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# European Funds for Eastern Poland

# 2021

# 2027



European  
Funds



Republic  
of Poland

Co-funded by the  
European Union



# Eastern Poland

- Lubelskie Voivodeship
- Podkarpackie Voivodeship
- Podlaskie Voivodeship
- Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship
- Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship
- regional part of Mazowieckie Voivodeship

● medium-sized cities losing their socio-economic functions



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# PROGRAMME BUDGET

**2 650 107 360**

**EUR**

from the  
**European  
Regional  
Development  
Fund**

# WHO MAY APPLY FOR SUPPORT?

Six Voivodeships will benefit from the **European Funds for Eastern Poland programme**: Lubelskie, Podlaskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie and Mazowieckie, excluding Warsaw and its surrounding districts.

The programme is directly targeted at:

small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

innovation centres  
- animators of start-up platforms

electricity distribution system operators

local government units:

voivodeship governments – voivodeship road administrators

urban transport organisers

organisational units of local governments and public services responsible for adaptation to climate change and environmental protection

voivodeship governments – creating tourist routes with the involvement of regional and local partners

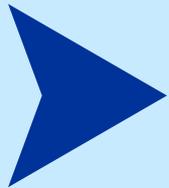
national parks and administrators of NATURA 2000 sites

institutions responsible for water and forest management

non-governmental organisations

railway infrastructure administrators  
– PKP PLK S.A. and PKP S.A.

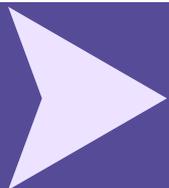
# BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAMME



Eastern Poland inhabitants

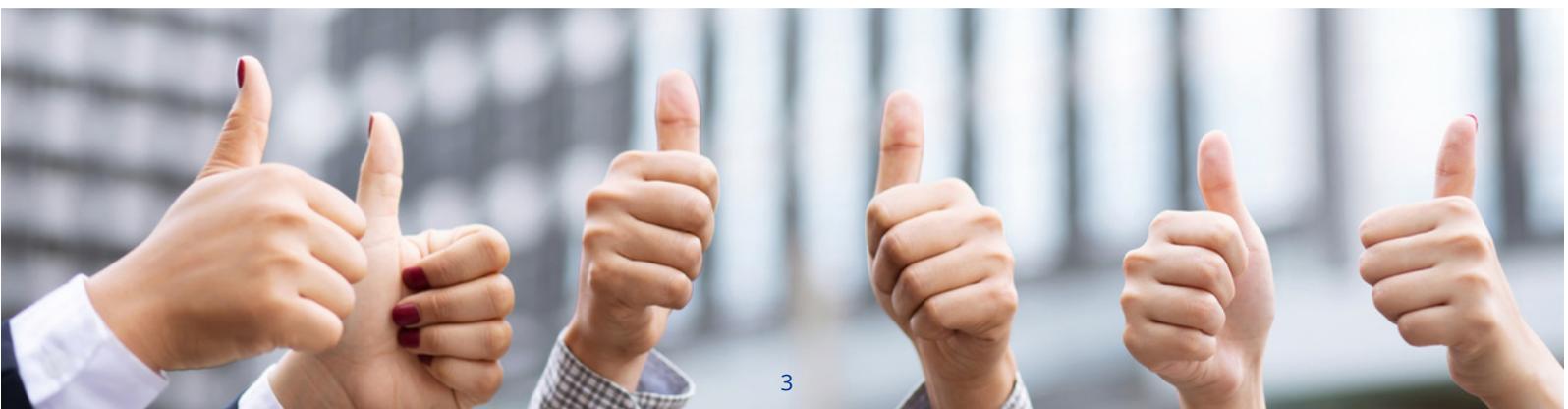


entrepreneurs and investors



all visitors to Eastern Poland,  
including tourists

Through the cooperation of actors, the beneficial impact of the programme also extends indirectly to regions outside Eastern Poland. The accelerated development of the macroregion will contribute to the sustainable territorial development of the whole Poland and, more broadly- to enhanced social and economic cohesion of the European Union.



# WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED?



# ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION

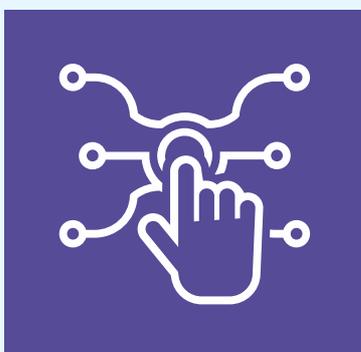
allocation  
**500**  
EUR mln



## I.1 START-UP PLATFORMS FOR THE NEW IDEAS

The support for start-ups. Earmarked for individuals who want to set up and manage their company in the macroregion of Eastern Poland and develop it on the national and international market. Eligible ideas will be developed through comprehensive incubation programmes in the Start-up Platforms. The best start-ups will receive non-refundable subsidies for continued business development.

**100**  
EUR mln



## I.2 AUTOMATION AND ROBOTISATION IN SMES

The support will help companies to change their business model towards Industry 4.0 solutions. Comprehensive support will be provided for the technology audit followed by the implementation of the solutions developed, including training of employees.

**100**  
EUR mln



### I.3 CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN SMES

The support will comprise the development of a company business model in line with the circular economy (CE) assumptions, followed by its implementation. The changes introduced will not only contribute to the company's distinctive position on the market, but also reduce operating costs through more rational management of resources, including waste, mitigating CO2 emissions, saving the consumption of energy and raw materials.

**100**  
EUR mln



### I.4 DESIGN IN SMES

The support will cover conducting an audit as well as preparing and implementing a design strategy that will help to improve the company's innovativeness. Creating a product or service that is better tailored to the needs of the end customer and applying a consistent brand promotion policy will give the company a better opportunity to become successful in the market.

**100**  
EUR mln



### I.5 LOANS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Intended for the improvement of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the tourism industry, e.g. the development and retrofitting of accommodation or catering facilities, the development of sports and recreational infrastructure, the manufacture of regional products, tourist transport and other tourism-related investments.

**100**  
EUR mln

# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The main objective is to increase productivity and innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises in Eastern Poland. Through the support, companies will be better prepared to face global challenges related to digitalisation, automation of production and combating climate change, in accordance with the assumptions of the European Green Deal. Support for start-ups will help create new, highly specialised jobs and will prevent the outflow of skilled workers from the macroregion.

## II.1 ENERGY DISTRIBUTION

**120**  
EUR mln



The support covers the development of smart power grids (distribution systems), contributing to the development of renewable energy sources as well as the electrification of transport and further industrial development. The investment will improve the stability of energy supply to consumers and reduce transmission losses.

The support will be provided to projects involving, among others: installation of smart grid solutions, combining the electricity infrastructure with modern ICT technologies, construction and modernisation of power lines (including overhead and cable lines), replacement of transformers, construction and modernisation of Main Power Supply Stations and network switching stations.



# EXPECTED RESULTS

**New smart grid functionalities will enable efficient connection of dispersed renewable energy sources and provide greener energy for electrification of transport and continued industrial development. The application of modern IT solutions will increase the control and management capabilities of the power grid, among others by reducing the number of grid failures, primary energy consumption and transmission losses resulting from the use of obsolete power infrastructure. This will be a major step towards the transition to a low-carbon economy using alternative and renewable energy sources.**

## II.2 ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

**255**  
EUR mln

The support for increasing the resilience of cities to the threats posed by climate change, using nature-based solutions. The support will cover investment related to **green and blue infrastructure** in the city, e.g. the creation of parks, rain gardens and urban meadows, green corridors (links between green areas), urban ponds and waterholes and improving the flow of urban canals or rivers.



The investment projects will also comprise upgrading existing city space with the aim to eliminate urban heat islands, facilitate the absorption of water into the ground, prevent its rapid evaporation during drought periods and accumulation on the surface during heavy rains. The preparation of planning documents for adaptation to climate change by the cities of Eastern Poland will also be supported.

# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The support will enhance the resilience of urban areas to the recorded variability and forecast climate change (e.g. flooding, droughts, urban heat islands). The added value of the investment will also include improved quality of life of residents, owing to an increase in the area and availability of green space, which also plays a significant role in the preservation and protection of biodiversity.



## II.3 BIODIVERSITY

**255**  
EUR mln

The support earmarked for investment in active protection of **nature and biodiversity** within NATURA 2000 sites. The projects to be implemented will help to open ecological corridors of supra-regional importance and restore their continuity. Investment will involve removing barriers and artificial limitations, building culverts and animal crossings, connecting fragmented forest complexes into compact and continuous landscape structures.

The support will also be allocated for mitigating the adverse impact on ecosystems and appropriate channelling of tourist traffic in national parks. Grants will also be provided for projects in the field of ecological education: development of the educational facilities in national parks, raising environmental awareness and promoting environmentally-friendly attitudes; the activities will be targeted at local governments, entrepreneurs, local communities, including children and the youth.

# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The investments will contribute to the improvement of the natural environment and biodiversity by opening the supra-regional ecological corridors enabling free movement of animals. In addition, by reducing negative tourism pressure on protected areas and through educational activities, public awareness of the objectives and importance of nature and biodiversity conservation will be raised. The investments will also help to streamline the nature management and monitoring processes carried out by nature conservation institutions.

# III.1 SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY

allocation  
**420**  
EUR mln

The implementation of complex investment projects in cities and their immediate surroundings (the so-called urban functional areas) enabling their residents to move around in a convenient and environmentally-friendly way. The investments will comprise:

purchase of **ecological means of public transport** – zero-emission rolling stock that does not emit air pollutants (trams, trolleybuses, electric and hydrogen-powered buses)

**construction, reconstruction and upgrading of infrastructure for the needs of public transport and other related forms of mobility in the city** (pedestrian traffic, cycling and other active forms of mobility), including integration (combining) of various forms of transport in the form of interchange centres

**digitalisation of the urban transport system: ITS** (Intelligent Transport System) , e-ticketing, information and travel planning, linked to the implementation of tariff integration (combined ticket) and the “Mobility as a Service” concept

The programme will also support developing and/or updating the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP)



# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The investments will improve mobility organisation in urban areas and beyond. Better organisation will create the possibility of combining easily walking and cycling with low-emission public urban and long-distance transport. This will be an excellent alternative to individual car use. IT solutions will enhance the attractiveness of the ticket offer, offering joint access to as many transport services as possible (including, for example, urban bike). Reducing the use of individual cars in favour of environmentally-friendly public transport will limit the adverse impact on climate (reducing fossil fuel consumption, traffic jams, air pollutant emission and noise). It will also improve the quality of life for residents.

allocation  
**1120**  
EUR mln

# COHESIVE TRANSPORT NETWORK

**430**  
EUR mln

## IV.1 Road infrastructure

The investments will seek to create the necessary links to the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T), border crossings and other sustainable transport modes (e.g. intermodal terminals, railway hubs), and facilitate public transport. An important element of support will be the construction or reconstruction of bypasses and spot investments to improve traffic safety. Development of charging or refuelling infrastructure for electric or zero-emission cars will also be possible.

## IV.2 Supra-regional railway infrastructure

The projects will focus on the redevelopment, modernisation or regeneration of railway lines, improving their technical parameters. They will also cover investments in passenger service infrastructure, such as stops and railway stations. The investments will include the adjustment of facilities to the needs of people with reduced mobility, improved traffic safety and convenient transfers to another mode of public transport e.g. bus. The projects will cover railway line sections of major importance for increasing the accessibility of the macroregion.

**690**  
EUR mln



# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The investments will contribute to the improvement of road and rail connections in Eastern Poland, as well as better linking of the macroregion with the other parts of the country and the European Union. The projects will positively affect both freight and passenger transport and have an impact on increasing competitiveness and boosting entrepreneurship in Eastern Poland, improving access to labour markets, education and other public services for the population.

In the area of road transport, investments will provide better quality links to the TEN-T and important logistics hubs. The construction of bypasses will additionally enable the diversion of transit traffic from cities and towns, which will enhance the residents' quality of life, increase safety and reduce air and noise emissions.

In the area of rail transport, investments will facilitate increasing the share of railway in regional, macro-regional and national transport. Redirecting part of the traffic from roads to railway will create better conditions for economic activity, bringing labour markets closer and improving the accessibility of centres offering higher-level public services. This will also have a positive impact on the environment.

# V.1 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

allocation  
**140,4**  
EUR mln

The support for investment in facilities or sites which, by their linking, will create a consistent product - a tourist trail (e.g. historical, cultural, natural, landscape). The investments will be developed with respect for the natural environment and "Do No Significant Harm" principle.



**Supra-regional tourism products (trails) with the strongest potential to attract tourists will be supported, in particular those related to the development of cycling routes, infrastructure for canoe and campervans.**

## **The support will cover:**

- reconstruction or development of facilities and space forming a part of the integrated tourist product and infrastructure facilitating access to the places mentioned above, including for persons with disabilities
- activities in the area of digitalisation of the trail offer (e.g. availability, online service)
- development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the management and development of the tourism product

# EXPECTED EFFECTS

The support will result in boosting tourist traffic by using the untapped tourism and cultural potential, thus positively impacting the socio-economic development of above all local communities along the route corridor. In a broad perspective, this development will affect the entire macroregion. Entrepreneurship will develop and new jobs will be created around the supported tourist routes. The development of services to complement and enhance the quality of the trail offer will attract different segments of tourists and increase revenues in the macroregion. Numerous social benefits will provide an additional effect, including increased integration and social cohesion of the macroregion, creating new leisure opportunities, also for local residents. All the investments will be developed with respect for the natural environment. Tourism development will be sustainable, which means that it will not be detrimental to nature.

# 10. WHO PROVIDES SUPPORT?

## Managing Authority

Ministry of Development  
Funds and Regional Policy

## Intermediate Bodies

Polish Agency for  
Enterprise Development

Ministry of Climate and  
Environment

Centre for EU Transport  
Projects

## Measures

I.1, I.2, I.3, I.4,  
III.1, IV.1, V.1

II.1, II.2, II.3

IV.2

## Implementing Body

National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water  
Management (measures: II.2, II.3)

Fund of Funds Manager – Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego  
(measure: I.5)

Loans for SMEs will be distributed by regional loan funds selected  
by BGK

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## Contact details

Ministry of Development  
Funds and Regional Policy  
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