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# Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInstitute

**EI**  
Euro  
Instytut Institut Inštitút



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## Inspiration

The idea to create the Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInstitute came from the Franco-German cross-border region, the city of Kehl, where the Institute for cross-border cooperation – Euro-Institut was founded, in 1993. It is a binational, neutral platform for cooperation with a bilingual and bicultural team. The Euro-Institut responds to the needs of various institutions and residents of the Franco-German border area by providing information, knowledge, methods and tools for work, training and education in the field of cross-border cooperation. It supports entities on both sides of the border in dealing with structural problems, as well as problems arising from different political administrative and structural systems, in reducing different kinds of administrative, social and cultural barriers, and carrying out actions developing cross-border cooperation.



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## Who are we?

The Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInstitute is a network of partner institutions, formed by the following organisations:

- the „Olza” Association of Development and Regional Cooperation – the Polish side of the Euroregion Cieszyn Silesia (Cieszyn),
- Institut EuroSchola (Třinec),
- Regional Association for Territorial Cooperation of Cieszyn Silesia – the Czech side of the Euroregion Cieszyn Silesia (Český Těšín),
- Regional Council (Třinec),
- Association of Municipalities of the Upper Oder River – the Polish side of the Euroregion Silesia (Racibórz),
- Euroregion Silesia CZ (Opava),
- Pedagogical Centre for Polish Minority Schools Český Těšín,
- University of Silesia in Katowice – Faculty of Ethnology and Educational Sciences (Cieszyn), and Faculty of Earth Sciences (Katowice),
- Association of Municipalities of Kysuce Triangle Microregion (Čadca),
- KERIC (Čadca).

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## What we do

Our main areas of activity are: training and consulting, expertise and research, along with education and publishing.

**These are the three pillars of our activity:**





## Training and consulting

We offer cross-border training sessions in order to provide the participants with the necessary skills to work with partners on the other side of the border. Training courses are conducted in two or three languages (Polish, Czech, Slovak), depending on the needs of the target groups. We organise two types of training: interactive and specialised.

Interactive training is aimed at improving soft skills, such as effective communication with your partner, working in a multinational team, creative and positive thinking in „dead-end” situations, ability to adapt to changes in a cross-border work environment, intercultural dialogue, etc. Methods used by the trainers in this type of training are informal (icebreaker, brainstorming, case studies, simulations, pair/group work, discussion, etc.) and their aim is to establish closer relations between the trainees and to create a positive atmosphere of cooperation.

Specialised training is aimed at gaining professional knowledge and skills in well-defined areas, such as, among others: law and administration, education, crisis management, environmental protection, etc. This type of training seeks not only to present the given topic with a special focus on its cross-border specificity and to exchange experiences, but also to compare different administrative systems, management methods, range of skills typical of each country, and good practices used in the neighbouring country. Moreover, these training sessions promote cross-border cooperation in specific fields of expertise by connecting institutions that seek a partner on the other side of the border. They are conducted in the form of a lecture which, however, offers the participants the opportunity to speak, and of a discussion allowing for an exchange of information and experiences between the participants and the trainers, in the given subject matter.



In both types of training we use methods and tools which have been transferred from other European cross-border regions and tailored to the needs of the Polish, Czech and Slovak border area. When conducting cross-border training sessions and workshops we use, among others, the experience of Franco-German, Franco-Spanish, Austrian-Slovenian-Italian or Irish border regions.

As part of our training and consulting services, we also offer meetings and consultations in the field of fundraising and management of cross-border projects, and arrange study visits for organised groups visiting our border region.

## Expertise and research

We cooperate with scientific institutions, as well as consulting and training institutions at home and abroad.

Since 2011 we have been participating in the work of an elite network TEIN (Transfrontier Euro-Institut Network) which brings together actors from different countries that specialise in education, training and consulting across borders. These institutions are:

- Associazione Forser Friuli Venezia Giulia  
– Formazione e servizi per la Pubblica amministrazione (Italy),
- EVTZ-Kompetenzzentrum Viadrina Center B/Orders  
in Motion Europa-Universität Viadrina (Germany),
- Fachhochschule Kärnten (Austria),
- Institut pour la coopération transfrontalière – Euro-Institut (Germany),
- Institut EuroSchola (the Czech Republic),
- Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju i Współpracy Regionalnej „Olza” (Poland),
- The Centre for Cross Border Studies (Northern Ireland),
- Université d’Artois – Institut des frontières et des discontinuités (France),
- Universitat de Girona (Spain),



- Université de Perpignan Via Domitia – ICRESS Institut Catalan de Recherche en Sciences Sociales (France),
- Université de Strasbourg – Institut d'Études Politiques de Strasbourg (France),
- Université Savoie Mont Blanc (France),
- Univerze v Ljubljani Fakulteta za upravo (Slovenia),
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Europäischer Grenzregionen (Germany) – associate member of the network,
- Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (France) – associate member of the network.

As network members we can learn from each other, carry out joint research and knowledge-based projects, exchange experiences and develop tools facilitating intercultural management and the management of cross-border projects. We also devise working methods that can be further used in different border regions of Europe.

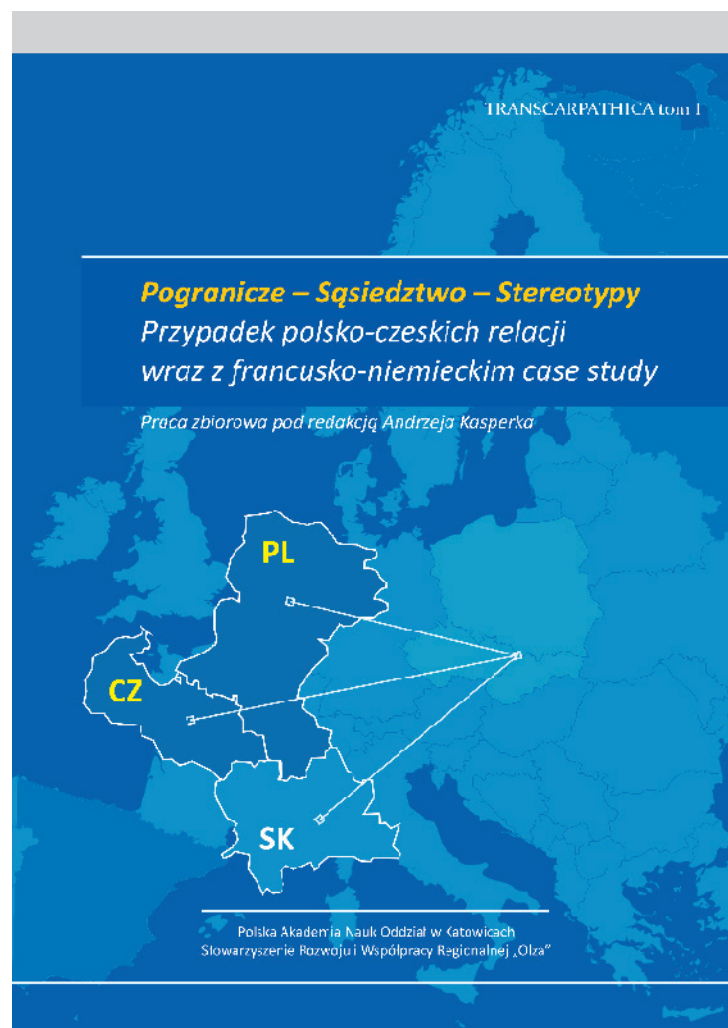
Expertise and research activities of the EuroInstitute also encompass taking part in scientific work, examining the results of various research and analysis, and drawing up vision and strategic documents with a view to promoting cooperation across borders.



## Education and publishing

Since 2012, in cooperation with the Committee for the Polish-Czech and Polish-Slovak Relations of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Branch in Katowice, we have been publishing the series „TRANSCARPATHICA”. This periodical discusses the issues of cross-border cooperation and neighbourly relations between the Poles, Czechs and Slovaks.

We also organise conferences of both cross-border and international scope in order to promote collaboration across borders and enable an exchange of information between the representatives of science and practice.







## Top quality service

In order to provide top quality services, all the activities that we engage in undergo continuous evaluation. We do our best in order to ensure that the Polish-Czech-Slovak EuroInstitute lives up to the expectations of our target clients, to whom we address our actions. We are constantly learning, developing and improving.

We use the criteria established by the model centre for cross-border cooperation – the Euro-Institut in Kehl. These criteria apply to the entities willing to use the registered trademark „Euro-Institut”, and they include:

- operating in a cross-border region,
- having partners from every side of the border,
- contributing to activities performed in the public interest,
- fostering cooperation across borders through training organisation and / or conducting research,
- targeting activities at public administration institutions or other entities contributing to the public interest,
- having a multinational and multicultural team of people knowing the languages spoken in the cross-border region,
- respecting the languages spoken by the actors of cross-border cooperation and encouraging their use in ongoing activities,
- seeking collaboration with organisations with a different logic of work – stressing interculturalism,
- developing methods and tools for cross-border training adapted to the cultural differences and needs of the cross-border region.

# Contact



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printed by

Przedsiębiorstwo Poligraficzne MODENA Sp. z o.o., Cieszyn  
[www.drukarniamodena.pl](http://www.drukarniamodena.pl)

INSTITUT  
EUROSCHOLA



EVROPSKÁ UNIE / UNIA EUROPEJSKA  
EVROPSKÝ FOND PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ / EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO  
PŘEKRAČUJEME HRANICE / PRZEKACZAMY GRANICE

Projekt „EURO-IN – Budowanie i testowanie partnerstwa ukierunkowanego na problematykę transgraniczną w ramach prac nad tworzeniem międzynarodowego ośrodka ds. kształcenia transgranicznego – EuroInstytutu” (PL.3.22/3.1.00/12.03422) został dofinansowany ze środków Europejskiego Funduszu Rozwoju Regionalnego w ramach Programu Operacyjnego Współpracy Transgranicznej Republika Czeska – Rzeczpospolita Polska 2007 – 2013

Projekt „EURO-IN – Budování a testování partnerství zaměřeného na přeshraniční problematiku v rámci prací spojených s tvorbou mezinárodního střediska přeshraničního vzdělávání – EuroInstytutu” (PL.3.22/3.1.00/12.03422) byl spolufinancován z prostředků Evropského fondu regionálního rozvoje Operačního programu přeshraniční spolupráce Česká republika – Polská republika 2007 – 2013