

High quality projects with European added value

contributing to
EU strategic goals
implemented in Poland within cohesion policy



MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The brochure has been prepared by the Department of Development Strategy in the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development. It covers examples of projects implemented within national and regional operational programmes financed from EU cohesion policy in Poland during the budgetary perspectives of 2007–13 and 2014–20.



Cohesion policy is one of the key investment policies in the EU which within its Treaty objectives supports EU regions and countries, especially the less developed ones, in competing on the European single market. It contributes to mitigate the consequences of markets opening and deepening the four freedoms. It offers support to all Member States and regions, is strongly enshrined in the EU strategic goals and effectively supports structural reforms in the Member States.

Poland, being the biggest beneficiary of this policy, notes its significant influence on the overall economic development of the country and on the improved living and working conditions of its citizens. The wide scope of investments contributes in a very tangible manner to achieving the economic, social, environment and territorial goals of the country. Moreover, it stimulates direct engagement of Polish citizens in human capital projects and in those addressing development challenges at regional and local level. The latter lies at the heart of the cohesion policy goals and is an important element of the European integration.

It needs to be highlighted that projects supported by cohesion policy in Poland bring tangible and intangible benefits also to the net-payer countries. For example through increased trade of goods and services between our countries. It was clearly stated in a number of evaluation studies, also in the recent one conducted by the Visegrad Group.

We are all aware that new global challenges unevenly affect European regions, regardless their level of development. That is why cohesion policy still remains open to support all regions that face structural changes, bringing high added value in terms of the EU development and reaching European objectives for growth, jobs, wellbeing and security. I hope you will find interesting the compilation of high quality projects examples financed from cohesion policy in Poland within the two programming perspectives, i.e. 2007–13 and 2014–20. Investments presented here contribute to both: national/regional development of Poland as well as to addressing EU level challenges. They are grouped along the following range of sectors: Entrepreneurship, Innovation/r&d, Employment/Demography, Migrants/Minorities, Energy, E-services/ICT, Integrated Transport.

Let's continue this common effort of strengthening the development of Europe in the next 2021-27 period.

Jerzy Kwieciński

Minister of Investment and Economic Development

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I. Entrepreneurship

Project I.1 : Road towards Entrepreneurial Poland

Thematic area:

Entrepreneurship/SMEs support

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Stimulating entrepreneurial economy by offering comprehensive one-stop-shop system of startups support and development services.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The strategic aim of the project was to create and implement a comprehensive support system of startup entrepreneurship in Poland.

Before the project has been implemented start-ups often had been forced to use services of a dozen support providers simultaneously in order to conduct their business activities. As a response to that problem the ecosystems of the: ABI (Academic Business Incubator), ABI BL (Academic Business Incubator's Business Link) and ABI Seed Capital services network adjusted their offer to the actual needs of start-up businesses. The ABI scheme provides low-cost office, research or production spaces to start-up companies and offers business support services to more than 1 000 start-ups per month.

The project created innovative infrastructure and equipped workplaces ready to deliver pro-innovative support services of young entrepreneurs – 50 ABI incubators located all over Poland and 10 BL ABI enterprise centers in: Warsaw (2), Krakow, Gdansk, Katowice, Lublin, Szczecin, Lodz, Wroclaw and Poznan.

ABI Business Link provided 700 workplaces consisting of desk and ICT infrastructure offering in addition modern conference and meeting rooms, multimedia facilities and networking space. It also includes numerous courses, workshops, coaching and mentoring tailored to the needs of a given company as within the project 82 experts of entrepreneurship support have been employed. Moreover, start-ups also benefit from cooperation on research projects with leading PL universities which operate in the incubator premises.

An innovative feature of the scheme is that participating companies can take advantage of ABI's legal personality to run their own independent business whilst acting, from a legal point of view, as part of ABI.

In total ca. 11 000 innovative start-up initiatives have been created within the project. The ABI Business Link enterprise centers are used by hundreds established companies per month. Some of the companies grown up within the scheme are: PhotoBlog.pl, Chomikuj.pl, MISBHV, Key2Print or Glov. Some of them were awarded Start-Up of the year in Poland. For many of them, after completing the pre-incubation phase, ability of operating within the scheme allowed for registration of their business and for benefiting from acceleration programme at ABI Business Link.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The core effect of the project is the creation of multiple innovative start-up initiatives and companies which operate effectively on both Polish and foreign markets and aspire to promote Poland as a leading player in the international economic arena.

Implementation of the project has contributed to the establishment of strong and internationally recognizable Polish institution offering pro-innovative services for start-ups and prospective entrepreneurs and integrating the business environment in Poland. Nowadays ABI is leading start-up organization in Europe setting the trends in Poland and abroad in this sector.

In addition the project reached 2 million Polish citizens with the informational and promotional activities increasing the knowledge about entrepreneurship possibilities.

Owing the international component, the project's results can also be disseminated in other European countries.

The project was RegioStars 2014 finalist in SME Innovation category. It has also received the prize of Parliament of Polish Students and by PL government.

Quotations on the project:

"Entrepreneurial Poland is an innovative model of supporting enterprise start-ups. We offer the best possible conditions for the development of innovative businesses. Our project will continue to provide high quality support services to young enterprises."

Dariusz Żuk, President of Entrepreneurial Poland

"Thanks to ABI support we could not only run our business at little cost but above all gain knowledge, skills and self-confidence which were necessary to manage the company and its dynamic development."

Tomasz Jabłoński, Executive Director/CEO, Qpony.pl

"The Road Towards Entrepreneurial Poland project has been designed to develop modern and pro-innovative services for young entrepreneurs and to support the implementation of innovative solutions among start-ups. The strategic result of the project is the creation of favourable conditions to shape and accelerate entrepreneurship in Poland by giving support to thousands of start-ups."

Łukasz Skiba, Project Manager

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://blpoland.com/>

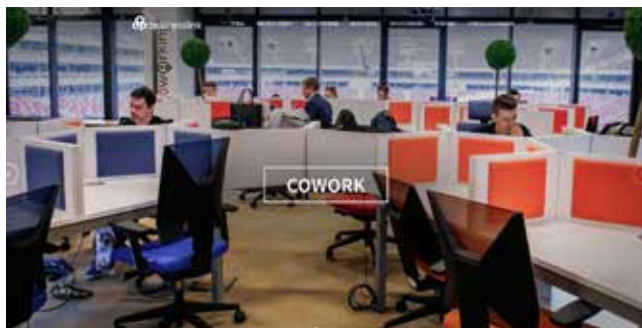
<https://www.facebook.com/polskaprzedsiebiorcza/>

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/projects/regiostars/doc/regiostars/2014/regiostars_brochure_2014.pdf (page 9)

Overview info:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name:
Road Towards Entrepreneurial Poland | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
18 441 659,48 EUR – total
13 247 761,02 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing:
2015 | – Fund:
European Regional Development Fund |
| – Operational Programme:
Innovative Economy 2007-13 | – Location (city, region, Member State):
Warsaw, Mazowieckie Voivodship, Poland |

Photos:



Project 1.2: Kielce Technology Park (KTP)

Thematic area:

Entrepreneurship/SMEs support/ business-science cooperation

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Boosting regional entrepreneurship and new sectors business development by providing modern know-how, cooperation opportunities and infrastructure resulting with business-science links.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The institution, opened in 2012, was established as a multi-purpose economic activity area intended for actors and entities interested in innovations and new technologies. It was built under the previously completed project within the Operational Programme Development of Eastern Poland 2007-13. As Kielce Technology Park (KTP) has been developing dynamically for the benefit of entrepreneurs offering new, specialized services, the Park's infrastructure has soon turned out to be insufficient. Therefore the project described here aimed at providing additional space with modern scientific-research facilities by creating an additional laboratory with relevant thematic equipment.

The investment covers: incubators (modern space dedicated to ICT sector); LabDesign Fast Prototyping Centre; Competency and Creative Centre for Fashion Design; production-storage hall with research-development facility and social infrastructure; two industrial halls with R&D facility, social-office infrastructure and accompanying infrastructure; Power Science Centre (enables development of creativity, interest in new technologies among the youngest as well as learning through play).

The park has also established Material Library which gives the access to online base of materials samples – ca. 7500 detailed descriptions of utility materials ranging from fabrics to building materials, namely covering all possible sector and industry (some of the categories: polymers, natural, metals, glass, ceramics, cement-based and carbon-based materials). It also offers manufacturer's data, detailed physical and chemical properties as well as photographs. It allows for acquainting with the utility and physical features of these materials. This was possible due to cooperation between the KTP and the University of New York (Material Connections) – the license owner for development of such libraries around the world.

The project created multiple interconnections in the region. 3D Printing Centre operating in KTP has established cooperation with the Voivodeship Polyclinic Hospital in Kielce and the Neurosoft company developing successful cooperation between science and business. With high-tech ultrasonography camera used by the Hospital and state of art 3D printer belonging to the KTP, it will be possible to print a three-dimensional model of a fetus by converting the ultrasound files for the 3D printing. The model will allow for precise planning of medical procedures and therapy preparation in case of the genetic defects.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The KTP modern infrastructure dedicated for innovative processes and development of business-science cooperation provides entrepreneurs, students and graduates with greater possibilities to implement specialized research using up to date technologies. It also offers companies a number of opportunities focusing on improvement of innovativeness and competitiveness.

Overall it creates possibility to deepen the cooperation of science and business activities and develop entrepreneurship spirit and skills among students and graduates.

New KTP space attracts regional, domestic and foreign investors who invest in projects based on the most recent technologies, including those generated in Świętokrzyskie by scientific-research institutions and universities. Increase of innovation and competitiveness of companies will contribute to the creation of new jobs and socio-economic development of Kielce and the surrounding region.

The project has created synergies being a basis for the implementation of subsequent projects. Kielce Technology Park has created a Startup Platform – TechnobiznesHub helping young people to transform an idea into an appropriate business model by offering specialized services. This subsequent project is implemented within the action «Startup Platform for new ideas» (Operational Programme Eastern Poland 2014–2020).

Quotations on the project:

"The infrastructure established in the framework of the project "Development of infrastructure and R&D in Kielce Technology Park" is very important for our company. We can directly benefit from the many opportunities offered by the new investments in the Park. They give us first of all the possibility of close cooperation with other companies associated in KTP and a rapid flow of information."

Łukasz Dziedzic – Chairman of the Board EkoEnergia Ltd. Company – renter at KTP

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.technopark.kielce.pl/eng/home>

http://www.polskawschodnia.2007-2013.gov.pl/Projekty/Strony/Rozwoj_infrastruktury_i_obszarow_B_R_KPT_2014_01_14.aspx

Overview info:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name:
Development of infrastructure and areas of R&D
Kielce Science Park | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
28 662 983,28 EUR – total
19 559 034,08 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing:
2015 | – Fund:
European Regional Development Fund |
| – Operational Programme:
Programme Development of Eastern Poland | – Location (city, region, Member State):
Kielce, Świętokrzyskie Voivodship, Poland |

Photos:



Project 1.3: Start-up platforms for new ideas

Thematic area:

Innovation among SMEs

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Strengthening competitiveness and innovative economy through multiplying innovative SMEs across less developed regions.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

Project aims at creation and further development of innovative companies in a form of a start-up in order to strengthen innovative culture of regions of lower GDP dynamics. It serves to eliminate barriers in setting up a company in the Eastern Poland macro region and to increase percentage of companies active in sectors of medium and high technologies.

The offer of start-up platforms is directed to people from all Poland as well as foreigners interested in setting up a business in Eastern Poland and developing this activity within country and even internationally. The support is offered in two stages. First, it is individualised support towards business services, marketing and technology as well as mentoring. This is so called incubation at platforms. It allows fine-tuning the product and creation of business model in order to enter the market. In the second stage start-ups of highest potential and best development perspectives may apply for a grant for activity development at the most difficult initial stage (entering the market and first sale).

The pilot stage has finished in 2017 where over 200 start-ups has been covered and half of them received grants for further development. The first positive effects of the pilotage have confirmed the efficiency of the support offered by start-up platforms. The activity is being continued in the period 2018-23.

Examples of start-ups supported in pilot phase:

- **Predictail Ltd. Lublin** – anticipating errors of technology machines of sectors: wind farms, oil and gas, mining, automotive. It implies modern algorithms and Big Data analysis. It limits errors and optimise service faults leading to minimising of maintenance costs.
- **Plantalux** – advanced technology supporting growth of glasshouse plants by providing LED COB lightening system and offering an application for steering the lighting integrated with external sensors (temperature, humidity, insolation, CO₂).
- **Prognosis** – innovative prognostic software system for energy networks awarded by Google within competition of Anita Borg. It allows to predict amount of energy used, its price, power used and other parameters indispensable for previsioning the optimal management of energy for entrepreneurship and public institutions. It results with savings up to 30% for energy bills. It also offers another 15% costs savings due to modification of existing electric networks or grids.

Impact and long-term effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Start-up platforms increases regional potential for innovations development and strengthening competitiveness of the economy. It is observed in numerous ways, by:

1. Attracting entrepreneurs who creates innovations of national and worldwide scale. Dynamically developing companies means increase of job offers and new investments in regional economies of Eastern Poland. In the long-term – it is a greater tax base for self-governments of the macro region and better quality of life of its citizens.
2. Strengthening social capital and start-up ecosystem by enabling mutual recognition of needs and cooperation of people from various sectors. They also increase trust resulting with new initiatives and openness towards nonstandard ideas.
3. Creating interest in the macro region among well recognised companies. Experienced entrepreneurs act both as start-ups mentors but also draw from innovative approaches of young companies which all together may bring additional investments in the macro region.

Quotations on the project:

"The offer of start-up platforms responded to the significant needs. The key was to notice individual needs of each entrepreneur and adjusting them to specific development tools and services. The biggest value of start-up platforms is that innovative ideas have been turned into tangible companies of significant business potential which enter the market, sign first contracts and target the clients with their products and services."

Adam Hamryszczak, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Investment and Development.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://platformystartowe.gov.pl/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=66QM_XdBUWo

<https://www.facebook.com/HubOfTalents/>

<https://www.facebook.com/platformaconnect/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TechnoparkBiznesHub/>

Overview info:

– Official project name:	– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
Start-up platforms for new ideas	30 199 452,32 EUR – total
– Year of completing:	22 554 622,73 EUR – EU contribution
2017 – pilot phase	– Fund:
2023 – overall project	European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
– Operational Programme:	– Location (city, region, Member State):
Eastern Poland 2014–20	Macroregion of Eastern Poland (5 voivodships: Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Podlaskie, Świętokrzyskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie).

Photos:



II. Innovation/R&D

Project II.1: Cold Flow Turbine Test Facility „Polonia Aero”

Thematic area:

Innovation/ R&D/ science-business

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Boosting innovative economy and protecting environment via effective links of science and business in the aerodynamic sector.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The aim of the science-business consortium was and to conduct advanced research in the field of turbine flow aerodynamics and to build a network of laboratories resulting in a synergy effect with each project fully functional and independent. The consortium is based on a cooperation of academia (the Military Technical Academy and Warsaw University of Technology) and entities of aerial industry (Avio Aero and Wojskowe Zakłady Lotnicze Nr 4 S.A). The main laboratory (CFTTF „Polonia Aero”) is located Zielonka near Warsaw, while the others are located directly at the two mentioned universities participating in the project.

The base for the aviation research activities in Zielonka is opened for every PL and foreign entity who would like to test aerodynamic engine turbines. One of the main goals of testing is to curtail fuel consumption in the aerospace industry, to limit the polluting emissions that go with it and reduce the noise levels.

The project also puts emphasis on strengthening the cooperation between industry and universities by combining scientific capabilities of PL universities with the innovation processes in the aerospace sector. One of the examples is the testing campaign that will be performed for General Electric GE9X program (high-bypass turbofan aircraft engine under development by GE Aviation for the Boeing 777X – it should improve fuel efficiency by 10% over its predecessor).

The project has already created over 20 new jobs, involves 15 persons operating in research activities and initiated cooperation which resulted with improved energy supply by extending 110 kV grid network (2,5 km) that can be used by other companies in the area.

Moreover, it is planned to train 3500 students and 40 trainers to use research infrastructure as well as to involve 7 scientific institutions to use the research potential.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The project will generate multiple longterm benefits for the Mazowieckie region:

- it will allow to participate in European Research Project COOPERNIK concerning testing the low pressure module of GE9X which will be applied in new generation engine that will power the Boeing 777X;
- boosting development of new technologies that may attract science experts from around the world;
- inflow of students from other regions to the main training centre due to universities cooperation;
- increase of the regional economic attractiveness for future investments due to prestigious research and development unit worldwide;
- higher revenue for the local small business and services (accommodation, restaurants, transport, local suppliers etc.).

As many foreign aviation experts visit the facility, they also explore the region on this occasion and evaluate Polish aviation industry as very innovative; what can potentially attract further investments to Poland in future.

It is expected that the results of work performed in the main laboratory will have the impact on the aviation industry worldwide in terms of limiting negative impact on the environment. Thanks to the improved aero engines there will be less fuel consumption and polluting emissions in the aerospace industry as well as the noise levels will be reduced.

Quotations on the project:

"This project is a great opportunity for the aerospace industry and a prime example of cooperation between private companies and universities. The laboratory will be opened to both research centers and industry partners worldwide. All private companies will have access to the research infrastructure and will be able to test their turbines and prototypes. In addition, students of technical universities will be able to gain experience in one of the most innovative R&D centers in the world and thus acquire practical knowledge during research activities and experiments. An open formula which is an unusual phenomenon in this sort of scientific unit."

Mr Giacomo Vessia, President of the Board, Polonia Aero

"I am glad that the Cold Flow Test Facility has become a reality. Cold Flow Test Facility in Zielonka, funded in large part by the Operational Program Innovative Economy, belongs to a group of projects of high research potential, making an enormous contribution to the Polish technological thought".

Mrs Elżbieta Bieńkowska, European Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://blpoland.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/polskaprzedsiebiorcza/>

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/projects/regiostars/doc/regiostars/2014/regiostars_brochure_2014.pdf (page 9)

Overview info:

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name:
Cold Flow Turbine Test Facility „Polonia Aero” | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
45 222 232,53 EUR – total
38 403 004,04 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing:
2015 | – Fund:
European Regional Development Fund |
| – Operational Programme:
Innovative Economy 2007-13 | – Location (city, region, Member State):
Zielonka, Mazowieckie Voivodeship, Poland |

Photos:



Project II.2: National Centre of Hadron Radiotherapy Cyclotron Centre Bronowice

Thematic area:

Health/innovation

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Improving health capabilities of EU citizens due to innovative know-how and technologies applied in medicine.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The investment consists of two phases. The aim of the first one „The National Centre of Hadron Radiotherapy (NCHR) Phase 1: Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (CCB)” was to construct a modern, state-of-the-art facility for proton eye-ball cancer therapy and for related research in physics and radiobiology. The infrastructure is based on Proteus C-235 cyclotron, which delivers beam to physics experimental hall and to the eye treatment room.

The aim of the second project „Cyclotron Centre Bronowice – Gantry facility” was further development of CCB through the installation of two therapeutic gantries. They enable the patient treatment with arbitrary located tumors applying a precise proton scanning beam.

The centre works in two ways: a) carries the experimental work aimed at further development and precision of the quality of proton treatment; and b) offers regular proton radiotherapy for patients with selected indications.

Within the framework of the project a range of 40 new jobs have been created in specialist medical areas such as: medical physicists, radiotherapists, IT specialists, cyclotron engineers. Secondly, more than 70 patients suffering from eye-ball cancer and 80 gantry patients have been treated since November 2016 at CCB.

As the centre is opened for scientific and expert medical cooperation in order to develop and fine-tune proton therapy in patients treatment several groups from all over Europe used the facility for their experimental work (in particular from Germany, Belgium, Spain, Croatia, France, Italy, Denmark).

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (CCB) is currently one of the few accelerator centres in Europe and the only in Poland using proton therapy. This is undoubtedly an added value for Polish and European Union citizens who can benefit from this advanced form of cancer radiotherapy as well as for scientists from all over the world performing their research in the modern, innovative facility.

Many centers in Poland, e.g. the Gliwice Oncology Center and Holycross Center of Oncology in Kielce, are interested in developing skills of their personnel in proton therapy. Therefore medical physicists from those centres use advanced treatment planning systems for proton therapy for training and research purposes online. This collaboration is extended also for proton therapy centers in the frame of IPACS action (agreement signed among the proton treatment centres in Italy, Poland, Austria, Czech Republic and Sweden).

Quotations on the project:

“The activities of Cyclotron Centre Bronowice is very frequently reported in all type of local, regional and over-regional media. Thousands of visitors are welcome at the centre during the day of the open doors. Every week, several school excursions are guided. Hundreds of emails and phone calls are received monthly from potential patients.”

Prof. Paweł Olko, Project Leader

“The construction of the Bronowice Cyclotron Centre is a big success of Polish Oncology.”

Anna Solecka, article in ‘Służba Zdrowia’, May 2016

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://ccb.ifj.edu.pl/en.home.html>

<http://innpoland.pl/114477,centrum-cyklotronowe-w-krakowie-jednym-z-7-miejsc-w-europie-gdzie-rakamiszczysz-protonami>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sadxYJsBrKU&feature=youtu.be>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

The National Centre of Hadron Radiotherapy Phase 1:
Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (NCRH – CCB)

The National Centre of Hadron Radiotherapy (NCRH)
Phase 2: Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (CCB) – Gantry
facility

– Year of completing:

Phase 1: 2007–2014

Phase 2: 2009–2015

– Operational Programme:

Innovative Economy 2007-13

– Value of the project (total amount and EU
contribution):

29 922 248,75 EUR – total

23 604 878,35 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

European Regional Development Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Kraków, Bronowice district, Małopolskie Voivodship,
Poland

Photos:



Project II.3: Center of Graphene and Innovative Nanotechnology

Thematic area:

Innovation, research and technological development

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Developing r&d capacities into a world-level appliance of civil and defense industry commercial innovation.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The aim of the project was to create a Graphene Center and innovative nanotechnology lab within the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology (ITME) – leading research Polish institute noting great successes via cutting-edge r&d in many areas related to new technologies incl. graphene. It carries out mixed research on new materials and technologies for their production, material properties and their applications incl. micro- and opto-electronics, micro-mechanics, material science and other fields of science and economy. The goal was to further develop and intensify application of research towards effective transfer of advanced nano-technology to industry sectors.

The project covered modernization of existing Institute laboratories and purchase of equipment necessary to conduct scientific research and development. In addition three new laboratories were created: laboratory of graphene characteristics research and other two-dimensional materials; laboratory of graphene technologies and laboratory of semiconductor materials. The total area of modernized and new laboratories is approx. 1600 m². In this space intensive research on graphene is carried out – one of the most innovative and forward-looking development of materials that could revolutionize the world in the field of advanced technologies, other two-dimensional materials as well as nano-dimensional technology and innovative nano-technologies.

Creating a modern tech center with high research potential has provided a tremendous opportunity for the development of the Institute by extending cooperation with other research centers – both from the country and from abroad. The laboratories founded by the project work closely with many scientific research institutions both in Poland. In addition 8 new jobs in the research departments were created due to the project.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

This investment has tremendously improved the scientific capability of the Institute and transferred it to inaccessible so far level of research on graphene and other advanced materials. It has developed a new approach to measure and optimizing properties of graphene by using most up to date methods as well as allowed for research on metamaterials, photonic crystals, nanocomposites and graphene on a global level.

The project has also created synergies as strengthening ITME's position among the leading research institutions in Europe and beyond has offered further attractive opportunities for research and technology, incl. two dimension materials. This translates into ITME being invited to cooperate with foreign technological consortia and to participate in the Horizon 2020 programme which opens further financing and development opportunities.

Significant practical applications in the economy were noted. Due to huge interest in cooperating with ITME from top EU and beyond research centers, spectacular results have been achieved in terms of commercial application of graphene produced at ITME in future electronics (data transmission). Work has also begun on the implementation of graphene for industrial silico technology. It also provides better quality of service and transfer of r&d results to numerous companies with innovative products such as: SECO/WARWICK, VIGO, TAURON, SIEMENS, LUMEL, APATOR, WAMED, AZOTY Group, PSE, TeleFonica, PL Armaments Group.

The results of the research carried in the Institute are also great source material for academic theses, dissertations and scientific publications. A huge interest in working at ITME from Polish and foreign university graduates and students was observed which generates further job increase.

Overall, construction of the research center is an investment that greatly helped to increase innovation in the region of Mazovia. The impact of the project may be seen at the regional, national and international scale. Technologies developed in the ITME laboratories are the subject of research, development and implementation of Polish enterprises

on the international market thus boosting their competitiveness. This results in increased Polish participation in important international projects. The project will benefit the development strategy of Polish science. It will also contribute to the rational technology transfer and thus implement the results of developed technology to domestic industry both in the civil and defense sectors.

Quotations on the project:

“Polish scientists have made a significant contribution to the development of graphene technology. Finally, their efforts have been appreciated. Celebrating a decade of intensive graphene research they are moving to a top-class facility with the latest scientific equipment. Now, they will be able to move graphene from the laboratories to the market.”

Tymoteusz Ciuk, PhD. Head of Department of Graphene and Materials for Electronics

“Our Center has a significant role in establishing the Institute’s position on the European market of graphene and nanotechnology materials. The project has been a gate to national and international cooperation in prestigious projects e.g. Graphene Flagship. Thanks to modern infrastructure we are closer than ever to the practical application of graphene.”

Zbigniew Matyjas, PhD. Director of the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology (ITME)

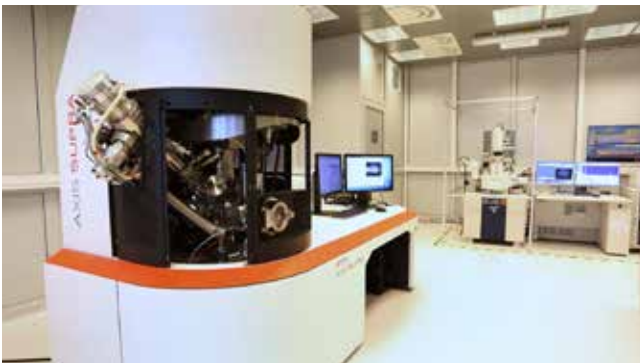
Website links presenting project results and impact:

www.itme.edu.pl

Overview info:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name: | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution): |
| Center of Graphene and Innovative Nanotechnology – Stage I | 11 519 493,72 EUR – total |
| | 9 777 211,84 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing: 2015 | – Fund: |
| – Operational Programme: | European Regional Development Fund |
| Regional Operational Programme of Mazowieckie Voivodship 2007–2013 | – Location (city, region, Member State): |
| | Warsaw, Mazowieckie Voivodship, Poland |

Photos:



III. Employment/Demography

Project III.1: EUROJOB – promoting cross-border occupational mobility

Thematic area:

Employment/ vocational education

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Increasing the social convergence of EU cross-border (cbc) territories through enhancing employment opportunities and integrity of the cbc labour markets.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

It was observed that a shortage of skilled workers (especially in technical professions and in the health care) will have the increasing trend in the Lubuskie-Brandenburg region. Therefore achieving greater mobility of workers on both sides of the border as well as higher transparency of regional labour market options was aimed for as the proper response to this problem.

Within the project the database was developed gathering information on education, internships, vocational training and job opportunities in the Polish-German border region. It groups relevant data together, making them more accessible and searchable effectively. As a result it enables people and institutions to identify information on employment and training opportunities on both sides of the border.

In addition a Vocational Training Atlas was developed for different vocational fields: health and social care, IT and new media, tourism, metal and electrical work, craft industries along with shipping and logistics. This gives employers, job seekers, people upgrading their qualifications and employment agencies concise and up-to-date information on education and training opportunities, qualification recognition and requirements for specific professions in concerned regions of Germany and Poland.

Workshops and conferences held within the project have been attended by ca. 300 people from both sides of the border. The database is being supplied continuously with relevant information by 20 institutions.

Regular meetings have been held between project partners of both side of the border to boost the scale of the project coverage.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Thanks to the project, a complex Polish-German labour market cooperation network has been created covering a range of individuals, companies and institutions enabling to analyse the cross-border labour demand and supply, to identify the desirable job profiles and gather information on qualification recognition.

Moreover, the network created by the project is closely interlinked with labour market and business institutions of both sides of the border. In Germany, the EUROJOB platform is being continuously used on a daily basis and strongly supported by educational and employment agencies, local chambers of trade, commerce and industry as well as European Employment Service (EURES) of the Federal Employment Agency.

The platform has been also used by Polish trainees in the summer of 2016 during dual training (vocational school education combined with company apprenticeship) in Germany under the Mobipro-EU program. With the help of EUROJOB they collected information on the training and job opportunities in the state of Brandenburg.

As a result, the EUROJOB-Viadrina project prevents unemployment (especially among young people) and is a tool helping to integrate the workforces of the two regions. In this way, it increases labour mobility among people living in the PL-DE borderline areas, gives boost to an integrated cross-border job market and helps to overcome imbalances between the regions.

An information platform like EUROJOB and similar labour market network is possible to be replicated in other border regions to enhance the mobility of workers and to increase their chances for better jobs.

In Poland the website has already been presented to employment agencies of other regions (e.g. Podlaskie) and similar tool may be developed.

Quotations on the project:

"The platform offers great support in my work. It provides information on career opportunities in Germany and Poland. Using it, one can find candidates with corresponding qualifications. My customers also benefit from it and I hope that the project will be continued."

Regina Gebhardt-Hille, EURES-consultant

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.euro-job.net>

www.ewt.2007-2013.gov.pl/Projekty/Strony/eurojob_portal_internetowy_dla_szukajacych_pracy_na_polsko_niemieckim_pograniczu.aspx

Overview info:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Official project name:
EUROJOB Viadrina – Improvement of educational and vocational perspectives and the mobility in the Pro Europa Viadrina Euroregion– Year of completing:
2015– Operational Programme:
Cross-border Co-operation Programme Poland (Lubuskie Region) – Brandenburg 2007–2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
1 014 794,00 EUR – total
862 575,00 EUR – EU contribution– Fund:
European Regional Development Fund– Location (city, region, Member State):
Poland (Lubuskie region), Germany (Brandenburg) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Photos:



Project III.2: 50+ mature, needed, competent

Thematic area:

Demography: silver economy/senior activation

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Achieving social coherence, fighting imbalances and stimulating human capital by increasing employment opportunities for senior people at special risk of social exclusion.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The main objective of the project was to improve the professional and social activity of people over 50 who are unemployed and at risk of social exclusion, coming from Malopolskie Voivodeship by creating a model of the work of volunteers, who are over 45, with the unemployed, who are over 50.

The emphasis was mainly put on strengthening and building soft skills, i.e. the ability of motivating oneself, inspiring activities, efficient self-management and work management as well as efficient communication rather than on improving the qualifications of the unemployed. Soft skills, due to their universalism, are the basis of every work and can be used in every aspect of life – if they are not improved, there will be no changes in the area of employment. Volunteers-tutors were engaged in the work (partners and guides for a mentee) with the mentees on motivation, setting goals, planning activities and self-discovery. Methods of supporting the unemployed aged 50+ which were applied in the project were based on four principles: trust, social participation, inspiration and sharing experiences.

Two groups of participants were supported in the project: 1) unemployed people aged 50–64 at risk of social exclusion wishing to develop their competences thanks to which they will be able to return to the labour market and continue their professional activity; 2) volunteers with extensive knowledge and professional experience aged 45+ wishing to join the process of professional activation of the unemployed.

In the project 255 unemployed people aged 50+ received support, 40% of them found employment. 171 volunteers aged 45+ were prepared to work with the unemployed. Internship for 216 people aged 50+ were organized in 160 workplaces from all over Malopolskie Voivodeship.

Impact and long-term effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The cooperation of people of a similar age – volunteers-tutors aged 45+ and unemployed people aged 50+ – was an innovative solution and not used so far in the region. The voluntary service used in the project was named «mature volunteering» due to both the age of the people who had taken part in it and the purpose of the project. Volunteers received a training preparing them to work as tutors of the unemployed. They were responsible for organizing individual meetings, obliged to systematic work with their mentees and took care of them in the process of restoring their faith in themselves.

The positive changes in the participants awareness, establishing strong partner relations among the project managers and promoting the idea of mature volunteering are very important effects of the project.

Another significant result is the decision to continue the implementation of the project in the form of the regional programme “Gwarancja 50+” financed by the region’s resources.

The effects of the project which are less quantifiable but still very important are positive changes in the awareness of project participants aged 50+. Almost 90% of them said their confidence and faith in success on the labour market as well as the motivation to seek work and to further improve their qualifications had increased thanks to the participation in the project. Participants concluded that, thanks to taking part in the project, they had gained new skills in the field of the job search and the functioning on the labour market. The network of adult volunteering was formed.

Quotations on the project:

"The participation in the project has restored my confidence, it showed how to function within the labour market, how to use my strengths. The internship gives me the opportunity to gain new knowledge, new skills and to establish new contacts." – Female participant from Krakow.

"I felt that I was trapped in big ruts, which did not allow me to move on to another level. And now I feel that I left these ruts and a new thing has begun! Even my son told me that I'm probably younger in spirit than he is. (...) I know that what you can do is not the only thing that matters – but above all, it is what you do, that counts. You have to act to make something happen." – Female participant from the Tarnow district.

"I lost my job five years ago – I went through all the stages: from grief, anger and helplessness to coming up with new ideas what to do with my life, and finally I started my own company. Now I have a company and I am a stylist, a coach, a lecturer. (...) Because I am almost 50 years old, I really wanted to take part in this project, but as a volunteer, that is the person who can help the unemployed. You can get used to be an unemployed person – we deal with it somehow. The only question is, if "somehow" is enough for us? The aim of the project is to realize that the "somehow" is not us enough and to do something more for yourself, to give yourself a chance." – The volunteer.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.wiosna.org.pl/main/pl/sec/265.htm>

<https://vimeo.com/116489271>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

50+ mature, needed, competent

– Year of completing:

2015

– Operational Programme:

Human Capital 2007-13

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

226 587,37 EUR – total

192 599,26 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

European Social Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Małopolska Voivodship (Kraków, Chrzanów County, Tarnów County, Nowy Sącz County), Poland

Photos:



Project III.3: Conservator – professional activation of unemployed

Thematic area:

Demography: silver economy/youth employment

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Eliminating black gaps on the labour market and activating productivity of the dormant regional labour force by stimulating long-term unemployed to undertake professional activity.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The project targeted people who could not find a job for a long time or who did not have enough qualifications or experience to undertake it. Therefore it covered couple of social groups in the region of Małopolska: young people under 25 years of age, long-term unemployment, high percentage of unemployed over 50 years of age. The project has been implemented since 2011 in the form of the four annual reeditions.

The participants were offered five/six-month subsidized employment periods or professional internship as well as participated in career consulting (individually and group job search workshops). They also made use of the employment agencies on their own. Part of them was also involved in trainings improving their skills.

Participants worked as conservators or restorers but also helped in museums as assistants, guides, conducted workshops and showed local traditions, acted as organizers of cultural activities, took care of exhibitions and archived documents.

Direct results are the following:

- 539 people participated in subsidized employment;
- 171 people participated in professional internships;
- 351 people covered by vocational training;
- 372 contracts were signed concerning organization of employment and professional internships;
- 99 institutions received human resources support for 4 years;
- over 50% of participants found employment after completing their participation in the project.

Overall, participants acquired new qualifications or consolidated professional competences as well as got work experience. Secondly, they obtained practical knowledge and skills useful to operate independently on the labour market. Finally, their received precious confidence and positive self-esteem helping in the process of further job search and work continuation.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The unemployed from Małopolska, not only had the opportunity to find an interesting job, but they help to restore the greatness and heritage of many historic facilities of the region. The project has significantly improved life quality of the participants and of their intimates.

Due to extraordinary interest for the project every year the number of people willing to participate has outnumbered several times the places offered. Therefore the period of implementation of the “Conservation” project has been prolonged to 2015 by the Regional Labour Office in Kraków.

Due to project influence the main problems of the Małopolska labour market were addressed and the following trends were noticed: decreasing the no of unemployed young people under 25 years of age; decreasing the no of long-term unemployed and smaller percentage of unemployed over 50 years of age.

The project was prized in the competition organized by the Managing Authority “ESF best practices 2013”.

Quotations on the project:

"The work as an exhibition security guard gave me opportunity to talk to visitors of the museum and share my homeland love with them. The "Conservator" project allowed me to get away from the apathy arising upon the plant liquidation where I had been working for many years which was followed by a long-term period of ineffective employment search. The experience gained during the project has paid off – I am currently working at the Tuchowski Redemptories Monastery as a maintenance employee."

Wojciech Patyk – one of the participants of the project.

"I completed internship at Moscice Art Centre in Tarnów. My responsibilities included, among other things, the preparation of exhibitions and their supervision, technical service at artistic events, preparation of promotional materials and distribution of posters. But the most important opportunity I received was to learn how big cultural institutions function. Owing to the internship I understood that in order to achieve success at work you do not necessarily have to work in a learned profession but use your natural abilities."

Anna Sadowska – one of the participants of the project.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://wupkrakow.praca.gov.pl/-/850742-konserwator-program-aktywizacji-zawodowej-osob-pozostajacych-bez-zatrudnienia>

Overview info:

– Official project name:	– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
Conservator – program of professional activation for the unemployed	2 770 126,23 EUR – total
	2 354 607,30 EUR – EU contribution
– Year of completing:	– Fund:
2015	European Social Fund
– Operational Programme:	– Location (city, region, Member State):
Human Capital 2007-13	Malopolskie Voivodship, Poland

Photos:



IV. Migrants/Minorities

Project IV.1: Active migrants on the local labour market – a Polish-German cooperation

Thematic area:

Migration – vocational activation and social inclusion

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Counteracting social exclusion, supporting entrepreneurship, transnational cooperation.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The project was implemented by the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań in a transnational partnership with the Munich City Hall, and was carried out in Poznań.

German experience delivered by Munich City Hall was used as of country with significant EU migration – know-how and best practices were used in Poznań when applying various solutions (training for officials and employers, career counseling, Polish language courses) or developing new forms of migration support (streetworking, long-term cooperation model of various institutions and organizations dealing with migration).

Activities in the project covered: a point and an information portal on the aspects of migration related to the labor market in the country based on the partner's experience; supporting migrants' vocational development through street work; career counseling and training; language courses; working out a model of cooperation between various institutions dealing with migration; training for officials and employers.

The project was available to migrants from the Poznań powiat: foreigners – citizens of countries other than Poland, as well as people from national and ethnic minorities, foreigners diversified in terms of origin.

Support was available to foreigners who resided/studied/worked in the Wielkopolskie Voivodship aged 18–64 or older assuming that they were ready to take up employment: migrants with difficulties in finding a job, migrants – students and graduates of Polish universities, migrants starting a business. 365 people benefited from the project. Micro, small and medium enterprises were also included in the support.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Information and advisory activities are continued by the City Hall of Poznań. Migrant Info Point offers information and support for immigrants in the field of: information on the legalization of stay, citizenship, registration, information on the labor market (work permit, starting your own business), help in filling out official forms, information about everyday life in Poznań, free Polish language courses, free career counseling.

Moreover in order to disseminate the practical experience and spread the methods a conference was organized in Germany where a Polish-German report was presented titled *“Strategies for migration cooperation on the labor market. Polish and German experiences compared to other countries of the old and new European Union”*.

Quotations on the project:

Not available

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://biurokarier.amu.edu.pl/strefa-studenta-i-absolwenta/dla-studenta-i-absolwenta/projekty/w-trakcie/mip-migrant-info-point>

<http://www.cebam.amu.edu.pl/127-migrant-info-point.html>

<http://migrant.poznan.pl/pl/projekty/>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

Active migrants on the local labor market. A Polish-German cooperation project.

– Year of completing:

2015

– Operational Programme:

Human Capital 2007–2013

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

136 717,83 EUR – total

116 210,15 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

European Social Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Poznań, Wielkopolskie Voivodship, Poland

Photos:



Project IV.2: The Czech Roma for the Silesian Roma – sharing experiences

Thematic area:

Demography: social inclusion of minorities

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Increasing social cohesion and preventing poverty by activating ethnic minorities into education and work.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The situation of the Polish Roma is the most difficult out of all national and ethnic minorities living in Poland and is reflected mainly in low level of education and consequently high level of unemployment. Labour market research and expert opinions in the regions with high unemployment rate prove that even 75–95% of Roma origin people are regular social welfare recipients. This situation stems from the low participation in education, lack of professional qualifications, poor knowledge of Polish language, cultural barrier and weak demand for services and crafts associated with traditional Roma professions.

The aim of the project was the social and professional activation of 30 Roma living in the Silesian Voivodship with at least primary education, aged 18 to 24, including women. The participants were covered by the individual support with the use of innovative methods obtained from the transnational partner – the Roma Association of Northern Moravia (Sdružení Rómů Severní Moravy).

Six study visits for the participants of the project were organized in cooperation with the partner from the Czech Republic, during which the Roma from Poland received the coaching and professional mentoring sessions. Within the framework of the project, the participants were prepared to take up a career, including: the correct organization of work, communication, discipline and attitude towards work as soft skills sought by employers. The participants of the project improved their language skills thanks to Polish classes within which they practiced the skills of reading, writing and filling in the official documentation in Polish.

Moreover, the Local Activation Centre in Katowice for social integration and activation of the project participants was also created and remained in place for a period of 6 months after the end of project.

Finally, two conferences were organised within the project – the opening one (the exchange of good practices, innovative solutions and the Partner's experiences) and the final one (concerning the professional activation and the prevention of marginalisation and exclusion of the Roma community).

Impact and long-term effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Due to the Polish language course the attendees received language skills which significantly improved their ability to operate on the job market as well as helped in the path of further individual education.

Moreover the project participants have acquainted with the Czech Roma experiences where the unemployment level is not that high as in Poland. This know-how gained have contributed to improvement of life quality of Polish Roma as the Czech solutions and methods of operating on the labour market have gained a good ground also in the Polish reality. The tangible results of applying those tools were: 7 persons gained employment (gastronomy and retail); some persons started down business activity and 3 persons went abroad. Other participants continued to search for a job.

Due to the project the way of perception of Roma community by the overall local community have changed as people not just benefiting from the state public support but as actively working or taking up initiatives to become active.

Moreover, some long-term social and institutional bonds have been established – the cooperation between Polish Roma Association and Roma Community from Karwina in Czech Republic is being sustained. Mutual close contacts are being kept by study visits, meetings of know-how exchange and consultations covering aspects of ongoing challenges related to labour market, education, health and self and cultural identity of Czech and Polish Roma.

Quotations on the project:

Not available

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.stowarzyszenie.romowie.net/Konferencja-podsumowujaca-w-Cieszynie-27-28.01---Program-326.html>

Overview info:

- Official project name:

We share our experiences – the Czech Roma for the Silesian Roma

- Year of completing:

2012

- Operational Programme:

Human Capital 2017-13

- Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

116 828,70 EUR – total

99 304,39 EUR– EU contribution

- Fund:

European Social Fund

- Location (city, region, Member State):

Silesian Voivodeship in Poland and Karwina of Moravian-Silesian Region in Czech Republic

Photos:



Project IV.3: Roma's way to success via professional activity and education in Lower Silesia

Thematic area:

Employment/vocational education/social inclusion/migration

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Achieving social coherence and fighting imbalances through increasing employment opportunities for people at special risk of social exclusion.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The main aim of the project was to implement comprehensive measures improving education and employment of 86 members of the Roma community from the Lower Silesia region (covering cities: Legnica, Kłodzko, Kamienna Góra, Przemków, Głogów). Participants acquired professional qualifications and experience by training and internships as well as acquisition of soft skills such as independence, workflow management, coping with difficult situations and effective communication.

Activities carried out under the project focused at: career counseling (incl. Individual Action Plan); vocational activation and social skills workshops; training courses and 4-months paid internship (40 hours per week, 8 hours per day) both based on Individual Actions Plans as well as training courses for job assistants. Internships took place in areas like: insurance broker, hairdresser, restaurant, shops, public institutions like school or kindergarten.

Each participant received also full support from a job assistant (in the participant's residence). Job assistants originated from the Roma community or immediate environment in order to assure smooth cooperation. The role of the job assistants was the key one. Their main tasks included: recruitment into the project and assistance in fulfilling the formal requirements; facilitating constant cooperation between Roma community and the project office; spreading information about the project agenda; supporting the participants in their engagement in the project; establishing cooperation with potential employers.

The project covered support for 86 recruited participants in the form of: 430 hours of career guidance; 86 Individual Action Plans prepared; 128 hours workshops in the field of vocational activation and social skills; 3920 hours of professional courses completed with an exam and certificates; internship programmes covering 64 participants (43 participants have already completed).

Impact and long-term effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Upon completion of the training activities under the project, each participant is supported by a job assistant with finding the employment. It motivates the participant to take own initiative in obtaining professional qualifications and gaining professional experience. Job assistants also support the participants in relations with public offices and institutions.

The main effect of the project is minimizing the impact of negative stereotypes about Roma people and to tackle social exclusion of this group. It offered a solid chance to demonstrate their value as a competent, motivated and active member of their society. The number of employed participants after leaving the program (including self-employed participants) was targeted at minimum 28%. Currently 17 participants of the project have a job and the new recruited group is actively looking for a job.

Consequently, the project helped to increase positive perception of the Roma community in the region.

Quotations on the project:

Not available

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.europea.pl/index.php/fundusze-unijne/realizowane-projekty-unijne/44-romska-droga-do-sukcesu>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

Roma's way to success through professional activity and education – project dedicated for Roma's society in Lower Silesia

– Year of completing:

2018

– Operational Programme:

Knowledge Education Development 2014-20

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

193 814,14 EUR – total

187 996,24 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

European Social Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Głogów, Kamienna Góra, Kłodzko, Legnica, Przemków; Lower Silesia; Poland.

Photos:

V. Energy/Low Emission

Project V.1: Biogas energetic recovery at Gdańsk East Sewage Treatment Plant

Thematic area:

Renewable energy/air quality/climate/circular economy

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Boosting circular economy via increased share of renewable energy in the production of heat and electric power from sewage sludge.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

Gdansk East Sewage Treatment Plant collects and treats waste from the city of Gdansk and the neighbouring communes. The side product of the sewage treatment process is sewage sludge, which contains a lot of easily decomposing organic material. The degradation process results in obtaining gas mixture i.e. biogas, which is a valuable source of energy. Therefore the objective of the project was mainly to build Biogas Power Plant that would recover biogas produced during biodegradation of sewage sludge for the production of heat and electricity.

The production capacity of biogas power plant is 2,864 MW of electricity. The energy could provide electricity to 1500 average households of 4-person families; however, ultimately it is going to be used to feed Installation for Thermal Treatment of sewage sludge built in the sewage treatment plant and only the surplus energy is sold to industrial power network. Recovered heat will cover the technological and domestic needs of Sewage Treatment Plant. The project resulted also with 2 jobs created.

In addition, this environment-friendly investment was complemented with an educational programme for young people. Department of Environment of Municipal Council in Gdańsk was engaged in the preparation of the programme, elaboration of the manual and carrying out classes on renewable sources of energy at post-secondary schools. 782 students from 10 post-secondary schools took part in the programme in 2011.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Thanks to this investment the region may contribute to the realization of commitments resulting from Poland's Accession Treaty to the European Union related to the share of renewable energy. The project contributes to the increase of renewable energy share in the production of heat and electricity. Because of the CHP installation (Combined Heat and Power Plant) local renewable resources are used to a greater extent and they are more effectively recovered resulting with the better air quality in the area.

Realization of the project contributed to several environmental benefits (reduction of greenhouse gases emission) and social and economic benefits (reduction of the operating costs of sewage treatment plant). Both the environmental and economic benefits affect the local community.

"Installation is automatic and maintenance-free. It consists of four units composed of internal-combustion engine supplied with biogas and powering the generator set. Produced electricity will supply the new installation for thermal treatment of sewage sludge and the surplus energy will be sold to industrial power network."

Mr. Leonard Szczepański – Head of Energetic Unit, beneficiary

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.giwk.pl/ekologia/OZE/CHP.html>

Overview info:

- Official project name:
Biogas energetic recovery at Gdansk East Sewage Treatment Plant
- Year of completing:
2012
- Operational Programme:
Regional Operational Programme for Pomorskie Voivodeship 2007–2013
- Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
5 561 843 EUR – total
1 599 339 EUR – EU contribution
- Fund:
European Regional Development Fund
- Location (city, region, Member State):
Pomorskie Voivodship, Poland

Photos:

Project V.2: Energy from Waste Plant in Poznań

Thematic area:

Circular economy in public private partnership (PPP) and financial instruments (FIs) formula

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Expanding circular economy and protecting natural environment by limiting landfill waste and transferring waste into green energy.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The objective of the 'Waste Management System for the City of Poznań' project was to organise a horizontal municipal waste management system within the Inter-Commune Union of 'Poznań Agglomeration Waste Management' (City of Poznań and 9 communes) and to adapt it to formal, legal, technical and ecological requirements at national and EU levels. The main goal of the project was a construction of waste incineration plant within the private public partnership initiative called "Energy from Waste Plant in Poznań" (EfWP).

System operates in accordance with the waste management hierarchy, i.e. waste prevention, then recycling and recovery, finally safe neutralization. Only waste unsuitable for material recycling but suitable for energy recovery in an incineration plant (so-called residual, mixed, non-hazardous waste) is processed in the EfWP.

Waste being subject of thermal processing is recovered (slag waste) or safely neutralized (waste from ashes and gas cleaning). As the thermal treatment takes place at high temperatures (average 1000°C) the electric and heat energy is produced (128,000 MWh/year of electricity and about 267,000 GJ/year of thermal energy in cogeneration). The EfWP processes ca. 210 000 tonnes of waste annually. Due to use of latest technologies and specialist emissions treatment system the EfWP is completely safe for the environment and humans.

The project was implemented using hybrid-financing model in a public-private partnership with 3 sources: national public funds, EU cohesion fund and private capital. The contract was signed between City of Poznań and SUEZ (SITA) Zielona Energia Ltd. as a private partner for execution of the project (design, construction, maintenance and operation of the Energy from Waste Plant in Poznań). The project was financed from private partner own funds (20%) and from long-term loans granted by 3 Polish banks: Pekao SA, PKO BP and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (80%). The loans are subject to partial replacement by EU cohesion fund.

Within the cooperation, the City of Poznań has provided the building plot for the private partner, while the partner has settled the investment and operate it for 25 years. The city authorities are obliged to deliver an appropriate quantity of waste to ensure efficient functioning of the incineration plant. Once the plant started to be operational the City of Poznań commenced settlements with the partner, covering the costs of the investment and of the ongoing functioning of the plant. In return for the waste deliveries, SUEZ Zielona Energia is obligated to transfer the revenue from the sale of thermal energy and electricity to the City budget.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The Energy from Waste Plant in Poznań has brought considerable outcomes for Poznań residents and their environment. The plant has significantly changed so far inefficient waste management processes. First of all the investment reduced the quantities of municipal waste disposed previously to landfill sites by up to 80%.

But the biggest benefit is the energy obtained from the thermal process of waste incineration. It is used partly as electricity being fed into the electrical grid (national energy network) and partly used in the local heating network (Dalkia Poznań S.A. a company managing the district heating system). Finally the investment contributes to sustainable fund management by City Hall as it receives the revenue from energy sale.

The complicated financing formula makes this project the first of its kind in Poland and of the first in EU – city of Poznań was recognised by the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC) as a precursor in terms of the funding formula that combines the „project finance” principles with the use of grants from the EU.

Quotations on the project:

„We have proved that it is possible to combine interests of the public and private entities with the benefit for the citizens and the environment. The deciding element about implementing the investment in the PPP formula and choice of SUEZ Ltd. was its experience in setting and running of such objects. Due to PPP we are ensured that SUEZ has provided high quality of the plant and safety for the environment during its operation.

Jacek Jaśkowiak, President of Poznań

„Finalising of the construction of the plant on time and within budget agreed is the effect of precise planning of each stage of works and of cooperation with experienced subcontractors. Exploitation of the object at the highest level is possible due to applying best possible technology and know-how of our experts experienced during setting similar installations around the world.”

Stephane Heddesheimer, Member of the Board Suez Zielona Energia Ltd.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://www.odzyskajkorzystaj.pl/en/>

<http://www.sita-zielonaenergia.pl/?lang=en>

Overview info:

- Official project name:

Waste Management System for the City of Poznań

- Year of completing:

2016

- Operational Programme:

Infrastructure & Environment 2007–2013

- Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

198 000 000 EUR – total

76 000 000 EUR – EU contribution

- Fund:

Cohesion Fund

- Location (city, region, Member State):

Poznań, Wielkopolskie Voivodship, Poland

Photos:



Project V.3: Thermo-modernisation of public arts schools in Poland

Thematic area:

Sustainable energy/improvement of air quality

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Limiting negative environmental impact by decreasing CO₂ emission, increasing energy savings and use of renewable sources due to thermo-modernization of public buildings.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The key aim of the project is complex energy efficiency renovation of 139 public arts school (187 buildings) supervised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and located all over the country, mainly in larger cities of 16 regions of Poland. The goal is to overcome one of their major problems i.e. very low energy performance of their buildings not corresponding with nowadays standards. Many of the buildings are old and have never been properly adapted to the educational needs nor fully respond to the health and safety requirements in force. Additionally, their technical conditions are typically poor as most of them lacked proper maintenance and renovation over past years. The project covers 83 buildings historically protected (44%), 39 constructed before 1945 (21%) and 65 constructed during 1946–1992 (35%). Furthermore, 54 buildings has been using coal as a main energy carrier for heating.

The scope of investment includes insulation of building envelop, replacement of door and windows, renovation of the heating ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) and lighting systems, modernisation or replacement of heat sources, installation of the Building Management System, application of renewable energy sources (e.g. heat pumps, biomass boilers, PV, solar thermal collectors, etc.) as well as other related works for delivering energy efficiency measures.

The project outputs will be the following:

- 3,61 MW additional capacity of renewable energy installations,
- 187 renovated buildings,
- 252 623 m² total area of renovated buildings,
- 59 renovated heat sources.

By 2021 it is expected to achieve approximately 60% final energy savings (ranging from around 11,8% to 90,3% for individual buildings) and 73,0% CO₂ emissions reduction which corresponds to 164 773 GJ/a in final energy savings and 22 269 tCO₂ savings absolute terms. The average global energy performance indicator before the renovation is estimated at 260 kWh/(m²/a) for heating only and 302 kWh/(m²/a) for heating and electricity, while after the renovation it should improve to 94 kWh/(m²/a) for heating only and 121 kWh/(m²/a) for heating and electricity.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

This thermo-modernisation investment will bring economic benefits such as:

- reduced general maintenance cost,
- improved security of energy supply at country level,
- reduction of air pollutants (NO_x, SO_x, PM10),
- increase of property value,
- improved thermal comfort and reduced number of absences due to sickness.

The main underlying longterm effects will be the overall improvement of teaching conditions in the public arts schools, which in the long run shall contribute to the improved teaching quality.

Quotations on the project:

"This is a unique agreement – it is a contract for over half a billion PLN allocated for investments in the field of energy modernization in the public art education institutions. The largest contract of this type and the largest contract in general when it comes to energy modernization in public buildings (...). Thermo-modernisation of public arts schools is a profit for the natural environment as well as for national culture and education."

Prof. Piotr Gliński, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://cea-art.pl/termomodernizacja-panstwowych-placowek-szkolnictwa-artystycznego>

Overview info:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name: | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution): |
| Comprehensive thermo-modernisation of public art school in Poland | 110 517 086,00 EUR – total |
| | 93 939 523,10 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing: | – Fund: |
| 2021 | Cohesion Fund |
| – Operational Programme: | – Location (city, region, Member State): |
| Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2014–2020 | Cities in 16 regions, Poland |

Photos:



Public music school in Strzelce Opolskie



Public music school in Strzelce Opolskie



Public music school in Starogard Gdański



Public music school in Starogard Gdański

Project V.4: Eliminating heat sources of solid fuels in Kraków and Skawina

Thematic area:

Sustainable energy/climate/environment; limiting gas emission/improvement of air quality/antismog activities

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Supporting implementation of the Polish negotiating commitments related to the enforcement of the EU environmental directives the Climate and Energy package 3x20.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The project is carried out in Krakow and in the municipality of Skawina in Malopolskie Voivodship southern Poland bordering Slovakia. The project concerns the expansion of the district heating network together with the installation of district heating substations and the construction of existing buildings' connections.

The project aims to eliminate local heat sources from the so-called low emission group and concerns consumers who use boilers and solid fuel stoves for heating. The planned scope of works includes the installation of approx. 13.5 km of heating networks and connections of various diameters, adapted to the technological requirements related to the expected demand. The planned number of individual district heating substations to be installed 215 pcs. As a result, 2 000 coal furnaces and 50 local coal-fired boiler plants will be liquidated.

The aim of the project is to reduce the emission of CO₂, dust and other air pollutants arising from the combustion process in domestic stoves using solid fuels. The reduction of primary energy consumption by 105 873.3 GJ per year will take place, the estimated annual decrease in greenhouse gas emissions is 6 520.78 Mg CO₂ per year, the decrease in dust emission is 56.58 Mg per year.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Long-term goals:

- a) the improvement of the air condition in the city,
- b) the improvement of residents' safety, as the pre-insulated pipe system has additional safeguards in the form of an electronic alarm system, which enables the ongoing monitoring of the district heating operation and the detection of even small emergency conditions,
- c) the improvement of the residents' health due to the lower incidence,
- d) the reduction of losses in the economy due to, among others, the reduction of health costs,
- e) the improvement of the residents' comfort and quality of life.

The improvement of the air quality in Krakow caused by the reduction of pollutant emissions due to the liquidation of solid fuel furnaces constitutes a positive impact on the population of Krakow (761.1 thousand inhabitants) and in particular on the residents of 4 districts where individual investment tasks are located. The impact of the project will also apply to Skawina municipality inhabited by 43.1 thousand residents. In addition the impact will positively enhance tourists who massively visit Krakow and its surroundings.

Quotations on the project:

"Currently, the Company is implementing the largest heating project in Poland, which is supported by European funds" – excerpt from the presentation of MPEC (the City Thermal Power Company) Krakow, delivered on December 5 2017 during the Study Tour organized by NFOŚiGW (the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management) for journalists familiarizing themselves with activities taken by the City of Krakow in the energy sector.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.mpec.krakow.pl/files/documents/projekt1.pdf>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

“Construction of new sections of the heating network together with connections and district heating substations in order to eliminate existing local heat sources fired with solid fuels in Krakow and Skawina – Stage I”

– Year of completing:

2022

– Operational Programme:

Infrastructure and Environment 2014-20

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

17 408 315,64 EUR – total

9 272 689,90 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

Cohesion Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Kraków, Małopolskie Voivodship, Poland

Photos:

VI. E-services/ICT

Project VI.1: “e-Taxes” Programme

Thematic area:

Digital economy/e-services

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Contributing to EU digitalization agenda by introducing e-public services available for citizens and entrepreneurs.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The main aim of the “e-Taxes” Programme, which consists of three projects: “e-taxes”, “e-declarations” and “e-registration” – is to facilitate the tax collection by the following means:

- improvement (optimisation) of the registration processes and keeping records of the taxpayers;
- improvement of information exchange processes between the tax administration and its stakeholders;
- improvement (optimisation) of the internal business processes of tax administration.

The project has covered the territory of all Poland – mainly the units of tax administration: Ministry of Finances, Tax Divisions (16), Tax Offices (400) as well as Centre of Data Processing in Radom and Offices of National Tax Information (4).

The investments targeted mainly software, i.e. constructing, implementing and maintenance of e-Tax system (Centralised System of Tax Collection, Tax Portal, Document Management System, other); purchase of licenses (for Identity management System and for programmes: Microsoft Lync, Adobe, Oracle) as well as for computer equipment and various services (trainings, advisory, info-promo).

As a result of the above the project provided a comprehensive e-tool for tax payers incl.:

- Tax Portal (www.portalpodatkowy.mf.gov.pl) providing services for taxpayers as well as compendium of knowledge on taxes, ways of accounting them, etc.
- Centralised Tax Collection System for accounting Tax Form, inheritance and donation tax, tax of civil-legal transitions/acts for tax administration purposes.

Moreover, variety of additional e-services for citizens, entrepreneurs and public administrations has been set up (verification of VAT tax payer; service of initially completed forms of income tax; dissemination of electronic document in contacts with tax administration; individual account of tax payer on Tax Portal; universal gate for documents; accessing income data; info on depending benefits).

Finally, the computer equipment was purchased for employees of Ministry of Finances and for Tax Divisions: portable PC for employees of tax administration, scanners, printers, barcode readers and sets of safe electronic signature for tax administration units.

Summing up, operability of 400 Tax Offices were significantly transformed into modern e-economy requirements which now efficiently serve on going e-services for tax payers.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Implementation of the e-Taxes Programme made it possible for citizens and businesses to in Poland communicate electronically with the tax administration, in particular to submit tax forms via the internet. Within the structures of tax administration the e-products were implemented in 400 Tax Offices and 16 Divisions of Tax Administration. Public services in this area are available for citizens and entrepreneurs from any location within the 24/7 mode.

The programme contributes to the facilitation of business activities but also increases efficiency of the tax administration and eliminates the burden on both sides of the process (tax payers and tax offices). The number of electronically submitted forms increases every year – in the first year of the system operation only slightly over 100 thousand of forms were submitted via the internet, while in 2017 already 68 million.

Quotations on the project:

<https://poradnikprzedsiębiorcy.pl/-program-e-podatki-czyli-unowoczesnienie-administracji-podatkowej>

<http://www.gazetatrend.pl/artykuly/383-e-deklaracje-czyli-jak-sie-rozliczyc-nie-wychodzac-z-domu>

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.finance.mf.gov.pl/pp/e-deklaracje>

<http://www.finance.mf.gov.pl/pp/e-deklaracje/statystyka>

Overview info:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name: | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution): |
| “e-Taxes” Programme | 63 294 630 EUR – total |
| – Year of completing: | 53 786 151 EUR – EU contribution |
| 2015 | – Fund: |
| – Operational Programme: | European Regional Development Fund |
| Innovative Economy 2007-13 | – Location (city, region, Member State): |
| | Warsaw, Mazowieckie Voivodship, Poland |

Photos:

Not available

Project VI.2: Eliminating territorial access differences of high-speed broadband Internet

Thematic area:

Digitalisation

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Fulfilling the goals of the European Digital Agenda and equalizing development chances of territories by spreading broadband networks in public schools and private households of Poland.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The aim of the call for proposals was to increase the territorial cohesion in terms digital accessibility in areas identified as white spots spread across Poland by introducing high speed broadband internet coverage.

As a result 53 projects were selected each corresponding to one of the 53 territories. The areas for calls for proposals were identified by Office of Electronic Communications (the national regulatory authority) as white areas of next generation access (NGA). Almost 85% of all entities covered by the project are situated in small cities and rural areas with less than 5 000 inhabitants. It is estimated that 63 752 km of fiber network will be built in the excluded areas.

The project will result with connecting more than 1,2 million households (ca. 8,5% of all households in Poland) as well as almost 10 000 public schools.

The public schools will be offered with FTTH broadband network fulfilling the requirement of gigabit society (100 Mb/s symmetric) and households will get an access to FTTH network of 30 Mb/s.

This was the largest ever call for proposals dedicated only to telecommunication infrastructure. It involves co-funding of 53% public and 47% private funds (telecommunication operators) which all amounted to more than EUR 903 649 240.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The development of NGA networks within the projects is of fundamental importance for economic development of 53 territories concerned (e.g. innovation stimulant, development of industry 4.0, etc.) as well as for improvement of the life quality of their society (e.g. increased mobility, better work options, development of entrepreneurship).

NGA network in schools is a first step to implement the national e-education programme on the areas concerned. High speed broadband in each of the public schools will allow to introduce much higher quality of teaching and offer diverse styles of learning.

Therefore, communities that so far were under high risk of digital exclusion will receive high speed network enabling them not only more effective communication and learning but also with new job opportunities and easier access to other related activities.

The scale of the project will significantly influence the overall development possibilities of remote and poorer areas and will increase the activity and initiatives of the local society leading potentially among others to increase of small scale entrepreneurship.

Quotations on the project:

Not yet available.

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://cppc.gov.pl/programy/popc-2/po-polska-cyfrowa-1-1/nabor-wnioskow-popc-1-1-drugi-konkurs/>

Overview info:**– Official project name:**

Eliminating territorial differences in terms of access to high-speed broadband Internet

– Year of completing:

2020

– Operational Programme:

Digital Poland 2014–2020

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

903 649 240 EUR – total budget of 53 projects

476 952 872 EUR – public – EU contribution

426 696 368 EUR – private – contribution of telecom operators

– Fund:

European Regional Development Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

53 investment areas in Poland

Photos:

Not yet available.

Project VI.3: Geoportal.gov.pl

Thematic area:

Innovation, research and technological development

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

The scope of the GEOPORTAL 2 project includes works related to the implementation and maintenance of INSPIRE services and their national geoportal, industry portal, in accordance with the assumptions of the INSPIRE Directive. The requirements of the INSPIRE Directive impose upon Poland the necessity to develop and implement the spatial information infrastructure as one of the elements of the spatial information infrastructure of the European Union.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The main goal of the GEOPORTAL 2 project is to provide citizens, entrepreneurs and public administration with spatial information from official registers guaranteeing its quality, timeliness and credibility.

As a result of the project, services related to spatial information will also be made available. The Spatial Information Infrastructure supporting the sustainable development of the country and environmental protection is part of the spatial information infrastructure in the European Union.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

GEOPORTAL 2 offers a new quality in the access to data sets held by public administration for both private citizens as well as domestic and foreign entrepreneurs. Benefits coming from its implementation are very wide and vary according to specific users.

GEOPORTAL 2 enables combining spatial data sets from resources of various state authorities into a coherent whole. They are available in an electronic form through Geoportal based on an interactive map browser containing tools enabling searching and analyzing spatial data. The prepared solutions, created in accordance with the assumptions of the INSPIRE Directive, ensure consistent access to spatial data and services gathered both in the national and European spatial information infrastructure.

In addition, Geoportal gives the opportunity to improve environmental protection, support rescue services and crisis management by facilitating access to spatial information. The introduction of more effective access to spatial information for beneficiaries who currently acquire information in offices will be associated primarily with the elimination of travel costs and reduced time dedicated to obtaining data.

Quotations on the project:

Not available

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.geoportal.gov.pl/start>

Overview info:

– Official project name:	– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
Geoportal 2	32 015 007 EUR – total
– Year of completing:	26 901 506 EUR – EU contribution
2013	– Fund:
– Operational Programme:	European Regional Development Fund
Innovative Economy 2007-13	– Location (city, region, Member State):
	Warsaw, Mazowieckie, Poland

Photos:

geoportal.gov.pl



VII. Integrated Transport

Project VII.1: Integrated public transport system in Rzeszów

Thematic area:

Integrated city transport/climate change

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Limiting the air pollution by expanding the scale of green public integrated urban transport due to modernization of the fleet, management system and client services.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The aim of the project was to improve the functionality of urban transport through improved access to central areas of the city and to ensure the efficiency of internal transport of the City of Rzeszów.

The project was focused on three areas:

- I. Reconstruction and development of local transportation system – 9 km of the main city arteries expanded; 11 crossroads, 7 stations, two bus loops and isolated bus-lanes upgraded (on the streets of total length of 6 km).
- II. Purchase of modern bus fleet – 80 modern and comfortable buses that fulfil strict environmental standards (EEV), incl. 30 buses powered by ecological fuel – compressed natural gas (CNG).
- III. Designing and implementation of Rzeszow Intelligent Transportation System – which is the most innovative and developmental component of the project with dedicated radio communication solutions:
 - Public Transport Management System – allowing to manage a fleet of buses, incl. control service standards and the remote identification/location of vehicles system,
 - Dynamic Passenger Information System (E-info) – working with point (73 sites) and bus (150 buses) passenger information boards, as well as ticket machines, in which passengers are regularly informed about the real-time bus arrival and allowing to plan the trip,
 - Public Transport Electronic Ticket System (eTicket) – introducing new methods of ticket purchase via fixed (29) and mobile (80) ticket machines, located at bus stops and in new buses,
 - The Areal Traffic Control System – supporting traffic management via: a) system of prioritizing the collective transport vehicles; b) dynamic optimization of traffic lights flow (53 crossroads); c) informing drivers about obstacles, traffic intensity and weather situation by 17 variable message signs.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Project implementation allowed to increase the punctuality and safety of the public collective transport by significant improvement in the comfort of using its services and introducing the visual monitoring system. It also affects the environment in a positive manner on a daily basis.

Moreover, in the long run the project has increased the development potential and attractiveness of the Rzeszów agglomeration as well as increased the mobility of its residents.

Finally, the project is scalable and technologically opened (open protocols and interfaces). Currently, based on the implementation of complementary projects, the main project was further extended (introduction of paid parking zones, implementation of vehicles dynamic weighing system, etc.).

Quotations on the project:

“Building an integrated public transport system for the City of Rzeszów and the surrounding area” is an innovative project in terms of scale, complexity and modernity of the solutions targeting the problems of the public transport (...) of the whole the city.”

Tadeusz Ferenc – Mayor of Rzeszów

Website links presenting project results and impact:

www.transport.erzeszow.pl

<http://transport.erzeszow.pl/o-projekcie/materialy-informacyjno-promocyjne/69-broszura-informacyjno-promocyjna-insert-gazeta-codzienna-nowiny-31-12-2013r>

<http://transport.erzeszow.pl/multimedia/materialy-audio-wideo/91-spoty-telewizyjne-2>

<http://transport.erzeszow.pl/o-projekcie/materialy-informacyjno-promocyjne/98-folder>

Overview info:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| – Official project name:
Building an integrated public transport system
for the City of Rzeszów and the surrounding area | – Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):
74 296 881,66 EUR – total
55 883 970,86 EUR – EU contribution |
| – Year of completing:
2015 | – Fund:
European Regional Development Fund |
| – Operational Programme:
Operational Programme Development of Eastern
Poland | – Location (city, region, Member State):
Rzeszów, Podkarpackie Region, Poland |

Photos:



Project VII.2: Małopolska Agglomeration Card

Thematic area:

Integrated regional public transport/ IT in public services

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Enhancing use of multitype intermodal public transport due to introducing modern integrated technological services.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The Małopolska Agglomeration Card (MKA) is a modern solution dedicated to the management and operation system of public collective transport within the Małopolska Region. The aim was to provide a single tool in the form of a modern proximity card and mobile application making use of public transport easier and offering its services in an integrated manner.

The MKA is a project, which for the region created the possibility to implement the so-called Regional Fares – standardised, financially competitive and agreed by all entities providing services public transport services. Such a tool was a necessary supplement to other projects related to modernisation and development of transport infrastructure or the replacement of a rolling stock.

This project comprised the collective public transport currently operating in Krakow and Tarnow and the rail transport provided by two main rail operators Małopolskie Rail Company and Regional Transfers along the routes of the Fast Commuter Rail. In addition, the MKA system manages access to the parking built within the project titled “Integration of rail transport with collective or private transport in Tarnów”.

The card has a technical possibility to cover newly created/introduced routes or operators in future.

After implementation of the MKA system it was decided to broaden the availability of single-use railway tickets (available in the mobile app) by launching their sale in paper form in the MKA machines located along the routes of the Fast Commuter Rail. The idea enjoyed great recognition among the rail passengers and more than 16 thousand tickets were sold during 6 weeks.

The services provided by the MKA system are sold through the dedicated web portal and directly by means of the MKA mobile apps. The Park & Ride facility, which is managed from the level of the MKA system, was equipped with the necessary MKA infrastructure to enable the MKA users to use the parking facilities in an smooth manner.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

The long-term effects are:

- supporting the development of the Małopolska Region by introducing the regional infrastructure of the information society within the area of public communication management,
- increasing the use of information technologies for purposes of providing services in the public transport system,
- reducing negative influence of individual car transport on environment by increased no of public transport users,
- improving the life quality of the Małopolska Region inhabitants,
- creating an effective management model, through the use if IT solutions adjusted to current needs and scaled in the future perspective of public communication development.

The project encouraged people to leave their cars at home or at ‘Park and Ride’ areas so as to reduce carbon footprint. Additional benefits include cleaner air which improves residents’ quality of life and advancing digital development across the region.

The MKA system enables to support other services offered by the local government administration, such as the access to public services of other sectors (e.g. medical services) or to the tourist attractions.

Quotations on the project:

"What's most important – the MKA system has an enormous developmental potential. In the next years the package of available services will be constantly broadened. We already have new resources guaranteed under the new regional operational programme for the MKA development."

Jacek Krupa, Marshal of Małopolska

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<https://mka.malopolska.pl>

<https://mka.malopolska.pl/prezentacja-projektu>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

Małopolska Agglomeration Card (MKA)

– Year of completing:

2015

– Operational Programme:

Regional Operational Programme of Małopolska
Region 2007–2013

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

2 017 450,67 EUR – total

1 619 431,48 EUR – EU contribution

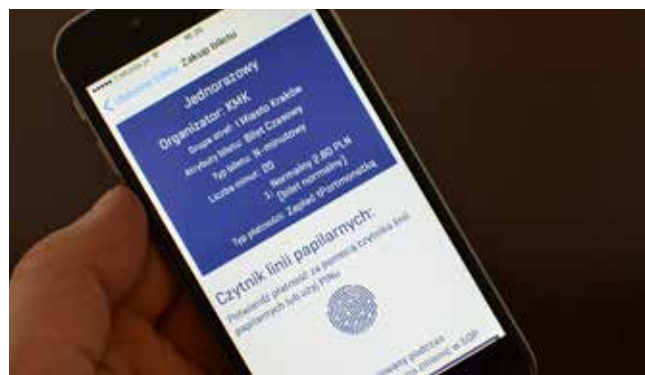
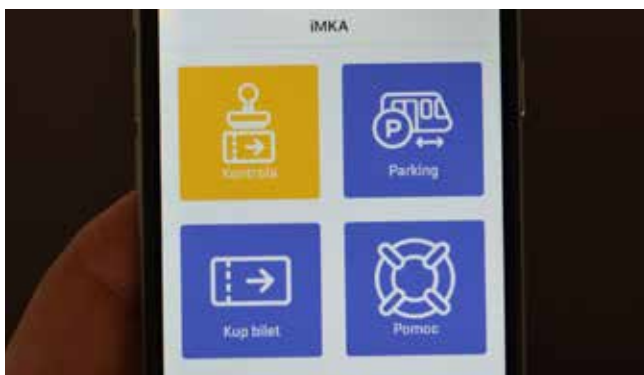
– Fund:

European Regional Development Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Małopolska Region, Poland

Photos:



Project VII.3: Rail line modernisation of Szczecin/Goleniów-Kołobrzeg for intermodal connections

Thematic area:

Railway transport/accessibility

Project contribution to the EU wider goals/challenges:

Enhancing green transport, reducing traffic pollution and congestion by modernizing and expanding agglomeration railway connections.

Aim of the project and its direct results:

The location of the Westpomeranian Region makes it an important hub on the country's transport map – here, international and domestic routes cross along the north-south and east-west axes.

The rail track between Szczecin (regional capital) and Kołobrzeg (regional seaside resort) used to have speed limitations, resulting in shortages of rail passengers number and absence of satisfactory connections at transfer nodes. No connection was available from the nearby airport (60 km from Szczecin centre) to the local towns and cities, which was significantly increasing car traffic to the local airport.

One of the project's goals was to reduce the adverse impact of car traffic on the environment by developing passenger rail connections and enhancing the region's transport coherence. The modernisation of the rail track between Szczecin and Kołobrzeg has brought less stringent train speed limits, reduced travel time, improved condition of the rail infrastructure, along with safety of the rail traffic management. In addition, a new rail connection from Szczecin city centre to Szczecin-Goleniów Airport was settled.

Under the project more than 100 km of the Szczecin/Goleniów-Kołobrzeg rail line were modernised, including replacement of the rail track surface, redevelopment of platforms, refurbishment of an overpass and level crossings along this route. Bus shelters as well as signaling and communication devices were also installed. Currently passengers and freight trains can travel on this modernised line at speed of up to 120 km/s and 80 km/h respectively. This directly resulted with an increase of the passengers number.

While not being part of the TEN-T network, the rail line connects Szczecin (as a transfer node under the 1315/2013 Regulation) with the airport in Goleniów covered by the TEN-T. The line, being over 100 km in length and providing improved speeds and comfort of travel, accompanied by state-of-the-art rolling stock (also funded from the Regional Operational Programme of the Westpomeranian Region) enjoys immense popularity reducing road traffic along this route.

The project builds on the logic of intermodal transport connections and is linked to another project implemented under the 2007-2013 Regional Operational Programme of the Westpomeranian Region and the INTERREG IIIA Community Initiative Programme for the Polish-German borderland within Lands: Poland (Westpomeranian Region) – Mecklenburg Vorpommern / Brandenburg.

Impact and longterm effects/the change and synergies the project brought:

Improving mobility between the region's capital with the most popular seaside resort in Poland has been just one of the benefits resulting from the modernisation of the Szczecin – Kołobrzeg rail line and the construction of a siding connection to the airport in Goleniów. With this new rail connection, both the region's capital and Kołobrzeg itself have gained access to eco-friendly means of transport of high quality.

The project has a positive environmental impact and follows the trend of the low-emission economy – the organisational and technical solutions applied on the rail line have cut exhaust levels down and the Region enjoys a lower burden from car traffic.

This modernisation has strengthened the region's socio-economic cohesion and raised the local living standard, whereas putting more passenger trains in operation has made the regional community more mobile, contributing into a gradual reduction in unemployment figures.

Higher no of passenger trains followed by higher frequency of service makes it easier for locals and tourists alike to commute to work and school, as well as reaching healthcare centres, public authorities, cultural spots and holiday resorts to name but a few. It has met the residents' needs wherever the shortage of suitable connections posed an obstacle to seeking employment or participating in cultural events held outside their home towns.

The project is significant from "the agglomeration perspective" – in addition to bringing the airport closer to the city located 60 km away, it also allows low-cost, eco-friendly and fast travel from the towns within the reach of the metropolitan area – like Goleniów, Nowogard and even Gryfice.

Quotations on the project:

"Today, I simply cannot imagine another way to get to the airport. Not only it is cheaper (airport car parks always charge that extra penny), but most of all convenient. With a Wi-Fi connection on board travelling to the airport is fast and comfortable."

Andrzej Makowski – regular commuter and public transport enthusiast

Website links presenting project results and impact:

<http://www.plk-inwestycje.pl/inwestycje/regionalne-programy-operacyjne/zachodniopomorskie/linia-nr-402>

<https://projektprpo.wzp.pl/zdjecia-lotnicze/modernizacja-regionalnej-linii-kolejowej-402-goleniow-kołobrzeg-wraz-z-budowa>

Overview info:

– Official project name:

Modernisation of the 402 Goleniów-Kołobrzeg regional rail line and construction of a siding connecting with Szczecin/Goleniów Airport

– Year of completing: 2014

– Operational Programme:

Regional Operational Programme Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship 2007–2013

– Value of the project (total amount and EU contribution):

16 147 804,31 EUR – total

9 858 355,12 EUR – EU contribution

– Fund:

European Regional Development Fund

– Location (city, region, Member State):

Zachodniopomorskie Voivodeship, Poland

Photos:



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