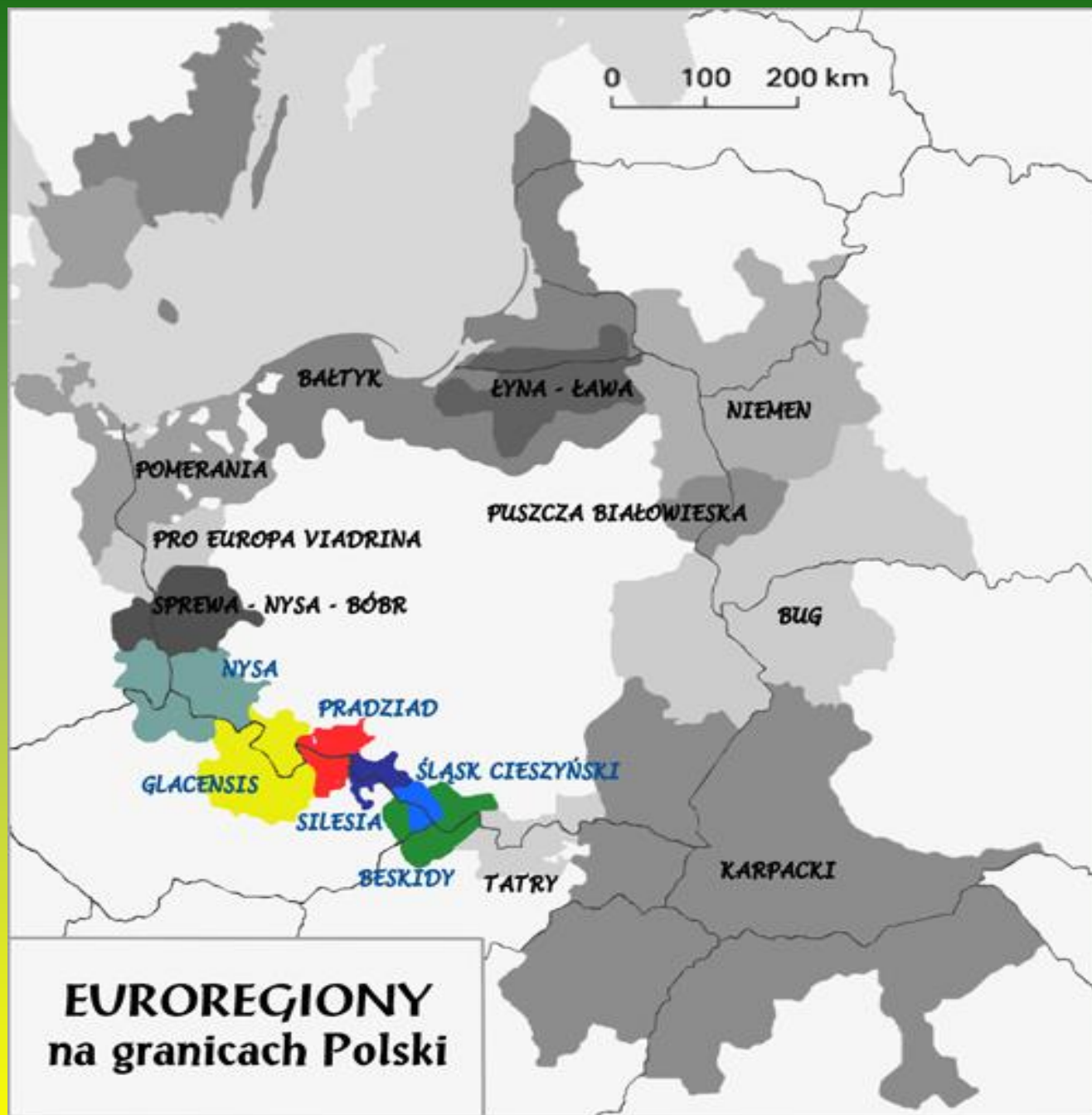


# Polish - Czech border region AEBR Annual Conference Liège, 7 November 2013



# Euroregions on the Polish borders

100 % of Polish  
(16 euroregions)  
and Czech  
(13 euroregions )  
borders is covered  
with cross-border  
cooperation





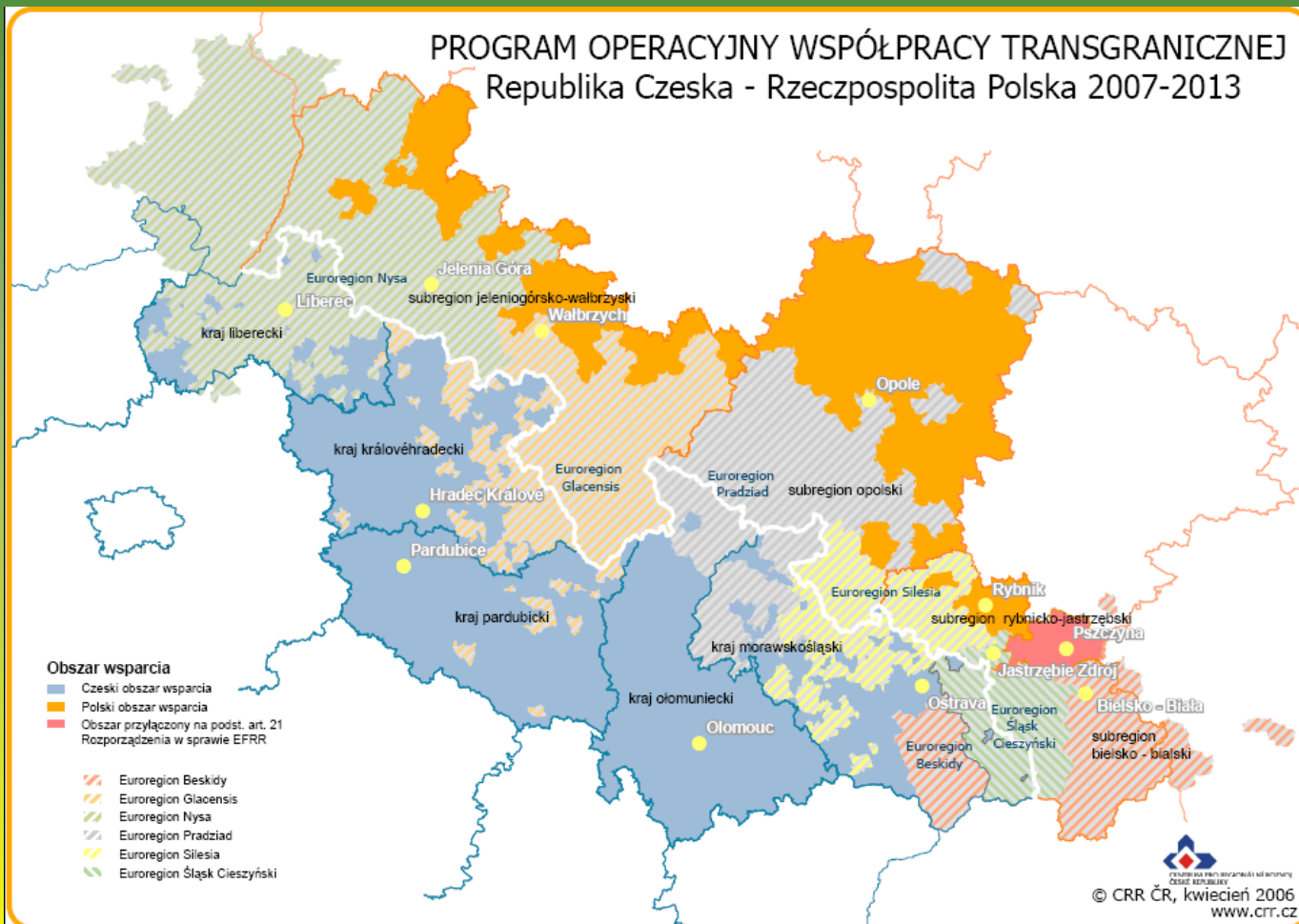
# Euroregions on the Czech borders



# The area of cross-border cooperation programs

Length of the border  
- 796 km (1993)

Number of border crossings before  
"Schengen" (21.12. 2007) – 117



## THE MAIN PLAYERS:

- 6 euroregions and their members
- 3 Polish regions
- 5 Czech regions

**The Neisse-Nisa-Nysa Euroregion (ERN) comprises three border regions situated in the heart of Europe on the borders of the Czech Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Poland. These three regions have many common problems and interests that are related to similar historical events and political system changes. The Conference that initiated the Euroregion establishment took place from 23 to 25 May 1991 in Zittau (Polish name: Żytawa) under the auspices of the presidents of the three states: Vaclav Havel, Richard von Weizsäcker and Lech Wałęsa, with the participation of 300 representatives of the three border areas' residents.**



**EUROREGION  
NEISSE NISA NYSA**

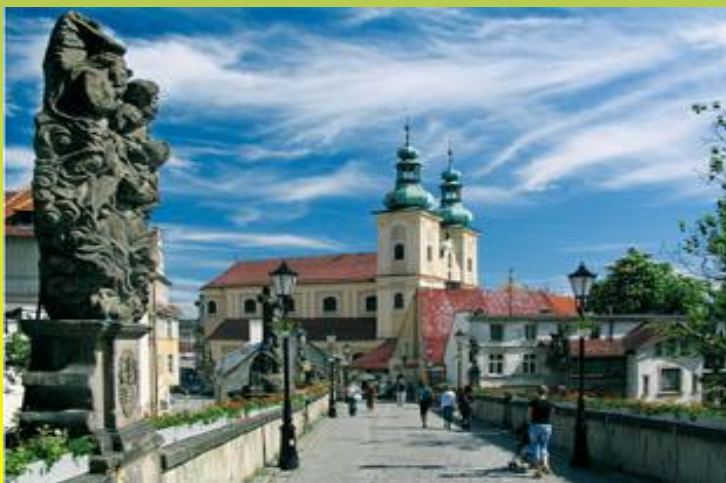


**It was not only local politicians that took part in the event, there were also many representatives of different fields such as scientists, journalists, representatives of non-governmental organizations, culture and tourism activists, and others.**

**[www.neisse-nisa-nysa.org](http://www.neisse-nisa-nysa.org)**



The Glacensis Euroregion was created on 5 December 1996. The General Contract establishing the Euroregion was signed in Hradec Králové by The Association of the Kłodzko Land Communities and the Regional Association for Cooperation of the Czech, Moravian and Kłodzko Border Regions after many years of efforts of the Polish-Czech activists on both sides of the border. It was the first Polish-Czech only euroregion. The seat for the Polish secretariat is in Kłodzko, whilst the Czech seat is situated in Rychnov by Kněžnou.



[www.euro-glacensis.cz](http://www.euro-glacensis.cz)

[www.euroregion-glacensis.ng.pl](http://www.euroregion-glacensis.ng.pl)

## THE PRADZIAD EUROREGION

The crowning achievements of several years of efforts of the local and provincial authorities and also the solidification of the existing relations between authorities, schools, cultural centres, sport clubs and other social organizations was the general contract, formally creating the Polish-Czech Eurodistrict named "Pradziad", which was signed on 2 July 1997 in Jeseník. The name of the Eurodistrict comes from the name of the highest local mountain top (Praděd – 1491 MAMSL).



[www.euopraded.cz](http://www.euopraded.cz)

[www.euopradziad.pl](http://www.euopradziad.pl)



## THE SILESIA EUROREGION

The Silesia Euroregion was created in September 1998 on the basis of an agreement between the Polish partner represented by the Association of the Upper Odra Basin Communities and the Czech partner which was represented by the Regional Association of Polish-Czech Cooperation in the Opawa Silesia (currently Euroregion Silesia - CZ). The Euroregion comprises 19 communities and towns on the Polish side in the Śląskie and Opolskie Provinces, 57 communities and towns on the Czech side in Moravia-Silesia, and also 5 supporting organizations (Silesia University in Opava, Economic Chamber Opawa, Association "Motherland of Silesia", LGD Opawsko i LGD Hlučinsko).



[www.euroregion-silesia.eu](http://www.euroregion-silesia.eu)





The Cieszyn Silesia - Těšínské Slezsko Euroregion was created on 22 April 1998. On the Polish part, it was represented by the "Olza" Association of Regional Growth and Cooperation with the seat in Cieszyn. The Czech partner was represented by the Regionální sdružení územní spolupráce Těšínského Slezska with its seat in the Czech part of Cieszyn, which includes the following entities: Sdružení obcí Jablunkovska, Svaz obcí okresu Karviná a Regionální rada rozvoje a spolupráce se sídlem v Třinci.



[www.euregio-teschinensis.eu](http://www.euregio-teschinensis.eu)



The Beskidy Euroregion was created in the year 2000 to promote the idea of "the Beskidy Mountains without borders", which was the initiative of the representatives of the towns and communities in the Polish-Slovak-Czech border area. In the Polish territory, the Beskidy Euroregion is situated in the border parts of the Śląskie and Małopolskie Provinces, in the Slovak territory, it covers most of the Žilina region, and in the Czech Republic, it includes the larger part of the Frýdek-Místek district.

[www.euroregionbeskydy.cz](http://www.euroregionbeskydy.cz)





# STATISTICS

## Polish - Czech Euroregions

	<b>NYSA*</b>	<b>GLACENSIS</b>	<b>PRADZIAD</b>	<b>SILESIA</b>	<b>ŚLĄSK CIESZYŃSKI</b>	<b>BESKIDY*</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Date of creation</b>	1991	1996	1997	1998	1998	2000	
<b>Area (km2)</b>	8 903	5 655	7 454	2 740	1 400	4 088	<b>32 046</b>
<b>Population</b>	1 019 228	778 837	864 432	778 000	680 000	974 948	<b>5 095 445</b>
<b>Number of members</b>	181	147	110	81	58	115	<b>693</b>
<b>Number of employees</b>	23	17	11	14	17	13	<b>83</b>
<b>Number of employees - Micro Fund PL-CZ</b>	10	14	8,75	12,7	9	5	<b>59,45</b>

\* ER NYSA AND ER BESKIDY – only polish and czech statistics

# European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation

## TRITIA

### Members:

The Tritia EGTC results from partnership between Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The Tritia EGTC was established to facilitate and support cooperation between the members. It aims to support social and economic cohesion within the region mainly through the intelligent implementation of territorial cooperation programs and projects.

### In Slovakia:

**Žilina self-governing Region**

### In Czech Republic:

**Moravian-Silesian Region**

### In Poland:

**Śląskie Province, Opolskie Province**

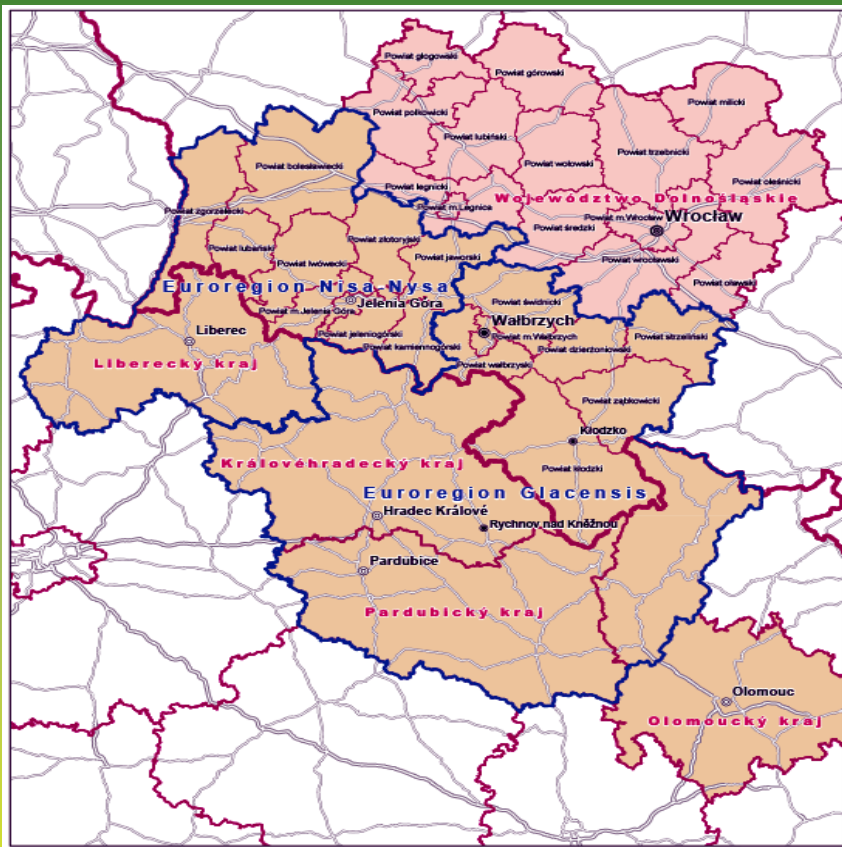


- **Seat: Cieszyn (CZ)**
- **Date of establishment: 25/02/2013**
- **Inhabitants: 7 855 000**
- **Area: 34 096 km<sup>2</sup>**
- **Number in CoR Register: 34**



# European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation **NEW SUDETY (under preparation)**

Signing of the Letter of Intent –  
5.10.2011



Date of establishment (planned): 02.2014

Seat (planned) : Jelenia Góra (PL)

## Members In Poland:

Dolnośląskie Province,  
Polish parts of Nysa and Glacensis  
Euroregions

## Members In Czech Republic:

Hradec Kralove Region,  
Pardubice Region,  
Olomouc region,  
Liberec Region  
Czech parts of Nysa and Glacensis  
Euroregions

Created within the project :

"The strategy of integrated cooperation  
on the Cech – Polish border"

## PARTNERS: all Polish–Czech Euroregions

The project's main objective is for the Czech-Polish Euroregions to enhance mutual cooperation and acquire new experience which could constitute a basis for preparations for the future programming period after 2013. Another objective is to improve the operating conditions of cross-border cooperation within the Czech-Polish Euroregions so that it is considered a model to follow and to promote such cooperation perceived globally in Poland, the Czech Republic, and abroad, i.e. within the European Union.



## The specific objectives of the project :

- the Polish-Czech Euroregions' getting to know each other and their respective activities; the intensification of mutual cooperation with a view to building mutual trust,
- the use of the developed foreign regions' new experiences in the preparation of cooperation guidelines for the period after 2013,
- the identification of problems constituting barriers for dynamic cross-border cooperation; the increasing of awareness and knowledge of the opportunities for and effects of cross-border cooperation,
- the intensification of the activities of the Polish-Czech Intergovernmental Commission.



# STATISTICS: Polish-Czech Euroregions

## Support of the European Union for Micro Fund (euro)

	NYSA	GLACENSIS	PRADZIAD	SILESIA	ŚLĄSK CIESZYŃSKI	BESKIDY	TOTAL
PHARE CREDO	50 000	538 676	0	0	314 200	0	902 876
PHARE CBC	7 014 600	1 180 393	841 822	1 131 870	876 805	0	11 045 490
INTERREG IIIA	1 525 088	1 371 489	1 062 704	897 551	769 271	168 714	5 794 817
POWT RCZ-RP 2007-2013	5 865 000	11 093 216	6 868 397	5 918 550	4 924 197	2 661 529	38 180 889
<b>TOTAL</b>	14 454 688	14 183 774	8 772 923	7 947 971	6 883 474	3 680 243	55 924 072
Number of completed cross- border projects	1 843	1 049	820	695	511	160	5 078

\* ER NYSA AND ER BESKIDY – only polish and czech statistics

\*\* not included the administration cost

# MAIN BARRIERS TO COOPERATION

**ACCESS-BASED EXCLUSION CAUSING ABSENCE OF INVESTMENTS CREATING NEW JOBS**

**AND INTENSIFICATION OF PERIPHERAL CHARACTER OF THE BORDER AREAS CAUSING UNEMPLOYMENT, DEPOPULATION, AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

**... AND UE WANTS TO SUPPORT AGGLOMERATIONS AND METROPOLISES; TEN-T CORRIDORS IN THIS PART OF EUROPE CONNECT WEST AND EAST**

**INSUFFICIENT FUNDS SPENT ON PERIPHERAL BORDER AREAS**

**... AND FUNDS FOR THE WHOLE CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME BETWEEN POLAND AND CZECH REPUBLIC CONSTITUTE JUST 1/10 OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO DOLNOŚLĄSKIE PROVINCE'S REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME**

**BUREAUCRACY CHARACTERISTIC OF YOUNG DEMOCRACIES AND CHANGING NATURE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS**

**...WASTE TIME, KILL CREATIVITY AND DISCOURAGE FROM USING EU'S FINANCIAL AID**







## Quo vadis?

We are one of the most active border regions and we are perceived as such. Joint network projects, regular meetings, partnership relations with the regions and ministries responsible for cooperation contribute to the consistent development of the border areas based on continuous and long-term cooperation.



We accept reality. We adapt to new conditions. But things could be done better, simpler, and more logically, which does not always depend on the partners cooperating within the system environment. Thanks to our experience, we can ask simple questions.



**We take advantage of offered opportunities.**

**We do it for the subsequent generations free from stereotypes, bad experiences, and memories of tightly controlled borders or totalitarianism.**



# Bureaucracy and excessive administration

Should a microproject receiving support of about 25 000 euros occupy 5–6 files of project documentation?

Is it possible for the Programme Controller to write a record-breaking 56 pages of comments?

Do we have to implement more complicated procedures for amounts below the thresholds for public procurement contracts?

Does each purchase of mineral water, translation of a few pages, organisation of a meeting, etc. require five pages of documentation so that the UE internal market would not be disturbed?

Is it not possible to require just an accounting document for amounts up to 400 euros?

Does each Member State need to have a different definition of fixed assets, irregularities or investment expenditures?



# BUREAUCRACY AND EXCESSIVE ADMINISTRATION

If the payment system with a sub-paying entity within INTERREG IIIA caused the sending of funds to the beneficiary after the Controller's certification, then why are we changing the system for the 2007-2013 perspective when, after the Controller's certification, the beneficiary will receive funds after 3 to 11 months?

If the beneficiary needs to make a financial adjustment and tries to appeal against a decision, then its payments are practically suspended because controlling reports are not signed.

Is it not possible to send the beneficiary the "undisputed" amount and hold the "disputed" amount until further clarification?

Are we going to start creating new things again or are we going to leave only thick files of documents behind us?





**Thank you for your attention**  
**Děkujeme za pozornost**  
**Dziękujemy za uwagę**

**Radosław Pietuch – Secretary of the Euroregion Glacensis**  
**on behalf of the project Partners**



**Liège, 7 November 2013**