



On May 25, 2001, after nearly two years of informal cooperation, during a ceremony in the Ostróda Castle – Landrat of the Osterode am Harz district and Starosta of Ostróda signed an international partnership agreement between the Ostróda Commune and Osterode am Harz District in the Lower Saxony (Germany).

Among other things, the agreement commits both parties to organise:

- youth exchanges,
- cultural, tourism and sport exchanges,
- local government exchanges,
- as well as to promote interaction among their inhabitants, and support any local initiatives based on cooperation between counties.



The aim of this cooperation is the exchange of cultural and social values between the residents of both regions, as well as exchanging experiences and promoting language education to facilitate better communication. Prior to the official signing of the agreement in 2000, cooperation between the counties was established on the basis of their partnership within the project concerning modernization of the heating system of a school building in Ostróda. As the result of this partnership, the Polish-German Foundation awarded Ostróda County a grant for the project in the amount of PLN 125 000. After signing of the agreement, cooperation between the various groups of residents and communities assumed a systematic character and took on many different forms.

Currently, local government reform in Germany has led to the merging of districts and changes of their local government seats. However, both parties expressed their intention to continue the partnership after the reform is fully implemented. District of Osterode am Harz is now being incorporated into the Göttingen district, where its local authorities will now reside.

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[Partnership agreement – Osterode am Harz](#)