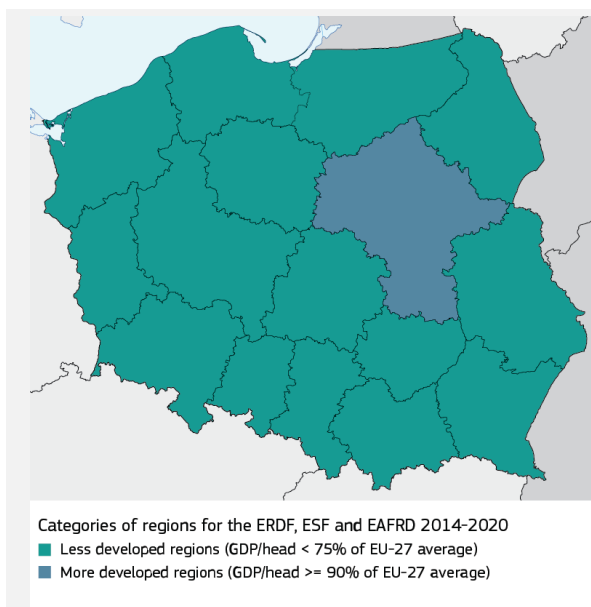


# EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS<sup>1</sup>



## POLAND

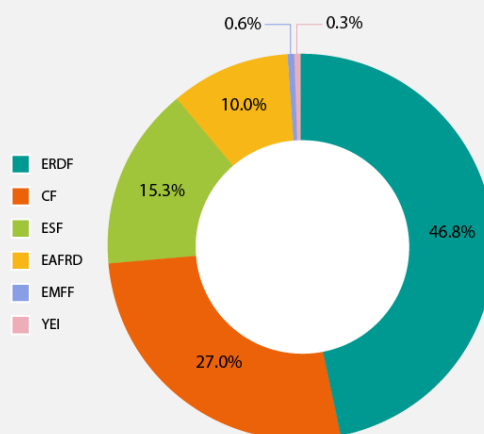
With a budget of EUR 454 billion for 2014-2020, the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) are the European Union's main investment policy tool. The ESI Funds combine 5 Funds: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF); European Social Fund (ESF); Cohesion Fund (CF); European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD); and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). Poland, together with 19 other Member States, will also benefit from the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).



Through 24 national and regional programmes, Poland has been allocated **EUR 86 billion** from ESI Funds over the period 2014-2020. With a national contribution of **EUR 18.8 billion**, Poland has a total budget of **EUR 104.8 billion** to be invested in various areas, from **infrastructure networks** (transport and energy), **SME competitiveness** to boost research and innovation, investments in the **low-carbon economy** as well as **environmental protection** to increasing **social inclusion** and **labour market participation**.

## ESI FUNDS BUDGET FOR POLAND (2014-2020)

- EUR 40.21 billion through the ERDF
- EUR 23.2 billion through the CF
- EUR 13.19 billion through the ESF
- EUR 8.7 billion through the EAFRD
- EUR 531 million through the EMFF
- EUR 252 million through the YEI



<sup>1</sup> Data included in this factsheet have been extracted from the ESIF Open Data platform which is accessible online at <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/>. Data on target achievements are based on officially agreed common indicators or, for the ESF, programme specific indicators (reference date for data: November 2015).

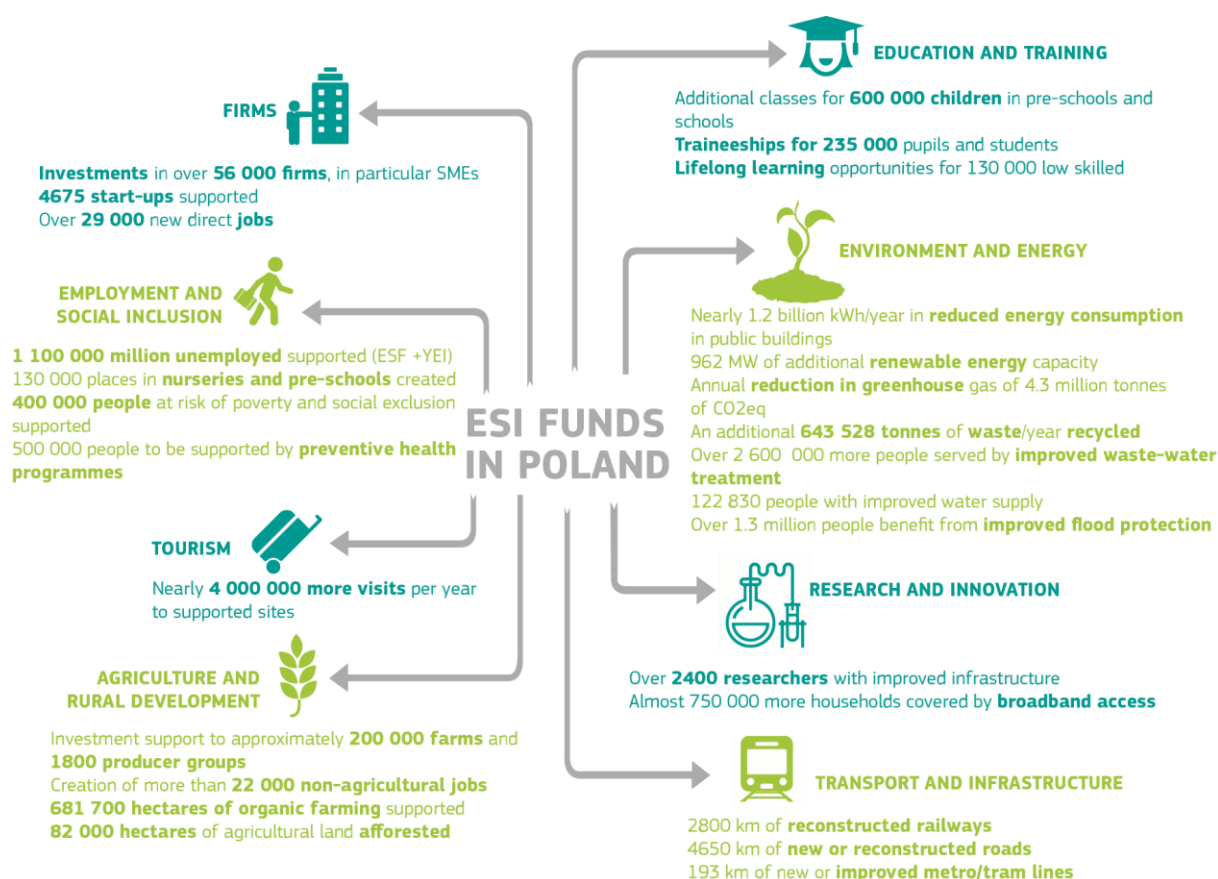
## MAIN PRIORITIES

### ESI FUNDS IN POLAND WILL:

- Complete the **Trans-European Transport Networks** and improve the country's accessibility.
- Improve the **innovativeness** and **competitiveness** of the economy and strengthen the links between R&I and industrial policies.
- Boost innovation and competitiveness of the firms, in particular SMEs.
- Put in place efficient infrastructures to achieve **energy** and **climate change** objectives.
- Improve **waste** and **water management**.
- Support the shift towards a **low-carbon economy**.
- Improve **employability**, in particular among women, young people and older workers.
- Increase **labour market participation** and tackle youth unemployment, through investments in education, training and interventions in the labour market.
- Promote **social inclusion**, **reduce poverty**, and improve and adapt **education** to labour market needs.
- Promote environmentally **sustainable fisheries** and aquaculture.

### TARGETS

All funds are designed to support Poland's **socio-economic development**. The expected results (**targets**) give an overall view of where Poland should be on key parameters by 2020.



### HOW WILL POLAND ACHIEVE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

Poland will work towards the efficient spending of the EU funds, based on a multidimensional approach.

### FULFILLING PRECONDITIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF ESI FUNDS

To ensure that ESI Funds are used efficiently and focus on results, the Commission has set some preconditions when allocating ESI Funds to the Member States.

The main purpose of these conditions, also called *ex-ante* conditionalities, is to help all Member States and their regions tackle issues which are particularly important for an efficient implementation of the

Funds. These principles could be linked, for example, to the implementation of EU legislation, the financing of strategic EU projects, or administrative evaluation and institutional capacity.

In Poland, businesses should be more involved in policy-making; 'smart specialisation strategies' are needed to ensure an efficient use of resources. Health-care needs have to be mapped and a coordination system developed in order to improve the efficiency of investments in this sector. Overarching plans for waste management and regional transport will help to ensure that individual projects are delivered effectively.

### **ENCOURAGING THE USE OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND TERRITORIAL TOOLS**

Around EUR 3.4 billion will be delivered through financial instruments, mainly for SMEs and innovation and energy efficiency.

City councils will manage the EUR 2.4 billion allocated to sustainable urban development and economic and social regeneration. Measures will mainly be implemented by means of integrated territorial investment.

### **SIMPLIFICATION FOR BENEFICIARIES**

Poland is committed to increasing the use of advanced payments and simplified costs. Planning calls for proposals on an annual basis will create greater certainty and will help to facilitate project planning. Creating a standard payment claim for all programmes will simplify financial management.

## **SUCCESS STORIES: EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS USING 2007-2013 ESI FUNDS**

### **TRANSPORT IN KIELCE**

Kielce is a city in Eastern Poland that has traditionally suffered from a lack of investment in its transport system. The Transport in Kielce project, the largest infrastructure project the city has ever known, added 40 modern and ecologically friendly buses to the city's fleet as well as new technology such as electronic display boards and ticket systems. The project has also seen the construction of new roads, junctions, bus bays and underground pedestrian passages across the city, which are easing travel and improving road infrastructure. It has already brought economic and social benefits to Kielce, with the city now seen as a better place to live, work, visit and invest in.

Total budget: **EUR 63 064 254**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from ERDF: **EUR 53 604 615**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!YW73Mc>

### **TAILORING SKILLS TO THE LOCAL JOBS MARKET**

Better matching of young people's skills to employers' needs is vital for creating more jobs and businesses in Poland which are more successful. The Modernisation of vocational education in Małopolska project is the first large-scale initiative in the country to match these two demands and create win-win situations for young job seekers and employers. Centred on Cracow, the Małopolska region set up a partnership of 32 vocational schools and municipal and district authorities to improve the attractiveness and performance of vocational schools for students, and to help them co-operate more closely on employment matters with regional enterprises. The project covers some 37 000 students and implementation is delivered through training courses that respond to local employment opportunities.

Total budget: **EUR 32 000 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from ESF: **EUR 27 200 000**

More information: <http://europa.eu/!hV79jw>

## CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORT FACILITIES IN BOGDANIEC

The results of this rural development project using LEADER funds highlight the range of direct and indirect benefits that is possible from investments in recreational and sport facilities. The project has improved the quality of life of the rural community's residents, especially young people. It has also shown what can be achieved by working together on collaborative projects for the benefit of the community. Long-term impacts are expected to contribute to helping redress depopulation pressures and encourage more community-led local development actions.

Total budget: **EUR 150 000**

**EU budget contribution** to the project from EAFRD: **EUR 75 000**

More information: <http://www.bogdaniec.pl/>

## A NEW METHOD OF WATER PURIFICATION

Innovative biological method based on instilling into water selected species of bacteria that absorb and process organic substances in rivers, lakes and mine excavations, while ensuring environmental protection.

Total budget: **EUR 58 920**

**EU Budget contribution** to the project from EFF: **EUR 26 175**

(During the 2007-2013 period, the EMFF was known as European Fisheries Fund or EFF)

More information: <http://www.aquarekultywacja.pl>

## FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ESI FUNDS IN POLAND

- ESI Funds: <http://ec.europa.eu/esif>
- ESI Funds Open Data Platform: <https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/countries/PL>
- ERDF & CF: [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/atlas/Poland](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/Poland)
- ESF: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=393&langId=pl>
- YEI: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1176&langId=pl>
- EAFRD: [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rural-development-2014-2020/country-files/index_en.htm)
- EMFF: [http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-Poland-summary\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/doc/op-Poland-summary_en.pdf)
- The EU Representation in Poland: [http://ec.europa.eu/Poland/index\\_it.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/Poland/index_it.htm)
- EU project examples: [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/euprojects/search-projects/list_en)
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