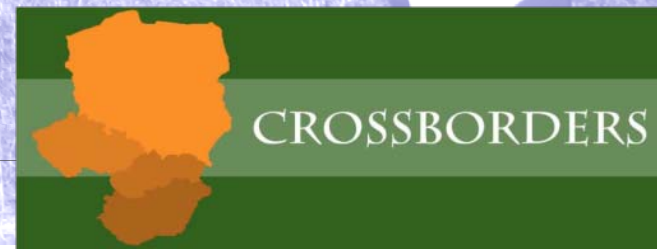




Relations of co-operation in the Polish-Czech borderland

Sylwia Dołzbłasz

Magdalena Belof





Conditions of Polish-Czech borderland transformation process

- political factors –
 - Polish-Czech relationships
 - change in the political system in Poland & Czechia in the 90's
- Poland's & Czechia's accession to the EU
 - intensified transborder co-operation
- accession to the Schengen Zone - riddance of internal borders
 - deeply affects the integration of the border regions in a positive way
- transborder spatial planning
- natural features
- low level of economic disparities
- cultural similarity



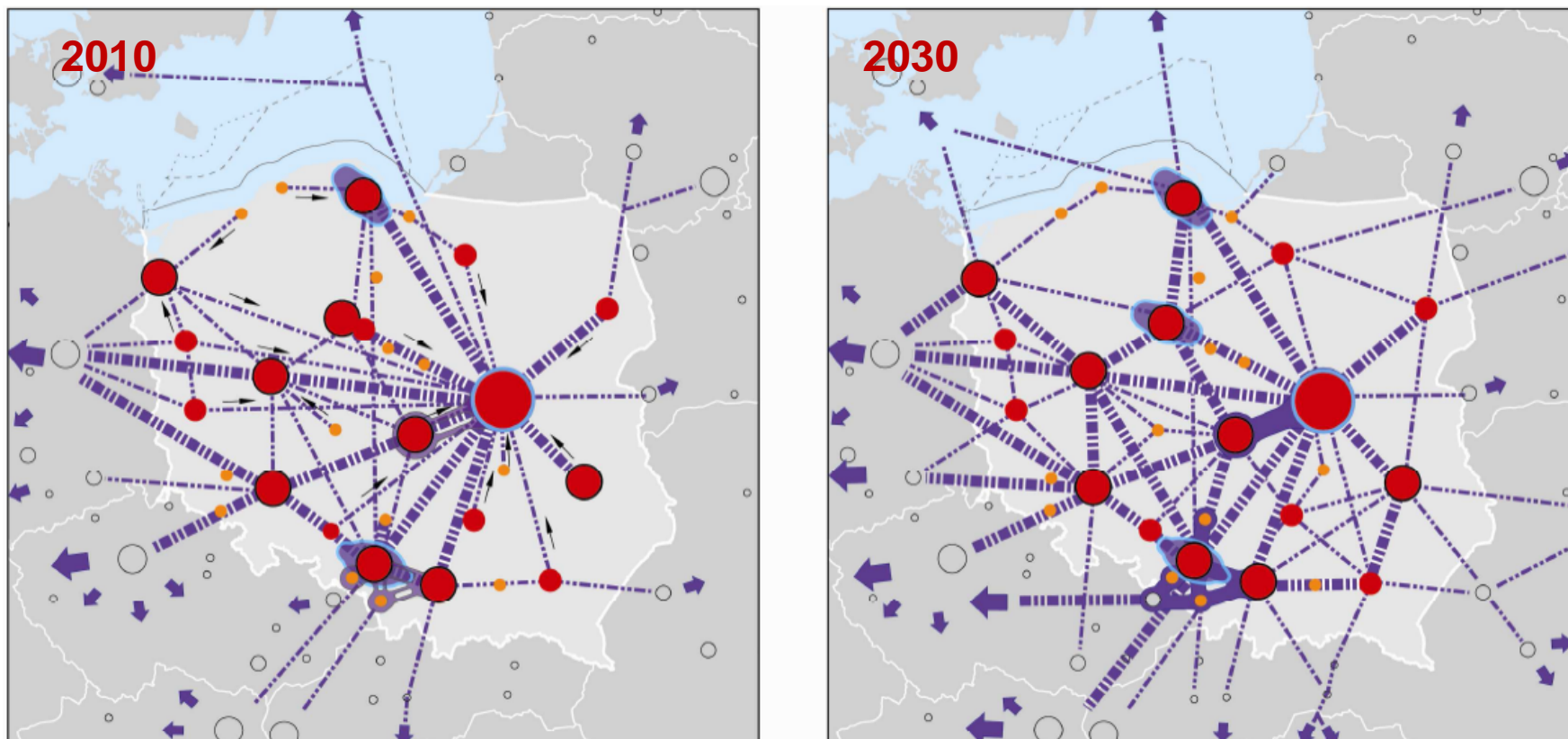
- peripheral areas
- potentials as well as barriers
- external and internal cohesion
- co-operation or competitiveness

- different perspectives – national level
 - regional level
 - local level

National level documents - Poland

KPZK 2030 (2012)

Polish-Czech borderland – transborder area of development opportunities



Source: Koncepcja Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju 2030

Polish-Czech borderland – regional level

□ Spatial Development Plan for the Polish-Czech Borderland



Source: Studium zagospodarowania przestrzennego pogranicza polsko-czeskiego, 2006



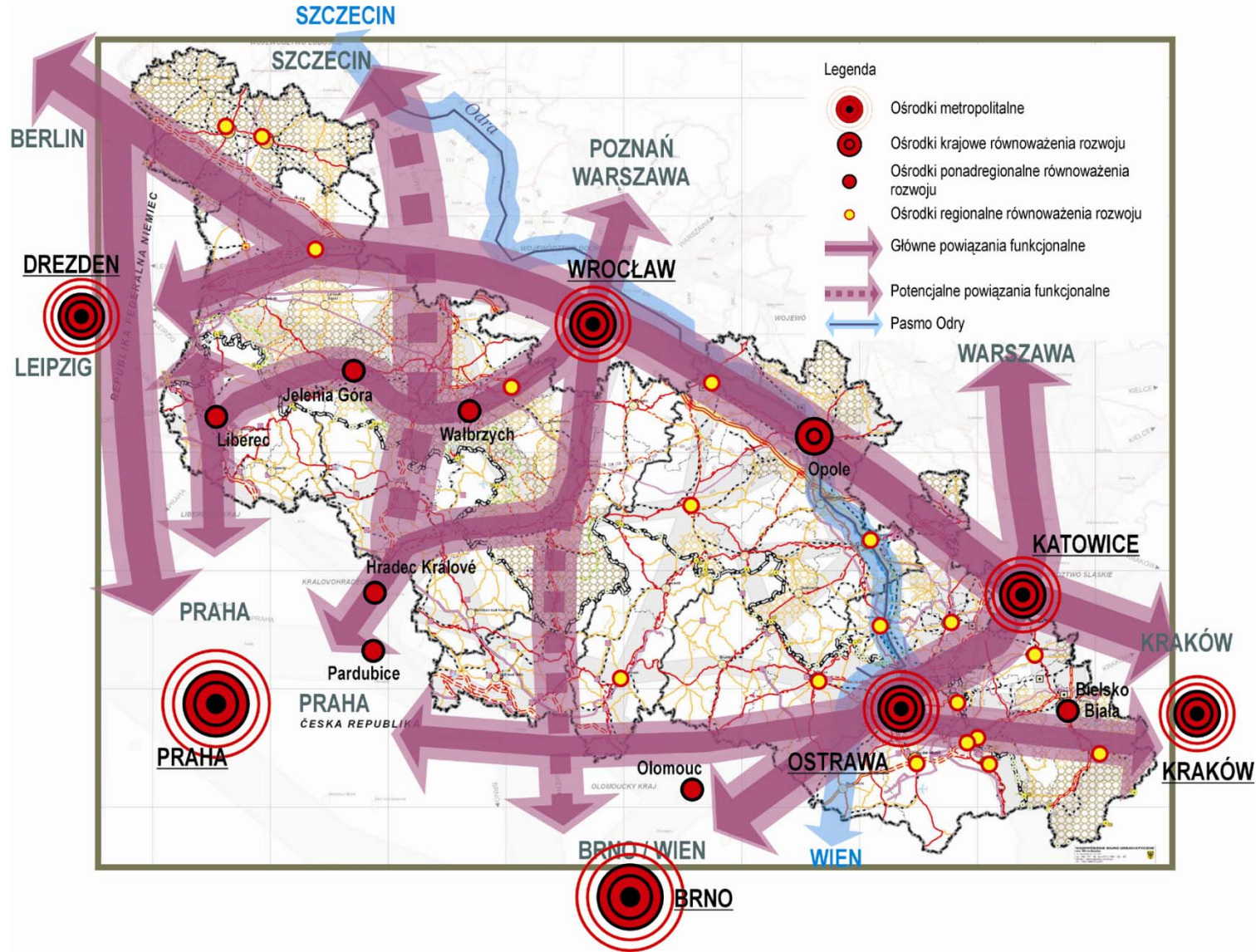
Challenges for joint spatial development planning in the Polish-Czech borderland

Challenge 1 EXTERNAL COHESION

Challenge 2 INTERNAL COHESION

Challenge 3 NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION

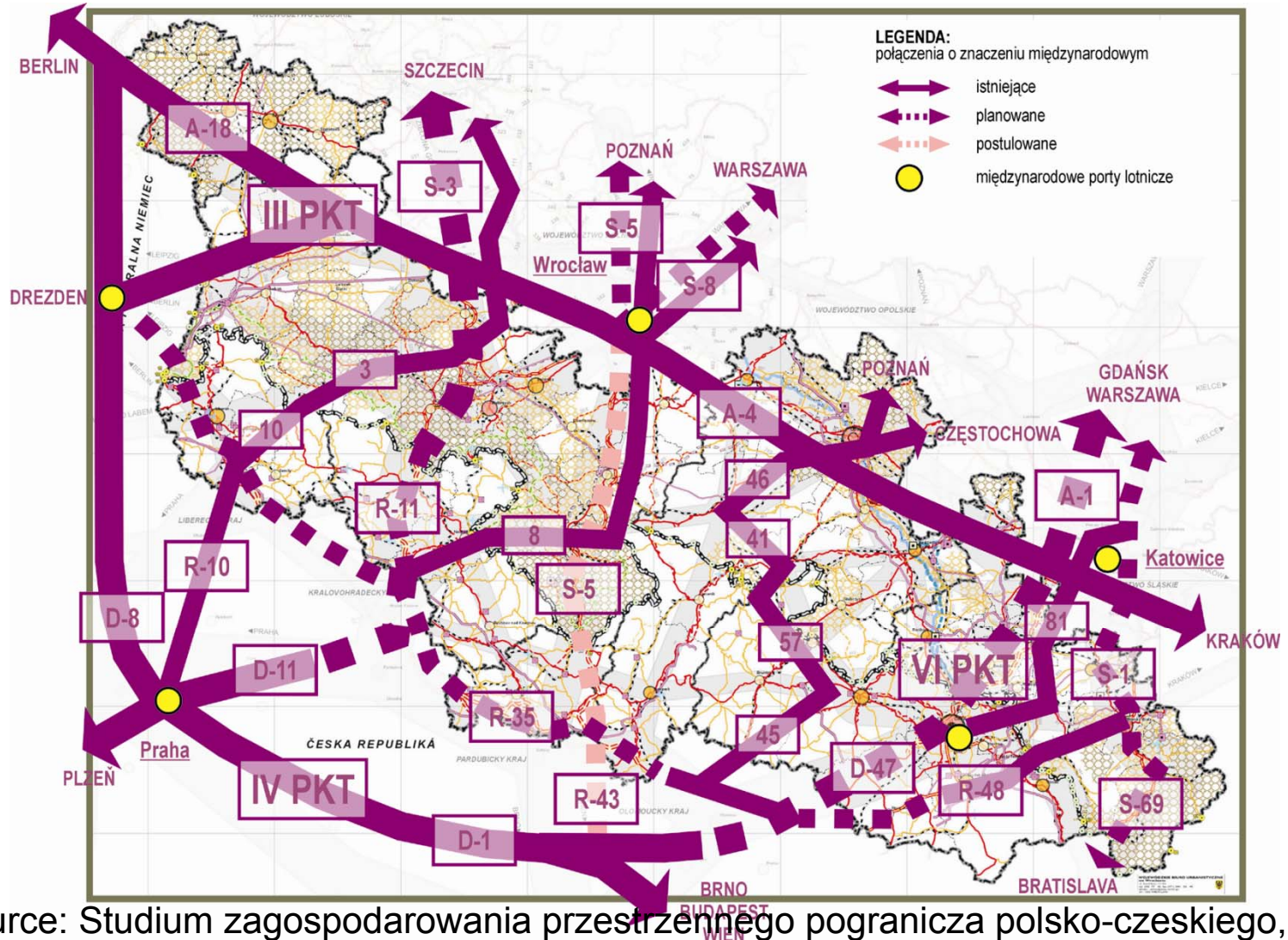
CHALLENGES - EXTERNAL COHESION



Source: Studium zagospodarowania przestrzennego pogranicza polsko-czeskiego, 2006

CHALLENGES - INTERNAL COHESION

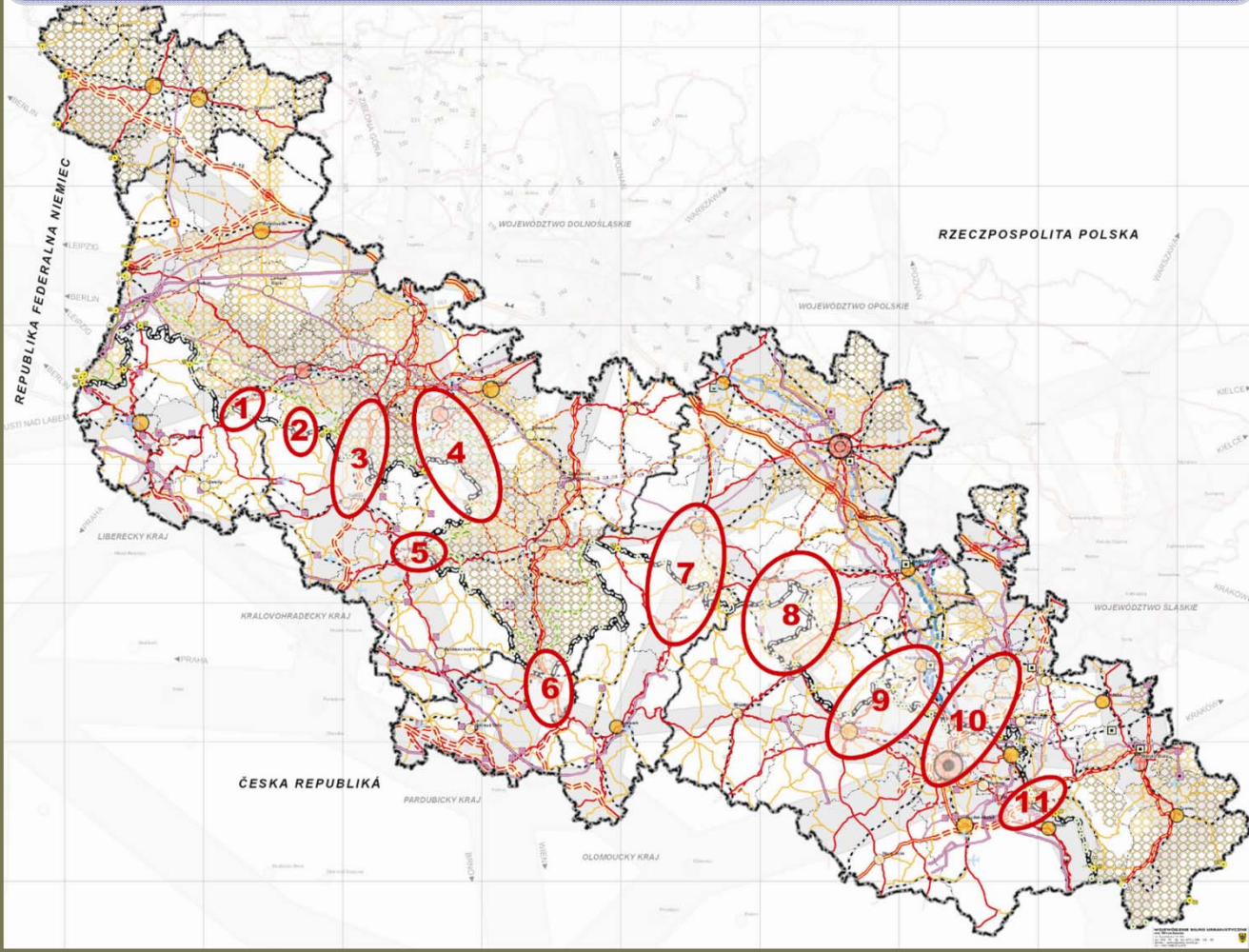
Transport connections



Source: Studium zagospodarowania przestrzennego pogranicza polsko-czeskiego, 2006

CHALLENGES - INTERNAL COHESION

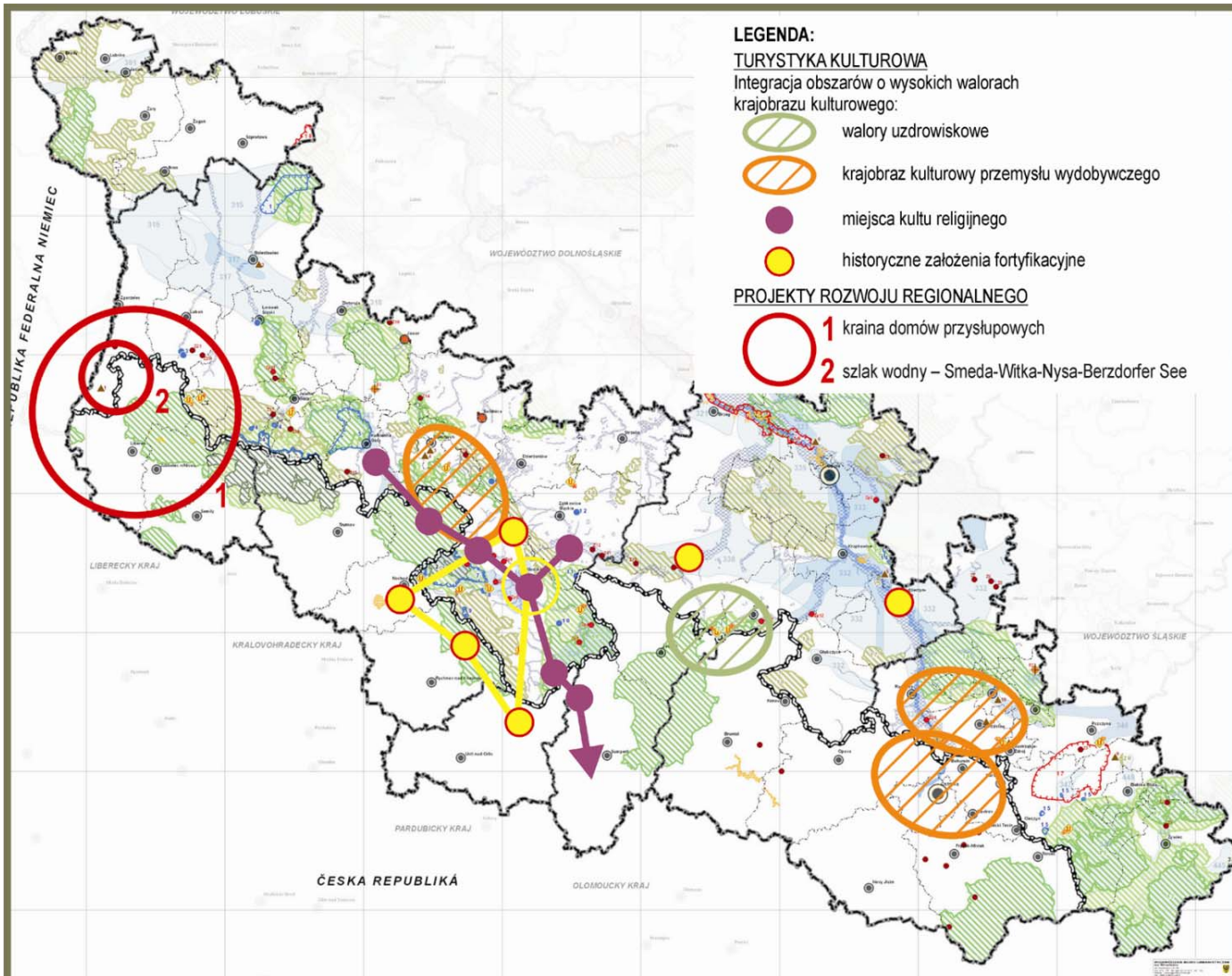
Connections in cultural & settlement sphere 1



Development of internal connections between settlement structures
- cooperation development of i.a. tourism, spa, industry cities

CHALLENGES - INTERNAL COHESION

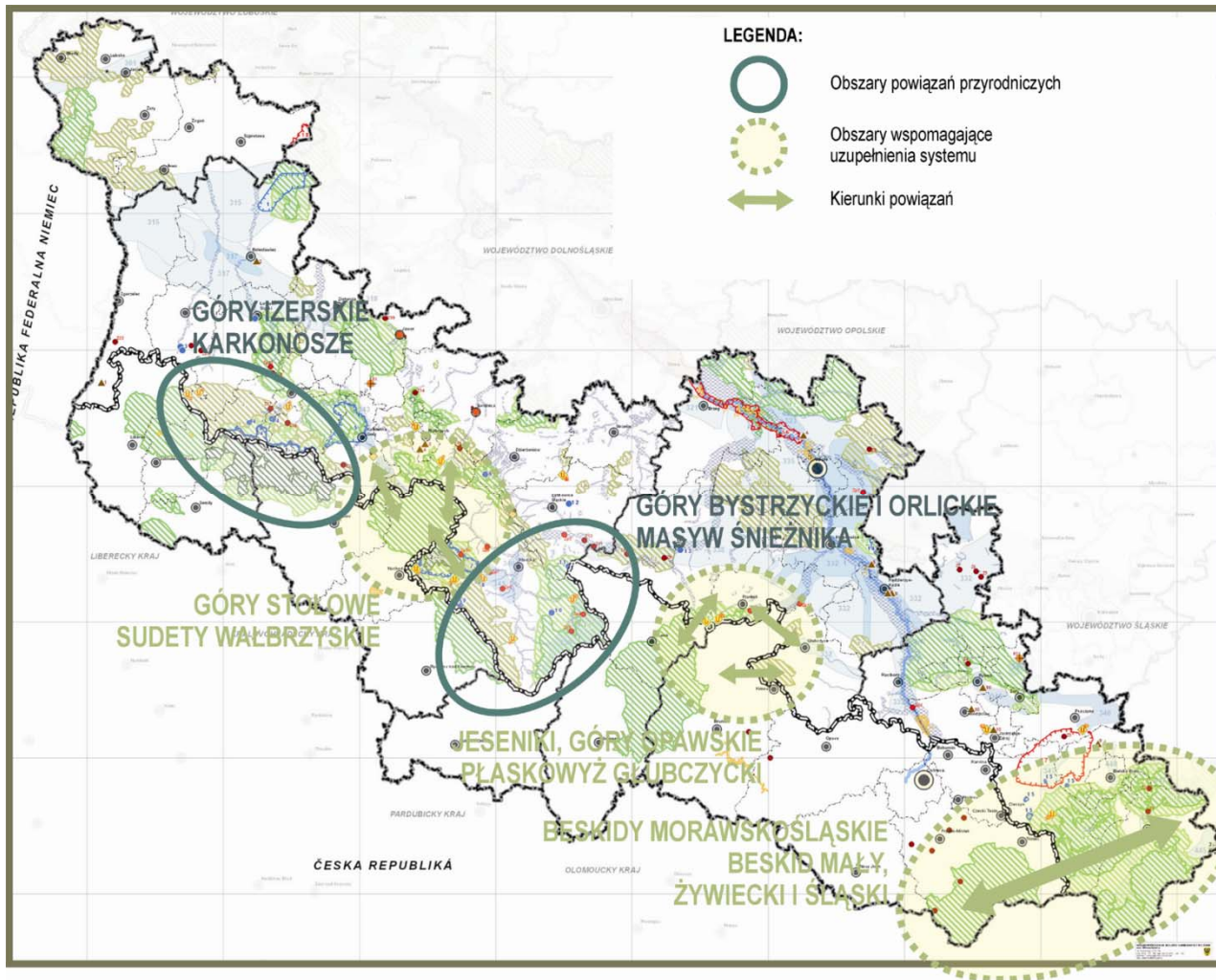
Connections in cultural & settlement sphere 3



Local governments
activation –
tourism potential
usage
& tourism sector
SME support

NATURE PROTECTION

NATURAL SYSTEMS CONNECTIONS



- **Joint ecosystems protection** (eg. Jizera Mountains, Bilateral Biosphere Reserve Karkonosze/Krkonose)
- **Conservation plans coordination for Natura 2000**
- **Coordination of decision process as for important investments**
- **Improvement of monitoring coordination**

Source: Studium zagospodarowania przestrzennego pogranicza polsko-czeskiego, 2006

Polish-Czech borderland – local level cohesion



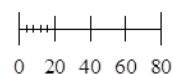


Polish-Czech & Polish-Slovak borderland within the EU's transborder co-operation programmes (Interreg IIIA, ETC)

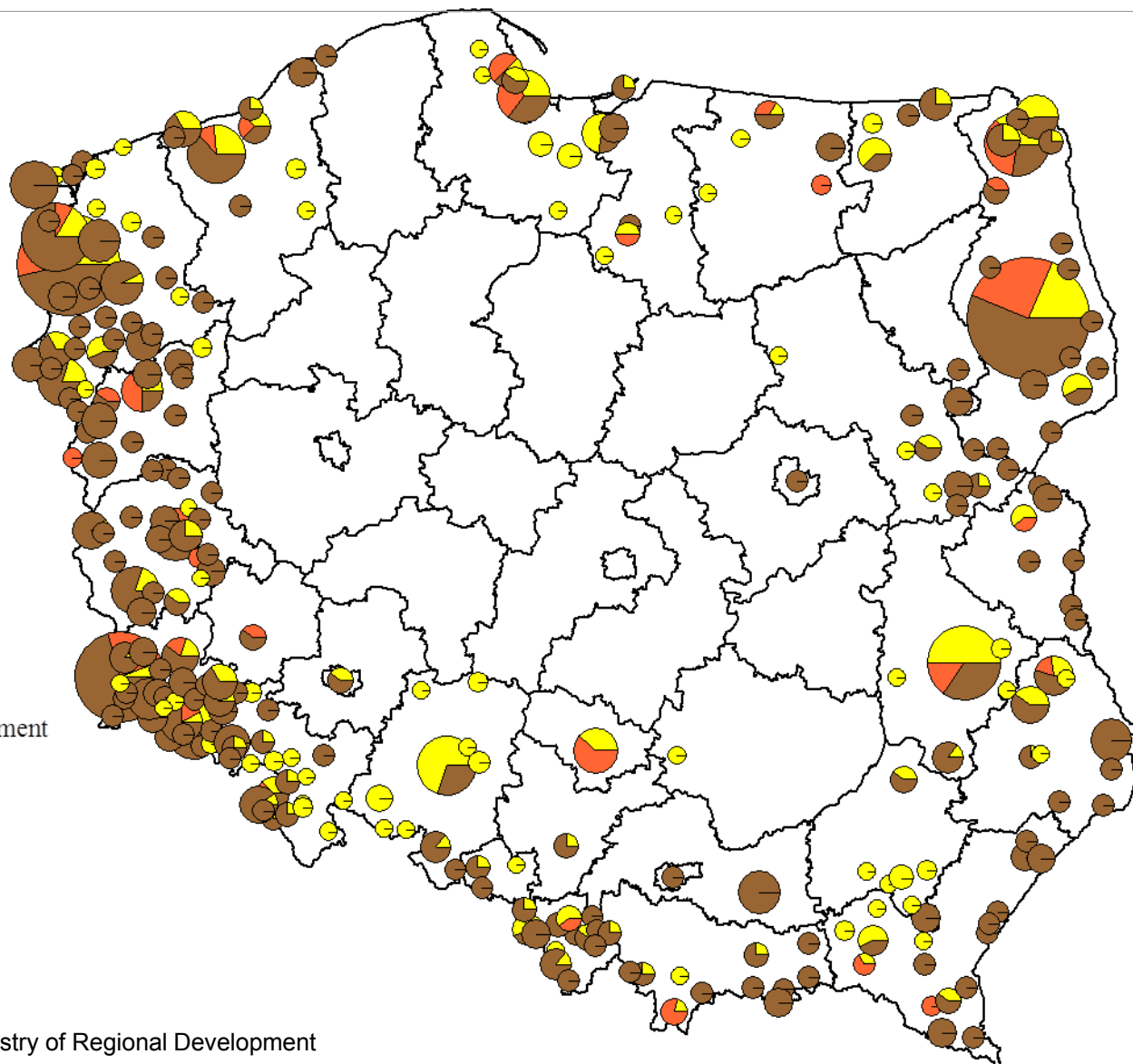
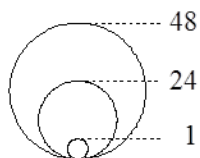


Source: Dołzbłasz, Raczyk, 2010

Distribution of projects realized in the Polish part of border area within Interreg III A

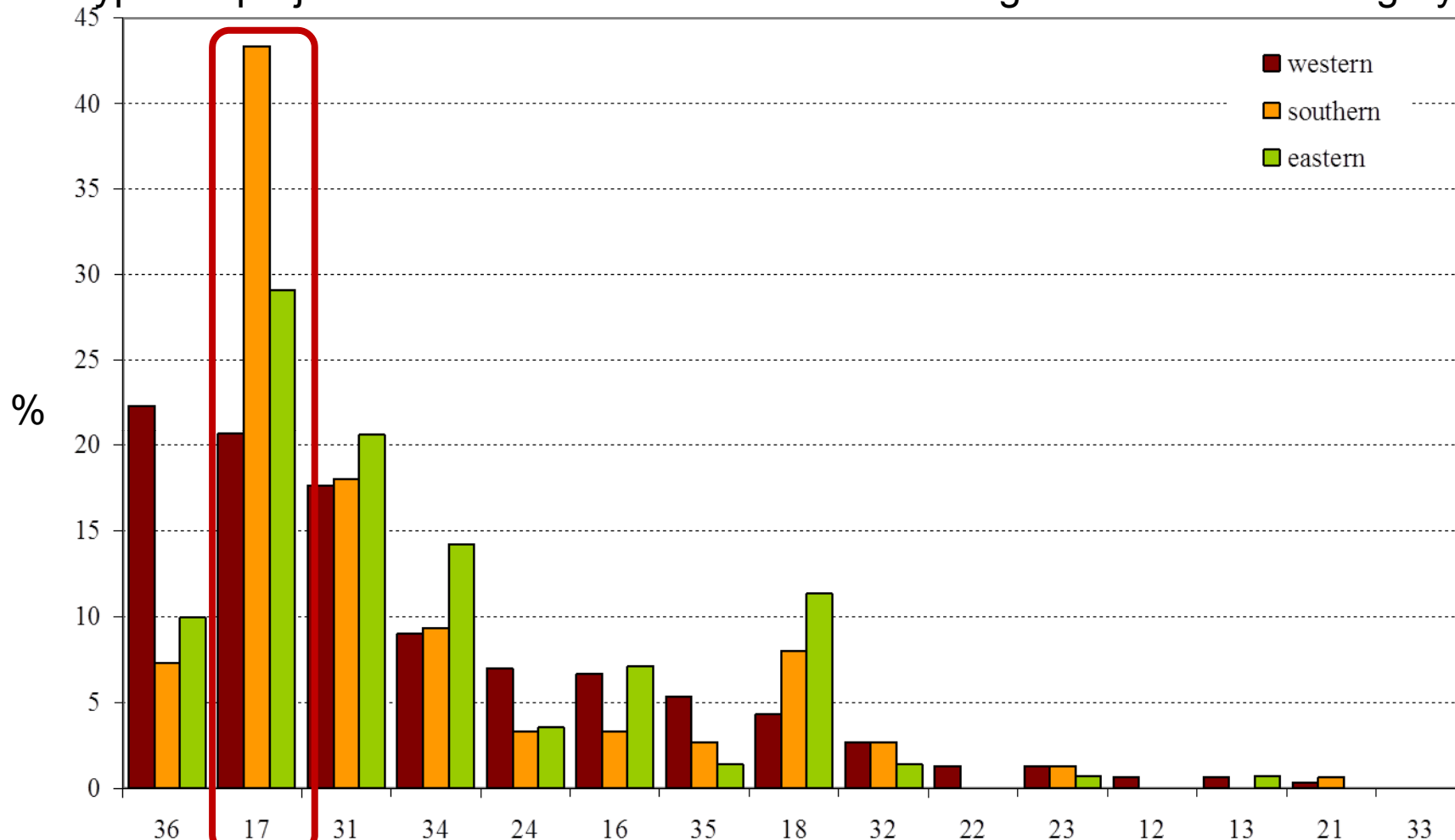


- productive environment
- human resources
- basic infrastructure



Source: own study based on the data of the Ministry of Regional Development

Types of projects in the Polish border area according to intervention category



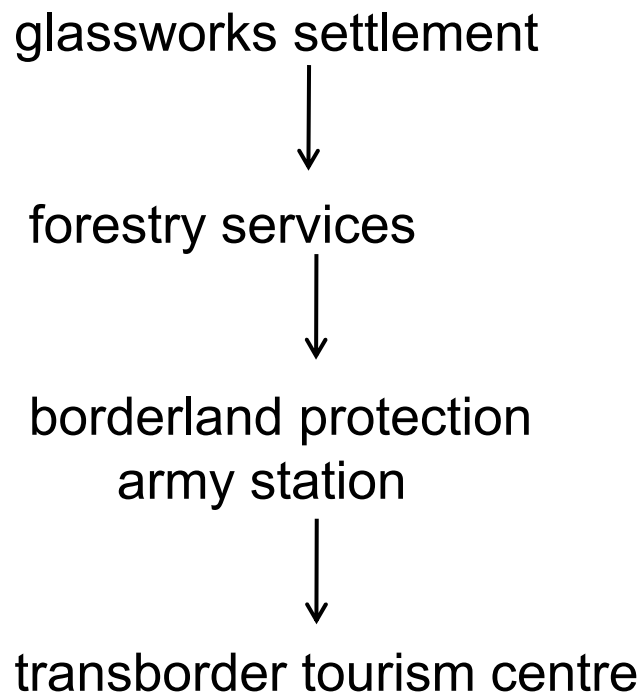
Areas of Intervention: 16 Support for SMEs, **17 Tourism** 18 Research, innovation 21 Labour market policy, 23 Developing education, 24 Workforce flexibility **31 Transport infrastructure** 32 Telecommunications infrastructure & information society **34 Environmental infrastructure** 35 Spatial planning and rehabilitation **36 Social and public health infrastructure**



Jizera Mountains case study

- Orle - the tourist centre in the Jizera Mts.
- geopolitical changes and the development of the state border affected the function of the mountain settlement
- vicinity of the boundary – Austria-Hungarian – German, German-Czechoslovak, Polish-Czechoslovak; since 1993 - Polish-Czech

Jizera Mountains case study



- „It is because of the border”

Source: <http://www.orleizerskie.pl/>



borderland protection army station



mountain tourist shelter



Partie an der Iser am Touristenwege zwischen Karlsthal u. Klein-Iser



➤ symbol

restoration of the bridge
over Jizera border river in
2005

- result of a grass-roots
initiatives of local actors



Jizera Mountains case study

- 'tourism base' & 'Polish-Czech transborder co-operation base'
- local level
- grass-roots initiatives
- practical & 'real' mutual relations
- NGOs & local actors activity
- local self-government authorities involvement



Source: <http://www.orleizerskie.pl/>

tourist , sporting
&
cultural events





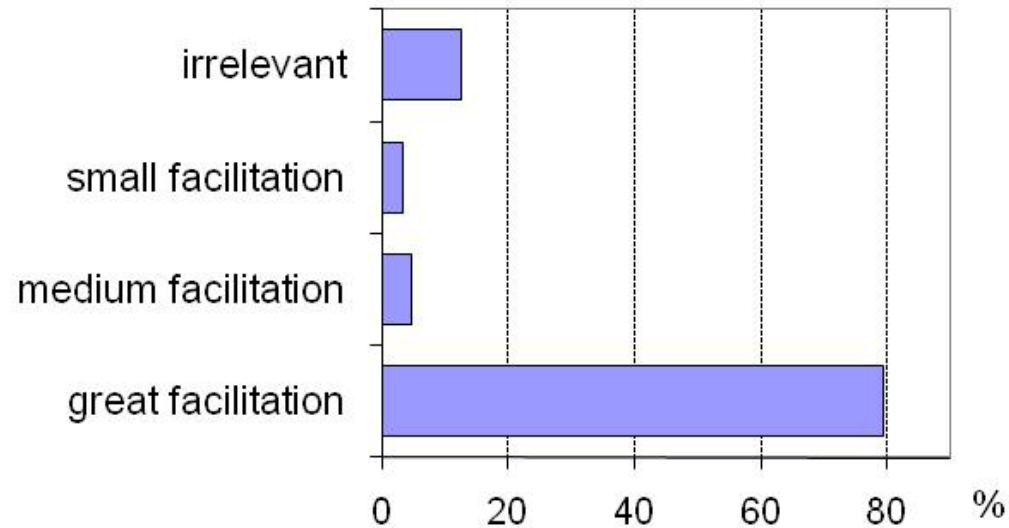
- former border guard buildings → casino, ski & bike rental



Questionnaire survey on border perception

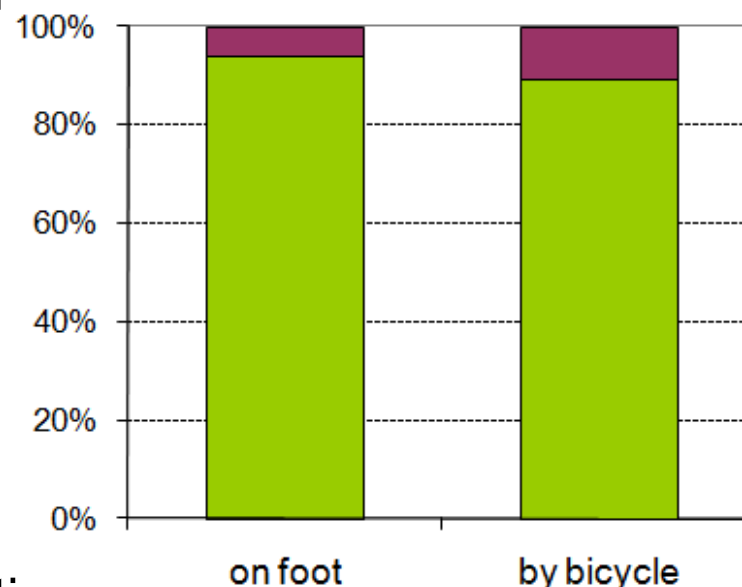
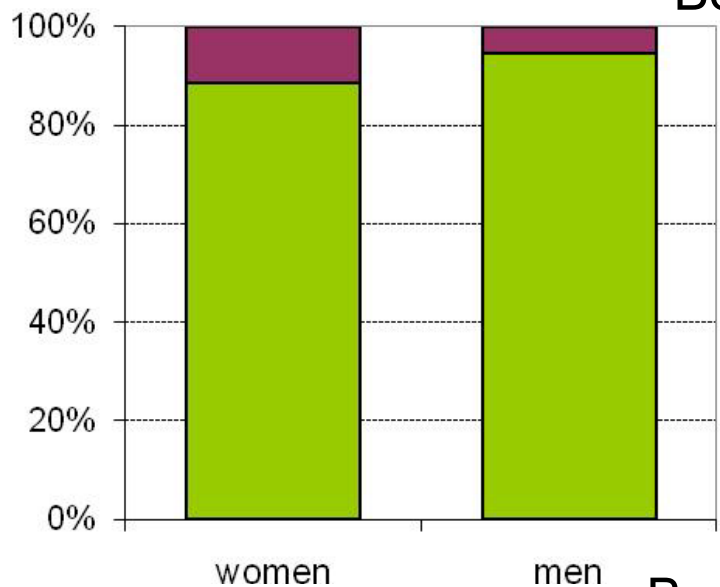
200 respondents – Polish and Czech tourists (2011)

- no need to cross the border at the border crossing as regards the Jizera Mts.



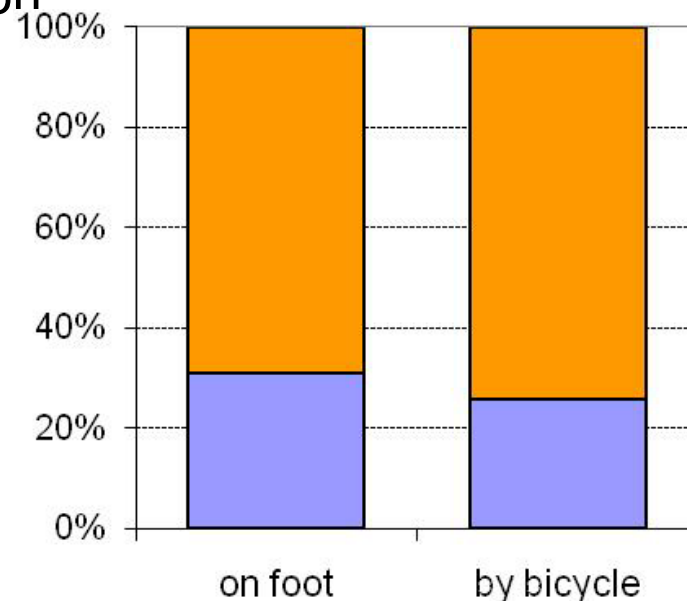
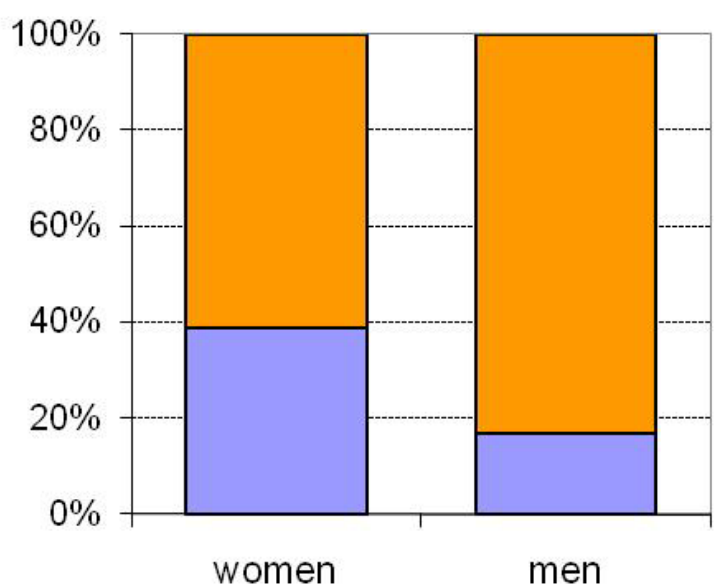
- share of tourist intending to cross the border during this trip – 89%
- the number of crossings the border during one trip to the Jizera Mountains -
- 1-2 times – 75%; 3-4 times – 23%; >4 times – 2%
- no discouragement while crossing the border – 100%

Border as a barrier



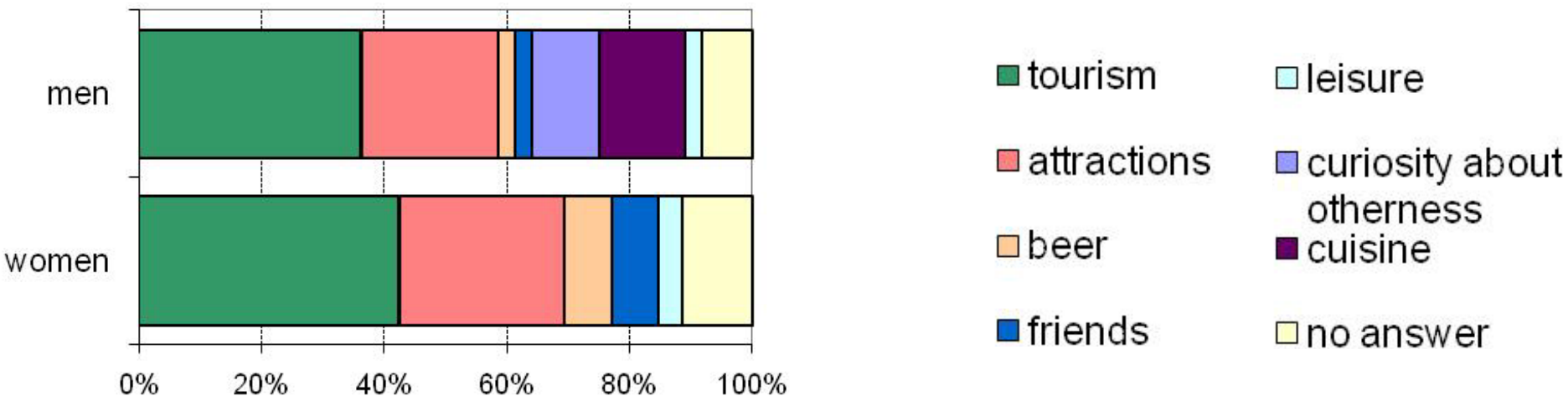
yes
 no

Border as an attraction

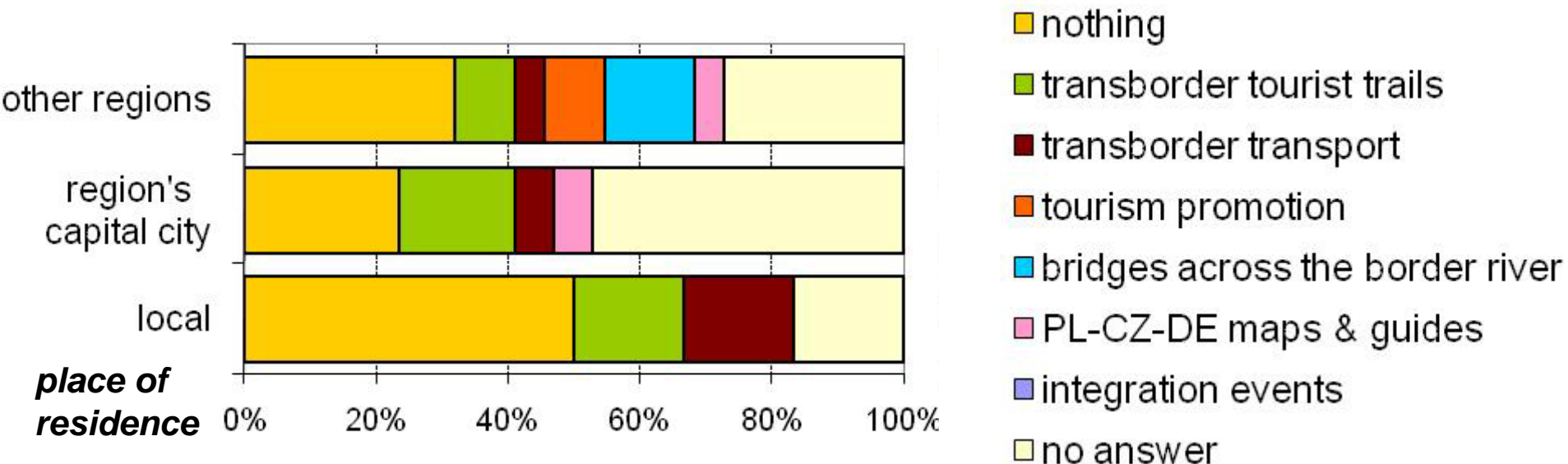


yes
 no

Motives for crossing the border



What should be done to facilitate transborder tourism?



Mountain Borders

➤ pesimistic scenario

- mountain borders, by their very nature, tend to form a strong barrier between the neighbouring countries
- the spatial barrier is often reinforced by a functional barrier
 - resulting mainly from the scarcity of infrastructural connections
- the existence of strong political and administrative barriers between these countries deepens the marginal position of the mountain border area
 - lacks cooperation and connections between the actors from the regions divided by a state border

Mountain Border

➤ optimistic scenario

- the joint mountainous area divided by a state border develops a network of connections,
 - between various types of actors,
 - it may result in the emergence of a trans-border region in the strict sense
 - mountainous character do not create such strong barriers
 - ➔ it becomes *an integrating factor*
- the element conditioning the development of connections and cooperation between the actors of the border region
- the existence of similar conditions on both sides of the border, which may define specific directions for co-operation



Mountain Border

- optimistic scenario preconditions
 - significant reduction of the role of the state border as a barrier
 - favourable political conditions
 - joint / coherent development goals

- transborder tourism based on attractive natural conditions in the mountainous regions enhances the development of a transborder region