Polish-Russian cross-border cooperation continues

In the presence of Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economic Development Aleksey Gruzdev, and ambassadors of the Republic of Poland and the European Union to the Russian Federation, Włodzimierz Marciniak and Markus Ederer, the exchange of original signed documents on financing and implementation of the "Poland-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme" worth 62.4 million EUR was held today in the premises of the Ministry of Economic Development.

The "Poland-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020" will build upon the projects successfully implemented during the previous programming periods with a special emphasis on the following four thematic objectives:
• Promotion of local culture and preservation of historical heritage,
• Environmental protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation,
• Improvement of accessibility to the regions, development of sustainable and climate proof transport and communications networks and systems,
• Promotion of border management and border security, mobility and migration management.

The total Programme co-financing amounts to 62.4 million EUR. The financial allocation consists of three identical contributions – 20.8mln EUR – by the European Regional Development Fund, the European Neighborhood Instrument and the Russian Federation.

During the programming period 2007-2013, Poland and Russia were joined by Lithuania and trilaterally in that period they implemented 7 large scale and 53 regular projects. Among so many, worth mentioning is the prize-winning project on tourism in Kaliningrad Oblast: "Baltic Amber Coast", but also projects realized in the field of preservation of historical heritage in the region: "CROSSROADS 2.0" (the largest project of the Programme in terms of number of participants) and "Museum over the Borders" which connected the work of the Museums in Elblag and Kaliningrad.

The current "Poland-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020" is one of a total of eight cross-border programmes - seven land-border and one for the Baltic Sea region, all of which bring together eight EU Member States, Russia and Norway - for the programming period 2014-2020 which were signed over the last two years. Total EU institutional financial contribution to these programmes is 178.1mln EUR, of the EU Member States 51.2mln EUR, and the Russian Federation contribution amounts to 91.3 mln EUR.

These figures testify strong commitment from participating countries to further development of cross-border cooperation format, which to the satisfaction of all has direct positive impact on the communities living across the borders, supports sustainable development on both sides, helps reducing differences in living standards and addresses common challenges. Projects implemented in the framework of a Cross Border Cooperation have the potential to transform a border zone into an area of sustainable development.

See also

Poland-Russia Cross Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020
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