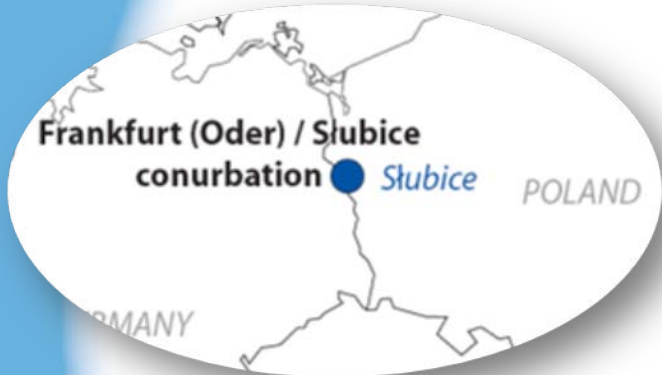




Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder)

speakers: Mayors Ryszard Bodziacki & Martin Patzelt

« EGTC » project launch conference,
Strasbourg, 19 November 2008



Presentation of Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder)



situated on the German-Polish border, 80 km east of Berlin

Presentation of Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder)



- approx. 80.000 inhabitants (75% on the German, 25% on the Polish side)



Presentation of Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder)

- Immediate common border: River Oder
- Border controls abolished in December 2007
- Unspoiled nature (landscape parks) and cultural heritage (ex. St. Mary's Church)
- Common interests: disaster control (ex. flood), economic, tourism and regional development, cultural events, creation of common urban identity



History of the cross-border co-operation in Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder)

- Sister cities since 1991
- 1991 foundation of a common University: European University Viadrina and Collegium Polonicum (in partnership with Adam Mickiewicz University Poznan)
- Founders of Euroregion Pro Europa Viadrina in 1993
- Since then more than 50 common projects in sectors of infrastructure, culture, youth exchange, tourism (ex. « European Garden » 2003)

STRUCTURES of current cross-border governance in Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder):

- Common City Council Commission since 1993
- Regular Mayors' meetings since 1993
- URBACT-EGTC Frankfurt-Słubice Steering Group since August 2008
- Presidency of Euroregion Pro Europa Viadrina:
Lord Mayor Martin Patzelt
- Members in City Twin Association and EURO-MOT (since 2007)

COOPERATION in current cross-border governance in Słubice & Frankfurt (Oder):

- Partners: Counties of Słubice (PL), Oder-Spree, Märkisch-Oderland (DE), Region Lubuskie and Brandenburg, Euroregion Pro Europa Viadrina
- cross-border strategy: Common urban development plan (since 1994)
- Agreement about close co-operation between both City administrations within project EGTC (signed 19.11.2008)
- Involvement of citizens: co-operation between associations, schools etc., mainly in fields like culture, sport, education

Perspectives

1. **Joint staff:** Common City Marketing in the now unused border building, directly on the City Bridge (as of 2009)



2. **Joint tourism development:** Frankfurt-Slubice hosting and sight-seeing website in 5 languages (Tourism Association), thematic routes (ex. St. Jacob's pilgrim route) (from 2008)



3. **Joint investments** in port infrastructure in Frankfurt and Slubice (as of 2009)

Why to be involved in the “EGTC” project?

- Interested in close exchange of experiences and learning from best practises of other European border conurbations
- Being part of European network of cross border conurbations
- Going forward: more regular co-operation on all fields of co-operation, joint staff and legal structuring, more independency from initiative of the Mayors

Conclusions

« Yes we can! »

*Barack Obama, president elect of the
United States of America*

