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POLISH-UKRAINIAN PROJECTS AS A SOURCE OF SOLVING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES OF THE BORDER REGIONS**Sławomir Partycki** – The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin**Agnieszka Drewniak** – Center for the Meeting of Cultures in Lublin**Dawid Błaszczak** – Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska

An article look at EU programs as a tool for soliciting the effects of socio-economic inequalities that occur in the territories of Poland and Ukraine may be solved or minimized. The characteristics of the cooperation undertaken by the countries concerned are described. The inhibitory factors are also shown and analyzed, but also the activating communities of the studied areas. Border areas, due to their importance in the development of regions or states, are a key element of development policy both within the European Union and in the individual countries forming it. Cross-border cooperation has become an important element in equalizing inequalities and increasing the level of development of the regions participating in it. It is instrumental in the development of activities in the sphere of economy, the development of local communities and the strengthening of ties between inhabitants of given areas, promotion of the region and its cultural values. Analysis was made on the basis of documents on financing cooperation during the analyzed period and analysis of economic projects. Analyzed data were used to analyze the networks created on the basis of the resources of the economic projects.

Keywords: cross-border cooperation, social inequalities, EU programmes in financial perspective 2004-2013

Стаття розглядає програми ЄС як інструмент пильної уваги до ефектів соціально-економічних нерівностей, що спостерігаються на території Польщі і України, а також як засіб їх вирішення і мінімізації. Охарактеризовані характеристики співробітництва, розпочатого розглянутими країнами. Показані і проаналізовані фактори, що гальмують, а також ті, що активують спільноти досліджуваних районів. Прикордонні райони, завдяки їх важливості у розвитку регіонів або держав, розуміються як ключовий елемент політики розвитку як в рамках Європейського Союзу, так і в окремих його країнах. Прикордонне співробітництво стало важливим елементом вирівнювання нерівності і підвищення рівня розвитку регіонів, що беруть участь у ньому. Воно відіграє важливу роль у розвитку діяльності в сфері економіки, розвитку місцевих громад і зміцненні зв'язків між жителями даних районів, просуванні регіону і його культурних цінностей. Аналіз проводився на основі документів з фінансування співпраці в аналізованій період і аналізу економічних проектів. Отримані дані були використані для аналізу мереж, створених на основі ресурсів економічних проектів.

Ключевые слова: трансграничне співробітництво, соціальні нерівності, програми ЄС у фінансовій перспективі 2004-2013.

Статья рассматривает программы ЕС как инструмент пристального внимания к эффектам социально-экономических неравенств, наблюдающихся на территории Польши и Украины, а также как средство их решения и минимизации. Охарактеризованы характеристики сотрудничества, принятого рассматриваемыми странами. Показаны и проанализированы тормозящие факторы, а также те, которые активизируют сообщества исследуемых районов. Приграничные районы, благодаря их важности в развитии регионов или государств, понимаются как ключевой элемент политики развития как в рамках Европейского Союза, так и в отдельных его странах. Приграничное сотрудничество стало важным элементом выравнивания неравенства и повышения уровня развития регионов, участвующих в нем. Оно играет важную роль в развитии деятельности в сфере экономики, развитии местных общин и укреплении связей между жителями данных районов, продвижении региона и его культурных ценностей. Анализ проводился на основе документов по финансированию сотрудничества в анализируемый период и анализа экономических проектов. Полученные данные были использованы для анализа сетей, созданных на основе ресурсов экономических проектов.

Ключевые слова: трансграничное сотрудничество, социальные неравенства, программы ЕС в финансовой перспективе 2004-2013.

Introduction

The border between Poland and Ukraine is over 535 km and runs in Podkarpackie voivodships (239 km) and Lublin voivodships (296 km), bordered by Ukrainian provinces (in the nomenclatura of the Ukrainian oblasts):

Volyn, Lviv and a small section of Transcarpatian [6]. Border areas, due to their importance in the development of regions or states, are a key element of development policy both within the European Union and in the individual countries forming it. Cross-border cooperation has become an important element in equalizing inequalities and increasing the level of development of the regions participating in it. It is instrumental in the development of activities in the sphere of economy, the development of local communities and the strengthening of ties between inhabitants of given areas, promotion of the region and its cultural values. «An important challenge for regional policy in this area is shaping active pro-development policies, especially in regions along borders with non-member states. Lubelskie voivodship bordering the Ukrainian-Lviv and Volyn Oblast belongs to such areas» [1, p.45]. The areas on both sides of the border are characterized by a relatively low level of socio-economic development, which may give rise to various social inequalities. This area is also the external border of the European Union, which determines the type of cooperation. The closed status of this border may increase the negative impact of existing socio-economic links. An additional deterrent is the relatively poorly developed technical and service infrastructure in this area. Researchers therefore underline the necessity to carry out actions that will reduce the periphery of the discussed areas while at the same time affecting their development and reducing the socio-economic inequalities of the regions.

It is important from the point of view of this article to define the date of the cross-border region, which will refer to the projects discussed below. The cross-border region is a fragment of socio-economic space that crosses at least one national border [2, p.114]. From the point of view of cross-border cooperation, projects will be discussed within the framework of EU funds. Researchers' attention will focus on the two project implementation periods 2004-2006 and 2007-2013 from selected programs aimed at initiating and implementing projects to reduce socio-economic inequalities in the discussed areas.

Characteristics of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation

Polish-Ukrainian cooperation since 1991 has entered a phase of coexistence and the beginning of cooperation. At the moment, the economic premises and the activation of border regions, which due to their location are less developed, were essential. One can therefore speak of several areas in which this cooperation has taken on more crystallized forms:

- cooperation in the field of technical infrastructure (transport and communication network, border crossing system, joint ventures and utilities, energy systems);
- protecting the environment from disasters (monitoring systems common protection objects);
- development of tourism (development of tourist base);
- workforce flow;
- resulting from cross-border trade (development of entrepreneurship, creation of small producers, trade and services) [2, p.117]

The actions that are taken between Poland and Ukraine can not be fully determined by the full cooperation, because it is important to work out its strategic objectives, identify barriers and limitations that this cooperation encounters. Among the factors that inhibit the development of Polish-Ukrainian co-operation, there are basically three groups of factors: economic, legal and social. «Economic factors include the different levels and nature of the transformation of the economies of Poland and Ukraine and the resulting economic potential of these countries» [2, p.117]. An important issue here is the notion of the periphery of the border areas referred to above, which has a significant impact on the economic development of these regions. Interestingly, these areas, in the case of Poland, contribute insignificantly to the creation of Poland's national income; these are low-urban areas, with a high proportion of the population employed in agriculture. Interestingly, both Polish and Ukrainian areas located near the border do not attract many foreign investments. The underlined many obstacles to trade with Ukraine are too limited and poorly developed border infrastructure, there are too few border crossings so that the traffic can take place freely and smoothly. «Economic barriers to the development of cross-border co-operation include limited financial possibilities, including local government budgets for active cross-border cooperation, lack of banking infrastructure for financial settlements, lack of investment protection for joint projects and working capital. Significant reduction of cross-border co-operation is also a lack of developed private entrepreneurship, low efficiency of financial settlement systems, lack of institutions of the so-called. Business environment and pathological phenomena threatening economic transactions» [3, p.67].

Legal obstacles include the lack of legal mandates, international agreements and cooperation agreements, the norms and regulations governing such cooperation, the instability of economic legislation. Apart from the economic and legal barriers, there are also social barriers resulting from negative historical experiences, lack of psychological readiness of inhabitants for such cooperation and differences in mentality. Factors that interfere with this cooperation are the existing stereotypes that are slowly being replaced, and cooperation is best placed in the sphere of tourism and culture, where the resources of both regions are used. «The importance of cross-border cooperation is recognized both on the Polish and Ukrainian sides. The Ukrainians believe that thanks to cooperation they can gain more information about the mechanisms of EU functioning, that cooperation changes the attitude of

citizens towards the Union, helps to acquire new experiences, technologies, know-how etc. Poles emphasize above all economic benefits resulting from economic exchange» [4, p.200].

European Union projects used in Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the years 2004 – 2013

European Union programs can significantly influence the reduction of social inequality in the surveyed areas. Between 2004 and 2013, two programs have played a key role in building this cooperation. The first was the Poland-Belarus-Ukraine Neighborhood Program INTERREG IIIA / Tacis CBC 2004-2006, which was formally approved by the European Commission on 5 November 2004 by European Commission decision C (2004) 4366. The Neighborhood Program used 37.8 million EURO from the European Regional Development Fund (hereinafter the ERDF) and EUR 8 million from the Tacis CBC program throughout its implementation period. The eligible area includes 8 NUTS III regions in Poland: Białostocko-Suwalski and Łomżyński (Podlaskie Voivodeship); Białkopodlaski, Chełm-Zamość and Lubelskie (Lublin Voivodeship); Rzeszów-Tarnobrzeg and Krosno-Przemysl (Subcarpathian Voivodeship); Ostrołęka-Siedlce (part of Mazovia Province); For the Lublin and Rzeszów-Tarnobrzeg subregions, the so-called flexibility principle is 20%; In Belarus: the districts of Grodno, Brest and the 7 western districts of the Minsk region, in Ukraine: the Volyn, Lviv and Transcarpathian regions [5, p.7]. Common Polish-Belarusian-Ukrainian working group. Has determined the following Program Priorities and Actions:

Priority 1 Increasing the competitiveness of border regions through modernization and expansion of cross-border infrastructure:

Action 1.1: Modernization and extension of existing transport systems to improve the accessibility of the region.

Action 1.2: Development of a common cross-border environmental protection system

Measure 1.3: Development of business-related infrastructure and tourism

Priority 2: Development of human capital and cross-border institutional cooperation

Including security at the borders of the European Union

Action 2.1: Strengthen institutional cross-border cooperation and improve quality

Human capital

Action 2.2: Support local community initiatives

Priority 3: Technical assistance

Action 3.1: Management, implementation and control

Measure 3.2: Evaluation and promotion of the program.

Continuation of cooperation within the framework of the program was planned to be followed by another program in the financing of the 2007-2013 Cross-Border Cooperation Program Poland-Belarus-Ukraine, which was approved by the European Commission on 6 November 2008.

The main objective of the Program is to support cross-border development processes. The purpose of the Program will be realized through non-commercial projects within the following priorities: Priority 1. Increased competitiveness of the border area. Priority 1 focuses on actions that promote and support the creation of better conditions for entrepreneurship, tourism development and transport links. Under priority 1, the following activities will be implemented:

Action 1.1 Better conditions for entrepreneurship

Action 1.2. Tourism development

Action 1.3. Improving accessibility of the region [2.1]

Priority 2. Improving quality of life, which focuses on managing environmental threats and promoting sustainable use of natural resources, the development of renewable energy sources and energy saving. The aim is also to increase the effectiveness of border infrastructure and procedures and increase security at borders. Under priority 2, the following actions will be implemented:

Action 2.1. Environmental protection in the border area

Action 2.2. Efficient and safe borders

Objective of Measure 2.1. is to protect and improve the quality of the environment. Improving the quality of the environment leads to an increase in the standard of living of the inhabitants and to the attractiveness of the area as a tourist and investment destination. This will be achieved primarily by investing in regional or local environmental infrastructure and improving cross-border environmental cooperation. The purpose of Measure 2.2. Is to increase the efficiency of border infrastructure and procedures and increase security at borders. Increased border capacity and their security condition fulfill the remaining objectives of the program. The utilization and expansion of the social and economic potential of the program area requires, above all, the removal of administrative, institutional and infrastructural obstacles to the smooth flow of goods, services and people across borders [7].

Priority 3 Networking and local community initiatives focused on actions promoting and supporting cross-border cooperation through institutional capacity building as well as supporting local initiatives in the field of cooperation. Under priority 3, the following activities will be implemented:

Action 3.1. Development of regional and local opportunities for cross-border co-operation

Action 3.2. Local community initiatives.

The program was implemented in the following areas: administrative units: krośnieńsko- Przemysl (in the Podkarpackie province), Białystok-suwalski (in Podlaskie) bialskopodlaski and chełmskozamojski (in Lublin province), sub Ostrołęcko-Siedlce (in Mazowieckie) as well as regions adjacent: Rzeszowsko-tarnobrzeski (province. podkarpackie) łomżyński (in Podlaskie) and Lublin (province. Lublin), Belarus: Grodno, Brest, seven western districts of Minsk Oblast: Miadel, Vileyka, Molodechno, Valozhyn, Stołpce, Nesvizh, Kletsk and as adjacent: Minsk (city) and the eastern part of the Minsk Oblast (15 districts) and Gomel Oblast; Ukraine: Lviv region, Volyn, Transcarpathian and as adjoining regions: Ternopil, Rivne, Frankivs'k. Described programs contributed significantly to the cooperation initiated and sometimes have supported the already existing activities by providing funds financed the completion of emerging ideas. In the next subsection, specific projects will be presented, with partners using network analysis. This analysis will allow to show certain correctness of undertaken actions, directions.

Analysis of relations between Poland and Ukraine within European projects in the years 2004-2013

The presented analysis deals with Polish-Ukrainian cross-border co-operation implemented within the framework of European projects in the years 2004-2013, mainly concerning economic cooperation and improving the competitiveness and accessibility of the Polish-Ukrainian border region. The spatial coverage of the projects includes the Lubelskie, Mazowieckie, Podkarpackie and Podlaskie voivodships, and the Ukrainian, Lviv, Ivano-Frankiivski, Ternopilski, Volynski and Transcarpatian regions.

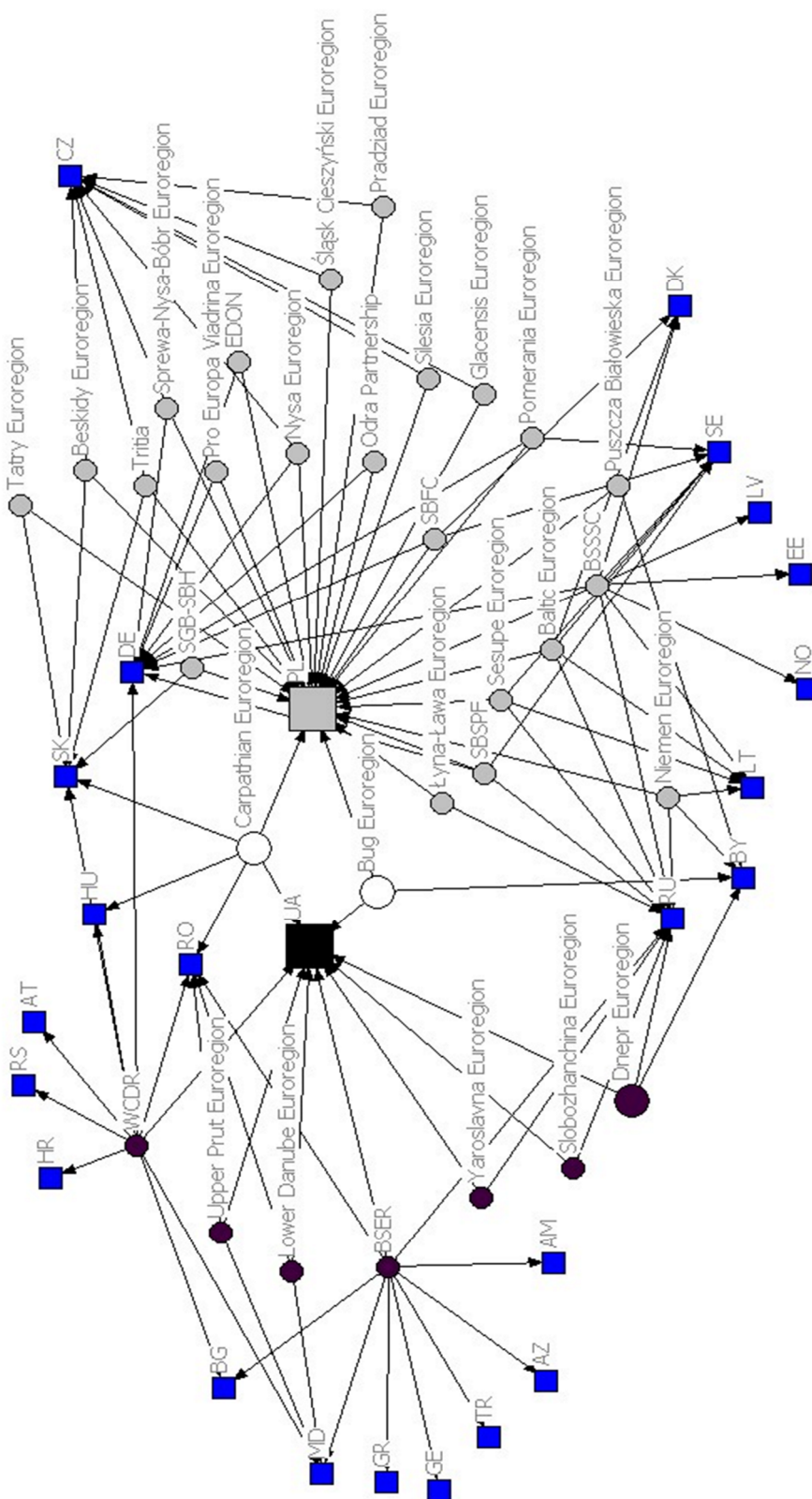
Operational programs aimed at cross-border economic cooperation have carried out 42 projects, involving 130 entities, both public (self-government units, universities, centers of culture and tourism) and non-state (non-governmental organizations). Individual projects ranged from 2 to 8 partners, with the largest number of initiatives being two, three, or four. The largest number, that is four projects, realized the office of the city of Lublin, in three initiatives was attended by Janka Kupala State University of Grodno. Two projects have been implemented, among others: the office of Chełm and Kowel, the marshal's office in Lublin. Seven entities cooperated in two projects (networks 1-2, 13-14-15 – Figure 2, 13-119 – Figure 3).

Information on projects classified and implemented in particular program perspectives was analyzed in the years 2004-2006 (INTERREG III C Program) and in the period 2007-2013 (Cross-border Cooperation Program Poland-Belarus-Ukraine). The analysis focused on formal (institutional) connections. The list of project participants was compiled on the basis of the data contained in the website and information brochures. Co-operative relationships are entered into the data matrix, encoding them numerically: «0» – no co-operation, «1» – co-operation in one project, «2» – co-operation in two projects, etc. numbers (from 1 to 130), which was justified by the legibility of the presented graphs. The data collected was developed using Ucinet and NetDraw software, which made network visualizations.

The analysis shows that the network of Polish-Ukrainian cooperation has a structure of the so-called microsities, composed of 2-3 actors, cooperating with each other in a specific project. In most cases we are dealing with microsities that are not a fragment of a large network. Moreover, institutions involved in projects do not create a large, compact network structure. In the analyzed systems, there may be brokers, i.e. network brokers, that is, intermediaries in network relations, controlling flows and connections in the network, thus having a large network authority. There are nodes marked with numbers: 72 (Lublin Regional Tourist Organization), 90 (Volyn Association of Scientists and Innovations), 38 (The Grodzka Gate - NN Theater Center), 32 (Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno - Fig 3). Figure 3 also shows the bridge connection (between the 32 nodes - Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno and 38 - The Grodzka Gate - NN Theater Center), which may cause the disassembly of the network into smaller components.

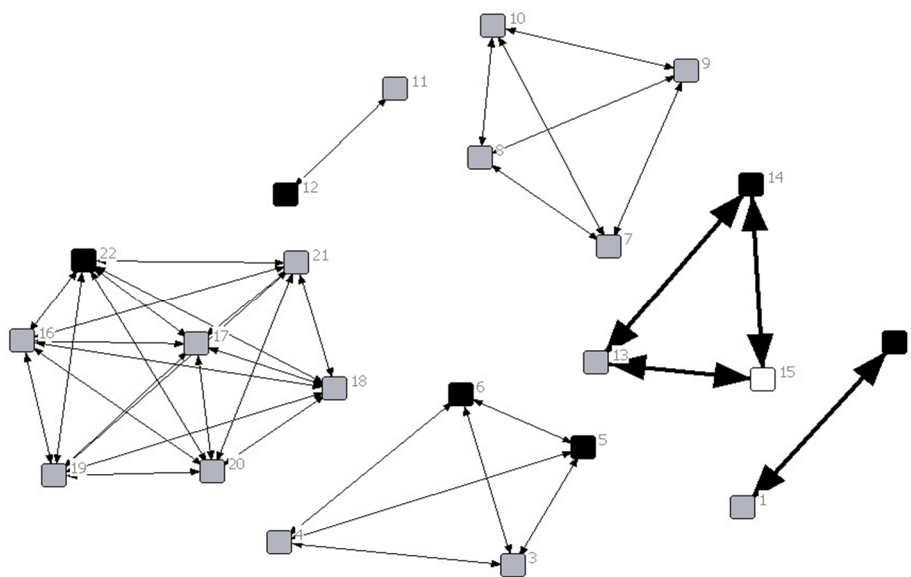
Network structures initiated for participation in projects are characterized by a large number of cohesive groups in which each actor is linked to another («each with everyone»). The presence of cohesive groups in cross-border projects is conditional on the specificity of links within programmatic initiatives that require reciprocal links and flows. From the point of view of the significance of a particular node in the network (central network) measured by its number of connections with other nodes, attention should be paid to 72 (Lublin Regional Tourist Organization), 38 (The Grodzka Gate – NN Theater Center), 32 (Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno) 90 (Volyn Association of Scientists and Innovations – Figure 3).

In summary, the analyzed network initiated at the Polish-Ukrainian border meets several properties, a specific structure, including the distribution of nodes and the nature of the links. First of all, it is dominated by microspheres composed of small number of nodes, which are often dictated by the terms and conditions of the technical secretariat of the programs. Secondly, the key nodes of the network are primarily public and economic entities, with greater resources and cooperative capabilities than small non-public social organizations. Third, the strong presence of public entities is related to the specificity of the area of cooperation, in particular the centralization and the hierarchisation of structures on the Ukrainian side. Fourthly, network brokers and nodes with a high degree of centrality are particularly important. The potential of social capital that they have and the extent of their power in the network can be important not only for the current participants in the network structure, but also future prospective entities interested in collaborating.



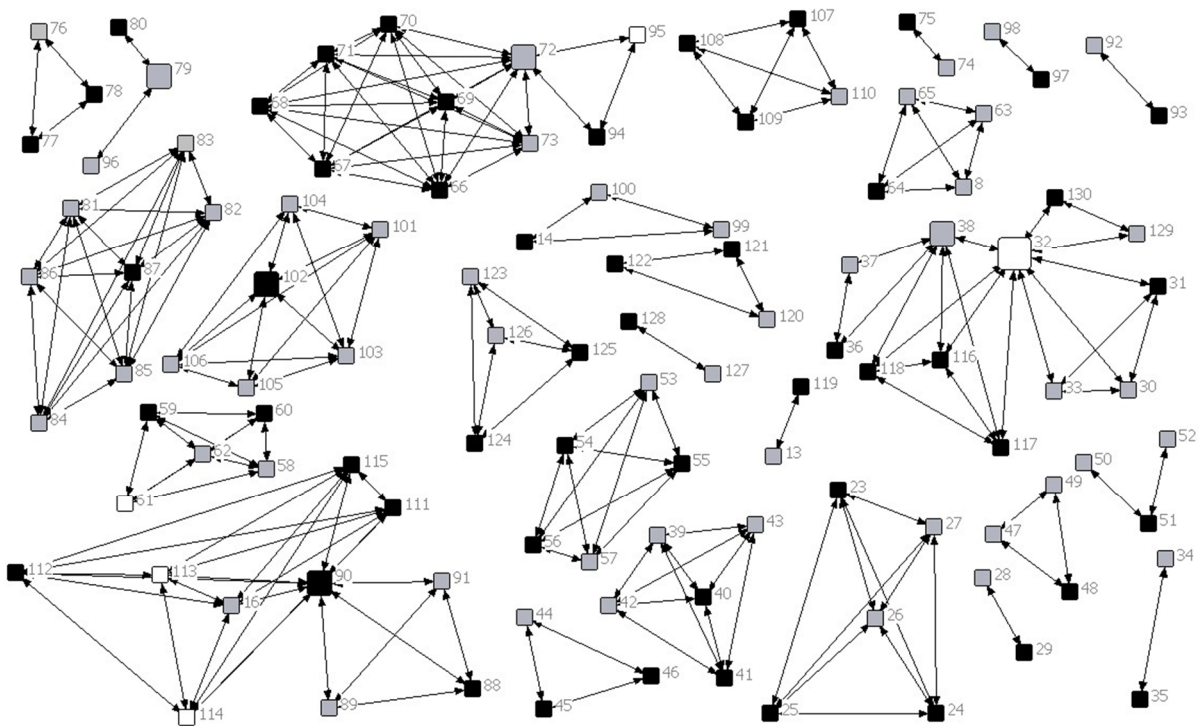
Source: own elaboration

Figure 1. Poland and Ukraine borderlands in transnational networks territorial



Source: own elaboration

Figure 2. Analysis of relations between Poland and Ukraine in European economic projects in 2004-2006



Source: own elaboration

Figure 3. Analysis of relations between Poland and Ukraine in European economic projects in 2007-13

Legend:

- 1 – Municipality Chelm
- 2 – Municipality Kovel
- 3 – Voivodship Labor Office in Lublin
- 4 – Labor Office in Poviats of Chelm
- 5 – Volyn Labor Centre in Łuck
- 6 – Labor Office in Kowel
- 7 – Lublin Monument Restoration Foundation
- 8 – Lublin University of Technology
- 9 – The Monument Protection Office of the City of Lviv
- 10 – Foundation for Protection Historical and Architectural Heritage in Lviv
- 11 – Poviats of Łęczna
- 12 – Żółkiewka Raion
- 13 – Municipality Lublin
- 14 – The Executive Committee of the Town of Lutsk
- 15 – Municipality Brest
- 16 – Marshal Office of the Lubelskie Voivodship in Lublin
- 17 – Maria Curie Skłodowska University in Lublin
- 18 – Roztoczański National Park in Zwierzyniec
- 19 – Lubycza Królewska Community
- 20 – Association „JKL» in Józefów
- 21 – Polish Tourist and Touring Company in Biłgoraj
- 22 – District Lviv State Administration
- 23 – Mountains Guides Association „ROVIN»
- 24 – Lviv Oblast Control –Rescue Service of the Ukrainian Tourist and Sport Union
- 25 – Lviv Tourist Board
- 26 – Polish Tourist Association of Country Lovers – Department in Przemyśl
- 27 – Bieszczadzka Mountains Voluntary Rescue Group
- 28 – Lubaczów Municipality
- 29 – Yavoriv City Council
- 30 – Rzeszow Regional Development Agency
- 31 – Lviv Regional Center for Investment and Development
- 32 – Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno
- 33 – Małopolska Institute of Economy
- 34 – The State Higher Vocational School in Krosno
- 35 – Ivan Franko National University of Lviv
- 36 – Office of Historical Environment Preservation of Lviv City Council
- 37 – Municipality of Rzeszów
- 38 – The Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre Centre
- 39 – Powiat Hrubieszów
- 40 – Khorobiv Commune Council
- 41 – Sokal District Council
- 42 – Dołhobyczów Commune
- 43 – Mircze Commune
- 44 – Commune Horyniec – Zdrój
- 45 – Morshyn Town Council
- 46 – Agency for Regional Development and European Integration
- 47 – Society of Jesus Monastic Home in Stara Wieś
- 48 – State Historical and Architectural Reserve in Zhovkva
- 49 – Brzozów Municipality
- 50 – Łaszczów Commune
- 51 – Town Council of Zhovkva
- 52 – Spiczyn Commune
- 53 – Lubaczów Municipality
- 54 – Yavoriv Raion Council
- 55 – City Council of Novyi Rozdil
- 56 – The Institute of Regional Development
- 57 – Commune Lubaczów
- 58 – The Town and Commune Łosice
- 59 – Executive Committee of Peremysljany City Council
- 60 – Gałyčhany Foundation
- 61 – Executive Committee of Rayon Ivanava
- 62 – Culture Centre of Łosice
- 63 – Higher School of Management and Administration in Zamość
- 64 – Lviv Polytechnic National University
- 65 – The Bohdan Dobrzański Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish Academy of Science
- 66 – Public Organization Tourist Association of Ivano-Frankivsk Region
- 67 – Tourism Office of the Department «Euro 2012» of Lviv City Council
- 68 – Executive Committee of Ivano-Frankivsk City Council
- 69 – Kolomyia City Hall
- 70 – Department of Economic Development and Integration of Executive Committee Ivano-Frankivsk City Council
- 71 – Department of Economy of Kolomyia City Hall
- 72 – Lublin Regional Tourist Organisation
- 73 – Foundation Akademia Obywatelska
- 74 – Solina Commune
- 75 – Schidnytsia Town Council
- 76 – Bieszczady District
- 77 – Regional Council in Stary Sambir
- 78 – Urban Council in Stary Sambir
- 79 – The Urban Commune of Hrubieszów
- 80 – Town of Volodymyr Volynskiy
- 81 – Rossosz Community
- 82 – Local Government Unit Zabrody Rural Council
- 83 – Jabłoń Community
- 84 – Sosnówka Community
- 85 – Podedwórze Community
- 86 – Wisznice Community
- 87 – Stradziec Rural Council of Deputies
- 88 – Volyn Oblast Council
- 89 – Hremyache Village Council
- 90 – Volyn Association of Scientists and Innovators
- 91 – Biszczka Commune
- 92 – Poviats Road Authority in Włodawa
- 93 – Shatsk Village Council
- 94 – Ecological Tourism Club
- 95 – Brest Regional Agro-industrial Union
- 96 – Executive Committee of Volodymyr Volynskiy
- 97 – Volyn Oblast Business Support Fund
- 98 – Innovation and Development Promotion Centre in Białystok
- 99 – The Town of Zamość
- 100 – The City of Rzeszów
- 101 – Municipality Leśniowice
- 102 – Rural Council of Huszcza
- 103 – Municipality Żmudź
- 104 – Municipality Dorohusk
- 105 – Municipality Wojślawice
- 106 – Association of Local Action Group «Ziemia Chełmska»
- 107 – Gorokhiv District Council
- 108 – Volyn Regional Charitable Foundation «European Vector»
- 109 – Volyn Agricultural Advisory Service
- 110 – Lublin Agricultural Advisory Centre in Konskowola
- 111 – Unitary «Dnepro-Bug» Waterway
- 112 – Volyn Regional Departments of Water Resources and Water Managements
- 113 – Brest Oblast Executive Committee
- 114 – Foundation INTERAKCIA
- 115 – Association for Regional and Local Development «Progress»
- 116 – Centre for Social and Business Initiatives in Yaremcha
- 117 – Rivne Marketing Research Centre

118 – Navahrudak Museum of History and Regional Studies	128 – Execituve Committee of Khust City Council
119 – Executive Committee of Rivne City Council	129 – BFKK
120 – Krosno Country	130 – Fund in Transborder Cooperation and Special Economic Zones Development
121 – Uzhgorod City	BSSSC – Baltic Sea State Subregional Cooperation
122 – Baranynci Country	BSEK – Black Sea Euroregion
123 – Municipal Commune Jarosław	EDON – Eurodistrict Oderland Nadodrze
124 – Executive Committee of Uzhgorod City Centre	SBFC – South Baltic Four Corners
125 – Centre for Innovation Development, Investment and Tourism Agency of Uzhgorod	SBSPPF – Southern Baltic Sea Parliamentary Forum
126 – Powiat of Jarosław	
127 – Lesko Commune	

Conclusions

Polish-Ukraine co-operation have been taking shape in the last years. From the point of view of eliminating social inequalities, it is important to act in the economic sphere. Improvement of this type of relationship is made through EU funds which allow to initiate and develop this cooperation in the aforementioned area.

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