

## Effective instruments supporting territorial development – experiences of regions in the implementation of regional policy in V4 countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia

18-19 October 2012, Park Inn by Radisson Krakow, Poland

Conference languages: Czech, English, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak

[eic2012.nf.pl](http://eic2012.nf.pl)

### Conference purpose:

The main objective of the conference is to initiate an exchange of views and opinions on the implementation of regional policies in Visegrad Group countries in the context of current development challenges and hitherto experiences. In all V4 countries, regional policies are being implemented, yet in a variety of ways, which results from varying degrees of delegation of tasks and finance to the regional level, different roles of the state and the local government. Speakers will touch upon issues related to the future of the regions and regional policy in the context of increased focus on using the territorial approach in the development policy, releasing regional development potentials and smart specialisations, as well as achieving national and European objectives formulated by strategic documents of individual countries and the EU. In order to enrich the discussion, representatives of Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia will be also invited.

It is expected that the conclusions and recommendations from discussions held during the conference will form a significant input in work on the new implementation system of the cohesion policy in those countries.

The conference will be divided into four thematic sessions:

1. Challenges for the implementation of regional policies in the V4 countries,
2. Implementation of development policy at regional level – the place and role of the regions,
3. Reinforcing territorial approach to the development policy,
4. Instruments supporting territorial development.

### Participants:

The guests invited to attend the conference are the key actors of the decision-making process, including the representatives of the local level and opinion-makers from V4 group regions and Bulgaria, Romania and Slovenia, representatives of other European Union Member States, delegates from European institutions, representatives of social and economic partners and of the academia from the entire Europe.

### DAY 1 – 18 OCTOBER 2012

**10.30 – 11.00 Registration and welcoming coffee**

**11.00 – 12.00 Opening session**

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#### Moderator:

**Marceli NIEZGODA**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

#### Keynote speeches:

**Elżbieta BIEŃKOWSKA**, Minister of Regional Development, Poland

**Ján POČIATEK**, Minister of Transport, Building and Regional Development, Slovakia (tbc)

**Flórián SZALÓKI**, Vice President of the National Development Agency, Hungary

**Eugen TEODOROVICI**, State Counsellor of Government of Romania (tbc)

**12:00 – 13:00 – 1<sup>st</sup> thematic session**

### **CHALLENGES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL POLICIES IN THE V4 COUNTRIES**

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In Europe and globally, the development policy is undergoing changes that result from the need to constantly adjust to new challenges, such as strengthening the territorial approach. One of the conditions of strengthening the territorial approach is to implement the development policy in the multi-level governance system where individual public institutions have specific tasks and functions. The division of those tasks and competences of individual public entities within the system, particularly between the national and regional level, and appropriate coordination mechanisms influence the effectiveness and efficiency of development policy implementation in a given country and achieving the state's strategic development objectives.

The panel discussion is intended to exchange experience and attempt at answering the following questions: How is regional policy implemented in individual countries? What is the role of the government and the local government? What are the relations within the different levels of the multilevel governance system? What are the strengths and weaknesses of particular ways of implementing the EU cohesion policy? Was structural funds management conducive to improving the implementation of the development policy in a wide sense, its tools and coordination mechanisms? What is the role of the regions in the process? What are the plans of individual countries in this area for the new programming period 2014-2020?

**Moderator:** **Piotr ŻUBER**, Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

**Panellists:** **Zsuzsanna KONDOR**, Head of Managing Authority at the National Development Agency, Hungary  
**Katarína KUKUČKOVÁ TOMKOVÁ**, Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union  
**Daniela GRABMÜLLEROVÁ**, Director of the European Affairs Department, Ministry for Regional Development, Czech Republic  
**Denitsa NIKOLOVA**, Head of the Managing Authority of Operational Programme "Regional development", Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Bulgaria

**13:00 – 13:30 Open discussion**

**13.30 – 15.00 Lunch**

**15.00 – 16.00 2<sup>nd</sup> thematic session**

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY AT REGIONAL LEVEL – THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE REGIONS**

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In Poland, implementation of the EU cohesion policy contributed to gradual delegation of tasks related to structural funds management to the regional level. It resulted in strengthened position of the regions towards the central level and gradual emancipation of regional authorities that extend the scope of their competence also in other areas of the development policy – the regions and their local authorities have become active participants of regional policy's decision-making and executive process. They are taking over more and more responsibility for programming and implementation of the regional policy and, in wider terms, the cohesion policy, including the funds they manage. On the other hand, the role of other important centres, such as large cities, is also increasing.

The discussion during the session will cover the issues of implementation and challenges for the development policy on the regional level, including its aspects related to programming, as well as the coordination of actions taken by the authorities on the regional level. Rich experience in the management and implementation of European funds and of national public policies together with the conclusions drawn on the regional level form a ground for debate on strategic directions of changes or strengthening proven solutions for the future. During the discussion, we will make an attempt of answering questions concerning the significance of regional authorities for the development policy, the strategies and development programmes they prepare, their influence and role in achieving the state's development objectives, and the costs and benefits of the solutions already in place using examples from individual countries.

**Moderator:** **Jacek WOŹNIAK**, Director of the Regional and Spatial Policy Department, Marshall Office of the Małopolska Region, Poland

**Panellists:** **Monika ŠTOFFOVA**, Office of the Presov Self-Governing Region, Slovakia  
**Dalibor ŠPOTÁK**, Regional Authority of the Usti Region, The Czech Republic (tbc)  
**Yordanka CHOBANOVA**, Advisor to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Innovations and Regional Policy  
**Paweł CHORAŻY**, Director of the Department for ESF Management, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

**16:00 – 16:30 Open discussion**

**16.30 – 16.45**

### **SUMMARY OF THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE**

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**Marceli NIEZGODA**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

**18:00 Official dinner**

## DAY 2 – 19 OCTOBER 2012

**09.00 – 09.30** Registration and welcoming coffee

**09.30 – 11.00** 3<sup>rd</sup> thematic session

### REINFORCING TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

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Strengthening the territorial approach in public policies has different profiles in individual countries. The fundamental change consists nonetheless in attaching more importance to an integrated territorial approach. It proposes focus on using endogenous territorial resources and knowledge and interventions adapted to local conditions. The new approach also assumes abandoning the perception of areas strictly from the angle of their administrative borders, in favour of their individual potentials, barriers and mutual relations. The relations can take place on the institutional and programme level, but also on the level of specific infrastructural, social, and educational interventions to enhance mutual positive impact between areas. In this context, the measures of territorially targeted policies are not addressed solely at rural and urban areas, but also other areas distinguished for social, economic, transport, or demographic dependences which influence their development perspectives and barriers.

The above influences the programming and implementation of development measures in particular countries, reflected by different types and scopes of territorial strategies (macro, regional and local; developed on both the national and regional level). They define development objectives and the scope of necessary public intervention, which in turn require a proper territorial focus for designed development instruments, which are supported from various sources and levels (operational programmes supported from EU funds, national development programmes), and preparing effective support coordination mechanisms. Those aspects will be the topic of discussions and exchange of experience from individual V4 countries during the panel.

**Moderator:** Professor Jacek ZAUCHA, University of Gdansk

**Panellists:** Márton PÉTI, Chief planner at the Hungarian Economic Planning Institute

Professor Tomasz KOMORNICKI, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences

Peter WOSTNER, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia

Martin FERRY, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, Scotland, UK

**11.00 – 11.30** Coffee break

**11.30 – 13.30** 4<sup>th</sup> thematic session

### INSTRUMENTS SUPPORTING TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

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The European Commission suggested special instruments to support territorial development for the new programming period. The major ones are: integrated territorial investments (ITI) and community-led local development (CLLD). The instruments can significantly contribute to strengthening the role of the local level in implementing the EU cohesion policy, and primarily to fostering cooperation between different entities, such as regional authorities, municipal authorities and other local government units in urban functional areas.

EU Member States have been granted a lot of independence as to the way of implementing the two instruments, but there are many unknowns as to how to introduce them to stimulate the development of supported areas. The thematic session will be devoted to presenting plans on ITI and CLLD implementation in individual countries. We will try to find answers to the following questions: What kinds of projects should be implemented using the ITI formula (which thematic objectives and investment priorities to implement)? How to choose cities where ITI would be implemented? How to approve integrated development strategies for an ITI-covered area? How to choose areas to be covered by CLLD? How to define responsibility of particular institutions involved in CLLD implementation?

**Moderator:** Jan OLBRYCHT, Head of Urban Intergroup, Member of European Parliament

**Panelists:** Andrea IVAN, Ministry of Interior, Hungary

Frantisek KUBES, Chief of the Spatial Planning and Regional Cooperation Department, City of Brno, Czech Republic

Adam MIKOŁAJCZYK, Marshall Office of the Pomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

Simona PASCARIU, Executive Director, URBAPLAN

Gabriella PÓCSI, Hungarian National Rural Network

**13.30 – 14.00** • Conference summary

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Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA, Minister of Regional Development, Poland

**14.00** Coffee and snacks

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