Factsheet on Cohesion Policy implementation and performance

Case study regions in Poland

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| **Basic info** | **Podkarpackie** | **Pomorskie** | **Poland** | **Unit** |
| Population [2008] | 2097 | 2215 | 38116 | thous. |
| GDP [2008] | 14343 | 20214 | 363692 | mln EUR |
| Population [2014] | 2129 | 2299 | 38484 | thous. |
| GDP [2014] | 16107 | 23393 | 410845 | mln EUR |
| ***Total allocation*** | | | | |
| Allocation ERDF+CF [2000-2006] | 329 | 767 | 10504 | mln EUR |
| Allocation ERDF+CF 2007-2013 | 4178 | 4072 | 60924 | mln EUR |
| Ratio [period 2007-2013 to 2000-2006] | 12.70 | 5.31 | 5.80 | ratio |
| ***Absorption rates ERDF+CF*** | | | | |
| Absorption rate 2000-2006 [final] | 96 | 94 | 94 | per cent |
| Absorption rate 2007-2013 [in 2014] | 81 | 73 | 73 | per cent |

Podkarpackie and Pomorskie regions are comparable with regard to population (2.1 and 2.2 million respectively), but the latter has significantly higher GDP per capita. Total allocation from ERDF and CF funds to these regions exceeded 4 billion EUR per each in the programming period 2007-2013. Overall absorption rate in Podkarpackie region exceeds the national average by 8 pp., while in Pomorskie it is equal to the average.

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| **Thematic structure** [NUTS-2, 2007-13, ERDF+CF] | **Podkarpackie** | **Pomorskie** | **Poland** |
| ***% of allocation*** | | | |
| Category A “Innovative enivironment”: business support, human resources, IT infrastructure and services, research and technology | 28.7% | 21.9% | 28.5% |
| Category B ”Basic infrastructure”: energy, environment and natural resources, transport infrastructure | 60.4% | 69.1% | 59.0% |
| Category C “Quality of life”: social infrastructure, tourism and culture, urban and rural regeneration | 9.1% | 7.4% | 9.8% |
| ***Rate of absorption [in 2014]*** | | | |
| Category A “Innovative enivironment”: business support, human resources, IT infrastructure and services, research and technology | 64.8% | 65.4% | 63.2% |
| Category B ”Basic infrastructure”: energy, environment and natural resources, transport infrastructure | 86.5% | 73.4% | 76.1% |
| Category C “Quality of life”: social infrastructure, tourism and culture, urban and rural regeneration | 91.3% | 89.1% | 85.4% |

\* % of allocation does not add to 1, because the “technical assistance” is not included in any of the categories.

The thematic structure of allocation of ERDF and CF funds is similar in both regions as well as in Poland in general. The highest share of funds was allocated to group B (esp. in Pomorskie) that represent mainly infrastructural projects. While group C, to a large extent focused on amenities, has a relatively minor share of spending (below 10%). Group A, which could be attributed to pro-growth measures, has a more substantial share in Podkarpackie than in Pomorskie region (29% vs. 22%)

The rate of absorption shows an interesting pattern with investments in Category A (approx. 65%) significantly falling behind Category B (73%-86%), and with Category C at the top (ca. 90%). The gap between the two leading categories differs notably between Podkarpackie and Pomorskie, with relatively higher spending on Category B in the former region.

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| **Regional OP** [ERDF] | **Podkarpackie** | **Pomorskie** | **Poland** | **Unit** |
| ***Allocations to Regional OPs*** | | | | |
| Allocation 2007-2013 | 1218 | 961 | 17872 | mln EUR |
| Allocation 2014-2020 | 2114 | 1865 | 31277 | mln EUR |
| Ratio [period 2014-2020 to 2007-2013] | 1.74 | 1.94 | 1.75 | ratio |
| ***Reported achievements: period 2007-2013 [as in 2013]*** | | | | |
| Jobs created | 3152 | 2042 | 84636 | jobs |
| New and reconstructed roads | 975 | 237 | 9103 | km |
| Start-ups supported | 27 | no data | 1993 | number |
| Research jobs created | 4 | no data | 5000 | jobs |
| Direct investment aid projects to SME | 508 | 487 | 14955 | number |

Podkarpackie has received higher allocations to its Regional Operational Programmes than Pomorskie in both programming periods. However, Pomorskie noted a slightly higher increase in allocation between 2007-2013 and 2014-2020. The reported number of jobs created as a result of the Programme implementation is significantly higher in Podkarpackie (3.2 thous.) than in Pomorskie (2.0 thous.). The same applies to new and reconstructed roads that account to almost 1000 km in Podkarpackie, while only 250 km in Pomorskie. The number of direct investment grants for SME is similar – approx. 500 in each of the regions. In Podkarpackie support for start-ups, as well as research jobs created, was meagre, while in Podkarpackie no data were available regarding this matter.