

Cohesion Policy and Poland

In 2014-2020, Poland will manage **22 operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Sixteen regional operational programmes will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). One operational programme will receive funding from the ERDF and the Cohesion Fund. Three operational programmes will receive funding from the ERDF. One operational programme will receive funding from the Cohesion Fund, and one operational programme will receive funding from the ESF.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between $\geq 75\%$ and $< 90\%$ of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head $\geq 90\%$ of EU-27 average)

How much EU funding will be invested in Poland (2014-2020)?

For 2014-2020, Poland has been allocated around **€77.6 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€51.2 billion** for less developed regions: Dolnośląskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Łódzkie, Lubelskie, Lubuskie, Małopolskie, Opolskie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Śląskie, Świętokrzyskie, Warmińsko-mazurskie, Wielkopolskie and Zachodniopomorskie;
- **€2.2 billion** for more developed regions: Mazowieckie.;
- **€23.2 billion** through the Cohesion Fund;
- **€700.5 million** for European Territorial Cooperation;
- **€252.4 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, ESF in Poland will represent a minimum of **€12.8 billion**. The exact amount will be determined in light of the specific challenges the country needs to address in the areas covered by the ESF.

What are the main investment priorities for Poland?

The investment priorities for 2014-2020 will be set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The main priorities are expected to include:

- Modern network infrastructures: transport, energy and ICT;
- Creation of an innovation-friendly business environment;
- Increasing labour market participation through improved employment, social inclusion and education policies;
- An environment-friendly and resource-efficient economy.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was €67.3 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 funding period, amongst other achievements, EU Cohesion Policy funding in Poland has so far resulted in following concrete deliverables:

- More than 43 000 jobs created;
- More than 3.2 million citizens benefit from improved urban transport
- 5800 km of roads (re-) constructed;
- Over 600 projects in the area of research & development;
- More than 800 000 additional people are covered by broadband access
- More than 250 000 people benefit from waste water treatment projects
- The ESF provided training for 6.7 million people.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

● **Research and innovation in Lower Silesia**

The strategic aim of the [EIT+ project](#) is the creation of a scientific research centre equipped for high-grade biotechnology and nanotechnology research. EIT+ seeks to identify scientific and business opportunities for the results of its research work. The ERDF investment in the centre's new infrastructure is helping to turn EIT+ into a world class research facility.

Total cost: €155 million (ERDF contribution: €107 million)

● **Broadband in Eastern Poland**

An investment of over €300 million is [bringing broadband to Poland's less developed eastern regions](#). About 9 500 km of broadband infrastructure has been installed in five regions of Eastern Poland: Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, Warminsko-Mazurskie, Lubelskie and Swietokrzyskie. Broadband coverage has been extended to more than 90 % of the population. About 2 000 jobs are expected to be created due to the implementation of the projects.

Total cost: €302 million (ERDF contribution: €257 million)

- **Improving urban transport in Szczecin**

An ERDF investment is helping to develop the [Central Urban Transport Management System](#) for the Szczecin agglomeration. An IT system gathers data on the number of passengers using individual line and prepares proposals for new lines, routes and detours. Travellers can make use of multimedia information boards at stops and in vehicles. 'On demand' transport carries passengers from remote peripheries to terminal urban transport stops. An electronic ticketing system has been introduced in all urban transport vehicles, and a video monitoring system has also provided an improved sense of safety for drivers and passengers.

Total cost: € 13 million (ERDF contribution: € 9 million)

ESF projects

- **Tackling obstacles to long term unemployment in Warmińsko-Mazurskie**

A [new employment model tested in northern Poland](#) supports the long-term unemployed or vocationally inactive in the 45+ age group, while improving the effectiveness of employment services. Originally developed in Finland and adapted for use in the Polish city of Elbląg, it includes a general evaluation of each individual with a special focus on their health. The results are encouraging: 80 % of participants found jobs and 90 % of them were still employed after 15 months. Now fully operational in Elbląg, the supported employment model has proved to be an effective new tool and will be tested on a wider scale by several Public Employment Services in Poland. It is also in line with the EU Cohesion Policy goal of fostering economic growth, as it boosts the employability of a section of the population that tends to be excluded from labour markets.

Total cost: € 463 180 (ESF contribution: € 393 700)

- **A bridge to the future – developing new forms of professional activation of young people in Ustka**

The Youth Sociotherapy Center in Ustka implemented this innovative project, using different therapeutic techniques. Combined, these techniques provide a new method of treatment for troubled adolescents. The '[MOST Programme](#)' consists of two modules which complement each other. Firstly, The Life Alternatives Training aims to drive students' attention to continuing education or taking up work after leaving The Sociotherapy Center. Secondly, The Vocational Training Programme aims to prepare students both in theory and practice for work. The programme is based on a dual system of vocational training. The project equips the participants with social competences and many of them managed to establish successful and creative relationships with employers and colleagues.

Total cost: PLN 197 221 (ESF contribution: PLN 167 638)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Poland

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)