



Partnership without borders

## The Carpathian Euroregion Strategy 2020 & Beyond

### Annex I – Country profile Poland



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Note: Without English language proofreading

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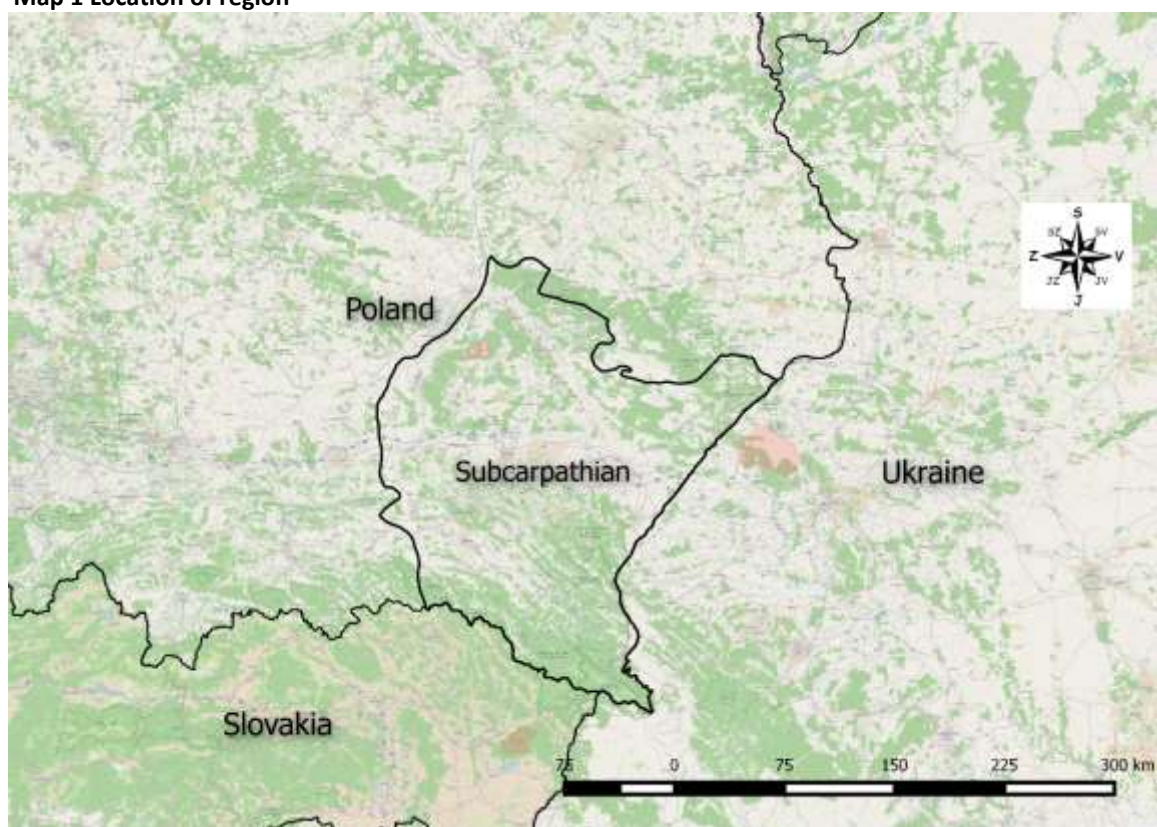
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# Regional analysis – country profile Poland

## General description of the region - Poland

The Poland part of the CE area consists of region Subcarpathian (or Podkarpackie voivodship, pol. Województwo Podkarpackie). This region is one of the 16 NUTS II regions of Poland. Area of the Subcarpathian region is **17 926 km<sup>2</sup>, representing 6% of Poland's territory**. In DEC 2014, the region had 2 129 187 inhabitants, representing 5,5% of the country population. The region is located in the South East part of the country, bordering with Slovakia and Ukraine.

**Map 1 Location of region**



Source: Authors.

In the Podkarpackie region, there are 160 municipalities including 51 cities. Rural areas typically face complex economic, social and even administrative problems (poverty, outmigration, deficiencies in public & private services, etc.).

**Tab 1: Urbanisation – number of towns (y. 2014)**

Region	Number of municipalities	Number of cities
Poland	2 479	913
Podkarpackie	160	51

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

**Regional capital** is city of Rzeszow. It is the most populated city in the region (more than 180 000 inhabitants, 2014) and **plays central role within the region** regarding economy and public services. Other big cities in the region are: Przemyśl (67 ths. inhabitants), Stalowa Wola (65 ths.), Mielec (60 ths.), Tarnobrzeg (50 ths.) and Krosno (48 ths.).

Poland has the three-tier division of the country into voivodships, powiats and gminas on the basis of which two additional non-administrative levels were established, i.e. regions and subregions.

**Regional levels include:**

- Level 1 – 6 regions,
- Level 2 – 16 voivodships,
- Level 3 – 66 subregions – groupings of powiats,

**Local levels include:**

- Level 4 – 314 powiats and 66 cities with powiat status,
- Level 5 – 2 479 gminas, of which 66 urban gminas that are cities with powiat status.

**Main needs and challenges**

- The location of the region within the country and EU is very peripheral (Eastern border of the EU), which emphasize the importance of cross-border cooperation.
- The area can be characterized as mainly rural.
- Rural areas face complex development, economic and social problems (poverty, outmigration, deficiencies in services and access to public infrastructure, etc.).
- Lack of fast roads and railway connections with other Polish regions and neighbouring CBC areas are obstacle for faster development of the region.

**Main potentials**

- Development of urban areas such as Rzeszow, Przemyśl, Stalowa Wola and other.
- The competitive regional seats and bigger cities can function as engines of the development in the whole area.
- Rural areas can preserve the natural values and the traditional way of life. They can be reevaluated as potential residence for various groups, e.g. qualified urban youth, elderly people. Their attractiveness can be used as a basis for development of tourism and traditional “industries” like forestry, agriculture.

## Demography

The Podkarpackie voivodship (region) is inhabited by slightly more than **2,1 million people representing 5,5 % of country inhabitants**. Concerning the population change, positive tendency is experienced in the region. **Between 2001 and 2014 the population increased by 1,2 %**, because of positive birth rate (natural increase) and despite the **outmigration**.

**Tab 2: Change in population and population density (2001, 2014)**

	Population (person)		Population density (person/km <sup>2</sup> )		Change (%)
	2001	2014	2001	2014	
Poland	38 242 197	38 478 602	122	123	0,62%
Podkarpackie	2 104 138	2 129 187	117	119	1,20%

**Source:** Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Podkarpackie voivodship is the only region with a natural increase in last years among the regions of “Region wschodni” in the East of Poland.

**Tab 3: Natural increase per 1000 population by place of residence**

Region	total	
	2013	2014
Poland	-0.5	0.0

Region wschodni (NUTS II)	-0.9	-0.6
Lubelskie	-1.4	-1.1
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Podlaskie	-1.3	-0.7
Świętokrzyskie	-2.7	-2.3

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Outmigration is quite a big problem of the region. Through the last 14 years, region is losing a lot of inhabitants, esp. young – productive people.

**Tab 4: International migration for permanent residence by the economic group age (Person)**

Region	at pre-working age					at working age					at post-working age					Last 5 years
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Region wschodni	439	549	519	-147	138	-326	-687	-703	-1 989	-1 514	15	24	19	-15	-10	<b>-3 688</b>
Lubelskie	-3	-33	-27	-144	-97	-37	-143	-121	-535	-526	2	0	-6	6	-12	<b>-1 676</b>
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>-180</b>	<b>-304</b>	<b>-337</b>	<b>-867</b>	<b>-486</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-1 058</b>
Podlaskie	226	147	97	-74	-29	-134	-222	-176	-378	-306	8	-1	16	-6	-2	<b>- 834</b>
Świętokrzyskie	4	110	123	18	80	25	-18	-69	-209	-196	-7	11	-2	0	10	<b>- 120</b>

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Podkarpackie region has high levels of outmigration, especially of working age people. Tab 5 shows that ratio of net migration in percent of total population of region is one of the highest in the regions of Eastern Poland.

**Tab 5: International migration for permanent residence by the economic group age: ratio of net migration**

Region	at pre-working age					at working age					at post-working age				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>-7.3</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Lubelskie	-0.1	-0.8	-0.7	-3.6	-2.5	-0.3	-1	-0.9	-4	-3.9	0.1	0	-0.2	0.1	-0.3
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>-6.4</b>	<b>-3.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Podlaskie	9.9	6.6	4.4	-3.5	-1.4	-1.8	-2.9	-2.3	-5	-4	0.4	0	0.7	-0.3	-0.1
Świętokrzyskie	0.2	4.8	5.5	0.8	3.7	0.3	-0.2	-0.9	-2.6	-2.5	-0.3	0.5	-0.1	0	0.4

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

The **population density** of the Podkarpackie region is 116 people/km<sup>2</sup>. It is lower than the national average (cc. 123 people/km<sup>2</sup>), but higher than EU 28 average. The rural character of the region confirms the number of “Rural Gminas”.

**Tab 6: Number of Gminas**

Region	Number of urban gminas	Number of urban-rural gminas	Number of rural gminas
Poland	305	608	1 566
Podkarpackie	16	35	109

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Regarding **distribution of population according to age groups**, the region is little bit “younger” than the Poland and EU average. Region has currently very favourable age structure with a high share of children (below 15 years old) and economic active population.

**Tab 7: Distribution of the population according to age groups (y. 2014)**

Region	Population all (person)	Population age 0-14	Population age 15-64	Population age 65+
Poland	38 478 602	15.00%	69.80%	15.30%
Podkarpackie	2 129 187	15.40%	70.20%	14.50%

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

In terms of nationalities living in Poland, Poland is almost homogenous country. More than 96 % of the inhabitants are Polish nationality. Representation of other ethnic groups in Poland is as follows: Silesian 1.1 %, German 0.2 %, Ukrainian 0.1 %, other and unspecified 1.7 % (ethnicity declared in 2011 Census). According to data from the Central Statistical Office of Poland, Podkarpackie voivodeship is also not a multi-ethnic region, as many times declared. Representation of non-polish inhabitants in the region is negligible.

**Tab 8: Population by declared nationality in 2011 (persons)**

Region	Polish citizenship	non-Polish citizenship	stateless person	unidentified citizenship	Armenia	Belarus	Russia	Ukraine	Italy
<b>Poland</b>	<b>38 445 564</b>	<b>55 436</b>	<b>2 020</b>	<b>8 805</b>	<b>1 248</b>	<b>3 605</b>	<b>4 000</b>	<b>13 407</b>	<b>852</b>
Lubelskie	2 172 742	2 734	95	129	197	409	222	1 290	0
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>2 124 973</b>	<b>2 009</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>107</b>
Podlaskie	1 200 073	2 048	44	200	103	958	284	138	0
Świętokrzyskie	1 279 652	924	13	132	0	0	0	348	0

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

#### Main needs and challenges

- Escalation of negative phenomena in urban areas (“spilling” of urban areas, depopulation of central areas of cities, fragmentation of urban fabric).
- Selective outmigration and ageing of society slowly reduces the labour force in the region – causing competitive disadvantages for the future.

#### Main potentials

- The natural growth of population is very high compared to EU and Poland average, which creates positive situation also for next decades, while the high share of working-age population can make region very competitive.

## Economy, competitiveness and labour market

The GDP shows **low economic performance** of the region. GDP at current prices in Podkarpackie region is the lowest in Poland.

**Tab 9: Gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices**

Area / Indicator	GDP Per capita, Poland = 100							
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Lubelskie	71.1	70.5	70.6	69.3	68.3	67.6	67.7	69.4
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>70.8</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>68.4</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>69.0</b>
Podlaskie	77.5	77.3	75.9	74.6	74.0	73.4	74.2	73.0
Świętokrzyskie	76.0	77.1	78.1	77.2	74.8	76.0	76.9	80.0

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Regarding the **GDP per capita** values, the region is **well under the EU28** (26,500 euro PPS – source: Eurostat, 2012) and the national average as well. The last years have brought positive changes and economic growth across all regions of Poland except the east regions near Schengen border, however GDP grows slowly in the Podkarpackie region.

**Tab 10: Gross domestic product (GDP) at current market prices (2000, 2012)**

	GDP/HEAD (EUR)		CHANGE (%)	GDP (MEUR)		CHANGE (%)
	2000	2012		2000	2013	
Poland	4 900	10 000	104.8	186 376	396 111	112.53
Podkarpackie	3 500	7 000	100.0	7 443	15 578	109.30

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

### Labour market

The total number of active population in the Podkarpackie region reached 903 ths. in 2014. The labour market data show as unfavourable picture because 126 ths. of the economically active population of the region were unemployed at the end of 2014. The women have worse access to the labour market than the men.

**Tab 11: Economically active population, in ths. (2014)**

	Economically active population			of which					
	Total	Men	Women	Employed			Unemployed		
				Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Poland	17 428	9 593	7 835	15 862	8 778	7 084	1 567	815	752
Podkarpackie	903	510	394	777	440	337	126	69	57

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

The highest unemployment rate in Poland has been for last few years in Podkarpackie region. But we can see positive trend in reducing unemployment rate in the region of Podkarpackie in recent years.

**Tab 12: Rate of registered unemployment (in %)**

Area / Indicator	Rate of registered unemployment (in %)										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Lubelskie	17.8	17.0	15.5	13.0	11.2	12.9	13.1	13.2	14.2	14.4	12.7
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>14.8</b>
Podlaskie	16.1	15.6	13.3	10.4	9.7	12.8	13.8	14.1	14.7	15.1	13.1
Świętokrzyskie	22.0	20.6	17.7	14.9	13.7	15.1	15.2	15.2	16.0	16.6	14.2

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Besides high unemployment rate, also a high proportion of long-term unemployed (more than a year) in the total number of unemployed is another negative fact. Long-term unemployed made up more than 41,6 % proportion of all registered unemployed in the Poland in December 2014. Long-term unemployed proportion in Podkarpackie region is higher than the average in the PL, namely at the level of 44,9 %.

**Tab 13: Rate of long-term unemployed of all unemployed**

Region	Rate of long-term unemployed of all unemployed (in %)
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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>25.8</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>41.6</b>
Lubelskie	54.7	51.5	52.4	48.8	39.9	31.8	32.2	39.7	41.2	44.2	46.4
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>42.8</b>	<b>44.9</b>
Podlaskie	50.2	46.7	46.4	43.5	32.6	27.8	34.0	39.1	41	42.6	46.4
Świętokrzyskie	53.0	53.2	52.9	49.7	43.2	31.7	30.7	35.1	36.8	38.2	41.9

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

#### Main needs and challenges

- Weak dynamics of establishing new business entities.
- Insufficient cooperation among the business environment institutions as well as weak cooperation between the universities and scientific centres with businesses.
- Outflow of young, qualified workforce, including the most talented graduates.
- Labour market indicators are bad with high unemployment rate, high share of long-term unemployment, however there are some positive decrease of unemployment in the last year in the area.

#### Main potentials

- The 2,1 million population of the area, including large cities represent not only a potential market, but also a competitive labour force pool for SMEs and transnational companies.
- Development of entrepreneurship by improving an offer of business environment.
- Diversified economic structure is a good basis for further development.
- Local SMEs can benefit from mutual cooperation, incl. the wider (cross-border) region, which is essential for the better economic performance of the area.
- The universities and research units of the area have a solid academic background and RTDI capacity providing a good foundation for better utilizing research results.
- Implementation of supra-regional projects financed from the EU funds.

## Tourism, culture and leisure

The tourism has a great importance in country and in the region as well, which could become one of the key sectors in the national/regional GDP production and employment. One of the main development priorities of the Podkarpackie Region is tourism. This allows a large natural and cultural potential. An important element of the tourism, based on the region's potential, are natural spas. The spa-centers use the health values of local microclimates and various kinds of mineral waters. These values are recognised and appreciated particularly by a wide number of senior tourists visiting the region every year.

The area of the region which is under protection exceeds the Polish average by 20 percent. Bieszczady National Park is listed by UNESCO. Magurski National Park also offers numerous unique specimens of the flora and fauna.

Apart from the national parks mentioned above, there are 10 landscape parks, 17 protected landscape areas and 71 nature reserves in the Podkarpackie region. Moreover, an increasing number of Farm Tourism holiday, the possibility to produce eco-food and above all, wonderful nature conditions make the region a world class tourist destination.



Podkarpackie voivodeship is one of the least polluted regions in Poland and provides first-class purity water. Because of a big variety of mineral water coming from the region, Podkarpackie is famous for numerous health-resorts such as Iwonicz Zdrój, Rymanów Zdrój or Polańczyk. Lake Solina – the biggest artificial lake in Poland – is a perfect place for practising water sports and sailing. There are many tourist trails intended to encourage tourists to go hiking; the most attractive of them are to be found in Bieszczady. Bike paths of various length and different levels of difficulty also cover big areas of the region.

**Tab 14: Environmental protection**

Region	Emission of air pollutants in thous. t		Industrial and municipal waste-water treatment		Area of special nature value under legal protection		
	particulates	gases (excluding carbon dioxide)	total in hm <sup>3</sup>	of which treated in % of total	in thous. ha	in % of total area	per capita in m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Poland</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>1 573.3</b>	<b>2 124.0</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>10 166.0</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>2 642.0</b>
Lubelskie	1.9	26.5	72.3	99.4	570.3	22.7	2 655.0
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>69.5</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>800.7</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>3 761.0</b>
Podlaskie	0.9	10.2	38.9	100.0	645.9	32.0	5 419.0
Świętokrzyskie	2.2	72.2	84.0	78.5	762.0	65.1	6 032.0

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Podkarpackie region is rich in **touristic attractions** – both in **cultural** and in **natural** heritage. Nearly half the territory of the region is protected. In terms of tourism region recorded positive trend. Occupancy rate of bed places in recent years is growing, but still below the average of Poland.

**Tab 15: Occupancy rate of bed places**

Region	Occupancy rate of bed places				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Poland</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>34.8</b>
Lubelskie	32.9	31.6	30.4	30.3	29.6
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>30.2</b>	<b>29.9</b>
Podlaskie	28.5	28.8	29.2	29.1	28.9
Świętokrzyskie	32.3	32	32.7	30.8	30.2

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Number and quality of the accommodation establishments is growing. A lot of supporting programs (incl. EU funds) helped this trend. As we can see in the table 13, in Podkarpackie region tourist accommodated per 1000 capita is growing fast.

**Tab 16: Number of accommodation establishments**

Territorial unit	tourists accommodated per 1000 capita							
	total							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	person	person	person	person	person	person	person	person
<b>Poland</b>	<b>497.09</b>	<b>513.07</b>	<b>507.26</b>	<b>531.24</b>	<b>557.46</b>	<b>587.42</b>	<b>607.78</b>	<b>651.8</b>
Lubelskie	283.9	313	301.99	305.1	301.23	318.77	336.62	354.8
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>282.57</b>	<b>295.32</b>	<b>311.8</b>	<b>327.66</b>	<b>337.86</b>	<b>342.98</b>	<b>367.42</b>	<b>410.37</b>

Podlaskie	388.65	387.75	367.69	379.12	394.01	445.71	496.83	502.45
Świętokrzyskie	306.55	277.94	302.01	316.45	339.83	345.28	353.21	377.09

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Number of overnight stays is following the trends of visitors' number. The region has one of the highest increases in Poland. This points to increasing importance of tourism in the region's economy.

**Tab 17: Number of overnight stays by visitors**

Territorial unit	(nights spent) overnight stays per 1000 capita							
	total							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>1 441.75</b>	<b>1 486.14</b>	<b>1 442.08</b>	<b>1 448.58</b>	<b>1 483.38</b>	<b>1 609.36</b>	<b>1 635.21</b>	<b>1 730.06</b>
Lubelskie	650.20	719.02	741.95	738.95	684.05	706.26	737.75	760.53
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>865.02</b>	<b>899.53</b>	<b>924.57</b>	<b>968.00</b>	<b>990.89</b>	<b>1 073.06</b>	<b>1 079.09</b>	<b>1 171.52</b>
Podlaskie	789.28	761.39	724.64	750.05	750.17	820.97	851.34	879.81
Świętokrzyskie	876.13	842.08	888.78	939.36	975.39	1 056.42	1 056.62	1 110.41

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Cultural life of the region is not developed as the Polish average. There is quite huge network of public libraries, which are widely used by citizens. However, other cultural infrastructure is underdeveloped.

**Tab 18: Selected data on "Culture"**

Region	Public Libraries (with branches)			Seats in theatres and music institutions	Seats in fixed cinemas
	Borrowers	collection in vol.	collection lendings per borrower in vol.		
	per 1000 population			per 1000 population	
<b>Poland</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>3 398</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Lubelskie	176	2 906	19.1	0.9	4.7
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>4 072</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Podlaskie	122	4 020	20.6	3.3	4.9
Świętokrzyskie	133	3 395	20.3	1.4	5.7

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

#### Main needs and challenges

- The dominance of seasonality of incoming tourist traffic.
- Lack of tourist offer for domestic and foreign tourist having higher requirements about quality and the range of offered services.
- Depreciation of health resort and spa base.
- The region as tourist attraction has too low international recognition, visibility and presence on the European and World scene.

#### Main potentials

- Establishment of a competitive and attractive market offering based on a large tourist potential of the region.
- Existing natural and historical tourism centres (e.g. Zakopane, Krynica Zdrój).
- Natural, historical and cultural heritages of the region.
- With a stronger coordination, exchange of information and cross-promotion the touristic

events of the area are also potentially strong attractions (even on international level) complementing and enhancing the physical attractions.

- The cooperation between cultural institutions, tourist enterprisers and other actors is the basis to create a common tourism region, incl. CBC with SK and UA partners.
- Development of package offers and integrated tourist products, incl. CBC ones.

## Education

The education system in Poland is centrally managed by two Polish ministries - Ministerstwo Edukacji Narodowej a Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego. In Poland 99% of students visits state free of charge education system. The first stage of the education system is pre-school education for children aged 3-6 years. Primary school is divided into two stages. High School is also divided into grammar schools and upper secondary schools.

**Tab 19: Higher school students per 10 thousand of population**

Region	Higher school students per 10 thousand of population							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
	person	person	person	person	person	person	person	person
<b>Poland</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>382</b>
Lubelskie	491	489	488	466	443	430	398	382
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>279</b>
Podlaskie	442	444	456	441	424	391	352	322
Świętokrzyskie	401	390	376	357	331	302	266	239

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Grammar and upper secondary schools are mostly located in regional capitals and district towns. They are generally quite symmetrically distributed among the country.

Number of Universities in Poland is high. The biggest university in Podkarpackie region is the University of Rzeszow. It was established in 2001 through the merger of the Pedagogical University of Rzeszow, the Maria Curie Skłodowska University, Lublin (Rzeszów branch) and the Economic Faculty of the Agricultural Academy of Cracow (Rzeszów branch).

Generally, the R&D level and its financing in Poland is significantly below the EU average. Annual expenditures for R&D are below 1% of the GDP. Podkarpackie region is slightly above national average in indicators defining the R&D sectors, that is a positive fact.

**Tab 20: Research and development activity in 2013**

Region	Gross domestic expenditures on research and development activity (R&D) <sup>a</sup> (current prices)				Employment in research and development activity (R&D)		Enterprises with expenditures on innovation activity in % of total number of industrial enterprises
	total		per capita in zł	ratio to GDP in % (in 2012)	in absolute numbers	in % of employees in the national economy	
	in mln zł	in percent					
<b>Poland</b>	<b>14 424</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>145 635</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>29.6</b>
Lubelskie	402	2.8	186	1.0	7 381	1.8	31.4

<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7 339</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>36.5</b>
Podlaskie	205	1.4	171	0.4	2 778	1.3	32.1
Świętokrzyskie	140	1.0	110	0.3	1 552	0.7	23.5

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

#### Main needs and challenges

- The education system insufficiently adapted to the changing needs of the labour market.
- Relatively big differences among quality of education between the schools and universities.
- Declining number of students can reduce the potential labour force of the region.
- Low interest of children and students for technical education – absence of skilled technicians on the market in the “era” of high unemployment, but relatively high economic growth.
- Stagnation of teachers, researchers and students exchange, esp. with Ukraine.
- Low participation of inhabitants in lifelong education.

#### Main potentials

- Further development of the R&D sectors in the region.
- Well-developed network of school sites provides solid basis for improvement in qualification level.
- The development of a competitive higher education sector and research and development as key drivers of regional development.
- Fast improving equipment for secondary schools as well as high-tech educational infrastructure > developed infrastructure of schools ensure a better environment for a more effective education, but human capital investments are needed – open space for CBC projects in this field.
- Increased awareness and public will for improvement of the school system – more resources allocated for development projects e.g. for interaction between schools and business sphere.

## Health and social affairs

The **life expectancy at birth** in Poland and in Podkarpackie region shows a significant increase in between 2007 and 2014. This may be associated with improved quality of the health care and social services and increasing quality of life of inhabitants of the region. However, country and the region are still below the EU 28 average (83,3 years women, 77,8 men – Eurostat 2013).

Tab 21: Life expectancy at birth

Region	males							
	total							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>71.3</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>72.4</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>73.8</b>
Lubelskie	70.2	70.2	70.8	71.2	71.7	72.4	72.7	73.2
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>73.2</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>75.1</b>
Podlaskie	71.5	72.0	71.9	72.5	73.3	73.1	73.2	74.0
Świętokrzyskie	71.0	71.2	71.7	71.8	72.0	72.7	72.8	73.7
Region	females							
	total							
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Poland</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>81.6</b>

Lubelskie	80.2	80.5	80.5	81	81.1	81.5	81.6	82.2
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>82.1</b>	<b>82.4</b>	<b>82.8</b>
Podlaskie	80.9	81.4	81.5	81.9	81.8	82.3	82.3	82.8
Świętokrzyskie	80.6	80.7	81.1	80.9	81.3	81.5	81.5	82.1

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

Health indicators in the region are below the Poland average. Higher number of social welfare beneficiaries has direct link to high unemployment in the region.

**Tab 22: Health care and social welfare**

Region	Doctors	Dentists	Beneficiaries of social welfare benefits per 10 thous. population			Consultations provided in out-patient health care per 1000 population		Children in nurseries per 1000 children (up to age 3)
	per 10 thous. population		total	monetary assistance	non-monetary assistance	medical	dental	
	2013					2014		
<b>Poland</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>516.2</b>	<b>447.5</b>	<b>256.2</b>	<b>7 060.1</b>	<b>880.2</b>	<b>59.0</b>
Lubelskie	24.5	4.5	555.4	382.4	308.2	7 082.3	1 309.9	38.3
<b>Podkarpackie</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>641.1</b>	<b>441.5</b>	<b>349.9</b>	<b>6 532.2</b>	<b>846.6</b>	<b>47.7</b>
Podlaskie	24.7	4.1	637.3	550.8	305.1	7 276.1	968.7	61.8
Świętokrzyskie	22.0	3.5	663.6	493.3	385.2	6 550.7	778.1	38.6

Source: Central Statistical Office of Poland 2015.

#### Main needs and challenges

- There is a great need for the development of health and social infrastructure and public health and social services (especially for elderly people and people in disadvantaged situation).
- Inequalities in health and social care infrastructure and services contribute to patient migration between towns and villages.
- Failure to create proper administrative conditions for cross-border health care financing may lead to the increase of semi-legal or illegal practices and hinders the evolvement of a consistent cross-border health care system.

#### Main potentials

- Health care system reform at national level can improve the quality of the health care system in the region and availability of health services in the rural areas.
- Based on the existing cross-border cooperation between the hospitals of the region the health care infrastructure and services can be better harmonized to address the needs of potential patients, ensure efficient use of capacities and to improve health care indicators as life quality factors directly and as employment factors indirectly.
- Current governmental policies and investment targets are in favour of new investment for health care a social services infrastructure.