



# BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT

14 NOVEMBER 2019 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



#EUBorderRegions

Regional and  
Urban Policy

# CHRISTIAN KUKE

CEO Stadtverkehrsgesellschaft mbH  
Frankfurt (Oder)



#EUBorderRegions

BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS  
THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT

14 NOVEMBER 2019 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM





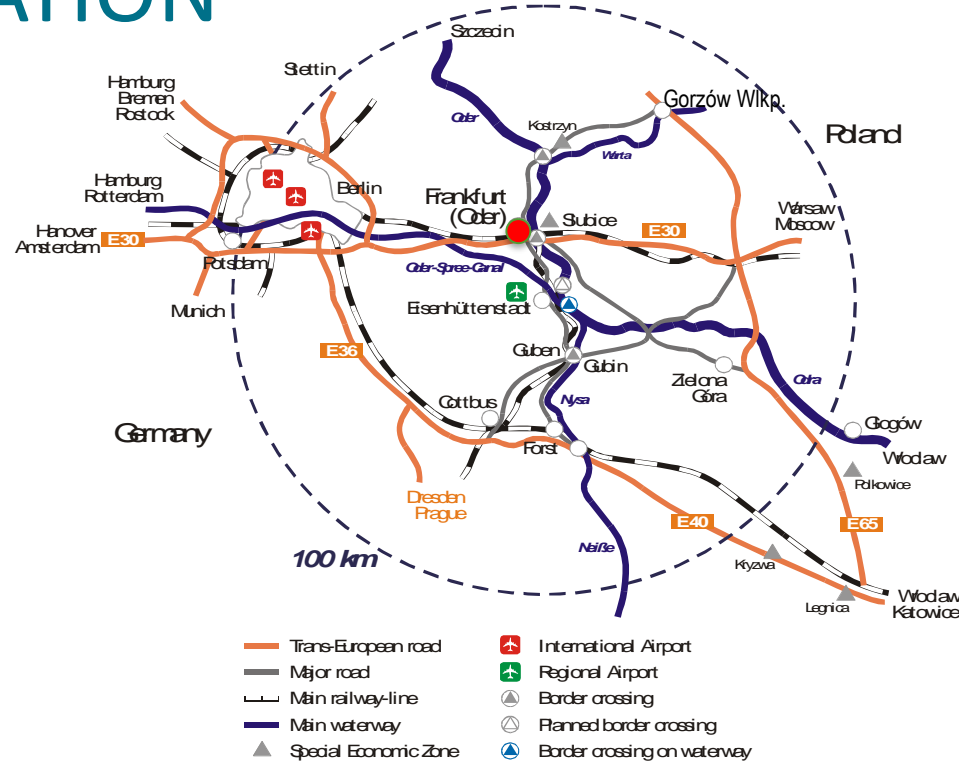
STORY OF  
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT IN A  
DOUBLE TOWN IN  
EASTERN GERMANY

**Frankfurt (Oder) - Słubice**



# GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

- About 80 km easterly away from Berlin
- About 450 km westerly away from Warsaw
- direct neighbours on both sides of the Oder River
- together about 80.000 inhabitants



BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS  
THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT



# SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

- student city with the Europe-University Viadrina and the Collegium Polonicum as a part of the Adam-Mickiewicz-University
- students live and learn on both sides of the Oder river
- 30% of the retail sales in Frankfurt (Oder) are generated by Polish citizens, in Słubice over 50% by German citizens
- many cross-border commuters from Słubice go to work in Berlin by train from Frankfurt (Oder)
- increasing population in Słubice
- insufficient public transport in Słubice
- cross-border cooperation of schools and associations
- attendance of sporting and cultural leisure activities on both sides of the border



BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS  
THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT



# INTERDEPENDENCE

## Increasing ties between both cities

- decision adopting the joint acting plan for Frankfurt and Słubice for the period 2020-2030
- establishment of the Frankfurt-Słubice Cooperation Center
- various joint tourism and infrastructure projects
- joint umbrella brand and city marketing concept
- district heating project for Frankfurt (Oder)-Słubice
- joint cross-border public transport



# CROSS BORDER PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Opening of the joint bus line 983 on 09.12.2012

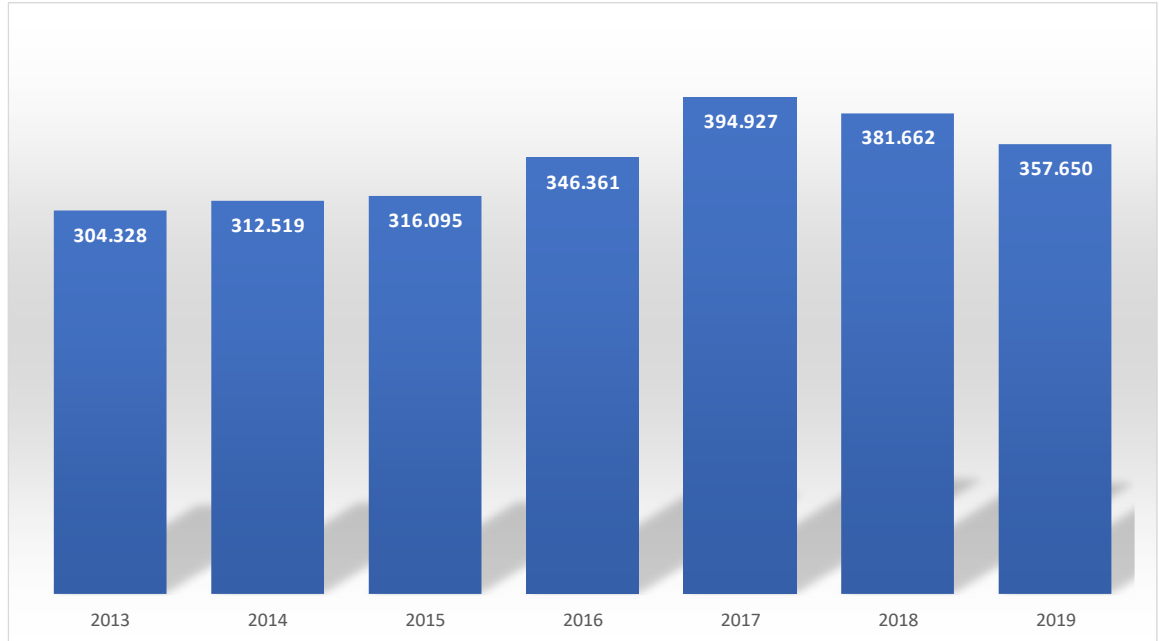


# PASSENGER SUCCESS

About 350.000 passengers per year

Year	Passengers
2013	304.328
2014	312.519
2015	316.095
2016	346.361
2017	394.927
2018	381.662
2019	357.650*

\* extrapolation



BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS  
THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT





# CHALLENGES

- Different systems of law
  - No or controversial legal bases for intermunicipal cooperations
  - No clear legal bases for joint financing of municipal projects
  - Taxation in both countries
  - Lack of possibilities of choosing the applicable law
- Cross border transfer of responsibilities isn't possible



# STATUS QUO

- Today there is no contract between Słubice and SVF
- Line 983 operates in behalf of Frankfurt (Oder)
- Both cities negotiate for a financial concept
- Słubice is unable to sign a contract for cross border activities
- Line 983 perspectivly ends in December 2019



# CONCLUSION

Joint task completion in services of general interest is becoming increasingly important in the German-Polish border region.

Reasons for this are of economic and structural nature. Border regions are geographically natural partners.

Efficient, safe and high-quality transport services in cross border regions can only be guaranteed if they integrate as real cross-border traffic connections.

Main problem:

(clear, recognized) legal bases for action across national borders; Border communes should have the same powers of joint task fulfillment as municipalities in the inland.





THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION

---

[Svf.mbh@svf-ffo.de](mailto:Svf.mbh@svf-ffo.de)



# BOOSTING CROSS-BORDER REGIONS THROUGH BETTER TRANSPORT

14 NOVEMBER 2019 | BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



#EUBorderRegions

Regional and  
Urban Policy