

Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInsitute

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Euro
Instytut Institut Inštitút



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Inspiration

The concept of creating EuroInstytut Polsko-Czesko-Słowacki (the Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInstitute) came from the French-German cross-border region, the city of Kehl, where the Institute for cross-border cooperation - Euro-Institut was founded in 1993. It is a binational neutral platform for cooperation with a bilingual and bicultural team. The Euro-Institut addresses the needs of various institutions and residents of the French-German border area by providing information, knowledge, working methods and tools, and by education and training in cross-border cooperation. Moreover, the Euro-Institut supports entities on both sides of the border in coping with some structural problems and difficulties stemmed from different political and administrative systems, and in reducing different kinds of administrative, social and cultural barriers, and in carrying out actions aiming at development of cross-border cooperation.



Who are we?

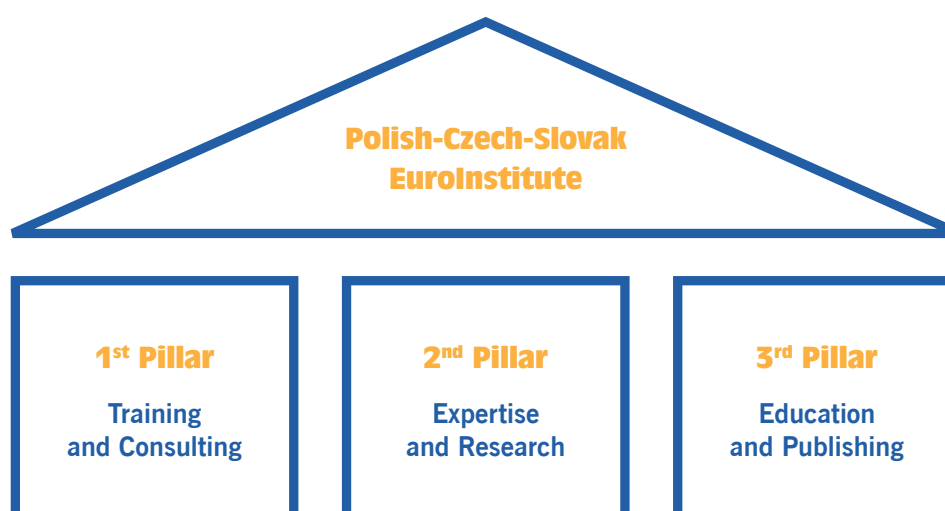
EurolInstytut Polsko-Czesko-Słowacki is a network of partner institutions, formed by the following organisations:

- Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Współpracy Regionalnej „Olza”- the Polish side of the Euroregion Śląsk Cieszyński (Cieszyn)
- Institut EuroSchola (Třinec)
- Regionální sdružení územní spolupráce Těšínského Slezska (Český Těšín)
- Regionální rada rozvoje a spolupráce (Třinec)
- Stowarzyszenie Gmin Dorzecza Górnej Odry - the Polish side of the Euroregion Silesia (Racibórz)
- Euroregion Silesia CZ (Opava)
- Pedagogické centrum pro polské národnostní školství Český Těšín
- Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach - Wydział Etnologii i Nauk o Edukacji (Cieszyn), and Wydział Nauk o Ziemi (Sosnowiec)
- Združenie obcí Mikroregion Kysucký triangel (Čadca)
- KERIC (Čadca)
- Akademia WSB w Dąbrowie Górniczej - Wydział Zamiejscowy (Cieszyn).

What we offer

Training and consulting, expertise and research, as well as education and publishing are the main activities we are involved in.

These are the three pillars of our activity:





Training and consulting

We provide cross-border training courses which enable their participants to achieve or develop all necessary competencies to work with partners on the other side of the border. The training courses are conducted in two or three languages (Polish, Czech, Slovak), depending on the needs of the target groups. We organise two types of training: interactive and specialised.

Interactive training courses aim at developing soft skills, such as effective communication with a partner, working in a multinational team, creative and positive thinking in “dead-end” situations, ability to adapt to changes in a cross-border work environment, intercultural dialogue, etc. Alternative and informal teaching methods applied by the trainers during these training sessions, such as: icebreaker, brainstorming, case studies, simulations, pair / group working, discussions, etc., aim at establishing closer relations among the trainees and at creating a favourable atmosphere for cooperation.

Specialised training courses are aimed at gaining professional knowledge and skills in specific areas, such as: law and administration, education, crisis management, environmental protection, etc. The purpose of the training courses is not only to present the given topics with a special focus on their cross-border specificity and to exchange experiences, but also to compare different administrative systems, management methods, a range of skills typical of each country, and good practices used in the neighbouring countries. Moreover, these training sessions promote cross-border cooperation in specific fields of knowledge by connecting institutions that seek a partner on the other side of the border. They are conducted in the form of lectures which offer their participants the opportunity to take the floor and discuss in order to exchange their information and experiences on a given subject matter.



The methods and tools applied to both types of training courses have been transferred from other European cross-border regions and tailored to meet the needs of the Polish, Czech and Slovak border areas. When conducting cross-border training sessions and workshops we make use of the experience of French-German, French-Spanish, Austrian-Slovenian-Italian or Irish border regions.

Our training and consulting services include organising meetings and consultations on fundraising and management of cross-border projects, and arranging study visits for organised groups visiting border regions.

Expertise and research

We cooperate with Polish and foreign centres for scientific research and consulting and training institutions as well.

Since 2011, we have been working, as an active member, for an elite network TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network) which comprises actors from different countries that specialise in cross-border education, training and consultancy. These institutions are:

- Akademia WSB w Dąbrowie Górniczej - Wydział Zamiejscowy w Cieszynie (Poland)
- EVTZ-Kompetenzzentrum Viadrina Center B/Orders in Motion Europa-Universität Viadrina (Germany)
- Fachhochschule Kärnten (Austria)
- Institut pour la coopération transfrontalière - Euro-Institut (Germany)
- Institut EuroSchola (the Czech Republic)
- ITEM Maastricht University (the Netherlands)
- Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Współpracy Regionalnej „Olza” (Poland)
- The Centre for Cross Border Studies (Northern Ireland)
- Université d'Artois - Institut des frontières et des discontinuités (France)
- Universitat de Girona (Spain)



- Université de Perpignan Via Domitia - ICRESS Institut Catalan de Recherche en Sciences Sociales (France)
 - Université de Strasbourg - Institut d'Études Politiques de Strasbourg (France)
 - Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France)
 - Univerze v Ljubljani Fakulteta za upravo (Slovenia)
- and
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (Germany) - the associate member of the network
 - Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (France) - the associate member of the network.

As network members we learn a lot from one another and carry out collaborative research and knowledge-based projects, exchange our experiences and develop tools facilitating intercultural management and management of cross-border projects. We also devise working methods applicable to different European border regions.

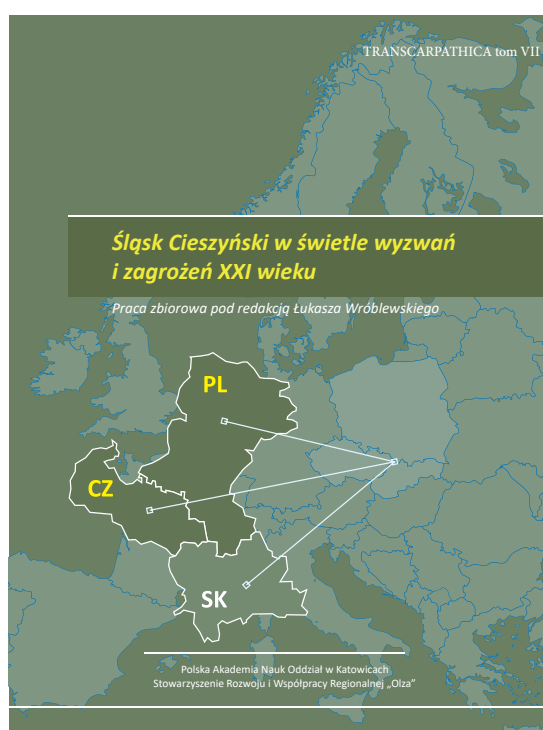
Expertise and research activities of the EuroInstytut also involves participation in scientific works, studies on results of research and analyses, and drawing up vision and strategic documents regarding cross-border cooperation.



Education and publishing

Since 2012, we have been published a series “TRANSCARPATHICA” in cooperation with Komisja ds. Stosunków Polsko-Czeskich i Polsko-Słowackich Polskiej Akademii Nauk - Oddział w Katowicach (the Committee for the Polish-Czech and Polish-Slovak Relations of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch in Katowice). This publication discusses the issues of cross-border cooperation and neighbourly relations between the Poles, Czechs and Slovaks.

We also organise conferences of both cross-border and international scope aimed at propagating collaboration across borders and exchanging information between the representatives of science and practice.





Top quality service

In order to provide top quality services, all the activities that we undertake are the subjects of ongoing evaluation. We do our best to ensure that the EuroIn-
stytut Polsko-Czesko-Słowacki meets our target clients' expectations whom our
actions are addressed to. We are learning, developing and improving ourselves
constantly.

We use the criteria established by the model centre for cross-border co-
operation - the Euro-Institut in Kehl. These criteria apply to those entities
which tend to act under the trademark "Euro-Institut", and they include:

- operating on a borderland
- cooperating with partners on every side of the border
- contributing to activities in the public interest
- fostering cross-border cooperation through organising training courses and /
or conducting research
- targeting activities at public administration institutions or other entities contri-
buting to the public interest
- employing a multinational and multicultural team of people spoken the langu-
ages of cross-border regions
- respecting the languages spoken by the actors of cross-border cooperation
and facilitating communication in the languages during implemented activities
- promoting collaboration among organisations which differ in their working
styles - stressing interculturalism
- developing methods and tools for cross-border training courses adapted to
cultural differences and needs of cross-border regions.

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