

Stadslab Master Class Lublin

Voivodship of Lubelskie

The Lubelskie Region (voivodship) is situated in the South-Eastern part of Poland, bordering the Ukraine and Belarus. Lubelskie is the third largest region of the country with 2.2 million inhabitants.

Because of its frontier-like condition, the Lubelskie Region has experienced over time, the mingling and merging of western and eastern cultures; among which the Russian, Slavic and Jewish cultures. The region prides itself with one of the most opulent and diverse collection of historical sites and monuments in the country.

The eastern border of Lubelskie coincides with the national border of Poland. There are seven border crossings in the region: three with Belarus and four with the Ukraine, including a border checkpoint. Compared to the national average (124 people per km²), the Lubelskie Region has a more modest density of 89 people per km².

The region's landscape presents considerable diversity, due to the fact that the upland belt, the central Polish lowland and the hill-foot valleys meet in this area. Almost 23% of the region's territory is covered by the Protected Areas Act.

Lublin

Lublin is the administrative centre of the voivodship, the capital of the Lublin Region, and home to 365 thousand inhabitants. It is considered the biggest town in Eastern Poland.

One of its assets is the location of the town atop loessial rolling hills of the Lublin Upland, and in the valley of the Bystrzyca. During the 5th and 7th centuries the town grew, and in 1317 Lublin was granted municipal status. By 1474 Lublin became the capital of the voivodship, a role it plays to this day. Due to its central position in the region, Lublin has been inhabited by different nationalities and religions, from the middle ages on. This resulted in a rich and varied community.



Source: Spatial Planning Office, Lublin 2004



Source: www.um.lublin.pl

Established in the Middle Ages, the Old Town (Stare Miasto) is considered to be one of the finest urban complexes of its kind in Poland. The Old Town stands on a picturesque plateau offering an unmatched panoramic view of the whole complex. Most of its original shape has been preserved. In addition to the Market Square (Rynek), the Old Town Hall one can see the Dominican Church and Monastery Complex, Po Farze Square, Grodzka and Cracow Gates. The Trinitarian Tower is one of the most characteristic city landmarks.

The Cracow Gate (Brama Krakowska) - Lublin's architectural symbol, has for centuries served as the main entrance to the Old Town. Erected in the second half of the 14th century along with fortified walls, it has retained its original Gothic elements, Renaissance superstructure and a Baroque topping with the monogram of King Stanislas Augustus (SAR) and the year of 1782 in which Italian architect Dominic Merlini remodelled the gate.



Source: Spatial Planning Office, Lublin 2004

Economy

The Lublin region has the lowest per capita GDP in the entire European Union (2002 = 32% of EU average). Eastern Poland has generally benefited less from the economic transformation after 1989, than other Polish regions located closer to Western Europe. However, the standard of living in the city of Lublin is considerably higher than in the surrounding countryside.

Transportation infrastructure is considered one of the major problems in the region.

There are no major highway connections from Lublin to other cities, no (international) airport, although there are planes for one in near the city, and declining rail links.

Industrial plants build under the Communist regime have generally had a poor performance in the new market economy. One example is the FSC car factory. Universities and Higher Education Institutions perform most of research and development (R&D) activities in the region. Despite being an important academic centre, the region presents an unsatisfactory level of innovation. Due to the lack of employment, most of Lublin's 60.000 students will probably relocate to other parts of the country in search of work. Currently, the largest employer is the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS).

Since the recent elections of November 2006, the new city administration has been developing plans for the economic renaissance of the Lublin. The city's economy is being reoriented towards the service industries. Lublin has the ambition to consolidate itself as a perfect link between east and west Europe and is in need of strategies to achieve its goals.