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REPORT

Conference on Coherence Policy and the Development of Cross-border Areas Along the European Union's External Border, 27-28 June 2014, Krasiczyn-Arlamow, Poland

The conference *Coherence Policy and the Development of Cross-border Areas Along the European Union's External Border (Polityka spójności a rozwój obszarów transgranicznych na zewnętrznej granicy Unii Europejskiej)* was held in Krasiczyn and Arlamow from 27th to 28th June 2014. The Conference was organized by the Central Statistical Office of Poland and the Statistical Office in Rzeszow, under the honorary patronage of: Marshal of Podkarpackie Voivodship – **Wladyslaw Ortyl**, Rector of the University of Rzeszow – **Prof. Aleksander Bobko**, Director of the Regional Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences – **Prof. Vasyl Kravtsiv** and Rector of the School of Economics and Management of Public Administration in Bratislava – **Prof. Viera Cibáková**.

Members of the Conference Scientific Council

- Prof. Janusz Witkowski – Chairman, Central Statistical Office of Poland.
- Dr. Marek Cierpial-Wolan – Statistical Office in Rzeszow.
- Dr. Jana Fiserova – University of Staffordshire, Huddersfield, Great Britain.
- Prof. Vladimir Gozora – Higher School of Economics and Management in Public Administration, Slovakia.
- Prof. Monika Hudakova – Higher School of Economics and Management in Public Administration, Slovakia.
- Dr. Krzysztof Jakobik – Statistical Office in Krakow.
- Prof. Vasyl Kravtsiv – Institute of Regional Research, Ukrainian Academy of Science.
- Prof. Franciszek Kubiczek – Council of Statistics.
- Dr. Krzysztof Markowski – Statistical Office in Lublin.
- Prof. Semen Matkovskyy – State Statistics Service of Ukraine.
- Prof. Janusz Merski – ALMAMER Higher School, Warsaw.
- Dr. Marek Mroczkowski – Central Statistical Office of Poland.
- Prof. Włodzimierz Okrasa – Central Statistical Office of Poland.
- Prof. Oleksandr Osaulenko – State Statistics Service of Ukraine.
- Dr. Tomasz Potocki – University of Rzeszow.
- Prof. Iva Ritschelová – The Czech Statistical Office.
- Prof. Vasily Simchera – Russian Academy of Economic Science.

- Prof. Grzegorz Slusarz – University of Rzeszow.
- Dr. Bogdan Wierzbinski – University of Rzeszow.
- Prof. Stanislaw Zieba – ALMAMER Higher School, Warsaw.

The Conference was an interdisciplinary venture. Representatives of official statistics and the scientific institutions of Poland, Ukraine and Slovakia, as well as representatives of political and administrative authorities involved in the regional development, attended the conference (a total of about 70 people). Topics discussed covered the achievements and experience in research and monitoring of the processes of socio-economic development of cross-border areas, along the role of official statistics in the formulation and implementation of territorially targeted cohesion policy.

The Conference was opened by the President of the Central Statistical Office of Poland **Prof. Janusz Witkowski**, followed by a greeting address of **Prof. Jozefa Hrynkiewicz**, Member of the Parliament (Sejm) of the Republic of Poland.

The plenary session was devoted to *Monitoring socio-economic processes in the border areas in the context of the objectives of cohesion policy*. It was led by **Prof. Grzegorz Slusarz**, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the University of Rzeszow. The opening lecture was delivered by **Prof. Janusz Witkowski** on *Transborder statistics in monitoring development*, stressing, among others, information needs for border areas as a new type of economic space, pointing to challenges to the statistics of the border areas and the need for international cooperation of statisticians. Then **Prof. Oleksandr Osaulenko**, President of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, presented the topic *Improvement to statistical support for monitoring of cross-border cooperation*, pointing, in particular, to the regional statistics as a source of information for monitoring the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation, the challenges of Ukraine's cooperation with the EU in the field of regional statistics, or the need for improvement of statistical performance cross-border cooperation in order to create a coherent system of cross-border statistics. Next, **Mr. Juraj Horkay**, Vice President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, presented *Draft cross-border cooperation*, funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, which aims to create a statistical system for the border regions of Slovakia and Ukraine.

The plenary session was followed by two parallel panel sessions. First session was dedicated to *Information needs of the coherence policy in the regional approach*. It was chaired by **Prof. Osaulenko**. Second panel session, led by the President of the Statistical Council, **Prof. Franciszek Kubiczek**, was devoted to *Spatial differentiation of development level alongside the European Union's external border*. On the second day of the Conference the third panel session took place, which was led by **Prof. Witkowski**. The session was devoted to *The role of statistics in monitoring the socio-economic development of cross-border areas*.

Altogether, 22 papers were delivered during the plenary session and three panel sessions. The first panel session was opened by **Dominika Rogalinska's** (CSO) presentation *Official statistics in monitoring the territorial dimension of coherence policy*, noting, among other, new challenges facing the official statistics, the STRATEG portal, project "Support to the monitoring system of cohesion policy" and the role of the CSO in monitoring the cohesion policy in financial perspective in the 2014-2020. Then **Prof. Włodzimierz Okrasa**, Advisor to the President of the CSO, presented a paper on *Statistical aspects of coherence: Towards a spatial integration of local development indicators*. He pointed out, among others, information needs of coherence policy in the regional approach, the local dimension of cohesion policy and recognition of multifaceted character of local development. He also presented the conceptualisation of local development and well-being, research on spatial inequalities of local and individual welfare as well as the impact of the allocation of development funds to reduce local deprivation at the NUTS5 level. **Prof. Stanislaw Zieba** (Almamer University) gave a presentation on *Macroeconomic situation in Poland in the context of coherence policy for the period 2004-2015*. He focused mainly on the results of evaluation studies of the impact of EU cohesion funds for the period 2004-2015, including the study of selected macroeconomic indicators as factors affecting the economic and social cohesion of the country. Then **Prof. Semen Matkovskiy**, Advisor to the President of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, presented a paper *Development of regional statistics in the context of the Ukrainian-Polish cross-border cooperation*. The first session was concluded by papers on special aspects of cross-border cooperation: *Impact of financial and economic crisis on the economy of border regions* by **Prof. Larisa Yaremko** and **Yuliia Poliakova, PhD** (Lviv Academy of Commerce), *Monitoring of business processes in the Euroregion Tatry area using the data of official statistics of Poland and Slovakia* by **Krzysztof Jakobik, PhD** (Statistical Office in Krakow) and *The role of cross-border cooperation in regional development* by **Ivan Ustich, PhD** (Foundation for the Development of Cross-Border Cooperation and Special Economic Zones, Uzhhorod).

During the second session **Prof. Romuald Polinski** (Almamer University) and **Marian Szolucha, PhD** (Vistula University) presented the paper *Economic development in Poland and Slovakia and the financial crisis in the years 2008-2013*. Another paper presented by **Prof. Vladimir Gozora** (VSEMVS in Bratislava), entitled *Economic and social diversity of Polish and Slovakian border areas in specific breakdowns*, presented the results of research of small and medium-sized enterprises in the regions of Nitra, Zilina and Presov, and ideas for the development of trans-border cooperation. During the second session the following papers were also presented: *The role of social development indicators in ensuring coherence between border regions of Slovakia and Poland* by **Prof. Monika Hudáková** (VSEMVS in Bratislava), *Development of entrepreneurship in border areas of the Euroregion Bug in the years 2000-2013* by **Krzysztof**

Markowski, PhD (Statistical Office in Lublin), *Respect the border* by **Marek Morze** (Statistical Office in Olsztyn) and *Monitoring of threats to coherence in the Polish-Slovakian border area during the European financial crisis in the years 2008-2013* by **Ewa Gucwa-Lesny, PhD** (Almamer University).

On the second day of the Conference (during the third session) the opening lecture on *Statistics in stimulating the development of cross-border regions* was delivered by **Prof. Grzegorz Slusarz** (University of Rzeszow). He drew attention to a need to recognize the complexity of the development processes in the context of the use of statistics (broadly defined) as a tool to stimulate the development of territorial units with special reference to border areas. Then **Prof. Vasyl Kravtsiv** (Regional Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences) presented a paper entitled *Problems of information-statistical support for the development of the model of administrative-territorial reform of Lviv region as a border region*. **Prof. Franciszek Kubiczek** (Statistical Council) in his speech entitled *The role of the Statistical Council in monitoring the socio-economic processes and phenomena observed in cross-border areas*, stressed the importance of the work carried out by official statistics for the study of border areas. He also presented two interesting initiatives on Human Development Index in local terms and Doing Business. Then **Ján Cuper** (Statistical Office in Prešov) gave a presentation on *Tourism in Slovakia and in Prešov region* and **Roman Fedak** (Statistical Office in Zielona Gora) shared practical insights in the presentation *The role of regional statistics in the process of meeting the information needs of coherence policy. The experience of SO Zielona Gora*.

At the end of the third session, **Maria Jeznach** (CSO), **Jozef Sobota** (NBP) and **Marek Cierpiał-Wolan, PhD** (Statistical Office in Rzeszow) together presented the subject of *Multi-method surveys of travel for the needs of tourism statistics, national accounts and balance of payments – the use of multiple research methods*. M. Cierpiał-Wolan, PhD, pointed out, among other, the effects of integration and disintegration of economic processes, presented a coherent research system for cross-border areas, which due to the nature of the studied phenomena requires the use of different research methods. In turn, M. Jeznach stressed, among other, the importance of using these research results in the statistics of national accounts and balance of payments and the transnational and multidimensional nature of cross-border processes, which results in the need for international cooperation to carry out the research. J. Sobota drew attention to the essential role of statistics of cross-border areas in the work of the Statistics Department of the NBP. In summary of the last presentation Prof. J. Witkowski stressed the importance of research conducted jointly by the various institutions, in this case, CSO, NBP and MSiT, which provide a wide range of methodologically consistent data and to satisfy different needs.

At the end of the conference the President of the Central Statistical Office handed the honorary badges *For services for Statistics of the RP* to people who work for years with the Polish Statistics: **Mr. Juraj Horkay**, Vice President of

the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, **Prof. Vasyl Kravtsiv**, Director of the Regional Research Institute of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, **Mrs. Svitlana Zymovina**, Director of the Main Statistical Office in Lviv Region.

The conference was concluded by **Prof. Janusz Witkowski** as very effective. He also emphasized the role and the importance of such meetings. The conference provided a platform for presentation of the current state of knowledge and innovative research approaches, and allowed to identify directions for further research.

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