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STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES FOR 2030

SUMMARY

For the last 25 years, the national policy has been dominated by a development model which perceived the development primarily through the growth of agglomerations and large cities as well as their functional areas. It assumed a diffusion of the effects of growth to other areas. The lessons learnt over recent years indicate that maintaining this model would lead to furthering the unfavourable demographic changes, a slowdown in the development rate of Polish rural areas and weakening of territorial cohesion due to the absence of the expected “development diffusion” from the so-called “development driver areas” to transitional and marginalised regions.

On 16 February 2016, the Government of the Republic of Poland presented a vision for the country's development in the *Responsible Development Plan*. The Plan was further developed into a medium-term strategy for national development known as the *Strategy for Responsible Development for the period up to 2020 (including the perspective up to 2030)* (SRD) adopted by the Council of Ministers on 14 February 2017. The new model of country development adopted in the *Responsible Development Plan* and in SRD provides for **responsible and socially and territorially sustainable development. It also assumes the fullest possible realisation of individual territorial potentials as well as development based on investment, innovation, export and highly-processed products**. Adopting a responsible development model is an opportunity to increase the pace of territorial development of rural areas.

The *Strategy for Responsible Development for the period up to 2020 (including the perspective up to 2030)* is implemented through a system of integrated strategies which will serve, among other things, to properly address the scope of public interventions financed from national and EU funds for 2021–2027. **One of these integrated strategies is the *Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, Agriculture and Fisheries for 2030 (SSDRAAF 2030)* adopted by the Council of Ministers on 15 October 2019**. It replaced the *Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, Agriculture and Fisheries for 2012–2020* (adopted by the Council of Ministers on 25 April 2012) which was the key document setting direction for public action with respect to rural development, agriculture and fisheries in the period 2014–2020, and its provisions are reflected in the *Partnership Agreement* – a document outlining the use of EU funds by Poland in the period 2014–2020 (2023).

The *Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, Agriculture and Fisheries for 2030* was developed based on the provisions of the Act of 6 December 2006 *on the principles of the development policy* (Dz.U. [Polish Journal of Laws] of 2019, item 1295). It provides for strategic measures and projects falling within the competence of not only the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW) but also of the other ministries and voivodeship-level local government, acting as a key player in the process of programming, managing and coordinating development activities at the regional level. In the diagnostic part, including the assessment of external conditions, and at the stage of formulating challenges, the conclusions of the analyses by the EC and international organisations, in particular OECD and FAO, were also taken into account.

The measures planned under the strategy relate to all agricultural holdings and fish farms as well as all rural areas, taking into account their different development needs. The activities planned until 2030 include:

- maintaining the principle that family farms form the foundation of the agricultural system;

- supporting the sustainable development of small, medium-sized and large agricultural holdings;
- greater use of the agri-food sector potential, thanks to the development of new skills and competences by its employees as well as by taking advantage of the state-of-the-art technology in production, applying digital solutions and creating an environment for developing innovative products;
- building a competitive position of Polish food on foreign markets whose hallmark will be top quality and reference to the best Polish traditions, as well as adaptation of agri-food products to changing consumption patterns (e.g. growing interest in organic foods);
- dynamic development of rural areas in cooperation with cities, which will result in a stable and sustainable economic growth, ensuring decent work for every rural resident and access to healthy Polish food for urban residents;
- creating conditions for rural residents to improve occupational mobility and use the development and retraining opportunities stemming from the emergence of new economic sectors (e.g. bio-economy);
- pursuing agricultural and fishing production respecting the principles of environmental protection and adapting the agri-food sector to climate change, including with regard to access to water.

The activities planned as part of the strategy will be financed from national (budget and self-government), private and European (primarily from the Common Agricultural Policy, Common Fisheries Policy and Cohesion Policy) funds. They are to serve the achievement of the strategy's main objective and the implementation of a long-term vision for Polish rural areas.

The main objective of SSDRAAF 2030 is the economic development of rural areas enabling sustainable income growth for their residents while minimising economic, social and territorial disparities and improving the natural environment.

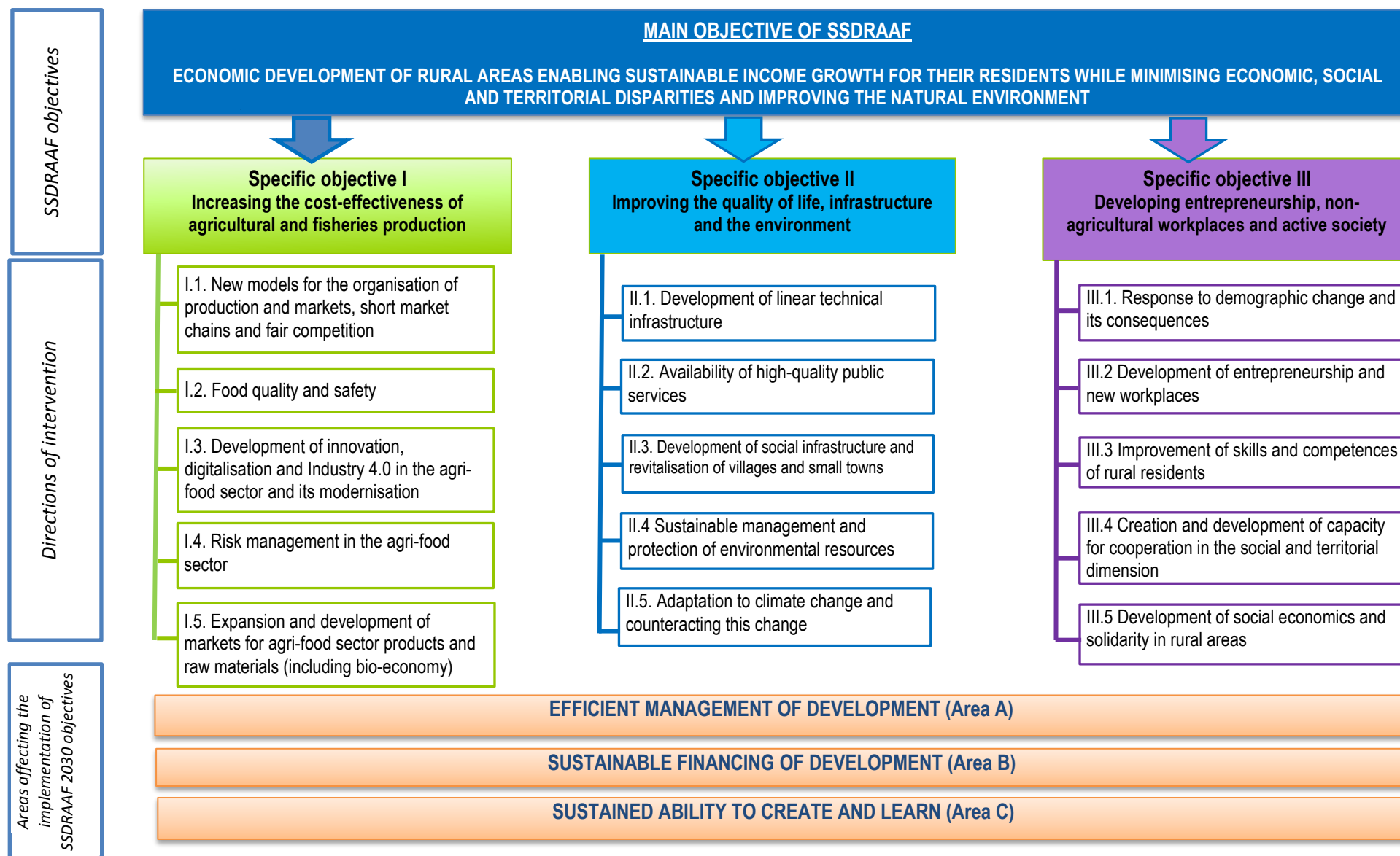
Vision for the Polish rural areas in 2050

Rural areas in 2050 will be an attractive place to work, live, relax and pursue agricultural or non-agricultural activities. These are also areas providing public and market goods while preserving the unique natural, landscape and cultural values for future generations thanks to sustainable development of competitive agriculture and fisheries. Unfavourable demographic changes were contained and positive environmental effects of agricultural and fisheries production were significantly increased in rural areas. The agricultural system is based on family farms that grow sustainably and responsibly while applying modern technologies. The contribution of small and medium-sized agricultural holdings to the sustainable development of agriculture has been increased.

In view of the pace of changes observed from a historical perspective, in the context of rural households' attachment to tradition as well as economic and environmental considerations, **it is assumed that reaching the state presented in the vision will not happen abruptly, revolutionarily but rather gradually, in an evolving manner.**

This objective will be achieved through strategic measures and projects assigned to three operational objectives and three areas affecting the implementation of strategy objectives:

- **Specific objective I. Increasing the cost-effectiveness of agricultural and fisheries production**
- **Specific objective II. Improving the quality of life, infrastructure and the environment**
- **Specific objective III. Developing entrepreneurship, non-agricultural workplaces and active society**
- **3 areas affecting the implementation of strategy objectives: 1) Efficient management of development, 2) Sustainable financing of development, 3) Sustained ability to create and learn**



The logic behind the strategic intervention under SSDRAAF 2030

Source: SSDRAAF 2030