

# Europe closer to citizens

- sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives -

Focus on small and medium-sized cities

## 13th International Evaluation Conference



# „Coming out from the shadow” – place of SMSC in development policy

## 2007-2013 - increasing territorial cohesion of medium-sized cities with their surroundings

- ↪ continuation of main development directions of 2004-2006
- ↪ preparation of modern urban development strategies
- ↪ generating cooperation between local government units
- ↪ promoting good practices in implementation
- ↪ increasing the attractiveness and competitiveness of cities and surrounding areas
- ↪ improving the conditions in urban and suburban areas

# Going to „mainstream“?

## 2014-2020 - Growing importance of cities

- ↪ DG Regional & Urban 😊
- ↪ National documents recognize the SMSC's
- ↪ Part of implementation system – ITI's
  - Development of partnerships
  - Going beyond administrative borders
  - Positive impact on Cohesion Policy coordination
  - Improving capacity of local administration
  - Exchange of good practice between municipalities

# Challenges of SMSC's in Poland

- ↪ depopulation and unemployment
- ↪ loss of existing socio-economic functions
- ↪ poor access to public services
- ↪ transport accessibility
- ↪ poor conditions for the development of entrepreneurship
- ↪ low air quality
- ↪ financial situation of local self-governments
- ↪ low institutional capacity of local administration