Trójstyk Development Programme

Trójstyk is a picturesque place on the edge of three borders: Polish, Czech and Slovak. This unique place, thanks to the local initiatives and European grants is changing its looks.



The concept:

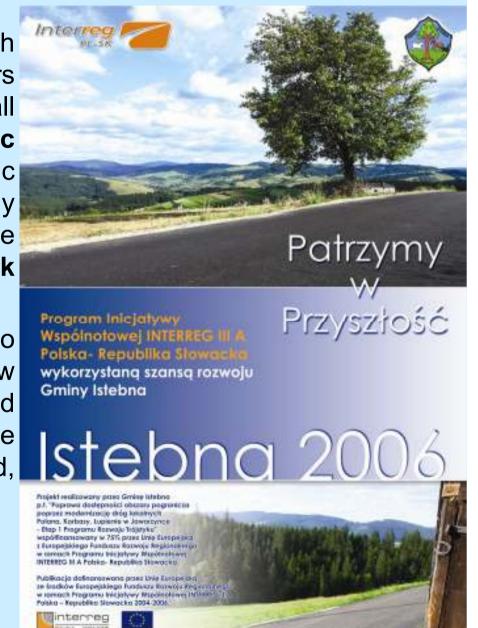
Border is a chance not a threat, the centre not the peripheries, the development and the future instead of deepening marginalization. This unique border of three countries was only marked by granite poles incised with the emblems of each country. There was nothing there, which could make the tourist stay longer. There was no road but finally there was time for a change.



Crossing the borders...

...started much earlier than Polish accession to the EU. Local partners **Istebna** along with its small neighbouring communes **Bukovec and Hrcava** from Czech Republic and Ciernie from Slovakia met many times and the outcome of these meetings was a joint **Trójstyk Development Programme.**

The aim of the Programme is to create new tourist product – a new route crossing the unique and picturesque spots of three neighbouring countries: Poland, Czech and Slovakia.



Within the framework of the Trójstyk Development Programme partners from Czech and Slovakia declared implementing complementary project in order to improve road network in the region.

In 2005 Istebna was the first beneficiary of INTERREG PL-SK and PL-CZ in Silesian Voivodeship that received the grants for transborder road projects.

The granted money allowed to build 9 kilometers of local transborder roads. Currently these roads stand for a large number of roads in the Trójstyk area. The next INTERREG III PL-SK call in proposals brought Istebna the funds to implement the project entitled "Creating the transborder connection Jaworzynka-Ciernie for the planned touristic bordercrossing point". The idea was the effect of cooperation with the Slovak neighbor Obec Ciernie that implemented a complementary project "BUDÚCNOSŤ TROJMEDZIA – rozvoj trojmedzia na slovensko-poľskom

územi".

The photograph shows the border- crossing point before the project implementation.



The project enabled the construction of foot and bicycle border-crossing point between Jaworzynka and Ciernie. The road leading to the Slovak boarder was modernized. The tourists and citizens have now an easy access to the border thanks to the pavement and 18 -metre-long wooden bridge.

It is another important step towards the development of borderland that will serve the local community and the tourists who more and more often visit Trójstyk.

The footbridge is situated on the Polish-Slovak border (65% to 35%). The symbolic connection takes place over a ditch separating both countries. From the bridge the visitors are able to notice the exact spot, calculated by the geodesists, connecting three borders that is now marked with a stone monument. The complementary projects have already fulfilled four criteria of cooperation, which were: joint preparation of the project, the personnel involved, implementation and funding.

> The rest point on the other side of the footbridge was built thanks to the complementary project of the Slovak partner – Cierne.





In the nick of time Trójstyk allows its visitors to cross the borders of three countries, familiarize themselves with their culture and traditions and have a rest with their family far from the traffic and noise. In the future more attractions such as barbecue facilities and playground will appear which will make the tourist stay here longer. Currently Istebna is implementing a project dealing with communication availability in the region of Czadeczka stream, consisting of modernization of roads leading from Jaworzynka and Ciernie to the boarder and building a new road connecting Jaworzynka, Skalite and Ciernie in Slovakia. The first stage of this project is implemented within PWT Poland-Slovakia 2007-2013.

The second stage is now being evaluated.

Good practices:

The aims of the Trójstyk development Programme represent the needs of the local communities of all three neighbouring countries.

The implementation of the projects is the solution to local communication system problems.

Within the Programme Istebna implemented or is implementing road project such as: INTERREG III A CZ-PL - 1 project , INTERREG III A PL-SK - 2 projects, PWT PL-SK 2007-2013 - 1 project

Many so called "micro-projects" are implemented as well

The programme is an incentive to various institutions interested in Trójstyk development, which in turn increases its effects. The district of Cieszyn implements further Road investments within INTERREG III A CZ-PL and PWT PL-SK 2007-2013.

Transborder bicycle routes:

Trójstyk develops its plans. Cooperation with foreign partners increases tourist attractiveness of the place and the region.

One of the outcomes are mountain bike and bicycle races.

We are looking into the future with high hopes.

The cooperation brings new ideas and partners from Trójstyk are looking forward to new opportunities within transborder cooperation projects.

