The significance of obstacle management in a cross-border functional area

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Who I am

Engineer

Economist

Scientist

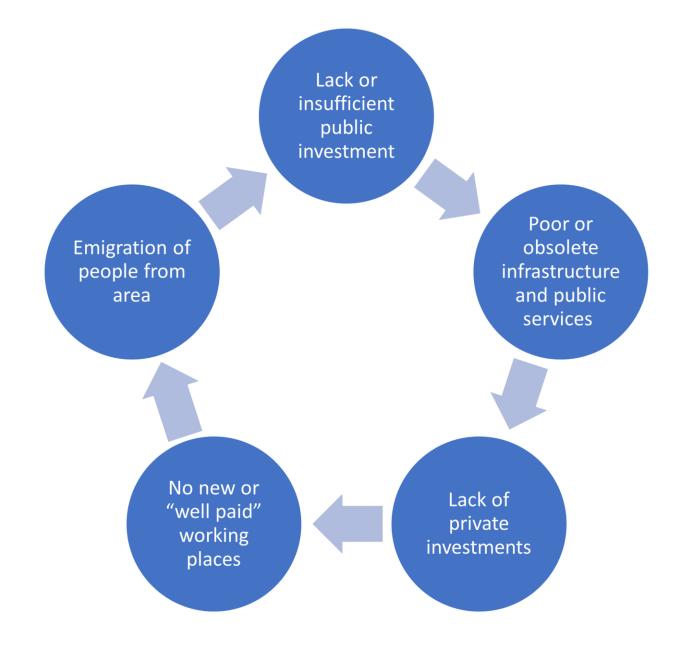
An activist for cooperation and dialogue on the Russian-Lithuanian-Polish-Belarusian border

- Since 2015 voluntary adviser of Seiny city mayor
- 2015 2017 CEO of Suwalki Science and Technology Park
- 2015 2016 Joint Monitoring Committee, Observer on rotation base of Interreg V-A Lithuania-Poland
- 2019 now Interreg V-A Lithuania-Poland Programming task force member (social partner)

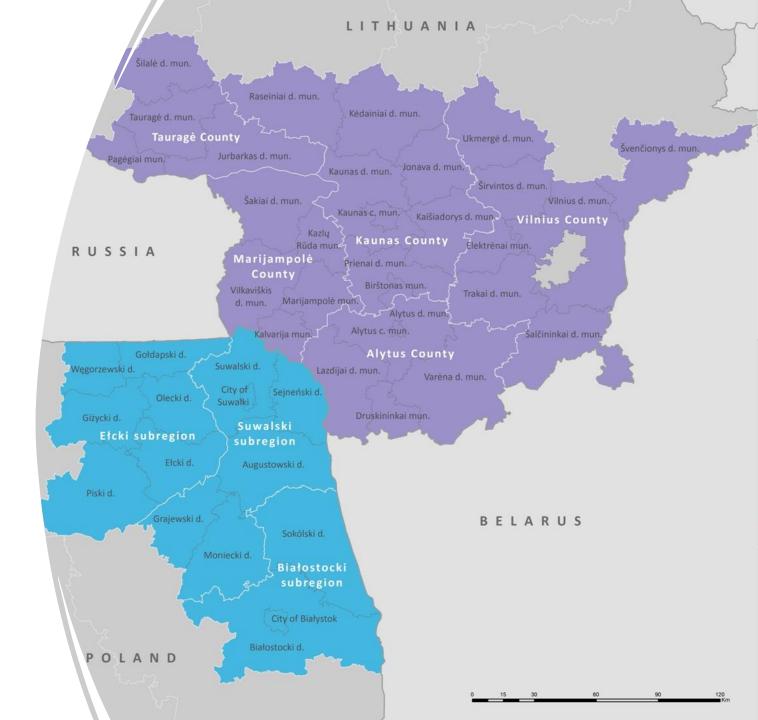
Well integrated internal borders — the best receipt for Stable and prosperous EU

- People who cross border every day for, work, business, education are important "gluing" actors of EU -> Case Northern Ireland
- Only true real contacts of "simple" people are most effective way to "build bridges" between different nations -> Easier to create an Enemy, if we do not know even one member of this nation
- Transborder cooperation is the best test if regulation in different countries are really regulated from the top to the bottom and if there are no any obstacles -> "B-solutions" instrument

Borders areas "devil circle"



Interreg V-A LT-PL Intervention Area — wrong way



Definition of the functional area

"Compact spatial arrangement consisting of functionally related areas characterized by common conditions and anticipated uniform development goals,

Source: "Legal foundations of metropolitan planning - state and perspectives", dr. Łukasz Mikuła, Institute of Social and Economic Geography and Spatial Management UAM, NT WORKSHOPS EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN PLANNING SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT OF METROPOLITAN AREAS, Hotel Kozi Gród, Pomlewo, 1-2 July 2015.

Definition of the functional area

"Functional area" - area of a special phenomenon in the field of spatial management or the occurrence of spatial conflicts, constituting a compact spatial arrangement consisting of functionally related areas, characterized by common conditions and anticipated uniform development goals.

Source: (Article 2, point 6a, Law on spatial planning and development, OJ 2003 No. 80, item 717 and Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1073, 1566.)

Special Functional Area

Special Functional Areas are areas requiring the restructuring and development of new functions using regional policy instruments; the category includes areas with a special concentration of socio-economic problems, including cities that may be of national importance: with the lowest development and deteriorating development prospects, cities and other areas losing their current functions, areas with the lowest level of access to goods and services conditioning development opportunities, areas with the lowest transport accessibility to voivodeship or apskirties centers, border areas.

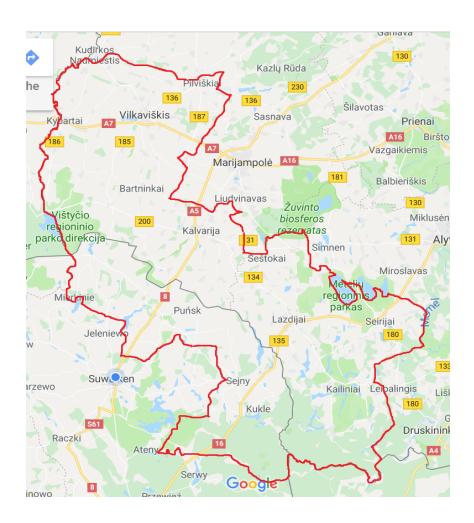
Let's put problem in centre of activity!

Border is a problem!

Preassumptions

- Most imprtant are daily contacts between citizens
- Distance up to 30 km is acceptable by daily travel to work
- Living close to border should be advantage and not additional cost
- Border as main obstruction should be main consideration and center of International Functional Area
- Self-goverments close to border are economically and organizationally weaker than self-goverments in medium and big cities, and therefore it is harder for them to use now availabe instruments

Our Border Region International Functional Area



Our potential

- We are small self-governments in total within functional area live 93 000 people, area: 4064 km²
- Mostly orientated on agriculture but with industrialization potential
- We have 2 cities which after complex revitalisation can be atractive for turists
- Area crosses Via Balitica, Rail Baltica, Road Warszawa Vilnius, Road Minsk-Kaliningrad and Grodna – Kaliningrad
- Lithuanians living on both sides of border minimalization of language barrier



Our problems

- Demography
- Low quality infrastructure
- Low level of "networking"
- Not enough financial resources
- Insufficient number of jobs
- High unemployment
- Low organizational and economic "power" of self-governments
- Area underdeveloped by governments.

Old and new barriers









What we did already...



"Seiny declaration"

DEKLARACJA

SAMORZĄDÓW RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ: GMINY PUŃSK, GMINY RUTKA TARTAK, GMINY GIBY, GMINY SEJNY, MIASTA SEJNY, GMINY SZYPLISZKI, GMINY WIŻAJNY

ORA7

REPUBLIKI LITEWSKIEJ: REJONU ŁOŹDZIEJSKIEGO, REJONU KALWARYJSKIEGO, REJONY WIŁKOWYSKIEGO

o podjęciu wspólnych prac umożliwiających Rządom Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej i Republiki Litewskiej oraz organom Unii Europejskiej podjęcia decyzji o utworzeniu polsko-litewskiego transgranicznego obszaru funkcjonalnego w celu poprawy pożlomu życia mieszkańców obszaru pogranicza polsko-litewskiego poprzez:

- Rozwój, stworzenie lub odtworzenie infrastruktury
- Stworzenie i rozwój instrumentów wspierających tworzenie miejsc pracy
- Poprawę dostępności i poziomu jakości usług publicznych
- Rozwój współpracy samorządów w obszarze gospodarki komunalnej
- Wspieranie organizacji prowadzonych przez mieszkańców, których celem jest zacieśnianie współpracy między mieszkańcami samorzadów Polski i Litwy

1.Samorządy deklarują wolę podjęcia wspólnych, skoordynowanych działań w celu umożliwienia Rządom Naszych Krajów oraz organom Unii Europejskiej podjęcia decyzji o utworzeniu polsko-litewskiego transgranicznego obszaru funkcionalnego.

- Samorządy deklarują aktywny współudział w wypracowaniu materiałów i dokumentów niezbędnych do powolania polsko litewskiego transgranicznego obszaru funkcjonalnego.
- 3. Samorządy wyznaczają samorząd Miasta Sejny jako koordynatora współpracy samorządów z terenu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej oraz samorząd Rejonu Łoździejskiego jako koordynatora współpracy samorządów z terenu Republiki Litewskiej.
- 4. Samorządy zobowiązują się do aktywnego promowania idei utworzenia polsko litewskiego transgranicznego obszaru funkcjonalnego wobec rządów swoich Państw oraz instytucji Unii Europejskiej.
- Wszystkie działania samorządów w zakresie niniejszej deklaracji podejmowane będą na zasadach dobrowolności, a zasady współpracy finansowej samorządy wypracują na gruncie prawa krajowego. Samorządy nie przewidują przepływów finansowych pomiędzy samorządami o różnej przynależności państwowej.
- Samorządy upowaźniają koordynatorów wspólpracy do informowania o postępach wspólnych działań opinie publiczną i media.

LENKIJOS RESPUBLIKOS PUNSKO, RUTKOS-TARTAKO, GIBŲ, SEINŲ, ŠIPLIŠKĖS, VIŽAINIO VALSČIŲ IR SEINŲ MIESTO BEI LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS LAZDIJŲ, VILKAVIŠKIO RAJONŲ IR KALVARIJOS SAVIVALDYBIŲ DEKLARACIJA

Šia deklaracija kviečiame imtis bendrų veiksmų, kad Lenkijos Respublikos ir Lietuvos Respublikos atsakingos institucijos bei Europos Sąjungos įstaigos galėtų priimti sprendimus steigti

Lenkijos-Lietuvos tarptautinę pasienio funkcinę zoną, siekiant pagerinti Lenkijos-Lietuvos pasienio regiono gyventojų gyvenimo kokybę šiomis veiklomis:

- -- Infrastruktūros plėtra, naujos įrengimas arba esamos atkūrimas;
- Instrumenty, remiančių darbo vietų kūrimą, plėtra;
- Viešųjų paslaugų kokybės lygio bei prieinamumo gerinimas;
- Savivaldybių bendradarbiavimo plėtra ekonomikos gerinimo srityje;
- Nevyriausybinių organizacijų rėmimas skatinant Lenkijos ir Lietuvos savivaldybių gyventojų bendradarbiavima.
- Savivaldybės deklaruoja gerą valią pradėti bendras veiklas, siekiant sudaryti sąlygas Lenkijos Respublikos ir Lietuvos Respublikos atsakingoms institucijoms bei Europos Sąjungos įstaigoms priimti sprendimus įsteigti Lenkijos– Lietuvos tarptautinę pasienio funkcinę zoną.
- Savivaldybės deklaruoja norą bendradarbiauti rengiant priemones bei dokumentus, reikalingus Lenkijos– Lietuvos tarptautinei pasienio funkcinei zonai įsteigti.
- Savivaldybės paskiria Seinų miesto savivaldybę Lenkijos Respublikos savivaldybių bendradarbiavimo koordinatoriumi bei Lazdijų rajono savivaldybę Lietuvos Respublikos savivaldybių koordinatoriumi.
- Savivaldybės įsipareigoja aktyviai propaguoti Lenkijos-Lietuvos tarptautinės pasienio funkcinės zonos Įsteigimo idėją savo valstybių atsakingoms institucijoms bei Europos Sąjungos įstaigoms.
- Visos savivaldybių veiklos, nurodytos paraiškose, bus priimamos pagal geranoriškumo sąlygas, o finansinio bendradarbiavimo principus savivaldybės sudarys pagal savo valstybės įstatymus.
- Savivaldybės įpareigoja bendradarbiavimo koordinatorius informuoti žiniasklaidą apie bendrų veiklų vykdymą bei viešinti jas.



Project:"Construction of social, economic, cultural, educational and tourist relations Polish and Lithuanian department zones"

Goal

• To better know real needs of Border Area inhabitants

Scope

- 7 tematic meetings connected with discusion on: Econony, Infrastructure, Education, Environment protection, Civil safety, Turism and Culture
- questionnaire survey among citizens of Border Area (300 participants)

Result

- Verification of assumed needs with real need of citizens living in LT-PL Border Region
- Verification of assumed needs with local stakeholders
- Definition of main juridical problems for cooperation > Feed for B-solutions cases

Project:"Construction of social, economic, cultural, educational and tourist relations Polish and Lithuanian department zones"

- Asphalting and repairs and upgrade of local roads -> Memorandum of - Lack of working places -> problems Polish Ministry of Transportation and - Supporting of entrepreneurship -> Main problems identified by with social and health insurance for Transborder business incubator (B **Lithuanian Ministry of** inhabitants: transborder works working on Both solutions case) Communication regarding promoting sides of border (B-solutions case) of upgrade of local roads in PL - LT border area. - Construction and upgrade of water supply -> Kalvarija and Punsk water - Development and repair of health - Increasing care for the older people

centers and hospitals

system development (B solutions

case)

- Increasing of public safety -> Vilkaviskis B solutions case on fire brigades

Project:"Construction of social, economic, cultural, educational and tourist relations Polish and Lithuanian department zones"

Main experts obervations:

- "Hard", particularly linear infrastructure in self-governments located on border.
- Preparation of investment areas
- Improving the standard of living of residents by improving the infrastructure (water supply, sewerage, broadband internet, modernization of hospitals, schools, public transport, cultural offer, etc.)
- Line infrastructure investments crossing PL-LT border (roads, bicycle paths, power lines, etc.) in such way to run in logical way
- Investments should require the cooperation of several local governments
- Connection of cities to the planned PL-LT gas pipeline
- Cascade of intensity of intervention should be defined
- And more others

"Our" B-Solution cases

- The Vilkaviskis District Municipality "Cooperation protocol aimed at simplifying LT-PL cross-border institutional cooperation in emergency management" – consulted by Mr Šarūnas Radvilavičius.
- The Lazdijai District Municipality "Juridical obstacles in establishment and financing of trans-national business incubator" consulted by Mr Marcin Krzymuski.
- The Borderland Association "Nasza Suwalszczyzna"
 (NGO) "Current social and health insurance
 regulations as problem for borderland inhabitants
 working on both sides of border at the same time" –
 consulted by Mr Marcin Krzymuski.
- The **Kalvarija Municipality** "Development of transborder water supply network" consulted by **Mr Gintaras Skamaročius**.

Case: Cooperation protocol aimed at simplifying LT-PL cross-border institutional cooperation in emergency management

Problem

However some frame legal documents are existing, there are no detailed instruction how to communicate and cooperate in case of small issues

Current agreements between PL and LT not communicated to fire brigades

Problem with insurance and salary for firemen involved

Solution

More activity of State Fire departments in both countries

Case: Juridical obstacles in establishment and financing of trans-national business incubator

Problem

Unclear legislation in PL and LT, which do not allow local governments to transfer money to another local government for services.

In LT lack of execution documents

Solution

Establishing of cross-border institution under EU law. Preliminary chosen - European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC), which will be juridical person managing of whole Transborder Functional Zone



Case: Current social and health insurance regulations as problem for borderland inhabitants working on both sides of border at the same time

Problem

Current EU and national regulations in case of transborder workers is focused on people living in one country and working in another

LT-PL border area is not dense populated and therefore quite often people live on one side of border but work on both sides (teachers, artists, specialists)

Solution

To add additional category of employees/busimen – border area inhabitant with social laws on both sides of border.

Case: Development of trans-border water supply network

Problem

Due to low density of inhabitants, low investments, and Soviet Union politics regarding border area, people in borderland have limited access to clean water from water networks.

Local governments are not feasible (not enough founds) to solve this problem by themselves

Solution

Change of criteria of EU founds based and government based projects in this area.



| Dziękuję za uwagę. | Děkuji za pozornost. | " | Ďakujem za pozornosť. |
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