

Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic
CZECHO-SLOVAK BORDERLAND DEVELOPMENT STUDY
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COMMISSIONED BY

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http://www.mmr.cz/pracovni-skupiny

Foreword



Strengthening of cross-border, international and inter-regional cooperation makes one of the European Union's cohesion policy objectives. Compliant with the objective, the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic has been cooperating with the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic on selected topics. In matters of spatial planning and housing code, the cooperation is developed on the basis of the Agreement on Cooperation in Spatial Planning and Housing Code, concluded by the two ministries in 2002. A Czecho-Slovak working commission has been established to cover practical aspects of the cooperation.

The active cooperation between the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Construction and Regional

Development of the Slovak Republic and the activities of the Czecho-Slovak Working Commission have resulted in the joint Czecho-Slovak Borderland Development Study, which is standing available to you. In addition to an assessment of the existing situation and spatial development potential, it brings common development objectives and selected proposals and tasks whose concerted implementation may be of benefit of all the entities involved.

I hope that the presented document would support a sustainable development of the territory of the Czecho-Slovak borderland and facilitate the development in the cooperation of regions, communities and institutions at both sides of the Czecho-Slovak border.

Jiří Čunek Minister for Regional Development



In the Slovako-Czech borderland, the societal, cultural and economic ties are very strong, with a long tradition. It also is because the cooperation is not limited by a language barrier. Since the accession of our countries to the European Union, their bonds have been becoming stronger and acquire a new quality. This territory can be developed if the respective spatial development prerequisites are in place, which allow performing diverse activities, with the aim of supporting sustainable and integrated economic, environmental, social and cultural development of the borderland region, by improving its accessibility, by developing its informatisation and tourism, while maintaining and developing cultural traditions.

Our cooperation with the Czech Republic in spatial planning is very good. It is based on the Agreement on Cooperation in Spatial Planning and Housing Code, concluded by and between the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic in Bratislava on 23 May 2002. The cooperation focuses mainly on spatial planning as a part of borderland cooperation, under multi-lateral international cooperation. Spatial planning concepts and concerning the borderland areas are coordinated.

This Slovako-Czech Borderland Development Study commissioned by both respective ministries in close cooperation is an example of such cooperation. It provides a picture of the Slovako-Czech borderland development situation and opportunities and brings a joint development vision in selected issues, tapping on this region's potential.

I strongly believe that the call to address common tasks will be a success and will establish prerequisites for continuing the trend of approximation in both parts of the borderland region, toward a joint cohesion and confirming the region's unique nature and competitiveness in the international context.

Marian Janušek

Minister of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 History

On 23 April 2002, the Agreement on Cooperation in Spatial Planning and Housing Code was concluded by and between the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (ME SR) and the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic (MRD CR). The cooperation focuses mainly on spatial planning as a part of borderland cooperation, spatial planning as a part of multi-lateral international cooperation and the coordination of spatial planning concepts and spatial planning documents in borderland areas. When certain powers and responsibilities moved from the ME SR to the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic (MCRD SR) in May 2003, the spatial planning cooperation has continued and proved to bring good results.

The joint project in spatial development, the Slovako-Czech Borderland Development Study is an example of that cooperation.

The Slovak party started working over the document as early as in 2004. Analyses for the Spatial Development Project of the Slovak Republic's and the Czech Republic's Borderland were prepared by the Slovak Environmental Agency. Based on the analysis and in agreement with the Czech party, the MCRD SR decided to order a land-planning study of the Slovako-Czech borderland. An open tender to select the land-planner was called for in 2005. The winning tenderer to prepare the study became AŽ PROJEKT Ltd., Bratislava.

The Czech party started working in 2004, too. The Czecho-Slovak borderland study was awarded to the Institute for Spatial Development Brno which cooperated on the assignment with Atelier T-plan Ltd.

On both sides, the works were split up into three national stages:

- Stage I national analyses of spatial and functional relations of the respective borderland areas (2004);
- Stage II national SWOT analyses of the challenges identified in the area of interest (2005);
- Stage III included:

A draft land-planning study on the Slovak part, represented by a proposal of the area's physical development, including the conclusions and recommendations for a joint solution of borderland links (completed in December 2007), which was discussed with the state administration authorities and the regions concerned;

On the Czech part, national proposals of the borderland development objectives and measures were drawn up for the realisation of the borderland development links (completed in December 2007), which was discussed with all the regions concerned.

In all three stages, the progress of works was consulted on a continuous basis by the customer and the providers on both sides.

Compliant with the study objectives at the time of its commissioning and with regard to the conclusions of the 7th meeting of the Slovako-Czech (Czecho-Slovak) inter-governmental commission for borderland cooperation held in Oščadnica on 30 October 2007 and the conclusions of the

meeting of the Slovako-Czech working commission for the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation between the MCRD SR and the MRD CR in spatial planning and housing code, held in Bratislava on 4 March 2008, a joint project was prepared. The project resulted in a joint Czecho-Slovak borderland development study, which focuses in particular on spatial development of the Czecho-Slovak borderland and its development strategy drawing from the European development concepts and regional development.

1.2 Participants

The subject study was prepared in cooperation of the representatives of the Czech and Slovak parties.

The customers are the following:

- MRD CR representing the Czech Republic,
- MCRD representing the Slovak Republic.

The study was prepared by:

- Institute for Spatial Development Brno in cooperation with Atelier T-Plan Ltd., representing the Czech Republic,
- AŽ PROJEKT Ltd., representing the Slovak Republic.

The Slovak part of the area of interest

When preparing the Land-Planning Study of the Slovako-Czech Borderland, an active involvement of the self-governing regions was foreseen in the contract awarding and especially in its discussion:

- self-governing region of Trnava,
- self-governing region of Trenčín,
- self-governing region of Žilina.

The state administration and local/regional government authorities provided background documents. The Slovako-Czech borderland land-planning study was discussed with various ministries and other central state administration authorities of the Slovak Republic. The different self-governing regions organised its discussion at the regional level with the state administration authorities and other institutions concerned.

The Czech part of the area of interest

When preparing the Czecho-Slovak borderland development study, an active involvement of all regions was foreseen, to whose territory the area of interest belongs:

- region of South Moravia,
- region of Zlín,
- region of Moravia & Silesia.

The joint study is intended in particular for:

- state administration authorities,
- self-governing regions,
- communities and cities,

- Euro regions,
- legal entities and natural persons.

1.3 Specification of the area of interest

The border with the Czech Republic is 251,8 km long and represents 15,23 % of the total length of the Slovak Republic's and 10,99 % of the total length of the Czech Republic's borders.

The area of interest is widely specified as the territory of the regions along both sides of the border. They are the following regions: Trnava, Trenčín, Žilina, South Moravia, Zlín and Moravia & Silesia.

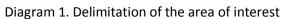
On the Slovak side, the closer area of interest covers the territory of 12 counties, plus three counties whose territory is situated at a distance less than 20 km from the border with the Czech Republic:

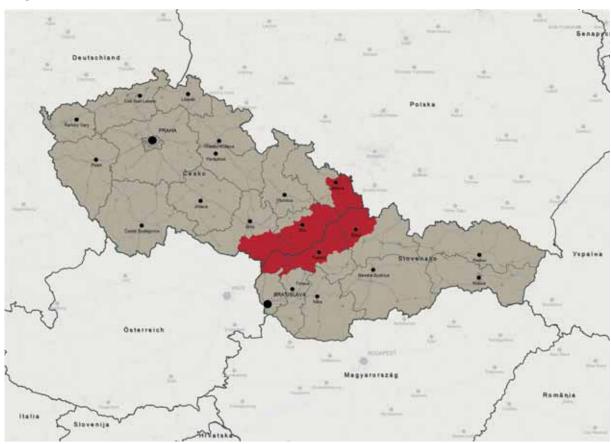
- Senica and Skalica in the Trnava region,
- Považská Bystrica, Púchov, Ilava, Trenčín, Nové Mesto nad Váhom and Myjava in the Trenčín region,
- Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Žilina and Bytča in the Žilina region.

On the Czech territory, the area of interest is outlined by the borderland counties of:

- Karviná, Ostrava-city and Frýdek-Místek in the region of Moravia & Silesia,
- Vsetín, Zlín and Uherské Hradiště in the region of Zlín,
- Hodonín and Břeclav in the region of South Moravia.

The specified territory extends over 13 175 $\rm km^2$ and has a population of 2 374 892; on the Slovak side, it covers 5 852 $\rm km^2$ with a population of 799 945; and on the Czech side, it covers 7 323 $\rm km^2$ with a population of 1 574 947.





2. BACKGROUND OF COOPERATION

2.1 Links to national and supra-national development strategies

By its specific contributions, the joint Czecho-Slovak borderland development study makes a complement to a series of related documents of national, common and supra-national character, which lay down the basic development objectives, tasks, trends and strategies concerning the areas and regions along the common national border. To prepare the study, in particular the background documents of spatial planning and regional policy at both sides of the common border were taken as a basis.

Attention was paid to the results and recommendations of supra-national spatial planning documents which were drafted on the Czech and the Slovak part under specialised projects of the INTERREG initiative for the CADSES group countries and whose conclusions applied to the solution of development issues of the Czecho-Slovak borderland, both in the wider or closer meaning of the word. They are in particular the following:

- the Vision Planet project (respective the wider territorially functional relations and planning strategies in the Central European area);
- the PlaNet CenSE project (respecting the specific cooperation and transport relations resulting from the MetroNet and North South Corridors sub-projects);
- The Carpathian project prepared by the Polish party in 2004 (focusing on the development and exploitation of specific potentials of the Carpathian mountain range);
- partially the ESPON project (in particular its section 1.1.1 on the hierarchy of settlement structures in the area along both sides of the common border).

Diagram 2. Delimitation of areas of cooperation under the PlaNet CenSE project (www.planet-cense.net)



2.1.1 Links to spatial planning

The spatial planning focus of both national parts of the study reflected in particular the results of those national documents and documentations which relate to the issues of spatial development of the Czecho-Slovak borderland.

They were the following ones on the Czech side:

- Spatial development policy of the Czech Republic 2006 or 2008, respectively;
- Spatial plan of wide territorial unit Ostrava Karviná;
- Spatial plan of wide territorial unit Beskydy, change No. 2;
- Spatial forecast of the Zlín region;
- Draft Principles of spatial development of the Zlín region;
- Spatial plan of wide territorial unit of the Břeclav region;
- Development study of the Czecho-Polish borderland (for the territory of the region of Moravia & Silesia).

They were the following ones on the Slovak side:

- Concept of Slovakia's spatial development 2001;
- Spatial plan of the wide territory of the Žilina region;
- Spatial plan of the wide territory of the Trenčín region;
- Spatial plan of the wide territory of the Trnava region.

2.1.2 Links to regional policy

The joint study solution takes notice of the objectives, tasks and strategies of regional development policies at the national and regional levels and of the joint document of the Czecho-Slovak cross-border cooperation.

On the Czech part, the following documents have been reflected:

- National development plan of the CR 2007 2013 (National strategic reference framework CR 2007 – 2013);
- Regional development strategy of the Czech Republic for period 2007 2013;
- Development programme of the region of Moravia & Silesia;
- Development programme of the territory of the Zlín region;
- Development strategy of the South Moravian region.

On the Slovak part, the following documents have been reflected:

- National strategic reference framework;
- Programme of economic and social development of the Trenčín self-governing region;
- Programme of economic and social development of the Trnava self-governing region;
- Programme of economic and social development of the Žilina self-governing region;
- Regional relations of the placement of industrial parks in Slovakia's economy.

The jointly reflected document is:

 Operational programme of cross-border cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic for period 2007 – 2013.

2.2 Spatial planning and regional policy systems

In order to understand the trends and solution objectives of the joint Czecho-Slovak borderland development study, it is desirable to clarify the structures and focus of the spatial planning and regional policy systems in both countries, which prove considerable differences after the split of the common state in 1993.

2.2.1 Spatial planning systems

Until 1993, spatial planning in both countries was performed identically, regulated by the Building Act (Act No 50/1976 on spatial planning and housing code). After 1993, the Act remain valid in both countries but was subject to a series of different amendments on both sides. In 2007, a new Building Act (Act No 183/2006) came into force in the Czech Republic which introduced a series of new aspects into spatial planning. In the Slovak Republic, a new Building Act is in the pipeline.

Spatial planning system in the Czech Republic

Legislation

In March 2006, the Czech Republic's government approved Act on spatial planning and housing code No 183/2006 (the Building Act) in force since 1 January 2007. From that day on, the new act is the binding legislation regulating the rules of spatial planning and matters related to the preparation and implementation of building projects in the Czech Republic. The Building Act was amended twice, by Act No 68/2007 and Act No 191/2008.

In matters of spatial planning the Act regulates in particular:

- the objectives and tasks of spatial planning;
- the system of spatial planning authorities;
- the instruments and procedures in spatial planning;
- the impact assessment on sustainable development of territories;
- the decision-making and conditions of construction, development of territories, construction of public infrastructure and swapping of land plots;
- a register of spatial planning activities and the qualification requirements for spatial planning business.

According to the Act, the main tasks of spatial planning are the following:

- to ensure and assess the condition of the territory and its natural, cultural and civilisation values;
- to lay down the territory development concepts, including the land- planning concepts with regard to the territory's values and conditions; determine land- planning, architectural and aesthetic requirements for the exploitation and spatial arrangement of the territory and its changes, for the location, arrangement and design of structures;

- to review the need of changes within a territory, the public interest in their implementation, their benefits, challenges and risks with regard to the public heath, the environment, geological structure of the territory, impact on the public infrastructure and its economical exploitation;
- to lay down the conditions for implementing changes within a territory, in particular as regards the placement and arrangement of structures, taking into account the existing nature and value of the territory, including the order for implementing the changes in the territory (phasing);
- to introduce territorial prerequisites for decreasing the danger of environmental and natural disasters and for the elimination of their consequences in a nature-friendly manner and to create spatial conditions for the elimination of the consequences of sudden economic changes;
- to determine the conditions for the restoration and development of the settlement structure and for good quality housing;
- a series of other tasks, including the impact assessment of spatial planning activities on sustainable development of the territory and on the environment.

The spatial planning authorities are the following:

- Communities the municipal authority which provides for compliance with the qualification requirements to execute the role of a contracting entity, commissions spatial planning documents and background documents for the municipal territory; the municipal authority of a municipality with extended powers and responsibilities (spatial planning authority) commissions such background documents and documents for municipalities within its administrative powers whose municipal authorities have not bee assigned the role of a contracting entity;
- Regions the regional authority commissions spatial planning documents and background
 documents for the territory of their region; it is the competent authority in zoning proceedings
 concerning changes in the territory which are of concern of several administrative districts of
 municipalities with wider powers and responsibilities and in project brief proceedings where
 environmental impact assessments are required;
- Ministry for Regional Development CR is the central administration authority in spatial planning and housing code and performs state supervision in both areas; in matters of spatial planning, it commissions spatial planning documents and the spatial development policy for the territory of the Czech Republic, maintains a register of spatial planning activities and performs other activities in line with the Act; it plays the role of regional authority in cases where the spatial plan for the entire administrative territory is commissioned by the capital of Prague;
- *Ministry of Defence CR* discusses and issues the spatial planning documents and background documents for the territory of a military training ground; they are commissioned by the authority in charge of the military training ground.

Spatial planning documents and background documents:

The Act and the applicable implementing regulations lay down the scope and functions of the spatial planning documents and background documents which make a basis for any and all decisions related to the exploitation of territories.

The spatial planning background documents are:

Analytical spatial background documents – they contain an identification and assessment of the
territory's condition, its values and restrictions, changes in the territory for reasons of public
interest protection and an analysis of the territory's sustainable development; the municipal
territorially-analytical background documents are commissioned by every spatial planning
authority for the area under its administration and by a regional authority for the territory of its
region;

• Spatial study – reviews the requirements on the protection of the territory's values, on its development and changes within the territory; it proposes, reviews and assesses variant solutions of selected issues or modifications or development of those functional systems which could impact or have effect on the exploitation and arrangement of the territory or its selected parts; a spatial study is commissioned by the entity contracting spatial planning documents if imposed to do so by the documents, or in its own or any other initiative.

The spatial planning instrument is:

• Spatial development policy (SDP CR) — a national spatial planning instrument; over a defined period, it lays down the requirements on the specification of spatial planning tasks in the national, cross-border and international context and the basic conditions for meeting them; it coordinates the creation and updating of spatial development principles, the drawing up of concepts approved by ministries and intended changes in territories of national importance and lays down the tasks for ensuring such coordination; it is binding for drawing up the principles of spatial development, spatial plans, regulatory plans and for decision-making in the territory; the policy is drawn up by the MRD SR for the country's territory and approved by the government.

The spatial planning documents are:

- Spatial development principles (SDP) lay down the basic requirements for a purposeful and economical arrangement of a region's territory, delimit the areas and corridors of trans-local importance and for publicly beneficial structure and measures; lay down the requirements of their exploitation and the criteria of decision-making about change variants of their use or future use; in selected instances, it imposes a review of changes in spatial studies or stipulates the decision-making about changes by issuing a regulatory plan; they are binding for spatial plans, regulatory plans and for the decision-making in the territory; the principles are drawn up by the regional authority for the entire territory of the region, are reviewed by the ministry and issued by the regional representation;
- Spatial plan lays down the basic land-planning development concept for the territory of a municipality, arrangement of the landscape and public infrastructure; it identifies the developed land and areas to be developed, areas to be re-developed, areas for publicly beneficial construction and measures and spatial reserves, and lays down the conditions of their use; in selected cases, it imposes to review the changes in spatial studies or stipulates the decision-making in changes by issuing a regulatory plan; it is binding for the regulatory plan and the decision-making in the territory, the spatial plan of the capital city Prague is binding for the spatial plan of a specified part of the city; the spatial plan is commissioned up by the municipal authority in the role of contracting authority for the entire territory of the municipality, the entire territory of the capital of Prague or, the entire territory of a military training ground; the spatial plan is reviewed by the regional authority and issued by the municipal representation; in case of a military training ground, both is carried out by the defence ministry;
- Regulatory plan in the applicable area, it determines the detailed conditions for the use of land plots, placement and spatial arrangement of structures and public infrastructure, in order to protect the values and nature of the territory and in order to create a favourable environment; it specifies publicly beneficial structures and measures; in the applicable area, it replaces the decision in spatial proceedings within the approved scope and is binding for the decision-making in the territory; a regulatory plan issued by a region is binding for spatial plans and regulatory plans of municipalities; the regulatory plan is issued in the initiative or on request of a natural person or a legal entity; the drawing up of a regulatory plan in an initiative is decided by the municipal or regional representation; it is issued by the competent representation; in case of a military training ground by the defence ministry.

Spatial planning system in the Slovak Republic

Legislation

At the time being, the legal framework for spatial planning is made by Act No 50/1976 on spatial planning and housing code, as amended, along with its implementation decrees.

In matters of spatial planning, the Act regulates in particular:

- the objectives and tasks of spatial planning,
- spatial planning instruments,
- spatial planning authorities,
- procedures in the commissioning of spatial planning documents;
- updates of spatial planning documents.

Spatial planning encompasses the following tasks and activities:

- determines the regulatives of spatial arrangement and functional use of the territory;
- determines the necessary redevelopment, reconstruction or reclamation in the territory and determines the manner of its further use;
- specifies preservation areas, protected sights, zones of silence and safety zones unless those are created otherwise under special regulations, and provides for the protection of all protected components of the landscape;
- determines the principles and conditions of material and time coordination of locally concentrated construction of one or several developers;
- assesses and evaluates technical implications for the territory of intended construction and other measures within the territory and proposes their scope which has an effect on their environmentally friendly and safe exploitation;
- solves the placement of structures and determines technical, land-planning, architectural and environmental requirements related to the territory concerning their design and implementation;
- determines the principles for the exploitation of natural resources, territory's conditions and of the entire environment, so that the activities therein would not exceed the bearable load of the territory; creates and maintains environmental stability of the landscape;
- creates prerequisites for creating concepts of construction and technical amenities of the territory;
- proposes the order of development and exploitation of the territory;
- proposes technical and organisation measures in the territory necessary for improving the environment, reaching environmental stability and ensuring sustainable development.

The spatial planning authorities are the following:

At the level of state administration

- Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR commissions the Concept of Slovakia's spatial development, spatial planning documents at the national level, and provides methodology guidance to all spatial planning authorities;
- *Ministry of Defence SR* provides for activities in the territories of military districts, commissions spatial plans of military districts;
- Regional building authority provides methodology guidance to municipalities.

At the level of self-government

- Municipality commissions and approves spatial plan of the municipality and spatial plan of the zone;
- *Self-governing region* commissions and approves the spatial plan of the region.

The spatial planning instruments are the following:

- spatial planning background documents,
- spatial planning documents,
- planning permissions.

The spatial planning background documents are:

 Land-planning study, development plan, land development plan, technical development background document – non-binding documents with the aim of reviewing solution options, forecasting the development, etc.

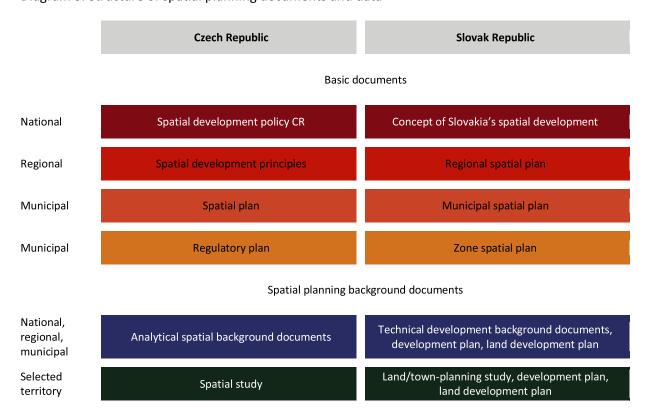
The spatial planning documents are:

- Concept of Slovakia's Spatial Development it is drawn up for the entire territory of the Slovak Republic. It addresses the spatial arrangement and functional use of the Slovak Republic's territory and lays down the framework of social, economic, environmental and cultural requirements of the state concerning spatial development, environmental care and landscape planning of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Republic's regions. It determines in particular: the arrangement and hierarchy of the settlement structure and of settlement and economic agglomeration nodes within the international and national context, the development of main urbanisation axes in the Slovak Republic's territory, principles of guidance for spatial development with the aim of creating equivalent conditions of living throughout the Slovak Republic's territory and introduce spatial prerequisites to improve the environment, to ensure environmental stability, to preserve the cultural & historical heritage and for sustainable development.
- Regional spatial plan is drawn up for a part of territory with several municipalities, where specific development intents are to be solved or activities performed, which have a significant effect on the territory's spatial arrangement and functional use. The borders of the area of interest are delimited in the terms of reference by the spatial planning authority which commissions the regional spatial plan. The regional spatial plan reflects the binding part of the Concept of Slovakia's spatial development and lays down in particular: the principles and regulatives of the structure of settlement, spatial arrangement and functional use of the territory with regard to its sustainable development and urbanisation development, the principles and regulatives of the arrangement of public, transport and technical amenities, the principles and regulatives of care for the environment, the territorial system of ecological stability and the regulatives concerning spatial requirements on the protection and exploitation of natural resources and significant landscape elements, mutual links of spatial development of the region and the region's municipalities and the links to neighbouring regions, publicly beneficial structures and protected parts of the landscape.
- Municipal spatial plan is drawn up for the territory of a single municipality or for the territory of two or several municipalities. The municipal spatial plan lays down in particular: the principles and regulatives of spatial arrangement and functional use of the territory of the municipality taking into regard the neighbouring spatial, allowable, restricted and prohibited functional use of areas, the principles and regulatives of the care for the environment, the territorial system of ecological stability and landscape design, including green areas, the principles and regulatives for the protection and exploitation of natural resources, cultural and historical values and significant

landscape elements, borders separating the continuously developed area of the municipality or intended for development and the remaining area of the municipality, the principles and regulatives of public transport and technical amenities and civic amenities, the areas for publicly beneficially structures, for redevelopment and for protected parts of the landscape. Towns and municipalities with a population over 2000 were obliged to be in possession of a municipal spatial plan by 30 June 2005. Other municipalities are obliged to be in possession of a municipal spatial plan if a concept of their spatial development is to be solved, extensive new development and redevelopment is to performed in the municipality or publicly beneficial structures are to be placed there. That obligation may also result from the binding part of a regional spatial plan, especially to comply with international commitments or to place a public transport and technical amenity of national importance in their territory.

Zone spatial plans – are drawn up for a part of municipality where the approved municipal spatial plan foresees the obligation to provide for a zone spatial plan for a delimited part of the municipality or where a land plot or structure are to be delimited for publicly beneficial use. The zone spatial plan lays down in particular: the principles and regulatives of a more detailed spatial arrangement and functional use of land plots, structures and public transport and technical amenities in the territory, the principles and regulatives for the placement of structures on the individual land plots, the urban spaces and conditions for building over individual land plots, land plots situated in the developed area of the municipality, structures on land plots and the share of possible land coverage and bearable use of the territory, undeveloped land plots as building land plots and specification of those land plots which - according to the spatial plan - cannot be permanently classified as building plots, protected parts of the landscape, the principles and regulatives concerning the necessary facilities of structures and links to the public transport and technical amenities in the territory, the principles and regulatives for incorporating structures in the surrounding development, in sight conservation areas, in sights conservation zones and the remaining landscape, the placement of vegetation, significant landscape elements and other elements of the territorial system in ecological stability of the different land plots, the factual and time coordination of new development and redevelopment of existing structures, land plots for publicly beneficial structures, with prohibited construction and to be re-developed.

Diagram 3. Structure of spatial planning documents and data



2.2.2 Regional policy systems

Like in spatial planning, the regional policy systems in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic went apart from one another after the split of the common state in 1993.

Regional policy system in the Czech Republic

Legislation

In December 1992, the Czech Republic's government adopted a decision concerning the Government's regional economic policy principles laying down the basic tasks, measures and institutional support of regional policy in the CR and defining the CR's areas of difficulties intended to receive targeted support of development. The document was followed up by the Government's Regional Policy Principles of April 1998, which reflected the new environment in the CR and the links to the EU regional policy. In June 2000, the Parliament of the Czech Republic adopted Act on the support of regional development No 248/2000 laying down the conditions for granting the support of regional development with the aim of well-balanced development of the state or the territory of a region, and the applicable competences of administration authorities, regions and municipalities creating an environment for the coordination and implementation of economic and social cohesion in the Czech Republic. The Act was subject to several amendments after year 2000, the latest being No 66/2007.

The regional development bodies are the following:

 central administration authorities, in particular the Ministry for Regional Development, and other ministries;

- regions;
- municipal authorities with delegated competences and municipal authorities with extended competences;
- municipalities.

The support of regional development in the CR includes:

The system of support focuses on business development, human resources development and other labour market measures, research and technology development, development of tourism, improvements in the availability of infrastructure in the regions and ensuring of transport services, the development of physical training, sports and youth activities and culture including the care for sights where new jobs are created, the development of civic amenities and services including physical training, sports, youth and leisure time activities, the development of social services, ensuring the accessibility and raising the quality of rendering of health services, environment protection measures, elimination of impacts disturbing the landscape and maintaining the cultural landscape, establishing of legal entities and creation of programmes in the regions for the benefit of its general development, implementation of land adjustments, the accomplishment of other objectives in other regions whose support is desirable for other reasons (for instance, borderland regions, those with a damaged environment, etc.), and for the accomplishment of other objectives laid down in the development programme for the territories of regions defined in this programme.

The basic regional policy documents are:

- Regional development strategy includes in particular an analysis of the regional development status, characteristics of the strong and weak points in the development of the different regions and counties, the strategic regional development objectives in the CR, a specification of statesupported regions and recommendations to the central administration authorities and regions concerned about the focus of development in the sectors falling within the scope of their competences;
- State regional development programme includes in particular a region delimitation, the objective to be accomplished by the support to its development, the specification of areas at which the support is aimed including the measures proposed, the conditions for extending the financial support, the forms and manner of its extension and the necessary funding for the various measures, including their allocations to the central administration authorities and regions concerned and the time period of their validity.

Both documents are prepared by the MRD CR and approved by the government.

State-supported regions:

In cooperation with other central administration authorities and regions concerned, and based on an continuous analysis of the economic and social development of the state, the MRD CR proposes a delimitation of regions whose development is to be supported with regard to a well-balanced development of the state and the elimination of gaps between the levels of its different territorial units.

In addition, the Ministry proposes the delimitation of the following state-supported regions:

- Regions with concentrated state support:
 - structurally struck regions,
 - economically weak regions,
 - rural regions.
- Other regions.

Financial support of the national regional development programme:

Funds are allocated in the state budget for the financial support of regional development and approved by the Chamber of Deputies, following a proposal of the Government. The measures contained in the adopted national regional development programme are provided for by the central administration authorities and regions concerned within their competences up to the amount of the funds allocated to them. The extended financial support is a complementary aid. The beneficiaries of financial support may be regions, associations of municipalities or municipalities and legal entities established by them, entrepreneurs, non-state non-profit organisations and other legal entities which have applied for financial support and submitted a project to implement a measure contained in the national regional development programme. There is not any legal title to the financial support provided by state.

Financial support for the development of a territorial area is provided also by regions from their respective regional budgets. The funds are approved by the regional council. The extended financial support is a complementary financial aid. The beneficiaries of financial support may be associations of municipalities or municipalities and legal entities established by them, entrepreneurs and other legal entities which have applied for financial support and submitted a project to implement a measure contained in the development programme of the region. There is not any legal title to the financial support provided by a region.

Coordination of economic and social cohesion:

Due to the need of coordination and implementation of economic and social cohesion, regions have been established with their territories identical with the territorial statistical units NUTS 2. They are the following regions of cohesion: *Prague* defined by the territory of the capital Prague, *Střední Čechy* (Central Bohemia) defined by the territory of the Central Bohemian region, *Jihozápad* (South-West) defined by the territories of South Bohemia and the region of Plzeň, *Severozápad* (North-West) defined by the territories of the Karlovy Vary region and the Ústí nad Labem region, *Severovýchod* (North-East) defined by the territories of the Liberec, Hradec Králové and Pardubice regions, *Jihovýchod* (South-East) defined by the South-Moravian region and the Vysočina region, *Střední Moravia* (Central Moravia) defined by the territories of the Olomouc and Zlín regions and *Moravskoslezsko* (Moravia & Silesia) defined by the territory of the Moravian & Silesian region.

In order to coordinate the assistance provided by the European Communities at the national level, the MRD CR has established a **Managing and Coordination Committee** with its membership made of the delegated representatives of the ministries, regions, entrepreneurs, trade unions, non-state non-profit organisations and other legal entities concerned. Details concerning the Managing and Coordination Committee composition, its powers and responsibilities, organisation and activities are stipulated in its charter and rules of order approved by the Government, following a proposal by the MRD CR.

Regional policy system in the Slovak Republic

Legislation

In 1991 in its Resolution No 390/91, the Government of the Slovak Republic adopted the Principles of Regional Economic Policy, a basis for drawing up the act on support to regional development. The Act on regional development support No 503/1991 was adopted by the National Council of the Slovak Republic on 18 October 2001 (and amended by Act No 351/2004).

On 4 November 2008, the National Council SR adopted a new act on the support to regional development coming into effect on 1 January 2009 and replacing the recent act.

Regional development authorities

At the central level, the central authority responsible for regional development and regional policy is the *Ministry of Construction and Regional Development SR* which coordinates and provides methodology guidance to state administration authorities and authorities of local and regional governments in the preparation, drawing up and implementation of strategic documents of Slovakia's regional development and regional development programmes. At the regional and local levels, it is the self-governing regions and municipalities.

Support of regional development

Within the meaning of the new Act on support to regional development, the main aim of support to regional development is:

- the elimination or mitigation of undesirable disparities in the economic, social and spatial development of regions and the ensuring a sustainable development of regions;
- the raising of economic performance, competitiveness of regions and the development of innovations in regions while ensuring a sustainable development of regions;
- the raising the employment and the lining standard of the population in regions while ensuring a sustainable development of regions.

The support of regional development is provided according to:

- the National Strategy of Regional Development SR,
- the programme of economic development and social development of a higher territorial unit (region),
- the programme of economic development and social development of a municipality.

In the 2007 – 2013 programming period, Slovakia can draw from the EU funds on the basis of the document called the National Strategic Reference Framework SR for Years 2007 – 2013. The strategies, priorities and objectives of the National Strategic Reference Framework for Years 2007 – 2013 are implemented by 11 operational programmes.

Financial support

Within the meaning of the new Act on the support to regional development, the regional development is funded by the state budget, state purpose-bound funds, budgets of self-governing regions, budgets of municipalities, by natural persons, by legal entities, by loans and by contributions of international organisation, by funds resulting from international grant agreements between the Slovak Republic and other states and by other funds.

The EU funds make a complementary funding source of regional development support.

2.3 Starting points for the development of Czecho-Slovak borderland

2.3.1 Framework spatial conditions and opportunities

The area of interest in the Czecho-Slovak borderland is situated in the closing western part of the farreaching Carpathian Mountains. The prevailing north-east part of the common state border between the two countries follows the Carpathian ridges of the Beskydy Mountain and White Carpathian Mountains on the Czech side and the peaks of the Javorníky Mountains and the White Carpathian Mountains on the Slovak side. In fact, the entire mountain territory along both sides features officially declared protected landscapes which make a single large protected landscape unit reaching across the common border. The south-west lowland part of the common border is made by the Morava River which is a tributary of the Danube River on the Slovak territory. The exceptional natural and landscape values of the Czecho-Slovak borderland have endowed this territory with considerable development opportunities, especially in the wider sense of recreational stays, nature-friendly forms of tourism and learning tourism.

The available amenities, enterprise and education in significant centres of settlement in the area provide highly favourable development opportunities, just as the scope of the area by agriculture and balneology along both sides of the common border. The area offers a wide scope of regional specific cultural and folklore attractions and well-developed viticulture on the Czech side. The difficulty of that area is a highly restricted accessibility of the hilly borderland part of the zone by transport for which no more intensive socio-economic ties between the Slovak and Czech parts of the borderland can be exercised.

On the other hand, considerable development opportunities in a mutual connection of tighter cooperation within the Czecho-Slovak borderland are provided by the potentials of both wider trilateral territories in the north-east and south rim of the area of interest at the Czecho-Slovako-Polish and Czecho-Slovako-Austrian dividing line. In both areas, there are settlement poles of regional or national importance, with opportunities of intensive transport connections which would stimulate the development of mutual socio-economic relations. They are especially the connections of amenities and opportunities present in the cities Žilina (SK) – Český Těšín – Cieszyn – Ostrava agglomeration (CZ) – Katowice – Bielsko-Biaľa (PL) in the north and of the cities Bratislava (SK) – Vienna (A) and Brno (CZ) in the south.

The opportunities of mutual functional links of both these trilateral areas and the resulting strengthened socio-economic attractiveness of the area of interest in the Czecho-Slovak borderland may be significantly supported by the construction of two parallel multi-modal TEN-T corridors along the Morava River on the Czech side and along the Váh River on the Slovak side, following the axis Vienna – Břeclav – Brno / Otrokovice – Ostrava – Katowice on the Czech side and Katowice – Žilina – Trnava – Trenčín – Bratislava – Vienna / Budapest on the Slovak side.

2.3.2 Related objectives and tasks of spatial planning

A comparison of spatial planning documents

Situation on the Czech side

The initial Building act No 50/1976 did not impose the obligation on spatial planning authorities to coordinate the issue of borderland development with the competent authorities of the neighbouring states. The new Building Act No 183/2006 already pays attention to those needs. The draft Spatial Development Principles (SDP) of the Zlín region (2007) were provided for commenting to the Slovak regions concerned this year; the draft SDP of the Moravian & Silesian (2008) and South Moravian (2009) regions will be provided to the Slovak regions concerned later.

Situation on the Slovak side

Act No 50/1976 on spatial planning and the housing code, as amended, lays down the obligation to notify the spatial planning authority in the state bordering with the respective region in the event that spatial planning documents are submitted to discussion. That obligation was satisfied with

regard to the SP WTU modifications and amendments of the Trenčín region (2004), SP WTU modifications and amendments of the Žilina Region (2005) and SP WTU modification of amendment No 2 of the Trnava region (2007) which were coordinated with spatial planning authorities concerned in the neighbouring regions on the Czech side in issues relating to the development of wider relations.

2.3.3 Related objectives and tasks of regional policy

Situation on the Czech side

The basic regional policy document at the national level is *the Regional Development Strategy CR* of 2006 (RDS). The main trends and objectives of the Czech Republic's regional policy are derived in particular from the Sustainable Development Strategy CR, laying down a long-term framework for maintaining the basic civilisation values and the quality of societal life, and from the Economic Growth Strategy CR which is the basic government document for the 2007 – 2013 period, identifying the nationally specific regional needs and structures. The RDS objectives and tasks are of rather general nature, not including any specific territorial projections. To be able to verify certain territorial impacts, the RDS CR is coordinated with the SDP CR which links the selected aspects of sectoral issues with the territorial ones.

One of the growth-oriented strategies underpinned by the RDS includes cross-border and interregional cooperation, tapping on the opportunities of cross-border regional cooperation within the Central European area and the cooperation with other European regions and international organisations. A higher level of detail of such strategies in the RDS depends on the existence of special strategies and programmes which – in case of the Czecho-Slovak borderland – is the Operational Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013.

The relating regional programmes and development strategies of the regions of Moravia & Silesia, Zlín and South Moravia neither include any special regional policy cross-border aspects and objectives with regard to the neighbouring Slovakia's (including Poland and Austria) territory nor impose any special tasks in that respect. To do so, the regions possess territorially applicable and specialised operational programmes of cross-border cooperation.

Situation on the Slovak side

The regional development documents at the national level is the *National Regional Development Strategy SR*, the basic background strategic document which, in a comprehensive manner, defines the strategic approach of the state toward the regional development support over a long term, while respecting the sustainable development principles. It brings an analysis of the economic and social situation in the regions and an analysis of the populations' public health, a long-term vision of regional development support with an outlook of 20 years, a strategy of regions' development determining the supported priorities and objectives, the institutional and organisational support for the national strategy implementation, the monitoring and evaluation systems and measurable indicators including the manner of checking their accomplishment, a financial plan identifying the funding sources and forms, and the time schedule for the national strategy implementation. The National Regional Development Strategy SR is submitted by the MCRD SR to the Government for approval.

The regional policy document at the regional level is the *Programme of economic development and social development of a higher territorial unit* (region). The programmes of economic development and social development of the Trenčín and Žilina self-governing regions not paying any particular attention to cross-border aspects and regional policy objectives vis-à-vis the neighbouring territory of the Czech Republic (incl. Poland) do not impose any special tasks in that respect. Only the

Programme of economic development and social development of the Trnava self-governing region brings global objectives and measures for the Slovako-Czech, Slovako-Austrian and Slovako-Hungarian border in its development strategy, objective 1 "Cross-border, trans-national and interregional cooperation".

2.3.4 Objectives and tasks of a joint operational programme

In January 2007, on the basis of mutual cooperation and final agreements, a joint operational programme (OP) was adopted – the Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic 2007 – 2013. The following parts of the OP are relevant for the development of the Czecho-Slovak borderland and for the objectives pursued by this study:

- Chapter 2. Analysis of recent situation and SWOT analysis;
- Chapter 4. Strategy;
- Chapter 5. Priority axes.

As per Chapter **2. Analysis of recent situation:** The results of SWOT analysis in this OP part are not materially different from the results of SWOT analysis in both national parts of the study. The characteristics of the differences identified in this chapter and the conditions for their correction make the key for the solution of spatial development in the common borderland.

As per Chapter **4. Strategy:** The main objective is the growth of cohesion and convergence in the cross-border region: creating a functional network of cooperating bodies with the aim of supporting the sustainable, integrated economic, environmental, social and cultural development of the region by improving the accessibility, the development of informatics, tourism, and the preservation and development of cultural traditions.

The overall strategic intention is to provide for the attainment of basic strategic objectives contained in European and national strategic documents by means of joint projects and activities in the borderland region. Hereby, one of the EU basic tendencies is to be ensured: integration and cohesion within the international context.

The OP priorities lead to a definition of the common development visions in selected areas which would tap on the cross-border region's potentials and opportunities, with a joint solution of the main issues. Therefore, it is necessary to provide for continuous development coordination and exchange of views concerning joint activities within the cross-border region.

The OP lays down the following specific objectives for the cross-border region:

- Support to the development of economic and social cross-border structures raising the competitiveness and employment in the region;
- Raising the accessibility and quality of cross-border infrastructure supporting the cross-border region cohesion.

Those strategic objectives are to be met by means of two thematically-oriented priority axes defined in Chapter 5.

As per Chapter **5. Priority axes:** With regard to the amount of the funds allocated, two development priority axes were determined for the region and one independent priority axis to ensure management, control and monitoring for the support of cross-border cooperation. The supported development priority axes are the following:

• **Priority axis I**: Support of socio-cultural and economic development of the cross-border region and cooperation. The priority axis objectives are: strengthening of mutual cooperation and networking, restoration and preservation of regional cultural traditions, common approaches to human resources and education development, improving the cross-border development

- activities in economy, tapping on the potentials of tourism for boosting its economic importance in the cross-border region and supporting the creation of common products of tourism.
- **Priority axis II**: Development of accessibility of the cross-border territory and environment. The priority axis objectives are: improving the accessibility of the cross-border area, preserving the regional and local specificities and landscape character of the cross-border area, creating the conditions for the recovery and preservation of a good quality environment, raising the use of information and communication technologies.

The description of objectives and priority axes is of strategic nature, without any specific territorial projections. For more details about the territorial aspects of the Czecho- Slovak borderland, see both national studies and the common part of this study.

3. OPPORTUNITIES OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Development potentials of the area

3.1.1 Settlement and settlement structure

Settlement

In the defined borderland, there are 784 municipalities with a total permanent population of 2 374 892. With regard to population, the towns of Frýdek-Místek, Havířov, Karviná, Ostrava, Trenčín, Zlín and Žilina dominate the +50 000 category. They accommodate 31,04 % of the total population in the area of interest. The category of larger settlements between 10 000 and 49 999 (27 municipalities, a share of 3,44 %) accommodates 24,23 % of the population. The most municipalities fall within the category with a population between 500 and 999 (238 municipalities, a share of 30,36 %; the share of population with permanent domicile of 7,40 %); the second largest group is made by municipalities with a population between 1000 and 1999 (178 municipalities, a share of 22,70 %; the share of population with permanent domicile 10,68 %). The category with a population between 200 and 499 cannot be forgotten (149 municipalities, a share of 19,01 %; the share of population with permanent domicile only 2,26 %).

Table 1: Structure of municipalities by size

County	No of municipa	No of municipalities and their population									
	Up to 199	200 - 499	500 - 999	1 000 - 1 999	2 000 - 4 999	5 000 - 9 999	10 000 - 49 999	50 000			
Břeclav	-	12	18	19	11	2	1	-			
Bytča	-	-	4	5	2	-	1	-			
Čadca	-	-	4	3	11	4	1	-			
Frýdek-Místek	-	14	17	23	13	3	1	1			
Hodonín	4	17	25	13	18	2	3	-			
llava	-	5	6	4	3	1	2	-			
Karviná	-	-	-	4	5	3	3	2			
Kysucké N. Mesto	-	3	3	4	3	-	1	-			
Myjava	-	6	7	2	-	1	1	-			
Nové Mesto n. Váhom	2	5	11	10	4	-	2	-			
Ostrava-město	-	1	3	3	3	2	-	1			
Pov. Bystrica	6	6	6	7	2	-	1	-			
Púchov	-	2	11	4	2	1	1	-			
Senica	-	4	12	9	4	1	1	-			
Skalica	1	5	7	3	2	1	2	-			
Trenčín	1	5	14	7	8	1	-	1			
Uherské Hradiště	6	14	23	20	11	2	2	-			
Vsetín	-	8	24	11	12	1	3	-			
Zlín	5	29	28	14	5	5	1	1			
Žilina	-	13	15	13	10	1	-	1			

County No of municipalities and their population								
	Up to 199	200 - 499	500 - 999 1 000 - 1 999		2 000 - 4 999	5 000 - 9 999	10 000 - 49 999	50 000
Total	25	149	238	178	129	31	27	7
Share	3,19	19,01	30,36	22,70	16,45	3,95	3,44	0,89

Source: Statistical Office SR, 2006; A small lexicon of municipalities in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic 2007, Czech Statistical Office (status as at 31. 12. 2006)

Table 2: Population by the structure of municipalities by size

County	Population	Population									
	Up to 199	200 - 499	500 - 999	1 000 - 1 999	2 000 - 4 999	5 000 - 9 999	10 000 - 49 999	50 000			
Břeclav	-	4 785	13 360	26 471	30 496	13 435	24 407	-			
Bytča	-	-	3 449	7 664	8 125	-	11 550	-			
Čadca	-	-	2 837	4 899	32 998	25 410	26 699	-			
Frýdek-Místek	-	4 748	12 932	34 011	40 186	20 546	37 746	59 416			
Hodonín	707	5 900	18 184	17 060	53 182	12 340	49 918	-			
Ilava	-	1 801	4 690	4 648	7 139	5 411	38 353	-			
Karviná	-	-	-	6 230	21 349	18 996	81 915	147 264			
Kysucké N. Mesto	-	1 250	2 881	5 613	7 476	-	16 558	-			
Myjava	-	2 306	4 911	3 317	-	5 567	13 142	-			
Nové Mesto n. V.	249	1 672	7 395	12 500	10 096	-	31 618	-			
Ostrava-město	-	460	1 762	4 611	8 971	12 295	-	309 098			
Pov. Bystrica	996	2 213	4 323	10 038	4 807	-	42 773	-			
Púchov	-	804	8 366	5 392	6 314	6 052	18 833	-			
Senica	-	1 454	8 668	12 310	12 201	5 005	21 253	-			
Skalica	137	1 751	4 370	3 966	4 915	5 223	26 429	-			
Trenčín	182	1 899	10 924	10 850	24 922	6 136	-	57 854			
Uherské Hradiště	855	4 867	18 090	27 865	36 645	12 096	43 313	-			
Vsetín	-	2 857	17 205	18 433	29 252	5 483	72 431	-			
Zlín	770	10 105	19 743	18 693	15 804	30 993	18 544	78 122			
Žilina	-	4 849	11 666	19 033	29 339	6 074	-	85 400			
Total	3 896	53 721	175 756	253 604	384 217	191 062	575 482	737 154			
Share	0,16	2,26	7,40	10,68	16,18	8,05	24,23	31,04			

Source: Statistical Office SR, 2006; A small lexicon of municipalities in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic 2007, Czech Statistical Office (status as at 31. 12. 2006)

Settlement structure

The Czech part of the area of interest

On the Czech side, the basic territorial identification of urbanised areas and axes of regional importance in the area of interest is provided by the draft Spatial Development Principles of the regions concerned (SDP are available at the moment for the Zlín region; SDP are being prepared for the Moravia & Silesia region and will be prepared for the South Moravian region in 2009). A framework identification of areas and axes of national and international importance is provided by the latest SDP CR draft. According to the SDP CR, the Czecho-Slovak borderland of interest includes the following development areas and axes:

 development areas of national importance OB2 Ostrava (including the MWP or MWP parts Bílovec, Bohumín, Český Těšín, Frýdek-Místek, Havířov, Hlučín, Karviná, Kopřivnice, Kravaře, Orlová, Opava, Ostrava, Třinec) and OB9 Zlín (including MWP or MWP parts Holešov, Otrokovice, Vizovice and Zlín), • development axes of national and international importance OS10 (Katowice) Poland/Czech border – Ostrava – Lipník nad Bečvou – Olomouc – Brno – Břeclav – Czech border/Slovakia (Bratislava) with an important link to motorways D1 and D47, express roads R35, R46 and R48 and rail routes No. 250 and No. 270, OS11 Lipník nad Bečvou – Přerov – Uherské Hradiště – Břeclav – Czech border/Austria (Vienna) with an important link to the corridor of the prepared express road R55 and rail track No. 270 and 330, OS12 Zlín – Czech border/Slovakia (Púchov) with an important link to the corridor of prepared motorway R49, and OS13 Ostrava – Třinec – Czech border/Slovakia (Čadca) with an important link to road I/11, the corridor of prepared capacity road Bohumín – Havířov – Třanovice – Mosty u Jablunkova – Czech border/Slovakia and to rail track No. 320. (The capacity road definition is derived from the "express road definition" contained in the AGN. The capacity of such roads complies with their outlook traffic load.)

The Slovak part of the area of interest

On the Slovak side, as laid down in the binding part of SSDC 2001, the settlement structure of the area of interest is made by settlement cores, settlement centres and development axes:

Settlement cores

Top-level settlement cores:

- settlement core of Žilina and Martin, being a top national and national agglomeration, made by the counties of Žilina, Bytča, Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Martin and Turčianske Teplice,
- settlement core of Trenčín, being an agglomeration of national importance, made by the counties
 of Trenčín and Nové Mesto nad Váhom, with its centre in Trenčín (with prerequisites for
 borderland cooperation);

Level 2 settlement cores:

settlement core of Považská Bystrica and Púchov;

Level 3, group 2 settlement cores:

- settlement core of Myjava (with prerequisites for borderland cooperation),
- settlement core of Skalica and Holíč (with prerequisites for borderland cooperation).

Settlement core centres

The most significant centres in Slovakia will play an important role in the international context. The Concept of Slovakia's Spatial Development 2001 characterised those groups of centres in the area concerned, which are further structured in the following sub-groups:

Group 1 settlement centres:

- town Žilina: of international and national importance, plays the role of a regional centre,
- town Trenčín (sub-group 2): of national importance, plays the role of a regional centre;

Group 2 settlement centres:

- towns Čadca and Považská Bystrica (sub-group 1),
- town Púchov (sub-group 2);

Group 3 settlement centres (towns in 2 sub-groups):

- towns Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Senica and Skalica (sub-group 1),
- towns Bytča, Dubnica nad Váhom, Ilava, Kysucké Nové Mesto, Myjava and Trenčianske Teplice (sub-group 2);

Group 4 settlement centres:

towns Holíč, Nová Dubnica, Rajec and Stará Turá;

Group 5 settlement centres:

• municipalities Beluša, Brezová pod Bradlom, Nemšová, Oščadnica, Turzovka, and Krásno nad Kysucou.

Development axes

Level 1 settlement development axes are the following:

- Považie settlement development axis Bratislava Trnava Trenčín Žilina,
- Žilina podtatranská settlement development axis Žilina Martin Poprad Prešov,
- Žilina Kysuce settlement development axis Žilina Čadca Czech border or Poland,
- Záhorie settlement development axis Bratislava Malacky Kúty Czech border.

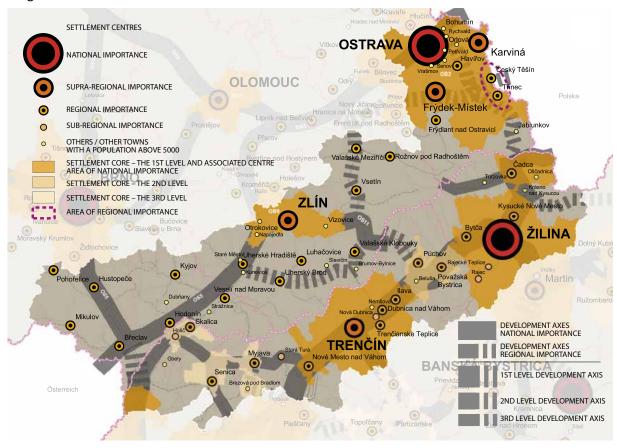
Level 2 settlement development axis is the following:

 Ponitrie settlement development axis Trenčín – Bánovce nad Bebravou – Topoľčany – Nitra – Nové Zámky – Komárno.

Level 3 settlement development axes are the following:

- Záhorie Trnava settlement development axis Skalica Holíč Senica Trnava,
- Lower Morava settlement development axis Kúty Skalica Holíč,
- Myjava settlement development axis Senica Myjava Stará Turá Nové Mesto nad Váhom,
- Small Carpathian settlement development axis Nové Mesto nad Váhom Chtelnica Smolenice Modra.

Diagram 4. Settlement structure



3.1.2 Human resources

Population and population density

There is a population of 2,4 million in the Slovako-Czech border area of interest. In the total population, the share of men and women is 48,85 % and 51,14 %, respectively. As at 31 December 2006, the average population density was 238 persons/km², which is significantly higher per square km than the European Union's average (115 persons/km²). The Ostrava – city as a region significantly contributes to such indicator value (1 443 persons/km²).

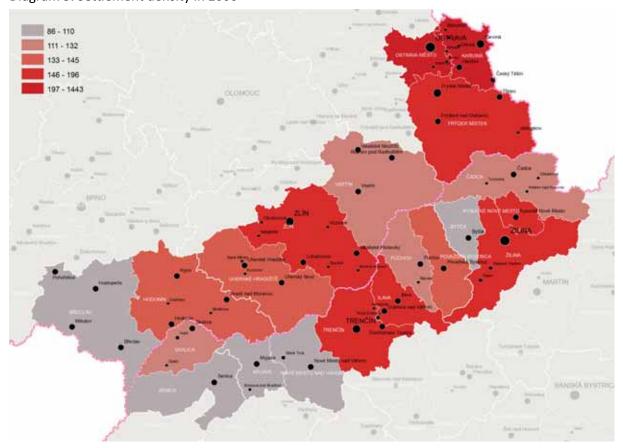


Diagram 5. Settlement density in 2006

The table below brings a summary of selected demographic indicators of the Slovako-Czech borderland.

Table 3: Selected demographic indicators of the Slovako-Czech borderland as at 31 December 2006

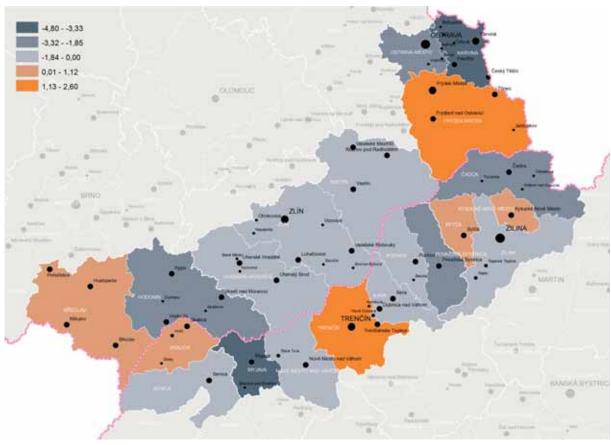
County	Population	Settleme	Age structure			Ageing	Natural	Moving	Total
		nt density	Pre- productive	Productive age)	Post- productive	index	population growth	balance	populatio n growth
			age (0 – 14 years)	15 – 64 years)	are (65+ years)		Per 1 000 per	sons	
Senica	60 789	89	15,5 %	72,9 %	11,6 %	74,7	-1,9	1,8	-0,1
Skalica	47 282	132	15,6 %	73,1 %	11,3 %	72,8	-1,2	2,0	0,7
Ilava	61 188	171	14,3 %	74,1 %	11,6 %	81	0,2	-1,2	-1,0
Myjava	28 240	86	12,9 %	72,6 %	14,5 %	112,9	-2,8	-2,0	-4,8
Nové Mesto n. Váhom	62 892	108	14,1 %	71,5 %	14,4 %	102,5	-3,0	1,8	-1,2
Považská. Bystrica	64 408	139	15,8 %	72,6 %	11,6 %	72,9	-0,2	-2,0	-2,2
Púchov	45 548	121	16,2 %	71,8 %	12,0 %	74	-1,2	0,1	-1,2
Trenčín	113 051	168	14,3 %	72,2 %	13,6 %	95,2	-1,1	3,7	2,6

County	Population	Settleme	Age structure			Ageing	Natural	Moving	Total
		nt density	Pre- productive	Productive age)	Post- productive	index	population growth	balance	populatio n growth
			age (0 – 14 years)	15 – 64 years)	are (65+ years)		Per 1 000 persons		
Žilina	157 679	193	15,8 %	72,4 %	11,8 %	74,3	-0,3	2,0	1,7
Bytča	30 991	110	18,9 %	69,3 %	11,8 %	62,3	-0,1	2,2	2,1
Čadca	92 651	122	18,1 %	71,4 %	10,5 %	57,8	-0,3	-1,2	-1,5
Kysucké N. Mesto	33 979	196	17,3 %	71,6 %	11,1 %	63,8	1,4	-0,5	0,9
Ostrava-město	309 098	1 443	14,3 %	71,6 %	14,1 %	98,8	0	-3,2	-3,2
Karviná	273 970	789	14,4 %	72,0 %	13,6 %	94,8	-1,0	-2,5	-3,5
Frýdek-Místek	227 846	179	14,8 %	71,1 %	14,1 %	94,8	-0,4	3,0	2,6
Uherské Hradiště	143 731	145	14,3 %	70,6 %	15,1 %	105,1	-0,9	0,8	-0,1
Vsetín	145 661	128	14,8 %	71,1 %	14,1 %	94,9	-0,2	-0,9	-1,0
Zlín	192 520	187	14,1	70,6 %	15,3 %	108,4	-0,3	-0,9	-1,2
Břeclav	123 194	105	14,5	72,0 %	13,5 %	93,3	-0,9	1,3	0,4
Hodonín	156 951	145	14,3	71,4 %	14,4 %	100,6	-1,7	-0,8	-2,6

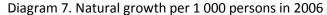
Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and Czech Statistical Office

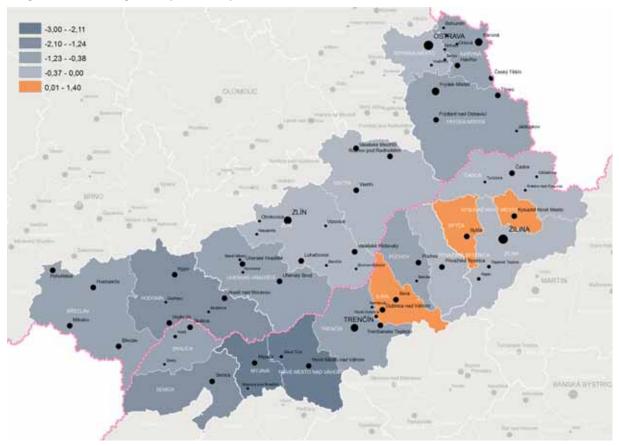
On the Czech side, only 2 counties report a positive growth of population other districts reported a decrease in their population in 2006 (Table 3). On the Slovak side, the situation is slightly better, with 5 counties reporting a positive population growth and 7 counties a negative population growth. The population growth in the two Czech counties has resulted mainly from a positive migration development accompanied by a natural decrease of population. A similar situation was observed in the Slovak part of the area, with only one district reporting a positive natural population development accompanied by a negative development due to migration (county Kysucké Nové Mesto).

Diagram 6. Total growth per 1 000 persons in 2006



The Slovako-Czech borderland can be characterised by an overall positive mobility development (diagram 8), to which mainly the regions in the Slovak part of the area of interest contribute. There are big differences in the dynamism of changes, both on the Czech (between -3,19 and 2,99) and the Slovak (between -2,02 and 3,71) parts of the area. In the total number of 12 counties on the Slovak side, exactly one half was under and the other half above the Slovak Republic's average (0,72). In the Czech part of the area, that indicator is much more negative, with all counties being under the national average (3,38). A positive development of mobility on the Slovak side is reported in particular from the counties of Trenčín, Bytča and Žilina; in the Czech borderland, it is especially the Frýdek-Místek county. The most negative development was reported from counties Ostrava-city and Karviná on the Czech side of the area studied.





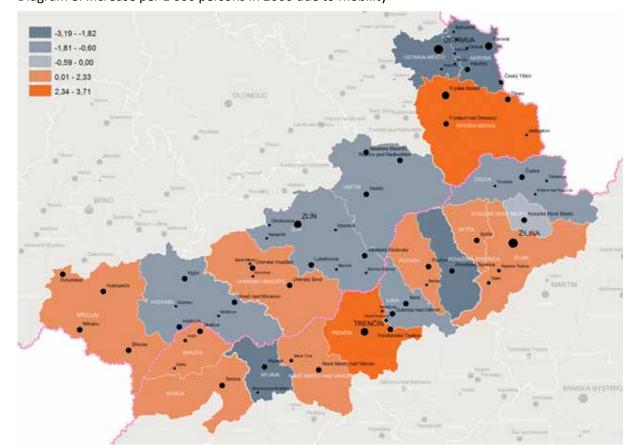


Diagram 8. Increase per 1 000 persons in 2006 due to mobility

Age structure

The age structure of population in the Slovako-Czech borderland area is generally favourable if compared to the EU average, in particular with regard to the population at productive age (71,8 %) (diagram 9); in EU-27, this indicator has a value of 67,2 %, which may have a beneficial impact on the economic development of the given borderland. On the other hand, the population at pre-productive age makes a share of 15,2 %, which is just under the EU-27 value (16,0 %). The population at post-productive age in the borderland reached a value of 13,0 % on average, which is significantly under the European average (EU-27: 16,8 %); it can be observed that none of the counties managed to reach the EU-27 average in this indicator. A significant share in the low value of this indicator is attributed in particular to the counties in the Slovak part of the area where the indicator value was 12,1 % on average, in particular for the counties of Čadca, Kysucké Nové Mesto and Skalica, which is an evidence of relatively old yet not aged population in the Slovak part of the area of interest. The average age of the population was 38 years in the Slovak part and 40 years in the Czech part of the area.

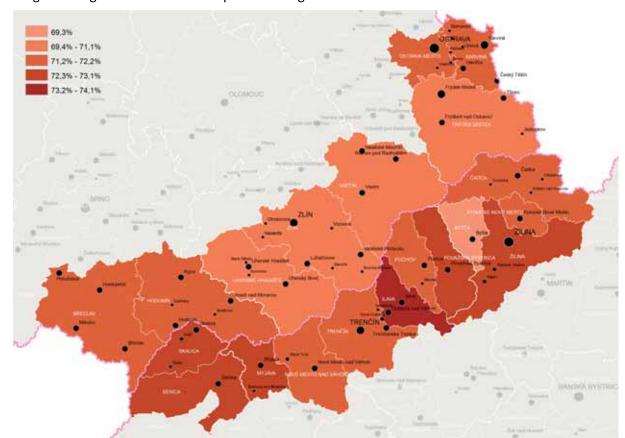


Diagram 9. Age structure in 2006 – productive age

The most favourable development of the population's age structure measured by the ageing index (diagram 10) was reported by the counties of Čadca, Bytča and Kysucké Nové Mesto; on the other hand, an unfavourable situation was observed in particular in the county of Myjava on the Slovak side and in the counties of Zlín and Uherské Hradiště on the Czech side. A more favourable development with regard to this indicator can generally be observed in the Slovak part of the studied area. The given trend of population ageing, in particular on the Czech side, was confirmed by the vitality index.

58 - 64
65 - 81
82 - 95
96 - 105
106 - 113
CUMOUS
CONSTRUMENTS
CONSTRU

Diagram 10. Ageing index in 2006

3.1.3 Economic structure and tourism

Economy and unemployment

To compare the course of the economic evaluation of processes, basic indicators were selected and then, areas with the strongest effect on the bilateral borderland cooperation. The most representative indicator capturing the economic level of a country can be considered the GDP per capita in terms of purchasing power parity. In 2007, it reached 61 % of the EU average in Slovakia, compared to 78 % in the Czech Republic. As this indicator can only be monitored as deep as the NUTS 3 level at the regional level, the table below brings that indicator by regions of the studied area compared to the national and European levels, respectively.

Table 4: GDP level

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
European Union (27 Member States)	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
European Union (25 Member States)	105,0	104,8	104,6	104,4	104,2	104,1
Czech Republic	68,6	70,4	70,6	73,6	75,3	76,6
Region of Moravia – Silesia	53,5	54,8	54,2	56,9	61,5	65,3
Region of Zlín	57,4	58,3	58,3	60,3	60,0	61,8
Region of South Moravia ¹⁾	64,1	64,9	65,1	68,6	69,4	70,2
Slovak Republic	50,2	52,4	54,2	55,6	57,2	60,6
Region of Trnava	52,8	53,6	54,2	57,9	60,3	65,2
Region of Trenčín	47,4	49,3	49,6	51,1	53,0	53,4
Region of Žilina	41,1	43,4	44,3	44,4	46,3	49,7

Source: www.europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/

Note: 1): Czech Statistical Office, in-house calculations

With regard to acceleration of the economic development, convergence (coming closer, elimination of discrepancies with passing time) of the Czech and Slovak economies with the EU level is more and more frequently the topic. A smooth transformation and integration process is of key importance for a harmonic development in bringing the economic levels close to one another. The gap in respect to the EU in the indicator "GDP per capita in terms of the PPS" is of various width. In the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, the indicator has reached 77 % or 61 %, respectively. The table above indicates that only the Trnava county out of all counties monitored reached 65,2 % of the EU-27 average and exceeded that indicator in comparison to the national level. Other counties failed to reach that indicator value in comparison with national economy. The selected economic indicators under evaluation concerning the Slovako-Czech borderland are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5: Economic indicators

County	Unemployment rate			No of job-	No of employed by SCEA in %		
	2006	2007	31. 03. 2008	seekers	Sector I	Sector II	Sector III
Senica	6,52	5,75	5,51	2 031	7,64 %	40,27 %	52,09 %
Skalica	5,55	4,14	4,01	1 201	5,81 %	56,09 %	38,10 %
Ilava	3,28	2,71	2,29	886	3,29 %	54,11 %	42,60 %
Myjava	4,68	4,12	3,68	566	7,17 %	51,42 %	41,41 %
Nové Mesto n. Váhom	4,73	3,89	3,59	1 357	4,21 %	53,67 %	42,12 %
Pov. Bystrica	6,29	5,34	5,09	1 784	3,38 %	45,45 %	51,17 %
Púchov	3,84	3,83	3,29	859	4,03 %	50,41 %	45,56 %
Trenčín	2,45	2,25	1,93	1 332	3,98 %	32,58 %	63,43 %
Žilina	4,64	3,44	3,14	2 637	1,29 %	36,83 %	61,88 %
Bytča	8,71	7,38	7,05	1 082	3,82 %	55,21 %	40,97 %
Čadca	7,18	5,37	4,91	2 536	4,27 %	42,85 %	52,88 %
Kysucké N. Mesto	9,13	7,26	6,91	1 188	2,10 %	61,88 %	36,02 %
Ostrava-město	13,3	9,4	8,72	16 749	0,88 %	19,11 %	80,01 %
Karviná	16,9	13,4	12,74	19 199	2,62 %	18,82 %	78,56 %
Frýdek-Místek	10,4	7,9	6,72	7 842	7,87 %	21,70 %	70,43 %
Uherské Hradiště	6,5	5,3	5,15	4 257	7,10 %	33,00 %	59,89 %
Vsetín	9,7	7,1	6,75	5 568	9,58 %	29,63 %	60,80 %
Zlín	6,3	5,1	4,69	5 210	6,40 %	27,74 %	65,86 %
Břeclav	9,6	7,5	6,54	4 774	16,89 %	26,56 %	56,55 %
Hodonín	13,3	10,7	10,08	8 908	10,56 %	29,85 %	59,59 %

Source: Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic and Czech Statistical Office

Quite a positive phenomenon in the given economic area is the downward trend of the reported unemployment (diagram 11). According to the situation as at 31 March 2008, the highest unemployment was reported by the counties of Karviná (12,74 %) and Hodonín (10,08 %) on the Czech side. In those districts, there were 10,8 or 8,8 job-seekers per vacancy, respectively. On the Slovak side, it is mainly the counties of Bytča (7,05 %) and Kysucké Nové Mesto (6,91 %). The average registered unemployment is more favourable in the Slovak part of the area (4,28 %) than in the Czech part (7,86 %). The lowest unemployment rates were reported by the counties of Trenčín (1,93 %), Ilava (2,29 %) and Púchov (3,29 %).

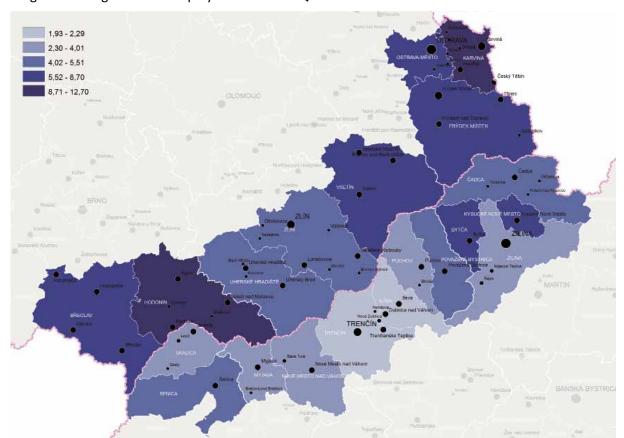


Diagram 11. Registered unemployment rate in 1Q/2008

The structure of workers by sectors in the monitored area is slightly more favourable in the Czech part (diagram 12). The highest number of workers in the Czech part of the area was employed in the tertiary sector (66,64 %). Only 7,74 % were employed in the primary sector. The most workers in the tertiary sector were reported by the counties of Ostrava-city (80,01 %) and Karviná (78,56 %). In the county of Ostrava-city, there were only 0,88 % workers in the primary sector. In the Slovak part of the area, the situation is slightly different, with the secondary sector share reaching an average of 48,40 % in the total employment, the tertiary sector 47,35 % and the primary sector 4,25 %. The highest share of secondary sector workers was reported by the counties of Kysucké Nové Mesto (61,88 %) and Skalica (56,09%). There are significant employers in those regions, namely INA Kysuce Ltd., and INA Skalica Ltd., with an approx. 30 % share in total employment in the secondary sector of those regions.

PRIMARY SECTOR

SECONDARY SECTOR

TERTIARY SECTOR

CLOMOUG

CLOMOU

Diagram 12. Share of workers by sectors in 2006

Tourism

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The Slovak part of the area of interest belongs to significant and attractive areas of tourism in Slovakia. The area of interest possesses a huge natural and cultural & historical potential and is subject to intensive exploitation by diverse tourism forms and activities, including recreation and balneology.

The existing functional & spatial system of tourism and recreation is located mostly in the territory of preservation landscapes (White Carpathian Mountains, Záhorie, Small Carpathian Mountains, Kysuce, Strážovské Mountains) and a national park (Malá Fatra Mountains) which are synonyms for the most attractive natural environment and landscapes.

Cultural and learning tourism covers a wide variety of interests (culture, learning, social life, trade, leisure, shopping, sports, services, science, etc.). The towns of Skalica, Holíč, Trenčín, Považská Bystrica, Púchov and Žilina possess the development potential of cultural and learning tourism. With regard to visiting rates, the cultural and learning tourism is oriented mainly at national cultural sights, technical cultural sights, official sights zones and, in case of historical landscape structures, on protected park sights.

Balneology and spa tourism enjoy excellent conditions in the area of interest. The most significant spa towns include Trenčianske Teplice and Rajecké Teplice of international fame, and spa towns Nimnica and Kunerád of supra-regional importance. The spa Smrdáky is the only place in Slovakia specialising in the treatment of dermatological diseases. The municipality Belušské Slatiny has a potential to develop spa tourism.

In the area of interest, rural tourism enjoys exceptionally favourable conditions in the area of poor mountain cottages (Myjavská Upland, White Carpathian Mountains, Javorníky and Kysuce) used as weekend houses for recreation (Kysuce being the recreational hinterland for the population of the Ostrava region).

A network of marked cycle paths in Považie, Kysuce and Záhorie counts in total over 1 900 km and provides abundant opportunities for the development of cyclo tourism and cycling for more experienced aficionados. The main routes are represented by cycling lines Kysucká, Vážska, Záhorská, Small Carpathian and along the Morava River.

The Czech part of the area of interest

Taking into account the Czech Republic as a whole, the area of interest is characterised by more than average potential for tourism and recreation. Its spatial variability is considerable. Parallel to areas with the nationally highest parameters of suitability for tourism and recreation, areas can be found for which just restricted opportunities in that respect are assumed. A continuous space of very high parameters is situated in the northern part of the area of interest — the hilly area of the Moravskoslezské Beskydy, Vsetínske Vrchy and Javorníky. Another maximum is represented by the area of Lednice — Valtice and municipality Mikulov. High potential is observed in several parts of the area of interest; in the towns, it can be derived from their environment for tourism focusing on culture. The nature in the area of the White Carpathian Mountains, Vizovická Highland and Beskydy piedmont offers an environment for nature-oriented tourism and recreation. The predominantly agricultural country in the stripe reaching from Břeclav to Uherské Hradiště proves better prerequisites in favourable situations, especially due to favourable opportunities for cyclo tourism. The basins of Ostrava and Karviná remain representing an area of still low tourism and recreation development.

The Lednice – Valtice area takes a special place. It is not due to its "purely" natural tourism potential but a sensitive combination with the landscape and visual image. Together with its cultural sights (chateau Lednice and chateau Valtice and minor dispersed Romantic structures), it stands for a significant tourist attraction. This area is a UNESCO-listed World Heritage sight. The natural prerequisites for the development of tourism include natural healing resources, too. There are 7 municipalities with a status of spa town in the area of interest. They can be divided into 3 groups with regard to their importance for tourism. The first group includes Luhačovice (a town with a significant position in the treatment process), the second group is comprised of Hodonín, Karviná and Klímkovice (municipalities with a medium capacity of treatment facilities) and the third group includes Ostrožská Nová Ves, Smrďavka, Lednice and Kostelec (municipalities with a low capacity of treatment facilities). Exploitation of a geothermal source in Pasohlávky is prepared for balneology.

The area of interest features all the main attributes supporting culture-oriented tourism. The region of Silesia features mainly sights of old industrial architecture (Michal mine in Ostrava). The Wallachian part of the area of interest is exceptional in particular by its folk architecture (open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, works of the sculptor Polášek and architect Jurkovič on Radhošť and in Pustevny). The functionalist architecture of 1920-ies and 1930-ies in Zlín is a frequent reason of tourist arrivals. Out of pilgrimage places, Velehrad is the most prominent. In the south, there are nationally known chateaus Lednice, Valtice, Milotice and Buchlovice, archaeological sites Uherské Hradiště and Mikulčice, religious sights (Velehrad) and the only town sights reservation of Mikulov. The east slopes of the Chřiby Mountains are dominated by the Buchlov castle. Technical sights of primary importance include the wind mills in Kuželov and Velké Těšany. The territory of interest is crossed by a waterway – the so-called Bata's Channel starting in Otrokovice and ending in Skalica, approx. 55 km long.

Over most of its territory, the Czecho-Slovak borderland features better than average, at places excellent prerequisites for individual recreation and tourism. In 1994, there were 2 836 km of cyclo paths marked by the Czech Tourist Club in the borderland counties.

3.1.4 Transport infrastructure

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The most significant transport corridors in the area of interest belong to the TEN-T system. The following ones cross the area of interest:

- Multi-modal corridor IV, direction D CZ SK; road traffic along the route Berlin / Prague Brno / Bratislava (D8 D1 D2); rail traffic along the route Berlin / Prague Kolín Česká Třebová Brno Břeclav / Bratislava (rail corridor I of national numbering), with complementary route Děčín Střekov Mělník Všetaty Lysá nad Labem Nymburk Kolín Havlíčkův Brod Brno,
- Multi-modal corridor, branch Va, direction A SK UA, road traffic along the route Vienna Slovak border / Austria Bratislava Trenčín Žilina Košice Slovak border / Ukraine Uzhgorod along the route of the verified high-speed track (HST), motorway D1, upgraded rail tracks Nos. 120 and 180 and the prepared Váh River waterway,
- Multi-modal corridor VI Gdańsk Katowice Zwardoń Slovak border / Poland Čadca Žilina along the verified HST, motorway D3, upgraded rail tracks Nos. 127 and 129, and the verified channel connecting the Váh River and the Oder River waterways,
- Complementary system Čadca Slovak border / ČR Český Těšín Ostrava and Púchov –
 Strelenka Slovak border / ČR Vsetín Hranice na Morave along the rail route No. 127.

The Czech part of the area of interest

The most significant transport corridors in the area of interest belong to the TEN-T system. The following ones cross the area of interest:

- Multi-modal corridor IV, direction D CZ SK; road traffic along the route Berlin / Prague Brno / Bratislava (D8 D1 D2); rail traffic along the route Berlin / Prague Kolín Česká Třebová Brno Břeclav / Bratislava (rail corridor I of national numbering), with complementary route Děčín Střekov Mělník Všetaty Lysá nad Labem Nymburk Kolín Havlíčkův Brod Brno,
- Multi-modal corridor VIb, direction PL CZ A, road traffic along the route Katowice / Ostrava –
 Brno Mikulov / Vienna (D47 D1 R52 A5), with complementary route R55 Hulín –
 Otrokovice Uherské Hradiště Břeclav and R52 Brno Pohořelice state border (A), rail traffic along the route Katowice / Ostrava Přerov Břeclav / Vienna (rail corridor II of national numbering), with complementary route Přerov Brno Břeclav,
- Complementary system Čadca Slovak border / ČR Český Těšín Ostrava and Púchov Strelenka Slovak border / ČR Vsetín Hranice na Morave along the rail route No. 127.

Those corridors and their complementary routes represent the existing transport priorities for the area of interest.

Diagram 13. Transport infrastructure



3.1.5 Technical infrastructure

Electricity supply

The Slovak part of the area of interest

In the area of interest, the infrastructure making optimal conditions for the supply of existing and outlook needs of electricity is made in particular by the following:

- proximity of the most important source of electricity in Slovakia the nuclear power plant Jaslovské Bohunice,
- connection to the system of hydropower plants situated in the area of interest;,
- energy transmission by a system of primary extra high voltage lines of 400 and 220 kV to which the neighbouring countries are connected,
- significant electricity nodes supplied with the system of extra high voltage lines of 110 kV,
- primary node of 400 kV Bošáca, extended by 400/110 kV transformation, which would allow supporting the existing 110/22 stations or connecting new ones.

The Czech part of the area of interest

On the Czech side of the area of interest, the electricity supply infrastructure is made in particular by:

 proximity of the nuclear power plant Dukovany with an outlook of new construction and expansion,

- heat power plant Détmarovice as a systemic electricity source, with an outlook of new construction and expansion,
- connection of the Czech electricity supply system to the UCTE by a transmission system, using extra high voltage lines of 400 and 220 kV, improving thus the system's transit functions to the neighbouring states including Slovakia.

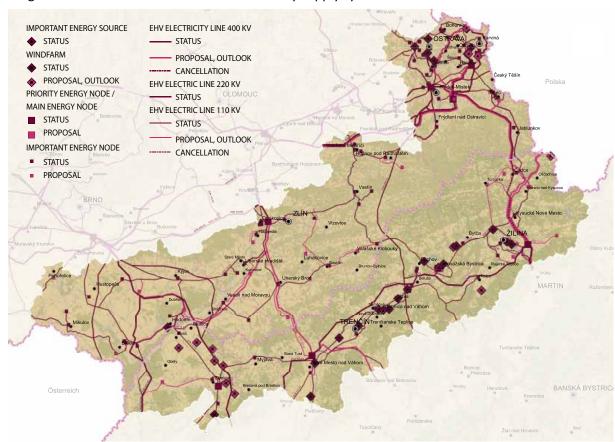


Diagram 14. Technical infrastructure – electricity supply system

Gas supply

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The southern part of the Slovak segment in the area of interest is crossed by:

- transmission gas lines at Plavecký Peter (Brodské (to CR) and Vysoká pri Morave (to Austria)),
- extra high pressure gas line near Lakšárska Nová Ves heading to Vysoká pri Morave,
- International gas line DN 700; PN 64 RFR-SR,
- high pressure gas lines: Bratislava Moravský Ján Brodské to CR DN 500, PN 40; Bratislava Moravský Ján Brodské to CR DN 300, PN 40.

With regard to the number of municipalities supplied with gas, the area of interest is above the

The Czech part of the area of interest

The Czech part of the area of interest is crossed by:

extra high
 SR),

- extra high pressure gas line DN 700-500/PN61 Hrušky Příbor Ostrava, plus 5 extra high pressure gas lines in the southern part of the area of interest, which split into the northern branch and southern branch near Malešovice,
- a system of high pressure gas lines in the area of interest located in the CR,

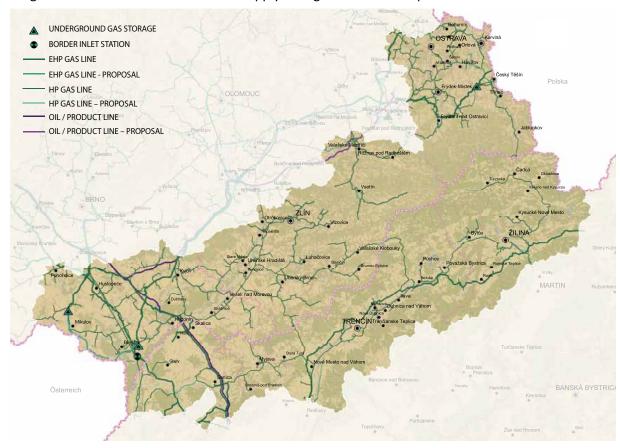


Diagram 15. Technical infrastructure – supply with gas and crude oil products

Drinking water supply and draining

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The number of municipalities connected to the public water supply system in the area of interest is a good standard. The highest share of the municipalities supplied is found in the counties of Kysucké Nové Mesto (100 %), Čadca (95,6 %), Trenč

municipalities supplied is found in the counties of

Senica (77,4 %). Due to the lack of drinking water sources, the most unfavourable situation is in the flysh zone in the counties of Bytč Čadca. On the right side of the Váh River, between

ča, the population is supplied with water from local gravity systems connected to underground sources of insufficient capacity. These problems in the Kysuce region and along the right side of the Váh River can be solved by extending the Group Water Works Nová Bystrica – Čadca to Turzovka and Skalité and Group Water Works Nová Bystrica – ča.

Compared to the public water supply, the numbers of municipalities with sewer systems are low. Their share is between 10 % and 28 %. The highest share in the number of municipalities with public sewer systems and waste-water treatment plants is found in the counties of Kysucké Nové Mesto

(28,5 %), Senica (25,8 %) and Čadca (26,0 %). The lowest share in the number of municipalities with public sewer systems and waste-

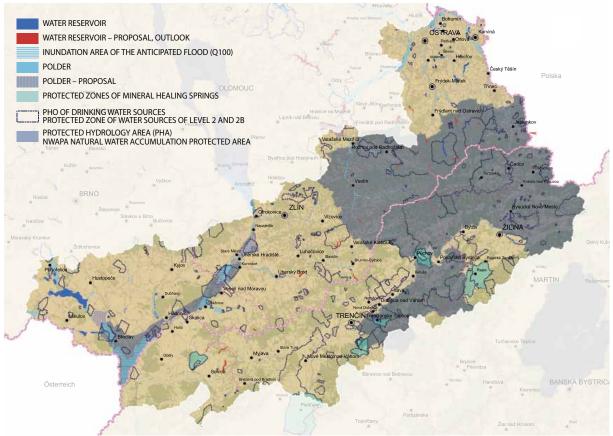
7 %).

The Czech part of the area of interest

Drinking water supply is based on exploitation of surface water sources, supported by ground water sources. The most important water source in the area of interest is the system of water basins and the system of the Ostrava area water main, water basin Karolinka in Stanovnica, Vsetínská Bečva and NWAPA Quaternary of the Morava River. The share of population connected to the public water supply system in the borderland is high — Moravia & Silesia.

The population share connected to the public sewer systems and waste-water treatment plants has increased over the past years. At the time being, the share of population connected to the public sewer systems in the borderland represents a value between 79 % in the region of Moravia & Silesia and 87 % in the region of South Moravia. The share of population connected to waste-water treatment plants is lower, between 70 % in the region of Moravia & Silesia and 80 % in the region of South Moravia.

Diagram 16. Water management



Renewable energies

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The use of renewable energies – with the exception of the energy potential of water courses – is very low in the area of interest, mainly due to under-developed technologies, high investment cots and a low rate of return of the funds invested.

The Czech part of the area of interest

On the Czech side of the area of interest, the share of exploited renewable energies is low; the hydro-energy potential is, similarly to the Slovak side, partially harnessed. Geo-thermal sources represent a specific potential and can be utilised for the development of balneology.

3.1.6 Environment, nature preservation and landscape design

The Czecho-Slovak borderland is characterised by a considerable heterogeneity, which is a result of various natural, landscape and cultural values of both countries.

Protection of surface and ground water

The Slovak part of the area of interest

Water protection in the Slovak Republic is regulated by Act No 264/2004 on waters, which is a transposition of all directives of the European Communities and of the European Union concerning water. The most significant document is the Directive of the European Parliament 2000/60/EC (the Framework Water Directive) which came into force in 2000 and introduced more efficiency in the monitoring, evaluation and treatment of water sources.

Most of the area of interest (78 %) belongs to the catchments area of the Váh River and 22 % to that of the Danube River. The area of interest is typical by a dense network of rivers consisting of important water courses like the Váh, Morava, Myjava and Kysuca rivers. In the Váh River catchment area, the main axis is made by the Váh River, which carries a system of hydraulic structures, of which the waterworks Nosice, Hričov, Žilina nad Mikšová are the most significant.

With regard to the nature of landscape in the Czecho-Slovak borderland, which is made by massifs and valleys in the mountain rages of outer Western Carpathian Mountains, one may claim that most borderland water courses have their springs on the Czech side and flow to the Slovak side. They are mostly minor water courses which are not expected to be polluted. Major water courses, like the Váh River and the Myjava River, are in unfavourable condition with regard to all pollution indicator groups. None of the significant water courses has any effect on the discharge conditions and water cleanliness in the Czech Republic.

As for large-scale protection of water sources, there are two natural water accumulation protected areas (NWAPA) in the area of interest: NWAPA Strážovské Mountains and NWAPA Beskydy – Javorníky, which together take almost half of the area of interest. Activities can be planned and performed in a protected hydrology area if comprehensive protection of ground and surface water is ensured, as well as the protection of the conditions for its formation, occurrence, natural accumulation and restoration of its supply. On both sides, it is necessary to provide for an adequate protection of both ground and surface waters to the end of their preservation in the long run.

The Czech part of the area of interest

In the Czech Republic, the protection and exploitation of surface and ground water is regulated by Act on waters (the Water Act) No 254/2001, as amended, which is a transposition of all significant European standards and directives.

The area of interest is divided into two main watersheds – of the Oder River and of the Morava River. The catchment area of the Oder River which heads to the Baltic Sea covers in particular the counties of Ostrava – city, Karviná and Frýdek-Místek in the area of interest. The divide between these two main catchment areas is made by the border of the counties of Frýdek-Místek and Vsetín, which is the borderline between the regions of Morava & Silesia and of Zlín. The water courses in the

catchment area of the Oder River (especially the Oder and Olše rivers) are heavily polluted in almost all important indicators, even though the trend is positive in general terms. Minor mountain water courses (Ostravice and Morávka) with forest catchment areas and locally unregulated segments are better off. That was one of the reasons why water reservoirs were built there in the second half of the 20th century (Šance on the Ostravica River and Morávka on the river of the same name). Other reservoirs like Olešná on the Olešná River, Žermanice on the Lučina River, Těrlicko on the Stonávka River and Baška on the Baštica River provide for recreation needs and the first two ones supply water to industry. In the Beskydy Mountains, there are a few locations suitable for the construction of water reservoirs and polders as flood prevention.

Except for small catchment areas of the Horní Vlára River in Kloboucko and Bylnicko and other few locations situated in Slovakia (Střelná, Kopanice, Strání), the Zlín and South Moravian regions belong to the catchment area of the Morava River. Those water courses – except for the Morava River – do not have any significant effect on the discharge situation and pollution of water courses in Slovakia. On average, the water in the tributaries of the Morava River in the Zlín region is of good quality due to a large share of forests in their catchment areas. There are rather small water basins there (Karolinka, Bystřička, Slušovice, Fryšták) which are used for water supply and for recreation.

The main water courses in the South Moravia region are the Morava River and the Dyje River, which also make a part of the borders with Austria and Slovakia. The quality of water in these water courses is to a great extent affected by tributaries with predominantly farming catchment areas. After construction of a system of reservoirs Nové Mlýny, the water quality in the Dyje Water is improving downstream. These reservoirs are built mainly as flood protection and irrigation; at the time being, they are used in particular for recreation and fishing. Other reservoirs are made mostly by systems of fish ponds (Lednické, Pohořelické) intended for fish farming, and by former sandpits near Moravská Nová Ves, Rakvice and Podivín used for recreation.

There are the following areas of natural water accumulation in the area of interest: NWAPA Beskydy (partially extending to the Zlín region) and NWAPA Jablunkovsko in the region Morava & Silesia, NWAPA Vsetínské Mountains and NWAPA Quaternary of the Morava River in the Zlín region, extending to the South Moravia region. Those protected areas with natural water accumulation are not of regional importance and the compliance with their regimen requires higher attention with regard to other interests in the area.

In the area of interest, there are several significant sources of healing water in the wider sense for public health and local and borderland tourism. In the Moravia & Silesia region, they are the spas Karviná – border and Karviná – Darkov. In the Zlín region, they are the spas Luhačovice, Zlín – Kostelec and Ostrožská Nová Ves and some other mineral springs not used by balneology. In the South Moravia region, there is spa Hodonín and new spa Lednice, as well as generously built-out thermal spa Pasohlávky. This region offers numerous minor mineral springs used in the past for balneal purposes.

Air protection

The Slovak part of the area of interest

The Slovak Republic has introduced a system of emissions stock-taking using a NEIS (National Emissions Inventory System) module which — in order to comply with the new legislation requirements in air protection — has replaced the initial REZZO (register of emissions and air pollution sources) register.

The air quality in the area of interest varies depending on the characteristics of the terrain, density of settlement and location of industry. With regard to air pollution by basic pollutants (CO, NO_x, SO₂ and solid pollutants), the worst ranking counties are those of Žilina, Trenčín, Ilava and Púchov. The

situation in the town of \check{Z} ilina is specific due to excessive values of NO_x generated by the main industrial sources and by the road traffic.

The highest share of air pollution comes from industrial enterprises, heat power plants, cement plants and to a great extent from the automotive industry. The major air polluters include: Žilinská teplárenská, a. s., (heat producer) Žilina, Považská cementáreň, a. s., (cement plant) Ladce, Matador, a. s., Púchov and Tepláreň, a. s., (heat producer) Považská Bystrica. In addition to industrial sources, road traffic and local sources (homes being the points of consumption) contribute to the air pollution, too.

In addition to local air pollution sources, one should not forget about long-distance pollution of the borderland by polluters in industrial agglomerations in Poland (the Katowice region) and the Czech Republic (the Ostrava region).

The Czech part of the area of interest

Before accession to the European Union, the Czech Republic adopted and is implementing the National Emissions Elimination Programme, under which the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute processes imissions monitoring under the auspices of the Ministry of the Environment CR. Its data which makes part of the report on the environment in the Czech Republic for the respective year and of the Yearbook of the Ministry of the Environment is monitored and published by regions and by main pollutants also by the Czech Statistical Office.

In the area of interest, the air quality varies depending on the density of settlement, economic activities, traffic intensity and nature of terrain determining its aeration or occurrence of inversion. The worst air quality in all monitored indicators, even though with a tendency of major improvements since 1990, is typical for the Ostrava agglomeration, which covers the area of Ostrava, Havířov, Karviná, Bohumín and Frýdek-Místek. Other areas include the agglomerations of Zlín, Vsetín& Valašské Meziříčí, Uherské Hradistě and neighbourhood, Hodonín and Břeclav and neighbourhood. In all the listed areas, the volume of incinerated solid fuels has decreased, resulting in reduced emissions of sulphur oxide. On the other hand, the share of sulphur oxide due to higher traffic is on increase. Increased traffic can also be expected in the designed international transport corridors like the Jablunkovský Pass and the Lyský Pass.

As for the occurrence of inversion, some minor unfavourably oriented locations in mountain valleys with unfavourable configuration are Strání, Březová, Starý Hrozenkov, the valley of the Vlára, Senice and Vsetínská Bečva rivers in the Zlín region and the valley of rivers Ostravice, Morávka and Olše in the Moravia & Silesia region.

Equally on the Slovak side, there are unfavourable effects of imissions from distant sources in the Katowice area, less from Považie (with regard to the prevailing wind direction).

Nature protection and landscape planning

The Slovak part of the area of interest

Within the meaning of Act No 543/2002 on nature preservation and landscape protection, six large preservation areas overlap the area of interest on the Slovak side:

- National park: NP Malá Fatra;
- Landscape protected area: LPA Záhorie, LPA Small Carpathians, White Carpathians, LPA Strážovské Hills, LPA Kysuce.

In addition to large areas, there is a network of small areas of conservation with the most severe level of protection. As at 30 November 2004, there were 161 small-size areas of conservation in the area of interest, making in total 7 538,83 ha. That number includes (by categories) 24 national nature reserves, 2 national nature sights, 46 nature reserves, 74 natural sights and 15 protected sites. In the

LPA, there are 84 small-size areas of conservation, covering in total 6 003,55 hectares; in the national park Malá Fatra, there are 11 small-size areas of conservation. Outside the LPA and the NP, there are 66 declared areas covering in total 1 535,28 hectares.

Under the NATURA 2000 network, the area of interest overlaps 5 bird sanctuaries and 115 areas of European importance, which have been declared to protect the most precious and most threatened wildlife species of plants and animals and natural biotopes in the European Union states.

The environmental network of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability is laid down in Act No 543/2002 on nature preservation and landscape protection. The area of interest accommodates 2 provincial bio-centres, 31 supra-regional and 103 regional bio-centres, and 30 supra-regional and 77 regional bio-corridors.

As a follow-up of that concept, the draft National Ecological Network NECONET was drawn up in 1996. Under the NECONET, six core areas of European importance were identified in the area of interest (the White Carpathian Mountains, the Small Carpathian Mountains, Strážovské Mountains, Kysuce, Pomoravie and LPA Záhorie) and 7 core areas of national importance. Many of them overlap elements of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability of supra-regional and regional nature.

The Czech part of the area of interest

Within the meaning of Act No 114/1992 on nature preservation and landscape protection, in total 4 large protected areas – landscape protected areas – overlap the area of interest on the Czech side:

- LPA Beskydy 119 696 hectares, in direct touch with Slovakia,
- LPA White Carpathian Mountains 74 530 hectares, in direct touch with Slovakia,
- LPA Poodří 7 880 hectares, only a small part overlaps the area of interest,
- LPA Pálava 8 629 hectares.

In addition to those large-size protected areas, UNESCO approved in 2003 an expansion of the biospheric reserve Pálava by the Lednice – Valtice site and the floodplain forests at the confluence of the Morava and Dyje rivers. An area called Biospheric Reserve Dolní Morava spreading over more than 300 km² is in direct touch with Slovakia and is managed by the Publicly Beneficial Society Dolní Morava.

Within and outside the LPA, there are in total 275 small protected areas with a cumulative size of 7 597,6 hectares. They include 23 national nature reserves, 8 national nature sights, 87 nature reserves and 157 natural sights.

As regards the European system of protected areas NATURA 2000, four bird sanctuaries are in direct touch with the Slovak border and other six areas are situated in the area of interest outside state border. In total 132 locations of European importance have been identified in the area of interest, of which 17 are located in the area of interest of the Moravian & Silesian region, 46 in the Zlín region and 69 in the South Moravia region. Moreover, there are 7 important bird areas (IBA) there and 3 wetland locations falling under the Ramsar Convention.

The Territorial System of Ecological Stability (TSES) makes a well-connected, mostly functioning network in the area of interest, in particular in the forest and mountain parts (Beskydy, Javorníky, the White Carpathian Mountains, Hostýnské and Vizovické Mountains, Chřiby, Ždánický Forest, Pálava, Dolní Morava and Poodří). In intensive farming areas of Břeclav, Hodonín, Uherské Hradiště, Frýdek-Místek and Karviná and less in the areas of Zlín and Vsetín, the functional elements are often missing. A small part of the TSES functional elements are represented by water courses (Morava, Kyjovka, Velička, Olšava, Juhyne and Bečva rivers) which usually represent regional bio-corridors in those areas. In the Moravia & Silesia region, there are barriers for a more extensive realisation of the TSES elements through historically developed and recently more and more extensive large size production and housing estates outside the urban area of municipalities; especially in Silesia, they are of a very loose nature.

During 1995 - 1997, the European Ecological Network EECONET was designed, which to a high degree includes the TSES functional elements. At present, however, the significance of the network is diminishing (it is not recognised as a platform of analytical spatial data) and is taken over by the progressively declared system NATURA 2000.

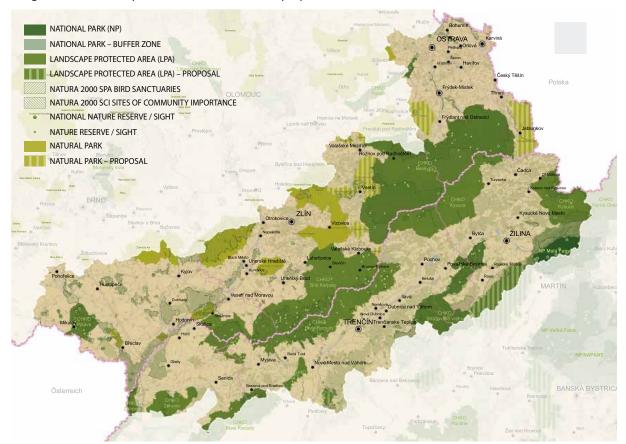


Diagram 17. Nature preservation and landscape protection

3.1.7 Cultural heritage

The Slovak part of the area of interest

On the Slovak side, the area of interest belongs to the earliest settled locations in Slovakia, due to its beneficial geographical position and favourable climate. Cultural influences of several historical regions meet and overlap here and create an abundant and multifarious cultural and historical potential of the area. A part of the area of interest – North Záhorie – represents a highly multifarious settlement with regard to its historical formation. A rather even settlement developed in its northern with major settlements along the

historical Czech Way – the twin towns Holíč and Skalica in the Slovak borderland and Senica situated

rather centrally. Extensive settlements of poor mountain cottages has been preserved in the northeast part, toward Myjava. Strong traditional ties, especially in culture, are maintained with the Moravian Slovácko.

In the central part of the area of interest, especially in the Váh River valley, several towns were established, whose basic structure consisted of the free royal town of Trenčín and the privileged towns of Beckov, Beluša, Brezová pod Bradlom, Č

t of the area of interest: its

most ancient Slovak towns. The first written mention is found in Latin documents of 1208 referring to "terra de Selinan".

The area of interest is abundant in cultural sights and sight areas registered in the central list of the Sights Authority SR within the meaning of Act No 49/2002 on the protection of the pool of sights. There are the following sights in the area of interest:

National cultural sights (selected):

- County Trenčín: Trenčín castle;
- County Nové Mesto n. Váhom: Beckov castle;
- County Bytča: Bytča castle;
- County Skalica: Chateau in Holíč, St. George's rotunda in Skalica, Great Moravian St. Margaret's Church with a graveyard in Kopčany, chateau and horse-breeding farm in Kopčany;
- County Senica: Monastery of the Pauline order in Šaštín Stráže;
- County Myjava: Memorial house of the Slovak National Council in Myjava, burial mound of General Štefánik in Brezová pod Bradlom.

Town sight preserves (3 in total):

- County Trenčín: Trenčín;
- County Žilina: Žilina;
- County Skalica: Skalica.

Sight zones (7 in total):

- County Nové Mesto n. Váhom: Beckov;
- County Žilina: Rajec;
- County Bytča: Bytča;
- County Čadca: Klokočov Do Kršle;
- County Kysucké Nové Mesto: Kysucké Nové Mesto;
- County Skalica: Kopčany;
- County Senica: Sobotište.

Sight preserves of folk architecture (2 in total):

- County Senica: Plavecký Peter;
- County Žilina: Čičmany.

At the time being, a joint nomination of Great Moravian settlement sights is prepared for being included by the UNESCO in the World Cultural Heritage list. For the joint area, an brief of the National Monument Institution in Prague and the Monuments Board SR in Bratislava has been developed, to create a Czecho-Slovak archaeological park Mikulčice – Kopčany, to present and protect the movable and immovable archaeological, building & cultural findings and urban parts of the well-known NCS Mikulčice Valy and the NCS situated on the Slovak and the Czech side of the Morava River.

The Czech part of the area of interest

The Czech side of the area of interest features natural, historical and aesthetic values which have been affected by the specific reality of the different settlements. The northern part of the area of interest is — with regard to its historical development — significant by the dominant position of the extraction industry and metallurgy on the one hand and by mountain areas (Slezské Beskydy) on the other. Moreover, it features numerous architectural sights, including castles and chateaus and sight preserves. With regard to tourism and sights, this area belongs to significant ones also thank to

many technical sights – mines, blast furnaces, waterworks, head frames, breweries; Ostrava – Vítkovice: the European Centre of Knowledge and Leisure; Petřkovice: open-air museum of mining and others.

The central part of the area of interest is typical by its historical variety, which is has been predetermined by the landscape type – the mountains (Beskydy, Javorník, the White Carpathian Mountains) and lowlands – agriculture and industry. From the view of tourism, sights and concentration of historical settlement structures – urban and rural sight preserves and zones – this area also belongs to significant ones (folk architecture sights – e.g. the vast site of the Wallachian open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm; technical sights – Bata's Channel, Bata enterprise in Zlín and others).

The southern part of the area of interest is characterised by natural historical development in the long run and its cultural excellence in general. From the historical point of view, the region is typical by a high number of sights of all categories (the most significant being represented by the Lednice & Valtice site – a UNESCO site; the open-air museum in Strážnice; technical sights – the windmill in Kuželov and others). In connection to the Slovak side, the Břeclav – Pohansko archaeological sight preserve is a proof of the most ancient settlement in the Czech Republic.

The area of interest is significant from the point of occurrence of cultural sights which are listed in line with Act No 20/1987 on state protection of sights, as amended, and its implementing decree No 66/1988, as amended. There are the following sights in the area of interest:

UNESCO World Cultural Heritage (in total 1):

• County Břeclav: Lednice & Valtice site

National cultural sights (in total 22):

- County Frýdek-Místek: Partisan movement monument "Night Passage" in Morávka;
- County Karviná: Monument to the Nazi terror victims in Životice;
- County Ostrava-city: Lísek's Villa, Monument of the Red Army mausoleum, mine Hlubina and blast furnaces and coking plant of Vítkovice steelworks and the site of black coal mine Michal in Ostrava;
- County Uherské Hradiště: castle Buchlov, chateau Buchlovice, site of ancient settlement of St.
 Clement in Osvětimany, a set of sights of the Great Moravian settlement agglomeration in Staré Město and Modrá, Virgin Mary's Assumption and St. Cyril and Methodius basilica in Velehrad;
- County Vsetín: Wallachian open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm, Hermitage site in Prostřední Bečva, Protestant church in Velká Lhota;
- County Zlín: Monument of resistance movement in Poloština, Drnovice, chateau Vizovice;
- County Břeclav: archaeological location in Dolní Věstonice, chateau Lednice, chateau Valtice;
- County Hodonín: Great Moravian settlement agglomeration Mikulčice, chateau Milotice, a set of material archaeological findings from the site of ancient settlement Mikulčice.

Archaeological sight preserves (1 in total):

County Břeclav: Břeclav – Pohansko, archaeological location.

Landscape sight zones (1 in total):

• County Břeclav: Lednice & Valtice site.

Town sight preserves (1 in total):

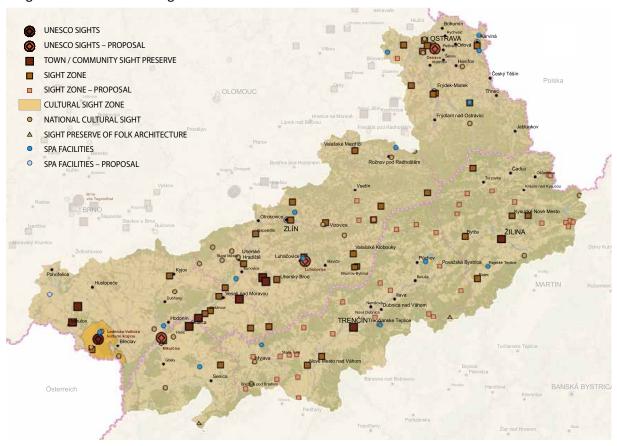
County Břeclav: Mikulov.

- County Frýdek-Místek: Brušperk, Frýdek, Místek;
- County Karviná: Karviná;
- County Ostrava-city: Moravská Ostrava, Ostrava-Poruba, Ostrava-Přívoz, Ostrava-Vítkovice;
- ě ě
- County Vsetín: Kelč, Valašské Meziříčí;
- County Zlín: Brumov, Brumov worker colony, Fryšták, Luhač Klobouky, Vizovice, Zlín;
- County Břeclav: Valtice;

•

- ě: Veletiny Stará Hora, Vlčnov Kojiny;
- County Břeclav: Pavlov;
- County Hodonín: Blatnice Stará Hora, Petrov –
- County Frýdek-Místek: Komorní Lhotka;
- County Vsetín: Kýchová, Velké Karlovice Podťaté, Zděchov;
- County Hodonín: Javorník Kopánky, Vápenky.

Diagram 18. Cultural heritage and tourism



3.1.8 Results of the SWOT analysis

Final summary

Having assessed the development potential of the basic functional complexes of the Czecho-Slovak borderland, accentuating its strengths and weaknesses, the following can be pointed out:

HUMAN RESOURCES, QUALITY OF LIFE

• The demographic development in both parts of the area of interest is characterised by a progressively slowing down population reproduction, especially as a result of decreasing birth rates. That trend is manifested by a continuous decrease in the natural rise of population, a decrease in the pre-productive component of the population structure as a whole and increased numbers of persons in the post-productive age. Over the last years, however, a change in that negative trend can be observed in certain parts of the borderland. The burden of the productive population by the unproductive components is perceptibly increasing; the share of economically active population is decreasing and the demand for social services increasing.

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- In the Slovak part of the borderland, the economic activity of population in the counties under assessment in the Trenčín and Trnava regions is higher than the national average. In counties of the Žilina region, the share of economically active population is slightly above the national average.
- The level of education is under the national levels of the CR and SR (only counties in the Trenčín region reach approximately the Slovak national level). The centres of education are in the towns of Ostrava, Zlín, Trenčín and Žilina; moreover, there is a network of detached faculties (Púchov) or a private tertiary education institution in Hodonín which may serve the Skalica region.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The unemployment on the Czech side is above the average, the number of job-seekers per vacancy exceeding highly the Czech national average in most of the monitored counties; on the Slovak side, the nationally lowest unemployment rate is reported by the counties of Trenčín and Ilava. The unemployment may be decreased by implementation of projects and measures supporting job creation, the use of the structural funds as well as cross-border programmes.
- In the South Moravian part of the area of interest, the unemployment is relatively high in agriculture, which is a sector with low wages and threatened by high competition on the market; the employment in services is the lowest there. The development of tourism might raise both the employment in services and the sales of farming produce.
- Ostrava registers the highest number of job seekers who are Slovak nationals; there is a considerable number of Slovak job seekers in the county of Vsetín; the job seekers from the Slovak Republic pose, however, a risk.

SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE

The Slovak part of the area of interest

 In the area of interest, there is an agglomeration of supreme national and international importance – the Žilina & Martin settlement core, and an agglomeration of national importance – the Trenčín settlement core. The Považská Bystrica & Púchov and the Skalica & Holíč settlement cores are of regional importance and prove obvious borderland links. Level 1 development axis, direction north – south: Považie development axis: Bratislava – Trnava – Trenčín – Žilina. These development axes connect two strong cooperation areas of Central European importance, made by the territories outlined by the cities of Brno – Bratislava – Györ – Vienna and Ostrava – Katowice – Krakow – Žilina.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- In the area of interest, the development areas of national importance are those of Ostrava and Zlín. The urbanisation area Český Těšín Třinec is of supra-regional importance, the urbanisation areas of Břeclav, Uherské Hradiště and Valašské Meziříčí Vsetín are of regional importance.
- On the Czech side, the development axes of international importance go along the Dolnomoravský Valley Basin and the Moravská Gate.
- The development axes in the west east direction are of supra-regional to national importance; those areas may expect higher interest of investors when locating their business activities.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- On the Slovak side, the area of interest is typical by well-developed economic and social infrastructure, which is better than the average.
- Continuing transformation processes are the reason why problems persist especially around Myjava and Považská Bystrica, where the prevailing share of production is concentrated in a single large machinery enterprise; such concentration is not beneficial for the economic situation. Therefore, it is necessary in those counties – in addition to the preservation of stable production elements – to support the job formation by possible measures.
- The beneficial standing of Žilina, by its share in exports, GDP formation and employment, makes the most significant contribution to the national and regional economic results. The industrial production structure in the county of Žilina is not concentrated in large enterprises, which is a good prerequisite for a permanent structural industrial adaptation.
- There are still to be done a lot in the industrial development of the regions concerned with regard to small and medium enterprise. Its development can be supported by creating guidance centres for small entrepreneurs, by increasing the labour force mobility and by a better linkage of the system of education to the business sector.
- The area has sufficient free spaces for industrial parks and zones or, unoccupied structures and technology facilities with the infrastructure sought for by investors, as well as a highly qualified population needed for sophisticated production and services.
- The regional GDP level in the Slovak Republic is under the EU average.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The regional GDP level in the Czech republic is under the EU average. Yet, its growth dynamism is
 higher than that of the EU. The business activities of the population are low and the business
 environment intensity is lower in the Moravia & Silesia region; the situation in the Zlín region is
 the opposite.
- In the Czech part of the area of interest, there is a significant share of regions in the need of a higher support of the state.
- Gradually, industrial production is restructured and the share of sector with a higher value added
 is growing. The decline of traditional sectors is partially compensated for by the development of
 new ones, in particular rubber and plastics industry, electrical engineering and electronics
 industries.

- The partially surviving non-transparent ownership relations, reduction of research and development and its connections to the practical production, inadequate exploitation of local raw materials, inadequately developed transport and technical infrastructure pose a problem.
- Industrial zones are in preparation in the area; the utilisation intensity of existing real estate is however low.
- With regard to the ties between the economies of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic and of other EU countries, the future industrial development will be affected by the economic development of those countries.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- As for employment, the sector of agriculture has been significantly marked with the transformation process. The elimination of jobs as a result of transformation and restructuring has not been compensated for by new job creation in the recovered parts of economy.
- The structure and proportions of agrocultures have predetermined the area of interest especially
 for cattle and sheep breeding. Farming entities concentrate mostly on animal production, namely
 milk and milk products, beef, poultry and pork meat. Recently, goat breeding is on the rise,
 especially in Kysuce. Its spread would be suitable in places with extensive grazing grounds and
 meadows damaged by self-seeding.
- In the area of interest (especially in the Carpathian and Kysuce areas), the environmental system of agriculture is emerging. In connection with agro tourism, it may help to stabilise the population, areas and to maintain the mountain types of farming.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The southern part of the Lower Morava and Dyje & Svratka valleys belongs to the most fertile farming areas of the CR; on the other hand, the farming function is just marginal in the northern hilly part of the borderland and in the Ostrava Karviná area.
- Severe conditions imposed by the existing viticulture legislation pose considerable restrictions on the activities of tiny wine-growers and make the wine tourism less attractive.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- A need to ensure sufficient jobs and adequate incomes even in the agriculturally disadvantaged regions, to maintain the rural employment and functionality of rural settlement;
- A need to maintain environmentally-friendly approach and sustainable development of rural areas;
- Establishment of a competitive and powerful food & agri sector, capable of a full integration and operation in the community of the EU countries.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- A high proportion of municipalities involved in the Rural Recovery Programme, which cooperate
 and associate into micro regions; In addition to agricultural development and care for the
 landscape, the countryside needs support for the development of small and medium enterprise;
- A threat of extinction of small, mainly mountain municipalities, caused by the exodus of the young for work to the inland. That trend may find a reflection in a deteriorated care for the landscape.

TOURISM

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- The settlement of poor mountain cottages means a potential for the development of tourism, which can lead to the development of a specific form the environmental tourism.
- A wide supply of tourist attractions, sufficient capacity of accommodation facilities, abundance of available labour force, marked tourist paths and cycle paths, a strong balneology sector, developing basic and additional tourist services make a good starting point for further development of tourism.
- With regard to the location of tourism mostly in the area of LPA (the White Carpathians, Záhorie, the Small Carpathians, Kysuce, Strážovské Mountains) and the national park (Malá Fatra), the locations may only be developed in compliance with the nature preservation interests.
 In many cases, only the quality of amenities may be improved but their territories or accommodation capacities not extended.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The development of tourism is supported by regions, tourism development strategies. Follow-up programmes are drawn up by micro regions even in well-functioning Euro regions.
- Funds are missing to repair cultural sights and to build attractions which would make the areas
 more attractive for tourism. The attractiveness of municipalities and landscape for tourism is
 deteriorated by improper construction and reconstruction.
- The lack of up-to-date information technologies in tourism is a negative phenomenon in the area of interest; the same applies to the underdeveloped marketing in tourism, management quality, mostly shabby image, lack of financial capital to promote tourism outside the country, lack of qualified the staff in tourist facilities, poor command of foreign languages. The efforts to increase the average staying time of tourists are a miss; the existing accommodation capacities are not sufficiently occupied. Often, local roads are in poor condition.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Slovak part of the area of interest

• Intricate property law relations pose a problem in utilising the existing pool of sights. They are a barrier in the restoration and utilisation of sights. The subsidising policy is not sufficient for those who invest in the reconstruction of sights buildings, there are not any tax incentives for those investing in the restoration of cultural sights. The technical infrastructure is underdeveloped, especially in rural sight preservation areas. The structural and technical condition of numerous sights and their sites is critical. The requirements of sights preservation authorities are incompliant with and contradictory to the views of the sight owners. The identification of new functions for the use of some sights is difficult.

The Czech part of the area of interest

• The cultural heritage which may contribute its share to development is the folk traditions which have been preserved mainly in the southern part of the area of interest.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- The most threatened elements in the environmental network are the bio corridors of water courses which run in parallel with high intensity roads and rail or, on which water reservoirs have been or are intended to be built, those passing an area of high housing and production concentration, as well as bio centres of wetlands and moor meadows situated near such water courses. Those water courses are the main recipients of sewage and waste water.
- In the area of interest, there is a protected hydrological area Strážovské Mountains and Javorníky.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The landscape structure is not very much different from the average values in the Czech Republic. The impact of industry is seen most in the north-east of the Morava & Silesia region. Agriculture and a high proportion of vineyards are typical especially for the south of the South Moravia region. The area along the border with Slovakia is typical by fruit-growing and shepherding.
- In the landscape of the borderland itself, forests prevail. Its natural values are protected as its non-productive functions are significant for water management, soil protection, biology and recreation.
- The TSES elements are territorially stabilised. The NATURA 2000 locations significant from the European point of view will have to be protected within six years from their approval by the EC.
- The landscape potential is of good quality also in the inland. Other national parks are intended to be declared soon.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND DESIGN

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- The unfavourable situation in water quality of the catchment area of the Morava River persists, especially in its tributaries Myjava and Teplica, due to pollution discharge from point and area sources.
- The quality of water in the Váh River is unsatisfactory. A further deterioration of quality results from waste-water discharge in places with developed industry. Due to the discharge of polluted water from the right bank of the town Trenčín, the quality is deteriorated to class 5. The middle sections of the Váh River are in quality classes 3 and 4.
- There are unused capacities in the area of interest for waste glass and paper processing.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- Pollution of the selected water courses by household waste is a big problem in small municipalities with a population up to 2000.
- The discharge in the catchment area of the Morava River in the area of Břeclav and Hodonín affect the Slovak side, as well as a small part of area of Jablunkov and Valašské Klobouky, which belong to the Váh River catchment area.
- Considerable differences are observed in the waste management. The area of interest in the Moravia & Silesia region produces three times more waste than the remaining parts in the Zlín and South Moravia regions.
- None of the flood measures proposed will have an immediate effect on the situation in the Slovak Republic.

TRANSPORT

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- The area of interest has a strategic position in the north south, west east transport connections.
- The expressway R6 to be built (continued in the CR by expressway R49) will provide for a continuous link of the motorway D1 in Slovakia to the motorways D1 and D47 on the Czech side.
- Construction of the full motorway D3 Hričovské Podhradie Žilina Čadca Skalité is of key effect on transport links in the northern part of the area of interest. The road corridor D3 R5 R67 R68 will make one side of the cooperation triangle Žilina Ostrava Katowice.
- The transport infrastructure located in the main multi-modal corridors, complementary and international network is of inadequate quality and capacity, in particular in the section Považská Bystrica Žilina.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The development of road transport in the area depends on the construction especially of expressways, motorway D47 and reconstruction of the overburdened segment of the 1st class roads.
- The situation in rail and air transport is stabilised; the necessary improvements relate to the upgrading of existing facilities and additional amenities.
- The D-O-L construction is questionable and a matter of far future. Both the Slovak and Austrian party consider the construction of segments up to Břeclav and Hodonín a more realistic option.

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Slovak part of the area of interest

- The electricity and gas supply systems are stabilised. The mutual connection capacities of
 electricity distribution comply with the electricity export and import requirements. No joint
 projects of gas connection are foreseen. The heat supply is of local importance; an expansion of
 distribution from centralised heat sources is not intended. The share renewable energies is low.
- There are prospects of modern heat supply using renewable energy sources like wood waste, straw, biogas, etc., especially in remote parts of the region, in small municipalities and lonely cottage areas.
- The share of municipalities connected to public water supply is relatively good. With regard to
 drinking water supply, the area is self-supporting, with sufficient sources in the outlook. New
 investments will be directed mainly to strengthening of areas with critical lack of or threat to
 their own sources. Mutual use of drinking water sources is not expected.

The Czech part of the area of interest

- The state of electronic communications is appropriate, with sufficient capacity also for the future.
- The situation is progressively improving in sewer systems and waste-water treatment. A full coverage of municipalities with a population over 2000 by the year 2010 will be a significant task.
- A joint use of waste-water treatment plants with the Slovak side can only be expected locally.

4. DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

4.1 General and specific development objectives

The main general and specific objectives of spatial development of the Czecho-Slovak borderland have been reflected in the drafts of both national parts of the study. The selected ones which comply with the objectives of the joint Operational Programme of Cross-Border Cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic 2007 – 2013 with the desired spatial planning nature are summarised below.

4.1.1 General objectives

 Support of sustainable development of the Czecho-Slovak borderland in the national and Central European context

The objective is bilateral support to a well-balanced relationship of three sustainable development pillars in the common borderland, i.e. ensuring the quality of life and work and natural values in the area.

• Development of nature-friendly forms of economic activities in the area

The objective is introducing suitable spatial conditions for the support of enterprise in the borderland of interest, with regard to the strongly natural character of the area, especially in the sectors of amenities and recreation and tourism services.

 Improving the borderland accessibility by strengthening the transport infrastructure and service and by the development of information technologies and electronic communication systems

The objective is raising the attractiveness and mutual links of recently less accessible and less equipped borderland areas for the local population and visitors.

 Interconnecting of cross-border systems of technical infrastructure in the drinking water supply, waste-water treatment and energy supply

The objective is interconnecting of technical infrastructure beneficial for both parties, to allow pooling investment in the construction of new facilities.

• Respecting of special protection modes and technical limits for the exploitation of the area along the common border and decreasing the danger of their threat from both sides

The objective is a bilateral respect of special conditions of protection for the exploitation of the area along the common border compliant with national regulations, including the reciprocity of their safeguarding from one's own territory.

 Deepening of mutual contacts of specialists to ensure a coordinated development of the borderland along both sides of the common border and their efficient functional and spatial integration

The objective is raising the intensity and deepening the professional contacts of the representatives of the concerned sectors, regional authorities and specialised planning and design units on both sides of the border.

Coordinated solutions of trilateral spatial functional and spatial technical issues with Poland and Austria

The objective is to ensure bilateral and trilateral planning and implementation coordination on the common borders and their mutual interconnection.

Reflecting wider supra-national planning and development relations through which new development stimuli and functions are introduced to the area

The objective is ensuring mutual cooperation in addressing the topics resulting from planning initiatives in the wider Central European area, which may have a direct or indirect effect on the development of the borderland of interest.

Presentation of the cross-border area of interest as one of the specific development regions on the internal EU borders

The objective is presenting the common borderland as an area of exceptional natural, landscape and cultural values and of significant dynamic development opportunities of its immediate hinterland, which deserves higher planning and investment attention within the EU.

4.1.2 Specific objectives

HUMAN RESOURCES AND SETTLEMENT

Establishing attractive conditions for the population's life as a basis for preventing the decrease of population and depopulation of the borderland

The demographic development of the area of interest is regressive. The population numbers are falling as a result of a natural population decrease by alteration, in some municipalities also due to migration. An improved situation may support to create adequate spatial conditions, especially for the development of good quality housing and basic amenities in the borderland municipalities.

Improving the economic activity of the population and its standard of living

Vast areas under nature and landscape preservation along the state border restrict the development potential of the common borderland. Small and medium enterprise needs to be supported in such areas as well. In marginal areas, it is beneficial to focus also on the support of traditional manufacture and associated services of locally suitable tourism and farming production.

Support to the competitiveness of a differentiated economic basis of settlements

Functioning of the economic basis is a key prerequisite for their development or stabilisation. Therefore, suitable means are to be applied to support competitiveness of the economic basis of settlements in the borderland. At the same time, the focus of support should be oriented toward sectors with the best development outlooks with regard to the local environment, traditions or potential opportunities.

• Maintaining the potential of the polycentric system of settlement cores

A hierarchic spread of the execution of administrative, socio-economic and cultural functions by cities, medium-size towns and small towns is a traditional feature of the settlement system structure in both countries. Therefore, it is necessary to support maintaining of the system in the common borderland as well and not to allow diminishing the regional importance of smaller towns and its shift toward larger ones. Support should also focus on the strengthening of mutual cross-border relations of cooperation of towns.

• Stabilisation of rural settlements

Maintaining the network of rural settlement is to be considered an important task. That also applies to the settlements which do not possess their own economic basis. The objective should be the material restoration of rural environment, maintaining the basic amenities and transport service, support to interest-related, cultural and club activities, and others.

DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND AXES

• Support to the development of significant urbanisation axes and areas

A notable concentration of population, economy, amenities and services make good prerequisites for creating wider stabilising centres and for the strengthening of socio-economic functions in their areas. With a good traffic connection of those areas, opportunities increase for the development of mutually beneficial cooperational relations and for a more precise sharing of functions in the agglomerated areas and intermediate zones. If the area of the common borderland is characterised by a prevalence of rural areas, with a high share of territories with protected nature and landscape, significant settlement cores in their hinterland represent the biggest chance of stabilisation and sustainable development. Support of transport and cooperation relations between and among them is one of the main proposed objectives of this study.

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

Establishing beneficial spatial conditions for the development of enterprise

The development of enterprise brings new jobs, raises the standard of the population's lives and generates financial resources for the social and environmental areas. The same applies to the common borderland where such opportunities have not been fully exploited yet, especially in recreation and tourism.

Improving the transport accessibility of mountain farms

Good transport accessibility is a prerequisite for the stabilisation mountain farms on both sides of the border, for improving their productivity and sales and for their wider exploitation by agro tourism.

 Prudent selection of land plots in the borderland mountain areas suitable for forestation, so that biodiversity and character of the landscape remain preserved

Meadows make a pronounced aesthetic and landscape element, often featuring locations with many threatened plant and small animal species. Therefore, farming land and other land, especially in prominent parts of the borderland, should be forested in a prudent manner, with a sensitive approach to the landscape.

- Cross-border coordination in reacting to calamity situations and security in the woods
 - Calamity situations (windfall, imissions, fires) and security (against illegal logging) including their prevention must be addressed in mutual cooperation in borderland forests.
- Joint coordination of interventions in floodplain forests along the Morava River with regard to flood protection and the protection of natural processes

Floodplain forests play a significant role in the flood protection. Their function in floods must however be compliant with the interest of protection of precious plant and animal species. As for floodplain forests along border water courses, major interventions are to be coordinated.

Improving the transport accessibility of outermost forest areas in the mountains for restoration, cultivation and logging

The existing forest and other service roads often cross the common state border in several places. The improvements in transport accessibility of mountain forest locations on both sides of the border is to be coordinated on both sides.

TRANSPORT

Interconnection of transport systems with one another and with the European transport systems

The development of transport networks in the area of interest cannot be planned for in isolation from the development of the transport systems in the neighbouring countries and the follow-up European area. Coordination is to be improved on both sides between the transport policy drafted at the regional and national levels and the policies applied in the neighbouring countries and the EU. That applies to the building of multi-modal corridors and TEN-T networks and to the mutual ensuring of accessibility of all areas cooperating across the border by capacity passenger and freight transport. In the area of interest, stress should be laid on the protection of landscape and preservation of natural values and on the use of environmentally friendly modes of transport.

• Raising the quality of regional and local transport network and infrastructure

The prerequisite for stabilisation and socio-economic development of the settlement structure in the borderland is good accessibility by transport and services to settlements and centres of departure for recreation and tourism, both heading across the border and to the inland. Its basic component must include adequate amenities for motorised tourists (lay-byes, observation platforms, parking lots and park-and-ride facilities with access to tourist routes and recreation centres). In the area of higher landscape and natural values, environmentally friendly transport must be supported – a natural form of regulating passenger car transport.

• Support and development of the system and amenities for non-motorised modes of transport

Extending a good-quality network of paths and roads for non-motorised modes of summer and winter transport and tourism and their links with one another and with the centres of departure in both neighbouring parts of the borderland belongs to the prerequisites for making the area more attractive and for developing more caring forms of recreation and tourism.

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

• Development of regionally favourable energy sources

Utilisation of renewable energies is to be supported in the area, as those are systems close to the natural environment. The potentials of renewable energies can be tapped on in the area; they are of the same importance both in urbanised and rural areas of the borderland. Suitable locations need to be identified for the use of renewables.

Water management and sewer systems

In the common borderland, the quality is to be raised in the care for drinking water sources and the related water management infrastructure as one of important tasks. At the same time, water sources must be used and protected in a manner reaching compliance of the interests of water management, nature protection and environmental stability of the area. Compliant a requirement of the EU legislation, construction of the missing water management infrastructure is to be ensured by 2010.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Providing for the opportunity of higher exploitation of natural and cultural & historical sights in the area for tourism

A development of effective marketing methods leading toward awareness-raising with regard to natural and cultural & historical sights in the area as a tourist destination in the relevant regional, both national and the European context, can contribute to a considerable increase in the number of incoming visitors of the area. Therefore, it is necessary to also ensure adequate transport service and amenities in those places for visitors and an effective territorial protection of the visited sights.

Creating completely new tourism products in the area

In addition to tourism focusing on natural and cultural & historical sights, suitable spatial prerequisites are to be established in the borderland of interest for the introduction of completely new products of, e.g., agro tourism, hippo-tourism, paragliding, etc.

Ensuring the conditions for permanent accessibility of the country to tourists

Public accessibility of the country is to be ensured in the area, to make the summer and winter tourism strive, especially by staking out and building routes and paths along field and forest roads.

Expanding the tourism infrastructure in balneal locations

Balneal locations in the area of interest are becoming more and more significant destinations of tourists, not only of spa guests. Therefore, the relevant public amenities and technical infrastructure in those locations are to be expanded in compliance with the conditions in their area.

NATURE AND LANDSCAPE

• Matching the preservation approaches, manners of exploitation and promotion of exceptional landscape and natural values in the European context in the west Carpathian boundary

The exceptional environmental and aesthetic qualities of the border mountains in the western bow of the Carpathians may deserve significant European reputation. That requires establishing common procedures in the preservation, care, management, ways of exploitation and promotion of the area.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Restoration and permanent care for the selected cultural & historical and technical sights

Cultural and technical sights are especially valued by visitors as precious elements of the tourism supply. Their restoration, making further sights accessible and care for threatened architectural sights belongs to the primary tasks throughout the area.

WATER AND FLOOD PROTECTION

Improving the water quality in water courses

The missing hydraulic infrastructure in small settlements is to be built and the rules of farming along water courses are to the obeyed.

 Respecting the protection belts of water courses along the common border, including the consequences of natural water accumulation protected areas (NWAPA) in the use of land

There is no doubt about the significance of the area of interest from the water management view. The protection of that function is a matter of common interest. The NWAPA functions are to be paid attention to at both sides.

 Finalisation of flood protection, especially on minor water courses crossing the common border

This applies to an increased intensity of joint coordination in decreasing the discharge from small and very small catchment areas and in eliminating water erosion in the area, as well as ensuring mutual links in the implementation of the flood protection measures of the area.

HYGIENE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

• Improving the air quality

This relates to the need of a consequent elimination of emission loads from large industrial operations in the area, decreasing the number of stationary heat sources incinerating fossil fuels and eliminating the damaging impacts of car transport.

Prevention of soil damage and landslides

In the locations affected, it is necessary to introduce effective, especially bio-technical and agrotechnical measures against landslide and erosion of ploughed soils by water and wind.

Addressing the manners of waste handling

This applies especially to the support of a common research on waste utilisation and approximation of the regulations for cross-border waste movements according to the EU rules.

4.2 The most significant challenges and areas of cooperation

Compliant with the strategic objectives of the study, with the existing spatial planning documents on both sides of the common border, with the conclusions and recommendations of the national parts of the study and based on mutual agreements, proposals and tasks are listed below whose detailed solution and progressive implementation may contribute to the clarification of the selected topics concerning the common border and to ensuring sustainable development in the Czecho-Slovak borderland.

In order to specify the development areas and development axes, it is necessary to:

 ensure common identification and a coordinated definition of internationally to regionally significant development axes crossing the common border in the updated Spatial Development Policy 2008, Slovakia's Spatial Development Concept 2008 and the relevant spatial planning documents.

With regard to the common development of spatial structures, it is necessary to jointly address the "target territories" in the following areas:

1. **North Záhorie (area of Skalica) and area of Hodonín** in the southern borderland, with favourable conditions for strengthening mutual spatial and functional links and an opportunity for occurrence of the cross-border agglomeration Skalica – Holíč – Hodonín;

- Area of Púchov and the development area of Zlín in the central borderland, which may trigger –
 as a follow-up of the future capacity transport connection between both areas, especially by
 expressways R6 on the Slovak side and R49 on the Czech one the development of significant
 mutual links of cooperation;
- 3. Area of **Žilina and development area of Ostrava** in the northern borderland, which may lead to as a follow-up of the future capacity transport connection of both areas, especially by the D3 motorway on the Slovak side and the four-lane I/11 road of the Czech side further strengthening of mutual links of cooperation;
- 4. Settlement agglomerations of **Trenčín, Ostrava and Zlín** situated on internationally significant transport routes connecting the cooperation areas of European importance which thank to their locations can be considered the load-bearing elements of the spatial structure in the area of interest, with good opportunities for the placement and development of strategically significant functions;
- 5. Settlement centres **Púchov and Břeclav** situated along the axis or on the crossroad of transport routes of international importance, whose territorial and functional development has not been significantly affected by influences which may resulted for them from such situation.

With regard to the development of transport relations, it is necessary to:

- Coordinate the development of transport networks along and across the border, according to traffic load forecasts, especially in the areas with the strongest development poles inside and outside the area of interest Bratislava – Vienna – Brno and Žilina – Ostrava – Katowice / Kraków;
- 7. Support the construction of expressways **R6** of the Slovak and **R49** on the Czech side, which would connect the D1 motorway in the east-west direction on the Slovak and the D1 and D47 motorways on the Czech side;
- On the basis of the intended construction of R6 on the Slovak and of R49 on the Czech side, reassesses on both sides the future significance and function of the E50 road, whose capacity
 raising is restricted by the nature and country preservation interests on both sides of the border;
- Coordinate the reconstruction and replenishment of transport networks in the common borderland with a special focus on the strengthening of transport and situation potentials, especially in the area of **Kysuce** and **Beskydy**;
- 8. Review coinciding plans related to the possible construction of the **D-O-L Danube branch** in the borderland of three countries: the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Austria;
- 9. Jointly discuss the legitimacy of the plan to **connect the Váh and Oder waterways** in the corridor between the Czech Republic and Poland;
- Coordinate the placement of **public logistics centres** for international combined transport (e.g., in the locations of Hodonín, Břeclav, Lanžhot-Kúty and Břeclav-Bernhardstahl).

For a joint addressing of the socio-economic and economic relations, the following is to be ensured:

10. Preparation of spatial conditions for the development of a differentiated system of education used by both sides of the borderland, with a creation of strong centres of education in the Slovak Trenčín and Žilina, and their connection to the Czech centres in Ostrava and Zlín, bringing innovations and contributing to the creation of conditions for a later location of sophisticated production in the area at the same time;

 Coordination in the selection of focus and use of the proposed locations of industrial parks and zones which are – with regard to the spatial & technical potential – suitable for international cooperation.

With regard to recreation and tourism, a common solution of the area needs:

- 11. A coordination of the common extension of the **Bata Channel** up to Hodonín and review of other development opportunities for water transport with a connection to the Danube River and the opportunities of navigability for the border Redějovka River;
- 12. To act jointly in solving the use of the Czecho-Slovak borderland in the location **Makov Kasárne** on the Czech side;
- To jointly coordinate introduction of adequate spatial conditions for the development of tourism and environmental tourism in protected landscape areas along both sides of the common border;
- To jointly coordinate the development concepts of border-crossing cyclo tourist routes, especially at the regional and local levels, including their connection with cycling trunk roads along both sides of the border.

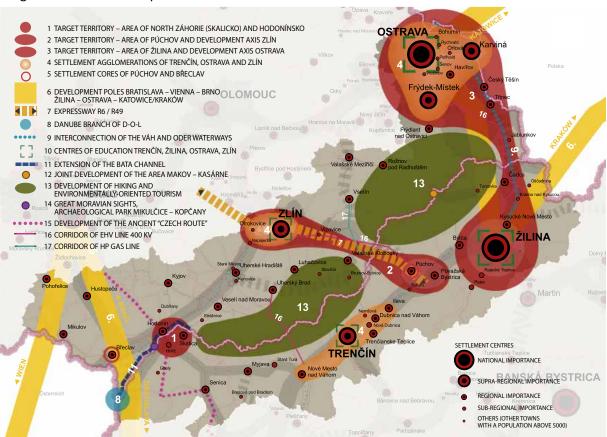
In order to establish adequate spatial conditions for a common use of the cultural heritage of special significance along both sides of the border and to create networks of cultural & historical & educational & learning supply and their mutual links, it is necessary:

- 14. By employing joint procedures, to enforce registration of the **Great Moravian sights** in the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list;
- 14. To create jointly a Czecho-Slovak **archaeological part Mikulčice Kopčany** to present archaeological findings and historical building findings and urban residues of the well-known location Mikulčice "Valy" at the Slovak and Czech sides of the Morava River;
- 15. To jointly develop the old "Czech Road" along the route Brno Hodonín Skalica.

For a joint solution for the area with regard to technical infrastructure, it is necessary:

- To jointly coordinate the routing of **technical infrastructure corridors** of international importance crossing the common border;
- 16. To count on both sides with the construction of another 400 kV extra high voltage line in parallel with the existing route of 400 kV V404 Nošovice (CR) Varín (SR), and with the construction of the 400 kV extra high voltage lines along the routes Otrokovice Vizovice (CR) / Považská Bystrica (SR), Otrokovice Střelná (CR) / SR a Uherský Brod Strání (CR) / SR;
- 17. On both sides, provide protection to the territories of corridors for building emergency interconnecting **very high pressure gas lines** DN 500 Vsetín Střelná (CR) / SR and DN 100 Valašské Příkazy Střelná (CR) / SR, which are substantial for an increase of gas supplies in the area.

Diagram 19. Areas of cooperation



5. CONCLUSIONS

It is for the first time in the history of independence of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic that a study of the Slovako-Czech borderland was prepared. Until the split of the common state in 1993, the development issues of the Slovako-Czech borderland were coordinated within consistent planning and implementation systems. Later, those systems separated from one another and in both countries, the spatial planning and regional development strategies focused rather on addressing their own development challenges. That has gradually developed, in particular in the common borderland, into partial difficulties, which turned out to be without any prospects on both sides.

The activities related to the pre-accession processes and the later accession of both states to the EU significantly stimulated a closer mutual cooperation. Special initiatives were developed on behalf of using subsidies by both parties under the PHARE CBC programme; partial cooperation resulted in a participation of both countries on supra-national planning projects like Vision Planet and PlaNet CenSE, etc.

The Slovako-Czech cross-border cooperation was officially confirmed in the year 2000 by signing the "Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Government of the Czech Republic on cross-border cooperation", which laid a basis for establishing the Slovako-Czech intergovernmental commission for cross-border cooperation. The recent results of the Commission include – inter alia – the jointly prepared operational programme Programme of cross-border cooperation of the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic for period 2007 – 2013 necessary for drawing the EU structural funds support to implement jointly the defined development priorities.

Afterwards, in 2002, the inter-ministerial "Agreement on cooperation in spatial planning and housing code" was concluded. The subject of cooperation between the two competent ministries – MCRD SR and MRD CR – is in particular the spatial planning within cross-border cooperation, spatial planning within multilateral international cooperation, the coordination of spatial planning concepts and documents in borderland areas, information sharing on national legislation governing the issues of spatial planning and housing code, existing spatial planning documents with an impact on the Slovak and Czech Republics, etc.

For the support of the factual aspects of the cooperation, a Slovako-Czech working commission has been established, consisting from the staff members of the concerned ministries and organisations reporting to the ministries, which was extended by borderland region representatives in 2004. The Commission develops varied activities, provides for information sharing and consultations, e.g. on the strategies of SSDS 2001 and SDP CR 2006 / 2008, on the effects of spatial planning documents on borderland regions and municipalities, on the new building act in the Czech Republic, etc. In March 2008, the commission prepared of a joint spatial development document for the V4 ("Visegrád four") countries. The commission also commissioned this joint Czecho-Slovak Borderland Development Study.

Both the customer and its authors wish the study would contribute to resolving of spatial planning topics in the common borderland and become one of the background documents in the guidance toward a sustainable development of the borderland.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CADSES A territory outlined under the INTERREG Initiative which includes Central

European, Adriatic, Danube and South-East European countries

CR Czech Republic

D-O-L Danube - Oder - Elbe waterway

EC European Communities

EECONET European Ecological Network

EHP gas line Extra High Pressure gas line

EHV Extra High Voltage

ESPON European Spatial Planning Observation Network – a European Union programme

EU, EU-27 European Union

GDP Gross Domestic Product

HP gas line Very High Pressure gas line

HST High-Speed Track

IBA Important Bird Area

INTERREG European Community Initiative for Trans-European Cooperation

LPA Landscape Protected Area

MCRD SR Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic

ME SR Ministry of the environment of the Slovak Republic

MRD CR Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic

MWP Municipality with Wider Powers

NATURA 2000 System of protected areas made jointly by the Member States of the European

Union

NCS National Cultural Sight

NECONET National econological Network of Slovakia

NEIS National Emission Monitoring System

NP National Park

NUTS La Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques – a statistical territorial unit

of the EU

NWAPA Natural Water Accumulation Protected Area

OP Operational Programme

PHA Protected Hydrology Area

PPS Purchasing Power Standard

RDS Regional Development Strategy

REZZO Register of emissions and air pollution sources of the Slovak Republic

SCEA Sectoral Classification of Economic Activities

SCI Sites of Community Importance (a part of the NATURA 2000 system)

SDP CR Spatial Development Policy of the Czech Republic

SDP Spatial Development Principles

SP WTU Spatial Plan of a Wide Territorial Unit

SPA Special Protection Areas, Bird Sanctuary (a part of the NATURA 2000 system)

SR Slovak Republic

SSDC, SSDC 2001 Slovakia's Spatial Development Concept

SWOT analysis A method allowing identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

TEN-T Trans-European Networks for Transport

TSES Territorial System of Ecological Stability

UCTE Union for the Coordination of Transmission of Electricity

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

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- www.pamiatky.sk Monuments board of the Slovak Republic
- www.planet-cense.net Planners Network for Central and South East Europe
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