISATIONAL AND LEGAL FORMS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF REGIONS WITH PARTNERS FROM EaP COUNTRIES



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

The structure of legal forms of cooperation in case of regions is similar to that of communes and counties. The most popular form is the cooperation under a cooperation agreement or a letter of intent (15 indications in cases of regions cooperating with Ukraine, 6 indications in cases of cooperation with Belarus). According to the regions' declarations concerning joint activities, it transpires that the share of joint projects is considerably higher than in case of other LSGs.

For example, from 2008 to 2013, the **Wielkopolska Region** executed the following projects jointly with the EaP countries:

1. Project „REGIO TAMAR: Local Government Across Divides“, completed in 2008 in favour of Georgian regions under “Polish Aid” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.
2. Project “Tourism and economy promotion of the Georgian regions at local and regional level accelerator for changes” (2009).
3. Project “Agritourism as an opportunity to develop and activate rural areas in Georgian regions” (2010).
4. Project “Support for Business Environment Institutions of the Ternopil Region” as an opportunity for SMEs development in the Ukrainian region (Polish Aid 2011).
5. Project „Project management. Know-how for Mtskheta-Mtianeti Region” (Polish Aid 2011).
6. Project “Agricultural producers’ associations and effective agricultural counselling – a chance for Shirak region’s development” (Polish Aid 2013).
7. Project “Know-how for the Donetsk Oblast – strengthening administrative structures and regional development in Ukraine” (Know-How Exchange Programme 2013 – Central European Initiative).

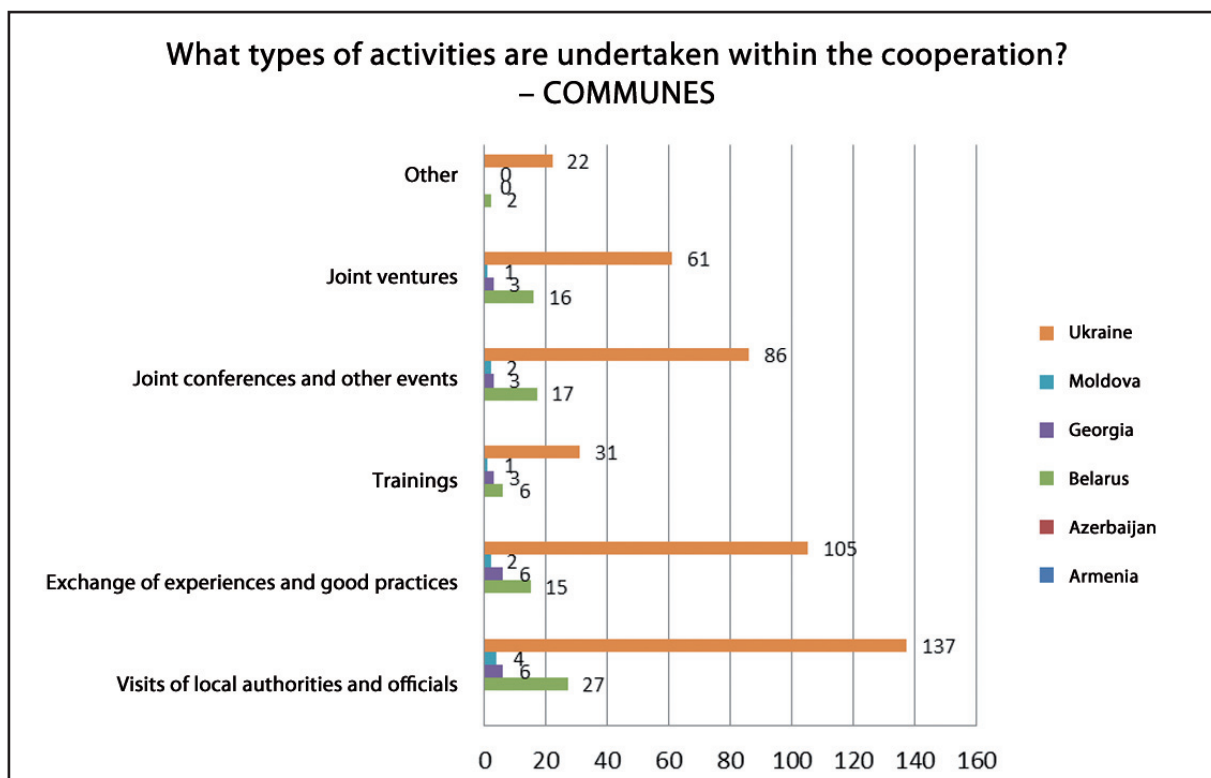
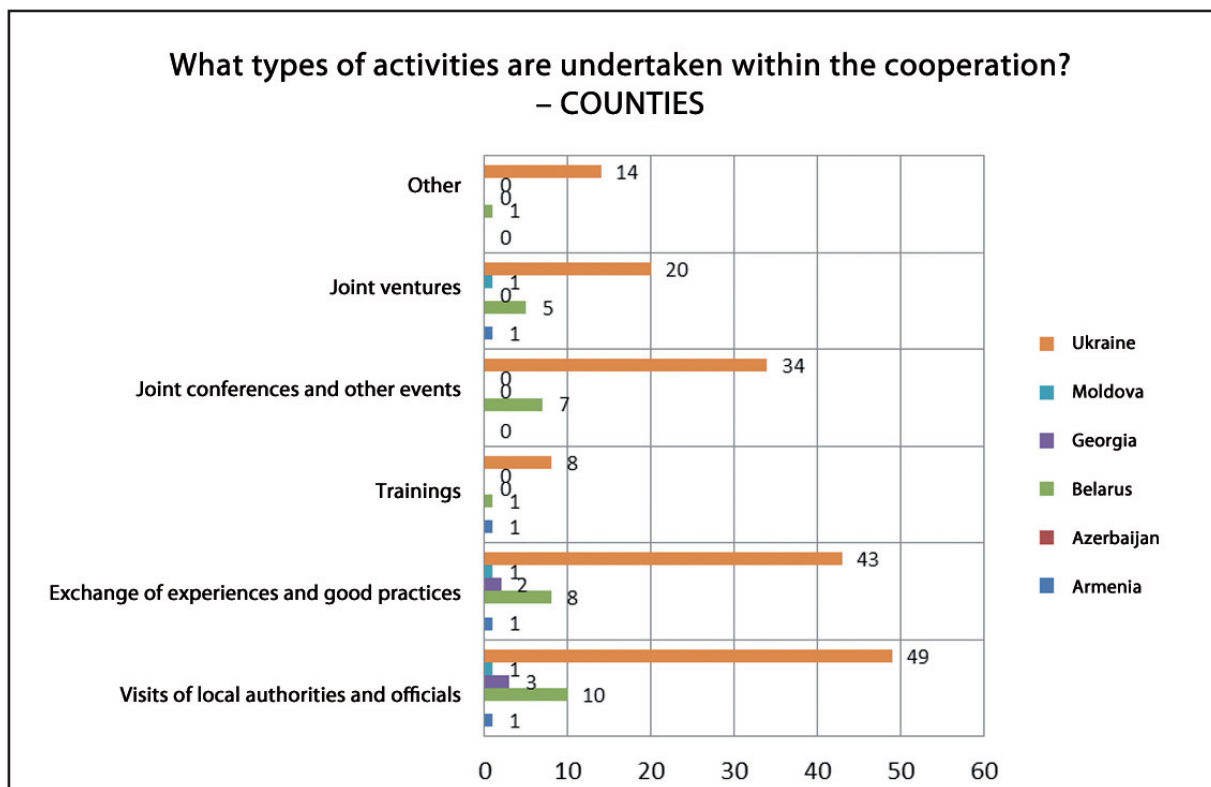
## TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

### Counties and communes

Among the declared activities undertaken by counties and communes within the cooperation with partners from the EaP countries, the most popular types include: *visits of local authorities and officials, exchange of experience and good practices, and joint conferences and events.*

Chart 9

TYPOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY COUNTIES AND COMMUNES WITHIN THEIR COOPERATION



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.



In case of cooperation with **Ukraine** carried out by 55 counties, 49 counties declared *visits of local authorities and officials* as their form of cooperation. In case of counties, other forms of cooperation with Ukrainian partners include: *exchange of experience and good practices* (78.2%), *joint conferences and other events* (61.8%). Less popular forms are *joint projects* (36.4%), *training* (14.5%) and *other, not specified forms of joint activities* (25.5%).

In case of 150 communes, which cooperate with Ukraine, *visits of local authorities and officials* received 91.3% of indications, *exchange of experience, good practices* - 70% of indications, *joint conferences and other events* - 57.3%. Less popular forms are: *joint projects* (40.7%), *training* (20.7%) and *other, not specified forms of joint activities* (14.7%).

In case of **Belarus**, among 11 counties and 30 communes, which are involved in cooperation, the most popular forms of cooperation with EaP partners are: *visits of local authorities and officials* (respectively 90.9% and 90% of indications), *exchange of experience, good practices* (respectively 72.7% and 50% of indications), *joint conferences and other events* (respectively 63.3% and 56.7% of indications) and *joint projects* (respectively 45.5% and 53.3% of indications). Less popular forms are: *training* (respectively 9.1% and 20% of indications) and *other, not specified forms of joint activities*.

In case of cooperation of counties with **Georgia** (3), **Moldova** (1) and **Armenia** (1), the dominating types of joint activities are *visits of local authorities and officials* (100% of indications for all three countries) and *exchange of experience, good practices*. As far as the cooperation of communes is concerned, it is necessary to underline that the most popular form of joint activities is also: *visits of local authorities and officials*.

Analysis of information given in response to the question concerning specific activities undertaken within the cooperation with the EaP countries enables one to define a few categories, which, however, are not a closed catalogue and mix with each other.

The first area of activity concerns the widely understood development of self-governments' own potential, including but not limited to:

- activities focused on the increase of knowledge, skills and competences (26.7% of respondents who answered the question), including the extension of competences with respect to LSG management, e.g. in the area of education, sports, culture, municipal and housing management, transport policy, organisation of public space, municipal governance, quality management, healthcare, skills of medical rescue services, counteracting natural threats, environment protection, waste treatment, expertise in the area of skills and knowledge about public safety, creation and execution of grass-root initiatives; mutual internships of local self-government staff was also one of the indicated forms of cooperation in that respect,
- extension of international contacts during trips, mutual visits, participation in national and regional celebrations (44.7% of respondents, who answered this question) – in the majority of cases, the goal of this form of activity was to identify potential partners or extension of the scope of cooperation, exchange of experience and good practices in the areas of self-government operation,
- realisations of joint projects in the area of cross-border, international and inter-regional cooperation, financed from the EU funds, state treasury or other sources, including own funds (35% of respondents who answered this question); respondents most often referred to the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine 2007-2013 (and the Neighbourhood Programme Poland–Belarus–Ukraine INTERREG IIIA/TACIS implemented in 2004-2006). Individual answers pointed to the assistance programme managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – “Polish Aid”, as well as educational programmes, i.e. Comenius, Youth in Action.

The next type of activities within the cooperation with the EaP representatives concerns social activities, including but not limited to:

- cultural activities, which were indicated by 50.5% of respondents, who answered this question, i.e. joint execution of out-door events, harvest festivals, cultural festivals, musical festivals and competitions (dance, choirs), fairs, sports events, open-air painting workshops, etc.,
- sports and education activities, which were indicated by 44.7% of respondents who answered this question, i.e. exchange of sports teams, organisation of summer camps, hosting youth from areas affected with natural disasters (e.g. floods), school youth exchange, educational competitions, cooperation between schools,

- activities addressed to healthcare representatives, which were indicated by 8.3% of respondents who answered this question (in particular, those who represented county authorities and cities), which include, e.g. direct support in the form of medical or rehabilitation equipment, ambulances, drugs and medications, hygiene care products, or organisation of internships for physicians, visits to healthcare facilities, training for medical staff,
- activities targeted at the representatives of civil society and NGOs (24.3% of respondents who answered this question), i.e. organisation of trainings and conferences addressed to selected audience, such as the unemployed, people who intend to start their own business, activities for the handicapped, tourist exchange, training and advisory support targeted at NGOs, local action groups, development of contacts between people through "people-to-people" projects, support for the construction of "Polish houses", churches.

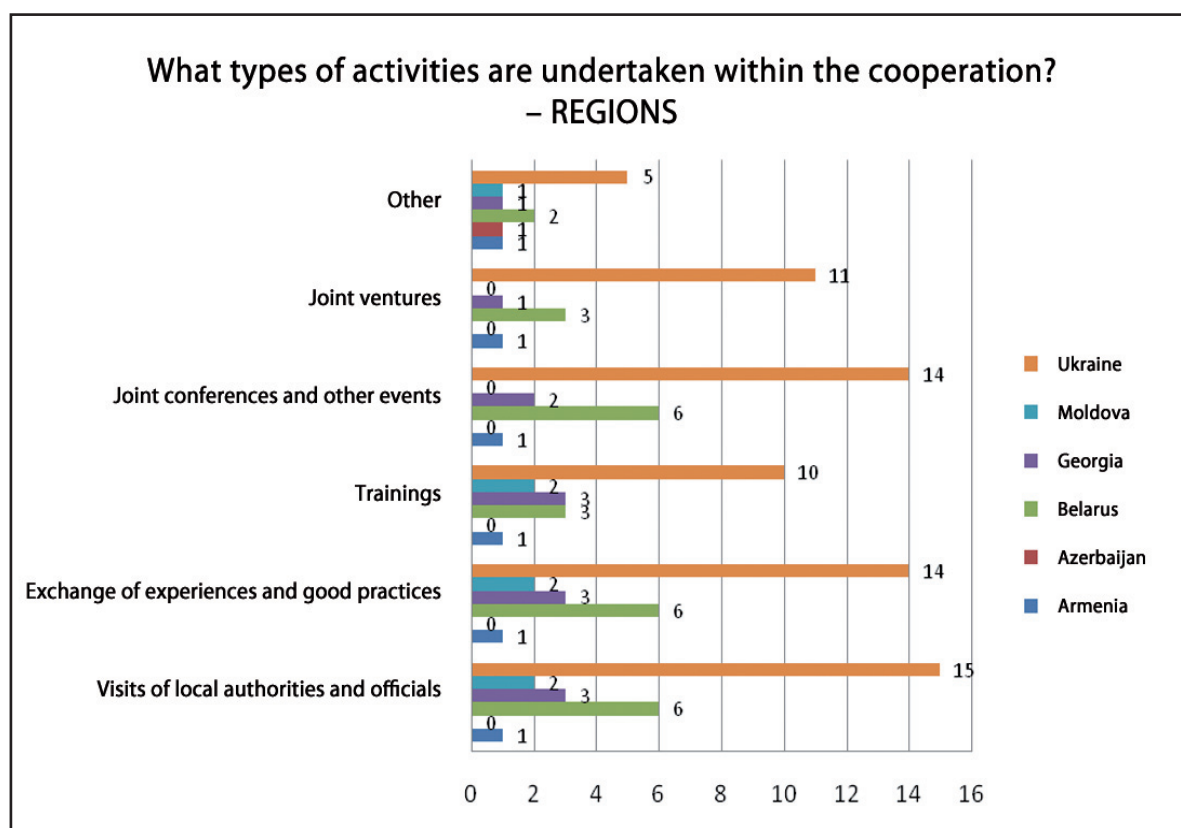
The next group of measures concerns business activities (24.3% of respondents who answered this question). This group included activities mostly based on mutual promotion and exchange of information, as well as business contacts, i.e. mutual visits of various economy sectors (such as agricultural and food processing sector, tourism, construction), exchange of good practices, organisation of fairs.

Moreover, 15% of respondent indicated the execution of joint activities in the area of extension of technical infrastructure, such as roads, border crossing points, bridges, water and sewage infrastructure, environmental infrastructure, leisure and tourism infrastructure, or educational infrastructure (such as sports halls or playing fields). 6.3% of respondent also mentioned environmental activities, e.g. the implementation of cross-border system of managing natural threats, joint protection of border areas of special natural values (e.g. Białowieża Forest) or the organisations of activates promoting ecology among residents.

## Regions

Chart 10

TYPOLOGY OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY REGIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THEIR COOPERATION



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

In case of regions, one may observe a slightly different structure of activities within the cooperation. Although, also in this case the visits of local authorities and officials are indicated in 100% (Ukraine, Armenia), but they do not dominate. The exchange of experience and good practices, joint conferences and other events constitute at least 85% of indications for majority of geographical destinations of cooperation.

As a result of an analysis of examples of specific activities provided by the respondents, it is possible to define similar categories, as was the case for communes and counties. Dominating areas include cooperation in the field of culture, promotional activities, development of economic cooperation (including participation in trade exhibitions, organisation of business forums, cooperation between chambers of commerce).

### Examples:

#### Lublin Region

1. The Lublin Region concluded partnership agreements *on economic, trade, scientific and technical and cultural cooperation* with cross-border regions (Volyn and Lviv Counties in Ukraine and Brest County in Belarus). These agreements constitute the legal framework to support various activities for enterprise and cross-border cooperation, such as organisation of business meetings, fairs, matching business partners, cultural and scientific cooperation.
2. The Lublin Region participates in the works of the **Polish – Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission**, as well as other commissions and groups for infrastructure, spatial planning, cross-border cooperation, etc. which are an opportunity to hold discussions and lobby in favour of system, logistic or spatial planning solutions, which improve the competitiveness of the borderland and which are advantageous for the regions development (e.g. the location and modernisation of border crossing points, logistic centres, transport main lines, introduction of "local border traffic", re-establishment of the railway connection for cargo transport Chełm – Kovel, creation of the Zbereże - Adamchuky border crossing point).
3. The Marshal Office of the Lublin Region undertakes a number of its own activities supporting entrepreneurs and cross-border trade exchange:
  - a. The most important event is the sixth **Poland-Ukraine Economic Forum**. Since 2008, every year, the Forum is attended by 200-300 entrepreneurs, representatives of business-related organisations and NGOs, who have an opportunity to establish contacts, discuss joint projects, and gain knowledge how effectively and safely carry out their contacts. During the Forum, entrepreneurs have an opportunity to ask questions directly to the representatives of customs and border control services and communicate their proposals concerning the facilitation of the border crossing procedures. During the previous Forums, topics raised during discussions concerned, for example, introduction of the "green belt" for entrepreneurs or "shopping visas" for Ukrainian partners, which have been already implemented.
  - b. Every year, the Lublin Region organises and participates in trade missions, as well as trips to trade fairs in Ukraine and Belarus:
    - January – **trade mission to Luck** co-organised by the Lublin Business Club and the Volyn Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
    - February – **PROD-EXPO** fairs in Kiev and organised business meetings with representatives of the largest retail chains in Ukraine.
    - April – Exhibition and Fairs "**Sodruzhestvo**" [*Alliance*] in Brest and the Brest Economic Forum, attended by the representatives of Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia it is an opportunity to sign contracts with EU countries.
    - June – **Poland-Ukraine Forum in Lublin**, this year, it will be in an extended format entitled "LUB-INVEST Eastern Economic Forum" (20-21 June 2013).
    - June – **International Investments and Innovations Forum** and **Economic Forum in Odessa**.
    - September – **International Forum of Investment in Agriculture** in Luck.
    - October – **Lviv International Economic Forum** as well as **Luhansk Investment Forum** and **International Fairs "Ukraine's Eastern Gate"** – two greatest economic forums, one on the eastern, and the other on the western side of Ukraine; every year the Lublin Region organises trade missions to these events and actively participates in the panel discussions,
    - November / December – **„Friendly Neighbourhood"** [*"Dobrosqsiedztwo"*] Polish-Belarus Fairs and Forum.



For the needs of the described trade missions, the Marshal Office ensured the organisation of the whole visit, including transport, logistics and translation services. An investment offer for the Lublin Region was prepared in the Russian and the Ukrainian language versions, including a web site: [www.invest.lubelskie.pl](http://www.invest.lubelskie.pl), where entrepreneurs intending to commence cooperation may find partners. Assistance can be also obtained from the Investor's Service Centre and the Investor and Exporter's Service Centre.

4. The **Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007 – 2013** is also very important for the improvement of borderland competitiveness. One of its priorities is devoted to improving conditions for entrepreneurship. In the previous programming period, projects within this priority supported the economic cross-border cooperation, such as Polish – Ukrainian Business Development Centre in Chełm, Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Centre in Kraśnik, Business Incubator in Lutsk. These institutions provide training and advisory services, supporting cross-border economic cooperation, particularly with respect to the SMEs sector. Moreover, within the programme, a guidebook for Polish investors to the Ukraine was published, as well as a catalogue of Polish and Ukrainian SMEs from the cross-border area.
5. In the current programming period, the Marshal's Office has also submitted a project within the priority supporting the infrastructure for business, i.e. rehabilitation of the road to the border in Dorohusk and a section of the road in Lutsk.
6. Within the Lublin **Centre for Eastern Competences** launched in 2012 by the Marshal of the Lublin Region and the Mayor of Lublin, with the assistance of UNDP, there is, for example, a division for business support in the cross-border and eastern areas. It serves the role of a moderator in creating the network of contacts with business institutions and companies. It has its own database, knowledge about eastern markets. It builds a positive image of the region and removes the barriers.
7. Within the international cooperation, the Lublin Region promotes European standards within projects, workshops, conferences and numerous meetings with students, e.g. the last meeting with students from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine took place on 15 April 2013.
8. Development of academic and cultural cooperation.
  - establishing contacts and signing an agreement between the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and the Belarusian State Culture and Art University in Minsk (the agreement covers joint scientific projects, mobility of students and scientists, exchange of publications, access to archives),
  - co-organisation of regular joint events, which are considered the most important in the region: "European Days of Friendly Neighbourhood" and "Congress of Eastern European Initiatives",
  - establishing contacts between the Belarusian musicians and the Lublin Philharmonics, which resulted in two concerts conducted by Vyacheslav Bortnovsky at the Lublin Philharmonics,
  - cooperation of Lublin higher education institutions, mobility of students, joint research projects,
  - joint project under the Cross-border Cooperation Programme Poland – Belarus – Ukraine 2007 – 2013 in the areas of culture and sports.
9. Within the framework of international cooperation, the Marshal's Office attempts to extend the network of partners. A good example is the project executed at the end of 2012, entitled "**International Network of Cooperation of the Lublin Region**", co-financed with the funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. The purpose of the project is to strengthen partnership cooperation between the Lublin Region and its foreign partner regions, as well as joint development of ideas for further actions, which can be implemented in direct cooperation with each region.
10. At present, the draft of the document entitled "**Cross-border Strategy 2013-20**" is prepared. According to its main assumption, this document concerning the cross-border strategy has to be functional. It is an attempt to create a cohesive definition of goals and priorities in common for the borderland regions (Lviv and Volyn Oblasts in Ukraine, and Brest Oblast in Belarus), as well as a catalogue of the most important developmental undertakings to take place until 2020, also in reference to the new edition of the Programme Poland-Belarus-Ukraine.

## Łódź Region

1. Activities concerning the cooperation of ballet schools from the Łódź Region and the Vitebsk Oblast  
6<sup>th</sup> Ballet Gala at the Grand Theatre in March 2011 – a visit of a group of Belarus youth from the Vitebsk Oblast, a partner region of the Łódź Region. Young people from the Vitebsk Artistic School performed at the Downtown Culture Forum, and on the following day at the Grand Theatre, which was fully booked for that occasion. Young dancers presented Belarusian national dances in modern choreography. The Festival of Modern Choreography in Vitebsk in November 2009 and 2019 – representatives of the Łódź Region participated in the 23<sup>rd</sup> international Festival of Modern Choreography in Vitebsk.
2. Activities promoting the management of local government units in Poland – e.g. a visit of journalists from Vinnitsa (Ukraine)  
The media representatives from the Vinnitsa Oblast visited the office of local television, newspaper and radio. They also learned about the work of the Marshal's Office in Łódź. Ukrainian radio, press and TV journalists, as well as spokespersons visited the Łódź Region to learn about the specific character of (mainly local) media, as well as their cooperation with self-governmental administration. Journalists from Ukraine were interested in the operation of the Marshal's Office and the ways of informing media on the events initiated by the regional self-government.
3. Activities promoting the legal framework for the functioning of self-government targeted at youth, e.g. regular visits of students from Ukraine and Russia  
Visitors came to Poland at the invitation of the Department of Organisation and Management of the Łódź University of Technology; they represent Novgorod State University (Russia) and Kiev Institute of Business and Technology (Ukraine). Within the students' mobility programme, students learnt about the concept of Łódź Special Economic Zone and met the companies operating there, as well as the largest foreign investments in the Łódź Region. Additionally, the visit to Poland also facilitated contacts with students from the University of Technology and was an opportunity to learn about local culture and national heritage<sup>126</sup>.
4. Activities promoting renewable sources of energy, e.g. proposal for cooperation between the partners from the Łódź Region and Ukraine made by the Institute of Heating Technology ITC in Łódź  
The Institute of Power Engineering, on the basis of its experiences related to aero-acoustics of machines, conducted in the Odessa Oblast in cooperation with the local research centre, also wants to establish cooperation with other Eastern partners in the fields of scientific and research works concerning machines construction, as well as tooling and equipment for existing machines, which use renewable and alternative energy sources.
5. Visit of students from the Chernivtsi Oblast  
In May 2012, the Łódź Region was visited by the students from the Department of Tourism at the University of Commerce and Economy in Chernivtsi (Ukraine), the capital of the partner region of the Łódź Region. Contacts between universities include mobility of students and lecturers, participation in scientific conferences, publication of articles in university magazines.
6. Tourist Forum in Kharkov  
For the fourth time, the Łódź Region made a presentation at the International Tourist Forum, which took place in Kharkov in Ukraine. This exhibition is attended by exhibitors from Russia, Latvia, Korea, Georgia, Turkey, Italy, Slovenia and Poland, which was represented by the Łódź Region and the city of Gdańsk. The Polish exhibition presented the tourist offer addressed to visitors from Ukraine: accommodation in the region, thematic trails (for example, related to technical places of interest), angling and fishing areas and equestrian tourism. The photo exhibition by Sofia Slusarenko entitled "Łódź as seen by a Kharkovian" was a special event during the opening ceremony. The exhibition was prepared during this year edition of the Fairs of Tourist Regions "Na Styku Kultur" ["Where Cultures Meet"]. Participation in the Kharkov trade exhibition was also an opportunity to present the educational

<sup>126</sup> The guests have visited the Marshal's Office for four years: 2007 – presentations concerning the organisational structure of the Office and Łódź Special Economic Zone; 2008 – presentation on the "Łódzkie" branding; 2009 – presentation on the subject of international cooperation in the Łódź Region and activities Department of Entrepreneurship; 2010 – presentation concerning the Regional Office of the Łódź Region in Brussels and the presentation of the project to create a tourist trail along the traits of the Łódź Operation 1914.

potential of the Łódź Region, which included the presentation of Łódź institutions of higher education – the University of Łódź and the Łódź University of Technology. Young Ukrainians were interested in the study courses offered by the Łódź universities, but also in the scholarship programmes offered by Polish and international institutions, which enable the continuation of studies in Poland.

7. Festival „Stravinsky and Ukraine” in Luck

From 10 to 12 June 2012, in the Volyn Oblast there was an International Festival “Stravinsky and Ukraine”. The Academy of Music in Łódź was interested in participating in the festival with its performances of the compositions by Igor Stravinsky (the composer has Polish roots), as well as the works of Alexandre Tansman (a composer born in Łódź, who was both a friend and a biographer of Stravinsky). The participation of the Academy of Music in Łódź, the only school of that type in the Łódź Region was an example of a great promotion of the Łódź Region in the partner region, which may have further results in establishing cooperation also in the areas of culture and science.

8. Kostyukhnivka. From 16 to 19 August 2012, within the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Scouting Memory Service in the Volhynia region, the delegation from the Łódź Region paid another visit to Kostyukhnivka, where they paid tribute to soldiers, who fought and died for Poland’s independence under Józef Piłsudski’s command.

9. Ukraine Independence Day

At the invitation of the regional authorities of the Vinnitsa Oblast (the regional partner of the Łódź Region since 2008), the Member of the Board of the Łódź Region visited Vinnitsa in August 2012. Discussions with the representatives of the Oblast Council and the Regional Administration concerned past experiences in mutual contacts. They also stressed the importance of the following areas of cooperation: healthcare, youth policy, and cooperation of self-governments, including joint efforts to identify external sources of financing for external initiatives. During the visit, the Łódź Region delegation took part in the celebrations of the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian Independence.

10. Polish Mother’s Health Centre Institute. Four physicians from Odessa Oblast Paediatric Clinic (a unit subordinate to the Odessa Oblast State Administration) visited the Polish Mother’s Health Centre Institute. Within the framework of two study visits, the physicians had two-week internships in the paediatric cardiac surgery clinic, participating in the daily work of the ward, and assisting in surgeries, treatments and examinations. The visit was also an opportunity to learn about modern diagnostic equipment and to learn about its operation. These activities are planned to be continued in the future.

11. European Economic Forum (EEF)

The 5<sup>th</sup> European Economic Forum (7-8 November 2012) was attended by two delegations from Ukraine. The Delegation from Odessa was represented by the Head of the Division for European Integration of the Odessa Oblast State Administration, who participated in panels entitled “Media of the future” and “International cooperation and Regional development”. On behalf of the Volyn Oblast, the delegation was headed by the Deputy-Governor of the Oblast and representatives of the local administration. The Volyn Delegation participated in lectures concerning ecological agriculture and fruit and vegetable processing. Furthermore, at the invitation of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Łódź Region, there was a meeting during which the Deputy-Governor presented the condition of agriculture and its needs in the Volyn area, stressing the need for potato processing plants (potato flour is imported), meat and milk cattle breeding, as well as the creation of Polish-Ukrainian companies to operate in the agricultural sector (e.g. construction of a processing plant). There was a meeting organised with the management of the Łódź Wholesale Market “Zjazdowa” S.A, which included visits to warehouses and cold storage units. Ukrainian guests were interested in the organisation of a wholesale centre. The discussion held with the Director of the State Forests focused on the reforestation of wasteland and wood processing (with the use of sawdust as heating fuel). Another meeting was held with the President of the Board of the “Centrala Nasienna” [trader in seeds material] in Sieradz. Guests from Ukraine concluded that the Forum was very well organised and confirmed that they accomplished their goals by establishing new contacts.

12. Celebrations of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Łódź Region

In November 2012, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Chamber of Agriculture of the Łódź Region, a 4-member delegation from Volyn participated in seminars and celebrations of the Chamber’s 15<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of operations jointly with KRUS, which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation in the Łódź Region. A day before the official celebrations there was a workshop entitled "The future of joint agricultural policy in the new financing perspective 2014-2020".

13. Students' visit – "FERSO" Foundation

In November 2012, there was forth visit of students from Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Russia. The project was organised by the Foundation of Education and Civil Society Development FERSO. The group comprised 12 visitors (at the age varying from 20 to 21), who visited and learned about places and centres important for the transformation process, taking into consideration the role of administration and policy in the transformation process, including a visit to the Łódź City Office. During the visit the students learned about the cooperation with NGOs and cooperation of the Region with its partner regions in view of the priorities of the Eastern Partnership.

14. Visit of the students' parliament from Vinnitsa

On 10 December 2012, the Marshal's Office was visited by the representatives of the students' parliament operating alongside the Vinnitsa Oblast State Administration and Vinnitsa Oblast Council. They met with the Head of the Department of the Eastern Partnership and EU Policy towards Eastern Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the representative of the Department of Strategy of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Ukrainian students met also students and teachers of the University of Łódź and the Łódź University of Technology.

15. The Chopin Concert

In February 2013, Ethella Chupryk, a Ukrainian pianist, presented Frederic Chopin's works at the Academy of Music in Łódź. The concert was organised in the cooperation of the Marshal's Office of the Łódź Region and the Academy of Music in Łódź. The concert was an example of the cooperation of the Łódź Region with the Volyn Oblast in Ukraine. In the past, students from the Academy of Music in Łódź took part in the Luck International Starvinsky Festival. The pianist came in the company of a delegation of Volyn Oblast State Administration and Volyn Regional Philharmonic Society. During the two-day's visit there were working meetings with the representatives of the Łódź Region and the management of the Łódź Philharmonic, concerning joint projects, such as participation in the next edition of the "Stravinsky and Ukraine" festival.

## Świętokrzyskie Region

1. Polish-Ukraine Partner Cities' Forum. The main task of the Forum was to share experiences in the area of the Polish administrative structure reforms with the guests from Ukraine. The event comprised two levels – the level of "experience exchange" (i.e. five discussion panels entitled "Economy and business", "Administrative and territorial reform", "Culture, sports and tourism", "Schools of higher education, education and science", "Health and environment protection") and the level, which can be described as "the artistic presentation of the Ukrainian oblast".
2. Polish-Ukrainian Economic Mission, during which cooperation was established on the level of business self-governments between Staropolska Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Vinnitsa Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
3. Regional Cultural-Economic Programme. The project comprised two components executed parallel, i.e. the Region's Presentation and the Economic Mission.
4. Seminars on the legal framework for the functioning of communes, counties, regions and cities. Representatives of the Vinnitsa Oblast learned about the utilisation of structural funds in the region.
5. Project „Development of the cooperation strategy of partner units of the Vinnitsa Oblasts and the Świętokrzyskie Region”. The Polish part of the project was financed from the Stefan Batory Foundation within the "East East Beyond Borders" Programme, and the Ukrainian part – from the Soros Foundation. As a result of the project, a model document for the cooperation strategy of local authorities from both regions was developed. Furthermore, each of partnerships between local authorities prepared their own strategic documents. Summaries of local strategies were included in the model strategy and constitute examples of good practices.

6. Celebrations of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cooperation (2008). The slogan of the anniversary year "Świętokrzyskie Region and Vinnitsa Oblast: two territories – one heart". The celebrations of the anniversary year included many cultural, scientific and sports events, which took place in the Świętokrzyskie Region and the Vinnitsa Oblast.
7. Project "Agrotourism as an opportunity for the development of the Vinnitsa Oblast" under Polish Aid programme by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The subject of the project was determined by the consultations of the bill concerning rural areas tourism in Ukraine, which were held at that time in Ukraine. Partners of the project included the State Administration of the Vinnitsa Oblast in Ukraine, a long-term partner of the Świętokrzyskie Region and the NGO – the Association for the Development of Tourism in Rural Areas in Ukraine.
8. Project "European experience in building civil society as seen by journalists" Over the course of the project executed by the International Association "Ukraine-Poland-Germany", 22 journalists and officials from Vinnitsa learned about the work of local mass-media, i.e. Radio Kielce and Gazeta Wyborcza.
9. Seminar "Small Eastern Partnership" organised by the East Poland House in Brussels, i.e. the platform of cooperation between the eastern Poland regions, including the Świętokrzyskie Region, and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in the Kingdom of Belgium. The programme of the Seminar included visits to the European Commission at the Directorate-General for External Relations and Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland and Ukraine to the European Union. Apart from the representatives of eastern Poland regions (i.e. Lublin, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie, Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie), participants of the project included representatives of partner regions of individual regions, mainly from Ukraine and Belarus. The aims of the initiative included: presentation of results of cooperation of individual regions with their partners from the East, exchange of experience and development of a proposal for joint activities for the development of Eastern Partnership.
10. Vinnitsa Investment Forum – Business in the Heart of Ukraine. The Forum was organised by the Vinnitsa Oblast State Administration and the Vinnitsa Oblast Council. The goals of the initiative included: presentation of the possibilities, potential and investment proposals of the Świętokrzyskie Region to the investment market players, establishment of direct business contacts.
11. Concert entitled „Podolski korowaj i pieśń słowika przyjmij, Europo, w darze od Ukrainy". The concert of soloists and bands from the Vinnitsa Oblast was organised in the Regional Cultural Centre in Kielce. Artist came in the company of journalist from the Vinnitsa Oblast.
12. International scientific conference in the field of cross-cultural dialogue. The conference was organised at the Culture Dialogue Museum, a branch of National Museum in Kielce. Participants of the conference included representatives of scientific circles, activists and staff of NGOs and self-government entities of the Świętokrzyskie Region, Krakow, Warsaw, Vinnitsa Oblast (Ukraine), Central Finland (the Republic of Finland), Komárom-Esztergom County (Hungary) and the city of Gotha (Germany). Presentations were grouped in the following panels: „History and Memory", "Mediums of common heritage", "Education and research" and "Prospects of cooperation". The co-financing of the initiative originated from the funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland within the framework of support for civil and self-governmental dimension of foreign policy, the instrument entitled "Small joint projects of the MFA and self-government".
13. Joint conference on the exchange of experience in the area of cooperation of local authorities of the Świętokrzyskie Region and Vinnitsa Oblast. The conference organised in Kielce, concerned the opportunities and forms for activating cooperation between local authorities of both regions. Among the participants of the conference, there were also representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Embassy of Ukraine in Warsaw, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Furthermore, representatives of self-government entities from Ukraine took part in the training concerning the methodology of creating a development strategy, its structure and compatibility with main programme documents, as well as the principles and sources of development strategy financing.



## COOPERATION IN THE AREAS OF THEMATIC PLATFORMS OF THE EaP<sup>127</sup>

Although the representatives of LSGs are not directly involved in works on the level of individual Thematic Platforms of the EaP, their choices of areas of activity and cooperation with foreign partners reflect the main assumptions and the structure of the Partnership.

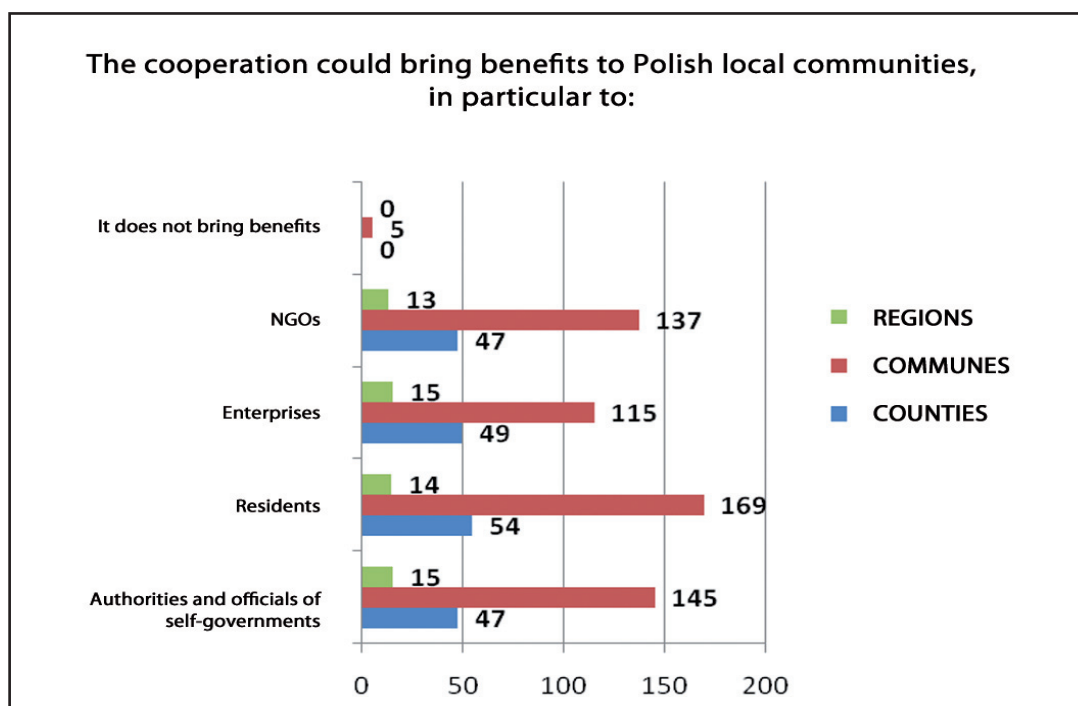
According to the survey results, the most dynamic areas belong to the operation of Platform 4, then Platform 2 and 1. As far as Platform 3 is concerned, its thematic scope concerning joint activities in the area of energy security turned out to be least popular.

The same survey also proves that, when answering the survey questions, the representatives of LSGs usually did not associate the areas of operation of represented entities with the EaP Platforms thematic scopes. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that insufficient knowledge of international issues reduces the capacity of the “from-the-bottom-up” influence on the neighbourhood policy in its regional aspect. However, the observation of local realities and the needs of local communities define the priority areas of operation, and that, in turn, is the perfect message and incentive to explore new thematic directions and priorities on the EU level. In fact, by observing the needs of their regions, the LSGs have the possibility to shape indirectly the regional dimension of the EaP. Thus, they can provide their representatives (such as the Committee of the Regions who is their legitimate representative) in the EaP Platforms with proper arguments.

## BENEFITS AND POTENTIAL OF COOPERATION FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Chart 11

BENEFICIARIES OF COOPERATION WITH EaP COUNTRIES AMONG POLISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES<sup>128</sup>



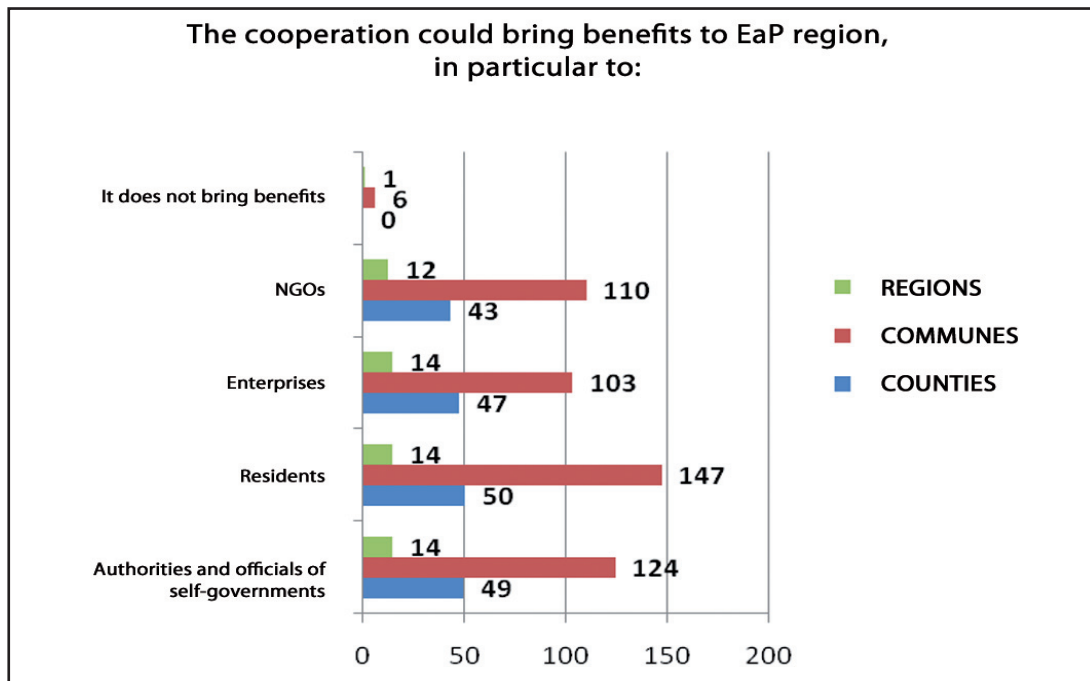
Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

127 The question was addressed the those respondents who declared international coopearition.

128 The question was addressed the those respondents who declared international cooperation.

Chart 12

BENEFICIARIES OF COOPERATION WITH POLISH SELF-GOVERNMENTS IN THE EaP COUNTRIES<sup>129</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

International cooperation constitutes one of the instruments of local self-governments to perform their tasks. The survey respondents confirmed that many types of specific activities serve to satisfy the needs of local communities on both sides of the border (e.g. execution of infrastructural projects). It is not surprising that the group referred to as "residents" is indicated among the beneficiaries of cooperation both on the Polish side and in the EaP countries (223 indications in total from the surveyed communes, counties and 14 regions).

There is no doubt that visits of local and regional authorities, exchange of experience and good practices have a beneficial influence on the qualifications and know-how of officials. Possibilities to discuss common or similar problems, joint training and workshops are not only the opportunity to establish contacts, which in future may yield fruits in the form of joint projects, but they also enable an important flow of practical knowledge. Another important factor is the promotional aspect, i.e. an opportunity to present one's own potential and specific character. It is an important step in the process of including Polish and Eastern regional and local authorities within the structures of international cooperation. In total, 192 LSGs on the level of communes and counties and 15 regions included in the survey acknowledged the cooperation with the EaP countries as beneficial for Polish authorities and self-government officials; and 173 communes and counties and 14 regions acknowledged that this cooperation is beneficial for the EaP partners. NGOs play an important role in the international cooperation of self-governments. 184 respondents from communes and counties and 13 LSGs on the level of regions confirmed that cooperation with the EaP is beneficial for the third sector in Poland; the benefits for NGOs in the EaP countries were acknowledged by 153 respondents and 12 surveyed regions.

The cooperation of local and regional authorities also creates, on both sides, friendly environment for establishing new commercial and economic contacts, even if the economy is not the direct theme of such cooperation. Entrepreneurs looking for new partners on the territory of cooperation are not anonymous and may expect a friendly reception. It should be added that according to the respondents' answers, this rule works in both directions. Some of the LSGs indicated that the cooperation of local entrepreneurs with Eastern partners was the incentive to commence cooperation on the self-governmental level. Cooperation with the EaP entities is therefore perceived as a source of benefits, both for the local self-government, and the local community. It creates friendly business environment and supports the development of civil society. Only 5 LSGs claimed that such cooperation does not generate any benefits for the Polish side; and 6 LSGs on the level of communes and counties and 1 region described it as of no effect with respect to the EaP partners.

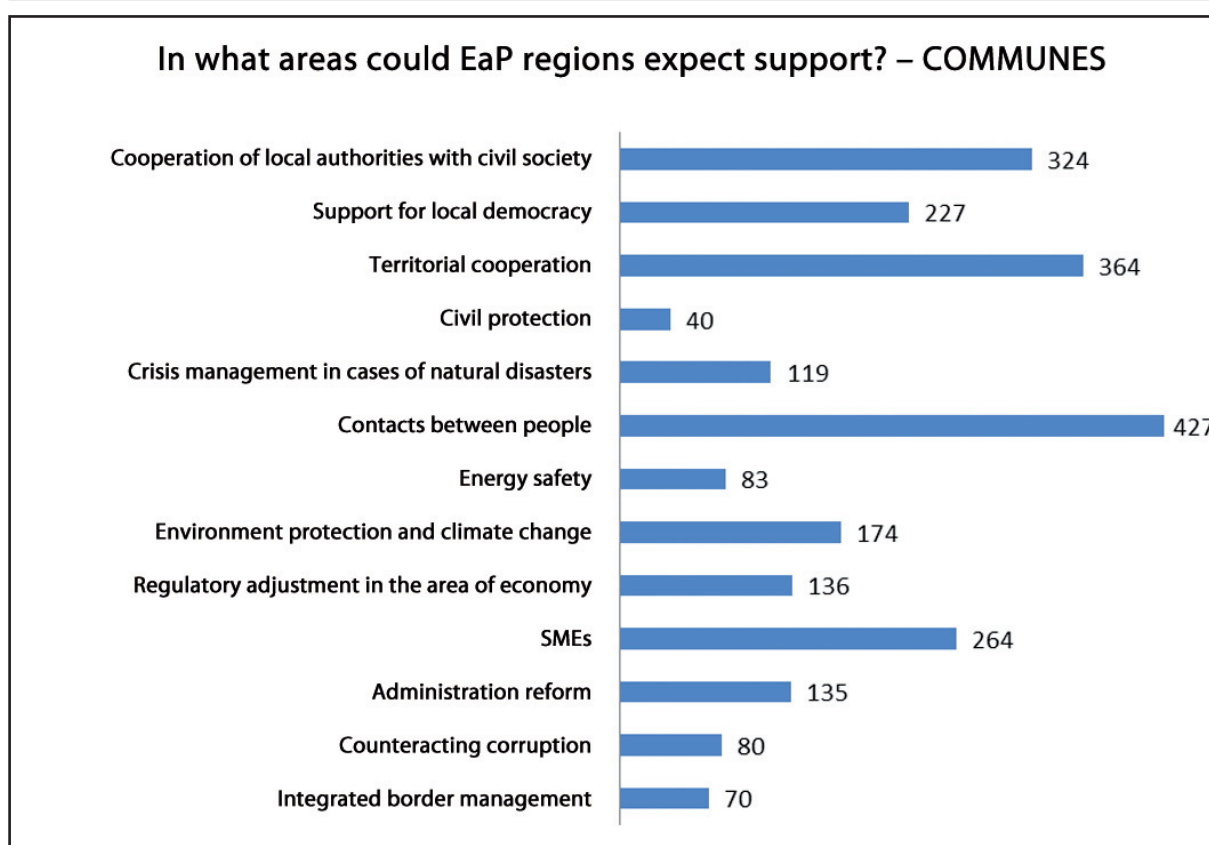
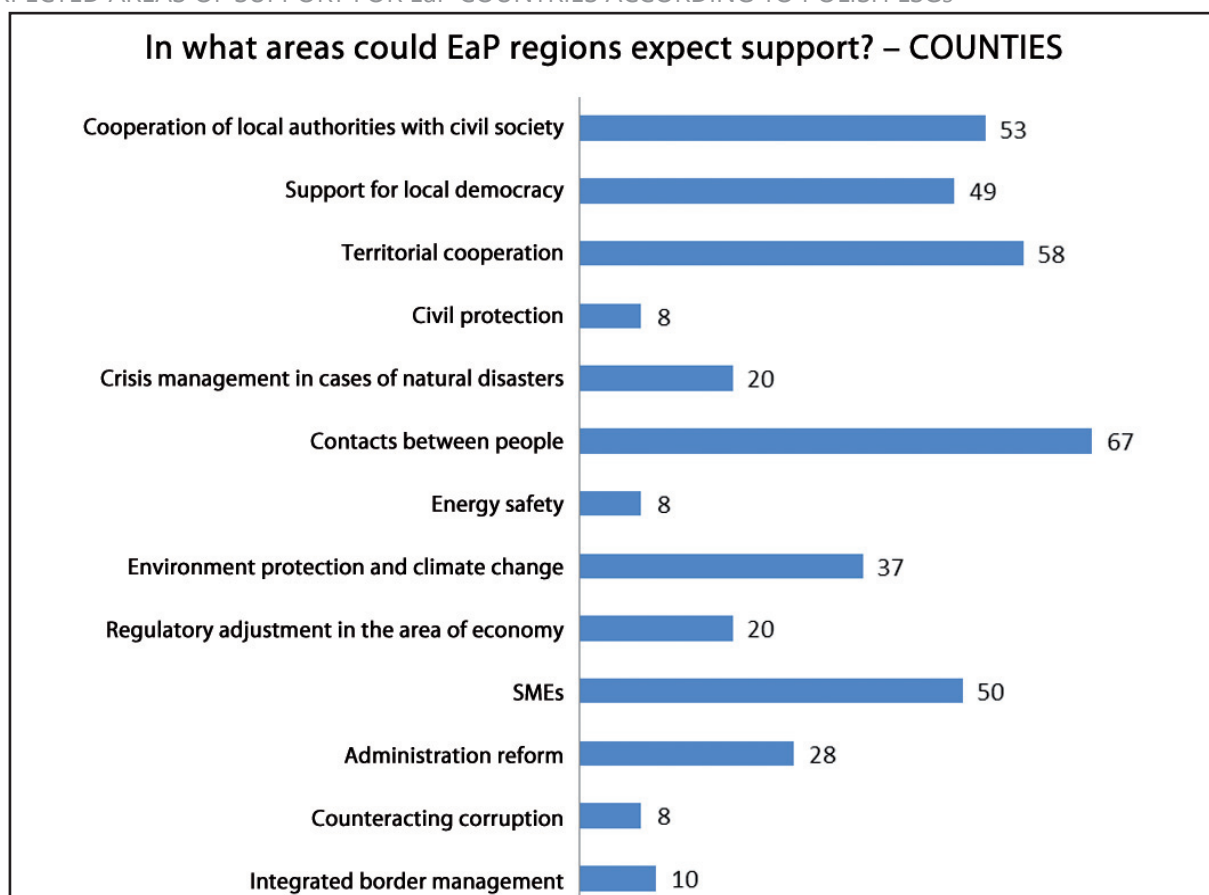
<sup>129</sup> The question was addressed the those respondents who declared international cooperation.



## EXPECTED AREAS OF SUPPORT FOR EaP COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO POLISH LSGs

Chart 13

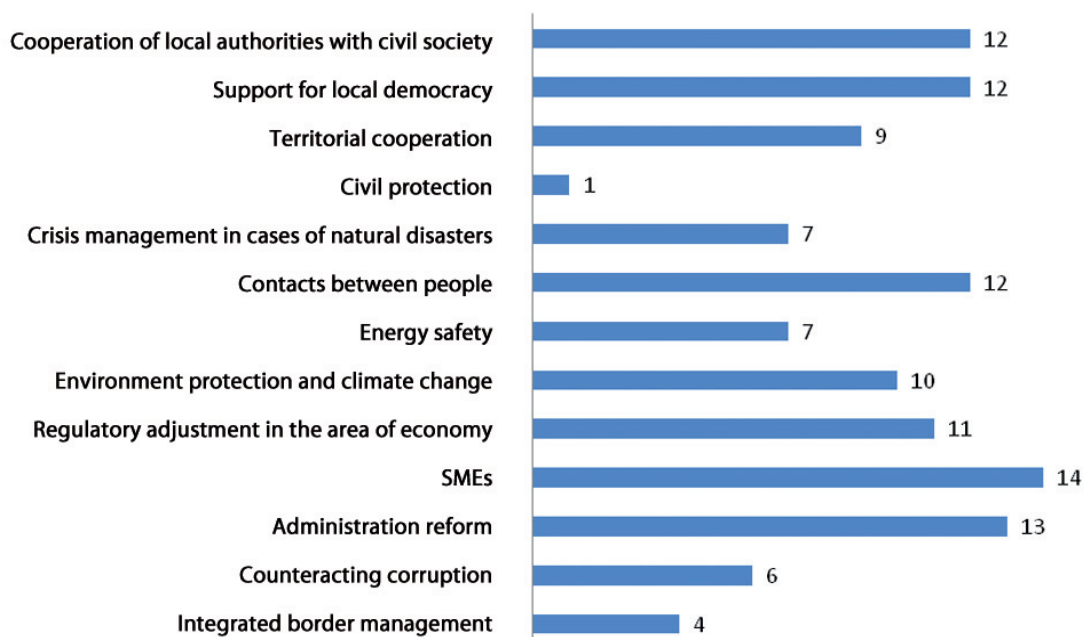
EXPECTED AREAS OF SUPPORT FOR EaP COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO POLISH LSGs<sup>130</sup>



<sup>130</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.



## In what areas could EaP regions expect support? – REGIONS



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

To establish cooperation it is necessary to define one's own needs (needs of the local community), but also to define the needs of the potential partner. Polish LSGs were asked about their opinion concerning the areas of support as expected by the entities from the EaP countries. Answers to this question were also given by such respondents, that are not involved in international cooperation or cooperation with the EaP states. With respect to the areas in which the EaP countries may expect support from Polish partners, respondents (on the level of communes, counties, and regions) indicated as top five (with respect to the number of indications) the same areas of cooperation.

One of the most often indicated areas are *contacts between people* (59.8% of counties, 53.2% of communes and 80% of regions), next: *cooperation of local authorities with civil society* (47.3% of counties, 40.3% of communes and 80% of regions), *SMEs* (44.6% of counties, 32.9% of communes and 93.3% of regions), *territorial cooperation* (51.8% of counties, 45.3% of communes and 60% of regions) and *support for local democracy* (43.8% of counties, 28.3 % of communes and 80% of regions). Furthermore, the regions indicated also *administration reform* as an important area (86.7%).

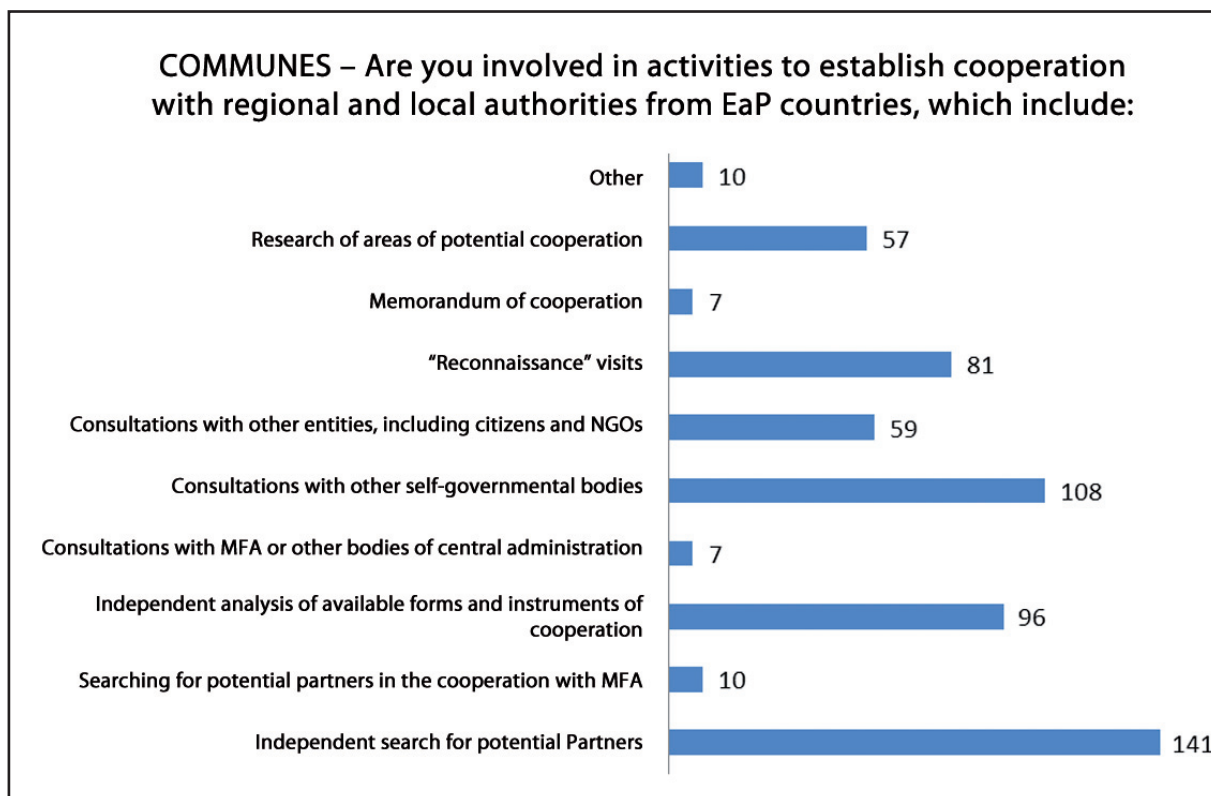
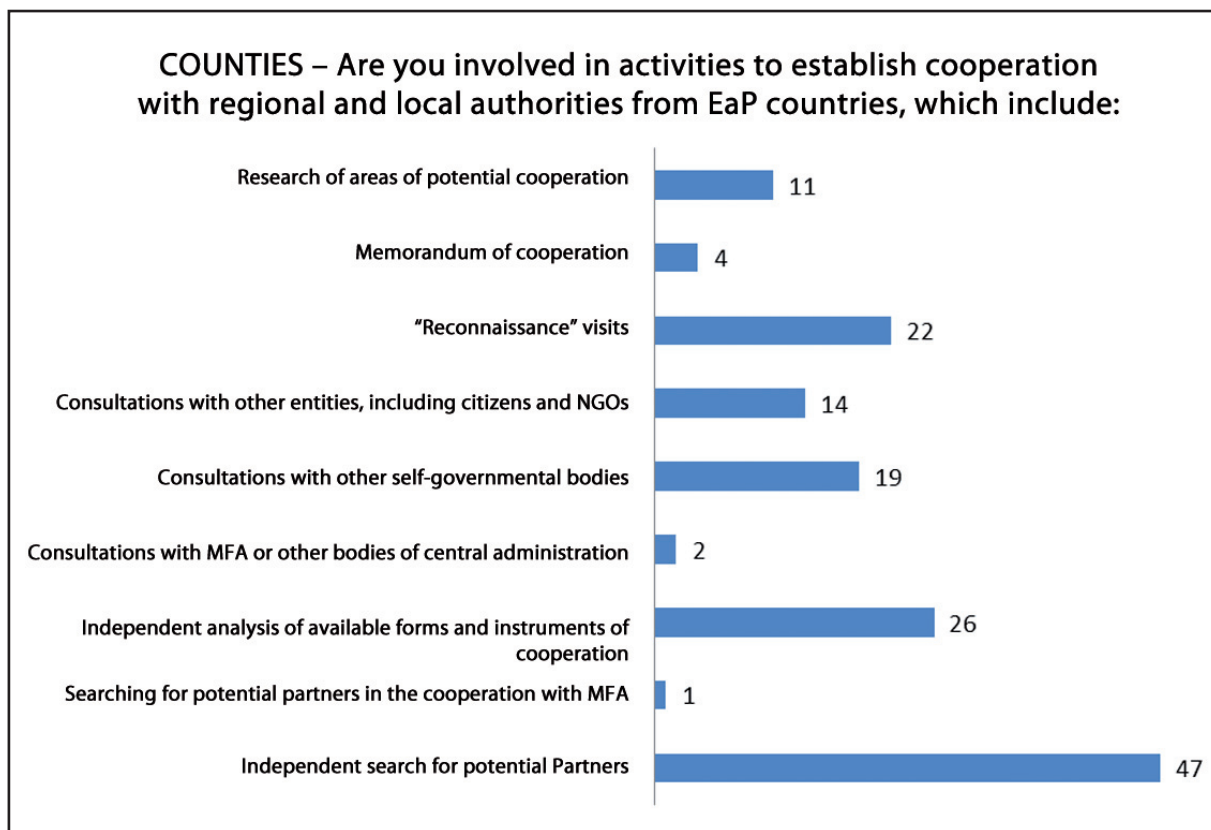
The least frequently indicated areas where the EaP partners can expect support included: civil protection, counteracting corruption and energy security.



## INTEREST IN AND POSSIBILITIES OF EXECUTION OF COOPERATION WITH THE EaP COUNTRIES

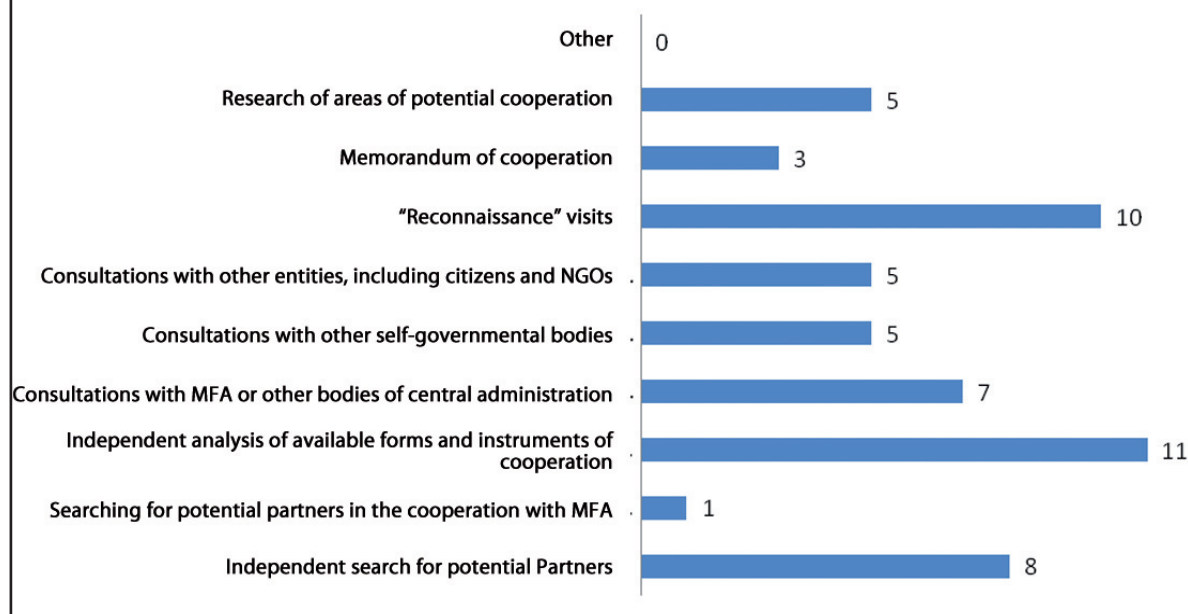
Chart 14

LSGs' ACTIVITIES AIMING AT ESTABLISHING COOPERATION WITH THE EaP COUNTRIES<sup>131</sup>



<sup>131</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.

## REGIONS – Are you involved in activities to establish cooperation with regional and local authorities from EaP countries, which include:



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

In the majority of cases, both communes and counties look for potential partners independently. With respect to activities undertaken to establish cooperation, both communes and counties in most cases are involved in *independent searching for potential partners* (counties - 42%, communes - 17.6%), and subsequently: *independent analysis of available forms and instruments of cooperation* (counties - 23.2%, communes 12%) and *"reconnaissance" visits* (counties - 19.6%, communes - 10.1%). Also important are *consultations with other bodies of self-governmental administration* (counties - 17%, communes - 13.4%). LSGs on the level of counties and communes rarely contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other bodies of central administration for consultations (counties - 1.8%, communes - 0.9%). They do not search for partners with MFA assistance, either (1 indication from a respondent representing counties and 1.2% respondents from the communes).

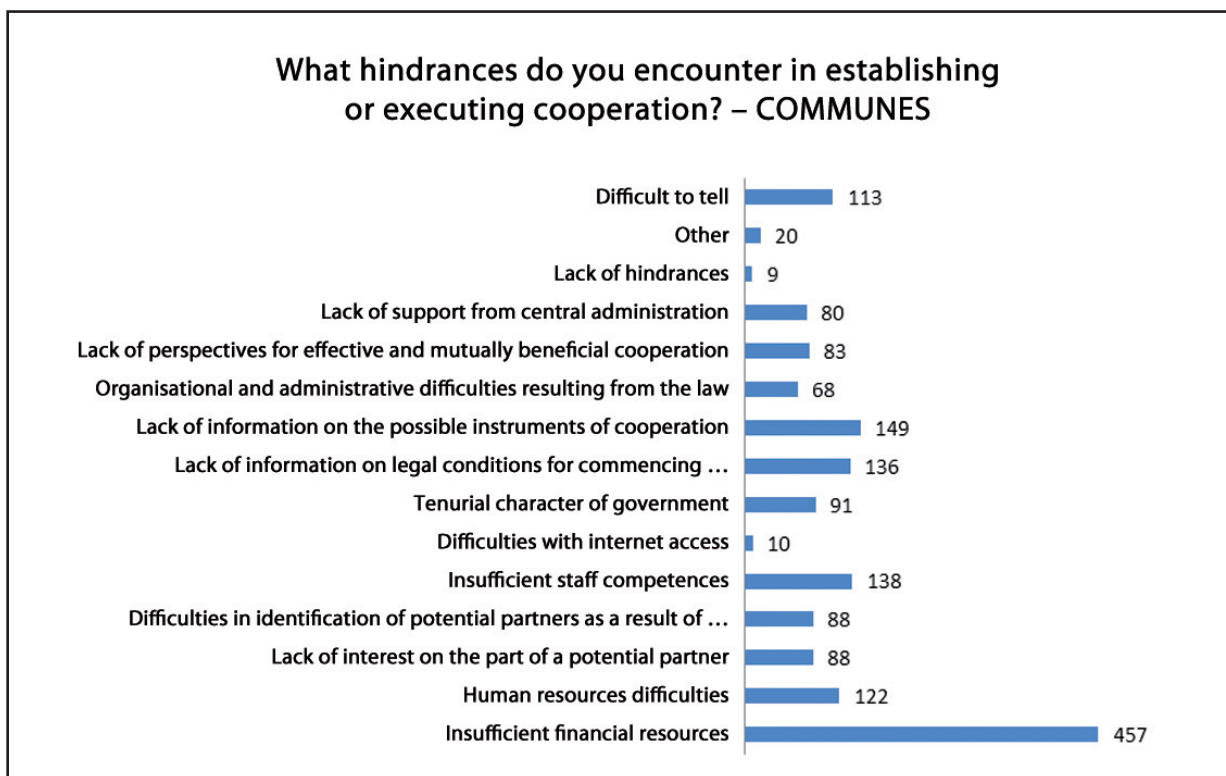
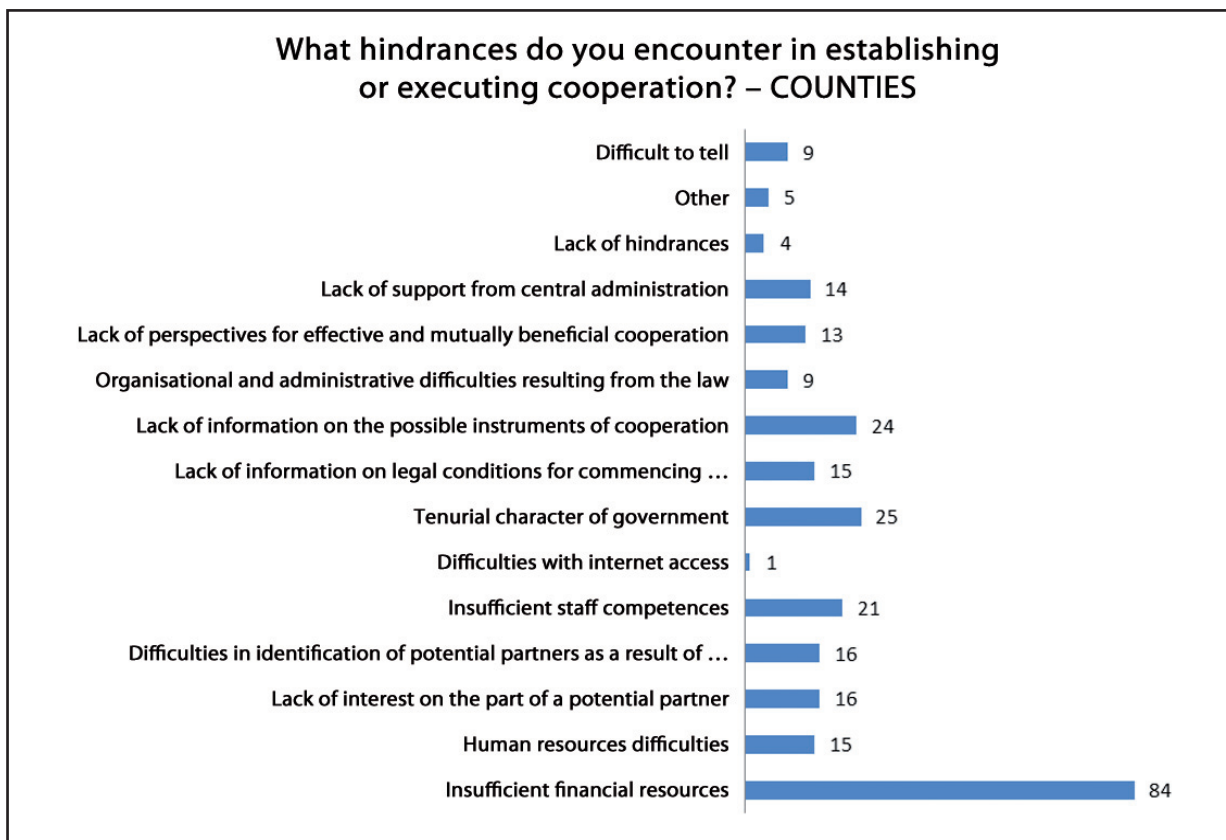
In case of regions, the situation is slightly different: the most frequently indicated forms are: *independent analysis of available forms and instruments of cooperation* (73.3%) and *"reconnaissance" visits* (66.7% of indications), and then: *independent searching for potential partners* (53.3%) and *contacts with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or other bodies of central administration for consultations* (46.7%). International cooperation constitutes a process and is not a static phenomenon. Activity on the international arena requires not only maintaining and deepening the existing contacts, but also establishing new contacts. Taking into consideration the relatively narrow scope of cooperation on the level of communes, it is worth analysing the activities undertaken by LSGs to identify potential partners. In few cases, LSGs request help in that respect from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. LSGs also independently analyse the available forms and instruments of cooperation.

In case of regions, the "reconnaissance" visits constitute an important instrument for cooperation development, which was indicated by 10 regions. Undoubtedly, a direct contact with a potential partner is an opportunity to discuss the future cooperation comprehensively, which is not possible in case of other methods of communication. However, it is related to considerable costs, especially in case of geographically distant partners. Therefore, on the level of communes and counties, the share of such types of activities in the development of cooperation is much lower than on the regional level. LSGs also use the mechanism of consultations, although their share in cooperation development process is not high. 5 regions declared consultations with other entities, including citizens and NGOs, other self-governmental entities and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or other bodies of central administration. Most frequently, LSGs on the level of communes and counties are involved in consultations with other self-governmental entities, rarely with other entities such as citizens or NGOs, and consultations with the

MFA or other bodies of central administration are almost non-existent. Memorandum of Cooperation as an instrument to formalise the preliminary stage of cooperation is rarely used by Polish LSGs.

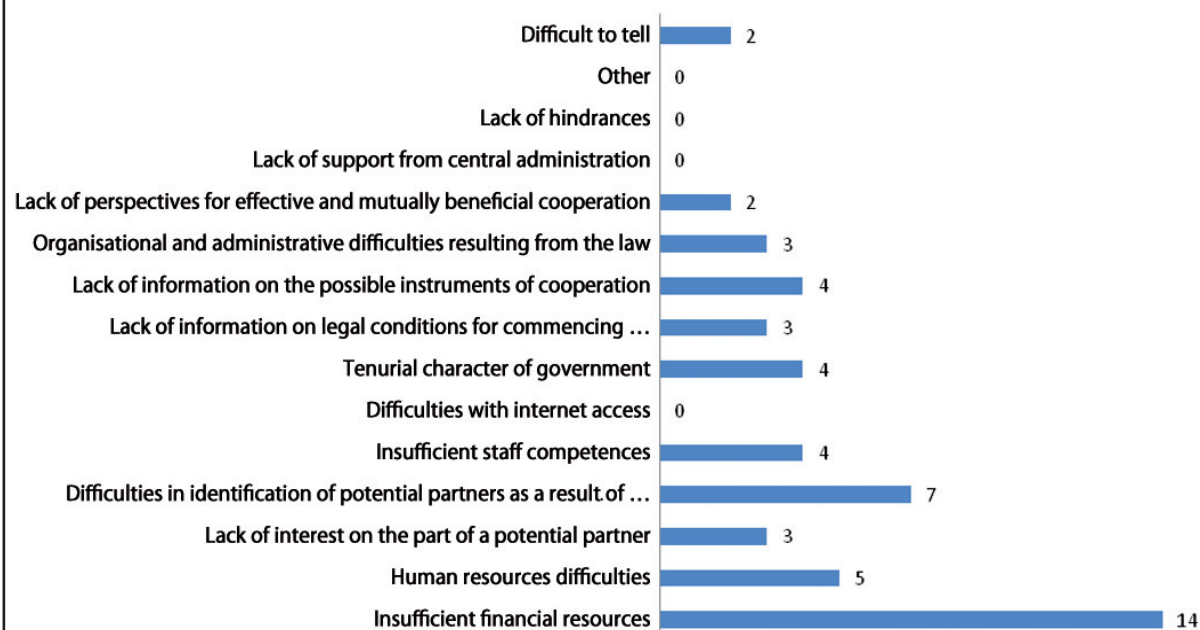
Chart 15

HINDRANCES FOR ESTABLISHING OR EXECUTING COOPERATION<sup>132</sup>



<sup>132</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.

## What hindrances do you encounter in establishing or executing cooperation? – REGIONS



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

International cooperation not only brings benefits for the widely construed local communities and their representatives / authorities, but also creates various challenges for them: financial, human resources, organisational and other. As the result of the high level of difficulty to carry out international initiatives, as well as their complexity, some of the respondents have problems in identifying the hindrances. This mostly refers to communes. The answer "Other" than listed in the questionnaire was indicated by 4.5% of counties and 2.5% of communes, however, they did not define, which hindrances they meant. The answer "hard to tell" was given by 8% of counties and 14.1% of communes. Only 4 respondents of the level of communes and 9 respondents on the level of counties declared *lack of hindrance in executing cooperation*.

International cooperation is a serious financial challenge for LSGs. One may say that at the preliminary stage it constitutes a type of investment, which will bring visible profits only after some time. The majority of respondents from all levels indicated *insufficient financial resources* as the hindrance for cooperation. According to the data from 112 communes and 803 counties, *insufficient financial resources* are the main obstacle in the development of international cooperation for 75% of counties and 56.9% of communes. What is interesting, 93.3% of the surveyed regions also indicate this hindrance in executing cooperation. It is necessary to underline that the insufficient financial resources may also condition other hindrances, such as human resources problems, lack of opportunities for staff training and, as a result, limited possibilities of independent access to information about the available instruments of cooperation. Communes and counties also point out the difficulties in the access to information. Lack of information about the possible instruments of cooperation was declared by 21.4% of counties and 18.6% of communes. However, *an information gap concerning legal frameworks for commencing and executing cooperation* was declared by 16.9% of communes and 13.4% of counties. This type of hindrance was also indicated by 3 regions.

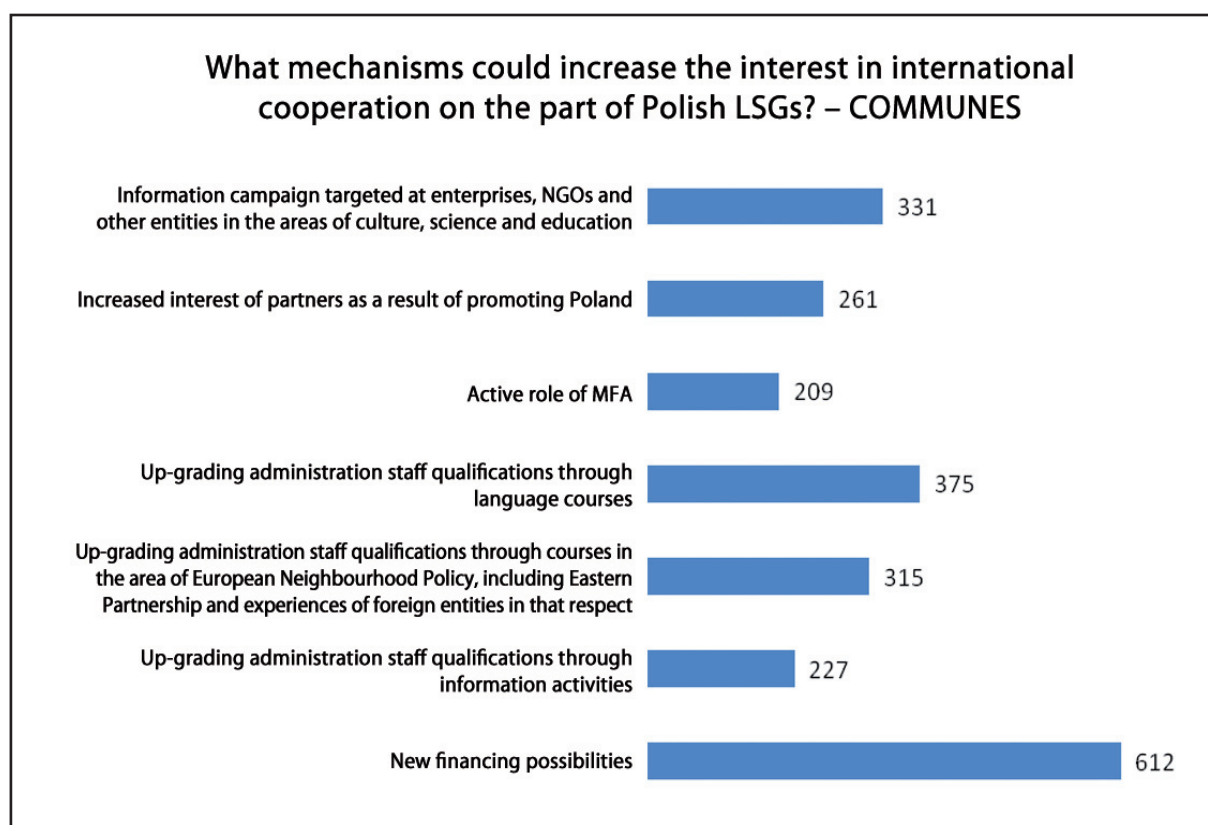
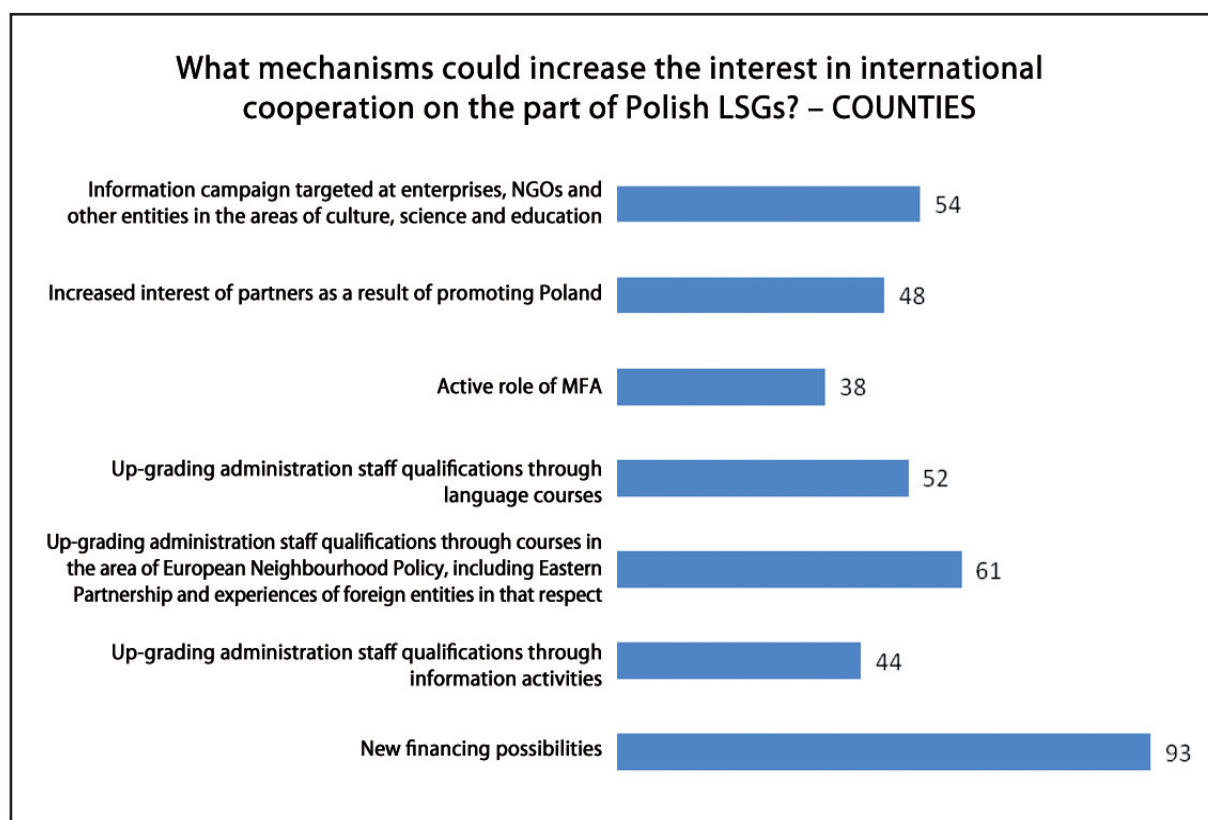
Another type of hindrance includes human resources difficulties and insufficient competencies of staff, which were indicated by 13.4% of counties and 18.6% of communes. A certain hindrance for communes and counties is the tenorial character of government and related lack of continuation of representation on the international level. Difficulties in identifying potential partners were indicated by 46.7% of regions and 11% of communes and 14.3% of counties. It is shown that even by overcoming this obstacle, cooperation is not always concluded due to the lack of interest on the part of the potential partner, which was also indicated by 20% of regions, and 11% of communes and 14.3% of counties. Organisational and administrative difficulties, resulting from Polish law, were indicated by only 20% of regions, and 8.5% of communes and 8% of counties. None of the regions indicated lack of support from the central administration as a hindrance for cooperation, however, in case of communes and counties, such hindrance was indicated by respectively 10% and 12.5%.



## MECHANISMS POTENTIALLY FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACCORDING TO COMMUNES, COUNTIES AND REGIONS <sup>133</sup>

Chart 16

MECHANISMS OF COOPERATION POTENTIALLY FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



<sup>133</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.

## What mechanisms could increase the interest in international cooperation on the part of Polish LSGs? – REGIONS



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

Mechanism, which - according to the respondents - could facilitate international cooperation, complements the layout of conditions, in which such cooperation is initiated and executed. Taking into consideration the hindrances mentioned above, obviously the most frequently mentioned mechanism includes: *new financing possibilities* (86.7% of regions, among counties - 83%, among communes - 76.2%). Furthermore, respondents indicated *the upgrading qualifications of administration staff through training in the area of European Neighbourhood Policy, including Eastern Partnership and experiences of foreign entities in that respect* (80% of regions, counties - 54.5%, communes - 39.2%), *upgrading qualifications of administration through language courses* (53.3% of regions, counties - 46.4%, communes - 46.7%) and *information campaign addressed to the business sector, NGOs and other entities operating in the area of culture, science and education* (73.3% of regions, counties - 48.2%, communes - 41.2%).

Both in case of communes and counties, as well as the regions, the least number of indications was given to *upgrading qualifications of administration staff through information activities* (46.7% of regions, counties - 39.3%, communes - 28.3%) and *the active role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs* (40% of regions, counties - 33.9%, communes - 26%).

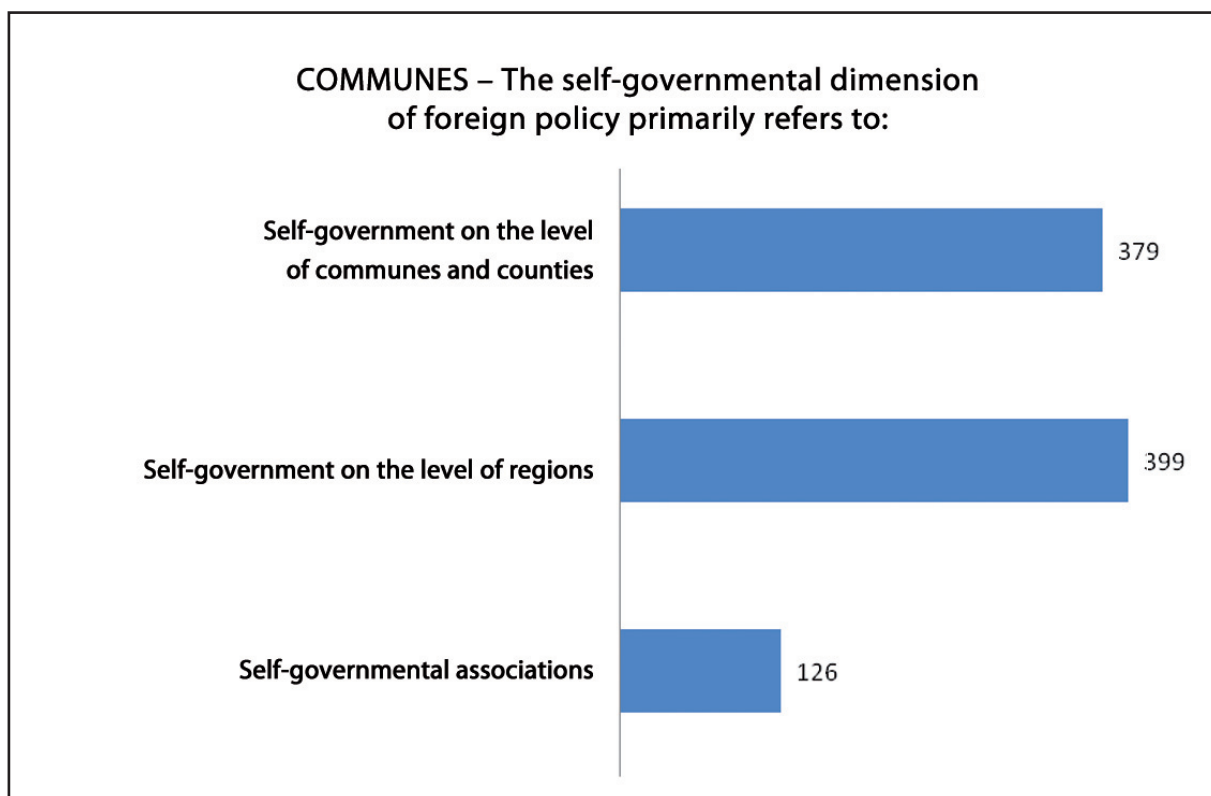
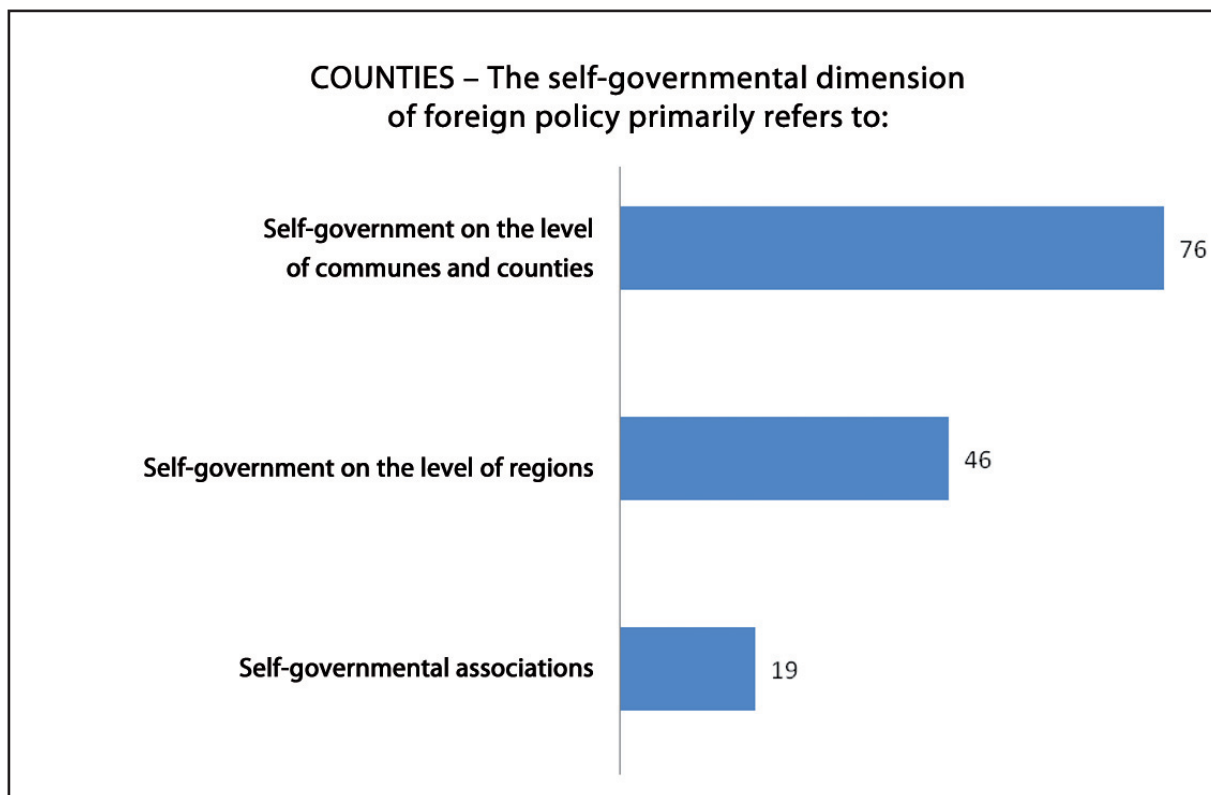
### LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY

In the survey, Polish LSGs were asked, if they see themselves as actors in the international arena in the context of self-governmental level of foreign policy (which was stressed by the Government in the Polish Foreign Policy Priorities for 2012-2016). They were also asked about the role of the MFA in cooperation with self-governments in that field.



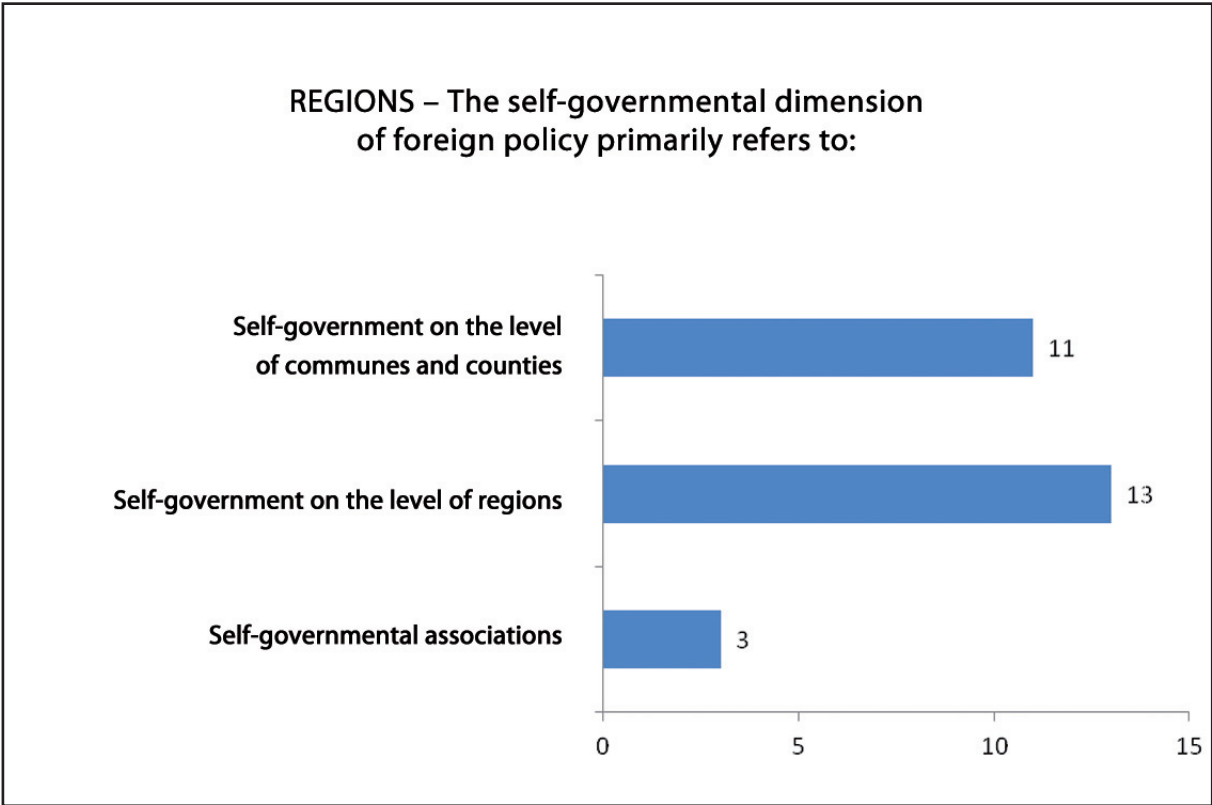
Chart 17

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR ASSOCIATIONS AS PLAYERS IN FOREIGN POLICY – OPINION ACCORDING TO COUNTIES, COMMUNES AND REGIONS<sup>134</sup>



<sup>134</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.





Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

The question concerning local self-governments and their associations as players in the international policy was addressed to all respondents. According to the counties, the self-governmental dimension of foreign policy refers mostly to the LSGs on the level of communes and counties (67.9%), and according to respondents on the level of communes, the self-governmental dimension of foreign policy at almost the same degree refers to the LSGs on the level of regions, as well as the LSGs on the level of communes and counties (respectively 49.7% and 47.2%). Both counties and communes, to a small degree, acknowledged this sphere as the domain for operation of self-governmental associations (respectively 17% - counties and 15.7% - communes).

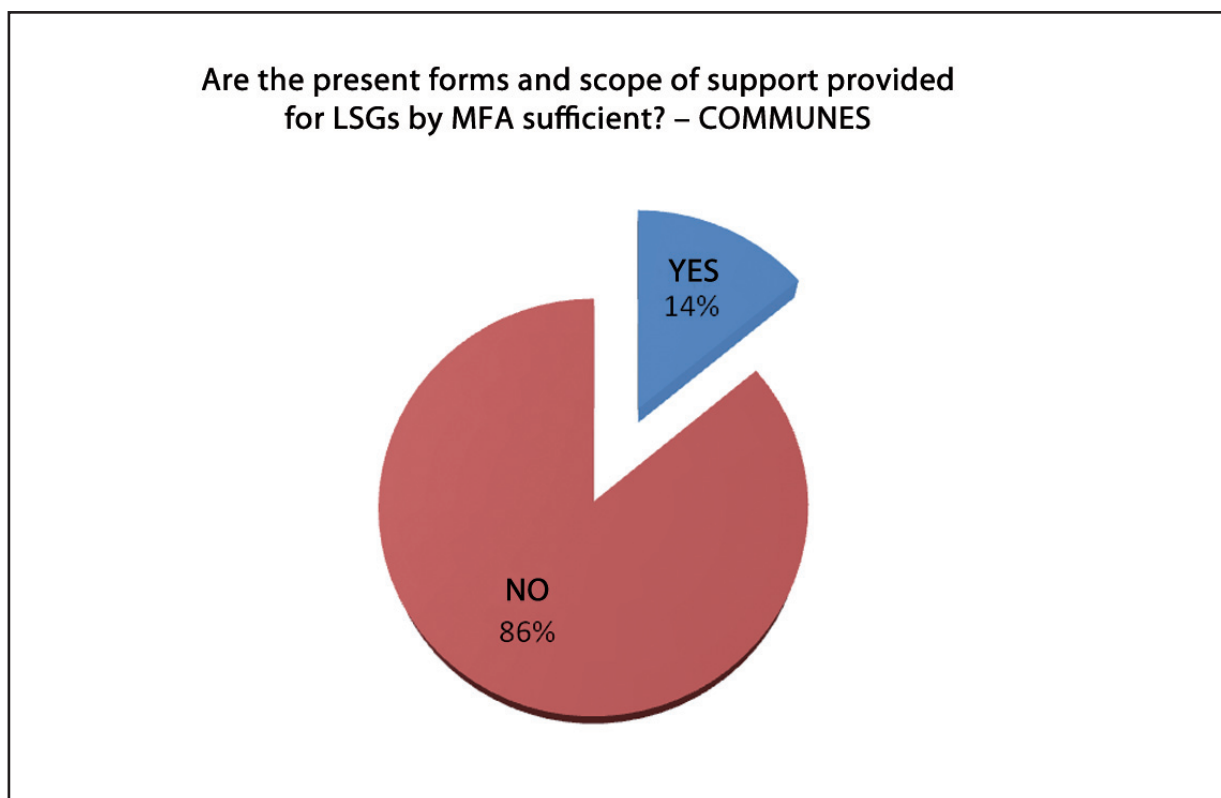
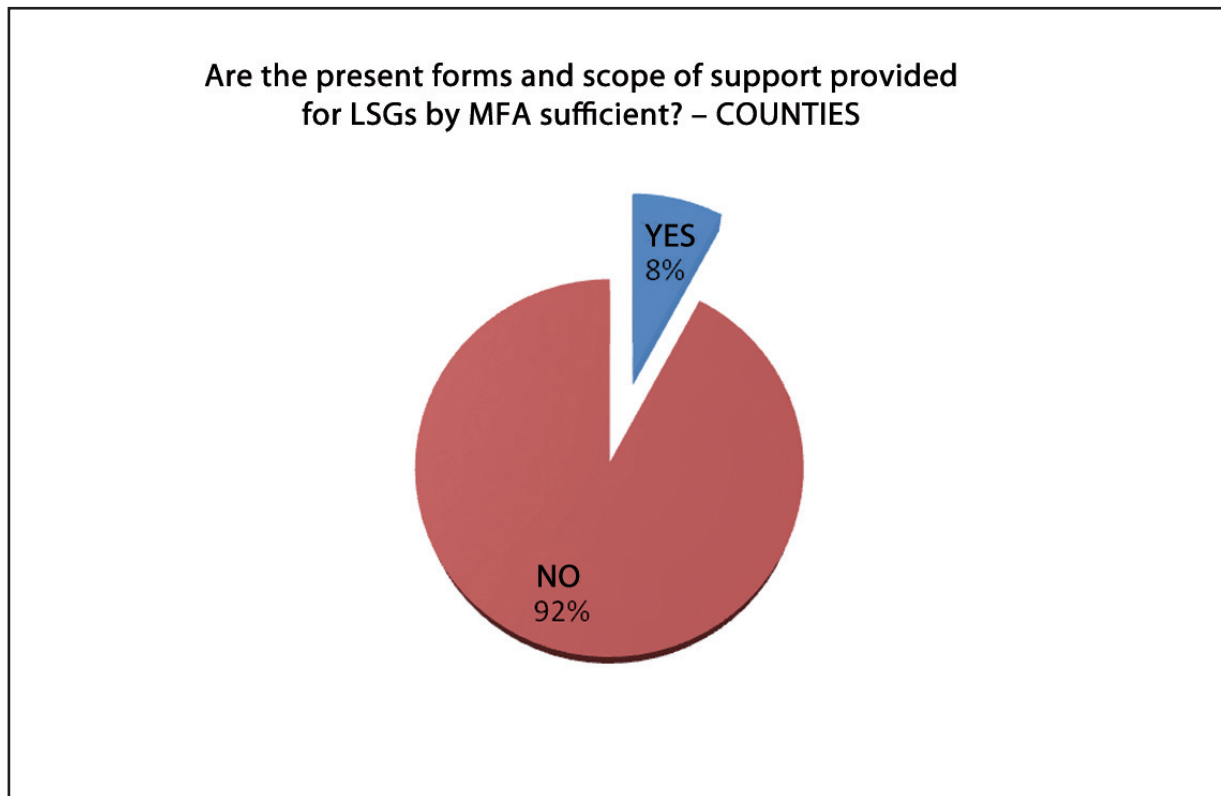
Among 13 regions, which answered this question, there were 13 indications to the self-governmental dimension of foreign policy as the domain of LSGs on the regional level, 11 indications to the LSGs on the level of communes and counties and only 3 indications on the self-governmental dimension of foreign policy as the domain of activities of self-governmental associations. It means that international cooperation of self-governments includes mostly bilateral contacts. According to the survey results, it is difficult to clearly define the role of self-governmental associations in that respect. The survey questionnaire was forwarded to all Polish LSG associations; unfortunately answers were submitted by only two of them: the Union of the Voivodships of the Republic of Poland and the Association of Polish Counties. Neither has declared cooperation with the EaP countries.



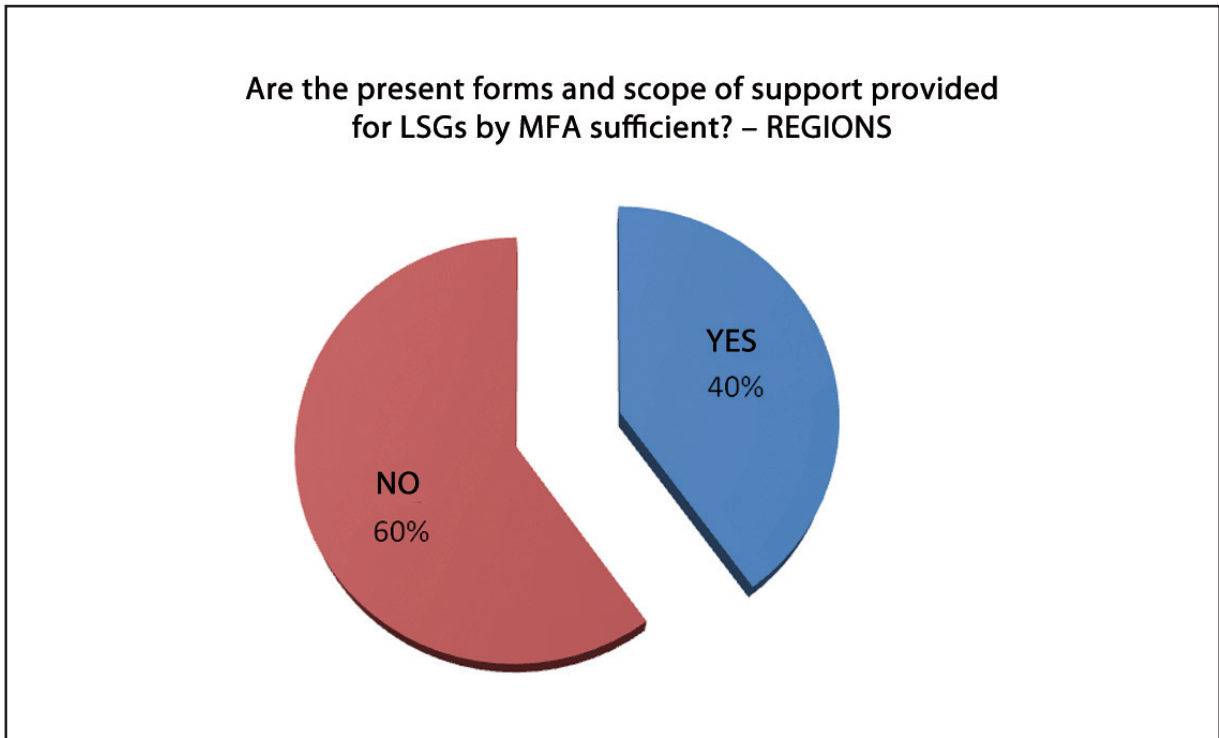
## ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED FORMS OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA

Chart 18

ASSESSMENT OF FORMS, AS WELL AS THE SCOPE OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA<sup>135</sup>



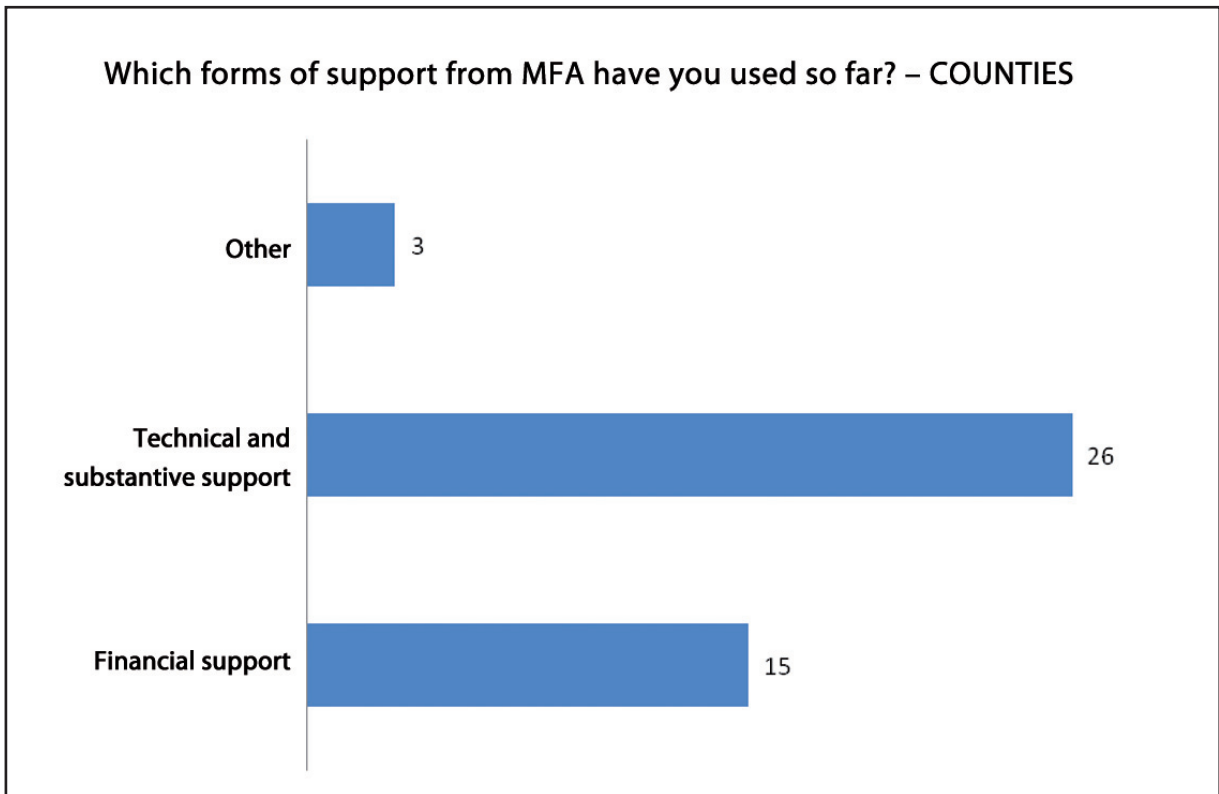
<sup>135</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.



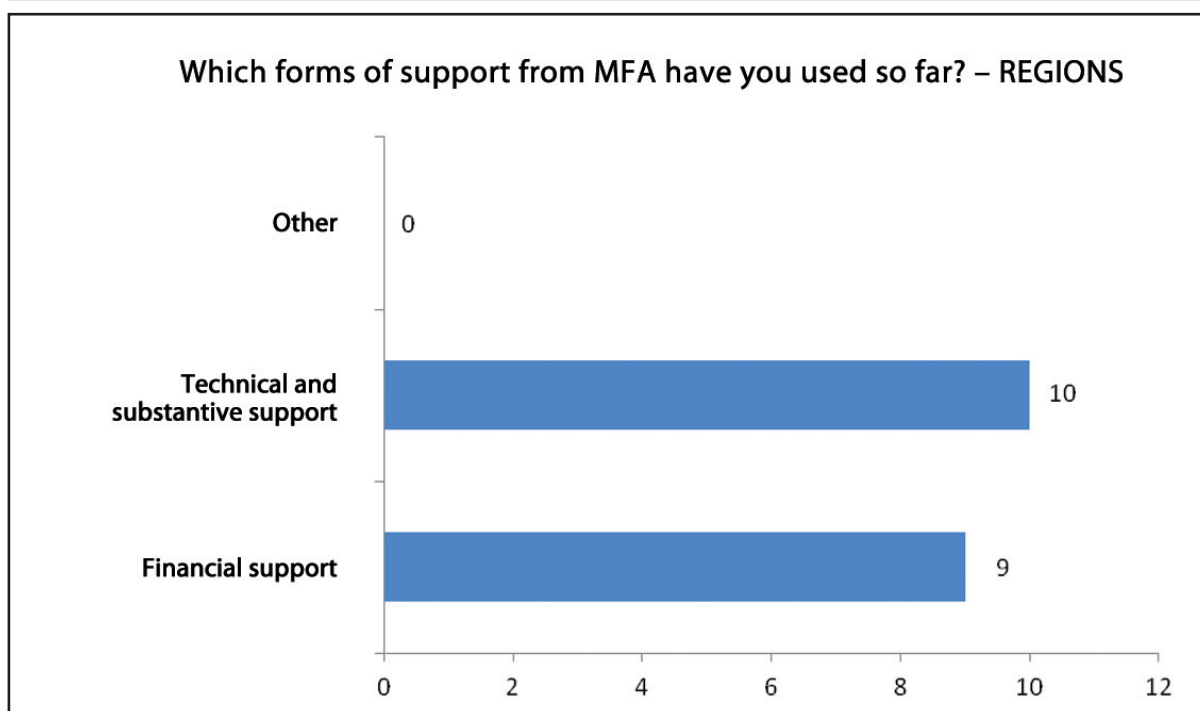
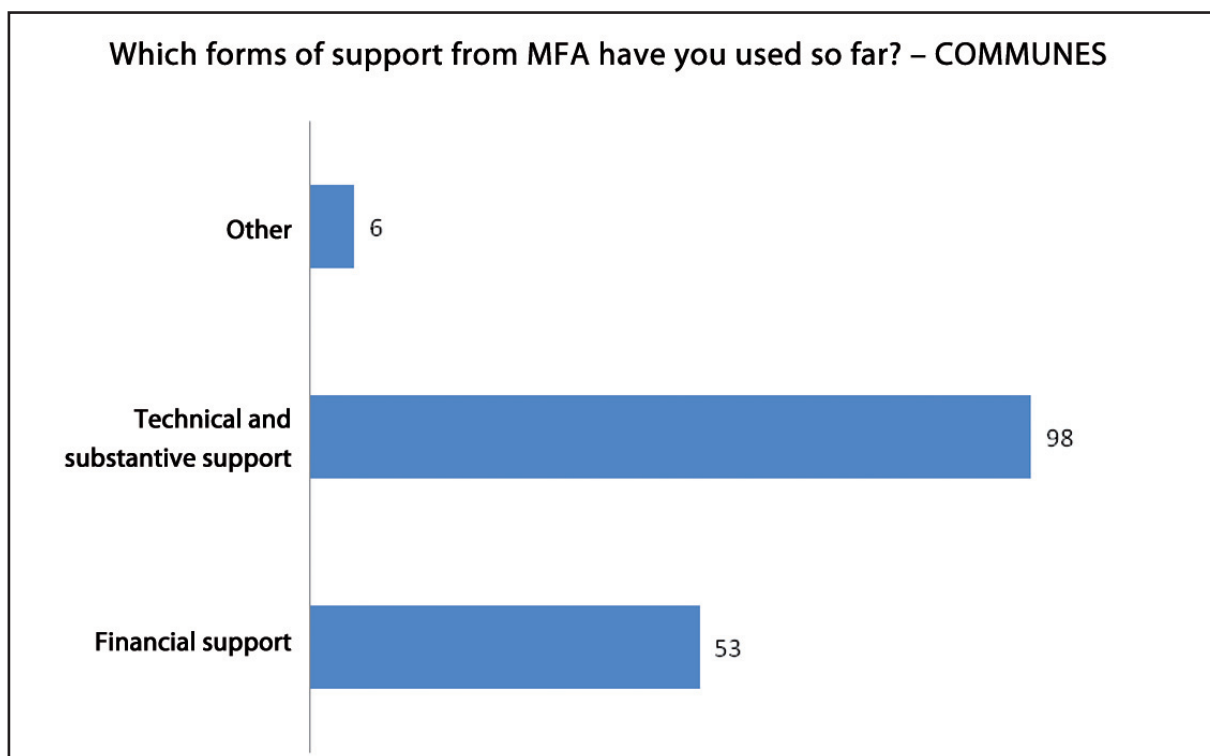
Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

According to the majority of respondents, the current forms and the scope of support provided for LSGs by the MFA are largely insufficient (92% indications from 89 counties, 86% indications from 602 communes and 9 out of 15 regions - 60%).

Chart 19  
UTILISATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA BY COUNTIES, COMMUNES AND REGIONS <sup>136</sup>



<sup>136</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

Few respondents on the level of communes and counties answered the question concerning forms of support from the MFA, which they had used in the past. Therefore, one may conclude that these entities relatively rarely seek assistance from the MFA. In case of regions, answers were submitted by 10 units. Among the utilised forms of support on the level of communes and counties, the technical (substantive) support was indicated most often (124 indications); on the level of communes, technical (substantive) support was confirmed by 10 declarations.

The MFA gradually extends the scope of financial support for international initiatives executed by the LSGs within the framework of, for example, development assistance or small grants system. 68 LSGs on the level of communes and counties and 9 regions declared using this form of support. Respondents also indicated other ways of providing support, including the widely understood assistance in the organisation of events jointly with foreign partners (for example, assistance with respect to visa procedures or other procedures of

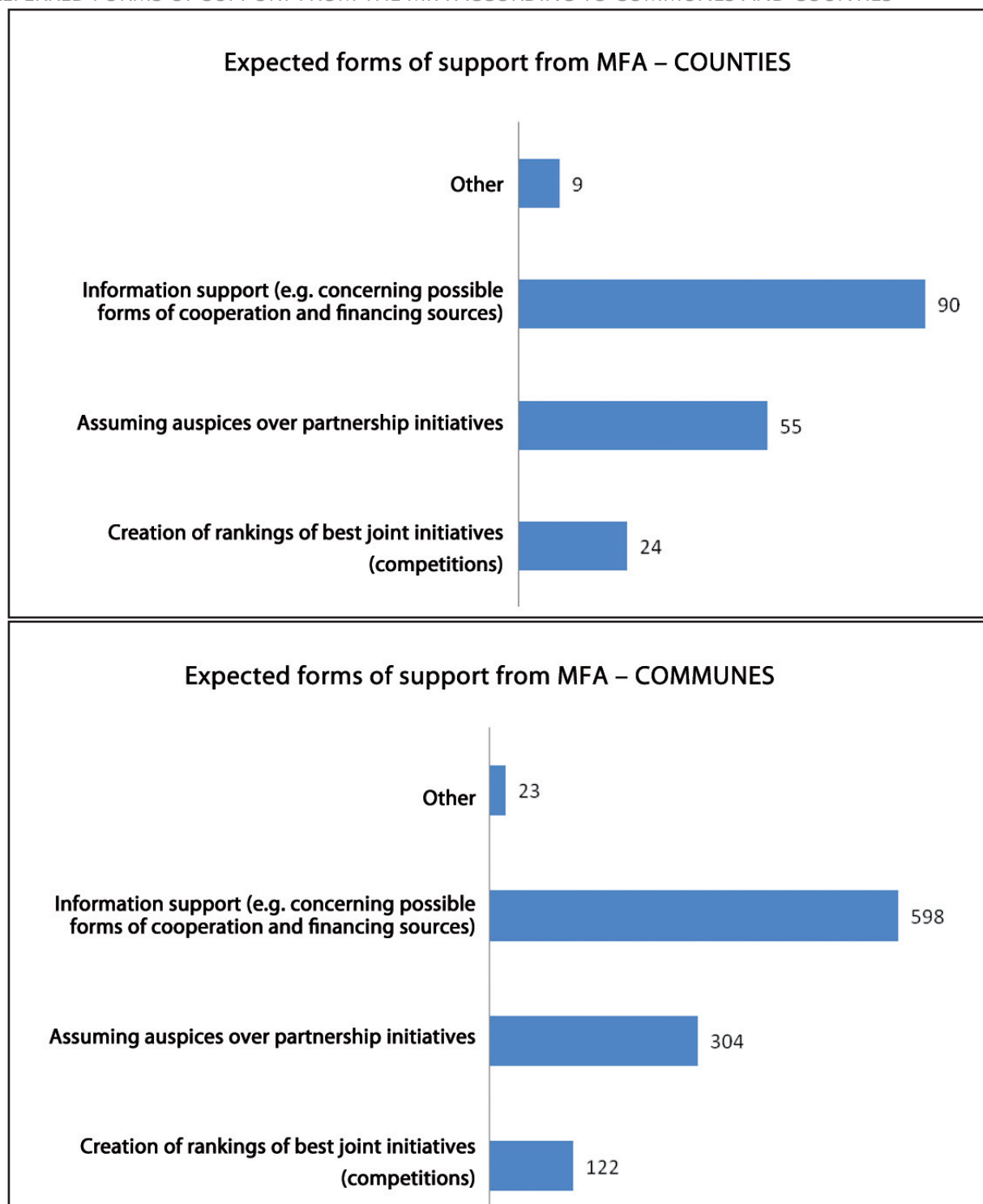
border crossing), assistance in finding foreign partners, prompt agreement assessment process, new solutions concerning accession to international projects, or assuming auspices over events.

## EXPECTED FORMS OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA

### Communes and counties

Chart 20

PREFERRED FORMS OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA ACCORDING TO COMMUNES AND COUNTIES <sup>137</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

<sup>137</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.



As the most expected forms of support from the MFA, surveyed communes and counties indicated *the information support (concerning for example the possible forms of cooperation and sources of financing)*, which were indicated by 80.4% of respondents on the level of counties and 74.5% of respondents on the level of communes. Subsequently, there are: *assuming auspices over partnership initiatives* (respectively 49.1% and 37.9%) and *creating rankings of the best joint initiatives (competitions)* – 21.4% of indications from respondents on the level of counties and 15.2% on the level of communes. *Other, not defined forms of support* were indicated by 8% of surveyed counties and 2.9% in case of communes.

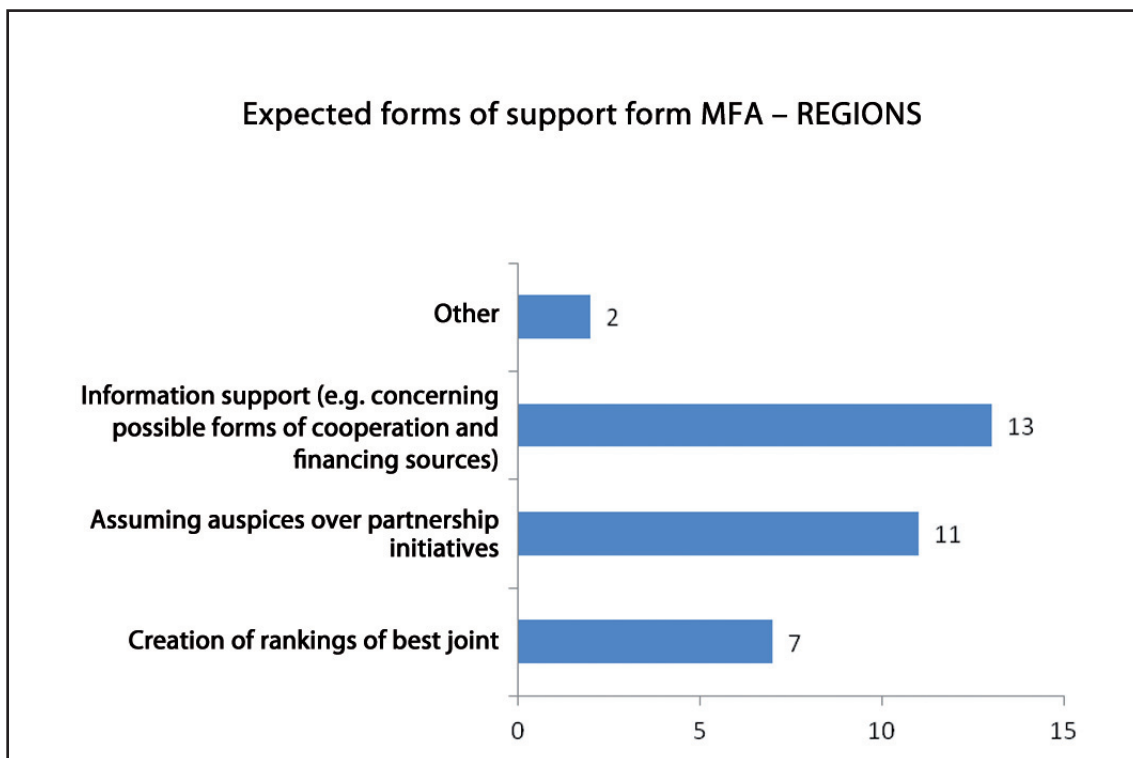
Other expected forms of assistance included mainly *financial support*. When describing their expectations in detail, the respondents indicated the extension of the support offer within the existing mechanism, extension of financial support for initiatives outside the area of development aid and creation of new mechanisms. For example, the Gniezno County, which is an active member of the Convention of Self-governmental Cooperation Poland-Ukraine, stressed the importance of the proposal to create a foundation for “Polish-Ukrainian Youth Exchange”, similarly to the foundation for “Polish-German Youth Exchange”; such financial mechanism would help young Ukrainians to learn about Poland, also from the point of view of operation of self-government; it would also be a perfect opportunity for experience exchange in the area of education and culture between foreign partners. The respondents also suggested the possibility for financial support in the form of “umbrella” projects and the fixed annual budget for areas cooperating in the form of Euro-regions.

Other forms of support proposed by LSGs include *the organisation of open meetings* with the participation of foreign partners, which would facilitate establishing contacts, undertaking widely construed activities promoting international cooperation of regional and local authorities, organising trainings and study visits, assistance in identification and evaluation of partners from the cooperating countries, and assistance in the organisation of visits of foreign guests (visa procedure facilitation), protection of self-governmental initiatives by Polish diplomatic missions abroad, substantive support from the diplomatic missions in the countries of Polish self-governments’ partners.

## Regions

Chart 21

PREFERRED FORMS OF SUPPORT FROM THE MFA ACCORDING TO REGIONS<sup>138</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

<sup>138</sup> The question was addressed to all respondents.

Similarly to communes and counties, among the regions which answered the question about the most expected forms of support from the MFA, there were 13 indications for the *information support (concerning e.g. possible forms of cooperation and financial sources)* (13 out of 15 surveyed regions - 86,7%), also: *assuming auspices over partnership initiatives* (11 indications - 73.3%) and *creating rankings of the best joint initiatives (competitions)* – 46.7% indications.

Taking into consideration the declared need for the information support, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs set up the Regional Centres for International Debate (RCID). RCID perform the activities aiming at bringing Polish foreign policy closer to the citizens and strengthening channels of cooperation between the MFA, self-government and NGOs by creating a regular communication channel and exchange of experiences between the MFA and institutions in the region.

The Regional Centres for International Debate accomplish their goals through:

- animating and initiating activities in the region in the area of international cooperation,
- coordinating initiatives undertaken in regions by public institutions and NGOs in the area of foreign policy,
- collecting subject materials, databases and studies,
- collecting and updating information on the entities involved in foreign policy activities in the region,
- executing information and education activities for the region's population in the issues concerning the EU and Polish foreign policy,
- maintaining a centre with available materials, studies and publications on subjects related to Polish foreign policy; where consultants are competent to provide information on subjects related to Polish foreign policy, including issues related to the EU as well as Poland's membership in the EU.

Therefore, RCID will become:

- coordinator and source of information on entities in the region that are involved in foreign policy activities,
- coordinator and source of information on initiatives initiated in regions by public institutions and NGOs in the area of foreign policy,
- permanent contact point between the MFA and the regional self-government on international issues,
- the place where each citizen interested in the subject would be able to learn about the Polish foreign policy, including issues related to the EU.

## **EXECUTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON THE LEVEL OF LSGs AND PROGRAMME DOCUMENTS ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL**

International cross-border and inter-regional cooperation constitute an important element of the development policy of Polish regions. It assures the flow of experience between the regions of various countries and supports activities aiming at upgrading the quality of operation of self-governmental institutions; it facilitates the development of tourism, assures coordination of infrastructure extension on both sides of the national border, leads to cultural and educational development of the region, and is the tool of promotion. Due to all those functions served by the regional international cooperation, it also contributes to the economic development<sup>139</sup>.

International cooperation at the regional level is listed by the Polish legislation as one of the tasks of the regional self-government. As representatives of local communities, LSGs have the right or even an obligation to create their regional development policy according to the adopted strategy and to define priorities in the area of regional international cooperation, which is an element of such development. The principal document in which self-government entities describe their international plans is the resolution of each Regional Parliament entitled "Priorities of the region's international cooperation", which defines the main aims, geographical priorities of future cooperation and intentions to join international regional associations (Art. 75 and Art. 77 par. 2 of the Law on Regional Government)<sup>140</sup>.

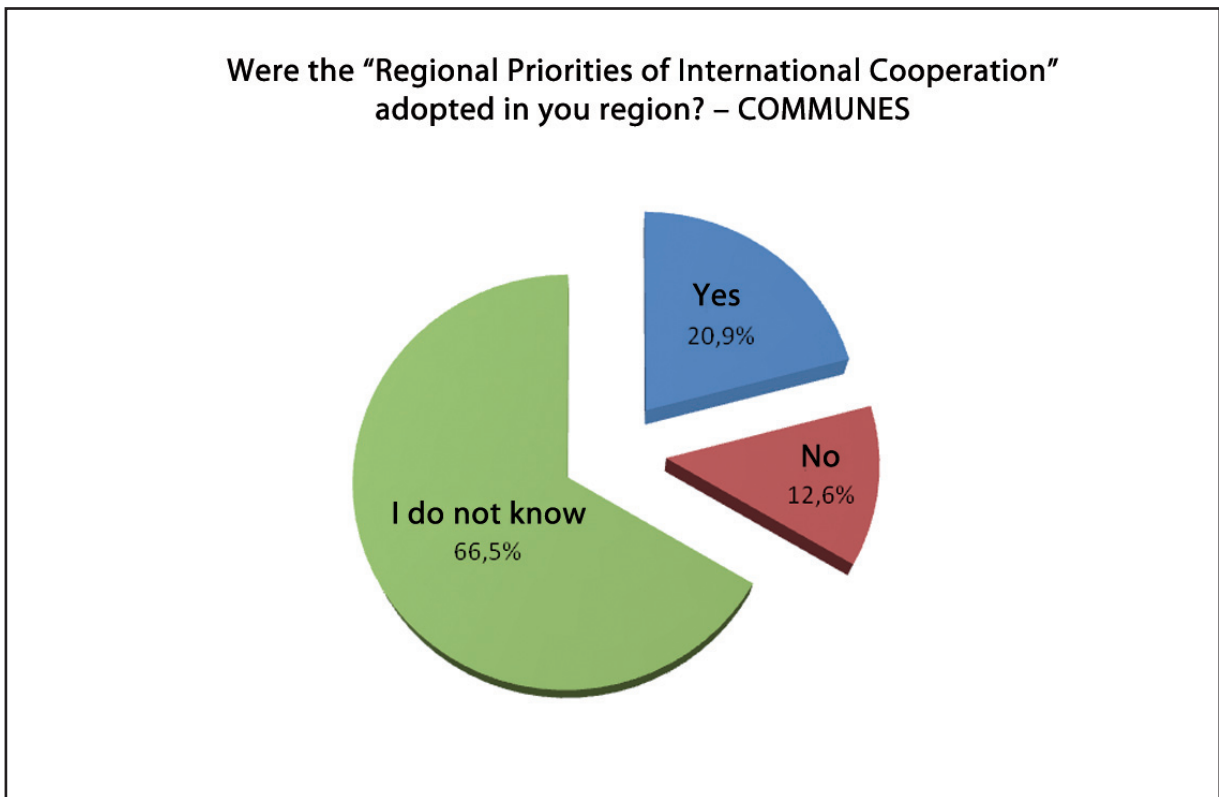
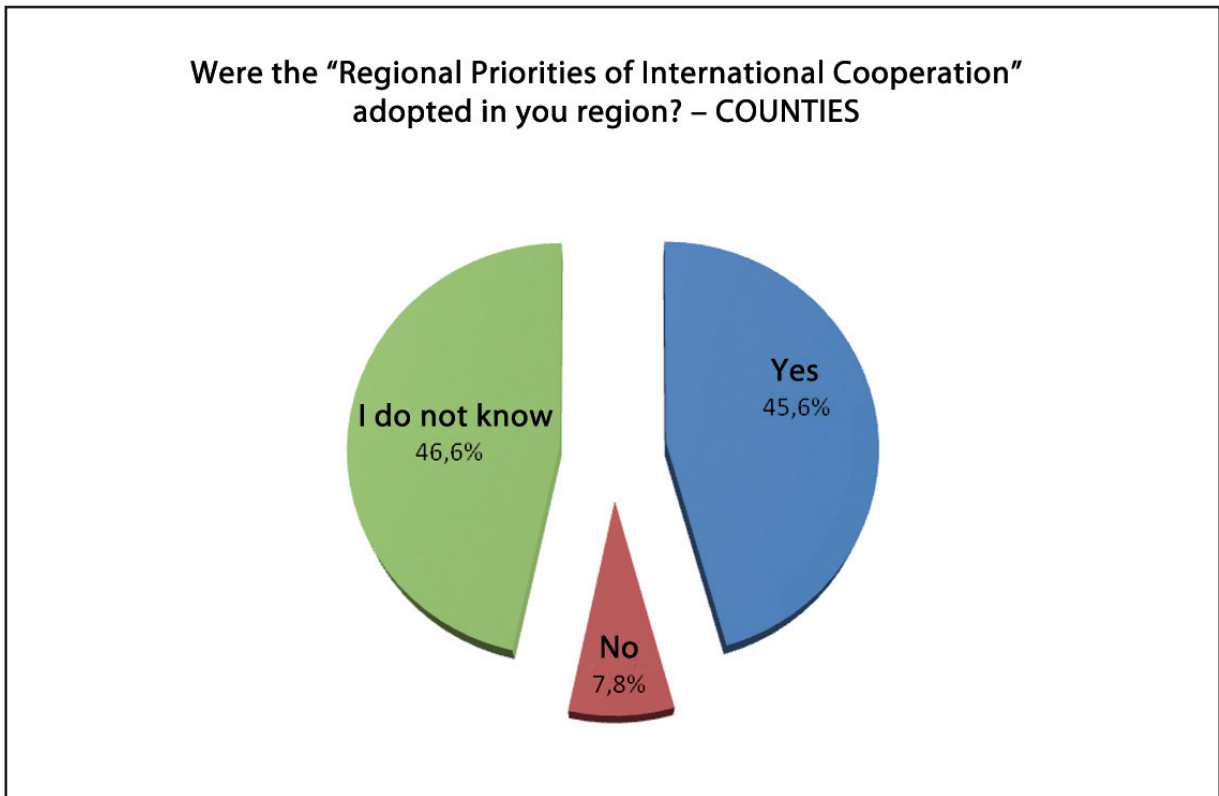
139 M. Kołodziejcki, K. Szmigiel, MIĘDZYNARODOWA WSPÓŁPRACA TRANSGRANICZNA I MIĘDZYREGIONALNA W KONTEKŚCIE POLITYKI REGIONALNEJ PAŃSTWA NA LATA 2007-2013, Centrum Rozwoju Lokalnego, Warszawa 2004, p. 3.

140 Priorities of regional cooperation are adopted following an approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Chart 22

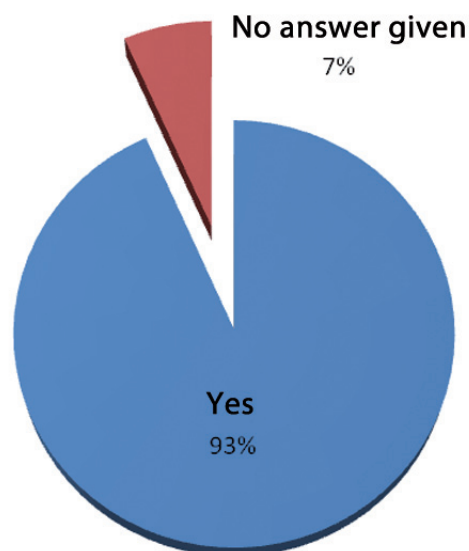
LSGs' KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRIORITIES ON THE LEVELS OF COUNTIES, COMMUNES AND REGIONS<sup>141</sup>



141 The question was addressed to all respondents.



### Were the “Regional Priorities of International Cooperation” adopted in you region? – REGIONS



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

The answer concerning the adoption of the regional “Priorities of international cooperation of the region” was answered by 103 representatives of counties and 708 representatives of communes.

A considerable difference between counties and communes may be observed with respect to the respondents' knowledge concerning the adoption of the regional “*Priorities of international cooperation of the region*”. In the case of counties, among the respondents, who responded to this question, 45.6% gave positive answer with respect to Priorities adopted in a given region, and 7.8% indications suggesting the absence of such Priorities in the region. 46.6% of surveyed entities on the level of counties did not know about the existence of such a document in their region. In the case of communes, 20.9% of answers were positive, and 12.6% of indications concerned the absence of such priorities in the region. As many as 66.5% of surveyed entities on the level of commune self-government did not know about the existence or non-existence of such a document in their regions.

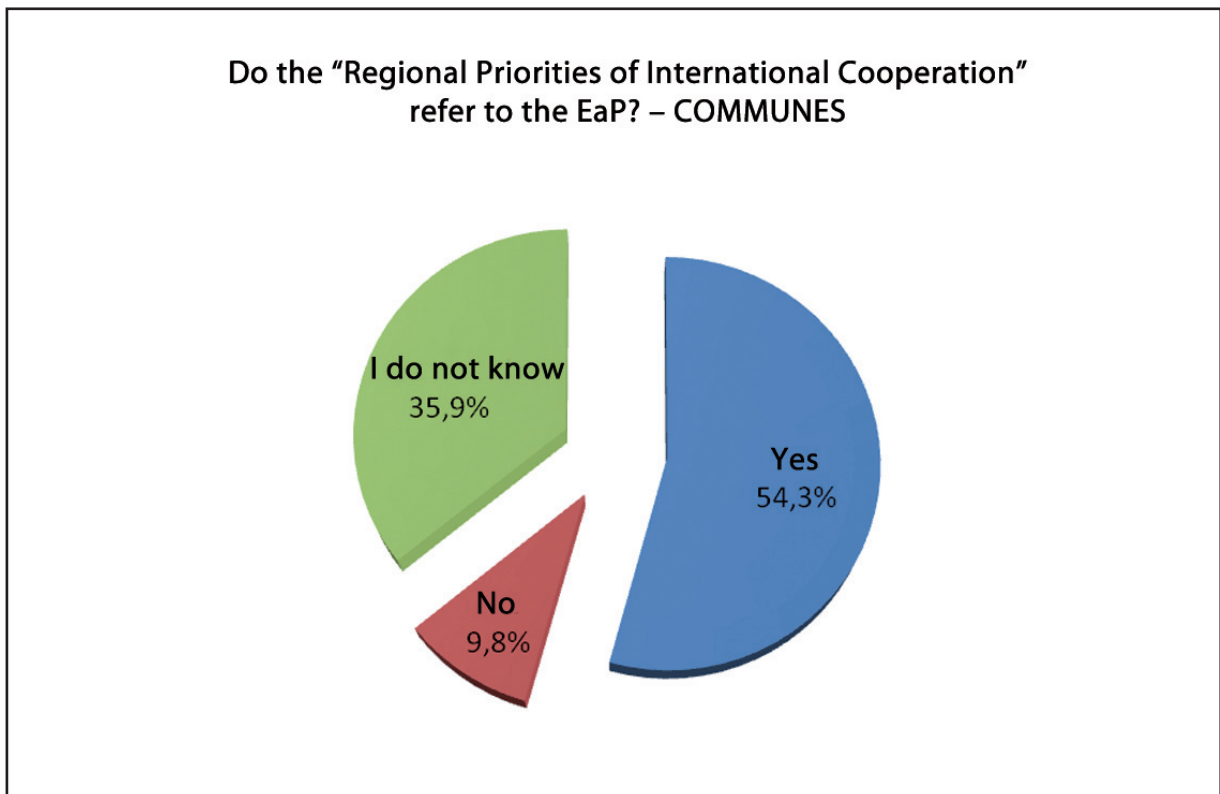
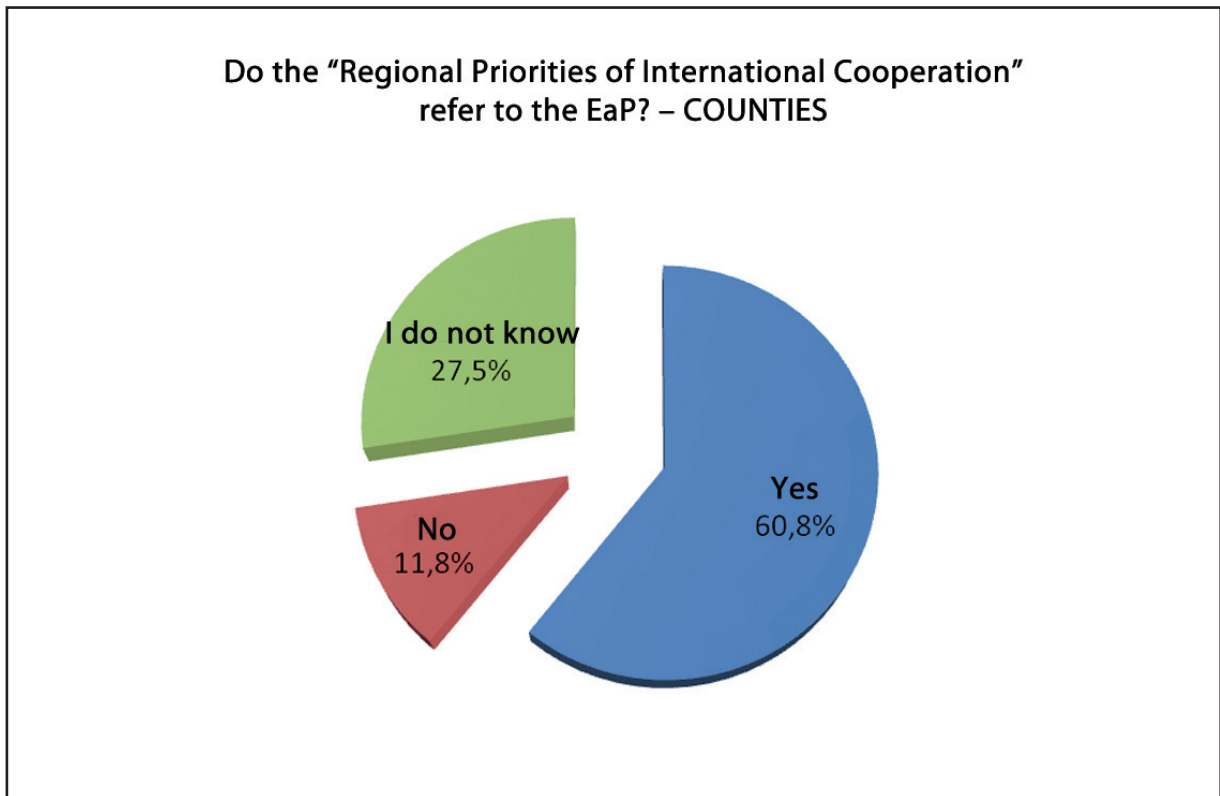
14 regions, which responded to the survey, adopted the international cooperation priorities for their regions, 1 region did not provide an answer to the question.

Since in the Polish Foreign Policy Priorities for 2012-2016, special attention is paid to the Eastern Partnership, regional self-governments were asked, if these aspects were included in their programme documents.

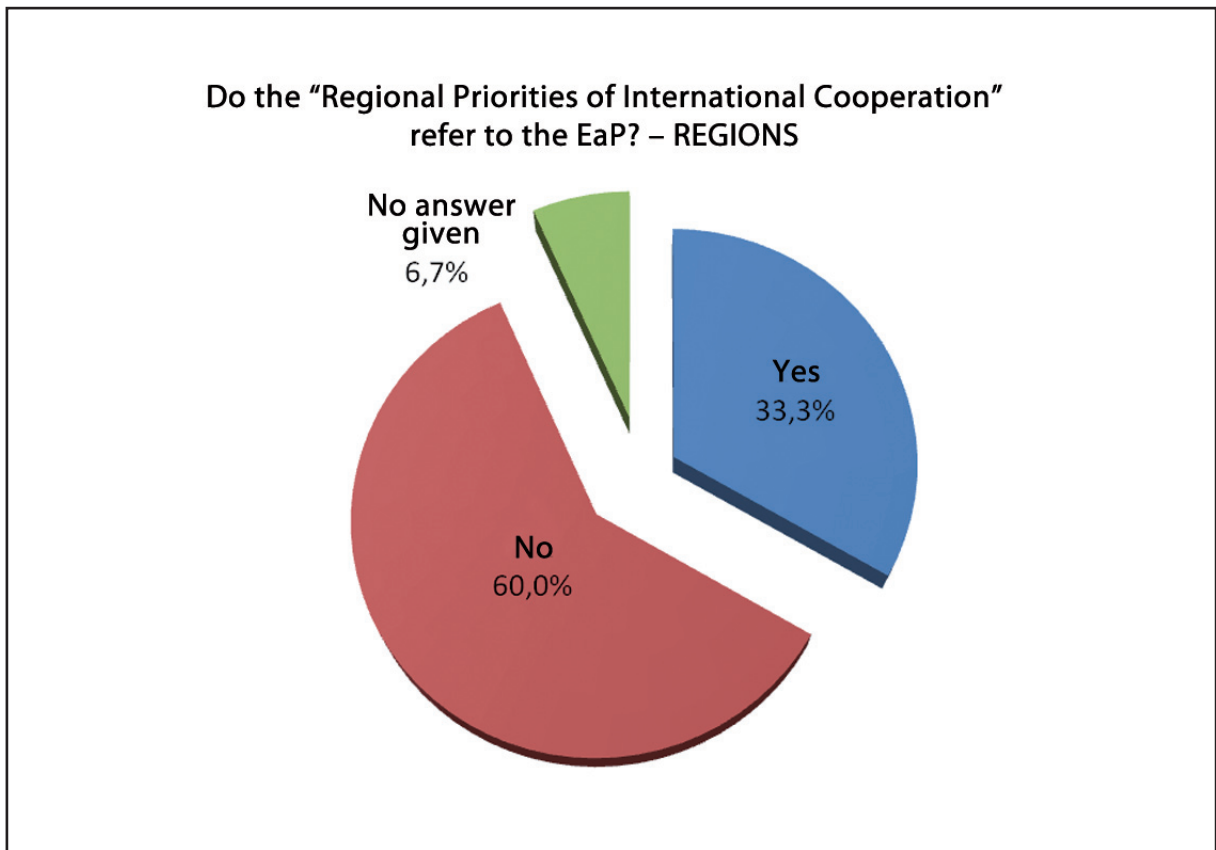


Chart 23

INCLUDING THE EaP ASPECT IN THE PRIORITIES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACCORDING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF COUNTIES AND COMMUNES, AS WELL AS REGIONS<sup>142</sup>



142 This question was addressed only to those respondents who confirmed the existence of Priorities.



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

Lack of reference to the Eastern Partnership may be explained by the fact that some of the documents were adopted before 2009 (the year of Eastern Partnership launching), and the majority – before the introduction of the Polish Foreign Policy Priorities in 2012. It is worth emphasising that the international cooperation priorities of regions are usually changed upon the establishing new contacts or signing new agreements with foreign partners. According to the survey's results it is not possible to conclude whether the self-government of a region monitors the cohesion of its priorities with the priorities of the state's foreign policy. Nevertheless, it would be highly recommendable as one of the mechanisms to assure synergy, especially keeping in mind that the Polish Foreign Policy Priorities have been adopted for the period of four years. However, the idea is not to subordinate the priorities of regions to the priorities of the state, but to include the national objectives in the executed activities. At present, it seems justified to state that the significance of foreign cooperation at the regional level in the majority of cases is limited to the execution of objectives of regional development and does not go any further.

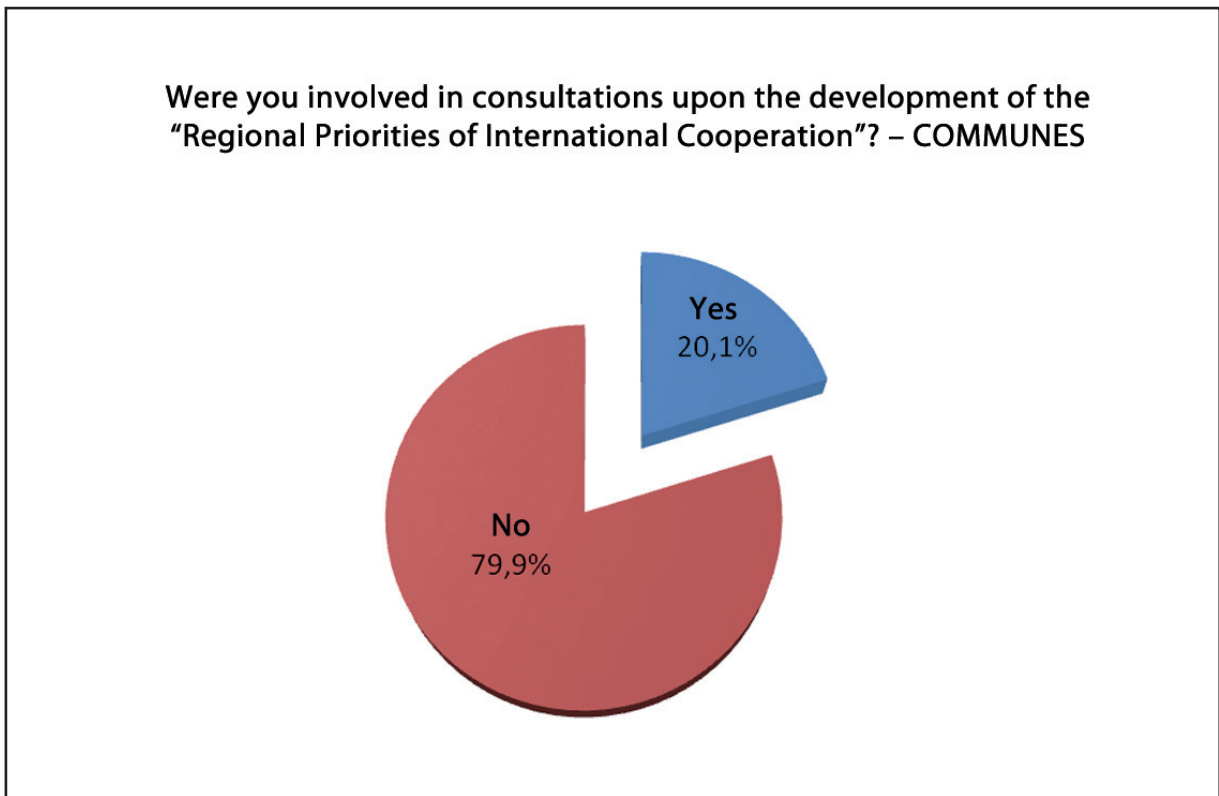
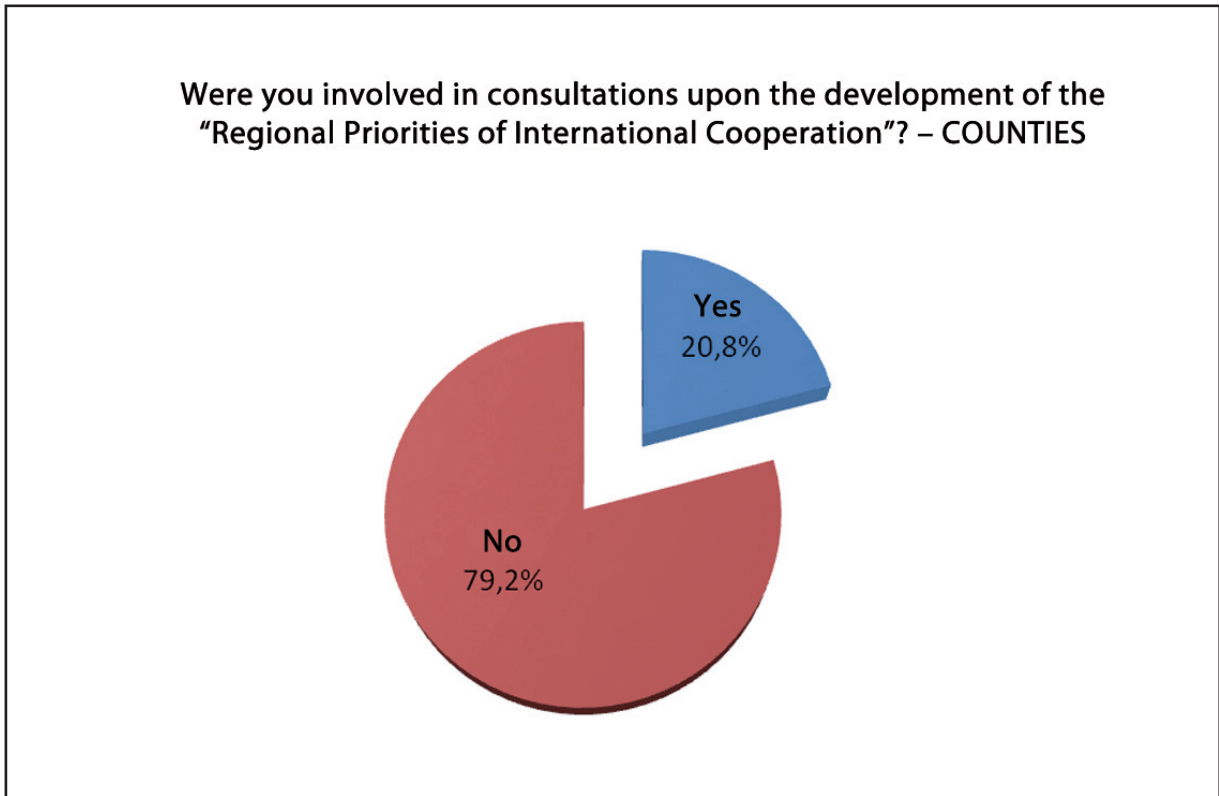
As far as the knowledge of the content of Priorities is concerned, with respect to inclusion of Eastern Partnership issues, 60.8% of respondents at the level of counties indicated the existence of such an inclusion (at 54.3% of indications from respondents from communes), 11.8% of counties indicated lack of such an inclusion (in communes – 9.8%), and 27.5% of the respondents at the level of counties did not have any knowledge on that subject (among the communes the “I do not know” answer was given by 35.9%).

It is particularly interesting that among 15 regions included in the survey, there are only 5 indications (33.3%) confirming the inclusion of the EaP issues in the foreign policy Priorities of the region, and 9 negative indications. 1 of the surveyed regions did not give any answer to this question.



Chart 24

CONSULTATIONS WITH LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF COUNTIES AND COMMUNES UPON CREATION OF "REGIONAL FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES"<sup>143</sup>



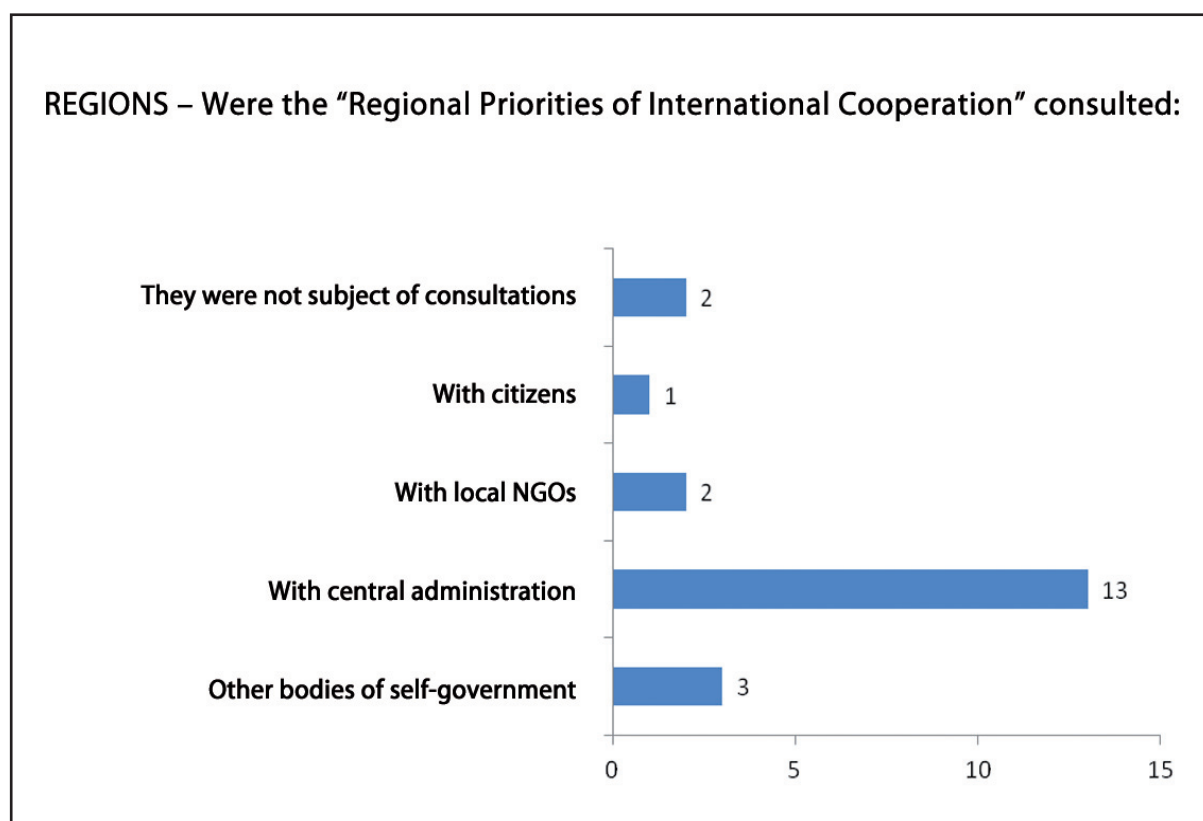
Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

143 This question was addressed only to those respondents who confirmed the existence of Priorities.

According to the information obtained from communes and counties it transpires that the Priorities are not consulted with the local self-governmental authorities. However, it does not mean that the Priorities do not take into consideration the needs of local communities. The Priorities are adopted by their representatives, who are members of Regional Parliaments. It would be worthwhile to learn the opinion of local authorities about their needs and intentions, to assure synergy between all levels of self-government.

According to the information supplied by respondents on the level of counties and communes it transpires that the international cooperation priorities of the region were consulted only with 20.8% of LSGs at the level of counties, and 20.1% on the level of communes.

Chart 25  
CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ENTITIES AT THE STAGE OF DEVELOPING THE "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRIORITIES OF THE REGION"<sup>144</sup>



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

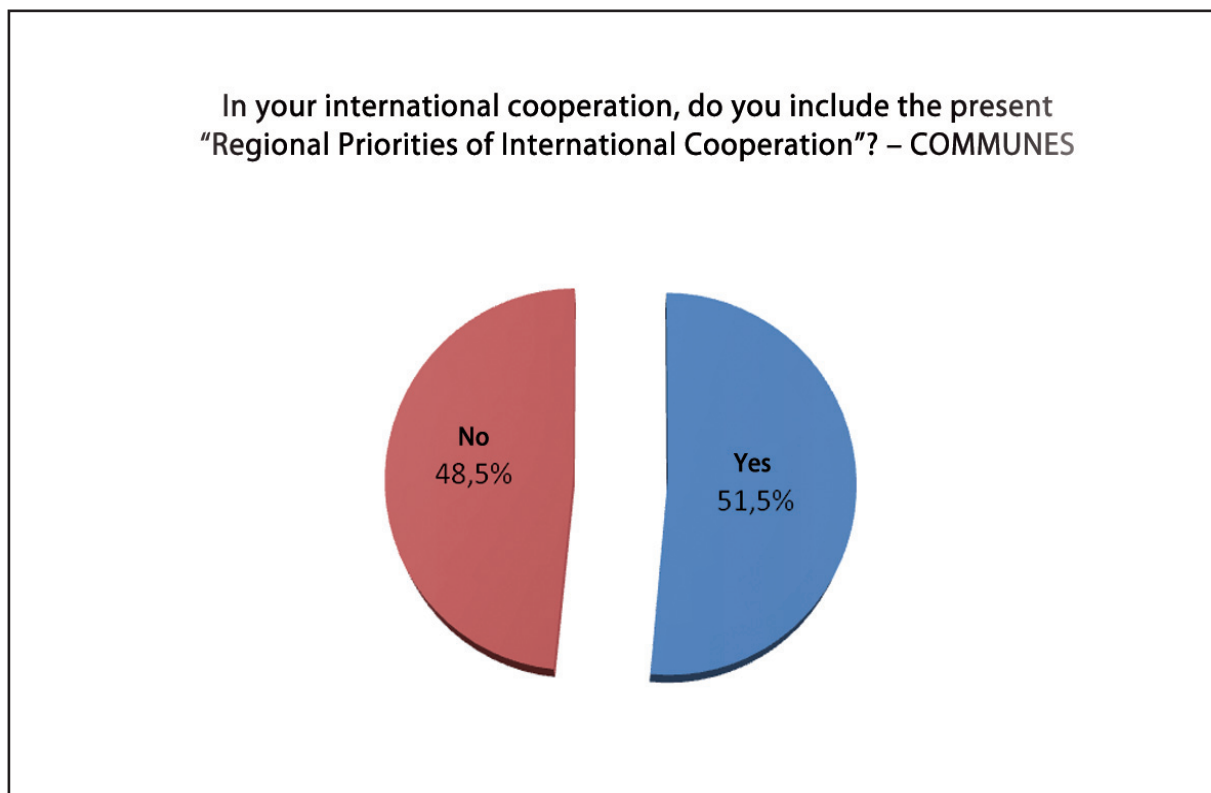
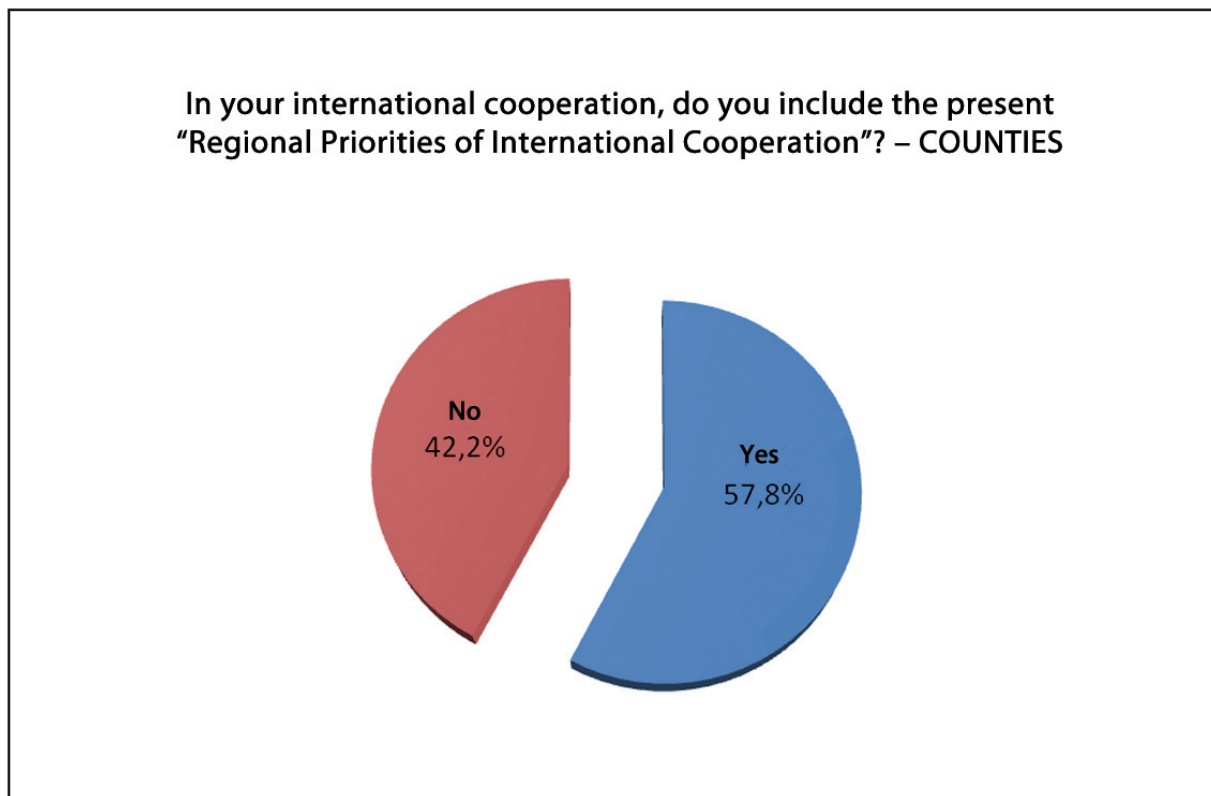
According to the survey's results that out of 15 regions, which took part in the survey, there were 13 answers confirming consultations with the central administration bodies and only 3 indications for consultations with other entities of self-governmental authorities, which – in relation to the low index of perception of consultations in the opinions of communes and counties - may suggest a definitely insufficient level of cooperation and synergy between activities of regional and local self-governments in the area of defining the strategy of international cooperation.

<sup>144</sup> This question was addressed only to those respondents who confirmed the existence of Priorities.

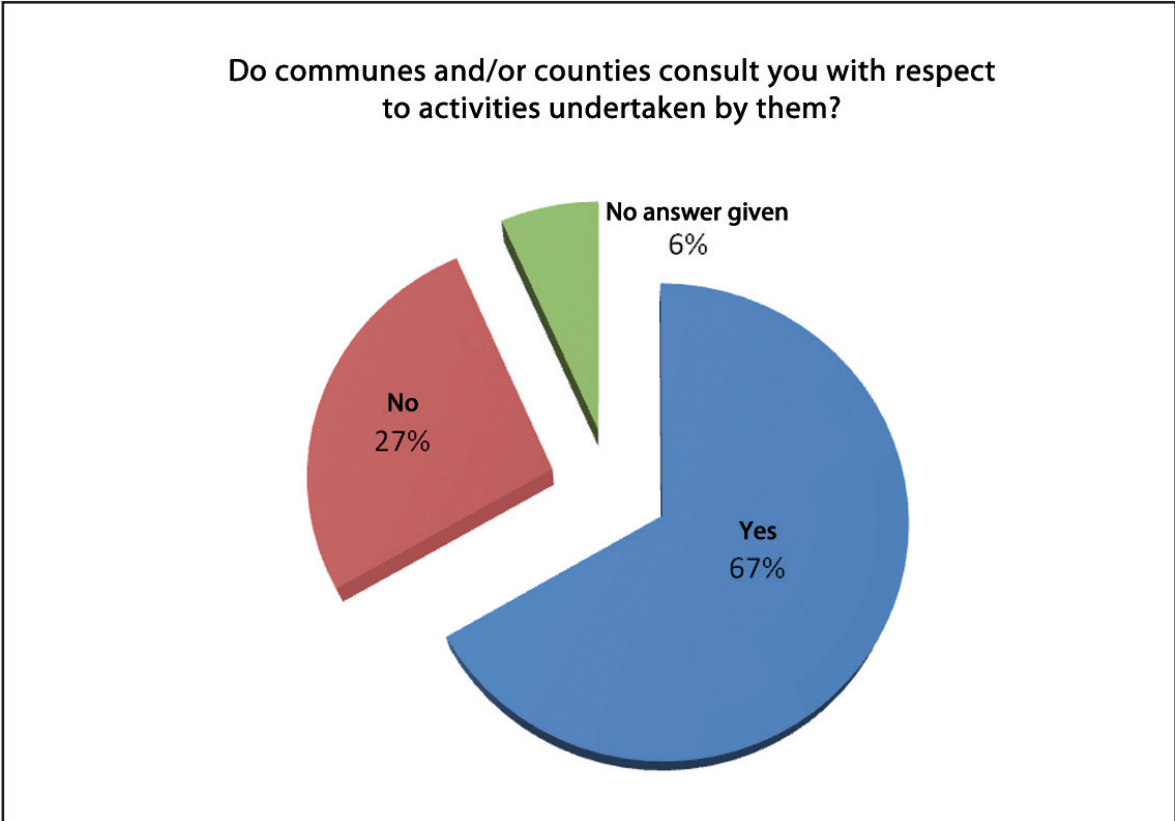
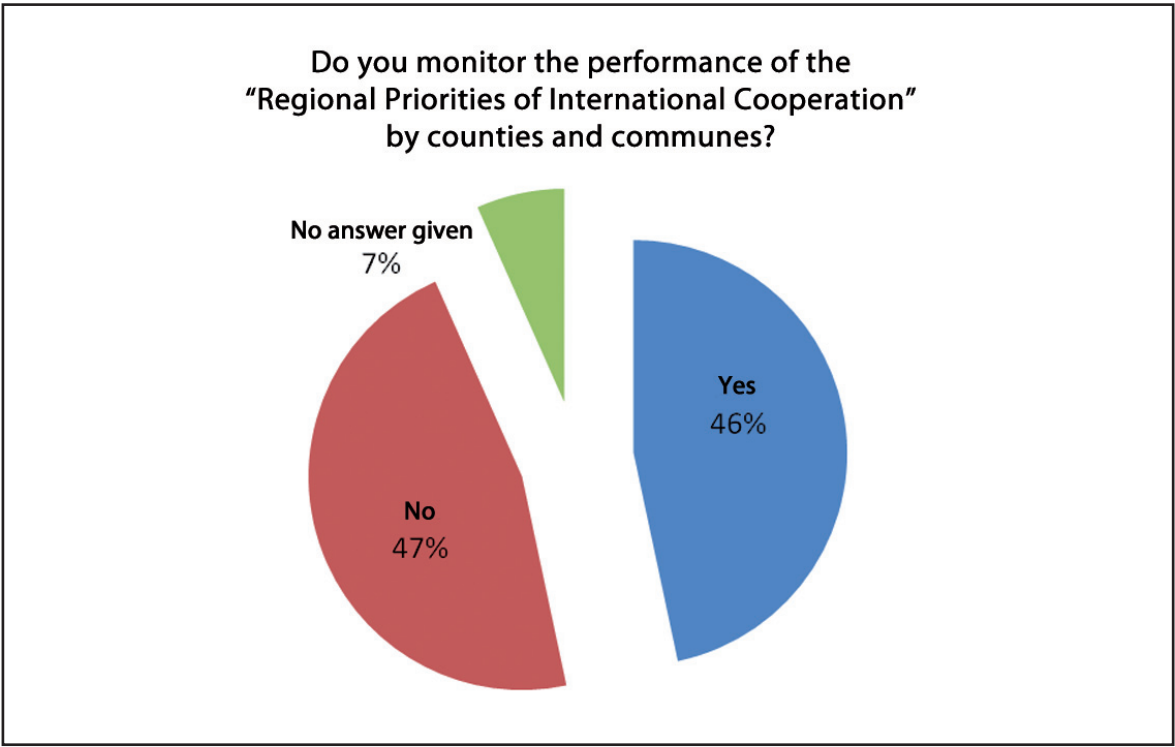


Chart 26

INCLUSION OF INDICATIONS FROM THE "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PRIORITIES OF THE REGION" BY LSGs ON THE LEVEL OF COUNTIES AND COMMUNES, AS WELL AS LSGs' MONITORING OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PRIORITIES BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE REGIONAL LEVEL<sup>145</sup>



145 The question was addressed to all respondents.



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

According to the data submitted by the surveyed counties it transpires that 57.8% of entities at the level of counties and 51.5% of LSGs at the level of communes, include the International Cooperation Priorities of the region in their international cooperation. 46.7% of regions declare that they monitor the accomplishment of the goals of the international cooperation priorities in the region; lack of such monitoring was indicated by 46.7% of respondents (1 region did not answer the question). According to the regions, addressing the regional self-government about the commenced initiatives is a rare practice. Establishment of permanent information links between counties and communes on the one hand and the self-government entities on the other seems to be a useful tool to ensure synergy.

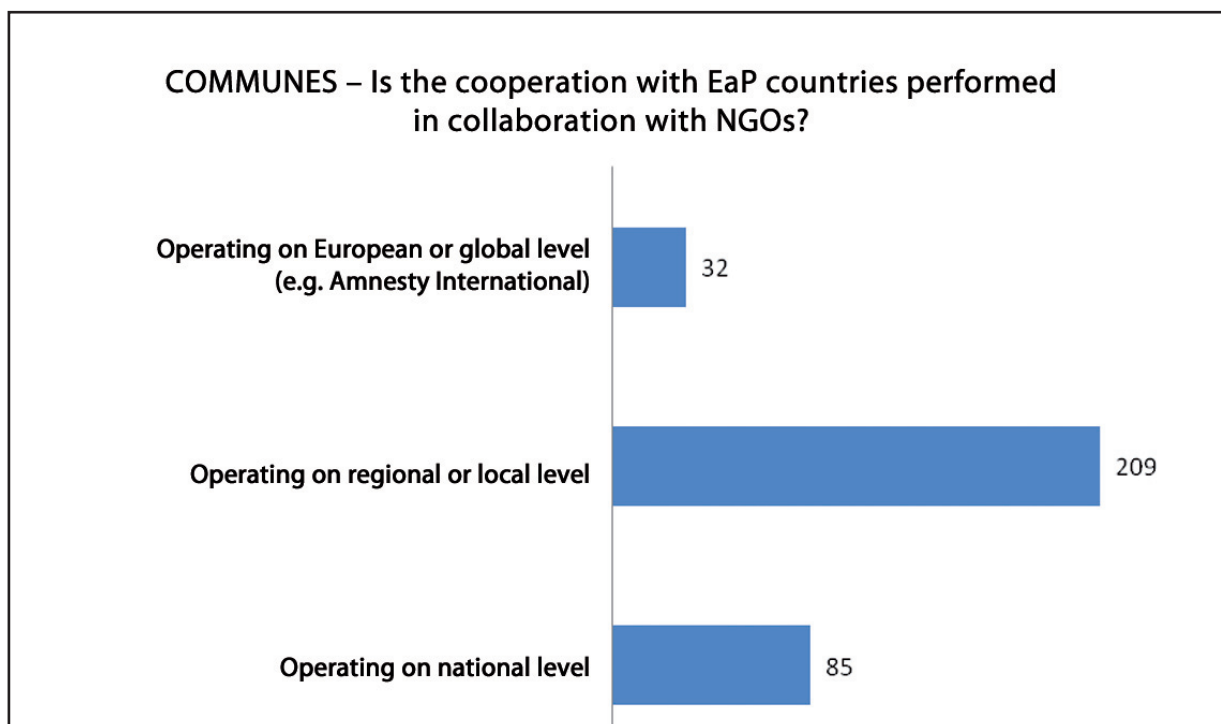
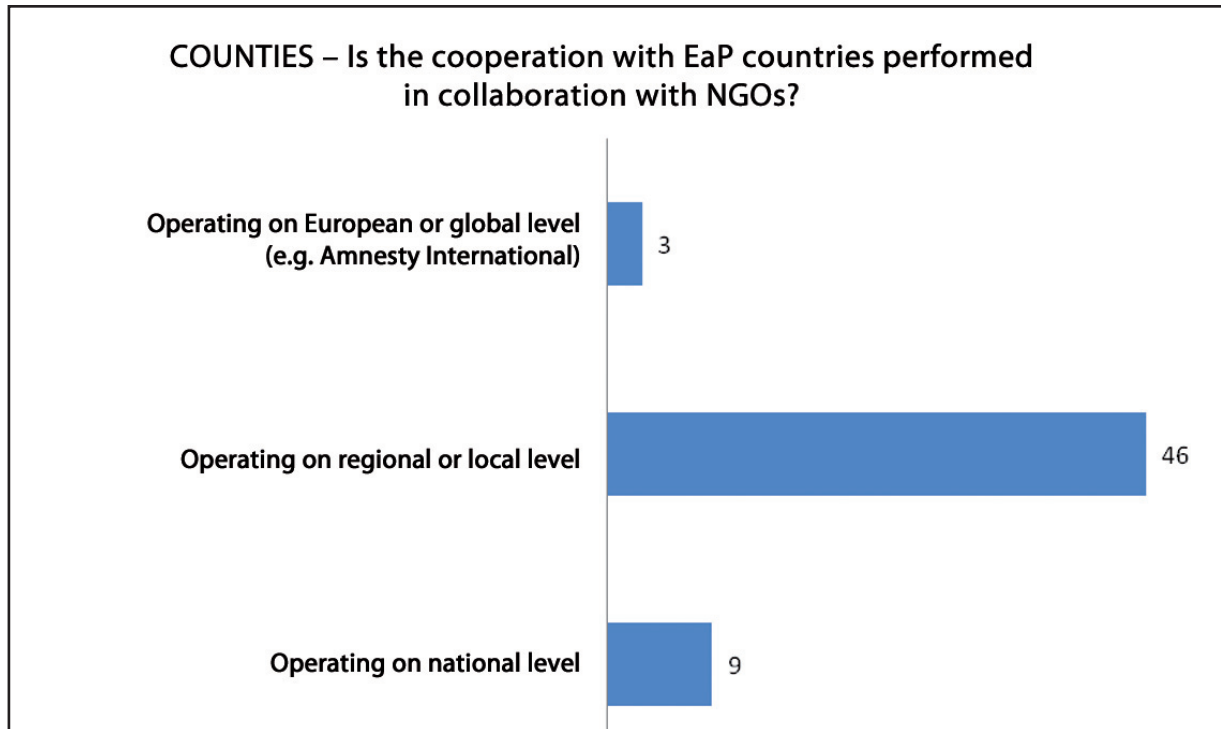


## INVOLVEMENT OF NGOs IN THE COOPERATION WITH THE EaP COUNTRIES

Next to the regional and local authorities, NGOs play an increasingly important role in the international cooperation. NGOs participation in the cooperation with the EaP countries is particularly important. It helps to create a civil society, which is the condition for building a long-standing and stable democracy. At the same time, the involvement of the Polish third sector in the cooperation enables execution of a number of public tasks, which are not always an object of the administration activities.

Chart 27

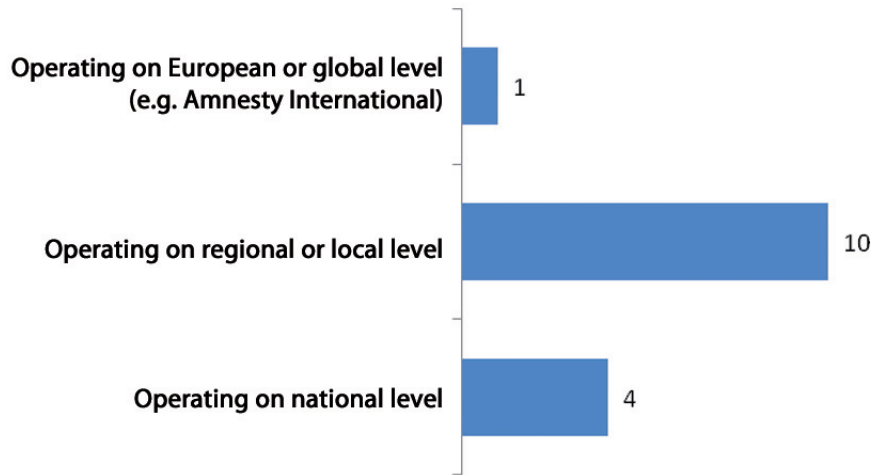
TYPES OF NGOs INVOLVED IN THE COOPERATION WITH THE EaP COUNTRIES <sup>146</sup>



146 The question was addressed to all respondents.



### REGIONS – Is the cooperation with EaP countries performed in collaboration with NGOs?



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

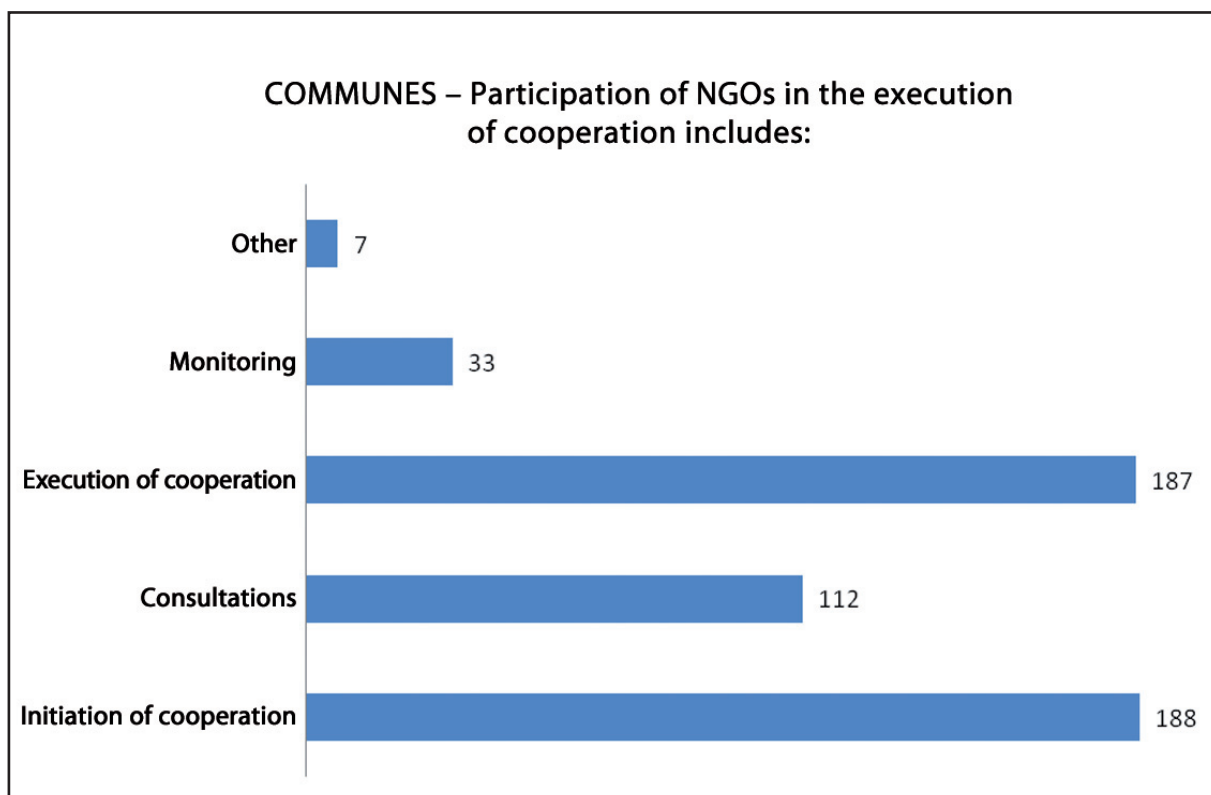
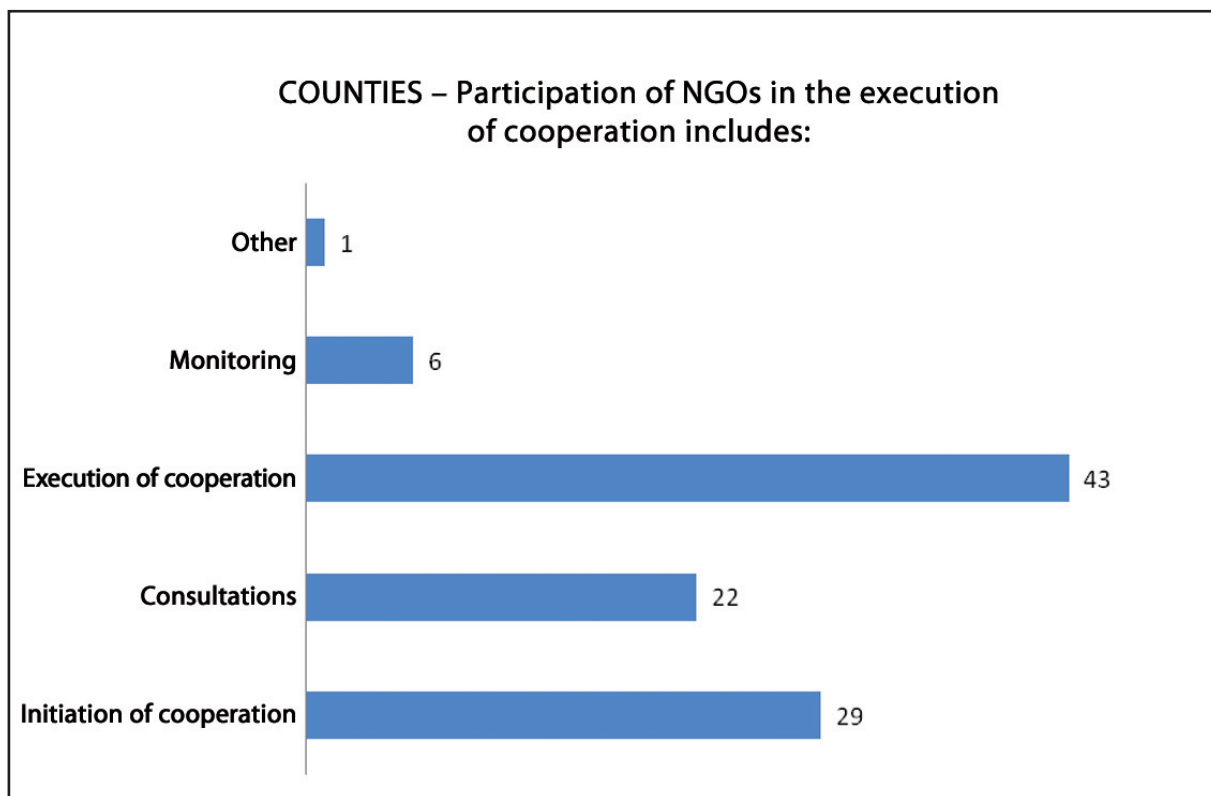
Both counties and communes (respectively 41.1% and 26%) declared their participation in cooperation with entities of the EaP, mostly NGOs operating on the regional or local level. This result is evidence that international cooperation is, first of all, the measure to meet the needs of local communities represented, for example, by NGOs. The participation of NGOs operating on the national level is much lower (respectively 8% and 10.6%), and cooperation with NGOs operation on the European or global level is marginal (3 counties (2.7%) and 32 communes (4%)).

In the group of regions, there were 66.7% indications for the participation of NGOs in international cooperation, which operate on the regional or local levels, 26.6% indications for NGOs operating on the national level and only 1 indication (6.7%) for an organisation operating on the European or global level.

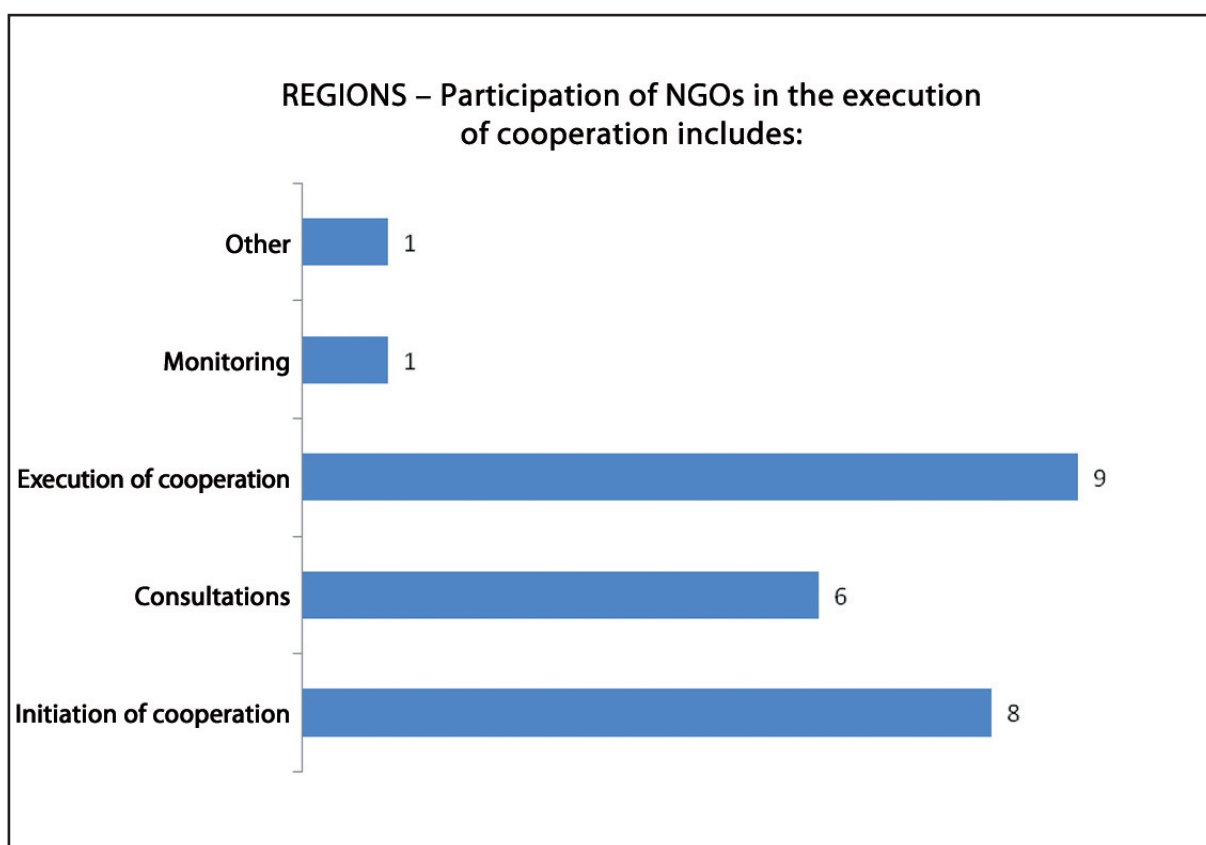


Chart 28

ROLE OF NGOs INVOLVED IN THE COOPERATION WITH THE EaP COUNTRIES<sup>147</sup>



147 The question was addressed to all respondents.



Source: Author's own study according to the survey results.

With reference to the role which – according to counties and communes – NGOs have in the executed cooperation, it is necessary to state that in the case of counties, the largest number of indications were allocated to their participation in *the cooperation execution* (38.4% of respondents) and in the case of communes - both *initiation of cooperation* (23.4%), as well as *participation in its execution* (23.3%). As next, both the counties and the communes, indicated *consultations*, *cooperation monitoring* and *other*, not described forms of NGOs participation in the performance of international cooperation. In case of regions, the largest number of indications (60%) concerned the participation of NGOs *in the execution of cooperation*, and subsequently – *initiating cooperation* (53.3%) and *consultations* (40%).



# **D** CHALLENGES FOR THE EFFICIENT NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF OPERATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS - SUMMARY

The European Neighbourhood Policy was established as a community instrument for the development and enhancement of mutual relations with the neighbouring states of the European Union. It was founded on such shared values as democracy and human rights, rule of law, effective governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development. The initiative of the Eastern Partnership, which is the regional aspect of ENP, has become a component not only of the EU thematic policy, but also a priority of the foreign policy of the Republic of Poland.

The European Neighbourhood Policy involves a whole series of inadequately coordinated instruments of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Without a doubt, the existing financial instruments and support mechanisms established within the current programming period and created *ad hoc* in response to ongoing needs, require within the new budget perspective a comprehensive treatment, a systemic (short- and mid-term) planning and systematisation. Such a model will make the implementation of the Eastern Partnership transparent, more accessible and attractive for partners from both the EU Member States and for EaP Member States.

The evolution of mutual relations and the development of situation in Europe have made the idea of the Eastern Partnership three-dimensional, stressing the need for a systematic enhancement of bilateral cooperation and the introduction of evermore mechanisms of multilateral cooperation that would supplement the already existing regional programmes.

To ensure the highest possible effectiveness of the Eastern neighbourhood policy, the cooperation between the EU and the six EaP Member States should be custom-built, as flexible as possible and appropriately sensitive to the ongoing political, social and economic changes. Therefore, both the directions for development and particular tasks for the implementation of the Eastern Partnership should be adopted not only at the community and national levels, but also at the level of regional and local authorities, with the participation of broadly construed civil society.

Local and regional governments should therefore participate in the processes of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the EaP, in particular in those areas where they have direct competences and expertise. By establishing international contacts and by being participants of economic integration, local and regional authorities thus implement one of the fundamental objectives of European integration, namely the stimulation of social and economic growth.

Discussion of the new approach to the European Neighbourhood Policy rightfully raises the argument that while the principle of *more for more* in the neighbourhood policy connected with the government level is clear and justified, it is less so at the local level, and its too formalised application might be counterproductive and may hamper the earlier established grass-roots contacts.

As well as the EU regional policy, also the regional and local aspect of the Eastern Partnership must be based on a from-the-bottom-up approach and constitute a flexible mechanism of supporting the process of developing structures of local democracy and civil society. This is because the effectiveness of social relations depends on their continuity and the highest possible degree of informality. Democratic administrative reforms at the central level, taking place in the majority of the EaP Member States, should be matched by actions at regional and local levels. This is of prime importance from the point of view of concluding prospective comprehensive agreements on the association of the EaP Member States and the creation of Deep Free Trade Areas.

Undoubtedly the multifaceted nature of international relations is aligned with the status of local self-government and the ever increasing activity at the regional and local levels is a result of ongoing changes. Undoubtedly, the guidelines and particular tasks for the implementation of the Eastern Partnership should not be defined exclusively at the level of the European Commission and national governments. Regional and local authorities of EU Member States should participate in the process of implementation of the Eastern Partnership during all its stages. From this perspective, it is critical that the ever greater impact of the Committee of the Regions on the development of regional policy in the EU should be reflected in its external aspects, including the process of constructing and maintaining EU stable and secure neighbourhood. Bearing this in mind, regional and local authorities of EU Member States with experience in the creation and implementation of regional development policy significantly contribute, in collaboration with partners from EaP Member States, within CORLEAP, to the local aspect of cooperation. CORLEAP, a platform of direct dialogue, is therefore an ideal mechanism facilitating the definition of needs and the exchange of experience at the local level.

The European Commission and the Member States should therefore give close attention to the opinions and recommendations submitted to them via the Committee of the Regions, which will enable the adoption of a well-planned and systemic approach to the processes of economic and political transformations in the partner states and will at the same time assure a synergy of activities at all levels.

Since the Committee of the Regions provides opinions throughout the legislative process, it is not always possible to adequately integrate its conclusions and to modify the legislative process, which is a self-contained whole. Therefore a possibility of establishing a technical committee at the European Commission should be considered; the committee, composed of representatives of regional and local authorities of EU Member States, would support the European Commission at the stage of preparatory work.

It seems appropriate that an e-platform should be created for the monitoring and evaluation of the regional aspect of the Eastern policy, which might become a source of information and a basis for the adoption of new directions of activities and the modification of existing ones. Such a platform might be created by the Committee of the Regions on the basis of already existing and tested platforms, operating with respect to the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation and following the principle of subsidiarity. Undoubtedly, as earlier experience demonstrates, such instruments provide the Committee of the Regions with substantial arguments and enhance its impact on the decision-making process in the EU.

It would be worthwhile to extend the existing IT tool, i.e. the Atlas of decentralised cooperation, onto the Eastern Partnership region. Furthermore, the Committee of the Regions might recommend the European Commission the creation of a comprehensive e-guide of EaP Member States and financial instruments, targeted at and accessible for the regional and local authorities of EaP Member States, patterned on the current "inforegio" regional policy website<sup>148</sup>. This would provide the regional and local authorities in both the EU and the EaP Member States with clear and up-to-date information.

In order to facilitate the establishment of cooperation, the Committee of the Regions might adopt a draft framework agreement of cooperation with regional and local authorities. The first such agreement might be drafted for Ukraine, in the context of the association agreement negotiated. Such an agreement would be a "pilot" model of cooperation between the regional and local authorities of EU Member States and their counterparts in the Partner States<sup>149</sup>.

Ever since it became a European Union Member State, Poland has assumed the role of a leader of the Eastern aspect of EU external activities. As one of the first states, it contributed greatly to the establishment of the Eastern Partnership and to its development and the Eastern issues continue to feature prominently among the Priorities of Polish Foreign Policy for the years 2012-15, which stress moreover the need to develop its local self-government aspect.

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148 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm)

149 Opinion of the Committee of the Regions "Local and Regional Self-Government in the Ukraine vs. the development of cooperation between Ukraine and the EU", of 2010.



Unquestionably, the multi-tier structure of Polish foreign policy calls for regular linkages between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and local self-governments, which has been repeatedly stressed by the Convention of Marshals of the Republic of Poland. Therefore, the fundamental challenge in this respect is the assurance of synergy between the government and local-self-government levels of foreign policy. To obtain this objective, it seems necessary to assure an ongoing exchange of information between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and local self-governments related to the priorities and objectives of Polish foreign policy with respect to individual states, regions and international organisations. This applies first and foremost to governments of regions. Pursuant to Art. 41 of the *Law on Regional Government*<sup>150</sup> of 5 June 1998, the board of a region is an authority entrusted with the organisation of cooperation with structures of regional self-government in other states. The aforementioned connections should be relatively flexible, thus facilitating a swift reaction of local authorities to the changing international situation<sup>151</sup>. One of the crucial demands of local and regional authorities addressed to central administration is the provision of information about the priorities and activities of Polish foreign policy as well as information about the changing international reality. In response to this demand, in April 2012 the Polish Government set up the Permanent Instrument in Support of the Civil and Self-Government Aspect of Polish Foreign Policy, financing activities that promote the international activity of local self-governments. Of great importance may be the Regional Centres for International Debate (RCID), created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and starting their operations this year. They may become a tool for satisfying the demand of local self-governments for information and trainings.

A survey carried out demonstrates clearly that the involvement of Polish LSGs in international cooperation is the highest at the level of regions (100%), followed by counties (70%), and is the least intense in communes (a mere 36%). Cooperation with EaP Member States comes second in the activity of Polish self-government entities, after cooperation with the EU Member States.

The cooperation between Polish LSGs and Ukraine is the most intensive (100% regions and close to 90% LSGs at the level of communes and counties are engaged in international cooperation), a result of both geographical proximity and the openness of Ukraine to the process of European integration. This cooperation has its trans-border, trans-national and inter-regional aspects. Cooperation with Belarus is far less advanced. Despite the geographical proximity, the state is only interested to a limited extent in the support instruments proposed by the EU. Cooperation of Polish LSGs with Georgia, Moldova, Armenia, and Azerbaijan is negligible, although recently it seems to be intensifying.

Cooperation is dominated by direct relations between administrative authorities, although Polish LSGs moreover have partners among non-governmental organisations, which is of critical importance for the construction of a sustainable democracy in the EaP Member States. Cooperation with corporations of local authorities is rare.

Characteristically, priority areas within thematic fields of cooperation developed by regions and communes and counties vary. Dominant in communes and counties is cultural cooperation, cooperation related to young people, sports and tourism, as well territorial cooperation. In turn, regions focus their attention on business and economic relations, mobility of students, scientists and academics as well as education and schools. In both cases of great significance are areas of key importance for the implementation of the objectives of the Eastern Partnership, such as development cooperation, local democracy and strengthening of local self-government.

An agreement or a letter of intent continues to be the most popular legal instruments of cooperation, with an increasing importance of cooperation projects.

Polish LSGs carry out a number of activities intended for the development of cooperation with Eastern partners. First and foremost, they themselves look for potential partners and seek information about available forms of cooperation and their financing. When doing so, they make use of tested instruments such as study trips, exchange of good practices, joint conferences and other projects. The activities conducted may be divided

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150 Journal of Laws 1998 No. 91 item 576.

151 B. Wojna, „In search of synergy between Polish foreign policy and international activities of self-governments”, presentation during the 1st session of the Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Governments, Poznań 2012 (text forwarded by the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region).

into those for the sake of the broadly construed own potential of the self-government, community actions and economic initiatives. In principle, LSGs see cooperation with entities from the EaP member States as mutually beneficial, for both local and regional authorities and citizens and entrepreneurs.

The survey concerned also obstacles encountered by LSGs. It turns out that the greatest obstacles in the establishment and implementation of cooperation are insufficient finances and human resources as well as inaccessibility of information and adequate trainings.

Access to information is moreover of key importance for the assurance of the required synergy between activities carried out at the national and regional and local levels. As indicated above, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has taken a number of measures targeted at LSGs, which should contribute to the removal of the most frequent obstacles indicated by self-governments.

Naturally, the development of synergies requires bilateral commitment. On the one hand, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should assure the highest possible substantive and financial support for the international operations of local self-governments, while on the other hand local self-governments should be active in a rational and effective way, with due regard for the priorities of Polish foreign policy. It seems indispensable at the same time to develop similar linkages between the government of the region and those of communes and counties in order to assure coherence of international activities within regions, with due regard for the independence of lower tiers of local self-government assured by law.

Therefore the foreign policy priorities of a region, without infringing on the autonomy of communes and counties, will be a point of reference for the creation and advancement of international cooperation at lower tiers of local self-government. This would assure a greater synergy between the self-government and national government levels. It is regions that are obliged to cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and it is regions that should first of all take care of the alignment of the directions of international cooperation with the priorities of Polish foreign policy. County and commune authorities should, within the framework of their international cooperation, count not only on the support (primarily as to content) on the part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but also of the regional government. This will facilitate the creation of an effective multi-tier self-government dimension of international policy, which on the one hand will guarantee the autonomy of all tiers and on the other hand will assure a synergy of their actions.



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**A GUIDE TO EASTERN PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTING INITIATIVES**  
**AND MECHANISMS AVAILABLE FOR POLISH LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

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Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights – EIDHR.</b></p>	<p>Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk; Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation; Supporting dialogue on Human rights, human rights defenders, the death penalty, torture, children and armed conflicts and violence against women; Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular through monitoring electoral processes; The contemplated division of funds among individual countries in 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Armenia €900,000</li> <li>Azerbaijan €900,000</li> <li>Belarus €565,000</li> <li>Georgia €1,000,000</li> <li>Moldova €1,000,000</li> <li>Ukraine €1,200,000</li> </ul>	<p>Organisations operating in the area of civil society non-profit institutions of private and public sector agencies of public sector, institutions, organisations and networks of the local, national, regional, and international level national, regional and international parliament bodies</p> <p>International and regional intergovernmental organisations natural persons, if their support is necessary to achieve the EIDHR goals</p>	<p>A competition is to be announced on <b>15 May 2013</b> in the area of Supporting Human Rights and their defenders where they are most at risk, with the anticipated deadline on 30.06.2013. The maximum subsidy level of 95% of the eligible costs.</p> <p><b>A competition is to be announced on 15 June 2013</b> in the area of Combating discrimination, with the anticipated with the deadline of 31.07.2013. The maximum subsidy level should cover 50-80% of the eligible costs.</p>	<p><b>Information on EIDHR:</b>  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/eidhr_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/eidhr_en.htm</a></p> <p>More details:  <b>Europe-Aid Co-operation Office</b>  <b>mailing address:</b>                  European Commission                  EuropeAid Co-operation Office                  B – 1049 Brussels                  Belgium                  Tel.: (+32) 02 299 11 1  <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/index_fr.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/index_fr.htm</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility.</b></p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility will financially support projects led by civil society development oriented organisations. One of the programme's action is to support civil society actors-led monitoring and advocacy activities regarding fulfilment of ENP commitments, at regional, sub-regional or national level.</p> <p><b>The Ukrainian competition was announced on 30/04/2013.</b></p> <p>The objectives include: 1. 1, strengthening the potential of civil society organisations in promoting reforms, in particular referring to monitoring of public funds management and increasing social awareness of the process of approval of state budget expenditures. 2. 2, promoting involvement of civil society actors in dialogue with public authorities on fulfilment of sector strategies in the following areas:</p> <p>environment, energy, transport, public funds management (incl. public procurement and public aid); public administration reform, combat against corruption, border management, migration and political asylum, regional development, rural areas development, agricultural reform, trade obstacles and facilitations, food safety monitoring.</p> <p>The project budgets shall not exceed: €200,000 - €400,000 Subsidy level: 50-90% of eligible costs.</p>	<p>Organisations operating in the area of civil society non-profit non-state sector actors representatives of self-government authorities (if accepted by the competition rules).</p>	<p><b>Two competitions</b> will be announced by the <b>European Commission</b> in 2013. The first will consider creation of twinning programmes for Civil Society Organisations – anticipated budget: €1,750,000. The second is to refer to fulfilment of actions strengthening organisational and institutional capacities of CSO and public authorities – anticipated budget €1,750,000. <b>Both competitions will be announced at the end of 2013.</b></p> <p>Consecutive competitions will be announced by UE Delegations in the Eastern Partnership countries to which the following funds were allocated:</p> <p>Armenia: €850,000 Azerbaijan €1,500,000 Belarus: €1,000,000 Georgia: €950,000 Ukraine: €2,000,000</p> <p><b>The anticipated date of announcement of the competitions is the first half of 2013.</b></p>	<p><b>Information on the Programme:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/csf_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/enpi-east/csf_en.htm</a>  <a href="http://eap-csf.eu/">http://eap-csf.eu/</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development - Ukraine, 2013 Annual Action Programme (NSA&amp;LA 2013 AAP Ukraine).</b></p>	<p>Activities co-financed under the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development instrument are to strengthen institutional and organisational capacities of actors responsible for defining and establishing of development policies.</p> <p><b>The competition was announced on 30/04/2013</b>. It was divided into 3 lots – the second and the third are available for local self-governments and their associations.</p> <p>Objectives of the 2 and 3 lot of the <b>competition</b>: 1. enabling an equal and transparent participation and partnership between civil society actors and local authorities in planning and establishing decision-making processes, implementing the <i>Open Government Partnership Agenda</i> and ensuring the quality of provided social services; 2. strengthening of the civil society actors' capacities in representing their target groups (including consumers); 3. strengthening of citizens' capacities concerning their participation in the process of local development by increasing their civil awareness, education, advocating, and social mobilisation; 4. developing of local authorities capacities in all aspects of sustainable participatory development and improvement of accessibility and quality of social services aiming at improving the living conditions of local people.</p> <p>The total budget of lots 2 and 3: €1,044,000. The project budgets shall not exceed: €100,000 - €300,000 Minimum subsidy level: 50% of eligible costs. Maximum subsidy level: 75% of eligible costs (in the case of local Ukrainian self-governments – 90%).</p>	<p>Non-profit Non-State Actors -lot 2 and as a partner (co-applicant) in lot 3. representatives of local self-governments – lot 3 and as a partner (co-applicant) in lot 3.</p>	<p>When preparing the application the following guidelines shall be followed: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/online-services/pador/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/online-services/pador/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Deadline for applications: <b>17 June 2013</b> 5.00 pm local time (date and hour shall be taken into account)</p> <p>Applications shall be sent to: Mr Holger Rommen Head of Contracts and Finance Section Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine 101, Volodymyrska Str., Kyiv 01033, Ukraine.</p>	<p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134433</b></p> <p>More details may be obtained from: <b>UE Delegation to Ukraine</b> 101 Volodymyrska Str. Kyiv, 01033 Ukraine Telephone: +380 (44) 390 8010 E-mail: <a href="mailto:delegation-ukraine@eeas.europa.eu">delegation-ukraine@eeas.europa.eu</a> <a href="http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm">http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Pilot Regional Development Programmes</b> – Regional PRDPs – Regional Development – Ukraine.</p>	<p>The main goal of PRDPs is to share experience and key elements of the EU cohesion policy with each EAP partner country, especially on how to reduce socio-economic disparities among regions within the same country.</p> <p>The programme addressed to Ukraine is to lead to better implementation of the regional development policy in accordance with priorities determined in Ukrainian laws including but not limited to national and regional development strategies.</p> <p>The competition was divided into two lots.</p> <p>Lot 1: supporting of the least developed regions of Ukraine. Addressed to 'oblast' level actors. Maximum co-financing: 80%.</p> <p>Lot 2: supporting of sustainable development of rural areas. Addressed to 'rayon' level actors.</p>	<p>Non-profit legal persons representing local self-governments.</p>	<p>Two calls are planned under the programme. <b>The first call was made 26/04/2013 with the amount of €6,000,000.</b> The second call is planned for March 2014 (the anticipated allocated amount: €20,000,000.)</p> <p>When preparing the application for the competition announced on 26/04/2013 the following guidelines shall be followed:</p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> lot applications: 1 July 2013 3.30 pm local time (date and hour shall be taken into account).</b></p> <p>Applications shall be sent to:</p> <p>Mr Holger Rommen Head of Contracts and Finance Section Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine 101, Volodymyrska Str., Kyiv 01033, Ukraine.</p>	<p>More information about the Programme: <a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/awp/2013/awp_2013_ukr_p4_en.pdf">http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/awp/2013/awp_2013_ukr_p4_en.pdf</a></p> <p><b>More details about the competition announced on 26/04/2013 incl. documentation:</b> <a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134171</b></p> <p>Detailed information about the competition may also be obtained from:</p> <p><b>UE Delegation for Ukraine</b> 101 Volodymyrska Str. Kyiv, 01033 Ukraine Telephone: +380 (44) 390 8010 E-mail: <a href="mailto:delegation-ukraine-tenders@eeas.europa.eu">delegation-ukraine-tenders@eeas.europa.eu</a>; <a href="http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm">http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Complementary Rehabilitation and Re-socialization Services in the Criminal Justice Sector, Georgia Eastern Partnership Integration and Cooperation Programme – Neighbourhood East - EaPIC.</b></p>	<p>To increase access of prisoners, former inmates, probationers and young people in conflict with the law to vocational training, education and other types of rehabilitation and re-socialization services (lot 1).</p> <p>To design and implement rehabilitation/re-socialization programmes/services for diverted juveniles (lot 2)</p> <p>Lot 1: The amount allocated to co-finance projects selected in the process of the competition: €1,700,000. The value of single projects shall not exceed: €100,000–€300,000.</p> <p>Lot 2: The amount allocated to co-finance projects selected in the process of the competition: €300,000. The value of single projects shall not exceed: €100,000 – €150,000.</p> <p>Subsidy level: 70-90% of eligible costs. The difference shall be financed from sources other than the European Union Budget and European Development Fund. Projects directly activating relevant national actors in cooperation and based on the existing or implemented initiatives and <i>best practices</i> in the area will be treated in a preferential way.</p>	<p>Non-profit legal persons belonging to one of the following categories: non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations.</p>	<p>When preparing the application the following guidelines shall be followed:  <a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm">http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Deadline for applications: <b>14 May 2013</b>  4.00 pm local time (date and hour shall be taken into account).</p> <p>Applications shall be sent to:  Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine  Head of Contracts and Finance Section  38, Nino Chkheidze Str.  Tbilisi, 0102, Georgia</p>	<p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b>  <a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134299</b></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Support to the Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in implementation of the Institution Reform under Comprehensive Institutional Building Programme – CIB.</b></p>	<p>1. Support to the Civil Service Commission in the process of forming institutional capacities by establishing a body responsible for strategy, training, creation of a training centre and strengthening of capacities in the area of civil servants training (lot 1).</p> <p>2. Support of development of National Civil Service Training Strategy and its implementation as well as strengthening of the capacities of the Civil Service Commission with regard to defining the training policy through supporting of training module development allowing for areas concerning adaptation of national bodies to UE standards. Selected training modules: management and personnel management, ethics, prevention of corruption, implementation of civil service related laws etc. (lot 2).</p> <p>The total budget: €2,000,000 including:</p> <p>Lot 1: The amount allocated to co-finance projects selected in the process of the competition: €1,000,000. The value of single projects shall not exceed: €600,000–€1,000,000</p> <p>Lot 2: The amount allocated to co-finance projects selected in the process of the competition: €1,000,000. The value of single projects shall not exceed: €600,000–€1,000,000.</p> <p>Subsidy level: 50-80% of eligible costs. The difference shall be financed from sources other than the EU budget.</p>	<p>Non-profit legal persons belonging to one of the following categories: non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, public sector operators, local authorities, international (inter-governmental) organisations.</p>	<p>Applications shall be prepared in accordance with the Practical Guide available at: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical_guide/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/practical_guide/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Deadline for applications: <b>8 July 2013</b> 4.00 pm local time (date and hour shall be taken into account).</p> <p>Applications shall be sent to: Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan Attr: Finance and Contracts Section 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Landmark III 90A Nizami Str. Azerbaijan – AZ1010 Baku</p> <p>Web page: <a href="http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan">http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan</a></p>	<p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134232</b></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>TWINNING/SIGMA/TAIEX.</b></p>	<p>Projects under Twinning, Sigma and TAIEX programmes are implemented in reply to specific demand of the executive of Eastern Partnership. Contacts points called <b>Program Administration Office (PAO)</b> were established in each country. They coordinate the programme activities in a given country.</p>		<p><b>Contact point in Poland:</b> Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of Development Programmes Implementation (DWPR) 14 Bagatela Str. 00-585 Warsaw Tel. (0-22) 523-84-02, 523-84-12 Fax (0-22) 523-84-00 E-mail: twinning@msz.gov.pl Web page: <a href="http://www.twinning.polskawue.gov.pl">www.twinning.polskawue.gov.pl</a></p>	<p><b>PAO Armenia:</b> Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia 5, M. Mikrtchyan, Yerevan 0010 Armenia Tel. +374 10 543 981 Fax +374 10 543 983 E- mail: ahovsepyan@mineconomy.am rhovhan-nesyan@mineconomy.am Web page: <a href="http://www.pao.am/">http://www.pao.am/</a></p> <p><b>PAO Azerbaijan:</b> Department of Foreign Investments and Aid Coordination, Ministry of Economic Development Government House 10th Floor-40 U Hajibeyov Street AZ1016, Baku, Azerbaijan +994 12 493 88. Tel. +994 12 492 88.67 Fax +994 12 493 7638E-mail: s.babayev@economy.gov.az r.rustamli@economy.gov.az Web page: <a href="http://www.twinning.az">http://www.twinning.az</a></p> <p><b>PAO Georgia:</b> EU Programmes Coordination Unit – PAO State Chancellery (room 815, 8 th Floor); 7, Ingorokva Str. Tbilisi – 0134 – Georgia Tel. +995 32 99 89 14 Tel./fax: +995 32 99 32 93 14 02 E-mail: pao@eu-nato.gov.ge, rk.ncu@caucasus.net Web page: <a href="http://eu-integration.gov.ge/pao/">http://eu-integration.gov.ge/pao/</a></p> <p><b>PAO Moldova:</b> State Chancellery Programme Administration Office Piata Marii Adunari Nationale 1MD- 2033 Chisinau, MOLDOVA, Tel. (+ 373 22) 250 475 - 250 465 Fax (+ 373 22) 250 259, E-mail: lucretia.ciurea@gov.md dimitru.udrea@gov.md oxana.budis@gov.md Web page: <a href="http://www.ncu.moldova.md/">http://www.ncu.moldova.md/</a></p> <p><b>PAO Ukraine:</b> Twinning Programme Administration Office 15 Prorizna Street, Kyiv, Ukraine 01601 Tel. +38 044 278 03 21, 278 36 22, 278 36 44 Web page: <a href="http://www.twinning.com.ua">www.twinning.com.ua</a></p> <p><b>Information about SIGMA programme:</b> <a href="http://www.oecd.org/site/sigma/">http://www.oecd.org/site/sigma/</a></p> <p><b>Information about TAIEX programme:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taieux/index_en.htm</a></p> <p><b>Information about TWINNING programme:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/twinning/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/tenders/twinning/index_en.htm</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Support to the State Statistical Committee in Modernisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards TWINNING.</b></p>	<p>The goal of this project is to improve, in line with European standards, the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical production and dissemination, statistical quality management system and to expand the coverage of the surveys on social and living conditions, etc. Maximum duration time: 24 months.</p>	<p>Representatives of non-profit public administrations and mandated bodies.</p>	<p><b>The competition is open until 13 June 2013 5.00 pm local time.</b> Budget: €1,200,000.</p> <p>Projects shall be sent by e-mail to: DELEGATION-AZERBAIJAN-FINANCE@eeas.europa.eu, carbon copied to (cc): s.babayev@economy.gov.az and irustamli@economy.gov.az</p> <p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134381</b></p>	<p>Detailed information about the competition may also be obtained from: <b>European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan</b> 11th floor, 90A Nizami Str. Landmark III, Baku Tel.: (+994-12) 497 20 63Fax (+994-12) 497 20 69 E-mail: Delegation-Azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu</p>
<p><b>Strengthening the Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Ukraine TWINNING.</b></p>	<p>The project purpose is to strengthen the administrative capacity and competencies of the State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine as well as to propose effective legal measures against counterfeiting and piracy and to ensure effective implementation of the enforcement legislation and sanctions for infringements of intellectual property rights. Maximum duration time: 21 months.</p>	<p>Representatives of non-profit public administrations and mandated bodies.</p>	<p><b>The competition is open until 20 June 2013 5.00 pm local time.</b> Budget: €1,500,000</p> <p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134382</b></p>	<p>Detailed information about the competition may also be obtained from: <b>UE Delegation to Ukraine</b> 101 Volodymyrska Str. Kyiv, 01033 Ukraine +380 (44) 390 8010 E-mail: delegation-ukraine@eeas.europa.eu <a href="http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm">http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/index_en.htm</a></p>



Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Strengthening the Transplant Agency of the Republic of Moldova and support in legal approximation in the area of quality and safety of substances of human origin TWINNING.</b></p>	<p>This call for proposals aims contribute to a better quality and safety of transplants of human organs, tissues, and cells through development of transplantology system in the Republic of Moldova. Maximum duration time: 24 months.</p>	<p><b>Representatives of non-profit public administrations and mandated bodies.</b></p>	<p><b>The competition is open until 24 May 2013 5.00 pm local time.</b> Budget: €1,200,000.</p> <p><b>More information about the competition incl. documentation can be found at:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>Reference number: <b>134262</b></p>	<p>Detailed information about the competition may also be obtained from: <b>European Union Delegation to Moldova</b> Kogalniceanu Street nr 12MD 2001 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova Tel. (+373 22) 505210Fax: (+373 22) 272622E-mail: <a href="mailto:Delegation-Moldova@eeas.europa.eu">Delegation-Moldova@eeas.europa.eu</a></p>
<p><b>Investing in People.</b></p>	<p>The programme <b>supports activities under four main pillars:</b> 1. Health 2. Education, knowledge and skills, promotion of universal access to quality primary education and training 3. Gender equality, promotion of women's rights and gender equality 4. Other aspects of human and social development, such as: employment and social cohesion, culture. Potential beneficiaries of the programme include local self-governments.</p>	<p>Non-profit Non-State Actors: including non-governmental organisations, social partner organisations, such as professional associations, universities and research institutes, etc.; local authorities and consortia thereof or associations representing them international (intergovernmental) organisations.</p>	<p>Objectives and priorities for 2013 <b>will be published in Annual Action Programme 2013 at the turn of July and August</b> at the following web page: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm</a></p> <p>The following allocation of funds is anticipated in 2013: Health care support – call scheduled for: 02.09.2013, anticipated budget: €29,000,000; Promotion of sexual rights as well as sexual and reproductive health – access to reproductive health – call scheduled for: 15.08.2013. Anticipated budget: €29,000,000; Development of skills and vocational training – call scheduled for: 15.10.2013. Anticipated budget: €44,000,000 Maximum co-financing defined at: 80%.</p>	<p><b>Information on the Programme:</b> <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/investing_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/dci/investing_en.htm</a></p> <p><i>Europe-Aid Co-operation Office</i> <b>mailing address:</b> European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office B – 1049 Brussels Belgium Tel.: (+32) 02 299 11 1 <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/index_fr.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/index_fr.htm</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Eastern Partnership Programme.</b></p>	<p>The programme fosters dialogue and contributes to the development of co-operation mechanisms within EU and the sector across the region. The programme furthers linkages between cultural activities and wider regional agendas ranging from employment creation to social inclusion, environmental conservation, conflict prevention/resolution and intercultural dialogue. The programme supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>training, increased access to culture resources,</li> <li>preservation and revaluation of regional resources and cultural heritage, strategic management and capacity to acquire funds referring to culture by interdisciplinary and intra-sector exchange projects between cultural actors.</li> </ul>	<p>Actors of the civil society area acting in culture area, representatives of national and regional authorities.</p>	<p><b>No open calls.</b></p>	<p><b>Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit (RMCBU) of the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme</b> Office 11, 3a Horkogo (Antonovycha) Street 01004 Kyiv Ukraine Tel. +38 044-234-4898; +38 044-235-7998; Mob.: +38 050-846-7105 Fax: +38 044-234-4898 info@euroeastculture.eu <a href="http://www.euroeastculture.eu">www.euroeastculture.eu</a></p>
<p><b>YOUTH in ACTION Programme (SALTO EECA - Neighbouring Partner Countries from Eastern Europe and Caucasus Region within YOUTH in ACTION Programme)</b> <b>Action 3.1 - Cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries from Eastern Europe .</b></p>	<p>Youth exchange with neighbouring partners . Training and creation of network with neighbouring partners. <b>Applicants / participants: local, regional public actors.</b></p>	<p>On-profit or non-governmental organisation. Local or regional public body, informal youth group, organisation dealing with youth problems and actions at the European level (ENGO) with members in at least eight countries of the project, International (intergovernmental) non-profit organisation, commercial organisation organising a youth event – sport- or culture-related.</p>	<p>Projects to be filed in <b>Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b> (projects of organisers acting in Eastern Partner's country where the action is to be taken) or in <b>National Agency</b> (all other applicants). <b>In 2013 there will be two deadlines for application in Executive Agency under permanent programmes:</b> <b>Stage 2</b> <b>3 June 2013</b> <b>Stage 3</b> <b>3 September 2013</b>  <b>In the case of projects filed in National Agency there will be three deadlines for application in the year: 1 February, 1 May, 1 October.</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b> Mailing address: <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b> Youth in action programme BOUR 04/29 Avenue du Bourget 1 B-1049 Brussels  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php</a> <b>SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus Resource Centre:</b> <a href="http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/">http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/</a>  <b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b> <b>Polska Narodowa Agencja Programu "Młodzież w działaniu"</b> 43 Mokotowska Str.00-551 Warsaw Tel.: +48-22-622.37.06 Fax: +48-22-622.37.08 mlodziez@młodziez.org.pl <a href="http://www.młodziez.org.pl">www.młodziez.org.pl</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Lifelong Learning Programme – Comenius – multilateral projects.</b></p>	<p>The adaptation, development, testing, implementation and dissemination of new curricula, training courses (or parts of courses) or materials for the initial or in-service training of teachers or other categories of school education staff.</p> <p>The adaptation, development, testing, implementation and dissemination of new teaching methodologies and pedagogical strategies for use in the classroom and including the development of materials for use by pupils.</p> <p>Training/internships for teachers.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 31 January 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year)</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b>  <b>mailing address:</b>  <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b>  BOUR 04/29  Avenue du Bourget 1  B-1049 Brussels  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php</a>  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lp/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lp/index_en.php</a>  EACEA-LLPCOMENIUS@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/education/lp/official-documents-on-the-lp_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/education/lp/official-documents-on-the-lp_en.htm</a> (European Commission page including information on call for proposals)</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b>  Zespół Programu Comenius  43 Mokotowska Str.  00-551 Warsaw  Tel. +48 022 46-31-000; 022 46-31-321  Fax +48 022 46-31-021  <a href="http://www.comenius.org.pl">http://www.comenius.org.pl</a>  E-mail: <a href="mailto:comenius@frse.org.pl">comenius@frse.org.pl</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Lifelong Learning Programme – Comenius – multilateral networks.</b></p>	<p>Activities to promote educational innovation and best practice in the thematic area concerned, such as comparative analyses, case studies, formulating recommendations and organising working groups, seminars or conferences and other dissemination activities.</p> <p>Activities to facilitate and enhance European co-operation, such as exchanging information, training of project co-ordinators, promoting new projects, disseminating project results and good practice.</p> <p><b>Multilateral network projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 31 January 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year)</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>mailing address:</b>            Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency            BOUR 04/29            Avenue du Bourget 1            B-1049 Brussels  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php</a>  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a>            EACEA-LLPCOMENIUS@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><a href="http://ec.europa.eu/education/lip/official-documents-on-the-lip_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/education/lip/official-documents-on-the-lip_en.htm</a> (European Commission page including information on call for proposals)</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b>            Zespół Programu Comenius            43 Mokotowska Str.            00-551 Warsaw            Tel. +48 022 46-31-000; 022 46-31-321            Fax +48 022 46-31-021  <a href="http://www.comenius.org.pl">http://www.comenius.org.pl</a>            E-mail: comenius@frse.org.pl</p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>GRUNTVIG Multilateral Projects.</b></p>	<p>Improving the content and implementation of adult education programmes at a system/policy level. Improving the accessibility of learning opportunities for adults. Improving the management of adult education.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues;</p> <p>non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 31 January 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year)</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b>  <b>Mailing address: Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b>  Avenue du Bourget 1  BOUR / BOUZ*  BE-1140 Brussels  <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a>  EACEA-LLPGRUNDTVIG@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b>  <b>Zespół Programu Grundtvig</b>  43 Mokotowska Str.  00-551 Warsaw  Tel. 224-631-354, 224-631-355Fax 224-631-021  <a href="http://www.grundtvig.org.pl">http://www.grundtvig.org.pl</a>  E-mail: grundtvig@frse.org.pl</p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>GRUNDTVIG Multilateral Networks.</b></p>	<p>It should provide a common platform and 'reference point' for discussion and exchange of information on key issues, policy shaping and research in the specific area of adult learning addressed.</p> <p>It should actively assist in the networking of Grundtvig projects on subjects of common interest with the aim of promoting European co-operation and innovation.</p> <p>It should disseminate results, insights and best practice derived from former Grundtvig projects and other initiatives conducted at the European, national or regional level in the chosen thematic area.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues; non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b> Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a> EACEA-LLPGRUNDTVIG@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b> <b>Zespół Programu Grundtvig</b> 43 Mokotowska Str. 00-551 Warsaw Tel. 224-631-354, 224-631-355Fax 224-631-021 <a href="http://www.grundtvig.org.pl">http://www.grundtvig.org.pl</a> E-mail: grundtvig@frse.org.pl</p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>LEONARDO DA VINCI Multilateral Networks.</b></p>	<p>Projects under this action should assist cooperation between VET actors, enterprises, economic sectors, social partners and training organisations on a sectoral basis.</p> <p>To identify the trends and skills requirements in this area and improve the anticipated benefit of vocational training programmes. Publish the results of work undertaken by such transnational networks through the relevant channels so as to promote greater innovation and transnational co-operation in vocational training.</p> <p><b>Multilateral networks enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues;</p> <p>non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 31 January 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a>. EACEA-Leonardo-da-Vinci@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b></p> <p>43 Mokotowska Str.00-551 Włarsaw Tel.: 22 46-31-000 E-mail: kontakt@frse.org.pl <a href="http://www.leonardo.org.pl">http://www.leonardo.org.pl</a></p> <p>The list of contact points is available at: <a href="http://www.leonardo.org.pl/program-w-regionach">http://www.leonardo.org.pl/program-w-regionach</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>LEONARDO DA VINCI Multilateral Projects 'Development of Innovation'.</b></p>	<p>EU support is intended for the production of tangible materials, products, methods and approaches in the field of vocational training and guidance. Proposals must put the innovative dimension of the project in context and in relation to the needs of the target groups or the problem to be solved. The development of innovation may apply equally to institutional contexts and to formal, informal or non-formal practices, provided that European practices and experiences are used.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues; non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a> EACEA-Leonardo-da-Vinci@ec.europa.eu</p> <p><b>Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji</b></p> <p>43 Mokotowska Str. 00-551 Warsaw tel.: 22 46-31-000 e-mail: kontakt@frse.org.pl <a href="http://www.leonardo.org.pl">http://www.leonardo.org.pl</a></p> <p>The list of contact points is available at: <a href="http://www.leonardo.org.pl/program-w-regionach">http://www.leonardo.org.pl/program-w-regionach</a></p>



Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Roma Multilateral Projects – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (KA1).</b></p>	<p>The objective of this action is to support the creation of transnational co-operation projects to develop lifelong learning measures for Roma integration joining-up educational and other social measures (health, employment, housing) to raise participation and attainment levels of Roma students in general education (including vocational).</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues;</p> <p>non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a>.</p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Roma Multilateral Networks – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (KA1).</b></p>	<p>The objective of this action is to support the creation of networks for dissemination and awareness-raising of the most successful experiences in the social integration of Roma through education. <b>Multilateral networks enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff;</p> <p>actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers;</p> <p>institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning;</p> <p>associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults;</p> <p>research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues;</p> <p>non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lp/lp/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lp/lp/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Languages Multilateral Projects – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (KAZ).</b></p>	<p>Awareness raising activities, e.g.: information about languages, language learning opportunities and the advantages linked to language skills. Development and spreading of language learning materials, curricula, methods and tools designed to recognise/assess language skills. <b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level. Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b> <b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b> <b>Mailing address:</b> <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b> Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Languages Multilateral Networks – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (KAZ).</b></p>	<p>Activities to facilitate and enhance European co-operation, such as exchanging information, training of project co-ordinators, promoting new projects, disseminating project results and good practice.</p> <p>Activities to promote educational innovation and best practice in the thematic area concerned, (working groups, seminars or conferences, publications).</p> <p><b>Multilateral networks enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>ICT Multilateral Projects – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (K43).</b></p>	<p>To promote a new vision for ICT for learning embedded into long-term educational objectives and integrated in lifelong learning strategies.</p> <p>To foster the uptake of ICT for learning in education and training systems, including open and distance learning and open educational resources.</p> <p>To foster the linking up and connecting of learning communities and the building up of new partnerships by propagating data exchange network access.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address:</b></p> <p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>ICT Multilateral Networks – under the Trans-sector Actions of the Lifelong Learning Programme (KA3)</b></p>	<p><b>Creating European-wide stakeholders' communities promoting digital competence</b> and other key transversal competences for life and employability.</p> <p>Creating European-wide stakeholders' communities tackling the socio-economic digital divide.</p> <p><b>Multilateral networks enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address: Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Multilateral Projects on Dissemination and Exploitation of Results of actions taken under the Lifelong Learning Programme (KA4).</b></p>	<p>The prime objective is to help create a framework the effective exploitation of results of the Lifelong Learning Programme at local, sectoral, regional, national and European levels, in synergy with communication activities. Projects used by decision makers as tools to build new strategies and programmes based on community good practice.</p> <p><b>Multilateral projects enable participation of third party partners, including Eastern Partnership countries as priority.</b></p>	<p>Institutions or organisations providing initial and/or in-service training for teachers and other categories of school education staff, actors responsible for systems and policies referring to individual aspects of life-long learning at the local, regional, and national level.</p> <p>Companies, social partners and their organisations at all levels, incl. economic organisations and industrial and trade chambers, institutions active in the field of education management or guidance and counselling referring to each aspect of life-long learning, associations active in life-long learning area, incl. associations of students, interns, pupils, teachers, parents and learning adults, research centres and institutions connected with education and training issues, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisations.</p>	<p>Central actions – projects are filed with <b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for application for 2013 expired on 28 February 2013. (call for proposals for 2013 was published in the summer of preceding year).</b></p>	<p><b>Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p><b>Mailing address: Education, Audiovisual &amp; Culture Executive Agency</b></p> <p>Avenue du Bourget 1 BOUR / BOUZ* BE-1140 Brussels <a href="http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php">http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/lip/index_en.php</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.</b></p>	<p>The strategic objective of the Baltic Sea Region Programme is to strengthen the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorially integrated Baltic Sea region. The eligible area includes the whole territory of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, and Northern parts of Germany. Also the neighbouring countries Norway, Belarus and Russia (St. Petersburg and the surrounding Leningrad Oblast, Republic of Karelia, the Oblasts of Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod and Pskov. For projects addressing the Barents Region, also co-operation with Archangelsk Oblast, Komi Republic and Nenetsky Autonomous Okrug) is envisaged) belong to the programme area. The priorities include: supporting innovation, improving the external and internal accessibility of the Baltic Sea region, protecting sea resources, promoting co-operation of metropolitan regions, cities and rural areas enhancing its attractiveness for citizens and investors.</p> <p>In Polish case the level of project co-financing is defined at the maximum level of 85% (financed from the European Regional Development Fund), in absence of partners from Belarus the maximum level of co-financing is 90% (financed under the <b>European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument</b>).</p>	<p>Public authorities from national (governmental) regional and local level; "bodies governed by public law" (e.g. public research and training institutions, public business development institutions); associations formed by one or several regional or local authorities; associations formed by one or several bodies governed by public law; bodies established under public or private law for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character, and having legal personality (e.g. private non-profit organisations).</p>	<p><b>No call for proposals is scheduled for 2013.</b> Currently works are being carried out on a counterpart programme for the years 2014-2020.</p>	<p><b>Information on the Programme:</b>  Joint Technical Secretariat Rostock  Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein  Grubenstrasse 20  18055 Rostock, Germany  Tel: +49 381 45484 5281  Fax: +49 381 45484 5282  E-mail: info@eu.baltic.net  Web page:  <a href="http://eu.baltic.net/">http://eu.baltic.net/</a></p>



Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Central Europe Programme 2007-2013.</b></p>	<p>The strategic objective of Central Europe Programme is to strengthen territorial cohesion, promote internal integration and improvement of competitiveness of the Central Europe area. The programme area includes the entire territory of Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, South-East Germany, North Italy, and selected Ukraine oblasts (Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Lviv, Zakarpattia). The priorities include: Facilitating innovation across Central Europe, Improving accessibility to, and within, Central Europe, Using our environment responsibly, Enhancing competitiveness and attractiveness of cities and regions. In Polish case the level of project co-financing is defined at the maximum level of 85% (financed from the European Regional Development Fund).</p>	<p>As a rule the partners may be <b>national, regional or local decision-makers</b>. Moreover, as regards Priority: <b>Innovation</b> (Priority I): bodies in the fields of education, research, knowledge-transfer, technology, labour-market, regional development. <b>Accessibility</b> (Priority II): bodies in the fields of transport, logistics, transport safety, ICT. <b>Environment</b> (Priority III): bodies in the fields of environment, natural resources management, water management, environmental risk management, energetic efficiency. <b>Competitiveness</b> (Priority IV): bodies in the fields of urban and regional development, transport, housing, culture, tourism.</p>	<p><b>No call for proposals is scheduled for 2013.</b> Currently works are being carried out on a counterpart programme for the years 2014-2020.</p>	<p><b>Information on the Programme:</b>  <b>National Contact Point for the Central Europe Programme</b>  Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego  Departament Współpracy Terytorialnej  Wydział Współpracy Transnarodowej i Międzyregionalnej 15  Mickiewicza Str.  50-154 Katowice  Tel. 32 253 90 08  Faks 32 253 73 76  e-mail: Monika.Strojcka-Gevorgyan@mrr.gov.pl</p> <p>Web site:  <a href="http://europasrodkowa.gov.pl">europasrodkowa.gov.pl</a>  <a href="http://www.central2013.eu">www.central2013.eu</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Cross-border Cooperation Poland-Belarus-Ukraine 2007-2013.</b></p>	<p>The core objective of the programme is support for cross-border development processes at the borderland of Poland, Belarus, Ukraine. The Programme priorities include: increasing competitiveness of the border area (promoting of enterprises, development of tourism, improvement of region accessibility), Improving the quality of life (environmental protection, cooperation along the borders), networking and people-to-people cooperation. The entire budget for the years 2007-2013 is €202,900,000. Co-financing: up to 90% of the total eligible costs. The Project must cover cross-border partnership, i.e. must be filed jointly by beneficiaries from Poland and/or Belarus and/or Ukraine. The partners will point the leader who signs the grant agreement with the Joint Managing Institution and is legally and financially responsible for project implementation.</p>	<p>Regional and local authorities, bodies offering services upon their request, other entities including the authorities or acting on behalf of the authorities; central bodies providing public services commissioned by regional and local authorities; at a regional/local level; regional and local representations/agencies of central authorities responsible for implementation of public tasks at regional/local level; state bodies/institutions; non-governmental organisations and non-profit organisations supporting enterprises, development agencies, chambers of commerce, tourism agencies, education and training institutions, research institutions, producers organisations, trade unions, employment agencies, relevant Euroregions.</p>	<p><b>No call for proposals is scheduled for 2013.</b> Currently works are being carried out on a counterpart programme for the years 2014-2020.</p>	<p><b>Information on the Programme:</b> Centrum Projektów Europejskich 39a Domaniewska Str. 02-672 Warsaw Tel. +48 22 378 31 00 Fax +48 22 201 97 25 pbu@cpe.gov.pl <a href="http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/pl">http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/pl</a></p>
<p><b>International Visegrad Fund – Eastern Partnership Programme – Flagship Projects.</b></p>	<p>The aim of the Flagship Projects is to support long-term projects of strategic character that significantly contribute to providing access to the unique experience and know-how of the Visegrad Group countries with the processes of democratic transformation and integration and with regional cooperation. Flagship Projects are meant to support reform processes, political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen the institutional capacity, contribute to the development of civil society in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Annual budget: €600,000. The prerequisite is partnership of bodies from all countries of the Visegrad Group and partners from at least two EaP countries. Co-financing must not exceed 70% of the total project value.</p>	<p>All bodies (legal persons and natural persons) from V4 and EaP are eligible, however local self-governments are preferred.</p>	<p>Application shall be done on-line on a form available at (<a href="http://www.visegradfund.org">www.visegradfund.org</a>), in English. The applicant is obliged to provide hardcopy of the application including required annexes and (optionally) additional information. <b>Deadline for the closest call in 2013: 30 September 2013.</b></p>	<p><b>International Visegrad Fund</b> Kráľovské údolie 8 811 02 Bratislava, Slovak Republic Tel.: +421 259 203 811, –802 Faks: +421 259 203 805 e-mail: <a href="mailto:visegradfund@visegradfund.org">visegradfund@visegradfund.org</a> <a href="http://www.visegradfund.org">www.visegradfund.org</a> Eastern Partnership for V4 Group <b>Ferenc Jári</b> EaP Coordinator Tel. +421 259 203 811 E-mail: <a href="mailto:jari@visegradfund.org">jari@visegradfund.org</a> <b>Lenka Bučková</b>, Program Manager: V4EaP program, Visegrad-Taiwan Scholarships Tel. +421 259 203 816 E-mail: <a href="mailto:buckova@visegradfund.org">buckova@visegradfund.org</a> <a href="http://visegradfund.org/V4eap/flagship/">http://visegradfund.org/V4eap/flagship/</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>International Visegrad Fund – Eastern Partnership Programme- Standard Grants EaP .</b></p>	<p>Support of reform processes; political association and economic integration with the EU, strengthen the institutional capacity, contribute to the development of civil society in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. The projects must cover at least two partners from the V4 Group and at least one from the EaP. Cross-border projects must include three bodies, of which two must be from neighbouring EaP countries (possible combinations: AM–AZ, AM–GE, AZ–GE, BY–UA and MD–UA). Co-financing must not exceed 70% of the total project value.</p>	<p>All legal and natural persons from V4 Group and EaP (except for bodies financed directly from the state budget). Local self-government projects are treated in preferential way.</p>	<p>Application is filed online in English, hard-copy send together with all annexes. <b>Deadline for application is the same every year: 15 September</b> <b>ATTENTION: No call for proposals is scheduled for 2013.</b></p>	<p><b>International Visegrad Fund</b> Kráľovské údolie 8 811 02 Bratislava, tel.: +421 259 203 811, –802 +421 259 203 805 e-mail: <a href="mailto:visegradfund@visegradfund.org">visegradfund@visegradfund.org</a> <a href="http://www.visegradfund.org">www.visegradfund.org</a></p> <p>Eastern Partnership for V4 Group <b>Ferenc Jári</b> <i>EaP Coordinator</i> +421 259 203 811 e-mail: <a href="mailto:jari@visegradfund.org">jari@visegradfund.org</a></p> <p><b>Lenka Bučková</b>, <i>Program Manager: V4EaP program</i>, Visegrad–Taiwan Scholarships tel. +421 259 203 816 <a href="http://visegradfund.org/v4eap/standard/">http://visegradfund.org/v4eap/standard/</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Polska Pomoc Polish Aid 2013.</b></p>	<p>Voluntary service projects to the benefit of one partner country being the beneficiary of official development aid, contributing to economic growth of partners, democratisation, respect of human rights and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. <b>Applicants are among others: associations of local self-governments.</b></p> <p>Own contribution (5-10% of the design).</p>	<p>Non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Poland, as understood by the law dated 24 April 2003, Art 3 Section 2, on public service institutions and voluntary service (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 234, as amended) and bodies named under art. 3 sec. 3 of the aforesaid law: associations, foundations, legal persons, organisation bodies acting based on the laws on relation between the State and Roman Catholic Church in the Republic of Poland on the relation of the State to other churches and cults, and on guarantee of freedom of conscience, if their statutory objectives cover public service; public limited companies, limited companies, sports clubs being companies acting in accordance with the law dated 25 June 2010 concerning sport (Journal of Laws No. 127, item 857, as amended), which do not act to gain profit and use their entire revenue to perform statutory objectives and to pay dividends to their members, shareholders, and employees.</p>	<p>Applicants who file documents for the first time shall register on-line through the web page <a href="http://portal.polskapomoc.gov.pl">http://portal.polskapomoc.gov.pl</a> at least 14 days prior to the deadline for applications defined in the Rules. Within up to 7 days from the registration day the applicant shall be given a login and password to fill the form on-line. It must be remembered that from the moment of obtaining login and password there is still time to fill the project application form, and then a signed printout with annexes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the day indicated in the Regulations.</p> <p><b>Attention:</b> Deadline for application for 2013 expired on <b>22 March 2013.</b></p>	<p>The Call for proposals is announced in the bulletin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the seat of the Ministry and on the Ministerial web page. <a href="http://www.msz.gov.pl">www.msz.gov.pl</a> and <a href="http://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl">www.polskapomoc.gov.pl</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Polish Aid Polish Development Aid 2013.</b></p>	<p>Support of socially discriminated against groups environmental protection, development of rural areas (Armenia, Azerbaijan). Support of socially discriminated against groups (Belarus). Regional development and construction of the public and self-government administration potential, MSP and creation of new jobs, support of discriminated against groups (Georgia), Public safety and border management, regional development and building of the public and self-government public administration, agriculture and development of rural area (Moldova and Ukraine) <b>Applicants are among others: local self-governments and their associations.</b></p>	<p>Non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Poland, as understood by the law dated 24 April 2003, Section 2, on public service institutions and voluntary service (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 234, as amended) and bodies named under art. 3 sec. 3 of the aforesaid law: associations, foundations, legal persons, organisation bodies acting based on the laws on relation between the State and Roman Catholic Church in the Republic of Poland on the relation of the State to other churches and cults, and on guarantee of freedom of conscience, if their statutory objectives cover public service; public limited companies, limited companies, sports clubs being companies acting in accordance with the law dated 25 June 2010 concerning sport (Journal of Laws No. 127, item 857, as amended), which do not act to gain profit and use their entire revenue to perform statutory objectives and to pay dividends to their members, shareholders, and employees, associations of self-governments, social cooperatives, private higher education institutions public higher education institutions research institutes; Polish Academy of Sciences and its bodies; local self-governments.</p>	<p><b>As above</b> Deadline for application expired on <b>3 December 2012.</b></p>	<p>The Call for proposals is announced in the bulletin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the seat of the Ministry and on the Ministerial web page. <a href="http://www.msz.gov.pl">www.msz.gov.pl</a> and <a href="http://www.polska.gov.pl">www.polska.gov.pl</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Co-financing of development activities and global education 2013.</b></p>	<p><b>Development activities:</b> Support of discriminated against groups, environmental protection, development of rural areas (Armenia, Azerbaijan). Support of socially discriminated against groups (Belarus). Public safety and border administration, regional development and construction of the public and self-government administration, agriculture, development of rural areas (Moldova and Ukraine). <b>Projects supporting transformation democratisation</b> a. support of democracy and good governance, incl. support of public administration with non-governmental and social organisations b. strengthening of legal state, promotion of human rights protection; c. support of gender equality and women's social-and-economic promotion; d. improvement of access to information, including strengthening of independent media role, development of social control over mass media; e. support of institutions, activists of pro-democratic movements; f. strengthening of civil society organisations; g. improvement of local self-governments; h. improved accessibility to high quality education and civil education; i. support of social and intercultural dialogue; j. support of democratic transparent election process <b>Global education projects</b> Education activities addressed to Polish society whose objective is to increase awareness and broadening of knowledge of Polish society as regards the problems of growth in the world. The project will refer to one task only. Own contribution: 50% <b>Applicants are among others: local self-governments and their associations.</b></p>	<p>Non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Poland, as understood by the law dated 24 April 2003, Art. 3 Section 2, on public service institutions and voluntary service (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 234, as amended) and bodies named under art. 3 sec. 3 of the aforesaid law: associations, foundations, legal persons, organisation bodies acting based on the laws on relation between the State and Roman Catholic Church in the Republic of Poland Art. 3 on the relation of the State to other churches and cults, and on guarantee of freedom of conscience, if their statutory objectives cover public service; public limited companies, limited companies, sports clubs being companies acting in accordance with the law dated 25 June 2010 concerning sport (Journal of Laws No. 127, item 857, as amended), which do not act to gain profit and use their entire revenue to perform statutory objectives and to pay dividends to their members, shareholders, and employees, associations of self-governments, social cooperatives, private higher education institutions.</p>	<p><b>As above</b> Deadline for application expired on <b>24 January 2013.</b></p>	<p>The Call for proposals is announced in the bulletin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the seat of the Ministry and on the Ministerial web page. <a href="http://www.msz.gov.pl">www.msz.gov.pl</a> and <a href="http://www.polska.gov.pl">www.polska.gov.pl</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<p><b>Central European Initiative</b></p>	<p>Intergovernmental forum promoting political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation between 18 member states. These are: Albania, Austria, <b>Belarus</b>, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Macedonia, <b>Moldova</b>, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, <b>Ukraine</b>, Italy and Hungary. The main mission of the CEI is the development of regional cooperation towards European integration. Special attention is given to capacity building of the non-EU CEI Member States by initiating cooperation with EU member states. CEI fulfils its mission through the following funds and instruments:</p> <p><b>CEI Cooperation Fund</b> facilitates the implementation of multi-lateral small-scale projects, so called CEI Cooperation Activities, mainly taking the form of seminars, workshops, short training courses or other meetings.</p> <p><b>CEI Fund at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development</b> support to feasibility and pre-feasibility studies, management training, capacity building and pre-loan audits. The Fund also promotes and supervises development activities in partnership with other international financial institutions and international organisations.</p> <p><b>CEI Know-how Exchange Programme</b> provides grant financing for projects related to capacity building and transfer of good practice from EU (donors) to non-EU (recipients) Member States of the CEI.</p> <p><b>CEI University Network</b> - aims at facilitating cooperation among the universities and other institutions of higher learning. Its concept is based on the principle of mobility of both students and teachers.</p> <p><b>CEI Science and Technology Network</b> - aims at strengthening the scientific and technological cooperation between the CEI countries.</p> <p><b>EU-funded Project</b> - Since 2004, the CEI Secretariat has been promoting CEI participation in EU programmes, in order to enhance the involvement of the non-EU CEI Member States in EU-funded projects. To do this, the CEI has set up a special unit, which is substantially engaged in project design and implementation. In this way, the CEI has gained an additional function as an actor in the trans-national and cross-border context, both as Partner and Lead partner in the EU-funded projects.</p>	<p>Type of applicants is defined for specific calls. As a rule potential applicants include local and regional authorities.</p>	<p>Applications are filed in reply to call published on the web page: <a href="http://www.cei.int/">http://www.cei.int/</a></p> <p><b>No calls are pending.</b></p>	<p><b>Information about the Initiative:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.cei.int/">http://www.cei.int/</a></p> <p><b>Contact data:</b> CEI Secretariat Via Genova 9 34121 Trieste Italy</p> <p>Tel.: +39 040 7786 777 Fax: +39 040 360 640 e-mail: <a href="mailto:cei@cei.int">cei@cei.int</a></p> <p>National coordinator: Ministry of Foreign Affairs 23 J.Ch. Szucha Av. Warsaw</p> <p>Tel. +48 22 523 9680 Fax: +48 22 523 9419</p> <p>e-mail: <a href="mailto:zbigniewkruzynski@msz.gov.pl">zbigniewkruzynski@msz.gov.pl</a></p> <p>Web page: <a href="http://www.msz.gov.pl/intro.html">http://www.msz.gov.pl/intro.html</a></p>

Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<b>ENPI forecast: Technical assistance in the financial sector's priority areas.</b>	Technical assistance to the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance and the 3 financial sector regulators: the National Bank of Ukraine, the National Commission of Ukraine for State Regulation of Financial Services Market and the National Commission of Ukraine for Securities and Stock Market. The call will cover: enhancement of the existing regulatory financial reporting, upgrade of monetary and financial statistics framework, implementation of consolidated supervision based on best EU practice, liberalisation of the capital control mechanisms in Ukraine; etc. The anticipated value of call: €3,500,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: May 2013  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>134323</b>
<b>ENPI forecast: Forging ahead: process-oriented technical assistance to the Ministry of IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons).</b>	Technical support to the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia. Activities will include activities in the following areas: building the capacity of central and regional offices, developing process management of organisational change.  The anticipated value of call: €1,500,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: February 2013  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>133979</b>
<b>ENPI forecast: Support to democratic governance in Armenia.</b>	The overall objective of the project is to foster the process of bringing Armenia closer to the EU as set out by the principles of the Eastern Partnership. The recipients will be through support to democratic institutions working toward civil society development. The project will aim at: supporting the creation of a sustainable legal and financial framework for the functioning of CSOs in Armenia.  The anticipated value of call: €1,000,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: April 2013  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>134096</b>
<b>ENPI forecast: Mass media communications on EU-Ukraine cooperation.</b>	The project assumes production of weekly TV programmes concerning Ukrainian and UE co-operation. The weekly news programme should be broadcast to public Ukrainian TV with regional coverage.  The anticipated value of call: €310,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: January 2013  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>133880</b>



Programme competition	Areas of support Applicants/partners	Types of initiators	Method of applying	Contact Source of knowledge
<b>ENPI forecast:</b> <b>Civil engineering and supervision services to set up custody centres and temporary holding facilities for irregular migrants in Ukraine — phase 2.</b>	The project includes ensuring overall supervision over construction of 7 temporary facilities for the State Border Guard Service in Ukraine and 2 migration centres in the Ministry of Internal Affairs.  The anticipated value of call: €600,000.)	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: January 2013.  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>133881</b>
<b>ENPI forecast:</b> <b>Support for the vocational education and training sector.</b>	The objective of the project is improvement of the management system of vocational training in Moldova by reforming the vocational education institutions network and improving the teaching process quality adapted to the market needs.  The anticipated value of call: €5,000,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: January 2013.  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>133700</b>
<b>ENPI forecast:</b> <b>Support the Government of Moldova in further implementation of public administration reform in line with the requirements of the CIB programme.</b>	The Objective of the call is to support the government in Moldova in the implementation of public administration reform in the context of requirements of UE integration.  The anticipated value of call: €2,000,000	Type of applicants will be defined in the call documentation.	Anticipated time of announcement: December 2012.  <b>Detailed information has not been published.</b>	<b>Information on the forecast:</b> <a href="http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/">http://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/</a>  Reference number: <b>133569</b>