



ZIEMIA BIELSKA

STOWARZYSZENIE LOKALNA GRUPA DZIAŁANIA

Ziemia Bielska Local Action Group Association came into existence in March 2008. It covers the area of eight communes, belonging to the Powiat of Bielsko which is situated in the southern part of the Śląskie Voivodeship, namely Bestwina, Czechowice-Dziedzice (Village Council Offices Bronów, Ligota, Zabrzeg), Jasienica, Jaworze, Kozy, Porąbka, Wilamowice, Wilkowice, in which 100,160 inhabitants are registered. All the communes surround the city of Bielsko-Biała which is the cultural-educational centre, a workplace, and the localization of important offices.

The area combines the similarity of the lie of the land characterized by the mountainous terrain in the communes of the LAG's southern part (Beskid Śląski, Beskid Mały), and the territory of the Kotlina Oświęcimska in the northern part. The LAG's area is the territory of the historical influences of Cieszyn Silesia and the Little Poland, the inhabitants show strong attachment to the local tradition and regional customs as well as their cultivation. The inhabitants of the LAG's area are very active and enterprising, the number of people with higher education is very low, the birth rate is higher than in the Powiat, Voivodeship, and even in the country, and the unemployment rate is decreasing.

Economically, the communes are divided into the communes of the industrial pole around Czechowice-Dziedzice and the tourist pole around Szczyrk, all of them are characterized by the fragmentation of the agriculture and the domination of the private sector in the structure of employment, which shows the socio-economic cohesion. The Ziemia Bielska LAG's mission is "Strengthening of social capital and improvement of the inhabitants' life quality as well as making the area more attractive for visitors and tourists by means of using the natural, historical and cultural resources of the borderland of the Little Poland and the Cieszyn Silesia."

The association also accomplishes the following statute aims: activity for the balanced rural development, rural population activity stimulation, accomplishment of the Local Development Strategy for 2008-2015 elaborated by LAG, improvement of the rural life quality by application of the latest technologies, popularization of local products, as well as environmental protection, promotion and the right natural environment and landscape use, dissemination and exchange of the information about the initiatives concerning the rural population activity stimulation or historic-cultural resources use for the needs of balanced development.

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