

**OPEN SEMINAR**  
**Project CASPER, Interreg Europa**  
**Białystok, 13 May 2025**

*Place: Podlaskie Library, Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej Str. 14A, 15-097 Białystok, conference room VI floor*

The event is organized as part of the project entitled: "Citizen Activation in Shrinking rural areas for Place-based policies to Enhance Resilience" (CASPER). It is an international partnership project implemented by the Podlaskie Voivodeship under the Interreg Europe 2021-2027 Program. It involves nine partners from different European countries: Finland, Hungary, Italy, France and Poland.

**PROGRAMME**

<b>9.30-10.00</b>	Registration of participants (tea, coffee) and networking
<b>10.00-10.10</b>	Opening of the conference <b>Łukasz Prokorym, Marshall of Podlaskie Voivodeship</b> <b>Jacek Piorunek, Member of the Board of the Podlaskie Voivodeship</b>
<b>10.10-10.20</b>	Presentation of Podlaskie region <b>Michał Szczepura</b> , deputy director of Business Promotion Bureau
<b>10.20-10.50</b>	Longterm Vision for Rural Areas <b>Silvia Nanni</b> - Policy Coordinator of the Long-Term Vision Team Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission
<b>10.50-11.40</b>	Participation Beyond the Usual Suspects - Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods <b>Lukács Hayes</b> – co-founder of Cooperative City, Budapest, Hungary
<b>11.40-12.15</b>	The Silver Economy as a Public Policy Tool to Address Depopulation and Ageing in Rural Areas of the European Union <b>Andrzej Klimczuk, PhD</b> - SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
<b>12.15- 12.40</b>	Coffee break
<b>12.40- 12.50</b>	Citizen Activation in Shrinking rural areas of Europe: the CASPER project <b>Ágnes Németh, PhD</b> - University of Eastern Finland, Finland
<b>12.50-13.50</b>	Initiatives from Podlaskie - representatives of Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instruments supporting the development of rural areas <b>Wioletta Szczytko</b></li> <li>Director, Office for Community-Led Local Development</li> <li>Podlaskie Local Product Centre <b>Magdalena Tymińska</b> Director, Podlaskie Local Product Centre</li> <li>The competition "Why are there fewer of us? Stop Depopulation!" <b>Izabela Łokić</b> - Head of European Territorial Cooperation Unit</li> </ul>
<b>13.50-14.00</b>	Summary of the conference
<b>14.00-15.00</b>	Lunch at the Książnica Podlaska (Podlaskie Library)