Border landscape across Europe

Evaluation of border crossing

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Contents

1. Introduction........................................................................................................................................3
2. Data and Methods.................................................................................................................................6
3. Theoretical frameworks.........................................................................................................................6
4. History................................................................................................................................................8
   4.1. After World War II.........................................................................................................................8
   4.2. Border crossing between Poland and East Germany.................................................................10
   4.3. After the Cold War.......................................................................................................................13
   4.4. European Union and Schengen zone..........................................................................................14
   4.5. Problems appearing along Polish-German border.................................................................15
5. Present...............................................................................................................................................16
   5.1. Information about Ślubice and Frankfurt (Oder).................................................................16
   5.2. Actual cooperation.....................................................................................................................18
      5.2.1. Kindergarten.........................................................................................................................18
      5.2.2. Bus Line ...............................................................................................................................19
      5.2.3. Tourism ...............................................................................................................................20
   5.3. Problems...................................................................................................................................23
6. Future...............................................................................................................................................25
   6.1. Results of the interview...............................................................................................................26
   6.2. Proposals of cooperation.............................................................................................................27
7. Conclusion.......................................................................................................................................30
8. References......................................................................................................................................32
1. Introduction

This work is a final report of practice field in an intensive course Border Landscape Across the Europe, on Poland/German border in Ślubice and Frankfurt from 5th to 16th May 2014. It is an international project which brings together students of the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan (Poland), University de Girona (Catalonia, Spain) and University of Eastern Finland. The idea of this project was that introduce students to the three other universities to be aware of the difficulties of life on the border of separate states.

In this area, students held a lot of meetings about local landscapes, participated in conferences and discussions and have the opportunity to learn about the history and the present day, and have the opportunity to carry out a number of field studies.

Main topic of our work is to present a boundary that changed for many years. History show what it looked like before, but in our work will be also included information about the present and the future.

Our research area is the Polish-German border in Ślubice on the Polish side and Frankfurt on the German side.

Ślubice is a city in the western part of the voivodeship Lubuskie, in the district with seat of urban-rural Ślubice, of Lubuskie, on the Oder River. Together with Frankfurt an der Oder border conurbation forms the approximately 85 thousand inhabitants. It is an academic center - the seat of the Collegium Polonicum, common teaching and research unit of the University. Adam Mickiewicz University and the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt on the Oder.

Frankfurt - a city with county rights, lying on the west bank of the river in the eastern part of Germany in the federal state of Brandenburg. It lies at an
altitude of 19 to 135 m above sea level and, together with the Polish Słubice (which until 1945 constituted the eastern district) creates a cross-border agglomeration numbering around 85 thousand residents. The city is the seat of the European University Viadrina.

Map of Słubice
### Basic data

**Tab. 1: Kenndaten**  
**Tab. 1: Podstawowe dane**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Stadt / miasto Frankfurt (Oder)</th>
<th>Gemeinde / gmina Słubice</th>
<th>Stadt / miasto Słubice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fläche / Powierzchnia</td>
<td>147,81 km²</td>
<td>185,57 km²</td>
<td>19,21 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Einwohner / Liczba ludności</td>
<td>62.661</td>
<td>19.965</td>
<td>17.046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevölkerungsdichte / Gęstość zaludnienia</td>
<td>423,9 EW / os. / km²</td>
<td>107,6 EW / os. / km²</td>
<td>887,4 EW / os. / km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bevölkerungsschwerpunkt / Centrum układu osadniczego</td>
<td>Siedlungskern / rdzeń miasta: 88 %</td>
<td>Stadt / miasto: 85 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common brand Słubice and Frankfurt Oder.
2. Data and methods

Order to concentrate on our research on the evolution of the border in historic times, and to identify it now and in the future, we needed a lot of historical information, useful data were also presented information leaflets that were given by visiting different places and information at the conference. also received support materials in the form of articles, we also used the official websites of cities. the Underlying basis of information obtained through interviews with inhabitants of Słubice and Frankfurt. There were there questions about common projects, and the relationship between people and the advantages and disadvantages of living on the border. Then analyzed the results and created some graphs. A very important source were also lectures, which gave us a basic knowledge of the landscape and cultural identity. We took also the pictures from the official websites and used the ones that have done alone.

3. Theoretical frameworks

Landscape

The concept of ‘landscape’ has multiple meanings and intrinsically holistic. Landscape have been discussed since the beginning of the scientific study of landscape.

The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors”. But also defines landscape protection as “action to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of landscape” (Antrop, 2005).
Border

Border has different meanings and terms. All borders have common structure, when they include or exclude other. Borders defines the shape, size and meaning of area which border forms. These areas can be social, religious, cultural, ethnic (Newman, 2003). This report concentrates in administrative borders of large entities, such as state. In this case border between Poland and Germany.

Border crossing

Borders are interpreted as a tool of delimiting geographical spaces. Geographical spaces are traditionally areas of control involving and marks of sovereignty. Areas are controlled by supervising tools. Integration of Europe affected to term of border causing borders to become more released. Borders are no longer delimit to communities, systems or individuals. This had a huge impact on bridge states. This process is called “borderless world” and a “Europe without frontiers”. This process is meant to develop a single market and free flow of capital, services, persons and goods (Janczak, 2007). This is also shown in a development of Poland’s borders.

Twin town

Twin towns or sister towns are regions similar to double towns, but they have an independent government. The term “twin town” is generally considered as an expression of strong cooperation and a shared business trade.
4. History

4.1. Formation of Oder-Neisse line

The defeat of Germany and Austria in the World War I enabled establishing Second Polish Republic in 1918. In contrast to today's area it was slightly bigger and it was positioned more to the east. On September 1, 1939 Nazi-Germany started the invasion of Poland and World War II began. On September 17, Soviet troops invaded under the terms of the German-Soviet agreement and occupied most of the areas of eastern Poland with high number of Ukrainian and Belarusian populations. After Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, the whole of Poland was overrun and occupied by German troops. In July 1944, the Soviet Red Army and Soviet-controlled People's Army of Poland entered Poland and through protracted fighting in 1944 and 1945 destroyed the German army.

Fig. 1: Changes in Polish territory caused by WWII.
In post-war Poland the Oder–Neisse line was described as the result of tough negotiations between Polish Communists and Joseph Stalin. Stalin wanted to drive his political ideas and control both Poland and Germany by ensuring the enmity between Poles and Germans with new border line. New border line was also the shortest possible border between Poland and Germany, only 472 km from the northernmost point of the Czech Republic to the Baltic Sea. Finally on 2 August 1945, the Potsdam Agreement of the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union, placed the German territories east of the Oder–Neisse line formally under Polish administrative control. It was also decided that all Germans remaining in the new and old Polish territory should be expelled. 1.5–2 million Poles moved or were expelled from Polish areas annexed by the Soviet Union. The vast majority were resettled in the former German territories. The border divided several German cities into two parts – Görlitz/Zgorzelec, Bad Muskau/Łęknica Guben/Gubin, Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice, Küstriner Vorland/Kostrzyn nad Odrą.

![Fig. 2: Current Polish-German border follows rivers Oder and Neisse and divides several cities.](image)
The German Democratic Republic (GDR) recognized Oder-Neisse line under Soviet occupation and heavy pressure by Moscow and the Treaty of Zgorzelec was signed in 1950. The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) refused to recognize GDR as an independent state or the Oder-Neisse line as a permanent boundary even though it was one of Stalin's conditions for the Soviet Union to agree to a reunification of Germany. Despite FRG recognized Oder-Neisse line in 1970 desires of restoring German borders as they were before the Second World War still appeared in Germany. Poles were aware of these desires which also justified the alliance with ‘friendly’ Soviet Union (Janczak, 2007). Eventually the 1990 German-Polish Border Treaty finalized the Oder–Neisse line as the border of Poland and unified Germany. German and Poland signed agreement called Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation. Agreement confirmed that Odra and Nyssa river would be the permanent boundary between Germany and Poland (Brym, 2009).

4.2. Border crossing between Poland and East Germany

Political relationships between East Germany and Poland and changes in cultural connections had great influence on people’s mobility across the Polish-East German border (Brym, 2009). Earlier cultural connections between Polish and German borderlands broke down in the large-scale movement of people at the end of World War II. The region was repopulated with Polish people from Eastern Poland who historically had very little daily contact with Germans. On the other hand Germans who had lived near the Polish border were relocated in western Germany and the people of western bank of the river Oder had no experience living in the borderland (Janczak, 2007).
Despite being part of the same communistic Soviet bloc, Poland and GDR had different political opinions and prejudices concerning each other (Brym, 2009). Tense relationship between GDR and Poland caused that most of the Polish and German citizens were unable to cross carefully guarded Polish-East German border except for a brief period between 1972 and 1980. Non-official contacts between Polish and German citizens cross the border were limited by requiring visa which at times very difficult to acquire. In the early years, 1948-1953, Polish officials limited the travel of Germans to Poland. In the following years, the GDR tightened the border by requiring a visa which took up to five months to receive if Polish citizens were granted permission to travel to Germany, at all.

During the late 1960s and 1970s, the Polish-East German border was an open and cooperative borderland, at least officially (Brym, 2009). Divided border cities such as Słubice and Frankfurt-Oder signed agreements in the 1970s to establish cooperative relations and rebuild infrastructure connections disrupted by the border line. Despite the official cooperation, East Germany and Poland were unsuccessful in their efforts to create feelings of unity across the border. Still cross-border trade developed quickly between Eastern Germany and Poland in the early 1970s because of new limited economic freedoms and cross-border mobility (Brym, 2009). People traveled across the border as tourists, to work in factories or look for odd jobs which would earn them some extra income. All cross-border interactions were not friendly because of prejudices and shopping behaviors caused by different economic situations across the border. The fact that Poles had greater freedom to travel across the border than East Germans also caused tension between these two groups.
Political changes in Poland placed new customs restrictions in the late 1970s minimized cross border trade again. On the other hand East Germans did not want the ideas of Polish \textit{Solidarnosc} movement (a civil society uprising against the Polish communist government) to spread west so the Polish-German border was closed again in 1980 (Janczak, 2007).

Migration to west

There were several large-scale migration waves from Poland to Germany after the WWII. Polish communist government frequently denied the existence of a German minority but they periodically agreed to the release of large numbers of German minorities to Western Germany hoping to improve Polish-West German relationship and securing an agreement ratifying the permanency of the Polish-East German border (Brym, 2009). The out-migration of German minorities from Poland and the rights of German minorities in Poland affected friction in East German-Polish relationship. First migration wave was facilitated in 1953 when German citizenship was granted to anyone of ethnic German origin whose own or whose parent’s place of residence in May of 1945 had been in the former territories controlled by the Germans in the East, which resulted that anyone who had lived in the newly acquired territories in Poland could claim German citizenship. Between 1955-1957 following an agreement between the German and Polish Red Cross organizations, about 250,000 people left Poland for West Germany and West Berlin to reunify family members in Germany. The Warsaw Agreement of 1970, signed between West Germany and Poland, allowed further reunification between German families who had been resettled in Western Germany after the war with members who had remained in Poland.
During the late 1970s and 1980s, Poland’s economic situation weakened which caused another large wave of people migrating from the Polish borderlands to Germany. The large number of people migrating to Western Germany suggests that many of the migrants were economic opportunists hoping for a better life in West Germany rather than ethnic Germans migrating from Poland to Western Germany. The original open-door policy towards ethnic Germans in the early fifties helped to fill the labor shortage caused by West Germany’s economic growth but by the 1990s the large-scale migration from Poland to Germany had become overwhelming which led to tighter migration policies.

4.2. After the Cold War

July 1st 1990 East Germany and FGR unified with agreements of currency unification. The economy of Eastern German had a huge transformation changing economic to West German social democratic model. The new economic began 1989 causing growth of cross-border trade. Eased border management created new market places, flea markets (bazaars) in eastern and western borders. These also occurred in major Polish cities (Brym, 2009). In the year 1991 obligation for visa is removed and gave polish people a change to travel in Germany for up to three months. (Frankfurt-Slubicer, 2013). This caused increasing border crossing between Poland and Germany, from 7.2 million in 1991 to more than 70 million in 1993. Border crossing was highest years 1990-1994. Even people from Warsaw came to Berlin to buy or sell products. Borderland had high-out migration and declining economy. Developed border crossing deleted these problems and made them economic growth areas and improved their employment. In some areas these bazaars provided living for
more than half of the citizens. This also gave opportunity for German shoppers to seek bargains in Poland and the profits of the border trade were predominately collected by Polish borderlanders. This occurred for almost a decade, until year 2000 petty trade along the border were more evenly distributed between Germans and Polish borderlanders.

It was common for Polish border towns to take advantage of their geographical location in the border crossing checkpoint. High employment and lowering economy in Eastern Germany made these border towns more attempting for German people. Town Slubice, is located near to Berlin, between Berlin and Moscow. This town became central market for petty trade (Brym, 2009). In 1993, Frankfurt and Slubice made a new agreement of cooperation. This project included cooperation to different kind of sections like economics, environmental protection, town construction, town redevelopment, disaster control, culture, education, sports and the co-operation between city councils (City twins.. 2005).

4.3. European Union and Schengen zone

Poland became a member of European Union in the year 2004 and got a membership in Schengen Zone in the year of 2007 (Kolovou). Because of Schengen agreement passport checks in Poland’s border stopped (Website of the Republic of Poland). The border has no physical barrier to the movement of people. After Schengen, cooperation between cities in the border has increased. In Uecker-Randow district, poles work in Poland but live in Germany, so over 2000 families have moved to German side of border. This is because of lower cost of housing and better benefits in social matters. This is shown in the border, when people visit daily both sides of the border. The biggest savor for
polish to move in the other side of the river is the lower cost of housing and short distance to their home country (Virtus, 2012).

4.4. Problems appearing along Polish-German border

Crimes rates were rising in the region. Polish and German reacted to this and planned bilateral agreements in the early 1990s. These agreements were planned to control illegal activities such as prostitution, stealing, illegal trafficking of people, drugs and stealing, which appeared in the border. Lot of merchandize was stolen in German and transported to Poland. Illegal immigration happened cross border. In the year 1993 German and Polish officials signed an agreement to deal with this immigration and Poland agreed to return illegal immigrants who crossed Poland and went to Germany. Contrary, Germany agreed to help Poland give polish asylum seekers accommodation to end smuggling people from east to Germany through Poland.

Another agreement appeared in 1995 for cooperation of Polish and German border. Poland started to prepare for joining to EU. This was shown with less people crossing rates. In 2000-2002 number of people crossing border dropped 22 % and car crossing was 26 % less than before.

By the 2000s, long traffic lines appeared in the border. Border authorities were scanning possible criminal activities. Scanning, small number of border crossing check points and lack of possibilities to accommodate people were reasons for trafficking. The main illegal activities happening in the border was trafficking people, passing of stolen passports, smuggling cars, cosmetic from Germany. Illegal trafficked people were mainly from former Soviet Union Republics (Brym, 2009).
5. Present

5.1. Information about Słubice and Frankfurt (Oder)

The Frankfurt city was founded the twelfth eagle. City was counting rights, Frankfurt had a core urban and six rural districts of nature, dealing a total area of 150 Km2. And the end of 2011, Frankfurt was 62000 total populations. But 88% lived in the urban areas.

Slubice had an eleven towns with the same character. Some of them are over the city in 10 Km straight line. Most of these rural areas are in them of population, (200 habitants) very small. Slubice had about 200000 inhabitants, of which the city has a population approximately 85%. The difference become apparent when you compare the population density.
Frankfurt Oder

Frankfurt is a friendly city in the capital region, the city had and interesting economic and culturally lifestyle. Together with Słubice, Frankfurt Oder is an important place to work and live you can change the experience about the borderline, cultural cooperation, shopping... but Słubice is an umbrella because it’s more important than Frankfurt. Frankfurt is also an interesting business location. Thanks to its central location it is also the major economic hub, with attracts a lot of logistics companies.

Frankfurt is also important because is a research and teaching center: almost 700 students from 80 countries. Since 1999 Frankfurt Oder had been officially known as the Kleist City, because in 1777 was born in the city the poet Heinrich von Kleist.

The development of Frankfurt, start after the second war in 1945 the new German–Polish border to the river Oder separate Frankfurt and Słubice. At the middle of 1960’s a light was opened by the borders, allows some factories of Frankfurt employ about 800 Polish border workers. And 1971 increase the development about cross border area. But in 1981 the border cross will be close. In 1991 the border in Polish and German was open. In 2004 the Poland’s access to the EU.

Słubice

Słubice lies in the western part of Lubusz Province, on the Polish-German border. Have a urban total area is 19.2 km2 and rural area have 185.57 Km2. The town belongs to the Słubice County and is the seat of the urban-rural municipality of Słubice.
December of 2012 the town had 18,148 inhabitants with a 893/km² density. Along with Frankfurt Oder border are numbering about 85 thousand residents. Until recently, there were Slubice furniture factory "Roadster" (now AXA shopping mall) Currently Slubice are trade and service center. Here, there are companies that are active in the automotive industry, metal, footwear, machinery, electronics, construction, food, concrete and wood. And now the largest employer is the bazaar.

Some monuments chronologically by date of creation:

- Church of Our Lady Queen of Polish Street
- Buildings from the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early.
- Palace of the nineteenth century.
- Stadium SOSiR Street. Sports 1, built in the years 1914-1927.

5.2. Actual cooperation

5.2.1. Kindergarten

For more than 20 years there is a partnership between the children’s they daycare center in Frankfurt (Oder) and an equal institution in Slubice. In this context the project “Eurokita” is running for 7 years: 40 children of Frankfurt and 20 children of Slubice attend together the institution in Frankfurt (Oder) and learn the respective neighbor language. Some Polish parents, whose children attend the Eurokita, are interested that they children develop the once acquired language skills. Therefore some of these children continue to attend also the school in Frankfurt. There are close relations between other children’s days care center for several years.

For 10 years there is the project “Meet means meet each other”, which contains a weekly education of the respective neighbor language. In schools on
both sides of Oder and Neisse. In addition daily trips and holiday camps of several days were organized.

In Frankfurt (Oder) and Slubice primary schools cooperate closely, too. There is also close cooperation between the school for mentally handicapped children in Frankfurt and Slubice.

For many years the communal and regional library of Frankfurt cooperate with schools in Frankfurt and Slubice in different projects. Thus German Polish calendars with child designs and stories were created. In 2004 in the course of “European Spring meeting” a stage play was elaborated in German and Polish language by 11 children each from a school in Frankfurt and Slubice.

5.2.2. Bus line

Since 2012, the bus service connects the twin cities of Slubice (Poland) of Frankfurt (Germany). In December, a new bus line across the Oder river and started cooperate, those two borders towns sharing many urban characteristics and collaboration to different projects. This form has been connected with public transport for the first time. Slubice is closely linked to this German city, Frankfurt (Oder), of each is was till 1945. The bus line will be served by the Transportation Company of Frankfurt. And co-financed the government of Slubice.

According the Mayor of Slubice, the projects will facilitate the communication of residents in both cities, since there are thousands of people travelling across the bridge. The bus connection will help to avoid the traffic jams ad and to create convenient conditions for commuters who until now have travelled on foot, specially students, tourists and customers of the shops in the both countries.
5.2.3. Tourism

The main cultural points in German side were:

- **The Museum Kleista**

  Kleist Museum in Frankfurt an der Oder, is devoted to the life and work of Heinrich von Kleist.
➢ The Museum Viadrina

University of Viadrina
Alma Mater Viadrina was founded in 1506. Then studied 900 students from Germany, Polish, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. At the same time, Frankfurt had only 5,000 inhabitants. In 1811, Viadrina was moved to Wroclaw. 15 July 1991 re-created university, and a year later launched the first academic year.

➢ Town council in Frankfurt Oder
The Town Hall in Frankfurt (Oder) was built from 1253 in North German brick gothic and is one of the oldest and largest town halls in Germany. The building symbolizing the importance of the city of Frankfurt in medieval trade.
The years 1607-1609 were rebuilt.
The end of the Second World War, the building was badly damage. In 1949 thanks the lottery the building could reconstruct.
Now the building remains one of the most extraordinary town halls in Germany.

The main cultural points in Polish side was:

- **Collegium Polonicum Slubice**

The Collegium Polonicum Slubice location of two academic teaching partner universities: Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) and the European University Viadrina (EUV) in Frankfurt Oder Formed in 1992 located in Slubice.
It is a form of cross the border cooperation in research and teaching. The responsibility for this lies for the scientific community at the same time on the Polish.
Bazar
The Bazar was located in the border to Slubice – Frankfurt Oder, the European trade route and activity of the population was trade in 1991 open a border bazar on the surface of 16000m². Since 2007 the Bazar was rebuild after the memorable fire in January.

Old Jewish Cemetery
The cemetery was probably founded in 1541, near the medieval fortress. After the war, the communities authorities was leaved the cemetery. During 1988 – 1991 in the same place was produced a lot of acts of vandalism.

5.3. Problems
Cars thefts, any controls and good or bad police
In the 1990’s the volume of cross border trade, bazaars prostitution, illegal trafficking of people, drugs and stealing in along the border were the results of local initiatives taking advantage of new economic freedoms. In response to
the growth of cross-border trade, agreements were signed between German and Polish municipalities to regulate these cross-border operations. In 1990 and 1991 treaties were signed to promote good neighborliness and friendly cooperation across the border and control the area. In 1991 they signed to control the organized crime. In 1993 to deal with illegal immigration across the border in which Poland agreed to the return of illegal immigrants who entered Germany through Poland. In 1995 another agreement was signed for the cooperation of police forces to solve transborder investigations.

In 2000-2002 the 22% of people and the 26% of cars to crossed the border had be decrease. It believe that the decrease of people was because of the borderguards to prepare the U.E. membership in 2004.

In 2006 the border was a difficult place to smuggle across. Today we have a cooperative interior border of the U.E. without physical barriers to the movement people.

But without controls criminality exist. For example they have problems with car thefts. In the past some 50 cars were stolen here each year. Now it's approximately 350. It’s not surprising that car-stealing groups to Frankfurt: crossing the border takes just a few minutes. Polish gangs stealing German cars is nothing new. What's new is the fast increase of such thefts in eastern Germany. Poland now often just serves as a transit country for the stolen vehicles, which may end up in Russia, Ukraine or Lithuania. Sometimes things don’t go as planned. Because in Frankfurt the police are so good and citizens feel secure. On the other hand citizens of Slubice think the opposite.

➢ Night clubs

Border cities are a place of passage for many people, for this reason frequently appear the nightclubs business. This kind of business isn’t good for the safety of
citizens because this type of business can bring more crims, also all this influence the image of the city.

➢ Language

Population from the new free border from Frankfurt and Slubice have a problem with language. Oficial language of Slubice are polish and Frankfurt have german. On the one hand, actually, this cities cooperate with a project for children to learn and improve the language of each other for their communication, this project are kindergarten, but it’s true when polish people say want to learn German, while very few Germans learn more than a few words of Polish. On the other hand that problem affect the adult population and especially the older population because they can't communicate and it’s hard to learn for their. Nowadays the free border increases the flows of the people and it’s important for citizens relationships have a good communication.

➢ Laws

Another problem is about german citizens from Slubice. They had to go to live in Frankfurt Oder because of the Second World War. Today this problem affects this kind of people. They want to return to their old home, in Slubice, but they can't go there because the new law had expropriated their old home.

➢ Shopping

Germany have higher standard of living than Poland. For this reason Frankfurt citizens cross the border and go shopping in Slubice. That’s because of Slubice is more commercial than Frankfurt, that is industrial, but, it’s true, the quality of the products of Frankfurt are better than Slubice because some are produced by other countries from the U.E.
6. Future

Analyzing the actual cooperation of double cities, you can define that good. Despite the difficult history of the population can work together, realizing and planning investments on both sides of the river.

Interviews were conducted in 05.13.2014 for a group of 20 people. 10 people from Polish, 10 people from German side. The results show that people are very positive attitude on the common cooperation.

6.1. Results of the interview

With Carried out interviews suggest that the greater part of the respondents are people above the age of thirty. In Poland, about 60% of the respondents have more than fifty years, while 20% involved students. On the German side of the 50% of respondents had more than fifty years. In both cases, the number of students reached the same number - 20%. Research shows that most of the Polish side is corresponding to employees (60%), seniors and students are the 20%, while the German side looks a bit different. Germany is a country of aging, the number of retirees (40%) exceeds the number of persons employed (30%). Students just as in Poland occupy 20%, except that among the respondents appeared tourists occupying 10%. The question for the evaluation of co-operation between the Polish-German population, respondents answered as follows: Poland: 30% of the population believes that the cooperation is very good, 50% of that good, it is probably related to the constant trade, use of services and mutual benefit. 10% of the population remained in a neutral position while the 10% assessed the cooperation wrong. Analyzing the results of research on the relationship between Poles and Germans it can be stated that the views of both nations are
close together. 20% of Poles replied that the relations are very good. As good and neutral rated 40%. People on the other side of the Oder said that these relationships are good (60%) and neutral (40%). The interview also asked about the advantages and disadvantages of living near the border. The answers were very diverse. On the Polish side of the people, first drew attention to the economics of exchanging such issues as the the development of services and trade. Population living in Poland thinks this is a good place to learn a foreign language, for example at meetings of the population of both cities. The open border is also the possibility of finding a job on the other side of the river. The German population sees more social benefits such as new friends, learning a new culture, mentality, and also learning a new language. However, the biggest advantage of the proximity of Polish cities are cheaper products and articles in stores. The disadvantages include the lack of Polish currency in the city bus, which is a common idea in both cities. No Polish subtitles on the German side and the lack of Polish currency payments in shops in Germany. Respondents drew attention to the problems of language, smuggling, increased crime, lack of control at the border and a large number of empty flats on the German side. Poles do not correspond to high volume night club, and rampant prostitution in Słubice. Just as the German side of both the Polish side of the problem for the population is the lack of border controls. The final question in this part of the interview relates to a combination of the two cities in the future and eliminate the border. Population expressed unanimously saying "no", the most important arguments given different culture, mentality, problems with finances, political and administrative problems, different languages, difficult history and disinclination. People also believe that unofficially are one of the urban structure.
6.2. Proposals of cooperation

One of the questions in our interview related to changes in current investments, and additional activities. Respondents unanimously replied that the changes in the study area are needed. Poles offered to the bus line appeared vending machines with Polish currency, also expressed wish to German neighbors spoke Polish to the supermarket on the German side could also pay Polish currency to the local newspaper appeared to be more specific and important information, and to in Frankfurt cinema were also offered films in Polish. On the German side of the proposed amendments were less desirable but also appeared. Germany wanted to more bus stops, are interested in the common language courses, and there is a proposal to form a coffee shop or other specific places specially designed for students. Both the Polish and German side expressed willingness to joint programs and cultural arts.

Another question concerned the desire to create new common projects. All the respondents answered this question positively. When asked about ideas common investments in the future, after the Polish side were suggestions such as swimming pool, cinema, ice rink and recreation center. People answering this question when complained that such services on the German side are too expensive, so traveling to other Polish cities, which are located far away (ok.80km). After a while the German side were proposals to the zoo, theme park, family park, common associations and organizations for children and young people on arts programs, cultural and theater to produce the more bilingual kindergartens and primary schools. Analysing the results of the interviews allowed for imaging the actual situation, and the relationship between the people of the separate states, and highlighted challenges and benefits that occur at the border.
On June 24-26, 2009, Slubice was a "Słubice-Frankfurt Conference of the Future 2020." Result of the conference was to identify growth sectors 7 and 24 strategic objectives of cooperation.

1. Cosmopolitan European Twin City with high living standard

It assumes a common urban development, creation of a common communication and behavior of green areas in cities.

2. Multilingual European Twin City

This assumption illustrates the use of the language of the neighbor.

3. Learning European Twin City

It involves close cooperation of municipalities and educational centers.

4. Forward-looking and dynamic European Twin City

This assumption is presented to support the economy and the job market strengthening tourism through the development of infrastructure, environmental protection and common marketing of urban and economic development would be two cities.

5. Family-Friendly European Twin City

Assumed to increase the attractiveness of the city for taking up residence families.

6. European Twin City of Culture

This assumption is about promoting a common identity while preserving their national identity and nurture the common cultural heritage.

7. European Twin City of sports

This assumption is about the expansion of sports infrastructure and the intensive cooperation of sporting events as a factor in integrating residents.

7. Conclusion
There have been big changes in crossing the Polish-German border. After the second World War border was moved to Oder-Neisse line. The new border caused tensions into Polish-German relationships while Germans refused to recognize it. During the cold war border was carefully guarded and border crossing was extremely difficult due to tensioned political relationships between Poland and GDR. Not until the reunification of Germany and collapse of socialistic system allowed border crossing to ease. Last restrictions in mobility across the border disappeared in 2007 when Poland joined to Schengen Agreement.

Today Polish-German border itself does not cause restrictions in movement of people and cross-border cooperation. Borderland has become from end of a territory to an interaction zone of two cultural spheres and trade. Regions and cities which used to be divided by border e.g. Frankfurt (Oder) – Słubice have launched several cooperation projects to improve unity of whole borderland region and trade. There are several cultural and economic factors, such as language barrier and different currency, which make cross-border transactions more difficult. Still residents of Frankfurt (Oder)/Słubice feel cross-border cooperation as good thing and have several ideas for new cooperation projects that improve their international home town, double town.

When the borderline opened in the 19th edge Słubice and Frankfurt started to increase the cooperation the most important is the bus-line because it has facilitated the population crossing the border. This population flows has increased the tourism, the economy and the cooperation about the twin cities. But it also has negative because increase the crimes.

After analyzing the research results it can be seen that as time progresses, the cooperation between the two cities at the border is getting better and better reflecting the common projects performed as described
previously bilingual kindergarten or common bus line, and it can be seen that further cooperation is going in the right direction. The city authorities and residents are willing and open to further changes as evidenced by the creation of development plans for 2010-2020. When conducting research collaboration can say that people living in these areas are full of hope for the further development and better living conditions in the area.

8. References

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