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**The Environmental Report on the draft
South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
2014–2020**

Methodological Report

8th April 2014

Inteligentne rozwiązania aby chronić środowisko

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Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction..... 5
- 2 Purpose of the Research 8
- 3 Scoping Report, 9
- 4 Research Methodology 18
 - 4.1 Overview of research techniques and methods used in the Report..... 26
 - 4.2 Description of the Report implementation and scoping process 28
- 5 Analysis of risk that may arise in the course of the study and methods of minimising it..... 30
- 6 Method of organisation and performance of the research 30
 - 6.1 The schedule of work and the division of tasks 34
 - 6.2 Presentation of information, data and results of the Report 36

1 Introduction

The South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) is one of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes implemented in the 2014-2020 perspective. The programme will cover areas presented in the table below.

Table 1 Geographical scope of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

Państwo	NUTS III
Dania	Bornholm
	Østsjælland
	Vest- og Sydsjælland
Niemcy	Rostock, Kreisfreie Stadt
	Landkreis Rostock
	Vorpommern-Rügen
	Nordwestmecklenburg
Litwa	Vorpommern-Greifswald
	Klaipėdos
	Telšiai
	Tauragė
Polska	Koszaliński
	Stargardzki
	Miasto Szczecin
	Szczeciński
	Elbląski
	Stupski
	Trójmiejski
	Gdański
Starogardzki	
Szwecja	Kalmar län
	Blekinge län
	Skåne län
	Kronoberg län

Other regions of the mentioned countries can participate in the project as adjacent areas, receiving a maximum of 20% of the funds allocated to the Programme from ERDF funds. Spatial range of the Programme is presented on the below map.



Figure 1 Eligible area of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020

The Programme aim is to increase the blue and green growth potential of the South Baltic area through cross-border cooperation.

The Programme will implement thematic objectives and investment priorities set out in relevant European regulations on the European Regional Development Fund ¹.

The Programme provides support of activities in the following priority axes and investment objectives:

PRIORITY AXIS 1: Strengthening international activeness and innovation capacity of the South Baltic blue and green economy

¹ 1. Regulation (EU) 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal

2. Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006

1. Investment Priority 3 (b) - developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular with regards to internationalisation
2. Investment Priority 3 (d) - supporting the capacity of SMEs to grow in regional, national and international markets, and to engage in innovation processes

PRIORITY AXIS 2: Exploiting the environmental and cultural potential of the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth²

1. Investment priority 6 (c) – conserving, protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage
2. Investment priority 6 (f) - promoting innovative technologies to improve environmental protection and resource efficiency in waste sector, water sector and with regard to soil, or to reduce air pollution

PRIORITY AXIS 3: Improving cross-border connectivity for a functional blue and green transport area

Investment priority 7 (c) - developing and improving environment-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports multimodal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility

PRIORITY AXIS 4: Boosting human resource capacities for the area's blue and green economy

Investment Priority 8 promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training

PRIORITY AXIS 5: Increasing cooperation capacity of local actors in the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth

Investment Priority 11 – enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration by promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions

The range of issues covered by the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme includes such important documents as the Europe 2020 Strategy - A Strategy for Smart, Sustainable, and Inclusive Growth³ and

² The terms:

- **'Green Growth'** shall describe a path of economic growth, which utilises natural resources in a sustainable manner. It means fostering economic development while ensuring preservation of natural resources and environmental services on which the well-being of the future generations relies.
- **"Blue Growth"** shall mean "the economic development based on the use of the economic potential of the oceans, seas and coasts for sustainable growth and jobs, to be developed in harmony with the marine environment.

³ <http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/8418/Strategia%20Europa%202020.pdf>

one of its flagship projects - A resource-efficient Europe. Relations between these documents in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and other EU strategic documents are shown in the graph below:

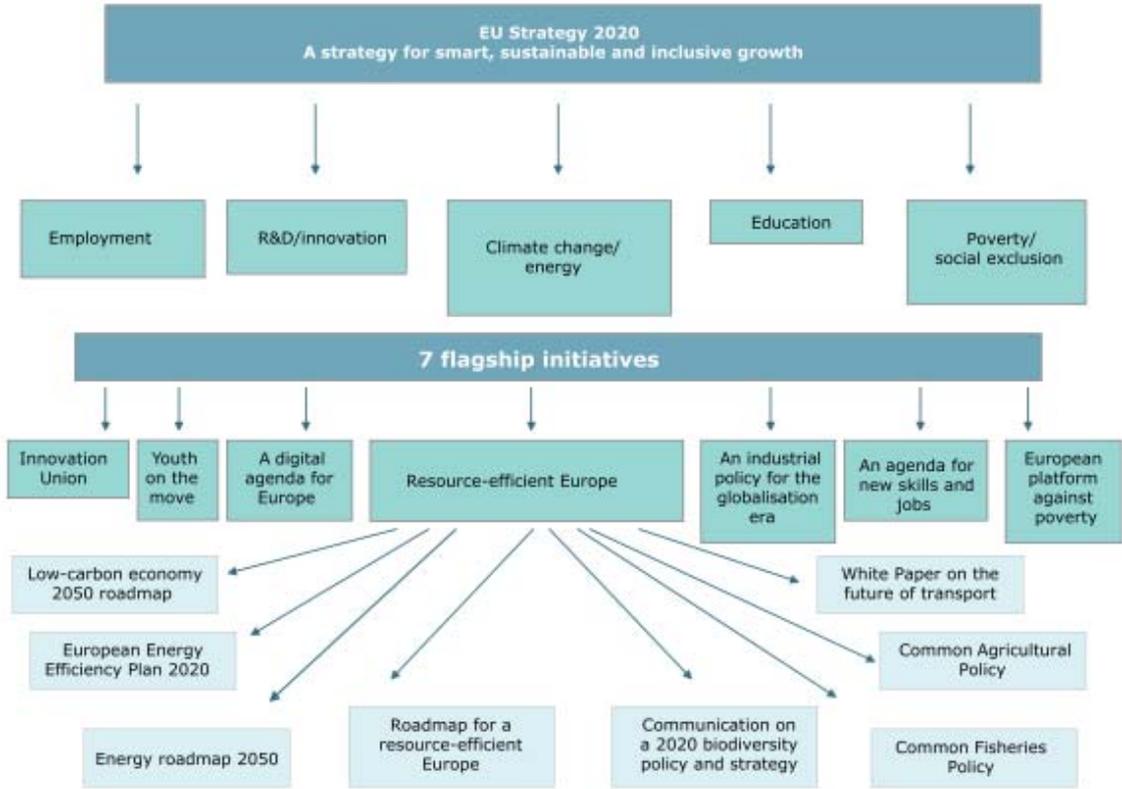


Figure 2. Relationship of the Europe 2020 Strategy to other documents. (Source: EEA Environment and Human Health 2012, Rappolder 2012)

From the environmental protection point of view important documents also include the 7th Environment Action Programme (7 EAP) *‘Living well, within the limits of our planet’*.

The objectives of these documents will be analysed in detail in terms of consistency with the document of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.

In addition, analyses and studies will take into account other related documents; international documents and those from the countries participating in the Programme.

The Environmental Report of the Programme should determine the degree of conformity of the draft document with the key objectives related to environmental protection, defined at international, EU and national level.

2 Purpose of the Research

The aim of the Environmental Report on the draft South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014–2020, in accordance with the applicable rules and arrangements, is a comprehensive analysis of the potential impact on specific elements of the environment (as provided for in the Action

Programme), assessment of the potential occurrence of cumulative impacts, as well as the analysis of the applicability of alternative solutions, and the need to introduce compensatory measures.

3 Scoping Report

According to the minutes of the Joint Programming Committee meeting held in Ostróda on 18th June 2013 the strategic environmental assessment of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme will be carried out by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development - the Programme Managing Authority.

Draft Scoping Report was evaluated in accordance with the Polish legislation i.e. in compliance with the Act of 3 October 2008 *on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment*⁴, which contains a transposition into Polish legislation of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 *on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment*.⁵ Then, under arrangements with the competent authorities of countries participating in the Programme, the Scoping Report developed in this way will be complemented by other essential elements resulting from legal provisions in force in those countries. In accordance with the aforementioned law, strategic environmental assessment is required for policies, strategies, plans or programs in the field of industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, water management, waste management, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and land use, developed or adopted by the authorities, set framework for future implementation of projects that are likely to have significant environmental effects. The Programme belongs to such documents, and therefore the authority drafting such a document, is required to draw up a corresponding Environmental Report.

The Report will include:

- an outline of the contents, main objectives of the draft document, and its relationship with other relevant documents,
- information on the methods applied in the Report,
- proposals related to the anticipated methods of analysing effects of the implementation of the draft document, and the frequency of analysis performance,
- information about the possible cross-border impact on the environment,
- a non-technical summary.

Moreover, the Report will determine, analyse and evaluate:

- the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the draft document,

⁴ Journal of Laws no. 199, item 1227, as amended.

⁵ Official Journal of the European Communities L197/30 of 21.07.2001 .

- the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
- the existing environmental problems which are relevant to the draft document including, in particular, those relating to any areas protected under the Act of 16 April 2004 *on the conservation of nature*⁶,
- the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or domestic level, which are relevant to the draft document, and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation,
- the likely significant effects (including direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects) on the purposes and the subject of protection of Natura 2000 sites and the integrity of this area, as well as the effects on the environment, in particular on:
 - biodiversity,
 - humans,
 - fauna,
 - flora,
 - water,
 - air,
 - soil,
 - landscape,
 - climate,
 - natural resources,
 - historical heritage objects,
 - material goods,

considering the interrelationship between the above-mentioned elements of environment, and interactions between these elements.

The Report will also present:

- solutions envisaged to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment resulting from implementing the draft document, in particular on the purposes and the subject of protection of Natura 2000 sites and the integrity of this area,
- alternatives to the solutions from the draft document, together with the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of evaluation methods leading to this choice or explanation for the absence of alternative solutions, including any difficulties encountered due to technical deficiencies or gaps in modern knowledge.

⁶ Journal of Laws of 2013, item 627, as amended.

In Poland, according to the aforementioned law, the scope and the level of detail was agreed with the General Director of Environmental Protection, Chief Sanitary Inspector and the directors of maritime offices in Szczecin, Gdynia and Słupsk.

In addition, arrangements were made on the scope and the level of detail of the Report:

In Denmark with:

- Legal Unit, Danish Nature Agency, Ministry of Environment
- South Baltic programme National Coordinator, Regional Municipality of Bornholm

In Germany with:

- Landesamt für Kultur und Denkmalpflege Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Landesarchäologie

In Lithuania with:

- Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania

In Sweden with:

- The County Administrative Board in Blekinge,
- The Regional Council in Kalmar County,
- No input has been delivered from the County Administrative Board in Kalmar, Kronoberg or Skåne,

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency has decided not to provide any opinion.

Comments received from the competent authorities on the agreed scope of the Report are presented in the table below.

Table 2 Indications and comments of the competent authorities of the countries participating in the Programme.

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
POLAND - GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (30.01.2014)	1.1	According to the presented assumptions, the activities covered by the draft Programme, especially in the field of new technological developments, tourism development, environmental protection as well as waste management and transport development, may have form of actions or activities that are likely to have significant environmental effects within the meaning of the Act on EIA.
	1.2	Given the framework nature of the presented assumptions, the lack of a list of projects and project selection criteria, and the lack of spatial indications, the following recommendations are presented for the development of the environmental report.
	1.3	The Environmental Report, prepared in the course of the strategic environmental assessment, should fully comply with the requirements deriving from Article 51 paragraph 2 of the Act on EIA, under the conditions referred to in Article 52 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the above-mentioned law. It should be emphasized that the Report should refer to the full version of the proposed Programme and cover all the planned activities that are likely to have significant environmental effects. In accordance with Article 52 paragraph 1 of the EIA Act, the level of detail in analyses and recommendations carried out in the Report should be adjusted to the level of detail of the provisions of the draft document.
	1.4	During the preparation of the Report, the analysis should include other provisions related to this area of strategic, national and transnational documents, as well as provisions of their environmental reports (as far as strategic assessment was conducted).
	1.5	In view of the spatial range of the draft Programme, it is recommended to pay special attention to interactions that may occur in the border area of the project area, and to the potential cross-border effects on the territories of countries not covered by the draft Programme.
	1.6	The presentation of the spatial phenomena and interactions between them should be made in a graphic (maps) form.

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
	1.7	Development of the Report should take into account the guidelines of the European Commission on strategic environmental assessment in terms of integrating climate change and biodiversity.
POLAND - CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR (16.01.2014)	2.1	The Scoping Report shall consider Article 3 paragraph 2 of the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment (Journal of Laws of 2013, item 1235, as amended), which states that whenever the Act refers to the impact on the environment it shall also mean the impact on human health.
POLAND - MARITIME OFFICE IN SŁUPSK (22.01.2014)	3.1	The Environmental Report shall meet the requirements deriving from Article 51 paragraph 2 of the Act of 3 October 2010 on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment (Journal of Laws of 2008 No. 199, item 1227, as amended), considering the requirements set out in Article 52 of the Act.
	3.2	<p>The Report shall, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify, analyse and assess the anticipated significant environmental effects resulting from the proposed use of the land, including impact on biodiversity, humans, water, soil, landscape, natural resources, historical heritage objects, material goods, and considering the interrelationship between the above mentioned elements of environment and interactions between these elements; b) present solutions envisaged to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment resulting from implementing the draft plan.
	3.3	In accordance with the requirements of Article 57 paragraph 2 of the EIA Act, where the planned execution of a document relates to marine areas, the authority competent to make opinions and agreements within the strategic environmental impact assessments shall also be the director of maritime office.

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
	3.4	<p>Therefore, the local Authority reports that in addition to the information referred to in Article 51 paragraph 2 of the EIA Act, in relation to issues affecting Polish maritime areas referred to in the Act of 21 March 1991 on the Polish maritime areas and the maritime administration (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 934), the environmental Report shall include and refer to the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identify the impact of the provisions of the document on the marine environment, including natural features and designation purposes of marine Natura 2000 sites, as well as the integrity and cohesion of these areas; 2) provide solutions envisaged to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects on the environment resulting from implementing the document; 3) take into account existing and planned or proposed protected areas referred to in Article 6 of the Act of 16 April 2004 on Nature Conservation (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 627) located in marine areas and coastal zone; 4) take into account the effects of the implementation of the document on the coastal zone and the processes of sea-land interaction (the integrity of the marine and terrestrial ecosystems).
	3.5	<p>The Report should refer to the full version of the proposed Programme and cover all the planned activities that are likely to have significant environmental effects, and not just the actions provided for financing.</p>
	3.6	<p>In addition, the analysis should take into account the impact (and the accumulation of impacts) associated with the existing, implemented or planned activities and projects in the area covered by the document, including activities and projects not covered by the draft document.</p>
	3.7	<p>In addition, the local Authority in accordance with Article 27a paragraph 2 of the Act of 16 April 2004 on Nature Conservation (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 627) supervises the marine Natura 2000 sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pomeranian Bay PLB 990003 - partially, • Slupsk Bank PLC 990001 - in full, • Coastal Waters of the Baltic Sea PLB 990002 - partially. <p>It is advisable to take into account in the Environmental Report - data and</p>

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
		conclusions, worked out at the stage of preparing environmental documentation and draft conservation plans for the above mentioned Natura 2000 sites.
POLAND - MARITIME OFFICE IN GDYNIA (29.01.2014)	4.1	The Report shall be prepared in line with the requirements defined in Article 51 paragraph 2 of the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment, considering the impact of the Programme on the marine environment of the Gdańsk Bay and the Vistula Lagoon (including - the impact on Natura 2000 sites).
	4.2	Information included in the Report, in accordance with Article 52 paragraph 1 of the above mentioned Act, should be adjusted to the content and level of detail of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020. The Report should determine the cumulative impact of activities (planned to be implemented under the Programme) on the marine environment of the Vistula Lagoon and the Gdańsk Bay.
	4.3	Implementation of the Programme, i.a. through the promotion of underwater cultural and natural features as well as the development of tourism and port infrastructure, can contribute to the growth of tourism flows and transport traffic in the Gdańsk Bay and the Vistula Lagoon, which potentially will be associated with an increased pressure on maritime areas. Therefore, the Report must consider the impact of the Programme implementation on the marine environment, including the Natura 2000 sites.
POLAND - MARITIME OFFICE IN SZCZECIN (20.01.2014)	5.1	At the same time the local Authority reports that in addition to the information referred to in Article 51 paragraph 2 of the EIA Act, in relation to issues affecting Polish maritime areas referred to in the Act of 21 March 1991 on the Polish maritime areas and the maritime administration (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 934), the environmental Report shall include and refer to the following comments: Take into account existing and planned or proposed protected areas referred to in Article 6 of the Act of 16 April 2004 on Nature Conservation (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 627) located in marine areas and coastal zone.

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
	5.2	Cover all the planned activities that are likely to have significant environmental effects. In addition, the analysis should take into account the impact (and the accumulation of impacts) associated with the existing, implemented or planned activities and projects in the area covered by the document.
	5.3	Identify the impact of the draft document on the marine environment, including natural habitats, plant and animal species and their habitats, for which marine Natura 2000 sites were designated, as well as the impact on integrity and cohesion of these areas.
	5.4	<p>In addition, the local Authority in accordance with Article 27a paragraph 2 of the Act of 16 April 2004 on Nature Conservation (Journal of Laws of 2013 item 627) supervises the marine Natura 2000 sites, Therefore, in view of Article 29 paragraph 1 of the above mentioned Act, preparation of the environmental documentation and draft conservation plans was started for the following Natura 2000 sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • special protection areas - ‘Pomeranian Bay’ (area code PLB990003), ‘Szczecin Lagoon’ (PLB320009), and ‘Kamieński and Dziwna Lagoon’ (PLB320011); • areas of Community importance / special areas of conservation - ‘refuge in the Pomeranian Bay’ (area code PLH990002) and ‘Mouth of the Oder River and the Szczecin Lagoon’ (PLH320018). <p>It is advisable to take into account in the Environmental Report - data and conclusions, worked out at the stage of preparing environmental documentation and draft conservation plans for the above mentioned Natura 2000 sites.</p>
DENMARK - SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME NATIONAL COORDINATOR IN DENMARK (26.03.2014)	6.1	Scoping of the strategic environmental assessment in Denmark have to be in line with Statuary Act No. 939 of 03/07/2013 on environmental assessment of plans and programmes. The proposed content and analyses for this environmental assessment report are in line with the Danish legislation, and only one issue needs to be stressed, namely to include ‘human health’ in the list of areas to be assessed.
	6.2	The consultation process in Denmark of an environmental assessment report of a cross-border programme will be driven by the national coordinator appointed in the related programme, South Baltic programme. Besides the Danish Nature Agency the direct consultations will also address the Danish Environment Agency, Ministry of Transport, Danish Business Authority and the Danish Maritime Agency.

Name of the Institution	No.	The content of the comments
LITHUANIA	7.1	No specific comments
GERMANY – LANDESAMT FÜR KULTUR UND DENKMALPFLEGE MECKLENBURG-VORPOMMERN LANDESARCHÄOLOGIE (02.04.2014)	8.1	In general, the expression “historical heritage objects” does not necessarily include the archaeological heritage; therefore it is essential either to give a detailed explanation of the term “historical heritage objects”, so that it becomes clear the archaeological heritage is included, or to add the term “archaeological heritage” to the list
	8.2	Concerning the sea basin, the coastal zone and the underwater habitats, it is absolutely essential to refer to the Code of good practice for the management of the Underwater Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea Region (COPUCH, http://www.nba.fi/fi/File/701/copuch-ohjeistus.pdf), which defines common standards and aims for the Baltic Sea States
	8.3	Scope and level of detail will be subject to an individual definition in accordance with the level of planning; in general, it is to distinguish between archaeological heritage sites, that may not be altered because of their outstanding scientific and historical significance, and such archaeological heritage sites, that may be altered after obtaining a permission
	8.4	The possible impact on the archaeological heritage has to be determined, analysed and evaluated in accordance with the Gesetz über die Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung (UVPG, http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/uvpg/gesamt.pdf)
	8.5	Information about archaeological heritage sites in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and the appropriate measures for their protection is obtainable from the Landesamt für Kultur und Denkmalpflege Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Domhof 4/5, 19055 Schwerin, www.kulturerbe-mv.de .
SWEDEN	9.1	No specific comments

Development of the Environmental Report will use guidelines on strategic environmental assessments⁷ and guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into strategic environmental assessment⁸.

The Report will cover the analysis of EU strategic documents in terms of the Programme's compliance with these documents, particularly in the scope of implementation of environmental goals and cover the analysis of most important strategic documents of participating in the Programme countries (given by these countries).

4 Research Methodology

Given the agreed Scoping Report and the nature and scope of the Programme, the most suitable approach was considered to develop the methodology, perform analyses and clearly present their results. As a result, a logical structure of analyses was agreed, which is expressed in the proposed table of contents for the Report. The proposed methods of analysis have been compared to its particular points, and their summary is presented in section 4.1.

The proposed scheme of the Report:

A non-technical summary

1. Introduction (purpose, context, issues, methodology)
2. Legal basis and scope
3. Analysis of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
4. Analysis of the environmental condition in the region covered by the Programme
 - a. Pressure on the Baltic Sea environment
 - b. Nature and Biodiversity
 - c. Climate
 - d. Resources and Waste
 - e. Environment, Health and Quality of Life
 - f. Water resources, flood and drought prevention and other water management issues
5. The Environmental Report
 - a. General assessment
 - b. In-depth analyses of the particular, potential projects that have a significant effect on the environment. Analysis of potential cumulative impacts
 - d. Analysis of possible cross-border impacts

⁷ Handbook on SEA for Cohesion Policy 2007 – 2013, GRDP, 2006
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/working/doc/sea_handbook_final_foreword.pdf

⁸ Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Impact Assessment, EU, 2013
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/SEA%20Guidance.pdf>

6. Assessment of the effects in the absence of implementation of the Programme and the benefits of its implementation
7. Presentation of Alternatives
8. Proposed methods of evaluating the effects of the Programme implementation
9. Proposed environmental criteria for the evaluation of proposed projects
10. Conclusions and Recommendations

A set of analyses for the Report and the specificity of the Programme, point to the need of using different methods of analysis and evaluation, that would be relevant to the content and level of detail of the Programme and compliant with the state of contemporary knowledge. They are presented below with reference to particular, essential parts of the study.

The main source materials for the Environmental Report shall include the following:

- analysis of the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme (point 3 of the table of contents) and
- analysis of the environmental condition in the region covered by the Programme -(point 4).

Description of methods for the development of Section 3 Analysis of the Programme

The Programme analysis will include evaluation of the coherence with the EU strategic documents relating directly to environmental protection, and more important strategic documents at the level of the countries participating in the Programme. The analyses will be carried out with the use of expert method in the form of tables.

Analysis of the Programme and identification of potential projects

The initial step will include analysis of the Programme in terms of its objectives, priorities and identification of potential projects under the Programme, because the Programme is general in nature and does not contain the specified projects but activities only. This will also include information from the implementation of the previous Programme. Result of the analysis of the Programme objectives, priorities as well as specific areas of support will be presented in the table below. Preliminary assessment of their impact on the environment will be carried out at this stage. The table will also qualify projects that may have potentially significant and always significant effect on the environment. (according to the disposition of the Council of Ministers of 9 November 2010 on projects likely to have significant effects on the environment⁹).

⁹ Journal of Laws No. 213, item 1397, as amended

Table 3 Description of the Programme and the potential fields of intervention in the environment (model)

Code (Axis, Thematic Objective/Investment Priority/Action)	Investment Priority	The field of intervention, typical projects	Possible territorial coverage area	Potential fields of intervention in the environment
Axis I Strengthening international activeness and innovation capacity of the South Baltic blue and green economy				
1.3b.1	Developing and implementing new business models for SMEs, in particular for internationalisation	Joint development and pilot implementation of innovative business models for internationalisation of blue and green sector SMEs	Depending on the range of activities	Generally no impact on the environment, but it will depend on the type of activity
1.3b.2		Market research for blue and green sector SMEs, their clusters and business support institutions in relation to the introduction of new services and products on international markets		
Axis II Exploiting the environmental and cultural potential of the South Baltic area for the blue and green growth				
2.6c.1	Protecting, promoting and developing natural and cultural heritage			
2.6c.2				

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Description of methods for the development of Section 4 Analysis of the current state of the environment

The diagnosis of the current state of the environment will be the second basic element for the evaluation. The analysis will mainly cover areas of possible support in the field of environmental protection considering the needs, and areas of possible impact of the Programme implementation.

It is suggested to carry out diagnosis of the state of the environment according to the scheme of the European Environment Agency (EEA), ie, with reference to the following groups:

1. Pressure on the Baltic Sea environment
2. Nature and Biodiversity
3. Climate
4. Resources and Waste
5. Environment, Health and Quality of Life
6. Water resources, flood and drought prevention and other water management issues

This will facilitate reference to trends at EU level.

Basic source materials will mainly include materials of the European Environment Agency, the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)¹⁰, EUROSTAT and other available materials.

Description of methods for the development of Section 5 The Environmental Report

This section will consist of the following parts:

- a) General assessment
- b) The results of in-depth analyses for specific projects that can be implemented under the Programme, and which may significantly affect the environment. Potential projects will be identified on the basis of preliminary analyses and presented according to the model (Table 2). The analyses will be incorporated into all elements of the environment referred to in the regulations and the Scoping Report.
- c) Analysis of possible cumulative impacts
- d) Analysis of possible cross-border impacts
- e) The results of analyses of research issues

General assessment will include evaluation criteria and a summary of the assessment work.

The adopted evaluation criteria specified in the preparation of the Environmental Report, in relation to particular aspects of the environment will be presented according to the following formula.

¹⁰ The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission proclaimed as the executive body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area of 1974

Table 4 Evaluation criteria (model criteria).

No.	Elements of environment subject to research	Evaluation criteria
1	Biodiversity	The impact on species and habitats protected under the Natura 2000 network
2	Fauna	Impact on selected protected species
3	Flora	The impact on natural habitats, especially aquatic ones
4	Impact on the integrity of areas	Impact on maintaining consistency between the protected areas, and generally passable condition of the ecological corridors

Synthetic, collective assessment of the possible impact of particular actions of the Programme on the environment will be presented in a matrix of environmental impact prepared in accordance with the following formula.

It will be based on systematising of activities presented in the table of the Section 3, as well as in-depth analyses described under the methodology specified below.

Table 5 Matrix of environmental impact (model matrix).

Code, Axis, Thematic Objective /Investment Priority/ Action	Area of Support	Elements of environment subject to impact assessment												
		Biodiversity	Fauna	Flora	Impact on the integrity of	Water	Air (including noise)	Humans	Soil	Landscape	Climate	Natural Resources	Historical Heritage Objects ¹¹	Material Goods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

¹¹ Including archaeological

The table will use the following symbols to determine types of environmental impacts:

Caption			
Nature of impacts	Symbol	Type of impacts	Symbol
positive	+	direct	D
possible negative	-	indirect	ID
significant negative	--	secondary	S
both positive and possible negative	+, -	cumulative	cum.
both positive and significant negative	+, -, --	potential	pot.
no significant impacts	<i>n/a</i>	short-term	>
		medium-term	>>
		long-term	>>>
		permanent	<->
		temporary	o

In-depth analyses of the impacts of particular potential projects likely to have significant effects on particular elements of the environment will constitute basic analytical elements of the Report. The starting point for the analysis will include the above-mentioned criteria for evaluation, agreed on the basis of the studies on the current state of the environment and the most important issues, legal requirements, conclusions from the analyses of strategic documents and analyses related to the evaluation questions.

Table 6 Model tables for in-depth analyses.

In-depth assessment of the environmental impact of potential areas of support and strategic investments.		
Reference to matrix of impacts (position)	Codes: Axis, Thematic Objective/Priority/Action	Area of Support, Typical Projects (from the matrix of impacts)
Elements of environment subject to analysis	Description of the results of analyses	
Biodiversity		

Fauna	
Flora	
Impact on the integrity of protected areas	
Water	
Air	
Humans	
Soil	
Landscape	
Climate	
Natural Resources	
Historical Heritage Objects ¹²	
Material Goods	
Other supplementary information and reference for GIS analysis. Identification of all protected areas and ecological corridors associated with the project	
Conclusions on effects reduction, alternatives and compensation	
Note - indicate:	
whether the impact is positive, significant negative, possible	
direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative	
short-term, medium-term, long-term, permanent, temporary, potential	

In-depth analyses will be performed for each possible area of Programme support that could have potentially significant and always significant effect on the environment.¹³ Due to their size, all the sheets will be included in the Annex, and the document will include a summary of impacts listed by elements of the environment.

These analyses, among others, will use GIS tool to compare specific areas of support with the current state of the environment (eg. by adding maps of communication projects to the maps of protected areas).

¹² Including archaeological

¹³ According to Polish regulations

The results of in-depth analyses will be presented synthetically in a matrix of relations of the proposed areas of financial interventions and the impact on particular elements of the environment.

Analysis of possible cumulative impacts

The process of analysing the impact on the environment will take into consideration cumulative impacts of activities included in the Programme and other well-known projects - existing and planned for implementation. Results of these analyses will be presented synthetically both in the form of a graph and a table showing possibilities of cumulative effects on the individual elements of the environment. The analysis of cumulative impacts will depend on the possibility to identify particular projects and their area of influence.

Table 7 Accumulation of impacts.

Actions: Axis, Investment Priority / Action	The fields of intervention	The main impacts	Cumulative impacts	Recommendations
	elements of environment			

Analysis of possible cross-border impacts

As part of works on the Report, analysis will cover all projects eligible for support for their potential transboundary impact both within the Programme and the Programme on third countries. The analysis will include possible impacts on all elements of the environment, in accordance with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context¹⁴ and the Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment¹⁵. The Report will also use materials provided by GDOŚ (General Directorate for Environmental Protection - GDEP)¹⁶

The results of analyses of research issues

As part of this section, there will be analysis carried out related to issues specified in the Detailed Description of the Task and reported in the process of agreeing the task.

Description of methods for the development of Section 6 Assessment of the effects in the absence of implementation of the Programme and the benefits of its implementation

The works will include analysis of the effects, both in the case of cancellation of the Programme implementation, as well as the positive effects achieved due to realisation of the Programme. The results will be presented synthetically in the form of tables.

¹⁴ The Convention of the 25th February 1991 on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

¹⁵ Directive 2001/42/EC of 27.06.2001

¹⁶ among others, publication in ‘Zeszyty problemowe’ E. Florkiewicz and A. Kawicki, Administrative proceedings on issues determined by the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment.

Description of methods for the development of Section 7 Presentation of Alternatives

Detailed results of the analyses carried out in the process of developing the Report allow possible clarification of the alternatives that will be considered in terms of minimisation of the negative impact of the Programme on the environment or in terms of maximisation of the benefits of the Programme implementation. Possible alternatives will result from detailed analyses.

Description of methods for the development of Section 8 Proposed methods of evaluating the effects of the Programme implementation

Since, from the environmental point of view, it is essential to possibly quickly respond to the potential negative impact of certain projects (implemented under the Programme) on the environment, the need for monitoring will be analysed together with its possible scope and manner of conduct.

The analyses will propose relevant conclusions.

Description of methods for the development of Section 9 Proposed environmental criteria for the evaluation of proposed projects

From analyses conducted with reference to the main environmental challenges in the area covered by the Programme, nature of the projects and their potential impact on the environment, conclusions will be drawn on the criteria of selecting projects supported by the Programme, to make them most effective for the environment. The proposed criteria will apply to particular types of projects.

Description of methods for the development of Section 10 Conclusions and Recommendations

The section will include a summary of the results of analyses of possible impacts of the Programme on particular elements of the environment, and the recommendations arising from the Report to be included in the Programme

Conclusions and recommendations resulting from the analyses will be presented in a tabular form, containing specific proposals for the Programme, projects, evaluation criteria, etc.

4.1 Overview of research techniques and methods used in the Report

As part of the study, we suggest to use the below mentioned research methods. All proposed methods are tested in the implementation of environmental impact forecasts and allow the widest and most accurate impact assessment of draft programme documents on the environment. Research methods used in developing the Report are described in the table below.

Table 8 Methods used to develop the Report.

No.	Research Method	Method of incorporation in the research
1.	Analysis of documents	Analysis of source documents, selection of relevant data in the context of the studied areas, problems
2.	Statistical Analysis	Description together with tables and graphs for the diagnosis of the state of the environment, a description of the impact, tables with the Report conclusions
3.	Ratio Analysis	Ratio analysis of analytical studies involving calculation of indicators on the basis of the obtained statistical data and comparative evaluation in time and space
4.	Comparative Analysis/content	Description of solutions (eg. reducing environmental impact), table of answers to the research questions, conclusions and recommendations of the study
5.	Correlation Table	Comparative tables of correlation that contain a list of directions of a given document in the context of the analysed areas, national and EU policy documents
6.	Matrix of Relation	Used to determine the impacts of objectives, priorities and tasks of the Programme on all elements of the environment (including Natura 2000 sites, climate, etc.) and on human health. Assessment of the cumulative impact of investment priorities will be carried out as well.
7.	Expert Assessments (IDI)	Individual assessment and consultation (interviews) with thematic experts in the field of the obtained results, trends and source evaluations

These methods are used to develop particular sections of the Report, as set forth in the table below.

Table 9 Set of research methods proposed for particular parts of the Report.

No.	Name of the research technique	Scoping Report					
		Scoping	Analysis of the environmental condition (trends)	Analysis of the Programme and strategic documents	The Environmental Report	Assessment of the Cumulative Impacts	Monitoring
1	Analysis of Documents	*	*			*	*
2	Statistical Analysis		*		*		
3	Ratio Analysis		*	*		*	*
4	Comparative Analysis		*	*			*
5	Correlation Table	*		*			*
6	Matrix of Relation				*	*	
7	Expert Assessments (IDI)	*	*	*	*	*	*

* Applied techniques and methods

4.2 Description of the Report implementation and scoping process

Detailed description of the task and the scope of works to perform the Environmental Report on the draft South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020 are specified in the Attachment No. 1 to the Terms of Reference. The task shall be carried out in two phases:

Phase I – in which the Contractor shall provide:

- final scoping report,
- a preliminary and final version of the methodological report,
- a preliminary version of the Report,
- a final version of the Report taking into account the results of public consultation and a qualitative assessment drawn up by competent authorities seated in countries participating in the Programme,
- a summary drafted on the basis of the Report.

In this phase of the task, the Contractor shall work together with a team carrying out an ex ante evaluation of the Programme and provide support to the Working Group on Programming No. 1 (called Task Force 1) and the Joint Programming Committee in order to introduce changes to the Programme (taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, opinions of

competent authorities of countries participating in the Programme, as well as comments and requests submitted by citizens, institutions and social organizations in the process of consultation regarding the results of the Report)

The Contractor will also respond to comments and requests made by citizens as well as institutions and social organisations in the consultation process related to the results of the Report

Phase II - in which the contractor shall cooperate with the Working Group on Programming (Task Force 1) during the consultation process with the European Commission (EC) regarding the provisions of the Programme. Cooperation shall consist in public consultation, expert consulting on the inclusion of the EC's comments into the Programme. The Contractor may be required to participate in working meetings held on an ad hoc basis by the Contracting Authority (max. 3 meetings). At the request of the Contracting Authority, the Contractor will be required to examine and issue written opinions in relation to the comments on the environmental impact made in the course of negotiations with the European Commission (within 7 days of the receipt of comments). Comments can be submitted in turns. In addition, the Contractor shall provide advisory services to the Contracting Authority if, as a result of negotiations on the provisions of the Programme with the EC, changes to the Programme requiring the modification of the Forecast prove necessary.

While working on the Assessment, a close cooperation with the Contractor is expected, particularly in the scope of:

- consulting methodologies and research tools
- responding and adapting to any changes in the draft Programme (e.g. following public consultation on the Programme, opinions expressed in the ex-ante evaluation);
- informing about the status of work, encountered problems and other issues important for the implementation of the study;
- participating in meetings (in accordance with the agreed schedule) regarding the scope of work assigned to the Contractor, including the presentation of the results of the Environmental Report.

The SEA process shall include the following steps:

1. determining the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Report.

Phase result: Scoping Report agreed by formal parties of the process

2. preparing a methodology for the development of the document

Result: agreed methodology

3. preparing the preliminary version of the Report.

Phase result: draft Report ready for consultation

4. consulting the Report

Result: collected comments and objections to the Report

5. taking into account the results of the above consultations in the drafting of the Report

Result: final version of the Report together with a summary drafted on the basis of the Report

5 Analysis of risk that may arise in the course of the study and methods of minimising it

In order to determine the risks relevant to the project, the risk analysis will be carried out.

Potentially identified areas of risk that may occur during the study:

- 1) The risk of data inconsistency in the source materials.

Method of its minimisation - reduction of the data sources to the main sources of data streams, selection acc. to Pareto principle. Consultation with external experts

- 2) The risk of differences in the definition of terms, criteria used in different programmes and countries.

Method of its minimisation/elimination - through in-depth source interviews.

- 3) Risk of extension at the end of phases I and II, caused by the size of the study and the possibility of changes to the provisions of the Programme source document.

Method of its minimisation - use of correlation table for document changes over time.

- 4) Risk - Force Majeure

Method of its minimisation/reduction - ensuring the appropriate structure for the organisation of project work in the expert-assistant system.

- 5) Risks arising from the lack of final adoption of appeal documents, source documents, guidelines and other documents, such as the Strategy - Energy Security and Environment.

Method of its minimisation/avoidance - work done based on materials' versions available at a time.

- 6) Risk of lack of data, in particular the current state and in the scope of the nature (due to the long-lasting processes occurring in nature and, therefore, less frequent monitoring).

Minimisation/avoidance method - work done based on materials available at a time.

Significant results of the performed analyses and risk analyses arising from works carried out within the Report, including analysis of the uncertainties arising from the generality of the Programme and the lack of data, will be presented in the appropriate sub-section of the introduction to the Report.

6 Method of organisation and performance of the research

The study will be organised in the form of a project, and a project methodology will be applied to project management. The ATMOTERM company has used project methodology for many years (so called ATMO-Project Management). According to this methodology, the project will be divided into basic phases.

- 1) Initial Phase - start of the project
- 2) Planning Phase
- 3) Implementation phase
- 4) Project Completion Phase
- 5) Evaluation and Knowledge Transfer Phase

During the project implementation a full project documentation will be kept (as required for the various phases of the project implementation).

As part of the ATMO-Project Management methodology the following tools will be applied as well:

- Time Management
- Team Management
- Planning
- Project Risk Management
- Employee management through the PSK method (Piramida Skutecznego Kierowania - Pyramid of Effective Management)
- Negotiation and communication methods within the consultation

The Report development will engage team of four experts who have been selected with consideration of their specialties. They will be supported by appropriate assistants and, if necessary, by other experts of the company.

Table 10 Distribution of tasks among the members.

Phases	Subject Area	Project Manager	Expert 1 (PL)	Expert 2	Expert 3	Expert 4	Experts-assistants support
PHASE I	The process of initial assessment						
	Scoping						
	Development of methodology						
	Development and agreement of the methodological report						

	State of the environment (diagnosis)						
	Air Quality						
	Climate Change						
	Water level and resources/ water and sewage management						
	Soil/ waste management						
	Nature, including biodiversity, flora, fauna, areas of Natura 2000						
	Natural Resources						
	Landscape, Historical heritage objects						
	Material Goods						
	Health and quality of life of humans						
	Conformity assessment of the Programme objectives						
	Analysis of strategic documents of the EU and countries participating in the Programme						
	Evaluation and testing of internal cohesion of the Programme; indication of alternatives						
	Description of the Programme						
	Identification of the missing pro-environmental elements in the Programme						
	Presentation of Alternatives						
	Development of the Report						
	Determination of the evaluation criteria						

Assessment of the environmental aspects of the Programme						
- Air Quality						
- Climate Change (natural hazards, floods)						
- Water level and resources/ water and sewage management						
- Soil/ waste management						
- Nature, including biodiversity, flora, fauna, areas of Natura 2000						
- Natural Resources						
- Landscape, Historical heritage objects						
- Material Goods						
- Health and quality of life of humans						
- Analysis of project evaluation criteria and monitoring indicators						
Assessment of the effects in the absence of implementation of the Programme						
Impact assessment						
Presentation of Alternatives						
Description of alternatives						
The concept of the Programme monitoring						
System Analysis						
Description of the Results,						

	Conclusions and Recommendations						
	Description of the methodologies, Conclusions and Recommendations						
	Consultation						
	Public consultation - meetings/presentations						
	Cooperation with the Working Group, the Contractor of ex-ante evaluation, working meetings						
PHASE II	Consultation of the Programme with the European Commission (cooperation with the working group on programming, participation in the ad hoc meetings, and analysis of the submitted comments) and advisory services in the negotiation process						

6.1 The schedule of work and the division of tasks

The Agreement for the execution of the Report assumes the following deadlines:

- Phase I - by 30th June 2014,
- Phase II by 30th November 2014.

The table below presents working, indicative schedule (agreed with the MIR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development) on 31st November 2014).

Table 11 Indicative schedule of work on the Environmental Report on the South Baltic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

Deadline	Event
February 11, 2014	Providing ATMOTERM with the English version of the Programme
End of February 2014	Providing ATMOTERM with the Polish version of the Programme
Up to February 14, 2014	Collect comments from GDOŚ (General Directorate for Environmental Protection - GDEP), GIS (Chief Sanitary Inspectorate) and Maritime Offices on the scope of the SEA
February 21, 2014	Submission of the revised English version of the Scoping Report (taking into account comments of the relevant Polish authorities) to MliR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development) (approximately 10 days for comments) Polish version of the Scoping Report sent to GDOŚ (General Directorate for Environmental Protection - GDEP).
End of February 2014	Submission of the English version of the Scoping Report to foreign partners for consultation (consultation scheduled to last 30 days)
Up to March 30, 2014	Receipt of comments from Member States as to the scoping, and their submission to ATMOTERM
Up to April 7, 2014	Submission of the preliminary Polish version of the Methodological Report to the MliR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development)
Up to April 14, 2014	Submission of comments of the MliR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development) to the preliminary Polish version of the Methodological Report
Up to April 21, 2014	Submission of the revised version of the Methodological Report to the MliR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development)
Up to April 30, 2014	Submission of the Polish version of the draft assessment to MliR (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development) (10 days for comments)
May 24, 2014	The English version of the draft Report together with a summary
End of May 2014	Draft Report sent to foreign partners. Start of public consultation in PL
August 15, 2014	End of public consultation in PL
End of August	End of consultation with foreign partners

2014	
Up to September 10, 2014	Collection of comments from the consultation, and preparation of response to them
Beginning of October 2014	The final version of the Report

6.2 Presentation of information, data and results of the Report

Data subject to analyses will provide a diverse set of documents, numerical characteristics, statistical summaries and spatial information. Method of presentation of particular data categories will correspond to their structure. Spatial data will be presented with GIS techniques, if possible. Numerical data will be presented in the form of graphs and tables.

In the area of both the data and the results a widespread use is predicted for diagrams, matrices, maps, visualisation and other forms of graphic presentation.

Within the specific analytic areas it is proposed to apply the following methods of presenting results:

in the diagnosis of the state of the environment:

- descriptive - qualitative analyses (eg impact on the elements of the environment),
- graphic - spatial distributions (eg ecological corridors, protected areas, landscape parks, etc)
- quantitative - tables and graphs.

According to the recommendation of GDOS (General Directorate for Environmental Protection - GDEP), presentation of the spatial phenomena and interactions between them should be made in a graphic (maps) form.

in terms of conformity assessment of the Programme objectives with environmental objectives at the EU, national and international level:

- descriptive - qualitative analyzes on environmental objectives, correlation of the Programme objectives and external documents,
- graphic - diagram of relations between the most important documents defining environmental objectives at the EU, international and national level, and the objectives of the Programme;

in terms of the Environmental Report:

- descriptive - qualitative analyses (including identification of the types of projects under the thematic objectives of the Programme, the assessment of the environmental aspects of the Programme),
- quantitative - quantification of the relationship between environmental aspects and the potential of the environment,

- graphic - matrix of relation of environmental elements and investment priorities of the Programme (presented in the action-environment system);

in terms of conclusions and recommendations:

- descriptive - tables with proposed provisions/changes of provisions to the Programme, answers to research questions.

The Report shall be developed in the following languages: Polish and English.