

## LOGO

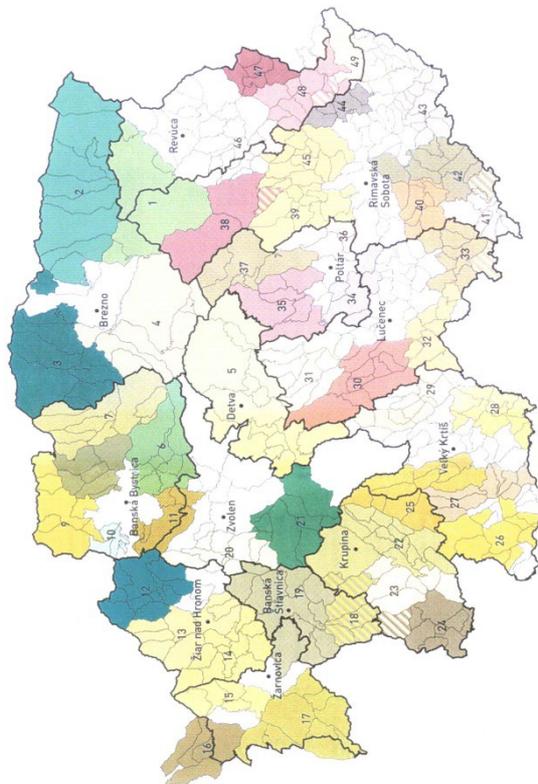


<b>Basic region characteristic:</b>	<b>LAG identification:</b>
Population: 10 771	<b>Statutory agent:</b> Name: Ivan Nomilner
Area in km <sup>2</sup> : 30374	
Population density (people / km <sup>2</sup> ): 36,1	<b>LAG office:</b> Residence: Mýto pod Ďumbierom 64 976 44 Mýto pod Ďumbierom
<b>Number of municipalities: 10</b>  <b>List of LAG region municipalities:</b>  Nemecká, Podbrezová, Predajná, Horná Lehota, Dolná Lehota, Mýto pod Ďumbierom, Bystrá, Ráztoka, Jasenie, Jarabá, Brezno - town	
Cities: 0	<b>LAG manager:</b> Name: Mgr. Vivien Kohútová Tel.: - Mob.: 00421-948 074 741 Fax: - E-mail: <a href="mailto:manazment@maschopokjuh.eu">manazment@maschopokjuh.eu</a> LAG web site address: <a href="http://www.maschopokjuh.eu">www.maschopokjuh.eu</a> Communication in: Slovak, English
<b>Administrative classification:</b> District: Brezno Region: Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region	

Map of LAG region



Map of Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region with LAGCHJ area designation



**LAG Chopok Juh brief description:**

LAG Chopok Juh region (hereinafter LAGCHJ) is geographically situated in the central Slovakia. The Hron River flows through its axis and drains almost the entire region (except Mýto pod Ďumbierom). Low Tatras are situated in the north of the region (Ďumbier – 2 043 m is the highest mountain of the Brezno district). In the east and south-east, Spišskogemerský Karst (Kľak – 1 409 m) and Stolické vrchy (Kyprov – 1 391 m) touch the region and Veporské vrchy (Fabova hoľa – 1 439 m) in the south.

LAGCHJ settlement structure is significantly influenced by the landscape environment, which limited its full-area development. In the territory of the Brezno city live 34.7% inhabitants of the whole district. Settlements of the higher size category create a nodular-band structure with the economic base - Nemecká, Predajná, Podbrezová on the west from the settlement centre. Specific structure of population creates mountain and piedmont villages outside the main communication routes. Their service is provided by the nearest settlements in the valleys. These villages are the most important potential of tourism and agro-tourism not only from the local view but especially in terms of importance for recreational and free time activities in the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region: Jasenie, Horná Lehota, Mýto pod Ďumbierom, Bystrá. Mýto pod Ďumbierom, Bystrá and Horná Lehota can be considered as the natural centres of rural settlement in relation to neighbouring villages or developing settlements with a preference for the recreation function.

The area is covered by forests, mountains with unique fauna and flora. They cover 65% of the total area. The municipalities manage land of various types of 30.374 ha in total

**Strategic objective of The Integrated strategy for regional development:**

LAG Chopok juh would like to achieve improvement of the economic and social conditions of the rural area population through its activities. The region will be economically stable, with a quality offer of the rural tourism products, with progressing business sector and with an emphasis on protection of the environment as the greatest asset of this region. Especially education, solving of the social issues of rural population of the LAG CHJ, skills development among inhabitants with a regard on the local traditions will improve.

**Strategic priorities defined in The Integrated strategy for regional development:**

Strategic priority 1: Increase the attractiveness of the countryside and improve the quality of life.

Strategic priority 2: Improving of management and governance and mobilization of development potential in rural areas

**Measures of Axis 3 and Axis 4 of The Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 implemented through Axis 4:**

Measure 3.2 Rural tourism activities support – sections A, B.

Measure 3.3 Education and information.

Measure 3.4.1 Basic services for rural population.

Measure 3.4.2 Renewal and development of municipalities .

Measure 4.2 Cooperation projects.

Measure 4.3 Running the local action group.

**Cooperation projects**

Local Action Group Chopok Juh participates on transnational cooperation projects. (Poland, Croatia)

**National level****LAG takes part in the following projects:**

Name of the project: -

Partners of the project: -

**International level****LAG takes part in the following projects:**

Name of the project: -

Partners of the project: -

**The field, where the LAG is interested in realization of cooperation projects****As the project promoter**

National level: anywhere

International level: anywhere

**As the project partner**

National level: anywhere

International level: anywhere

**Projects of the LAG implemented on the LEADER principle**

Local Action Group Chopok Juh registers sixteen published Calls for Proposals until July 2013. Seven projects have been supported so far, nine projects are to be approved in near future and 5-7 projects are going to be applied during the summer/autumn 2013.

## **Brief description of the region, strategic objectives and priorities including the short outline of absences and problems of the Local Action Group Chopok Juh region, Mýto pod Ďumbierom**

LAG Chopok Juh region (hereinafter LAG CHJ) is geographically situated in the central Slovakia. A major watercourse flows cross its axis: HRON. It drains tributaries of smaller rivers and creeks almost from the entire central Slovakia region, except for municipality: Mýto pod Ďumbierom. In the north of the coherent area of LAG CHJ lies a major mountain range: Low Tatras with an interesting hill: Ďumbier the highest mountain of the Brezno district with the altitude of 2043 meters above sea level. In the east and southeast, the region of LAG CHJ extends into the Spišskogemerský Kras with the highest mountain: KĽak, 1409 meters above sea level. The LAG CHJ region touches also Stolické vrchy with the highest mountain Kyprov, 1391 metres above sea level. In the south of the LAG CHJ region there is the Veporské vrchy mountain range with the highest mountain: Fabova hoľa, with its height 1439 meters above sea level. The LAG CHJ settlement structure is significantly influenced by the landscape environment and very interesting and attractive touristic centres, which limited its allover development very much. There are 9 municipalities in the LAG CHJ region. In terms of settlement categorization in Slovakia they belong to the higher size category and create a nodular-band structure of settlement with relatively well developed economic base of municipalities: Nemecká, Predajná, Podbrezová, Jasenie, which are located west from the settlement centre of the region. A specific population structure consists of the mountain and piedmont municipalities: Ráztoka, Dolná Lehota, Horná Lehota, Bystrá, Mýto pod Ďumbierom, outside the main communication routes. Their service is provided by the nearest settlements in the valleys. These villages are the most important potential of tourism and agro-tourism not only from the local view but especially in terms of importance for recreational and free time activities in the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region. In connection with the mentioned facts, it will be very perspective to solve the tourism and agro-tourism development including free time activities linked with it, especially in the villages Bystrá, Mýto pod Ďumbierom, Ráztoka, Jasenie, Horná Lehota and Dolná Lehota.

The area of LAG CHJ is covered by coniferous forests with unrepeatabe and unique fauna and flora. They cover 65% of the total area. Very important species of forest animals are located within the LAG CHJ region. It includes also caves, where the rare species of bats are living. Their occurrence within Europe is rather exceptional. Regarding to the mentioned facts, it is necessary to emphasize, that in the village of Bystrá there is: The Bystrianska cave. There are provided medical stays in it, especially for children suffering from allergies and respiratory diseases.

In terms of use of agricultural land, the LAG CHJ region belongs to the mountain and foothill area category. The LAG CHJ municipalities manage land of various types of 30.374 ha in total. The permanent grasslands belong there, too. Agriculture in the territory of LAG CHJ is focused mainly on breeding of sheep, cattle, goats and horses. This is, above all, predetermined by the mountainous character of the region. Perspectives for realization of the municipalities and tourism development are especially in realization of infrastructure development. That means access roads allowing the transportation of tourists to attractive areas of the region. Activities in the field of hypo-therapy, thus horse-breeding, can be very perspective as well. We consider the construction of recreational and wellness facilities, which would allow the use of the territory either in spring, summer and autumn months because all of the activities are currently concentrated mainly on the winter sports in the season of snow sufficiency in the mountains of LAG CHJ.

Due to the above mentioned facts our aim is to concentrate also on the diversification towards non-agricultural activities, especially on improving and supporting of human potential as the basic condition for improvement of quality of the rural life. Therefore, in future activities, especially with emphasis on international cooperation, it will be necessary to provide information towards foreign countries. This can be provided by building up the information centre. Then we could provide information about residential options and tourist attractiveness of our region to the neighbour countries. We assume that building up of the information centre will provide propagation of rural areas attractiveness and will improve the life quality on Slovak countryside. With the development of tourism, agro-tourism and information activities, job opportunities connected with all of the

services for domestic and foreign tourists arise for the rural population. The LAG CHJ would like to build up centres allowing the development of art crafts and skills of the rural population because these activities will serve to meet the needs and interests of tourists. Thanks to information link among municipalities Mýto pod Ďumbierom, Bystrá, Ráztoka, Predajná, Jasenie, Horná Lehota, Dolná Lehota, Nemecká and Podbrezová with foreign cooperating partners in the field of tourism development, there will be created information flows not only in mutual awareness of the opportunities in the field of meeting the needs of tourists, but especially real conditions for the providing of specific tourist stays in specific tourist resorts will be created. This very useful activity would help to the tourism development for all the countries or regions of the part-taking countries involved in the future project.

The LAG CHJ, through its activities, would like to achieve the improvement of economic and social conditions for the inhabitants living in the mentioned, geographically characterized rural area. Through realization of development projects, the territory of LAG CHJ will be included among economically stable and quality development tourist centres offering attractive and modern products of rural tourism. The LAG CHJ creates conditions for cooperation with business sector. Emphasis is put on environmental protection as the greatest asset in the region. Education improvement with regard to solving the social problems of people living in the region will be provided through the cooperation projects with the support of the EU. By the development activities with foreign partners, we would like to devote special attention particularly in developing the skills of inhabitants with respect to local traditions. For example, reconstruction of The House of Famous Natives in Bystrá, or reconstruction of the smithy in Mýto pod Ďumbierom along with building of a small mint to minting commemorative coins. These could be used by the tourist to symbolically pay the toll before entering the attractive parts of the region.

The success of the realization of the document called The integrated strategy of regional development for 2007-2013 and other project activities, is the liaising of domestic and foreign entities and creating of professional partnerships on the regional, local and international level. The common goal is the providing and development of the existing structures and creating of the new ones. It is necessary, that the mentioned activities are coming out of needs of the regions and municipalities, as well as business entities, with the right effects on the actors that will take part in the activities. That means providing of information and advisory services to learners. The result would be the preparation of all participants to self-realization in the rural labour market or the readiness to become a tradesman, thus a self-breadwinner. Thorough mapping and analysis of education needs of the region and villages' needs to be made to mentioned activities could take place. It is clear, that the objective we decided to fulfil have to be settled into the mutual cooperation projects funded by the EU.

Broad-spectral development of activities in the field of tourism is the important moment for the labour market on our countryside. That creates new job opportunities. It could contribute to reducing the high unemployment rate in rural localities. Provision of technical infrastructure, especially in the villages where the free time activities already exists, is inevitable for the development of tourism. We must outline the current conditions and insufficient qualitative level of technical infrastructure in those municipalities where the tourism is working, as well as in those ones where we would like to develop it. The main problems are outdated water supplies, canalization, roads, bridges, sidewalks, lighting, lack of modern parking places with social facilities etc. The technical conditions of buildings with the historical, cultural and social significance in some villages are problematic, too. It is necessary to start training managements of the municipalities and future project implementers to reach the maximal effect from the activities like diversification towards non-cultural activities, tourism development, crafts development, accessing the attractive valleys.

## **Strengths of the LAG CHJ region**

- diversity of the countryside and municipal settlements developed within it,
- cultural and historical sights,
- existing activities in folklore and traditional local culture,
- density of small and medium settlements with preserved elements of the regional folk culture,
- very attractive recreational and tourism potential resulting from the geographical location of the region,
- existing education system of primary and secondary schools, including already working various forms of education,
- experience from pilot projects of the existing micro-region,
- existence of the professional, interest and sports associations,
- crafts and lace-making traditions,
- traditions of the regional and local gastronomic specialties,
- availability of free workforce, less-qualified and skilled either.

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## **Weaknesses of the LAG CHJ region**

- adverse population trend in the municipalities,
- insufficient technical infrastructure in the region,
- unexploited material base for tourism development in private ownership,
- lack of funds for investment in the renewal of villages and village tourism,
- misconception and incoordination of the development and investment activities in the region,
- lack of job opportunities,
- migration of population to industry centres,
- underdeveloped capacities of human resources and management for planning of the bottom-up development,
- disinterest and low citizens involvement in decision-making processes, which have the developing character,
- disinterest of citizens in public affairs,
- insufficient structure of activities related to the providing of information for the citizens and to the edification,
- non-compliance in deadlines and activities, which are part of The plans of economic and social development of municipalities,

- absence of the integrated cross-sectoral professional activities dealing with problems of the rural development,
- non-coordinated procedures and activities of the existing local non-profit organizations and civic associations,
- bad coordination and incompleteness of realization of the development projects,
- low purchasing power of rural population,
- low level of the social housing provision and the rural housing opportunities,
- low investment capital of municipalities because of the reduction in revenues but also the restriction in possibilities of development activities towards ensuring their own financial resources,
- excessive tax burden on businesses, entities and individuals, municipalities as well,
- lack of social care for the unemployed, elderly people and invalid citizens including the homeless ones,
- increasing outflow of the personal capacities to the industrial developed cities and abroad.

Main objective of our work is keeping people in rural areas. Therefore we have to create economic, organizational and professional conditions for rural communities support. The emphasis is given to the fact, that the rural inhabitants, on the basis of our activities, could develop their own in the field of harmonious development of a healthy environment; maintaining the natural and cultural values of the countryside; development of domestic production of organic food products in compliance with the standards of population health care and development of agriculture and agro-tourism in the area we are operating in. Rational use of natural resources and production potential of land, development of the agricultural and non-agricultural businesses, services and tourism, on the local basis, are closely connected with the mentioned priorities. We will provide the comprehensive coordinated rural development through the maintaining and developing of regenerative, recreational and therapeutical function of the rural area, through the using of renewable resources of energy and the introducing of environment-friendly technologies and techniques. The subject of the priority Axis 4 of The Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 is the improvement of management and governance including the mobilization of development potential in the rural areas. The acronym LEADER itself concentrates the linking of activities supporting the economic development in the countryside. That is very specifically and meaningfully expressed in the content of the words the name LEADER was created of: Liaison (link), Entre (between), Actions (actions), de Développement (of the development), de l'Économie (of the economy), Rurale (rural).