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# NEEBOR QUARTERLY

31 JANUARY 2008 - ISSUE 8

## INTERREG IVC APPLICATION

NEEBOR responded to the first INTERREG IVC call with an application that has been submitted to the Interreg Secretariat on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2008. The proposal is lead by Észak-Alföld Region (HU) and includes 12 partners from 10 NEEBOR regions: Warmia Mazury (PL), Presov (SK), Vidzeme (LV), East Macedonia and Thrace (GR), North Karelia (FI), Finnbarents-Lapland Oulu (FI), Bourgas (BG), North West Romania (RO), South Transdanubia (HU) and Eszak-Alföld (HU).



The proposal evolves around successful SME development and innovation policies, cross border business cooperation with neighbouring non EU countries and better structures of access to knowledge and access to finance for SMEs in NEEBOR areas.

Its overall objective is to exchange and exploit solutions for a more competitive and innovative SME sector while increasing the efficiency of regional SME development and innovation policies in NEEBOR areas.

If approved, the project will carry out 1 analysis-good practice guide, 5 study visits, 4 conferences, 10 staff exchange, 10 transferability elements, 1 joint methodology and 1 action plan.

## NEW NEEBOR MEMBER

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2007, the Bulgarian Municipality of Plovdiv officially became the 31<sup>st</sup> member of NEEBOR following the examples of Burgas and Varna.

The Representation of the Municipality of Plovdiv was opened in Brussels on 9/09/07.

## NEEBOR PRIORITIES 2008

The first NEEBOR Working Group meeting for 2008 finalised the priorities of the network for the current year. Without setting aside any of the matters of direct interest to Eastern External Border Regions, the Network has decided to focus specifically on the following issues:

1. The European Neighbourhood Policy and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument,
2. The EGTC (European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation),
3. The monitoring of the work of the RELEX commission of the Committee of the Regions
4. EU developments concerning energy and the environment and
5. Innovation.

## NEEBOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of NEEBOR for 2008 will be hosted by the Greek region of East Macedonia and Thrace. The conference will be held at the city of Alexandroupolis towards the end of September 2008 (final date depending on the availability of keynote speakers) and will bear the title: Regional Actions for Sustainable Development.

NEEBOR partners will present best practices in sustainable development, the challenges of sustainability, and advice on how national, regional and local government and business can achieve their sustainable development goals in a cost-effective manner. The aim of the conference is to offer information, tools and ideas for business leaders, governmental and non-profit organisations as well as entrepreneurs, consultants, educators and students.

For additional information please contact the NEEBOR Secretariat, or the Brussels office of East Macedonia and Thrace Region:  
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## NEEBOR Members:

### Lubelskie Region

The Lubelskie Region (Lubelszczyzna) is situated between Western and Eastern Europe: its eastern border is both the national frontier between Poland, the Ukraine and Belarus as well as the EU's external border. Major transcontinental road and railway routes from Brussels, Berlin and Warsaw to Lviv, Odessa, Kiev and Moscow pass through the region and its six border crossings.

Lubelskie, covers an area of 25.115 sq. km and has a population of 2.2 mln. Lublin -the region's capital- is the biggest city with 360.000 inhabitants, and plays a dominant role in the region's structure. Other main cities are: Chelm, Zamosc, Biala Podlaska and Pulawy.

One of the assets of the region is its educational potential, with the largest academic center in Eastern Poland (more than 100 000 students). New technologies offer therefore the prospect for further development of the region.

The region's economy is based on agriculture. Lubelskie is one of the country's leaders in production and processing of healthy certified food and has a growing share of the production of bio-energy crops. In industry, the sectors of construction, wood industry, mining (hard coal) and engineering (production of helicopters, tractors and construction machines) play a prominent role.

With its preserved nature, wonderful cycling and walking routes and paths in national parks, Lubelskie Region offers many attractions for those interested in active tourism and rich cultural heritage. Relics of a multi-cultural past and places of national and international reputation, such as Zamosc (included into the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage register) can also be visited in the region.



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## NEEBOR GOOD PRACTICES

### The Neighbourhood Progr. Poland-Belarus-Ukraine INTERREG/TACIS: "Cooperation for the promotion of transborder Central Cycling Route of Roztocze Krasnik – Lviv"

The main aim of this project was the economic development of two border regions, through the improvement of tourism facilities and the promotion of active (cycling) tourism to foreigners and local societies in Lubelskie Region (Poland) and Lviv District (Ukraine).

The project was managed by Marshal's Office of Lubelskie Voivodeship and Lviv District National Administration in cooperation with Maria Curie Sklodowska University in Lublin, Roztocze National Park, Lubycza Krolewska, 'Jozefow Bike Cavalry' in Jozefow and Polish Tourism Association in Bilgoraj.

Roztocze is a narrow strip of hills stretching from Krasnik to Lviv (Poland to Ukraine). It is well known for its landscape and environmental diversity. The *Central Cycling Route of Roztocze* is 185 km long, of which 110 km is on the Polish side -from Krasnik to the Hrebenne border crossing point- passing through the protected areas of Roztocze National Park. On the Ukrainian side the route passes through the Jaworowski National Park. Both national parks are soon to be a part of the International Natural Reserve of "Roztocze".



### Project Implementation Periods:

**1.07.2006 - 30.06.2007**

**Total Project Budget: 52 026,59 EUR**

More information: [www.lubelskie.travel](http://www.lubelskie.travel);  
[www.szlakirowerowe.lubelskie.pl](http://www.szlakirowerowe.lubelskie.pl)

### NETWORK OF EASTERN EXTERNAL BORDER REGIONS

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