

# Strategic Diagnosis for the project "Strengthening border communities in the Polish-Lithuanian functional area" No LTPL00271

Strategic diagnosis of the Polish territory  
Report

For: Lazdijai municipality  
Vilnius, 2025



**Smart  
Continent**

# Content

Key abbreviations and terms .....	3
List of tables .....	4
List of images.....	5
Introduction .....	6
1. Economic indicators .....	7
2. Social indicators.....	10
2.1. Demographic structure of the population.....	10
2.2. Social infrastructure .....	13
2.2.1. Education .....	13
2.2.2. Health indicators and accessibility .....	15
2.2.3. Social services.....	18
2.3. Employment and labour market structure .....	19
3. Cultural indicators .....	22
3.1. Cultural heritage and local traditions .....	22
3.2. Access to and availability of higher education.....	25
3.3. Cultural projects and community participation.....	25
4. Geographical indicators.....	26
4.1. Geographical location and distinctiveness of the area .....	26
4.2. Transport infrastructure .....	29
4.3. Natural and environmental challenges.....	32
5. Administrative indicators .....	35
5.1. Local government structure and self-government .....	35
5.2. Regional policy and lawmaking.....	36
6. Local potential growth opportunities .....	39
6.1. Innovation and technological potential .....	39
6.2. Green growth .....	43
6.3. Cultural and tourism potential .....	44



## Key abbreviations and terms

Sav.	Municipality
Vlsc.	Parish
EGTC zone	Vilkaviškis county municipality, Kalvarija county municipality, Lazdijai county municipality, Seinai city, Seinai vlsc., Gibai vlsc., Krasnapolis vlsc., Punks vlsc., Jeleniavo vlsc., Rutka-Tartak vlsc., Šipliškės vlsc., Vijain vlsc.
Customer	Lazdijai district municipality
Consultant	Smart Continent LT, UAB



## List of tables

Table 1. Net international migration in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC zone 2019-2023 .....	12
Table 2. Net internal migration in the communes of the EGTC zone in Poland, 2019-2023 .....	13
Table 3. Number of inpatient beds in the EGTC zone in Polish municipalities, 2019-2023, pcs. ....	15
Table 4. Number of pharmacies in the EGTC zone in Polish municipalities 2019-2023, pcs.....	16
Table 5. Number of health care facilities in the Polish communes of the EGTC area .....	17
Table 6. Number of cultural heritage and tourism sites in the EGTC area of Poland.....	22
Table 7. Distribution of foreign tourists by country in the EGTC area in 2023 .....	23
Table 8. Tourist Information Centres in the EGTC area in the Polish communes in 2025. ....	24
Table 9. Number of rivers and lakes in the EGTC area.....	28
Table 10. Roads in the EGTC zone in Poland .....	29
Table 11. Location of railway lines in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone (February 2025).....	31
Table 12. Protected areas in EGTC zones in Polish communes .....	33
Table 13. Strategic goals and objectives of the Development Strategy 2030 for the Province of Palenque .....	36
Table 14. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Palenque Vaivadia .....	36



## List of images

Figure 1. Number of operating enterprises in the Polish communes of the EGTC area in 2023 .....	7
Figure 2. Registered enterprises by type of economic activity in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2023.	8
Figure 3. Population change in the Polish communes of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023. ....	11
Figure 4. Population distribution by age groups in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2019 and 2023, birth and death rates in the EGTC zone in 2023. ....	12
Figure 5. Indicators of educational establishments and enrolment in the EGTC area in the Polish municipalities in 2019 and 2023. ....	15
Figure 6. Causes of mortality by disease in the EGTC area of Poland in 2023. ....	17
Figure 7. Number of persons with disabilities in the Polish communes of the EGTC area 202 1.....	18
Figure 8. Number of employed persons in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2023. ....	19
Figure 9. Distribution of employed persons (%) by sector in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2023..	20
Figure 10. Number of unemployed. and the share of unemployed in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023. ....	21
Figure 11. Number of tourists in accommodation establishments and supply of tourism services in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023. ....	23
Figure 12. Polish border areas of the EGTZ and their areas in hectares .....	27
Figure 13. Forest cover in the EGTC area of Poland .....	33
Figure 14. Structure of the Polish commune authorities in the EGTC area .....	35
Figure 15. Foreign direct investment in the Polish territory of the EGTC area, million EUR.....	40
Figure 16. Foreign direct investment per capita in the Polish territory of the EGTC zone, EUR per capita. ....	40
Figure 17. Tangible investments in the EGTC area of the Polish territory, million EUR. ....	41
Figure 18. Material investment per capita in the EGTC area of Poland, EUR. ....	41



# Introduction

The Strategic Diagnosis for the project "Strengthening of Border Communities in the Polish-Lithuanian Functional Zone" No LTPL00271 is being prepared in accordance with the Contract No 53-22 of 18 February 2025 between the Lazdijai District Municipality Administration and Smart Continent LT, UAB (hereinafter referred to as the Consultant).

The strategic diagnosis includes the diagnosis of the EGTC area. The EGTC area covers 12 territorial units: 3 municipalities in Lithuania and 9 municipalities in Poland. In this version, nine municipalities will be considered on the territory of Poland: *Sejny gmina miejska*, *Sejny gmina wiejska*, *Giby gmina wiejska*, *Krasnopol gmina wiejska*, *Punsk gmina wiejska*, *Krasnopol gmina wiejska*, and *Punsko gmina wiejska*. (*Polish: Puńsk gmina wiejska*), *Jeleniawo vlsč.* (*Polish: Jeleniewo gmina wiejska*), *Rutka-Tartak vlsč.* (*Polish: Rutka-Tartak gmina wiejska*), *Szypliszki vlsč.* (*Polish: Szypliszki gmina wiejska*), *Wiżaino vlsč.* (*Polish: Wiżajny gmina wiejska*).

A strategic diagnosis includes an analysis of economic, social, cultural, geographical, administrative indicators and the potential growth opportunities of a place.

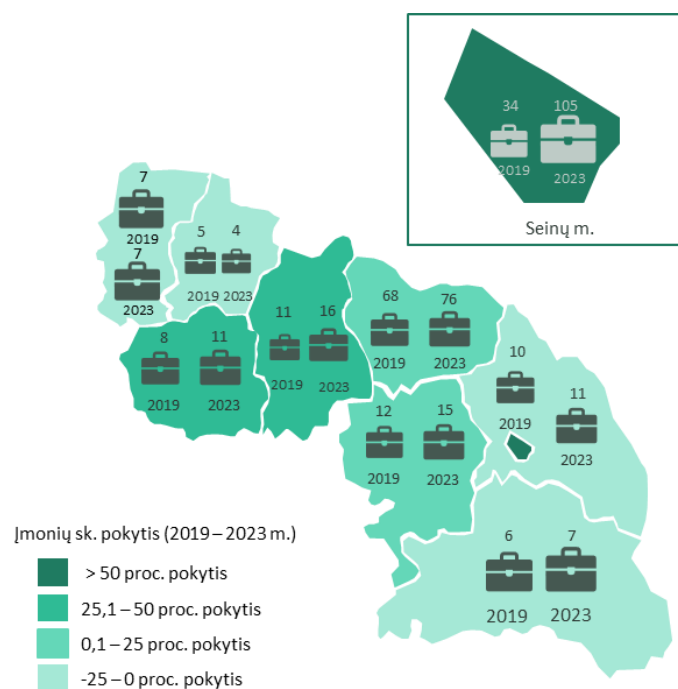


# 1. Economic indicators

This chapter analyses the structure of the economy and the main economic sectors, their importance and prospects. The indicators analysed include:

- Number of enterprises operating in the districts;
- registered businesses by type of economic activity at the start of the year.

**NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES OPERATING IN THE DISTRICTS.** The number of enterprises in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2023 is 252, which is one third (36.1%) more than in 2019. In most of the analysed Polish communes, the number of enterprises increased slightly or remained stable during the period under analysis (2019-2023), except for the city of Sejny, where the number of enterprises tripled.



1Figure . Number of operating enterprises in the Polish communes of the EGTC area in 2023

Source: prepared by the Consultant based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL) <sup>1</sup>

**REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AT THE START OF THE YEAR.** According to the data for 2023, the total number of registered economic entities in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone will be about 2.5 thousand, which is 17.7% more than in 2019, when 2 thousand economic entities were registered. The number of economic entities is distributed quite evenly across the analysed territory of Poland, but the most notable are the city of Sejny, with a quarter of the total number of economic entities (24.7%), and the voivodeship of Punszk, where 14.7% of the total number of economic entities in the analysed territory of Poland are registered. The lowest number of entities (126) is registered in Rutka-Tartak voivodeship.

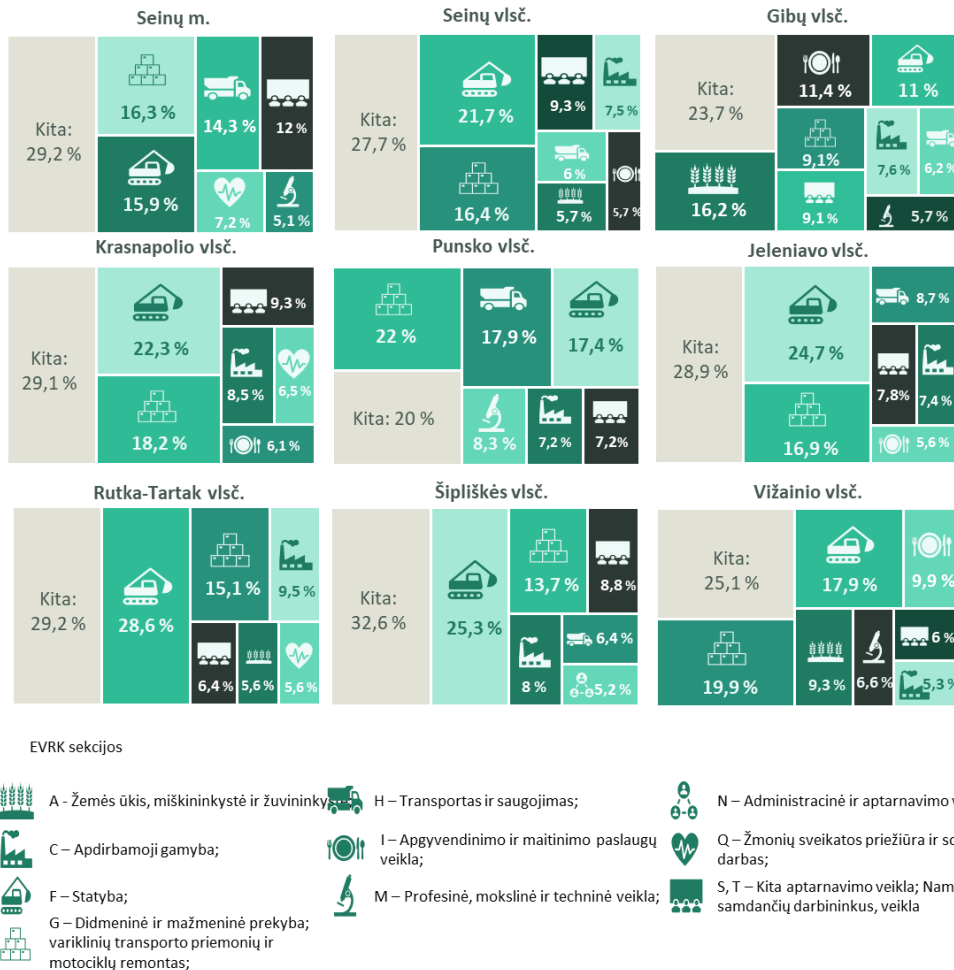
In most of the voivodships, the largest share of registered enterprises in 2023 will be in the area of construction economic activities, which varies from 11% (Gibi voivodship) to 28.6% (Rutka-Tartak voivodship) in different

<sup>1</sup> Local Data Bank (BDL). Available online: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/bdl/start>



territorial units. Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles accounted for the largest share in Seinai, Punks and Vižainiai Vlcs. In the single vlsc. of Gibi, agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for the largest share.

The figure below shows the distribution of industries accounting for more than 5% of the total number of economic operators in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone. Those activities with a share of less than 5% of the total structure are listed as other.



2Figure . Registered enterprises by type of economic activity in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

Summarising the economic indicators of the Polish municipalities in the EGTC area for the period 2019-2023, the overall economic situation is gradually improving. The number of enterprises operating in the territory is slightly increasing, as well as the number of registered businesses. Construction and wholesale and retail trade or repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles account for a larger share of economic activity of economic entities. There is no single activity that accounts for a particularly large share of economic operators in the whole analysis area. No single economic activity accounts for more than 29 % of the total number of registered economic operators in the commune, which means that there is a diversification of activities and no dependence on a single branch or type of activity. On the other hand, this situation shows that there is no specialisation in the region, which makes it possible to attract investment in a particular field and develop specific competences and skills.





## 2. Social indicators

This chapter analyses the following groups of social indicators: the demographic structure of the population, social infrastructure, employment and the structure of the labour market. The first group of indicators, the demographic structure of the population, analyses the structure of the population and the aspects that characterise it and includes the following indicators:

- Population;
- Population structure by age group;
- births per 1000 population;
- Mortality rate per 1000 population;
- net international migration;
- net internal migration.

The second group of indicators - social infrastructure - looks at the quality and accessibility of education, health and social services and includes:

- Education:
  - Number of educational institutions (number of pre-school and general education institutions, number of vocational training institutions, number of higher education institutions);
  - Number of people attending educational institutions (pre-school, pre-primary school children, pupils, students)
  - Proportion of children enrolled in pre-primary education from 3 years old up to compulsory primary school age (7 years);
- Healthcare:
  - number of beds;
  - number of pharmacies;
  - Number of health care facilities by type of facility
  - standardised mortality rate for certain diseases
- social services:
  - Number of elderly (65+) as a proportion of the total population;
  - Number of people with disabilities as a proportion of the total population;
  - Number of social services by type of institution.

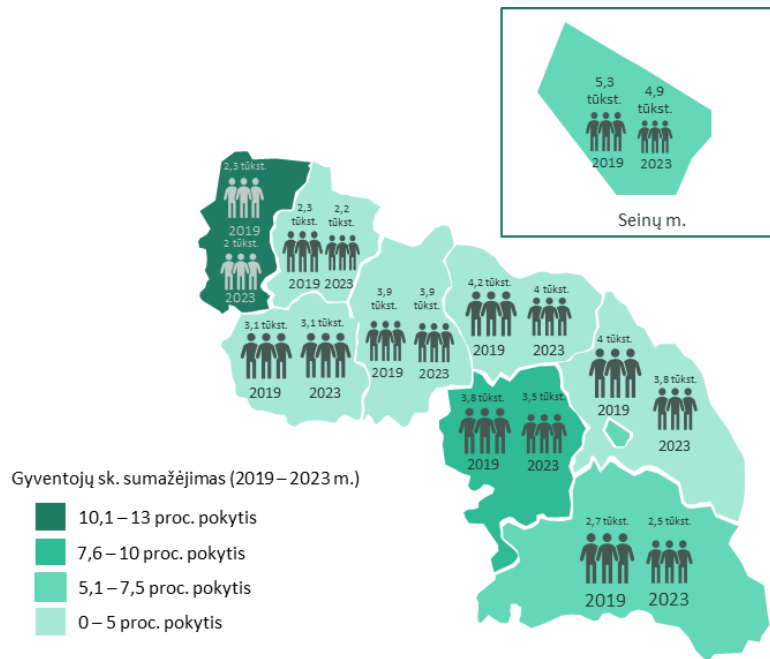
The third group of indicators - employment and labour market structure - includes:

- number of people employed;
- Number of people employed by industry;
- Number of unemployed;
- unemployed as a share of the working-age population.

### 2.1. Demographic structure of the population

**POPULATION.** The total population of the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2023 was 29.9 thousand inhabitants and has decreased by 5.4% since 2019, when the population of the Polish territory of the EGTC zone was 31.6 thousand. The biggest decrease was in the Vistula Voivodeship of Wiżań, where the population decreased by as much as 13% over 5 years.





3Figure . Population change in the Polish communes of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**POPULATION STRUCTURE BY AGE GROUP.** The distribution of the population by age group in the Polish communes of the EGTC area was uneven. Three age groups were analysed: population under 15, population 15-64 and population over 64. During the period under consideration, the total number of under-15 inhabitants in the EGTC area of the analysed territory of Poland decreased by 4.6 % to 6.5 thousand in 2023. The total number of the working-age population decreased by 7.4 % to 28.4 thousand in 2023. The population aged 65 and over increased by 4.6% between 2019 and 2023 and in 2023 the EGTC area had 10.5 thousand inhabitants in this age group.

In 2023, people of working age (15-64 years) in individual voivodships ranged from 59.7% (Vižainiai Vlsch.) to 63.7% (Rutka-Tartak Vlsch.) of the total population of that voivodship. Over the period under consideration (2019-2023), a decrease of 0.6-2.9 percentage points in this age group was recorded in the Polish voivodeships. The highest decreases were recorded in Sejny (1.3 percentage points) and Gibi voivodeship (2.9 percentage points), and the lowest in Rutka-Tartak voivodeship (0.6 percentage points)

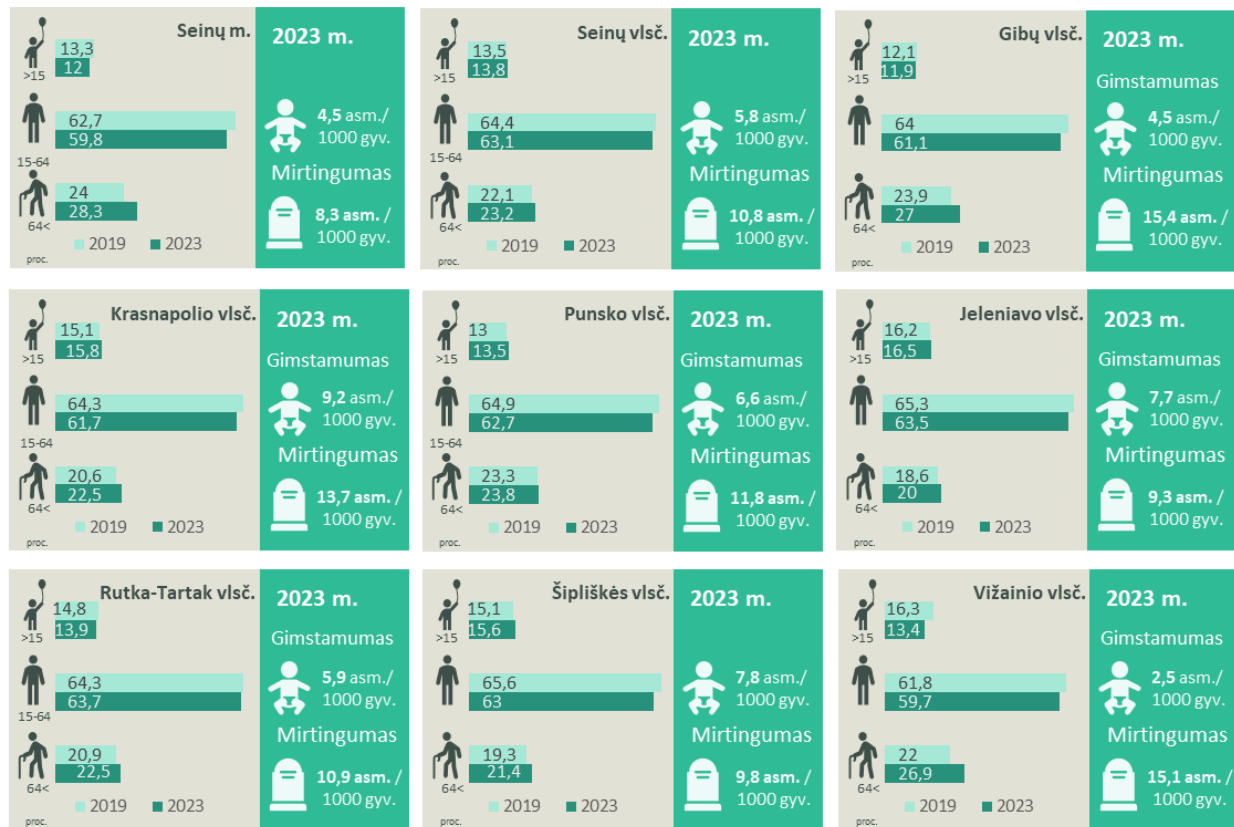
The share of the population under 15 years of age in the EGTC area in 2023 varied from 11.9% to 16.5% of the total population of the commune. In some communes, the share of this age group has decreased over the period considered. The most significant decrease was recorded in Vižainiai Vlc, by as much as 2.9 percentage points. In other communes, the share of this age group increased during the period under review, with the highest increase in Krasnapolis vlsc. (0.7 percentage points)

**BIRTHS PER 1000 POPULATION.** In the Polish communes of the EGTC zone, the fertility rate (number of births per 1,000 inhabitants) in 2023 ranges from 2.5 to 9.2. The lowest fertility rate was in the Vistula Voivodeship of Wiżyń and the highest in the Krasnapol Voivodeship.

**MORTALITY RATE PER 1000 POPULATION.** In the EGTC zone in Poland, the mortality rate (number of deaths per 1000 inhabitants) was higher than the birth rate in all communes in 2023. This means that more people die than are born. The rate ranged from 8.3 to 15.4. The lowest mortality rate was in Seinai and the highest in Gibi.

The figure below shows the age distribution of the population and the birth and death rates in the Polish communes of the EGTC area.





4Figure . Population distribution by age groups in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2019 and 2023, birth and death rates in the EGTC zone in 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION.** The net international migration indicator shows the difference between the arrivals and departures of international migrants in an administrative unit. Most of the EGTC Polish Voivodeships have very low values of the indicator. The net international migration rate during the period under consideration ranged from -6 to 6, and in some years it was equal to 0, which means that the number of arrivals and departures of international migrants was equal or absent.

1Table . Net international migration in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone 2019-2023

Parish	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Seinai m.	-6	-2	1	0	-1
Seinų vlsč.	1	1	1	-2	1
Gibų vlsč.	0	1	0	-1	0
Krasnapolis vlsč.	0	1	0	0	1
Punsko vlsč.	1	3	0	0	2
Jeleniavo vlsč.	4	0	0	1	0
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	0	-1	-2	4
Šipliškės vlsč.	1	0	0	6	2
Vižainis vlsč.	-4	0	0	-1	0

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)



**NET INTERNAL MIGRATION.** The net internal migration rate shows the difference between the arrivals and departures of a country's population within an administrative unit. Almost all communes in the EGTC area have a negative net internal migration rate in 2023, with more local residents leaving than arriving from other parts of the country. However, it is worth noting that in all voivodeships this indicator has increased since 2019, except for Punska vlsch.

The largest number of local residents in 2023 left compared to those who arrived, a trend that is particularly pronounced in the period 2021-2023 in Gibi and Krasnapolis Vlc. In 2023, the net internal migration was positive, which means that more people arrived in these Vlc's than left.

2Table . Net internal migration in the communes of the EGTC zone in Poland, 2019-2023

Parish	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Seinai m.	-80	-41	-29	-66	-22
Seinų vlsč.	-8	-29	22	13	-4
Gibų vlsč.	-38	1	-23	-20	2
Krasnapolis vlsč.	2	-27	-18	-2	3
Punsko vlsč.	7	-10	-38	-2	-26
Jeleniavo vlsč.	-24	-10	-24	-3	-4
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	-16	-7	-21	-14	-10
Šipliškės vlsč.	-20	15	4	-25	-17
Vižainis vlsč.	-56	-17	-38	-16	-24

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

Summarising the demographic structure of the population in the EGTC area of Poland for the period 2019-2023, there is a decreasing and ageing trend in the population. In all communes the population has decreased over 5 years, and the birth rate in 2023 was lower than the death rate - there were more deaths per population than births. The worst demographic situation is observed in Vižainiai commune, which has the highest decrease in population, the highest decrease in the proportion of the population aged 0-14 and the highest increase in the proportion of the population aged 65+ , as well as the lowest fertility rate and one of the highest mortality rates. Krasnapolis and Šipliske Vlc. are distinguished by the highest fertility rates and a positive change in the population aged 0-14 over the period considered. In the EGTC zone of Poland, the net internal migration rate increased during the period under consideration - in 2023 there were fewer out-migrants compared to 2019, but there are still more out-migrants than in-migrants from other parts of the country. The Polish voivodeships do not show a trend of international migration - international migration flows are almost non-existent in this area.

## 2.2. Social infrastructure

### 2.2.1. Education

**NUMBER OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.** The Polish municipalities in the EGTC area have pre-school, general and vocational education institutions. The largest number of pre-school education institutions (3) in 2023 was in the city of Sejnų and in the district of Szypliska. There were also 3 general education institutions in Seinai, which has



the largest population. In the other communes there were one or two pre-school and general education institutions. Vocational education establishments were recorded only in Seinai (2) and Pusk (1).

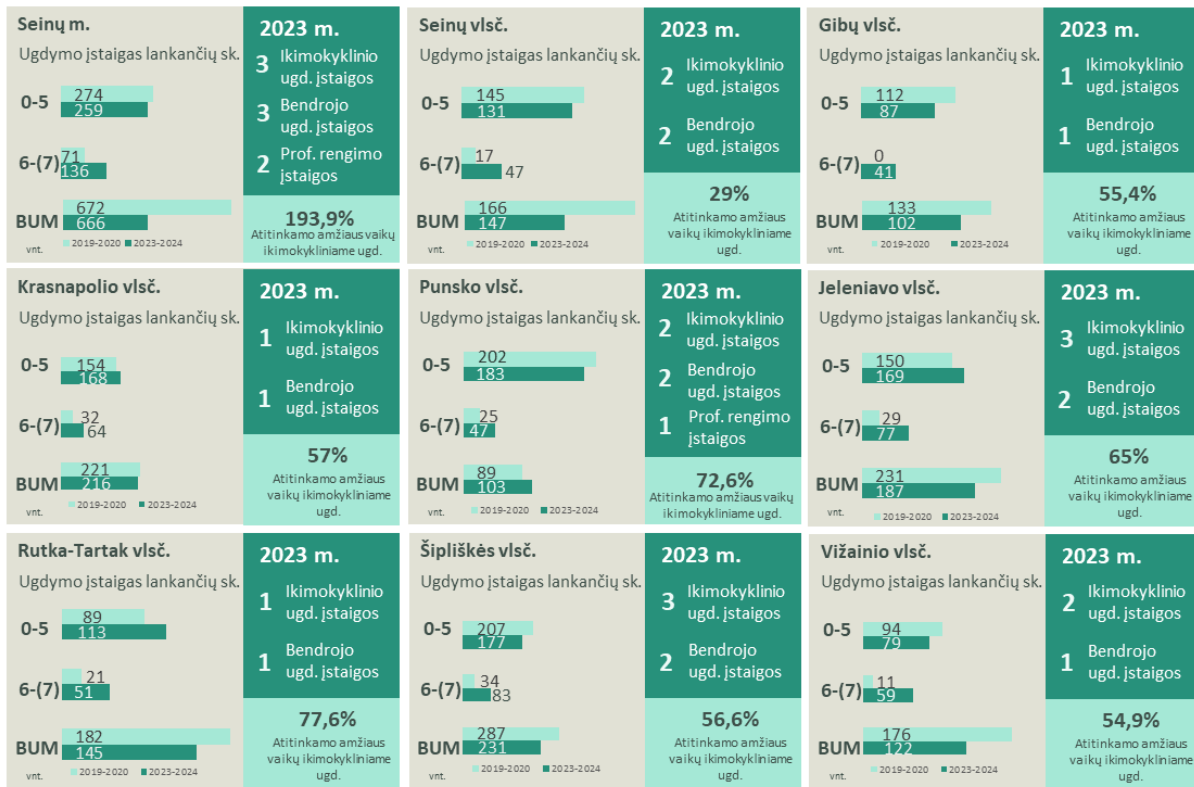
**NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.** When analysing the number of pupils attending educational establishments, a tendency can be observed that the number of pupils attending general education schools decreased in all voivodeships during the period in question, except for Pusk (15.7% increase). In the whole territory of the EGTC zone in Poland, in 2023 there were about 1.9 thousand pupils in general education schools, which is 19.1% less than in 2019, when this number reached 2.2 thousand. The biggest decrease was recorded in the Vistula Voivodeship of Wiżainiai (30.7%), where in 2019 there were 176 pupils, while in 2023 this number dropped to 122.

On the other hand, the number of pre-primary (6 (7) year olds) has increased in all districts. The total number of pre-primary pupils in 2023 was 605, which is 2.5 times more than in 2019, when 240 pre-primary pupils were recorded in all districts. The largest increase was recorded in Vižainiai Vlc, with 5.4 times more pre-primary schoolchildren than in 2019, when there were 11.

Looking at the evolution of the number of pre-primary (1-5 years) children over the period under consideration, the total number of children in 2023 was 1.4 thousand, with a slight decrease from 2019. In most of the voivodeships, with the exception of Krasnapol, Jeleniau and Rutka-Tartak voivodeships, the number of attendees in 2023 was lower than in 2019. The largest decrease was recorded in Gibi voivodeship (22.3%), while the increase was recorded in Rutka-Tartak voivodeship (21.2%).

**PROPORTION OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION FROM 3 YEARS OLD UP TO COMPULSORY PRIMARY EDUCATION (AGE 7).** The share of children enrolled in pre-primary education programmes compared to children of the same age (3 to 7 years) varies in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC zone. The lowest share of enrolment is found in the Seine Voivodeship, where only 29% of all children of the same age living in the voivodeship attend pre-school education institutions. However, the number of children attending pre-school education institutions in Seinai represents 193.9% of the number of children living there. This may be due to the fact that children from the surrounding municipalities attend pre-school education institutions in Seinai. In other communes, the proportion of children attending pre-school education varies from 54.9% to 77.6%. The higher the proportion, the more children have access to early childhood education, which is not compulsory.





5Figure . Indicators of educational establishments and enrolment in the EGTC area in the Polish municipalities in 2019 and 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

Summarising the educational indicators of the EGTC zone in Poland, the number of educational institutions is mostly correlated with the population - the city of Sejny has the highest number of educational institutions, while other Polish voivodeships usually have 1-2 institutions, and only the voivodeship of Punszk has vocational education institutions apart from Sejny. When analysing the number of pupils attending educational establishments, there is a tendency that during the period under consideration in most of the voivodships, except for the Voivodship of Punszk, the number of pupils attending pre-school and general education establishments has decreased, while the number of pre-school establishments increased. In most of the voivodships, the number of children attending pre-school education was more than half of the total number of children of the same age, except in Seinai, where the number was almost half of the number of children of the same age living in Seinai, and in Seinai VlcS, where, on the contrary, only 29 % of children of the same age residing there attended preschool education institutions.

## 2.2.2. Health indicators and accessibility

**NUMBER OF BEDS.** In the EGTC area of Poland, the number of inpatient beds in health care facilities is counted only where there is a hospital or a nursing home, i.e. in the city of Sejny. This figure is low if one assumes that the population of Sejny is coming for medical care from the surrounding municipalities where there are no inpatient beds, as the total number of beds per 1000 inhabitants of the EGTC area of the Polish territory was only 0.8 in 2023. It should be noted that the inhabitants of the analysed communes can also receive care at the hospital in Suwałki, but it is located further away.

3Table . Number of inpatient beds in the EGTC zone in Polish municipalities, 2019-2023, pcs.



Parish	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Number of beds. / 1000 inhabitants (2023)
Seinai m.	25	20	25	25	25	5,1
Seinų vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gibų vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Krasnapolis vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Punsko vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jeleniavo vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Šipliškės vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vižainis vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0	0
In general:	25	20	25	25	25	0,8

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**NUMBER OF PHARMACIES.** The number of pharmacies in the EGTC area of Poland reflects the size of the commune in terms of population. In 2023 there were 3 pharmacies in Sejny. Other communes had one pharmacy each, while no pharmacies were recorded in the communes of Sejny, Gibi and Rutka-Tartak. The number of pharmacies remained stable during the period under consideration.

4Table . Number of pharmacies in the EGTC zone in Polish municipalities 2019-2023, pcs.

Parish	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Seinai m.	3	3	3	3	3
Seinų vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0
Gibų vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0
Krasnapolis vlsč.	1	1	1	1	1
Punsko vlsč.	1	1	1	1	1
Jeleniavo vlsč.	1	1	1	1	1
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	0	0	0	0
Šipliškės vlsč.	1	1	1	1	1
Vižainis vlsč.	1	1	1	1	1

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**NUMBER OF HEALTH FACILITIES BY TYPE OF FACILITY.** The number of health facilities in the municipalities of the EGTC zone in Poland reflects the size of the municipality in terms of population. The situation of Polish communes in terms of health care infrastructure is analysed based on the latest data for 2023. Medical care facilities are divided into hospitals and other facilities (medical centres; mental health centres; detoxification centres; ambulance stations; private medical facilities (UAB, IJ)). In the EGTC area of Poland, there is only one hospital in the city of Sejny. There are also other types of medical care facilities: 7 in Sejny (without a hospital), 3 in Rutka-Tartak, 2 each in Krasnapolis, Sipliski and Wizyany Voivodeships, and 1 in Pusk Voivodeship. There is also a nursing or palliative care institution in the town of Sejny. However, it is worth noting that the Polish communes have access to hospital services not only in Sein but also in Suwałki.



5Table . Number of health care facilities in the Polish communes of the EGTC area

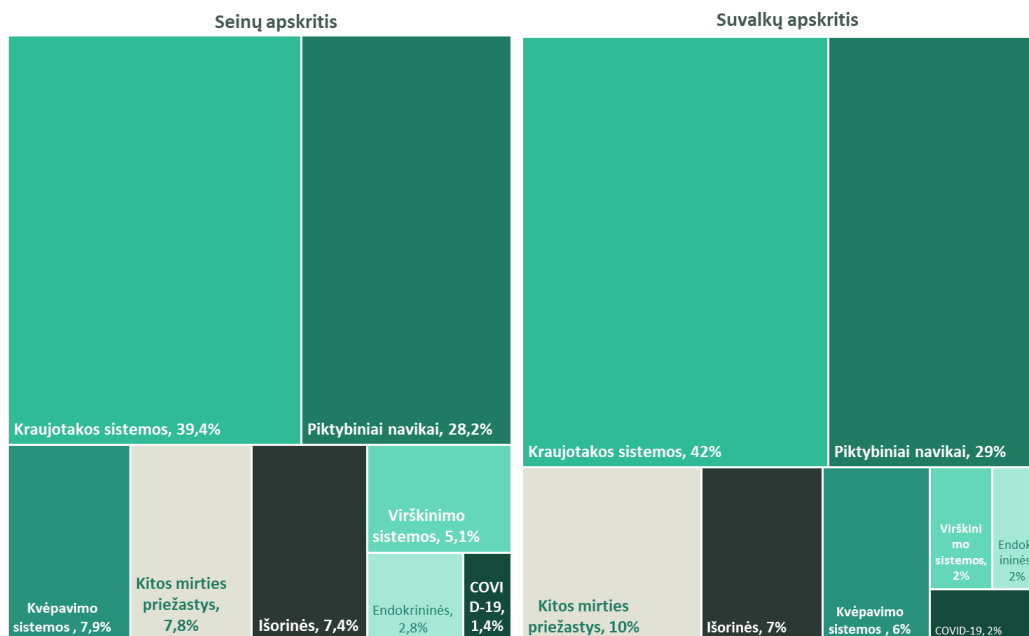
Parish	Medical aid institutions		Nursing and palliative care
	Hospitals	Other	
Seinai m.	1	7	1
Seinų vlsč.	0	0	0
Gibų vlsč.	0	0	0
Krasnapolis vlsč.	0	2	0
Punsko vlsč.	0	1	0
Jeleniavo vlsč.	0	0	0
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	3	0
Šipliškės vlsč.	0	2	0
Vižainis vlsč.	0	2	0

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**STANDARDISED MORTALITY RATE FOR CERTAIN DISEASES.** For the analysis of the mortality rate in the EGTC zone in Poland in 2023, two Polish counties (*powiat*) - Sejny and Suwałki - are also analysed, which include the counties under analysis, as information on causes of mortality is not available at the county level.

It is noted that throughout the EGTC zone in Poland, circulatory diseases were the leading cause of death in 2023, accounting for 39.4% (Sejny district) and 42% (Suwałki district) of all deaths. The second group of diseases in terms of the number of causes of death is malignant neoplasms, which accounted for 28.2% (Sejny District) and 29% (Suwałki District) of all deaths.

A more detailed breakdown of diseases as causes of mortality in the counties comprising the Polish Voivodeships of the EGTC zone in 2023 is presented in the figure below.



6Figure . Causes of mortality by disease in the EGTC area of Poland in 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)



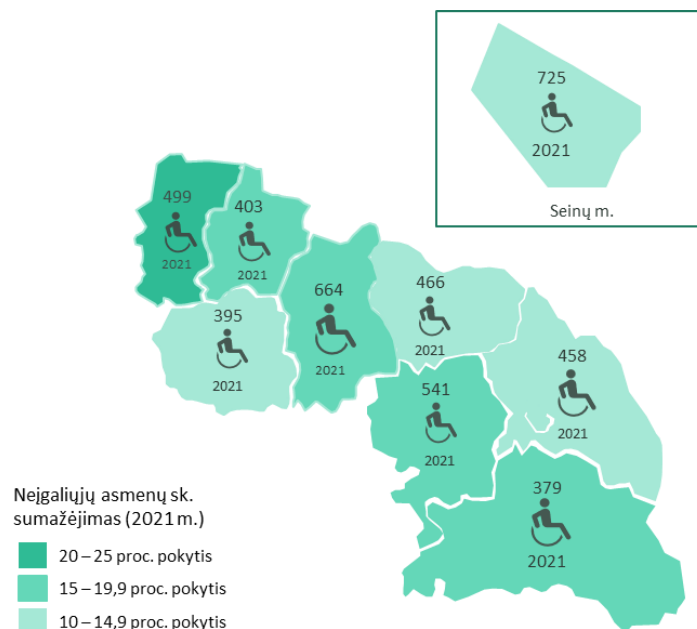
Summarising the health indicators for the Polish territory of the EGTC zone, it was found that the city of Sejny, which has a larger population with a hospital and a nursing and palliative care home, and a larger number of other types of medical care and pharmacies, has more significant health care and medical assistance infrastructure. In other Polish municipalities there is little or no such infrastructure. This means that the inhabitants of these communes have to go to larger cities where there are more accessible health and medical care services. Looking at the causes of mortality by disease, it is observed that the highest number of deaths in the EGTC area of Poland is caused by circulatory diseases, which account for about 40% of all causes of deaths. Together with deaths due to malignant neoplasms, deaths caused by diseases of the circulatory system account for about 70% of all deaths.

### 2.2.3. Social services

**THE NUMBER OF ELDERLY PERSONS (65 AND OLDER) AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION.** The population aged 65 and older in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone amounted to 7.1 thousand in 2023 and will increase by 4.5% from 2019. Their share among the total population ranged from 20 (Jeleniaw voivodship) to 28.3% (Sejny). The increasing number of elderly people may indicate an increasing need for specialised services.

The share of the population aged 65+ increased from 0.5 percentage points to 4.9 percentage points. The lowest increase in the age group of the population aged 65 and over was recorded in the Pusk Vlsc and the highest in the Vižainiai Vlsc, where the share of the population aged 15 and younger decreased the most (see Chapter 2.1).

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS A PROPORTION OF THE TOTAL POPULATION.** Persons with disabilities can be those who have a total disability or a certificate indicating a certain level of incapacity. The number of people with disabilities in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone in 2021 was 4.5 thousand and accounted for 15.1% of the total population of the zone. This figure varies from one administrative unit to another, with the latest available data for 2021 indicating between 11.7 and 23.8 disabled persons per 100 inhabitants of an administrative unit. The lowest proportion of persons with disabilities was recorded in Pusk vlsc., while Vižainiai vlsc. had the highest proportion of persons with disabilities.



7Figure . Number of persons with disabilities in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2021.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)



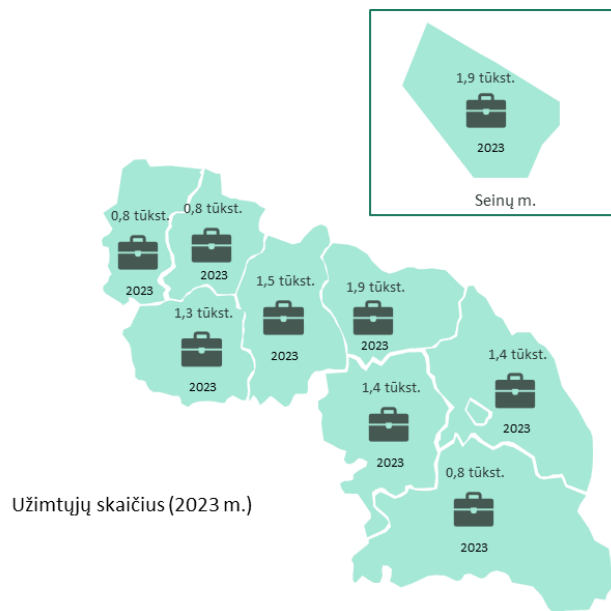
**NUMBER OF SOCIAL SERVICES BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION.** When analysing the nursing and palliative care facilities in the EGTC area, it is noted that their distribution is not even and one such facility is recorded only in the city of Sejny. Thus, the population of Polish communes in the EGTC area in need of such services can only access them in the city of Sejny, although the latest data show that the number of inpatient beds was only 25. Consequently, there is a high risk that a significant part of the population of the surrounding Polish communes will not be able to receive adequate treatment due to the lack of beds in these institutions.

Summarising the quality and accessibility of social services in the EGTC area of Poland, it can be noted that in those administrative units where the highest number of people with disabilities is recorded (Vižainiai, Rutka-Tartak, Šipliski and Gibi voivodeships), there is no important medical care infrastructure such as hospitals and nursing or palliative care facilities, so that in order to get the necessary help one has to go to the city of Sejny or to other larger cities.

Summarising the accessibility of social services in the EGTC area of Poland, it is observed that the number of institutions providing such services correlates with the number of people with disabilities in the commune - there are only institutions in the municipality of Sejny, where the highest number of disabled people is recorded. However, it is worth noting that other municipalities do not have any such facilities at all, although they also have a relatively significant number of people with disabilities and an increase in the proportion of the population aged 65 and over over during the period under consideration. As a result, the disabled population of these communes has to travel to Seinai or further afield, which reduces the accessibility of social services in the Polish part of the EGTC area. There is a need for the development of social services to cover the potential increase in the number of population in need of such services.

### 2.3. Employment and labour market structure

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED.** In the EGTC area of Poland, a total of more than 11.8 thousand people will be registered as employed in 2023. The largest number of employed persons (1.9 thousand each) is recorded in the city of Sejny and in the district of Punska. The lowest number of employed persons (0.8 thousand each) is recorded in Gibi, Rutka-Tartak and Vižainiai Vlcs.



8Figure . Number of employed persons in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)



**BREAKDOWN OF EMPLOYMENT BY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY.** The distribution of employment by sector is uneven in the Polish parts of the EGTC. There is a clear tendency for the services sector to dominate in Sejny, accounting for 78% to 78% of employment in the municipality of Seine. In contrast, the agricultural and services sectors account for a similar share in all the municipalities of Poland. Only in Sejny, Rutka-Tartak and Wistainiai Voivodeships does the agricultural sector have a higher share. In the latter, 58.3 % of the employed are employed in the agricultural sector. In the Polish communes, the industrial sector varies between 7% in Sejny and 20.7% in Sipliskie.



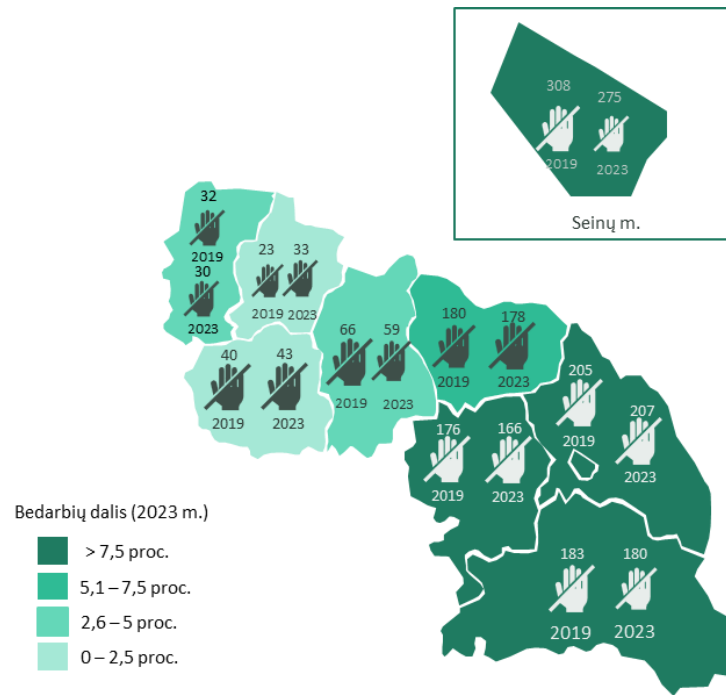
9Figure . Distribution of employed persons (%) by sector in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED.** The number of unemployed persons in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area decreased or remained similar during the period considered. Only in the districts of Sejny, Jeleniaw and Rutka-Tartak the indicator increased. In the latter, the increase was the highest - 43.5% as of 2019. The positive trends were most pronounced in the districts of Sejny and Sipliski, where the number of unemployed decreased by 10.7% and 10.6% respectively between 2010 and 2023.

**UNEMPLOYED AS A SHARE OF THE TOTAL WORKING-AGE POPULATION.** The share of unemployed people in the Polish communes of the EGTC area was not distributed in the same way as the number of unemployed people, due to the different populations in the communes. For example, although Seine recorded one of the most significant decreases in the number of unemployed, the share of unemployed remained among the highest in 2023. In 2023, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Gibi uyezd, with as much as 12.5% of the population registered as unemployed. In Seinai city, Seinai Vlcs. and Krasnapolis Vlcs. the unemployment rate was higher than 7.5%. The lowest share of unemployed persons (2.3%) in 2023 was in Jeleniav Vlsc.





10Figure . Number of unemployed people. and the share of unemployed in the Polish communes of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

Summarising the employment and labour market quality of the Polish territory of the EGTC area, it can be observed that the unemployment rate has been decreasing over the period under consideration in the majority of the territory, although not uniformly. The highest number of employed persons was in the city of Sejny and in Punszk voivodeship (1.9 thousand each). The service sector creates the largest number of jobs in the municipality of Sejny, while in the remaining communes it is the agricultural sector that provides the largest number of jobs. The industrial sector in the EGTC area of Poland is not well developed and does not account for a significant part of the employed population.



### 3. Cultural indicators

This section analyses the following groups of cultural indicators: cultural heritage and local traditions, educational institutions and training potential, cultural projects and community participation. The first group of indicators - cultural heritage and local traditions - includes the following indicators:

- Number of cultural and tourism facilities by type of facility;
- Tourist and visitor flows:
- the supply of tourism services:
  - Number of accommodation establishments;
  - Number of places in accommodation;
  - Number of tourists in accommodation establishments (annual data);
  - Number of catering units at the end of the year in food and drink establishments;
  - car rental offer.

The second set of indicators - educational institutions and training potential - is partly revealed in the previous section. This group of indicators covers higher education opportunities in the EGTC area of Poland.

The third set of indicators covers cultural projects and information on community activity, i.e. information on community projects, cultural events, etc.

#### 3.1. Cultural heritage and local traditions

**NUMBER OF CULTURAL AND TOURISM FACILITIES BY TYPE OF FACILITY.** The number of cultural and tourist sites in the Polish territory of the EGTC zone includes archaeological monuments and immovable cultural property. The number of immovable cultural objects is much higher than the number of archaeological monuments. The highest number of archaeological monuments is found in the Seinai Voivodeship, while the lowest number is found in the Gibi and Rutka-Tartak Voivodeships. Archaeological monuments have been recorded only in part of the voivodeships in Poland, with the highest number (3) in Jeleniaw voivodeship.

6Table . Number of cultural heritage and tourism sites in the EGTC area of Poland

Parish	Real cultural properties	Archaeological monuments
Seinai m.	18	0
Seinų vlsč.	43	0
Gibų vlsč.	5	1
Krasnapolis vlsč.	32	1
Punsko vlsč.	26	0
Jeleniavo vlsč.	7	3
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	5	1
Šipliškės vlsč.	7	1
Vižainis vlsč.	8	1

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)



**TOURIST AND VISITOR FLOWS.** In the EGTC area of Poland, a total of 2.7 thousand international tourists were recorded in accommodation establishments in 2023, as no data were available on domestic tourist flows. This indicator was chosen to measure the number of tourists visiting the region for longer stays, at least for one day.

**FOREIGN TOURISTS IN ACCOMMODATION.** According to the data for 2024, 88.8% of the 2.7 thousand foreign tourists staying in the EGTC zone were in Šipliske Vlc., although the number of foreign tourists in this Vlc. decreased by 12.4% in the period under consideration. The largest positive change in the number of foreign tourists is recorded in Rutka-Tartak Vlc., where there were 12 foreign tourists in 2019, and this number increased by 4 times in 2023. However, it is difficult to compare foreign tourist flows in several Polish Voivodeships (Sein, Gibi, Krasnapol, Jeleniaw), as in some years no foreign tourists were recorded at all.



11Figure . Number of tourists in accommodation establishments and supply of tourism services in the Polish municipalities of the EGTC area in 2019 and 2023.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

The largest share of foreign tourists in 2023 will come from Lithuania (18.6%), Ukraine (16.8%) and Belarus (13%). It is worth noting that, especially with regard to tourists, it is noticeable that a large proportion of them visit Šipliske Vlsč., which is the leading district in terms of the number of foreign tourists. The number of tourists from Russia is relatively low and may have decreased due to the invasion of Ukraine.

7Table . Distribution of foreign tourists by country in the EGTC area in 2023

Parish	From Lithuania	From Latvia	From Germany	From United Kingdom	From Belarus	From Russia	From Ukraine
Seinai m.	66	0	23	5	40	6	2
Seinų vlsč.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gibų vlsč.	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Krasnapolis vlsč.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Parish	From Lithuania	From Latvia	From Germany	From United Kingdom	From Belarus	From Russia	From Ukraine
Punsko vlsč.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jeleniavo vlsč.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	1	1	9	-	-	-	15
Šipliškės vlsč.	393	331	95	14	313	41	439
Vižainis vlsč.	38	-	6	-	-	-	-
<b>Total:</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>456</b>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the State Data Agency, Tourist Information Centres and the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**ACCOMMODATION.** When analysing the supply of tourism services in the EGTC area of Poland, it is observed that in 2023 the highest supply, i.e. accommodation establishments and sites, eating and drinking places, museums and cultural centres, is generally recorded in the communes with the highest tourist flows, but this is not reflected in all cases. The highest proportion of accommodation places was in Gibi commune, which did not experience high tourist flows. In contrast, the number of accommodation places in Šipliske vlsci, where the highest number of tourists was recorded, was three times lower than in Gibai vlsci. Thus, in the case of some of the parishes, there is no correlation between the size of tourist flows and the number of accommodation places.

**PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK.** The number of eating and drinking places has been decreasing over the period under consideration, but it is worth noting that this indicator has remained similar in all communes. In 2023, the highest number of such outlets was found in Seinai (20 units), while the lowest number was found in Rutka-Tartak vlsc (3 units).

**CULTURAL AND TOURIST SITES.** In 2024, there were 6 museums and 7 cultural centres in the whole EGTC area of Poland. Most of the Polish communes did not have museums and some did not have cultural centres. Among the Polish communes, Punska stands out with 3 museums and 1 cultural centre. The city of Sejny, the Voivodeship of Punska and the Voivodeship of Jeleniaw each have one tourist centre. Most of the Polish communes do not have tourist information centres. Thus, the higher number of tourist information centres indicates wider opportunities for the development of both Lithuanian culture and tourism in the region.

8Table . Tourist Information Centres in the EGTC area in the Polish communes in 2025

Administrative unit	Number of Tourist Information Centres	Centre name and address
Seinai m.	1	Archbishop Romualdas Jafbrzykowski Museum in Seinai, Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego 28, Seinai
Seinų vlsč.	0	-
Gibų vlsč.	0	-
Krasnapolis vlsč.	0	-
Punsko vlsč.	1	Punska Tourism Information Centre, Adama Mickiewicza 23, Punska, Punska vlsc.
Jeleniavo vlsč.	1	Tourist Information Centre - Suwalki Landscape Park Malesowizna 24, Jeleniaw, Jeleniaw Vlsc.
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	-
Šipliškės vlsč.	0	-
Vižainis vlsč.	0	-



Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Palenque Regional Tourist Board

**CAR RENTAL SERVICES.** In the whole territory of the EGTC zone in Poland, according to the latest data, there are no car rental companies.

Summarising the assessment of the cultural heritage and traditions of the Polish communes in the EGTC area, it can be noted that Śipliski commune stands out from Poland, which in 2023 accounted for 19% of the total number of people staying in the EGTC area, and for the absolute majority of all tourists staying in Polish communes. The largest numbers of tourists in accommodation establishments were from Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. In relation to other tourism services, in 2023, the distribution of both accommodation establishments and places of eating and drinking places, museums and cultural centres, these facilities were often not evenly distributed with the tourist flows recorded in the voivodeships, in most voivodeships the quantity of tourists was higher than the demand.

## 3.2. Access to and availability of higher education

**HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND COLLEGES.** There are no higher education institutions, universities or colleges in the Polish territory of the EGTC area. It is noted that there are only vocational training institutions in the analysis area - two in the city of Sejny and one in Pusnko voivodeship. This means that there is no possibility of obtaining higher education in the Polish communes of the EGTC zone and one has to go to distant cities. The nearest universities in Poland are in Białystok or Olsztyn.

## 3.3. Cultural projects and community participation

**EVENTS IN THE EGTC AREA IN POLISH MUNICIPALITIES.** Each commune hosts an annual harvest festival or other type of celebration or cultural event. In the municipality of Śipliskie, two annual festivals are organised in Becejty and Kaletnik.

In Suwałki County in 2024, the data shows that both commemorations of historical dates, such as May 3rd, and cultural events, such as Lent, were held in close proximity to the analysed communes. There were also song and poetry competitions at county level. Family days were organised in the library of Jeleniau Vlc to bring families together for joint activities. A patriotic song contest was organised in Rutka-Tartak Vlc. at the border.

In Seinai county, great attention is paid to the promotion of Lithuanian culture (Lithuanian national festivals, concerts, fairs, etc.<sup>2</sup>), for example, "Święta chleba, mleka i miodu". National festivals are celebrated, as well as harvest festivals, Užgavėnės (Midsummer) and town festivals. Educational competitions, film screenings, theatre meetings, etc.

Summarising the cultural projects and community activities in the EGTC area of Poland, it is noted that most of the cultural events are related to the promotion of national and cultural and traditional values, as well as active tourism, especially in the warm season, and the presentation of educational and career opportunities for school children. The events aim to involve both children and adults, families, increase community involvement and raise the profile of the region. In some Polish municipalities with a large Lithuanian population, events also focus on promoting Lithuanian traditions.

<sup>2</sup> Traditional DKL events. Available online: <https://punsk-kultura.pl/index.php/pl/tradycyjne-imprezy-dkl-2/>



## 4. Geographical indicators

This chapter analyses groups of geographical indicators: the geographical location and distinctiveness of an area, transport infrastructure, natural and environmental challenges. The geographical location and distinctiveness of the territory is described in terms of its national location, the climate of the region, and the rivers and lakes of the region.

The second set of indicators - transport infrastructure - includes an assessment of local infrastructure, i.e.:

- roads, divided into national, regional and district roads;
- railway, with passenger stops and loading points;
- airports, airfields in the city region;
- Inland marinas and their uses (tourism, freight, etc.);
- Public transport infrastructure: number of passenger transport companies and routes, stops on international bus routes in the region.

The third group of indicators - natural and environmental challenges - covers the analysis of natural resources, nature protection requirements, ecological aspects and includes the following indicators:

- forest cover;
- Protected areas (reserves, sanctuaries, etc.)
- NATURA 2000 sites (sites important for bird conservation and sites important for habitat conservation).

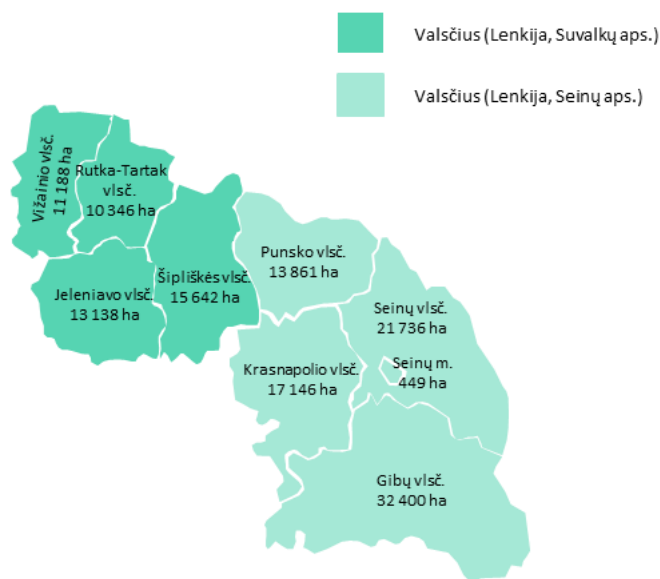
### 4.1. Geographical location and distinctiveness of the area

The EGTC zonal area of Poland is located in north-eastern Poland. The Podlaskie Voivodeship is located in the north-eastern part of Poland. It borders Lithuania (north-east; 104 km of border) and Belarus (east; 260 km). The Voivodeship includes all the voivodeships of Poland shown on the map (see the preceding figure). Palenki Voivodeship is an agrarian, industrial voivodeship with a developed trade and service sector. The Suwałki Free Economic Zone is active. A deposit of magnetic iron ore (magnetite) has been found in the vicinity of Suwałki (unexploited; estimated reserves of about 1 billion tonnes); titanium and vanadium ores lie alongside magnetite. There are deposits of radioactive elements (uranium; south of Białystok) and rare earth elements. Chalk, gravel, sand, clay and peat are mined. The region is also one of the most sparsely populated in Poland, but its extensive network of lakes and rivers, nature reserves and national parks make it a tourist destination. The Warsaw-Vilnius-St. Petersburg railway line runs through the Podlaskie Voivodeship, as well as transit car routes from Lithuania to Western Europe. The region's proximity to the Lithuanian-Belarusian border means that the ethnic composition of the population is varied: in addition to the Poles, there are Lithuanians (mainly in Punszk, Sein, and Šipliski), Belarusians, Ukrainians, Jews, Russians, and Tartars.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Lithuanian Encyclopedia, Palenque Voivodeship. Available online: <https://www.vle.lt/straipsnis/palenkes-vaivadija/>





12 Figure. Polish border areas in EGTZ and their areas in hectares

Source: prepared by the Consultant based on Studzieniecki, Jakubowski, Kurowska-Pysz (2024), p. 291<sup>4</sup>, data from the Office of the Republic of Poland<sup>5</sup>

**Seinų m.** - Seinų m. is a part of Seinai County. Seinai is the capital of Seinai district, 10 km from the border with Lithuania. The city of Sein is the smallest administrative unit of the Palenque Voivodeship, bordering on the Sein Starosty.

**Sein District** - located in the north-eastern part of Poland, it belongs to Sein County. It is bordered to the north by Punska gmina, to the west by Krasnapol gmina, to the south by Gibi gmina, and to the east by Lazdijai r. municipality of Lithuania. The terrain is hilly, with lakes, streams and a network of small rivers. The whole municipality lies in the Nemunas basin.

**Gibi vlsc.** - this commune is located on the edge of the Augustów Forest, in north-eastern Poland, in the Siemese county. The centre of the gmina is Gibai. It borders on Krasnapolis, Naujinė, Plaski and Sejny municipalities, as well as on the Lazdijai district of Lithuania and Belarus. The rivers Dumblyje, Juodoji Anča, Kuņa and Seina flow in the parish.

**Krasnapolis gmina** - in the northern part of Poland, the gmina belongs to the Sejny County. In Poland it borders on Seinai, Naujinė, Gibi, Punska, Suwałki and Šipliški. The municipality is not contiguous with the territory of the State of Lithuania. The rivers Juodoji Anča and Seina flow in the municipality.

**Punsk Vlsc.** - this district belongs to Seinai County. It borders on Kalvarija municipality and Lazdijai r. municipality of Lithuania. About 80 % of the population of this Valscis consists of Lithuanians. It borders on Krasnapolis, Seinai and Šipliškės parishes and the Kalvarija municipality of the Republic of Lithuania and Lazdijai r. municipality of Lithuania. The county is situated in the southern part of the Sudūva Upland and in the eastern part of Lake Suvalkija, and most of its territory is agricultural land. The large river Seina flows through the municipality.

<sup>4</sup> Studzieniecki T., Jakubowski A., Kurowska-Pysz J.(2024) Cross-Border Functional Area as an Organisational and Legal Instrument of Polish-Lithuanian Cross-Border Cooperation. Studia Iuridica Lublinensia vol. 33, 1. P. 279-299

<sup>5</sup> Office of the Republic of Poland, 'Official list of voivodeships, counties and communes', 1 January 2025, 2025, Available online: <https://dane.gov.pl/dataset/1447,oficjalny-wykaz-pol-powierzchni-geodezyjnych-wojewodztw-powiatow-i-gmin/resource/64643/table>



**Jeleniaw vlsc.** is a commune in the north-east of Poland, in Suwałki County. It borders on Prierasło, Rutka-Tartak, Suwałki, Śipliski and Wiżainiai parishes and the city of Suwałki. Jeleniau municipality is not contiguous with the State of Lithuania. The rivers Juodoji Anča and Šešupė flow in the municipality.

**Rutka-Tartak vlsc.** is a commune in the north-east of Poland, in Suwałki County. It borders on Kalvarija municipality and Vilkaviškis r. municipality in Lithuania. It also borders on the parishes of Wiżainiai, Šipliske and Jeleniaw. The municipality has developed agricultural activities and tourism. The Šešupė river and its tributary Potopka flow through the municipality.

**Šipliškės vlsc.** is a commune in north-eastern Poland, Suwałki County. It borders on the city of Suwałki and the municipalities of Krasnapolis, Rutka-Tartak, Jeleniaw, Suwałki, Punska, and Kalvarija municipality of the Republic of Lithuania. The rivers Šelmenta, Vaipone and Vėtralauža flow in the municipality.

**Vižainiai vlsc.** is a commune in north-eastern Poland, in Suwałki County. In the northern part it borders on the Lithuanian Vilkaviškis r. municipality. It also borders on Dūbininkai, Jeleniaw, Prierasło and Rūtka-Tartak. The rivers Vizga, Vyzaina, Vygra and Juodoji Anča flow in the municipality.

**CLIMATE.** The regional climate is very similar throughout the EGTC area. The climate is continental, with hot summers and cold winters. The average annual air temperature for the period 2020-2023 varies between 7.5° C and 9.5° C. The average rainfall varies between 500 mm and 800 mm for the period 2020-2023 (latest data available for 2023). It is also important to mention that the climate of the Podlaskie Voivodeship is one of the coldest regions in Poland. The average annual temperature in the Podlaskie Voivodeship is the lowest average annual temperature in Poland.

**RIVERS AND LAKES.** The EGTC area is rich in rivers and lakes, which encourages tourism. In total, there are 24 rivers and 124 lakes in the EGTC zone in Poland. The lakes in the Polish territory are spread evenly over most of the voivodeships analysed. The Galandus Lake is located on the Lithuanian-Polish border (in the territories of Lazdijai r. municipality and Seinai voivodeship). More detailed information is given in the table below.

9Table . Number of rivers and lakes in the EGTC area

Parish	Rivers	Lakes
Seinai m.	1	1
Seinų vlsč.	4	36
Gibų vlsč.	2	12
Krasnapolis vlsč.	4	12
Punsko vlsč.	1	13
Jeleniavo vlsč.	3	10
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	2	6
Šipliškės vlsč.	2	4
Vižainis vlsč.	5	30
<b>Total in the EGTC area:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>124</b>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the interactive river map of Poland<sup>6</sup> and the list of water bodies in Lithuania in the Nature Catalogue<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup>Rivers in Poland - interactive map of all rivers. Available online: [https://mapa.wirtualneszlaki.pl/rzeki-w-polsce-mapa#7/52.034/19.052/OSM\\_Mapnik:100-Hydrologia\\_Rzeki:100](https://mapa.wirtualneszlaki.pl/rzeki-w-polsce-mapa#7/52.034/19.052/OSM_Mapnik:100-Hydrologia_Rzeki:100)

<sup>7</sup> Nature directory, water bodies, lakes and rivers by municipality. Available online: <https://ezerai.vilnius21.lt/sav.php>



To summarise the geographical location of the Polish territory of the EGTC zone, most of the municipalities, except for the city of Sejny, Krasnapol and Jeleniaw, border on the Lithuanian-Polish border. The climate of the whole EGTC area is similar, with warm summers and cold winters. The EGTC zone is distinguished by its abundance of rivers and lakes, which has the potential to boost tourism in the region.

## 4.2. Transport infrastructure

The following are the transport infrastructure in the EGTC area in Poland: road, rail, public transport network.

**ROADS.** In Poland, the following types of roads are distinguished: national (polish: *krajowe*), voivodship (polish: *wojewódzkie*), district (polish: *powiatowe*) and commune (polish: *gminne*).<sup>8</sup> There is one section of trunk road in each of the districts of Sejny, Gibi, and Sipliske. The 16th trunk road passes through the municipalities of Sejny and Gibi, and the S61 through the municipality of Sipliske.

The table below summarises the road infrastructure in the parishes.

10Table . Roads in the EGTC zone in Poland

Parish	Trunk roads / national roads		National roads / Voivodship roads		District roads	
	Source :	Name	Source :	Name	Source :	Name
Seinai m.	0	-	1	653 - Sedrankai-Počkūnai	-	-
	1	16 - Grudziondzas - Aradnykai	3	651 - Geldapė-Seinai 653 - Sedrankai-Počkūnai 663 - Pomarys-Seinai	12	1163B - Seivai - Vidugiriai - Sankūrai 1164B - Seinai (Wileńska St.) - Bubelliai - Krasnavas - Sankuras 1165B - Krasnavas - Burbiškės - Žagariai 1166B - Griškonyš - Žagariai - Dusnyčia 1167B - Seinai (Mickevičiaus str.) - Lumbiai - Vidugiriai 1174B - Seinai (Zawadzkiego str.) - Danilovce - Karolinas - Pogozelec 1175B - Seinai (Młynarska str.) - Basiai - Berżalapiai 1176B - Počkūnai - Berznykas 1177B - Berznykas - Berżalapiai - Gibai 1178B - Aradnykai - Berznykas 1179B - Berznykas - Zelva 1203B - Danilovce - Berżalapiai
Seinų vlsč.						
Gibų vlsč.	1	16 - Grudziondzas - Aradnykai	0	-	3	1171B - Rijuvka - Mikolajevas - Machkova Ruda 1202B - Visoki Mostas - Binoculars - Pronckai 1204B - Gibai - Vilkakukis - Zelva
Krasnapolis vlsč.	0	-	2	651 - Geldapė-Seinai 653 - Sedrankai-Počkūnai	8	1090B - Mačkova Ruda - Buda Ruska - Jeziorkai

<sup>8</sup>Serwis Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej, Ministry of Infrastructure, Road types in Poland. Internet access: <https://www.gov.pl/web/infrastruktura/rodzaje-drog-w-polsce>



Parish	Trunk roads / national roads		National roads / Voivodship roads		District roads	
	Source :	Name	Source :	Name	Source :	Name
						1156B - Kaletnik - Adamovizna - Orlinek - Gremzdelis 1157B - Krasnapolis - Gremzdelis - Eglinė - Viatroluža 1158B - Viatroluža - Visoka Gura - Remienkin 1168B - Smalėnai - Vilkapėdžiai - Skarkiškiai 1169B - Krasnapolis - Mūrvat Bridge 1173B - Krasnapolis - Zlobin - Jeziorkai 1180B - Tartak - Piertaniai - Visoka Gura
Punsko vlsč.	0	-	1	651 - Geldapė-Seinai	6	1159B - 651 - Šaltėnai - Punksas - Vaitakiemis 1160B - Punksas - Vaičiuliškės - Budziskas 1161B - Punksas - Šlynakiemis 1162B - Trakiškės - Paliūnai - Vidugiriai 1163B - Seivai - Vidugiriai - Sankury 1167B - Seinai (Mickevičiaus str.) - Lumbiai - Vidugiriai
Jeleniavo vlsč.	0	-	1	655 - Compass-Rutka-Tartak	12	1127B - Vižainiai - Smolnikai - Sidoriai; 1132B - Blaskovizna - Udziejekas - Gulbiniškiai 1133B - Kruškos - Šiurpilis - Jeleniavas 1134B - Suwałki - Potashna - Okronglė - Jeleniau 1135B - Sidoruvka - Sumava 1138B - Jeleniav - Volovnia - Pžeima Velka - Beceilai 1139B - Volovnia - Červonka - Kaletnikas 1140B - Volovnia - Suchodoliai 1141B - Prudziszki - Suchodoliai - Vengelnia 1142B - 1134B - Biala Voda - Živa Voda - 1134B 1144B - Šešupka - Podvisokiai - Okronglė 1801B - 1139B to WOSiR Shelment
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	-	2	651 - Geldapė-Seinai 655 - Bathe - Rutka-Tartak	6	1127B Vižainiai - Smolnikai - Sidoriai 1129B Vižainiai - Eišeriškės - Rutka-Tartak 1130B Rutka-Tartak - Pašešupė - Eišeriškės 1131B Kleschuvek - Postavel



Parish	Trunk roads / national roads		National roads / Voivodship roads		District roads	
	Source :	Name	Source :	Name	Source :	Name
						1136B Postavel - Yalov - Pžeima - Damniok 1137B Ignatovizna - Kupovo - Maidan - Sozhelyka
Šipliškės vlsč.	1	S61 - Mazovian Ostrava - Lithuania (part of the Via Baltica (E67) motorway)	1	651 - Geldapė-Seinai	10	1136B Postavel - Yalov - Pžeima - Damniok 1137B Ignatovizna - Kupovo - Maidan - Sozhelyka 1138B Jeleniav - Volovnia - Pžeima Velka - Beceilai 1139B - Volovnia - Červonka - Kaletnikas 1141B - Prūdiškės - Suchodoliai - Vengelnia 1153B Suvalkai - Okuniovec - Kaletnik - Viatroluža - Žabariškės 1154B Vengelnia- Bilvinov - Kaletnik 1156B - Kaletnik - Adamovizna - Orlinek - Gremzdelis 1159B - 651 - Šaltėnai - Punkskas - Vaitakiemis 1160B - Punkskas - Vaičiuliškės - Budziskas
Vižainis vlsč.	0	-	1	651 - Geldapė-Seinai	5	1091B Prieraslis - Pravu Las - Voivodeship border - Dziaduvek 1094B Olšanka - Blenda - Pželomka - Merkinė - Oklinai - Rogožainiai 1127B - Vižainiai - Smolnikai - Sidoriai; 1128B Vižainiai - Stankūnai - Vilkupiai - Vižainiai 1129B Vižainiai - Eišeriškės - Rutka-Tartak

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the list of roads in Seinai County<sup>9</sup>, the list of roads in Suvalki County<sup>10</sup>

**RAIL.** There is a railway line in Poland, which crosses the parishes of Punksk and Szypliska. There is one railway station in Punksk, Trakiškės, and no railway station in Šipliskie.<sup>11</sup> The nearest railway station to the Palenki Voivodeship region, excluding Trakšikiai station, is Suwałki railway station. In this region of Palerania, the railway development is rather poor and railway stations are mostly located in the larger towns.

The table below represents the location of the railway lines in the EGTC area in Poland.

11Table . Location of railway lines in the EGTC zone in the Polish communes (February 2025)

<sup>9</sup> Seinai District Government, List of streets, list of numbered roads in the district. Available online: [https://bip-stsejny.wrotapodlasia.pl/jednostkior/j\\_O\\_PZD/cd999471864c3e8/](https://bip-stsejny.wrotapodlasia.pl/jednostkior/j_O_PZD/cd999471864c3e8/)

<sup>10</sup> List of county roads by municipality. Internet access: <http://zdp.suwalki.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/z-rozbiciem-na-gminy.pdf>

<sup>11</sup>PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S. A., The map of Polish railway lines managed by PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S.A. Available online: [https://en.plk-sa.pl/files/public/user\\_upload/pdf/Mapy/2024\\_12\\_16\\_Id-12\\_linie\\_kolejowe\\_500k\\_LRS\\_DK\\_druk.pdf](https://en.plk-sa.pl/files/public/user_upload/pdf/Mapy/2024_12_16_Id-12_linie_kolejowe_500k_LRS_DK_druk.pdf)



Parish	Does the municipality have a railway line?	Railway station names
Seinai m.	No	-
Seinai district	No	-
Gibi commune	No	-
Krasnapolis commune	No	-
Punsk commune	Yes	Trakiškės station
Jeleniau commune	No	-
Rutka-Tartak commune	No	-
Šipliškės commune	Yes	There is a railway line but no stations
Vižainis commune	No	-

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from AB Lietuvos geležinkeliai and PKP Polski geleżinkelio linijas S.A.<sup>12</sup>

**AIRPORTS AND AERODROMES.** There are no active or planned airports in any of the Polish municipalities in the EGTC area. According to the official list of civil airports in Poland<sup>13</sup>, there are no officially operating civil airports in the selected communes. According to the Polish Civil Administration, there are no outdoor sites for landing of aeronautical vehicles in the selected communes in the Podlaskie region.<sup>14</sup>

**INLAND MARINAS AND THEIR USE.** None of the Polish municipalities analysed have inland marinas.

**PUBLIC AND INTERCITY TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE.** There are no international bus routes from Poland (the following municipalities) to Lithuania and vice versa. In 2021, an agreement was signed on the Lithuanian-Polish Border Functional Tourism Zone (BFTZ), which aims to promote cooperation between the three Lithuanian municipalities in the EGTC area and 9 Polish partners: the municipalities of Gipsy, Jeleniaw, Krasnapolis, Punsk, Rudele, Šipliskė, Wižainiai, the municipality of Seimas, the municipality of Seimas, and the city of Seimas. The aim is also to continue sustainable development by further developing the tourism potential in the Polish-Lithuanian border region.<sup>15</sup> Therefore, it is expected that an international bus route may be developed in the region in the future.

Summarising the transport infrastructure in the EGTC area of Poland, it is noted that there is not much transport infrastructure in the study area. Railways cross only two voivodeships and there is no infrastructure for air and water transport. It is worth noting that the possibilities for cooperation in the EGTC area are limited by the absence of international bus or train routes between the Lithuanian and Polish administrative units under consideration.

## 4.3. Natural and environmental challenges

The following information relates to natural and environmental challenges and certain environmental parameters.

**FOREST COVER.** Of the municipalities analysed, the municipality of Gibi has the highest forest cover (76.1%), making it one of the most forested territorial units in Poland. The city of Sejny has the lowest forest cover, with 1.2% of the territory covered by forests.

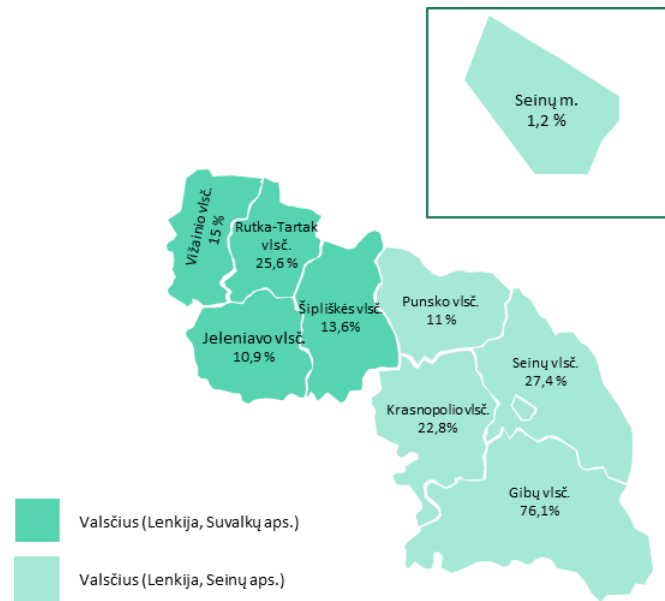
<sup>12</sup> PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S. A., Interactive Map of Railway Lines. Internet access: <https://mapa.plk-sa.pl/>

<sup>13</sup> Urząd Lotnictwa Cywilnego, Airport Register and Landing Place Records, 2025, Available online: <https://www.ulc.gov.pl/pl/lotniska/rejestr-lotnisk-i-ewidencja-ladowisk>

<sup>14</sup> Urząd Lotnictwa Cywilnego, Airport Register and Landing Place Records, 2025, Available online: [https://www.ulc.gov.pl/\\_download/lotniska/Wykaz\\_ladowisk\\_cywilnych\\_11\\_03\\_2025.pdf](https://www.ulc.gov.pl/_download/lotniska/Wykaz_ladowisk_cywilnych_11_03_2025.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> Mano kraštas, "Agreement on the Lithuanian-Polish border functional tourism zone signed", 2021, Available online: <https://www.manokraštas.lt/pasirasytas-susitarimas-del-lietuvos-ir-lenkijos-pasienio-funkcines-turizmo-zonos/>





13 Figure. Forest cover in the EGTC area of Poland

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Seinai parish<sup>16</sup>, data from Jednostki Państwowej Straży Pożarnej<sup>17</sup> and data from Statistics Poland<sup>18</sup>

**PROTECTED AREAS.** In Poland, the following types of protected areas are distinguished: national parks, nature reserves, landscape parks, protected landscape areas, Natura 2000 sites, nature monuments, documentation stations, organic land, nature and landscape complexes, protection of plant, animal and fungus species.<sup>19</sup>

12Table . Protected areas in EGTC zones in Polish communes

Parish	National parks	Landscape parks	Nature reserves	Protected landscape areas	Natural monument	Documentation post	NATURA 2000 sites	Nature and landscape complexes	Environmentally friendly use
Seinai m.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Seinų vlsč.	0	0	2	1	28	0	3	0	0
Gibų vlsč.	1	0	4	2	23	0	4	0	0
Krasnapolis vlsč.	1	0	1	2	6	0	4	0	1
Punsko vlsč.	0	0	1	1	10	0	1	0	0
Jeleniavo vlsč.	0	1	3	1	19	0	2	0	4
Rutka-Tartak vlsč.	0	1	0	1	11	0	4	0	3

<sup>16</sup> Geoportal of the Seinai Municipality, "Key statistics of the Central Statistical Office of the Seinai Municipality". Available online: <https://sejny.geoportal-krajowy.pl/statystyki-gus>

<sup>17</sup> Units of the State Fire Service, District Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Sejny, Information about the district. Internet access: <https://www.gov.pl/web/kppsp-sejny/informacje-o-powiecie>

<sup>18</sup> Statistics Poland, Forest and hunting, podlaskie, powiat suwalski. Available online: <https://bdl.stat.gov.pl/bdl/dane/teryt/tablica>

<sup>19</sup> Central authorities, General Directorate of Environmental Protection, Forms of nature protection. Internet access: <https://www.gov.pl/web/gdos/formy-ochrony-przyrody>



Parish	National parks	Landscape parks	Nature reserves	Protected landscape areas	Natural monument	Documentation post	NATURA 2000 sites	Nature and landscape complexes	Environmentally friendly use
Šipliškės vlsč.	0	0	0	1	11	0	1	0	0
Vižainis vlsč.	0	1	0	1	16	0	2	0	3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from DG Environment<sup>20</sup>

Summarising the natural and environmental challenges in the EGTC area of Poland, it is noted that there is an uneven distribution of communes, both in terms of forest cover and in terms of the location and number of protected areas. The most forested district is Gubiński Voivodeship and the most protected areas are located in Sejny Voivodeship.

<sup>20</sup>General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Central Register of Nature Protection Forms. Internet access: <https://crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/search.jsf>



## 5. Administrative indicators

This section analyses administrative indicators:

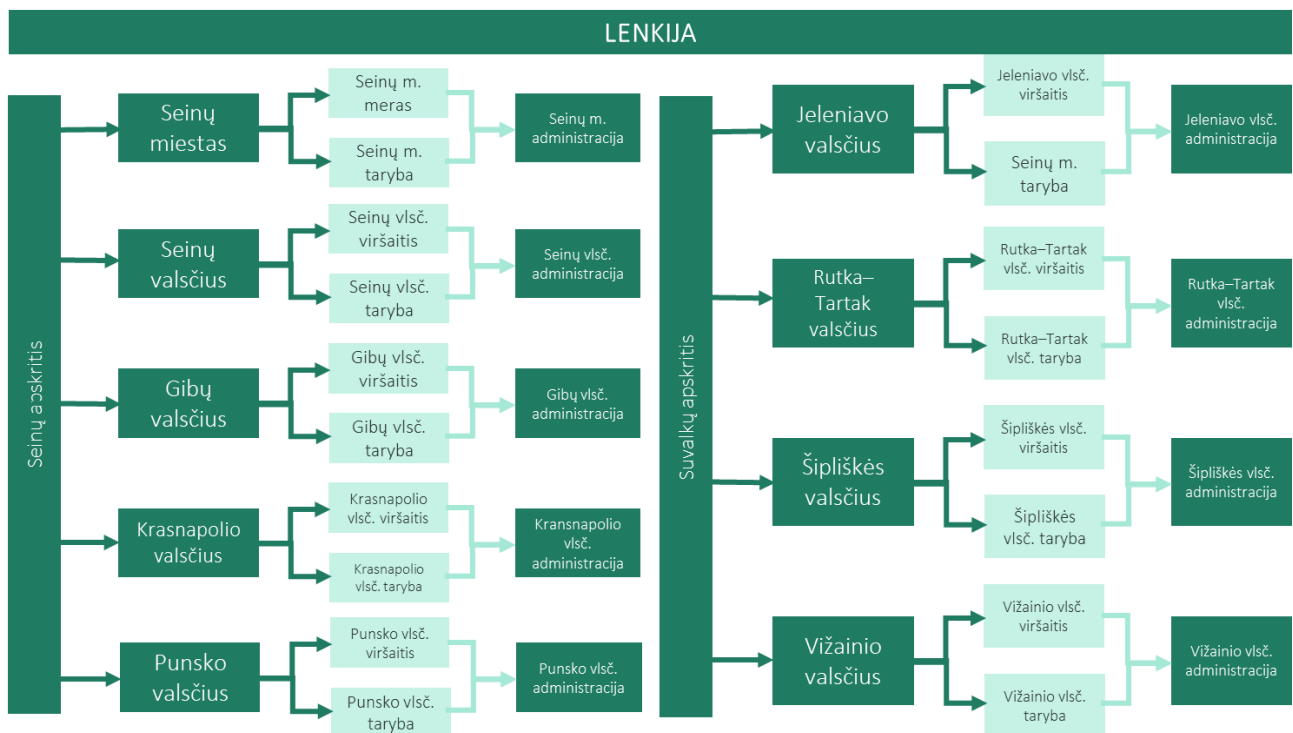
- the structure and self-government of local government. The administrative structure of each commune is indicated.
- The functions of local government, including spatial planning aspects.
- It provides an overview of the main strategic documents influencing municipal policy and development and decisions (e.g. regional plans, development plans, sustainable development plans, etc.), identifies the main development objectives and outlines the types of measures envisaged to achieve them, with particular emphasis on cooperation objectives, tourism, international business development.
- Analysis of support measures.

Analysis of strategic documents:

- Development strategy for the province of Palenque until 2030.

### 5.1. Local government structure and self-government

The structure of the Polish communes in the EGTC area is the same. All communes have their own mayors (at the level of Sejny) or governors (at the level of Polish communes) and councils. They also have administrations under them.



14 Figure. Structure of the Polish commune authorities in the EGTC area

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data provided by the Polish communes



## 5.2. Regional policy and legislation

It then reviews the main strategic documents influencing municipal policy and development and the decisions taken, identifies the main development objectives and outlines the types of measures envisaged to achieve them, with a particular focus on cooperation objectives, tourism, and the development of international business.

**DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE PODLASKIE VOIVODESHIP UNTIL 2030** - Describes the vision, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the development of the Podlaskie Voivodeship, which includes all the voivodeships analysed in Poland. It also includes development objectives and indicators.

The vision of the Palermo Voivodeship by 2030 is defined - a region that is entrepreneurial, viable and based on partnerships. In relation to this vision of the voivodship, the overarching goals and objectives are set for the development of the voivodships analysed.

13Table . Strategic goals and objectives of the Development Strategy 2030 for the Province of Palenque

Strategic objectives	Objectives
Dynamic economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Industry 4.0 - the industry of the future. Technological progress, robotics and computerisation are changing business and production models.</li> <li>● Open innovation system - to ensure innovation, especially in smart specialisation in services and industry.</li> <li>● Local entrepreneurship - enabling companies to develop based on local resources and potential.</li> <li>● Energy revolution and circular economy - use EU and national policies to increase the share of renewable energy and decentralise energy sources.</li> <li>● Digitalised region - digitising the economic system, based on the examples of other regions.</li> </ul>
Affluent population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A competent population - to increase the quality of human capital and enhance investment attractiveness and quality of life.</li> <li>● Active Citizens - to increase people's ability to independently and creatively shape their personal and professional life path.</li> <li>● A high quality environment - linking the improvement of the region's environmental quality to sustainable development.</li> </ul>
A region built on partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Good governance - arising from the growing needs of the population and the complexity of policy at the administrative level, and requiring high levels of competence at all organisational levels.</li> <li>● Social capital - to emphasise the importance of trust-based collaborative skills in achieving a wide range of goals.</li> <li>● International and inter-regional partnerships - open to supra-regional cooperation. The limited economic and social potential of the region increases the importance of such partnerships in ensuring the flow of capital, people and ideas.</li> <li>● Cooperation between local authorities and Lithuania to improve the quality of life in border areas is important.</li> <li>● A welcoming region - to encourage people to come and stay, both temporarily (e.g. for tourism or ) and to link their future to the region.</li> </ul>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the Development Strategy for the Province of Palenque until 2030.

The strategy also identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the voivodship, and sets out the opportunities and threats for the future development of the region. An analysis based on these aspects is presented below.

14Table . Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for Palenque Vaivadia



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><b>The public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality of life in the capital of the province</li> <li>• Continued favourable economic structure of the population</li> <li>• A well-developed network of secondary schools and universities</li> <li>• High level of education of the population</li> <li>• High scientific level of medical science courses</li> <li>• Rich cultural heritage, including the multinational international character of the region</li> </ul> <p><b>Natural environment and infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clean, diverse and unchanged natural environment</li> <li>• Good conditions for renewable energy production and the development of a circular economy</li> </ul>	<p><b>The public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declining potential for skilled workers due to shortages</li> <li>• Ageing of the population, including the labour force</li> <li>• Low level of personal income</li> <li>• Poor and unequal access to specialised health services in the public sector</li> </ul> <p><b>Natural environment and infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor transport links, mainly within the region</li> <li>• Low population density hindering the development of public services</li> <li>• Inadequate infrastructure for water, wastewater and waste management, electricity and gas distribution</li> <li>• Protected areas are perceived by some people as a barrier to development (especially in NATURA 2000 sites)</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<p><b>The public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT development and use in a wide range of areas - economy (including tourism), culture, health, education</li> <li>• The image of Vaivadia as a clean and environmentally friendly region</li> <li>• Increasing external demand for the region's products and services</li> <li>• Developing and promoting cooperation with EU countries</li> </ul> <p><b>Natural environment and infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for organic, traditional, local products</li> <li>• Increased environmental awareness</li> <li>• Developing lifelong learning</li> <li>• Increasing occupational and physical activity in an ageing population</li> <li>• Opportunity to develop specialised services in rehabilitation, geriatrics, nutrition etc.</li> <li>• Increased interest in new forms of tourism (especially skilled tourism)</li> </ul> <p><b>Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The border position of Vaivadia in transport links, allowing land transport connections between the Baltic States and other countries.</li> <li>• Proximity of the EU and the Far East to the Warsaw conurbation's absorption sales market</li> </ul> <p><b>External policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU policy to develop multimodal transport, supporting infrastructure development in areas where it is most needed</li> <li>• Access to Structural Funds for innovation and other development activities</li> <li>• Implementing energy investments (electricity and gas)</li> <li>• European environment and climate change targets (Green Europe)</li> <li>• Deglomeration through the transfer of selected central offices to small and medium-sized enterprises</li> </ul>	<p><b>Economics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brain drain</li> <li>• Increasing competition from East Asian countries</li> <li>• Decline in economic ties with Poland and the Palenque Voivodeship</li> </ul> <p><b>The public</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong anthropogenic pressure on the environment</li> </ul> <p><b>Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marginalisation of the Voivodship due to poor transport links</li> <li>• Increase in traffic, especially heavy traffic, on unadopted roads</li> <li>• Restriction of public transport links</li> </ul> <p><b>External policies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political, administrative and economic constraints resulting in reduced access to the region's border position and to Eastern markets</li> <li>• Legislative and systemic failures, particularly in the area of medical contracting, which have resulted in further restrictions on access to medical services</li> <li>• Insufficient securing of funds to carry out the tasks entrusted to local self-government units, resulting in lower investment costs</li> <li>• Implementation of external policy measures that undermine the competitiveness of enterprises in the province of Palermo</li> </ul>



Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the Strategy for the Palenque Voivodeship until 2030.

Summarising the regional policy of the Polish territory of the EGTC area, the planning documents focus on objectives that are related to reducing the most serious current problems and increasing the potential of existing strengths . On the one hand, the aim is to further develop the tourism potential by promoting rural and recreational tourism and by focusing on the development of tourism linking the different units of the EGTC area. On the other hand, the aim is to reduce the problem of regional and rural exclusion and to improve education, health, social and transport services and their accessibility. The aim is to increase the region's as yet undiscovered investment attractiveness and to increase the involvement of the population in community initiatives and decision-making processes. The planning documents do not prioritise cooperation between Lithuania and Poland, and future development of the EGTC area could take more account of increasing such partnerships.



## 6. Local potential growth opportunities

This chapter analyses three aspects: innovation and technology, green growth and the cultural and tourism sector.

The first dimension - innovation and technology - includes information on foreign direct investment and foreign direct investment per capita. It also analyses the measures envisaged to develop innovation and technology. The aspects analysed are:

- industrial parks and free economic zones;
- foreign direct investment;
- material investments;
- Size distribution of enterprises;
- transport infrastructure;
- the innovative and technological potential of the EGTC area.

The second dimension covers green growth, which is revealed by analysing strategic documents and the targets and measures they contain, contributing to national sustainable development and related objectives, and the development of alternative transport.

The third dimension, covering the cultural and tourism sectors, is analysed through the prism of untapped and potentially developable facilities and activities.

### 6.1. Innovation and technological potential

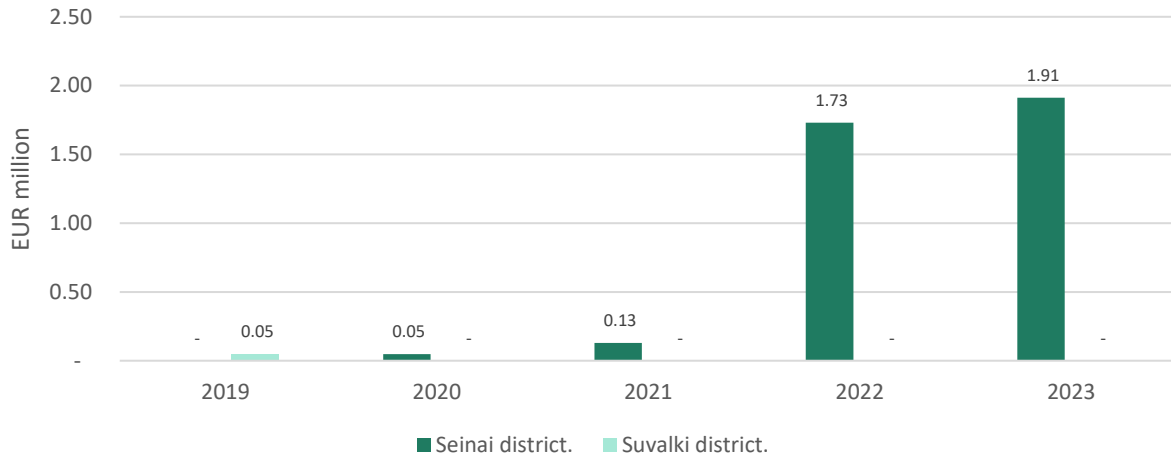
**INDUSTRIAL PARKS AND LEZS.** There are no industrial parks or free economic zones (FEZs) in Polish municipalities. This means that the area is not well suited to attract businesses, investment, stimulate economic activity and create new jobs. In Poland, both Sejny and Suwałki counties belong to the Suwałki Special Economic Zone, which administers areas throughout the entire Podlaskie Voivodeship. According to 2016 data, the Podlaskie Voivodeship was the region that attracted the least foreign capital investment in the whole of Poland (0.3%). This indicates that this border region is one of the least attractive for foreign investment.

**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN THE EGTC AREA.** The Polish municipalities in the EGTC zone fall within the Sejny or Suwałki counties, which are analysed in the analysis of the distribution of FDI. In 2023, Sejny County recorded 1.91 million foreign direct investments (FDI), while Suwałki County recorded 0. FDI grew during the period under review, except for Suwałki County<sup>21</sup>, where no FDI was recorded after 2019. This growth of foreign investments indicates that the investment potential of the Polish territory of the EGTC zone is growing slowly, and therefore there is no significant potential to attract a large amount of FDI in the near future.

---

<sup>21</sup> Data at commune level not available

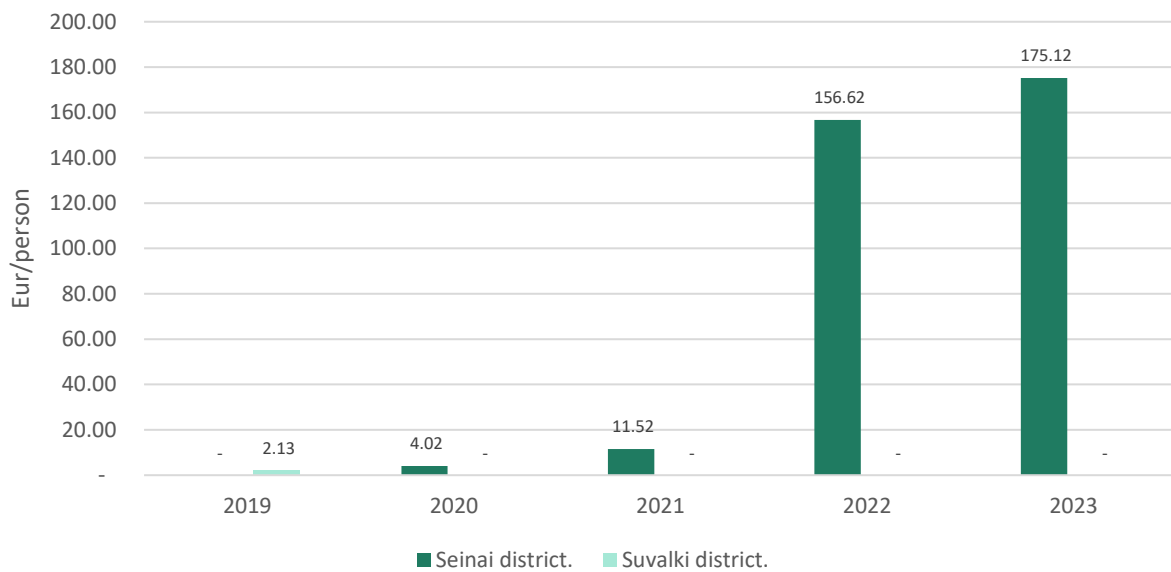




15 Figure. Foreign direct investment in the Polish territory of the EGTC zone, million EUR.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

The distribution of FDI per capita is not even. Although FDI increased in the Seina Voivodeship during the period under review, the FDI rates in the Polish territory remained rather low, as no FDI was recorded at the level of the Suwałki Voivodeship. This shows that FDI in the EGTC area of Poland is unevenly distributed and that there are significant differences between the Seina and Suwałki Voivodeships.

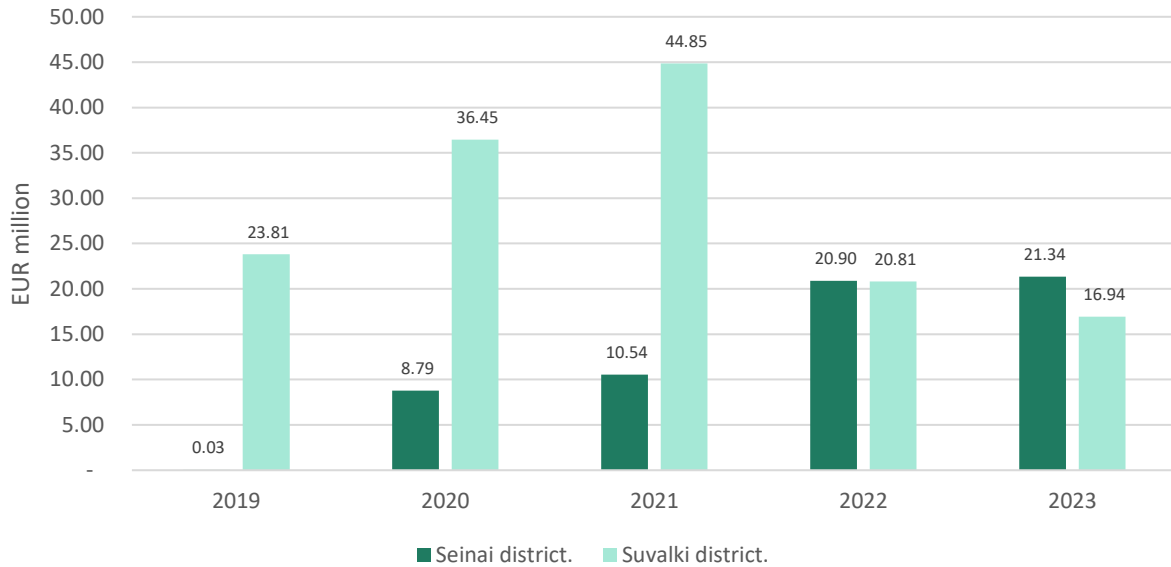


16 Figure. Foreign direct investment per capita in the Polish territory of the EGTC zone, EUR per capita.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

**MATERIAL INVESTMENTS.** When analysing tangible investment, it is noticeable that in 2023 its distribution in the two Polish counties was quite even, and the amount was significantly higher compared to the amount of FDI, with EUR 38.3 million received in 2023. However, it is worth noting that since 2021 the Suwałki county has decreased by more than 2.5 times, while the Seina county has doubled, and in 2023 both counties had similar levels of tangible investments. Thus, it can be observed that tangible investment in the EGTC zone in Poland is much more evenly distributed than FDI, but it is not possible to draw conclusions on the exact amount of investment per voivodeship due to lack of data.

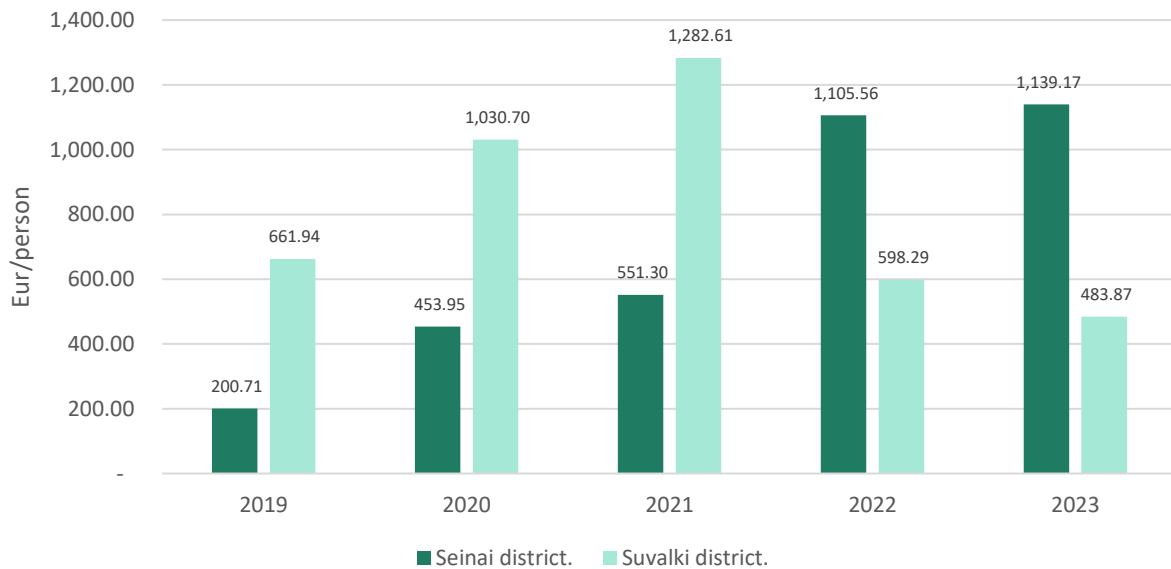




17 Figure. Physical investments in the EGTC area of Poland, million EUR.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

When looking at the distribution of material investments per capita in the territory of the EGTC zone in Poland, the Seine region stands out, with the highest amount of EUR 1139.2 per capita in 2023. The per capita of Suwałki Voivodeship in 2023 is 2.3 times less than in Seine Voivodeship.



18 Figure. Material investment per capita in the EGTC area of Poland, EUR.

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on data from the Local Data Bank (BDL)

Summarising the investment potential of the EGTC area in Poland, it is noticeable that the amount of investments in the Seine region is higher and has been growing more steadily, compared to the Suwałki region, where there is no FDI at all in 2023. The distribution of investments per capita is more even, and the amount of tangible investments is much higher than the FDI. Thus, the investment potential is increasing, albeit unevenly and



unevenly, and more attention needs to be paid to partnerships with municipalities in the Lithuanian EGTC zone to promote entrepreneurship and employment of the population.

**SIZE AND DISTRIBUTION OF ENTERPRISES.** In terms of innovation and technological potential, the EGTC area in Poland is dominated by very small or small enterprises, both in terms of annual revenues and number of employees. The distribution of medium-sized enterprises is very sparse and large enterprises are not present at all. The investment potential is therefore also low, as there are no incentives to invest in the region. The following are the types of enterprises according to annual turnover/total annual balance sheet total and number of employees.<sup>22</sup>

Types of enterprises by annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total for the reference year:

- Micro-enterprises - annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 2 million;
- Small enterprises - annual turnover and/or annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- Medium-sized enterprises - annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million and/or annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million;
- Large companies - €50 million and more.

Types of enterprises by average number of employees in the reference year:

- Micro-enterprises - less than 10 employees.
- Small enterprises - less than 50 employees.
- Medium-sized enterprises - less than 250 employees
- Large companies - 250 or more employees.

In terms of the number of employees, micro-enterprises account for a very high share in the districts concerned. In 2024, in the Polish Voivodeship, 95% or more of the total number of enterprises in the voivodeship were composed of enterprises with up to 10 employees. The largest number of small enterprises with 10-49 employees was in Sejny - 24 enterprises (3.8%) among all enterprises. The smallest number of small enterprises, only 2, was in Vižainiai Vlc., which was the second from the bottom in terms of the number of economic entities, while the smallest number of economic entities in the whole EGTC zone was in Rutka-Tartak Vlc. (126 in total). The only medium-sized entities were in Seinai (6 units) and Punska (1 unit). There were no large operators in the analysed Polish voivodeships. Thus, the predominance of micro-enterprises in all the Polish communes of the EGTC area shows that there is no incentive for the creation of larger businesses or projects in the area, which could also attract more investments.

**CONTRIBUTION OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE - THE POTENTIAL OF RAIL.** The EGTC zone is crossed by strategically important railway lines, including the Rail Baltica route, which provide opportunities to develop the investment potential of the zone. In Poland, there is a railway line which crosses the municipalities of Punska and Sipliski. There is one railway station in Punska commune - Trakiškės railway station, while there is no railway station in Šipliskie commune.<sup>23</sup> The nearest railway station to the Palenki Voivodeship region, excluding Trakšiai, is Suwałki railway station. In this region of Palarania, the railway development is rather poor and railway stations are usually established in the larger towns. The still rather poor connections in the Palaranian Voivodeship make it difficult to maintain contacts with trading partners. The Via Baltica is identified as a target for further investment, which should contribute significantly to raising the potential of the region and the EGTC area itself.

Thus, the Polish territory of the EGTC zone has the potential to have well-developed trade routes in the future, due to the Rail Baltica and Via Baltica routes passing through the zone, which are regionally significant and can

<sup>22</sup> European Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, Annex I, Article 2

<sup>23</sup>PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S. A., The map of Polish railway lines managed by PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S.A. Available online: [https://en.plk-sa.pl/files/public/user\\_upload/pdf/Mapy/2024\\_12\\_16\\_Id-12\\_linie\\_kolejowe\\_500k\\_LRS\\_DK\\_druk.pdf](https://en.plk-sa.pl/files/public/user_upload/pdf/Mapy/2024_12_16_Id-12_linie_kolejowe_500k_LRS_DK_druk.pdf)



attract a large amount of investment, but the current transport infrastructure and network is also underdeveloped.

**INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE EGTC AREA.** Although the Podlaskie Voivodeship is highlighted as having future economic potential, the Polish voivodeships analysed are identified as one of the weak links in the region. Krasnopolis is identified as one of the most socio-economically problematic and Gibi as an economically weak commune. Punksko, Sejny, Rutka-Tartak and Szipliski were identified as the most socio-problematic communes in the Podlaskie Voivodeship .<sup>24</sup>

Table 7. Investment and economic potential of the EGTC zone in Poland in 2025

Potential areas	Steps
Promoting entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entrepreneurship development through workshops and advice on starting and growing a business.</li> <li>• Improving the business support and information system, creating business clusters, developing businesses for tourist services.</li> <li>• Investment potential of public spaces and industrial areas, increasing the number of businesses, creating jobs for rural residents</li> <li>• Developing the rural economy, promoting the consumption of locally produced goods, and developing bio-economy enterprises.</li> </ul>
Social business development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting social business, involving vulnerable groups and creating social responsibility in business.</li> <li>• Promoting social inclusion, improving the quality of local projects, innovative solutions for rural development.</li> </ul>
Strengthening the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bringing unemployed and economically inactive people into the labour market through training and mentoring.</li> <li>• Creating jobs in rural areas, promoting business start-ups.</li> <li>• Improving employment opportunities, boosting the economic activity of local people, strengthening labour market indicators.</li> </ul>
Involving communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involving NGOs in solving social problems, strengthening volunteering.</li> <li>• Increasing the activity of residents through community activities, volunteering, educational programmes.</li> </ul>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the Strategy for the Province of Palermo up to 2030 and other documents

## 6.2. Green growth

**ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS IN THE EGTC AREA.** There is hardly any EV-friendly infrastructure in the Polish territory of the EGTC area - among the Polish municipalities in the EGTC area, the only charging station for EVs was recorded only in the city of Sejny.<sup>25</sup> However, based on the EU's overall priorities of doubling the number of conventional fuel cars in cities, there is a need for the development of infrastructure for EVs.

**ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT IN THE EGTC AREA.** According to the available data for the Polish territory of the EGTC area, alternative modes of transport such as public transport, bicycles are not popular and the transport sector is not sustainable, both because of the high share of polluting cars and because of the non-renewed and ineffective public transport. There are no direct public transport links between the Lithuanian and Polish administrative units, i.e. routes from the Lithuanian municipalities concerned to the Polish municipalities and vice versa. This does not increase the potential for cooperation between these regions for both economic and tourist purposes.

**SUSTAINABLE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE EGTC AREA.** It is generally observed that there is no information or planning documents on sustainability promotion and development at the level of the Polish communes or counties to which they belong. It is therefore concluded that sustainable growth of the Polish border region is not a priority. Thus,

<sup>24</sup> Development Strategy 2030 for the Province of Palermo. Available online: [https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia\\_rozwoju\\_województwa\\_podlaskiego\\_2030/](https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia_rozwoju_województwa_podlaskiego_2030/)

<sup>25</sup> Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Registry. Available online: <https://eipa.udt.gov.pl/browser/>



the contribution of knowledge and experience of Lithuanian municipalities is needed to develop the potential of Polish Voivodeships in the field of sustainable growth. The Development Strategy for the Podlaskie Voivodeship up to 2030 states that the majority of the territory is rural with valuable natural areas. This is particularly true for the majority of the voivodeships analysed, only one of which covers an urban area. The relevance of education to modern needs and trends, the transport infrastructure, the telecommunication structure and the water and wastewater management infrastructure are important for the overall quality of life of the population. Water scarcity is becoming a particular issue for sustainable agriculture, along with water scarcity and low retention, the reforestation of unused agricultural land, but also the protection of agricultural land from other uses. Given the size and dispersion of the area, the use of RES for energy production remains an issue. It is stressed that the aim is to develop activities in areas of nature conservation value that will preserve the natural values. For example, the focus should be on the development of high quality and agriculture in valuable areas.<sup>26</sup>

Table 7. Sustainable growth potential in the EGTC area in 2025

Potential areas	Steps
Tourism based on cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The strong Lithuanian presence in Poland (in Puntland, Seine, Suwałki) and the Polish heritage in Lithuania can be used to develop cross-border tourism initiatives, including historical excursions, festivals and cultural exchanges.</li> </ul>
Strong bilingual education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening bilingual education programmes and cross-border student exchange initiatives can strengthen cultural links and workforce skills in both countries.</li> </ul>
Sustainable agriculture and local production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Polish region has a strong agricultural tradition and high employment in this sector.</li> <li>Promoting organic farming, local markets and cross-border trade in agricultural products can increase sustainability.</li> </ul>
Green energy and sustainable infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investments in renewable energy projects (solar, wind and bioenergy), electric vehicle charging stations and cross-border infrastructure (e.g. better roads and rail links) can increase economic and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>Lithuanian municipalities that are more advanced in terms of sustainability can contribute to RES-based development in Polish municipalities.</li> </ul>
Ecotourism and nature conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco-tourism initiatives and projects could be developed between the two EGTC countries to preserve biodiversity and support the local economy.</li> </ul>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the Podlaskie Voivodeship Strategy 2030 and other strategic documents

Summarising the innovation and technological potential of the EGTC area in Poland, international connectivity is still rather poor, which hampers contacts with trading partners. The Via Baltica is identified as an area for further investment, which should contribute significantly to raising the potential of the region and the EGTC area itself. In general, there are hardly any major business or investment facilities in the whole Polish territory of the EGTC area. On the contrary, the Polish Voivodeships do not offer much investment potential due to significant socio-economic problems. Also, the infrastructure for alternative means of transport is not well developed in the Polish communes. It should be noted that increasing the potential of the Polish territory of the EGTC area should be done through cooperation between administrative units in Poland and Lithuania.

### 6.3. Cultural and tourism potential

In the EGTC area of Poland, there are not many cultural exchanges and joint tourism events with Lithuanian municipalities. It is worth noting that Lithuanians are a significant part of the population in the analysed municipalities, especially in Punszk, where Lithuanians make up about 80% of the population. Therefore, in most

<sup>26</sup> Podlaskie Voivodeship Development Strategy 2030. Available at: [https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia\\_rozwoju\\_wojewdztwa\\_podlaskiego\\_2030/](https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia_rozwoju_wojewdztwa_podlaskiego_2030/)



of the voivodeships, more opportunities for cooperation on common interests, such as education and cultural purposes, may naturally arise.

The need to exploit the advantage of certain regions in the development of tourism and cultural exchanges in the whole EGTC area is highlighted - Lithuanian municipalities, which receive the majority of tourists in the EGTC area, should cooperate with neighbouring municipalities and raise their profile. Cooperation between the Lithuanian-Polish border region is taking place in the area of Interreg projects, with 33 projects recorded since the beginning of 2019, based on Lithuanian-Polish partnerships for sustainable tourism, promoting entrepreneurship and employment, reducing social exclusion and promoting public services.

Table 7. Investment and economic potential of the EGTC zone in Poland in 2025

Potential areas	Steps
Preserving cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of local traditions and crafts, educational activities to foster cultural heritage.</li> <li>Improving the business support and information system, creating business clusters, developing businesses for tourist services.</li> <li>Adaptation of cultural heritage sites for tourism, strengthening local cultural identity.</li> </ul>
Events and festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Events to raise the profile of the region, traditional festivals and local community celebrations.</li> <li>Organising cultural and tourism events, involving communities in cultural activities.</li> <li>International cultural festivals between Lithuania and Poland, partnerships with other European cultural institutions.</li> </ul>
Tourism infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation of local natural sites for tourism, development of ecological and active tourism.</li> <li>Development of recreational areas, upgrading of places of interest, creation of cycle paths and hiking routes.</li> <li>Renovation of public spaces and historic sites, development of tourism infrastructure.</li> </ul>
Nature and eco-tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake and forest tourism routes, promotion of ecotourism and educational tourism.</li> <li>Active recreation and tourism opportunities.</li> </ul>
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involving local businesses and communities in the development of tourism services.</li> <li>Development of rural tourism and educational programmes.</li> <li>Promoting the products of local producers.</li> </ul>

Source: prepared by the Consultant, based on the Strategy for the Province of Palenque up to 2030 and other documents

One of the strategic objectives of the Province of Palermo is to strengthen intra- and inter-regional partnerships, which are more important for increasing the economic and social potential of the Province, which is still limited. This includes cooperation between towns in the Voivodship and between surrounding Voivodships, as well as with countries in the region such as Lithuania. For example, the creation and development of tourism products, including those based on historical and cultural links.<sup>27</sup> This could be done by exploiting the potential of the commune of Pusk, which is characterised by a greater number of cultural attractions, and the example of the commune of Šipliskie, which has already recorded a high number of foreign tourist arrivals.

To summarise the tourism and cultural potential of the EGTC area in Poland, the potential for large-scale tourism in the region and increasing its attractiveness is rather low. Therefore, the future goal to increase such potential is to develop history and culture based partnerships with Lithuania, and there is scope to exploit the municipalities and communes that are more advanced in this field and their good practices.

<sup>27</sup> Podlaskie Voivodeship Development Strategy 2030. Available at: [https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia\\_rozwoju\\_wojewdztwa\\_podlaskiego\\_2030/](https://strategia.wrotapodlasia.pl/pl/strategia_rozwoju_wojewdztwa_podlaskiego_2030/)





**Vilnius, Lithuania**  
**2025-06-18**

The translation was performed by the translation office - MB "Greitasis vertimas", legal entity code: address: 306992399, address: Krivių st. 5, LT-01204 Vilnius  
I, Lukas Vilkočinskas - director of MB "Greitasis vertimas", confirm the translation of these documents from Lithuanian language to English language and I confirm that the translation is authentic to the document provided by the client

**Director**  
**Lukas Vilkočinskas**

