

# Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Poland

The 2018 National Report

- 1 NO POVERTY
- 2 ZERO HUNGER
- 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
- 4 QUALITY EDUCATION
- 5 GENDER EQUALITY
- 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
- 13 CLIMATE ACTION
- 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
- 15 LIFE ON LAND
- 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
- 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The Report accepted  
by the Council of Ministers  
on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018



# **Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Poland**

The 2018 National Report

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*This document is the first Polish report on the implementation of the objectives stated in “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. It presents our priorities and actions which we are going to undertake in order to implement all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.*

*The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015 in Poland coincided with the works on the medium-term national development strategy, i.e. Strategy for Responsible Development, and with its implementation. The new development model for Poland set in the Strategy is convergent with the 2030 Agenda Goals. A responsible development is the one that, while building a competitive power with the use of novel development factors, ensures that all the social groups are involved in and benefit from it. The ambitious vision of the world free from poverty, in which every person can and does benefit from the socioeconomic development, expressed in the 2030 Agenda, is our vision and our goal as well.*

*Poland is determined to implement the 2030 Agenda and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. There is no doubt that answering complex, global problems requires a multi-level cooperation. The value added of implementing the 2030 Agenda, which is highly advantageous due to its universal character and socially-beneficial dimension, is the possibility of strengthening the cooperation between the state, as well as its institutions, and the stakeholders, especially from the private sector. The establishment of this cooperation in Poland manifested itself through initiating, in June 2017, the Partnership for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, which unites representatives from a variety of backgrounds in striving for the achievement of these goals. Apart from the transfer of knowledge and identification of good practices, the aim of developing the multi sectoral cooperation is, above all, to program better quality actions and to undertake effective initiatives through joint development planning.*

*The process of adapting the Polish economy to a more innovative framework is already underway. We are certain that by involving a wide range of partners, and drawing on experiences of the other signatories of the 2030 Agenda, we will be able to accelerate it.*

*We believe that the Polish approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will contribute effectively to achieving the ambitious vision of the development of the world by the year 2030. Hopefully, the practices, initiatives and directions of intervention presented in the report will constitute a valuable inspiration for other states in their pursuit of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are convinced that, regardless of the level of economic development, the aim of all the states is to efficiently implement the actions focused on improving the quality of life through increasing welfare, while protecting the natural environment.*

*We believe that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda provisions and goals will entail pro-growth actions which will allow us to build sustainable future, with the present and future generations in mind.*

*M. Morawiecki*

## Introduction

The concept of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup> was based on the earlier model of the Millennium Development Goals agreed in 2000 at the United Nations General Assembly for the period ending in 2015. The approaching deadline for the implementation of the “Millennium Agenda” triggered the debate on the priority directions for international cooperation in the area of development policy of the United Nations, with a perspective going beyond 2015.

The negotiations of the post-2015 agenda covered four components, namely the Political Declaration, the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Partnership and implementation measures and the rules of reviewing and monitoring of the process. Following the two-year period of complex negotiation all the four components were agreed, including 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets.

Poland, being an active negotiator of the 2030 Agenda, based its position on the assumptions of the Act of 16 September 2011 on development cooperation (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2017 item 2098, as amended). Their primary objective was to support the conditions for sustainable development of developing countries, in particular through the promotion and consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights, good governance and support for institution building. At the same time, we supported the position of the European Union and its Member States, stressing the strong link between sustainable development and democratisation. We emphasised that international support must be proportional to the potential in this respect. About energy, we pointed out the need to make the commitments on energy more realistic, including the share of renewable energy sources in the general structure of energy carriers and their availability. Regarding the climate, we were in favour of eliminating targets that could presumably affect the outcome of negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) prepared in New York, on 9th of May 1992 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 1996 item. 238), planned to be held in December 2015 in Paris.

At the United Nations Special Summit in 2015, during which the 2030 Agenda was adopted, Poland was represented by President Andrzej Duda, who expressed the highest political support in Poland for the agreed goals.

Poland’s commitment to present its voluntary review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level<sup>2</sup> already three years after it entered into force proves the country’s active involvement in this important process, which encompasses all development-related matters of the United Nations.

2018 is a special year for Poland, as it is the centenary of regaining its independence. It is also the year of summing up one hundred years of development of Polish economy, which included periods of prosperity, strong growth and implementation of breakthrough reforms, but also the ordeal of international conflicts, or the challenges related to the reconstruction and modernisation of the state in economic and social terms.

The reborn Poland was a mix of several economic systems. The problems faced by the young state included e.g. integration of the transport system and reconstruction of the country after the partitions and World War I, with insufficient capital and reserves. Industrialisation projects aimed at increasing the country’s economic potential. The Central Industrial District was established, under which several new urban centres and a number of modern factories were designed. During the interwar period, the port of Gdynia became the largest port on the Baltic Sea and one of the most modern ports in Europe.

The economic boom in the new Poland was interrupted by the outbreak of World War II. After the fall of communism and the regaining of sovereignty in 1989, Poland returned to the group of leading European economies, drawing on the modernisation experiences of the Second Polish Republic and using new instruments related to its membership in the European Union.

All these experiences and achievements so far provide a strong basis for the continuation of great transformational changes. We believe it is necessary to further modernise public policies so as to achieve a better balance between growth factors and social and environmental needs. Sustainable development is a great challenge of modern times in which, drawing on the past experiences, we should make responsible decisions in order to build a civilisation worthy of the future generations. In line with Pope John Paul II’s maxim *The future begins today, not tomorrow*, we are aware of the need for immediate action and full involvement of all stakeholders in this great process of change towards sustainable development.

The correlation between peace and security and development, in particular sustainable development, becomes increasingly stronger. Relevant debates and related UN positions are formulated in various UN resolutions<sup>3</sup>. The most significant of them are reflected by the UN Security Council in its resolutions and decisions. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Poland considers it one of its priorities to support the Council’s efforts to uphold the international law.

Active participation in the global climate policy is also crucial for Poland. Our efforts focus, on the one hand, on fulfilling international agreements and commitments on climate protection and, on the other hand, on creating the conditions for an effective international debate in order to increase ambition and accelerate action. In December 2018, for the third time, Poland will host the most important global forum

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1. Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.
  2. Voluntary National Review, VNR.
  3. Example: *70/262 Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture: Recognising that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.*

devoted to global climate policy: the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), together with the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14). Almost 40,000 delegates from around the world will participate in the event, including heads of government and ministers responsible for

environment and climate issues. The aim of COP24 is to adopt a full package implementing the Paris Agreement, the first international agreement where all countries in the world commit to take climate protection measures. The implementation package will enable the practical fulfilment of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, it will set the global climate and energy policy for the coming years.



## Executive summary

This Report has been prepared to review Poland's achievement in the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined in the United Nations Resolution *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Poland declared that its first review would take place at a ministerial session of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations in September 2015 coincided with **a broad public debate on defining a new approach to development policy and the need to identify and give new impetus to development in Poland. As a result, a model of responsible development was defined, in which economic factors, while respecting the natural environment, are balanced by social factors, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.** The aim of such an approach is to ensure sustainable economic growth based on new competitive advantages, equal access to the benefits of development for all social groups and, ultimately, improving the quality of life of citizens. It is an important direction of changes in public policy. It brings back to social and economic life such values as solidarity, family and community, which for years have been nurtured in the culture and education of the nation.

2018 marks the centenary of Poland's regained independence after 123 years of partitions. This is a special opportunity for us to present Poland's achievements on the road to sustainable development to the international community. We believe that our experiences, achievements and best practices constitute capital that can be used in the global process of building and consolidating responsible economic development.

In the Report, we list the national priorities for the achievement of SDGs and present the institutional and coordination mechanism that supports the process of effective implementation of SDGs in Poland. The key document through which the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals are implemented in Poland is the Strategy for Responsible Development (the SRD).<sup>4</sup> It is an instrument of flexible management of the country's development processes, setting priorities, directions and actions until 2030, the effect of which will be to improve the quality of life of citizens and the possibility to benefit from economic growth for all, in accordance with the *no one will be left behind* principle.

**The new development model for Poland presented in the SRD meets the expectations set out in the 2030 Agenda. The convergence of the SRD and the Agenda is noticeable in their objectives, priority areas and actions, as well as indicators. The priorities of the social and economic development of Poland have been defined in all three dimensions of sustainable development.**

At the social level, Poland's priority is above all to reduce social exclusion, poverty and all kinds of social inequality, including its territorial dimension. The ultimate objective of all measures is to improve the

quality of life of citizens. Moreover, we focus on the development of human and social capital through access to knowledge and education, improving competences and social cohesion.

At the economic level, Poland's priority is mainly to build a strong, modern industry and to support entrepreneurship. Investment in innovation, development of new technologies and high-value-added products, development of information technologies and full use of the digital revolution are crucial in this respect. In addition, we support the internationalisation of Polish enterprises and the creation of Polish brands abroad.

In the environmental dimension, Poland strives to improve the state of the environment and sustainable management of resources. Poland's objective is to increase the available water resources and to achieve high water quality, sustainable management of natural and geological resources, as well as effective waste management. Improving air quality in Polish cities remains a priority.

Achievement of the abovementioned priorities will be supported by strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and its institutions. We strive to improve the quality of legislation, ensure efficient administration, strengthen the strategic management system for development processes and break the practice of operating in isolation.

We focus on cooperation, partnership and joint responsibility of public entities, businesses and citizens for the development processes. This is reflected in a shift from an administration system to shared management and shared responsibility for the success of transformational changes. It is crucial to build social dialogue around the most important projects and broad social support and trust between public entities and their partners in order to achieve development goals.

We also present the national approach to the achievement of Sustaina-

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4. The Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD), adopted by the Council of Ministers on 14 February 2017, formulates the Polish perspective of actions for sustainable and responsible development. The document defines the priorities of social and economic development by 2020 and in the perspective to 2030 (a horizon consistent with the 2030 Agenda). SRD is a strategic instrument for managing the country's development policy implemented by the state institutions. It presents in a single programming system the objectives to be achieved, the way they are to be achieved and the performance indicators and key projects for the achievement of the objectives of the SRD. The strategy also indicates the principles organising the process of its programming and implementation and defines the basic sources of financing. The document is available on the website of the Ministry of Investment and Development: [www.miiir.gov.pl/strony/strategia-na-rzecz-odpowiedzialnego-rozwoju/informacje-o-strategii/](http://www.miiir.gov.pl/strony/strategia-na-rzecz-odpowiedzialnego-rozwoju/informacje-o-strategii/); [www.miiir.gov.pl/media/51477/SOR\\_2017\\_streszczenie\\_en.pdf](http://www.miiir.gov.pl/media/51477/SOR_2017_streszczenie_en.pdf).

ble Development Goals. We have decided to present the public policies implemented under all 17 SDGs, due to the strong correlation and links between the different social and economic areas to which they refer. We believe that only comprehensive and broad knowledge of the implementation of measures under each SDG allows us to reliably assess the effectiveness of our efforts and to measure the distance to the fulfilment of our commitments. Each SDG contains a brief diagnostic description, identifies the priorities of Polish public policy in a given area and presents key measures for the implementation of the set priorities. In our opinion, the most measurable effects are achieved under specific measures and projects; therefore, with each SDG, we have identified strategic government projects, the implementation of which contributes to the achievement of a specific goal. Moreover, we present examples of good practices under projects implemented by local government units, NGOs, entrepreneurs or local communities.

The Report shows our experience in building partnership, dialogue and cooperation between the administration and stakeholders in order to create appropriate conditions for the promotion of the idea of sustainable development in Poland. We believe that our approach and the Partnership for the implementation of Sustainable Development

Goals can constitute a good practice for other countries. We also formulate plans for the future, focusing on social and economic areas and public policies, which trigger the sustainable development of Poland.

As it is vital to monitor the progress of SDGs implementation at the national level, the Report contains a statistical annex with a list of national indicators necessary to measure the effects of actions taken to implement respective SDGs.

The Report was prepared using a participatory approach. This means that already at the drafting stage, organisations representing various stakeholder groups were involved. A dedicated Task Force for the Coherence between the SRD and the 2030 Agenda was appointed to prepare Poland for the *Voluntary National Review 2018*. The Task Force includes representatives of ministries, social organisations, social and economic partners, NGOs, public statistics, civil society, academia and youth. Ministerial coordinators have been appointed for respective SDGs and descriptions of individual measures and examples of best practices have been developed in cooperation with external partners. Moreover, the Report was subject to extensive public consultations in accordance with the no one will be left behind principle.



## Methodology of the Report

### Leadership and coordination

The UN Resolution on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015<sup>5</sup>, triggering the process of implementation at the global, regional and national level. By adopting the Resolution, all UN Member States agreed that it was necessary:

- to designate National Development Goals, which will refer to the Sustainable Development Goals adopted within the 2030 Agenda;
- to ensure the monitoring of progress at the national level - select indicators, implement a relevant monitoring and reporting system;
- to build partnership between administration, businesses and other stakeholders for a new model of development and SDGs implementation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) played a leading role in the process of negotiating the provisions of the Resolution on the part of Poland. It cooperated with interested ministries and institutions. An important partner at this stage of works was the Statistics Poland which supported the MFA in matters related to the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda goals and related statistical indicators. After the entry into force of the 2030 Agenda, from 2016 its implementation at the national level was coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) responsible, inter alia, for the implementation of tasks resulting from the management of development policy through the strategic coordination system and evaluation of public policies.

A special role in this process was performed by the Deputy Prime Minister (from 12 December 2017, the Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Poland), the Minister of Economic Development and Finance, together with subordinate institutions, who served as the country's development management centre. Concentration of the managerial and coordinating function in the hands of the Minister of Economic Development and Finance responsible for economic policy, while ensuring effective mechanisms of cooperation with other ministries, allowed for the adoption of an **integrated approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Poland, consisting in ensuring coherence between global Sustainable Development Goals and development priorities at the national level, as well as joint management for both processes.**

In January 2018, the Polish Government was reconstructed and competence and structural changes within ministries occurred. Coordination of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level was vested in the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology (MET), considering the implementation of the sustainable development goals an opportunity for social and economic development. The Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology plays a leading role in the process of preparing Poland for the national review of the SDG implementation at the UN within the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Other ministries involved on substance in

the process were: the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of National Education; the Ministry of the Environment; the Ministry of Energy; the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development; the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Sport and Tourism; the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Infrastructure; the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the Statistics Poland.

The 2030 Agenda emphasises the importance of an effective system of monitoring and reporting on the achievement of its Goals. The whole process of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals has been entrusted to public statistics. In Poland, the model is implemented through coordination of SDG monitoring activities, including reporting on indicators, both nationally and globally, by the Statistics Poland.

Regarding to the external dimension of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, coordination is related to close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for development cooperation and ensuring coherence of Polish development cooperation priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals. The directions of activities have been defined in the Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme for 2016-20 and result from Poland's activity in this area on three levels: international, EU and national. Implementation is based on Annual Action Plans.

### Works on the Report

For the purpose of preparation of the Polish review of the achievement of SDGs, a **special Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD) by 2020 (with a perspective to 2030) with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SRD Coherence Task Force) has been appointed.** The Task Force works within the Coordination Committee for Development Policy, which is a central platform for monitoring the process of management of Poland's development, including the implementation of the main development strategy, i.e. the SRD. By establishing the SRD Coherence Task Force within the Coordination Committee for Development Policy, the coordination and monitoring of SDG achievement in Poland was included in the process of strategic management of the country.

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5. Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, *About the Agenda*, [www.mpit.gov.pl/strony/zadania/zrownowazony-rozwoj/agenda-2030/o-agendzie/](http://www.mpit.gov.pl/strony/zadania/zrownowazony-rozwoj/agenda-2030/o-agendzie/).

**The Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology plays a leading role in the process of preparing Poland for the national review of the SDG implementation at the UN within the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.**

The tasks of the Task Force include:

- selection of national priorities for the SDG achievement in Poland based on the SRD,
- ensuring a participatory process of preparing the national report for the purposes of the Voluntary National Review of the achievement of SDGs (VNR) by including representatives of government and local government administration as well as representatives of the society in the discussion,
- exchanging information, good practices and knowledge on creating conditions for effective SDG achievement in Poland,
- monitoring the progress in the implementation of the directions of development defined in the SRD and the manner the implementation of these directions affects the achievement of SDGs in Poland.

The assumption of the Task Force's operation was to invite representatives of various circles to cooperate in order to ensure their active participation in the process of building appropriate conditions for the effective implementation of SDGs in Poland. It has been ensured that the Task Force included members of each level of administration. Apart from experts representing respective ministries and the Statistics Poland, the Task Force comprises representatives of the regional and local level, including associations of voivodeships, districts and municipalities of Poland, as well as organisations associating cities and metropolises in the country. As a result, the achievement of SDGs in Poland has been embedded locally, extending the commitment to the achievement of SDGs to lower administrative levels.

In line with the *no one will be left behind* principle, social and economic partners, including organisations associating employees and employers, were invited to cooperate within the Task Force. They include employers' organisations and trade unions, which are members of the Social Dialogue Council. This institution is a forum for tripartite dialogue in Poland and cooperation between employees, employers and the government, operating at the central level.

The Task Force also includes representatives of the Public Benefit Works Council, which is the body that institutionalises the principle of civil dialogue and cooperation between the public sector and the so-called third sector. It complements the institutions implementing the principle of social dialogue.

Among the participants of Task Force meetings are also representatives of academic circles, organisations belonging to the UN family that are active in Poland, and youth organisations. In order to prepare the Polish review, UNICEF established cooperation with the UNICEF Youth Council, whose main objective is to present the position of the young generation on issues important from their point of view and of particular importance for their development. The Council is composed of representatives of 16 voivodeships and includes young people of all ages from cities and rural areas. In total, the Council has 32 members (2 persons from each voivodeship).

The works of the Task Force take place on a regular basis during meetings and in a continuous manner between meetings. The **Task Force** adopted a participatory model of preparing the Report. This means that the descriptions of particular parts of the Report were prepared by the members of the Task Force representing the ministries<sup>6</sup>, in cooperation with social and economic partners. For each chapter, **ministerial coordinators have been identified**, in accordance with the thematic and substantive competence. On the basis of sustainable development priorities for Poland identified by the ministries, the Statistics Poland selected monitoring indicators and presented them in a statistical annex. The statistical annex was developed by Statistics Poland, which coordinates the process of monitoring the 2030 Agenda in Poland from the statistics point of view and reporting for the purposes of evaluation of the achievement of SDGs at the global level. The Report is therefore the result of a partnership between representatives of various circles.

6. Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy; the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of National Education; the Ministry of the Environment; the Ministry of Energy; the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development; the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Justice; the Ministry of Sport and Tourism; the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; the Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Infrastructure; the Chancellor of the Prime Minister; and the Statistics Poland.

The report was based on a number of sources, of which the crucial one was the **Strategy for Responsible Development**. Moreover, updated integrated development strategies and programme documents adopted by the Government were used. The data and information were also obtained from national analyses and studies on Poland's position in SDG achievement, identification of areas of measures and policies for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as studies and publications of international organisations: OECD<sup>7</sup>, UN<sup>8</sup>, EU<sup>9</sup> and other institutions<sup>10</sup>.

The draft report was subject to extensive consultations, in accordance with the consultation procedure for documents adopted in Poland by the Council of Ministers.

Between 6 and 27 April 2018, the Report was submitted for inter-ministerial consultations and broad public consultations. Public consultations were conducted in a multidimensional way - electronically and by submitting the draft for the opinion of specific circles and stakeholder groups. The draft Report was published on 6 April 2018 on the website of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology, providing an opportunity to submit comments using a dedicated form.

The draft Report was also submitted to a wide range of social partners for opinion.

Public consultations were conducted at the national and regional level - the draft document was submitted to Marshal's Offices and Voivodeship Offices. The document was also submitted to the Social Dialogue Council for opinion.

In addition, the following groups were addressed by and participated in the consultations: business and employers' organisations, NGOs, and trade unions.

The draft Report was also submitted to selected Parliamentary Committees.

On 10 May, the Coordinating Committee for Development Policy adopted the information on the Report.

7. e.g. OECD, *The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: Towards a Successful Implementation by Poland*, OECD "Better Policies" Series, November 2017; OECD, *Measuring Distance to the SDG Targets: an assessment of where OECD countries stand*, June 2017.
8. e.g. VNR of respective countries, UN DSD, UN DESA, *Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews*, the 2018 Edition, January 2018; *UN Secretary-General, 2017 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) progress report*, June 2017.
9. e.g. Eurostat, *Sustainable Development in the European Union – Monitoring report on progress towards the SDGs in an EU context*, November 2017.
10. e.g. Ch. Kroll, *Sustainable Development Goals: are the rich countries ready?*, Bertelsmann Stiftung 2015.

# National sustainable development priorities

## National development strategy

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, based on development taking social, economic and environmental aspects into account, are strongly reflected in the Polish development policy. They were included in the vision of development formulated in the **Strategy for Responsible Development** (the SRD), adopted by the Council of Ministers in February 2017.

Polish economy needs new development impulses that will ensure stable growth while improving the quality of life and the wealth of its citizens. To address these needs, the strategy presents a new model of development - responsible development, i.e. one which, by building a competitive advantage with the use of new growth factors, allows the participation of and provides benefits to all social groups living in various parts of Poland. At the same time, within the new model, the needs of the present generation will be fulfilled without reducing the opportunities of future generations. Therefore, the focus is not solely on the total size of GDP, but rather on its quality and the perception of the development processes in the context of their importance for the citizens. The strategy therefore focuses on social and economic development that ensures social inclusion, which is why it focuses directly on the people and subordinates economic activities to the achievement of objectives related to the level and quality of life of citizens.

The main objective of all activities and undertakings provided for in the SRD is to create conditions for increasing incomes of the Polish citizens along with increasing cohesion in the social, economic, environmental and territorial dimensions. Poland aspires to create legal, institutional and investment activities that will lead to:

- I. Sustainable economic growth increasingly driven by knowledge, data and organisational excellence;
- II. Socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development;
- III. Effective state and economic institutions contributing to growth as well as social and economic inclusion.

The measures taken under the three specific objectives, defined as priorities, will be supplemented by the implementation of infrastructural projects and measures of a regulatory and institutional nature. There are plans to step up efforts to develop human and social capital, including education, culture and health, in the area of transport, energy production and distribution, and ensuring a sustainable environment.

The implementation of social and economic objectives will be supported by the strengthening of the national security potential enabling the prevention and counteracting of contemporary threats.



Diagram 1. Overall objective, specific objectives and areas of intervention under the SRD

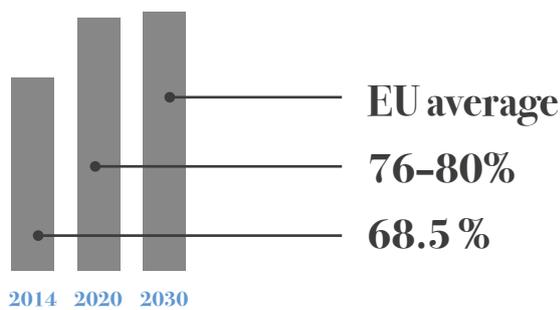


Source: the SRD.

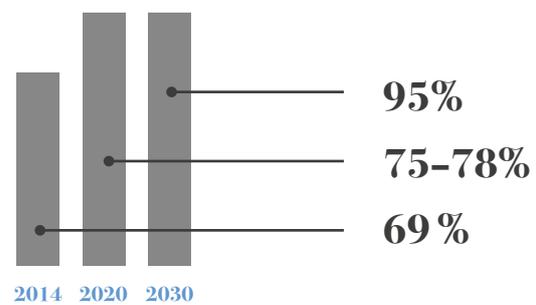
The expected effect of the implementation of the Strategy will be to increase the wealth of the Poles and reduce the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion. As a result, the quality of life will be improved by creating favourable living conditions, in particular for families, ensuring appropriate quality of education, increasing employment and better quality jobs. It is also expected that access

to infrastructure will improve, high-quality medical care will be provided, satisfactory state of the environment will be maintained and that citizens will feel safe. The most important long-term effect for the economy will be the change in the structure of Polish GDP as a result of the increased role of innovation in its generation.

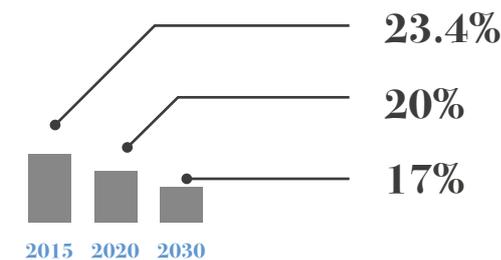
Diagram 2. Overall objectives of the Strategy for Responsible Development



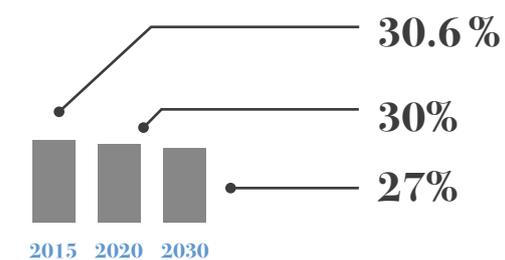
Increase in gross adjusted disposable income of households per 1 inhabitant in PPP in relation to the EU average



Further convergence of GDP per capita in PPP in Poland and in EU28



Decrease in the share of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion



Decrease in the household income gap (Gini coefficient)

Source: the SRD.

Active state policy is important for founding the economy on new development factors. The aim is to improve strategic decision-making, provide an appropriate legal framework for conducting a selective investment policy in the economic, social and territorial dimensions, with the use of current and potential comparative advantages. Active state policy at the same time means cooperation and sharing responsibility for the actions with entrepreneurs, scientists and citizens. The Strategy for Responsible Development sets out a number of strategic choices within the state policy framework, which are the point of reference in the construction of all policies, programmes and implementation projects.

This implies:

- focusing on anticipatory actions, directing the development in various areas of social and economic life;
- implementation of solutions in the area of social and economic policy in a way that does not pose a threat to the stability of public finances;
- definition of the list of strategic sectors;
- identification of flagship projects;
- indication of prospective (geographical) directions of foreign expansion for Polish enterprises;
- focusing public support on the enterprises seeking further growth;
- increasing the concentration of regional policy on problem areas and territorial potential of urban and rural areas;
- identification of key infrastructure investments.

Such a wide range of activities requires securing financial resources for their effective implementation. The objectives of the SRD will be financed primarily from national public funds, EU public funds, other foreign sources, as well as private funds including loans, leases and credits, also guaranteed or backed by entities authorised to grant guarantees or sureties. The size of those funds has been estimated in the SRD, while more detailed estimates, including the financial

exposure of potential private stakeholders, will be set out in the implementation documents for the SRD.

**The new model of development for Poland outlined in the Strategy defines development challenges for our country and meets the expectations formulated in the 2030 Agenda.**

Diagram 3. Coherence of the 2030 Agenda goals with the specific objectives of the SRD



## AREAS HAVING IMPACT ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES



Source: Own study.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, which integrate the three dimensions of development - economic, social and environmental - while pointing out the special role of partnership cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders towards their implementation, constitute a global and universal development plan. By promoting a participatory approach and dialogue for the implementation of joint initiatives, implementation of the 2030 Agenda creates an opportunity not only to make a difference in the country, region and the world, but also to act more effectively and to share the responsibility related to the implementation of public policies between public entities, business and citizens. The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is also an

opportunity to strongly link the strategic directions of development in various areas to build a sustainable future.

The concept of sustainable and responsible development on which the SRD is based is consistent with the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda, i.e. a world free from poverty where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from all three dimensions of sustainable development. The measures envisaged in the Strategy were planned until 2020 with a perspective to 2030. The convergence of the SRD and the Agenda is noticeable in their objectives, priority areas and actions, as well as indicators.



## National SDG achievement priorities

The SRD, which is a response to the challenges faced by Poland in the 21st century, offers room to take advantage of new opportunities in economic processes related e.g. with the digital revolution, robotisation, technological progress, at the same time giving hope that all social groups would benefit from the effects of growth. It sets the directions for effective cooperation within industries and between different sectors of the economy.

For Poland, increasing the role of human and social capital, which is the basis for the development of its economy, is the key to building sustainable basis for growth. The priority direction of the measures is, above all, the **reduction of social exclusion, poverty, all kinds of social inequalities, improvement of the quality of life, access to knowledge and education, improvement of competences, improvement of health care** [SDGs 1, 3 and 4].

In the economic area, Poland considers it a priority to **build a strong industry, support entrepreneurship** in all its dimensions (including increasing the competitiveness of agricultural holdings and agri-food producers, development of the sector of highly productive services), consistent and comprehensive investment projects with particular focus on **innovations, foreign expansion** of Polish businesses, making the most of the achievements of the **digital revolution, dynamic development and dissemination of information technologies**. Transport infrastructure and access to energy are prerequisites for unlocking the potential [SDGs 2, 8 and 9].

In the environmental dimension, Poland strives to **improve the state of the environment and sustainable management of resources**, ensuring economic development and high quality of life, while guaranteeing development opportunities for future generations. In particular, Poland's objective is to **increase the available water resources and to achieve high water quality, sustainable management of natural and geological resources, as well as effective waste management**. The measures will also lead to the **improvement of air quality, protection of soils against degradation, as well as to the reduction of the impact of noise and electromagnetic fields**, which will have a positive impact on the health of the citizens [SDGs 6, 12 and 15].

Another objective for Poland is the **socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development**, characterised by a high levels of employment, good quality jobs and a large scale of entrepreneurship, with focus on the importance of **all areas, including agglomerations, small towns and rural areas, in the development process**. The benefits of economic growth should be available to all, regardless of their place of residence [SDGs 10 and 11].

Achievement of the above priorities will not be possible without strengthening the efficiency and effectiveness of the state and its institutions serving growth, as well as social and economic inclusion. **Improving the quality of legislation and its application, increasing the effectiveness of functioning of public institutions, strengthening the system of strategic management of development processes, greater use of opportunities offered by technologies in state management and communication with citizens and, above all, overcoming the silo mentality** will increase the ability of the state to ensure consistent and effective implementation of complex strategic development goals and increase the level of citizens' trust in the state [SDG 16].

**We focus on cooperation, partnership and joint responsibility of public entities, businesses and citizens for the development processes**. This is reflected in a shift from an administration system to shared management and shared responsibility for the success of transformational changes, which requires the involvement of state institutions (constitutional bodies, government, local government), social and economic partners, academic circles, private entities, including entrepreneurs. It is crucial **to build social dialogue** around the most important projects and broad social support and trust between public entities and their partners in order to achieve development goals. In this context, **SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals** both emphasises the principle of implementation of Poland's development priorities and remains an independent objective, the achievement of which determines progress in five basic areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. Poland recognises that a number of measures taken in the country contribute to the achievement of all 5 transformational changes defined in the 2030 Agenda.

Diagram 4. Poland's development priorities focusing on the "5Ps" of the 2030 Agenda (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnership)



## Institutional mechanism of implementation of sustainable development in Poland

In accordance with the new global partnership for sustainable development, **Polish government strives to cooperate with its partners on an equal footing in joint initiatives, constantly developing their effectiveness and efficiency.** Successful implementation of sustainable development goals is a complex task which requires determined and continuous measures and close cooperation of ministries and local government administration as well as all stakeholders.

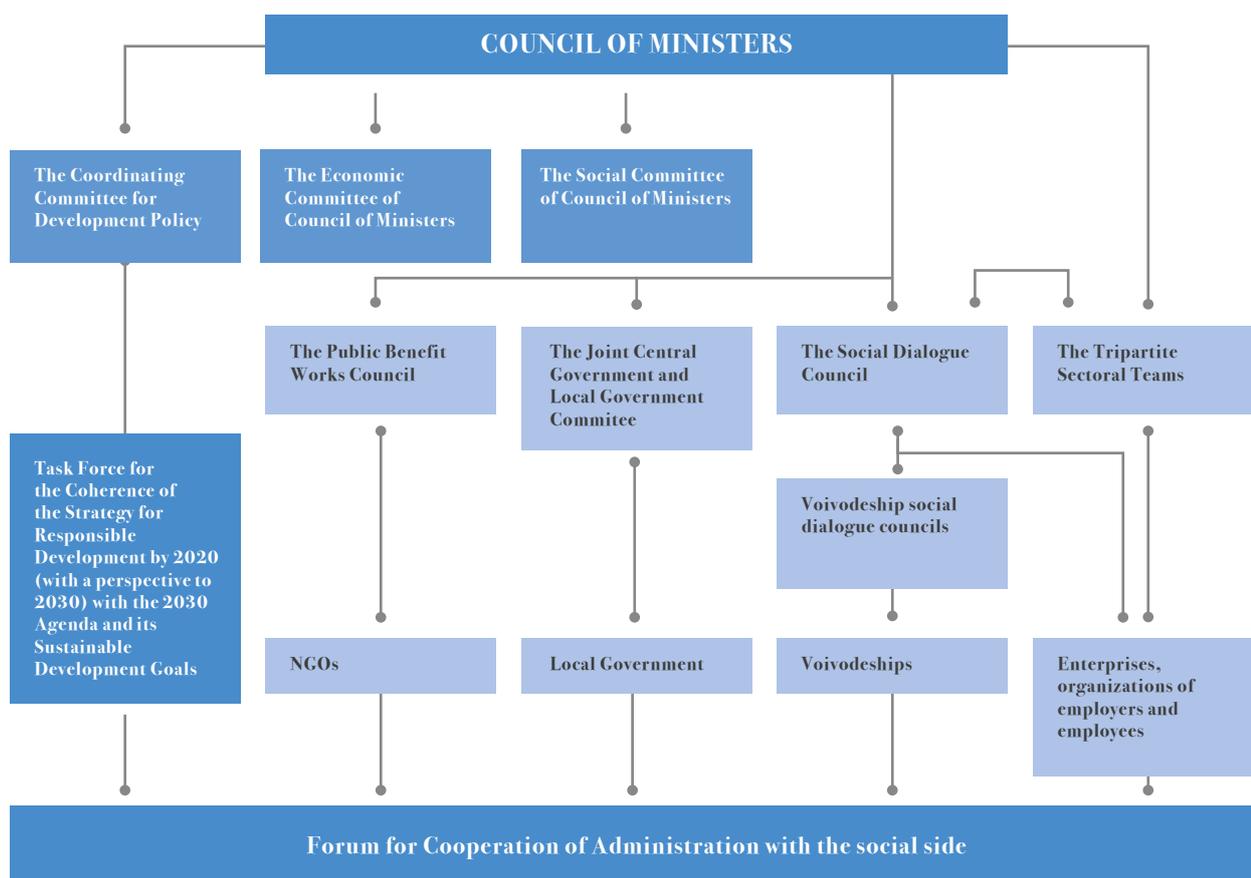
The institutional system for sustainable development in Poland ensures a clear division of competences in the area of strategic planning, operational programming, management and implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the integrated approach. The institutional system enables the social and economic partners to participate in the preparation of integrated strategic papers and includes them in

the monitoring and evaluation of development policy at all levels of development management.

According to the proposed model of Poland’s development management, the following entities participate in strategic coordination:

**The Council of Ministers**, led by the Prime Minister, defines the country’s development objectives and the manner in which they are to be achieved under respective development policies. The Council of Ministers adopts Poland’s development strategy and its updates, and determines the manner in which its objectives are to be achieved, including the necessary financial outlays.

Diagram 5. Institutional mechanism supporting the implementation of sustainable development in Poland



Source: Own study.

**The Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers** coordinates the entire economic policy, while **the Social Committee of the Council of Ministers** works on key social issues.

Recognising that such a complex programme as the Sustainable Development Goals requires a comprehensive approach, strong cooperation and involvement of representatives of various circles in the process, the abovementioned **Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development by 2020 (with a perspective to 2030) with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals** was appointed. It is a key body of cooperation between the administration and social and economic partners with regard to building an appropriate mechanism of coordination and implementation of SDGs in Poland.

Documents resulting from the works of the **Task Force** are presented at a meeting of the Coordination Committee for Development Policy (CCDP). The CCDP analyses the proposals for strategic documents. It also evaluates the progress and results of the implementation of the strategy. Apart from ministries, central offices and institutions, social dialogue platforms play a special role in the institutional mechanism. **The Social Dialogue Council** operates at the central level<sup>12</sup>. This institution is a forum for tripartite dialogue in Poland and cooperation between employees, employers and the government. At the regional level, there are also **voivodeship social dialogue councils**, where representatives of employees, employers as well as local and central government authorities cooperate.

An important element of social dialogue are **Tripartite Sectoral Teams** (in which the government, employers and employees are represented), established to conduct sectoral dialogue to reconcile the interests of the parties during the implementation of government action programmes and to solve problems related to the functioning of a given sector/industry.

The key partners in the process of creating the national development management system at the regional and local level are **local governments**. They play a key role in managing the development of voivodeships and gminas. This cooperation, based on the principles of subsidiarity and partnership, is supported by a system of territorial contracts and agreements, ensuring cooperation between local governments and the government in programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policy.

**The voivodeship government** initiates, integrates and coordinates the development of the region.<sup>13</sup> It is responsible for programming regional development activities, building cooperation networks at the regional level, coordinating pro-development activities implemented in the voivodeship and ensuring the progress of regional policy implementation processes through appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. The voivodeship government also plays a coordinating role in the measures and investments of supra-local importance planned in the region, including in functional areas.

**The Joint Central Government and Local Government Committee** brings together representatives of Polish organisations of local government units. The Committee sets economic and social priorities for the development of gminas, poviats and voivodeships, assesses the legal and financial conditions for the operation of local government units and issues opinions on draft normative acts, programme documents and solutions concerning the issues of local government (in particular the expected financial effects), including those which will result from the implementation of the SRD.

**The Public Benefit Works Council** is an active partner in cooperation for the sustainable development policy in Poland. The Public Benefit Works Council institutionalises the principle of civil dialogue and cooperation between the public sector and the so-called third sector. It complements the institutions implementing the principle of social dialogue and is at the level of the Joint Central Government and Local Government Committee and the Social Dialogue Council. It is an opinion-making, advisory and auxiliary body of the Chairman of the Public Benefit Committee.

**The Labour Market Council and voivodeship and poviat labour market councils** play an important role in the implementation of the principles of sustainable development in the area of employment and labour. The Labour Market Council, as a platform for tripartite social dialogue, has the prerogative to program expenditures of the National Training Fund with regard to lifelong learning in accordance with the current needs of employers, e.g. in the field of new technologies, in work processes that are conducive to effectiveness and with due focus on its environmental dimension.

The institutional mechanism applies an integrated approach to the cooperation of actors, which means that the various measures taken by different actors are concentrated on the strategic objectives. Interventions within individual areas are not isolated but complementary, just as development priorities and SDGs are correlated. This allows for coordination as early as at the programming stage and then the implementation stage in order to create the synergies necessary for the achievement of the assumed goals.

11. The Coordinating Committee for Development Policy is an opinion-making and advisory body of the Prime Minister, appointed on the basis of the Act of 6 December 2006 on the rules of conducting the development policy. (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2017 item 1376, as amended).
12. The Social Dialogue Council (RDS) was appointed by the President of the Republic of Poland on 22 October 2015, under the Act of 24 July 2015 on the Social Dialogue Council and other institutions of social dialogue. (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 1240, as amended).
13. The voivodeship government conducts the voivodeship development policy (Article 11(2) of the Act of 5 June 1998 on voivodeship government, Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2018 item 913) and defines the strategy of voivodeship development (Article 11(1)).

Taking into account the strategic and horizontal nature of the SDGs and their consistency with the objectives of the SRD, their implementation involves state institutions in accordance with their respective competences and with the principle of subsidiarity, including constitutional bodies, government administration and local authorities, as well as social and economic partners, associations and non-governmental organisations, academia and private entities (in particular businesses). Participation of these entities at all stages of the processes related to programming and implementation of development measures ensures their effectiveness and efficiency. It also leads to broad social support

and trust between public actors and their partners to achieve development goals. Other factors contributing to the achievement of those goals will include e.g. cooperation programmes for respective government bodies with non-governmental organisations, defining active forms of dialogue with entities participating in the development policy.

It is also important to precisely define the division of tasks between the central and local government administration. Therefore, apart from horizontal cooperation, we also provide for vertical cooperation between individual levels of impact: central, regional and local.



# Measures towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

## Starting position

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a comprehensive, multi-faceted process. The correlations between the 17 SDGs require forward-looking planning to address the needs of present and future generations and new approaches to national strategic management. To plan the best possible directions of measures, it was necessary to define the starting position, i.e. to determine at what stage of the SDG implementation Poland was, as well as to identify the solid foundations and bridges allowing for generating benefits and better results in other areas, as well as the system's deficiencies and low outlays.

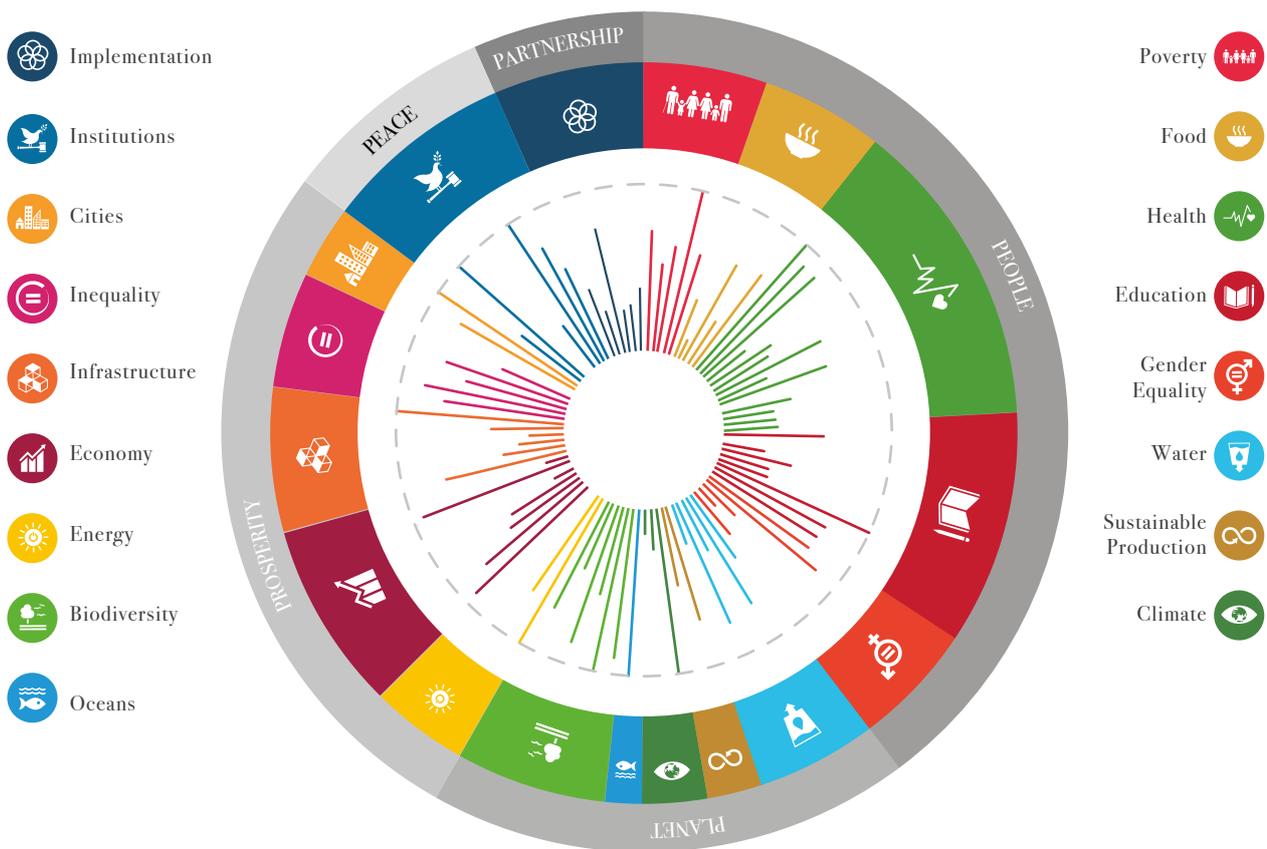
To verify its starting position, Poland used e.g. studies prepared by international organisations, including the OECD<sup>11</sup>, as well as national analyses. As part of international comparisons, the OECD analysed Poland's position in relation to the OECD average in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. The evaluation results from an analysis of internationally comparable indicators available in the OECD and UN databases.

According to the analysis, Poland has made impressive progress in raising the living standards of its citizens in recent decades, with GDP

per capita rising from 37.6% of the OECD average in 1990 to 65.4% in 2016. Significant social achievements accompanied this economic progress. Overall poverty rate is close to the OECD average. Labour force participation has improved, although it is relatively low compared to the average, in particular among older workers. The performance of the school system has been improving, as evidenced by Poland's rising scores in the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), but additional efforts are needed to improve the performance of the lifelong learning and vocational education. This would foster innovation and speed up productivity growth. Energy efficiency improvements in industry and structural changes in the economy have enabled Poland to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. The country ratified the Paris Agreement and is on track to respect its 2020 target of limiting the rise in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions outside the EU emissions trading system. Significant changes will be needed to the power and transport sectors to further reduce emissions in the long term. Water quality remains an issue in Poland. Meeting the SDGs will also require additional efforts to conserve the Baltic Sea and better protect the country's forests.

11. OECD, *The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: Towards a Successful Implementation by Poland*, November 2017.

Figure 1. Poland's current position on available SDG targets



**NOTE:** The chart shows how far Poland has already progressed towards each available target. The longer the bars the shorter the distance is to be travelled by 2030. Targets are clustered by goal, and goals are clustered by the “5Ps” of the 2030 Agenda (outer circle).

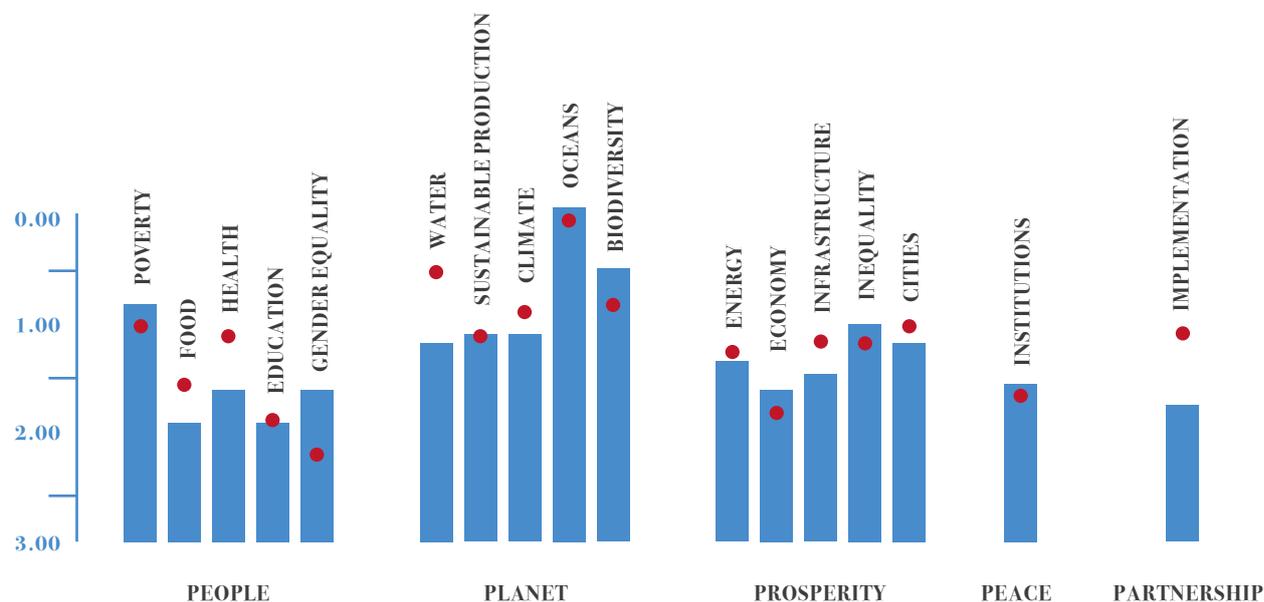
Source: OECD<sup>15</sup>

15. The radii relate to specific targets within a given SDG of the 2030 Agenda, which have been monitored by the OECD through appropriate indicators (e.g. target: 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, responding as appropriate to the Tobacco Use Index.). Due to the complexity of some indicators and the use of different types of data, individual results are standardised. The radius length indicates the relative progress of the task. If the radius reaches the intermittent line, the target has been reached. The indicators were selected for the availability of data and comparability between countries and for their representativeness for specific purposes.

The analysis based on the available data shows that Poland has reached 10 out of the 95 targets measured identified in the 2030 Agenda. Compared to the OECD average, Poland surpasses the implementation of the SDGs: poverty reduction, gender equality and biodiversity in

terms of indicators (SDGs 1, 5 and 15). However, in areas such as food, health, water and partnership quality, there is room for improvement and a need to intensify efforts (SDGs 2, 3, 6 and 17).

**Figure 2.** Poland's current position by Goals and the 5Ps of the 2030 Agenda, compared with the OECD average



**NOTE:** This figure shows Poland's distance to travel towards each of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda. The bars show Poland's performance and the points show the OECD average. The Y-axis indicates the distance to the goal in standardised units. 0 indicates that the 2030 level has already been reached and the axis starts at 3, as most OECD countries have already reached this level. Distances to the goal are aggregated at the goal level.

Source: OECD.

In order to thoroughly verify the progress Poland is making in the transformation towards sustainable development, at the end of 2016 an expert report was prepared entitled Poland's position in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted with the UN 2030 Agenda.

The analysis was based on the results obtained by Poland in international summaries of indicators - indices deemed adequate for the implementation of the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda:

- SDG Index - an index developed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and Bertelsmann Stiftung (covering 149 countries);
- Human Development Index (including the Gender Development Index and the Gender Inequality Index) developed by the United Nations Development Programme - Human Development Indicators - including gender - (covers 188 countries);
- Social Progress Index - human development indicators developed by Social Progress Imperative (covering 133 countries);
- Global Competitiveness Index - World Economic Forum (covers 140 countries);

- Environmental Performance Index (Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy, Yale Data-Driven Environmental Solutions Group, Yale University, Centre for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University) (covers 180 countries).

As each of the analysed indices takes into account different sets of indicators, for the purposes of determining the base level for respective SDGs, the most appropriate indicators for the specific nature of Poland have been selected.

The analysis showed that Poland's current SDG performance is mostly average, i.e. better than that of the 25% of the weakest countries, but worse than that of the 25% of the best countries in international rankings. As many as 8 out of the 17 Goals achieved results equal to 2.5 or 3 in the 3-degree scale adopted as part of the national analysis, which means that in many of the analysed indicators Poland is also among the countries with the highest results.

The evaluation of the results of the abovementioned expert opinion took into account the data constraints and, for certain SDGs, the small number of indicators, in particular with regard to SDGs 13 and

17, and SDGs 12 and 15. Therefore, in part of the objectives, this evaluation referred to the achievement of specific targets within the SDG rather than to the overall goal.

**Figure 3.** Poland’s performance in the achievement of SDGs based on the abovementioned international statements of indicators on the 3-degree scale



Source: Own study.

The analysis assessed the convergence of the SRD priority areas with the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and showed that the areas with the greatest coherence with the 2030 Agenda were: education, participation, social inclusion, GDP growth, financial services, infrastructure, research and development, economic innovation, entrepreneurship (including small and medium-sized enterprises), employment, sustainable agriculture, industry, adaptation to climate change, and pollution.

Coherence deficits (or where the SRD does not refer to areas, or measures are included in separate programmes) are noticed in the following areas: development cooperation, global cooperation for sustainable development and management of marine ecosystems.

The results of analyses concerning the implementation of SDGs to date, carried out on the basis of various sources and supplemented by the mapping of measures taken by respective ministries, allowed for a reliable and responsible evaluation of Poland’s progress in the achievement of each SDG, as well as for identification of gaps and determination of the directions for further actions.

We are aware that the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda are interlinked and correlated. Efforts to achieve respective SDGs entail progress or weakness in others. Given this nature of the SDGs, an important factor of their achievement is consistency between the policies pursued in various areas. This is particularly important in constructing instruments and tools to bridge or eliminate gaps.

In accordance with the Polish government’s new approach to economic management, development priorities are implemented through a project-based approach. The SRD identifies nearly 170 strategic projects with a defined responsibility of the project owner, resources and implementation budget. This provides for clear coordination mechanisms, effectiveness and accountability for the success of the adopted plans. Only through actual projects focused on specific effects is it possible to effectively implement the SDGs. However, achieving the SDGs will be a multiannual process requiring regular adaptation of strategies, action plans and tools to the changing circumstances and the involvement of all stakeholders.

# SDG 1

## End poverty in all its forms everywhere



In recent years, the financial situation of Poles has significantly improved. In 2016, the risk of poverty or social exclusion indicator calculated on the basis of the EU-SILC survey decreased by almost 9 pps in comparison with 2008, which was the largest drop in the European Union. This also means that the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion has decreased by almost 3.3 million. There has also been a reduction in the poverty rates calculated on the basis of the household budget survey. This applies to both extreme poverty (down to 4.9%) and relative poverty (down to 13.9%). It is particularly noteworthy that extreme poverty among children aged 0-17 has decreased - the rate for this group has dropped from 9% in 2015 to 5.8% in 2016, among other things, due to the implementation of the Family 500 Plus programme. Poverty reduction is an essential element of the Strategy for Responsible Development. According to the SRD, the groups at the highest risk of poverty in Poland are families with many children and single-parent families, children and youth (in particular those with disabilities) and families where at least one carer is unemployed.

### Priorities

Despite many positive changes over the years, Poland still sees the need to focus its spending on the fight against poverty, which has many dimensions in Poland. Key priorities in this area include:

- Increase in real household income, which should translate into a decline in the at risk of relative poverty rate group to 12% in 2030, with a particular focus on children.
- Increased activation of socially excluded persons, e.g. through development of the social economy sector.
- Improving access to social services (e.g. support for families with children, childcare, care of the elderly) and health care services. The aim is to increase the percentage of children aged 1-3 covered by various forms of institutional care to 33% by 2030.
- Improved housing situation. It is expected that in 2030 there will be 435 dwellings per 1,000 inhabitants.

## Measures

The works of the Polish government aim to create a stable policy to support poor and socially vulnerable people. The **Family 500 plus** programme had a significant impact on poverty reduction in 2016 by increasing the per capita income level among the least affluent 1/10 of the population by about 40%.<sup>16</sup>

The poverty level was also reduced by increasing the amounts of family benefits and introducing the principle of „PLN per PLN” (with which the family will not lose the right to benefits completely when the income threshold is exceeded), introducing parental benefits and raising the income thresholds entitling to social assistance benefits (in 2012 and 2015). In addition, from 2017, the tax-free amount depends on the taxpayer’s income. Every year, the minimum wage also increases (in 2016-18 it grew by 13.5%).

In addition to the abovementioned social policy instruments, many programmes and projects are implemented aimed at key areas related to poverty reduction in Poland. In order to **solve the problem of homelessness**, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy co-finances projects of organisations operating in the field of helping the homeless on an annual basis.

The improvement of the situation of dependent persons (children, elderly and disabled persons and their families) is implemented within the framework of policies and programmes addressed to these groups of persons. Support is being provided for older people to improve their quality of life and standard of living. In 2018, the implementation of the **Care 75+** programme began, aimed at increasing the accessibility of care services and specialist services for single and elderly people aged 75+, who live in small gminas with a population of up to 40,000. Active senior policy (**the Multiannual Senior+ Programme 2015-2020 and the Governmental Programme for Social Activity of Older Persons 2014-2020 (ASOS)**) focuses e.g. on the development of a network of daycare homes and clubs for the elderly and the development of their social activity. The **Friendly Poland - Accessibility Plus Programme**, on the other hand, aims to improve the quality and independence of life of all citizens, including in particular the elderly and people with permanent or temporary limitations to mobility and perception. This is to be achieved by improving the accessibility of public areas, products and services in terms of architecture, information and communication. A number of measures in the **For Life** programme provide for the improvement of the situation of heavily burdened families with expenditures on treatment and rehabilitation of disabled people.

The area of social economy is also actively supported within the framework of the implementation of the **National Programme for the Development of Social Economy 2014-20** (currently being updated). Social and solidarity economy entities were provided with access to repayable financial instruments<sup>17</sup> facilitating their independent functioning. The standards of support services for these

entities are also being raised due to the continuous development of the accreditation system for Social Economy Support Centres.

In addition, housing policy instruments serve to solve the problem of poverty in Poland. The **Apartment+** package, under the National Housing Programme adopted by the government in 2016, includes primarily investment activities that focus on the creation of a new housing reserve: construction of commonly available apartments for lease with moderate rent (with possible target ownership) on market terms, using e.g. public land and support for social rental construction projects.

Active measures are also taken to counteract social exclusion. **Active Forms of Counteracting Social Exclusion - new dimension 2020** supports activities of local government units and non-governmental organisations for active integration of people excluded in the local community, active forms of assistance and increasing competences, entrepreneurship and responsibility in the local community.

In turn, an important element of pro-family policy aimed at reducing the problem of poverty is the increase in the supply of services for families with children, including strengthening the role of family assistants, development of daycare facilities and supporting families, and acceleration of the process of deinstitutionalisation in the area of foster care.

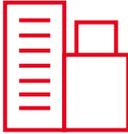
Drug related expenditure is often one of the largest items in the household budget for the elderly. Therefore, the state budget took over a part of the financial burden related to the purchase of medicines, providing seniors with the opportunity to acquire some of them free of charge. These measures are aimed at providing persons over 75 years of age with free (up to the limit) drugs, foodstuffs for special nutritional purposes and medical devices, included in the list published by the Minister of Health by way of a notice. In particular, the list includes medicines, foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses and medical devices covered by a refund decision relating to the treatment of old-age diseases.

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16. According to the calculations of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy (MRPiPS).

17. Loans, guarantees and sureties.

## Strategic projects

	<p><b>Family 500 Plus</b> - a financial support programme for families with children, whose objectives are to increase the birth rate, reduce poverty among the youngest, and invest in the development of children.</p>
	<p><b>Effective Social Assistance</b> - package of measures aimed at improving the potential and effectiveness of social assistance institutions.</p>
	<p><b>Social Innovation Incubator</b> - a system of identifying and testing new solutions and tools for eliminating or reducing social problems.</p>
	<p><b>Medicines 75+</b> - a programme ensuring access for the elderly to free medicines, foodstuffs for special nutritional purposes and medical devices related to the treatment of old age diseases in order to reduce the expenditure on drugs, which is a significant burden on the household budgets of these people.</p>
	<p><b>National Housing Programme</b> - a new housing policy that addresses regulatory and financial issues and aims to meet the housing needs of low-income households.</p>
	<p><b>Economy of Social Solidarity</b> - a programme to strengthen the social economy sector, in particular in the provision of social services of general interest to persons at risk of social exclusion.</p>

## SDG 2

# End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Poland is characterised by a high potential of agricultural production ensuring food self-sufficiency and enabling export production, as evidenced by over 13% share of agri-food products in the structure of Polish exports. A positive phenomenon observed in Polish agriculture is the evolutionary process of rationalisation of agricultural structures, professionalization of agricultural holdings and commercialisation of agricultural production, which allows for an increase in agricultural productivity (an increase in agricultural production at twice the OECD average in 2004-14).

As a consequence of Poland's membership in the EU, agriculture is covered by the Common Agricultural Policy regulations. EU Common Agricultural Policy instruments play a key role in promoting sustainable food production as well as supporting small farmers.

Poland is characterised by a significant share in the EU agricultural land (8%), the number of agricultural holdings (13%) and the number of people employed in agriculture (19%) in the EU. The share of the employed in the agricultural sector (10.5%) is more than twice the EU and OECD average. At the same time, employment in rural areas is becoming more and more diversified. Since 2004, Poland has seen one of the biggest drops in the number of people working in agriculture in the EU.

The quality of rural infrastructure remains an issue. Despite significant progress in recent years, some rural areas are still lagging behind in terms of infrastructure. Despite the improvement in the effectiveness of the use of agricultural inputs, further measures are also required in the field of fertilisation. Increasing investment in agricultural research and development is key in this regard, but the Agriculture Orientation Index for government expenditures (AOI) is one of the lowest in the EU (0.42).

Poland belongs to the group of countries with the lowest undernutrition rates. On the other hand, problems related to excessive nutrition are increasing. The rates of adult obesity (25.6%) and anaemia in women of reproductive

age (25.7%) are higher than the European average and have increased since 2005. Since then, the rates of overweight (25.7%) and obesity (9.1%) for children and adolescents aged 5-19 have also increased.

### Priorities

**State** intervention in agriculture focuses on support for structural transformations ensuring the growth of agricultural competitiveness, food quality and safety, as well as national food security, taking into account environmental requirements. Another aim is to create conditions for diversification of economic activity in order to obtain and create alternative sources of income for the inhabitants of rural areas.

The competitiveness of farms and agri-food producers will be enhanced by improving their profitability, integrating the food chain and distributing the added value more equitably throughout the chain based on a principle of partnership. A number of measures will focus on promotion of agricultural sector products (including high quality food), support for foreign expansion, provision of equal conditions of competition in the common EU market and elimination of barriers particularly burdensome for Polish exports in accessing non-EU markets.

As a result of the planned measures, the agricultural area structure should improve. It is also assumed that the ratio of average annual net disposable income per person in rural household to urban one will improve. Moreover, further development of infrastructure in rural areas will serve objectives related to the development of the economic base and creation of non-agricultural jobs.

These measures should respect biodiversity by increasing or at least not deteriorating it.

Promoting healthy lifestyle for both adults and children is also an important priority, with a consequent reduction in the proportion of overweight and obese people.

## Measures

The key measure is the implementation of innovative solutions in agriculture and agri-food processing through instruments supporting the high quality food sector. Investments are made to utilise the full production potential of the Polish agri-food sector through e.g. further modernisation of agricultural holdings, development of cooperation between food producers, strengthening the links between agricultural holdings and processing plants, restructuring the small farms, support for the development of local agri-food markets, strengthening the advisory network for farmers and entrepreneurs, support for the Business Environment Institutions in rural areas and small towns. The proper functioning of agri-food markets is supported e.g. by the Integrated Agricultural Market Information System. A number of activities focus on the promotion of agri-food sector products and support for foreign expansion in this area, including by ensuring the equal conditions of competition in the common market. Measures in the area of promotion of sustainable management methods are continued e.g. within the framework of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

The development or modernisation of infrastructure necessary to conduct business activity in rural areas also remains important, including modernisation of transport infrastructure and investments related to the water and sewage network. This is related to the proper management of local water resources, the prevention of floods and droughts and the minimisation of the negative effects of natural phenomena.

The area of interest includes activities related to water management in agriculture (land melioration, increase in water retention) and protection of productivity of forest and agricultural land. The use of ICT (information and communication technologies) is promoted in the modernisation processes of the agricultural sector and for the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas. Increasing the availability of broadband Internet will have an impact on counteracting the digital exclusion in rural areas.

Public aid is continued in the area of food assistance, including under the Food Aid Operational Programme 2014-2020, under which approximately 1.3 million people in need receive aid in the form of food packages or meals each year. Promoting a healthy diet among pupils by making fruit, vegetables, milk and dairy products available to children, as well as educational measures carried out in schools, is the subject of the *Programme for Schools*. Moreover, under the National Health Programme 2016-2020 a number of measures are implemented, including those promoting appropriate eating habits and physical activity for the benefit of maintaining proper body weight, carrying out comprehensive epidemiological studies on the diet and nutritional status of the Polish society etc.

The protection of crop and livestock genetic diversity is implemented through the instruments of the Common Agricultural Policy and through national measures - preservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in gene banks and maintenance of local breeds of farm animals at risk of extinction. Actions to promote biological progress in animal and plant production shall aim at optimising the genetic base.



## Strategic projects

	Managing agricultural land for sustainable development - a new system of regulations.
	Projects for development of branches - dedicated to particular branches of the agri-food sector.
	Programme of support for plant breeding in Poland – relating to key species for Polish agriculture.
	Programme of support for plant breeding in Poland – relating to key species for Polish agriculture.
	Water for agriculture - improvement of production conditions while achieving environmental effects.
	Implementation of the National Health Programme - Objective 1 re improvement in diet, nutritional status and physical activity of society.

## Examples of initiatives

**Knowledge is the key** – Azoty Group programme is carried out in cooperation with PKO BP and accredited laboratories of Regional Chemical and Agricultural Stations. The result is the dissemination of the principles of sustainable fertilisation, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

**Food support** for 1.8 million people in need given through 3,500 local partner organisations, collecting food from 32 Food Banks associated in the Federation of Polish Food Banks. The aim of the support is to meet the food needs of the poorest sections of society and to prevent food from being wasted.

**The system of Protected Designations of Origin, Protected Geographical Indications and Traditional Specialities Guaranteed**

– targeted primarily at local producers, the EU system identifies the products that result from the combination of local original resources with the natural environment (farmland, climate) and human skills.

**Baltic Friendly Agriculture** - a cycle of workshops for agricultural advisors organised by WWF Poland Foundation under the auspices of the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów enabled to increase the knowledge of advisors and farmers on methods of reducing losses of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds from agricultural holdings, which contribute to water pollution, including eutrophication of the Baltic Sea.

## SDG 3

# Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



The available measures of the state of health of the population indicate that the state of health of the Polish society is below the average for the entire EU population<sup>18</sup>. As in most European countries, the ageing of the population is also progressing. In 2010, the population of Poland aged 60+ constituted 19.6% of the population, while in 2016 it was already 23.6%.

The average life expectancy of women in health in Poland in 2016 was 64.6 years, men 61.3 years (for the EU 63.3 and 62.6 years, respectively in 2015), and diseases of the circulatory system continue to be the most life-threatening diseases (in 2016 they were responsible for 43.3% of deaths), followed by malignant neoplasms diseases (over 25.8% of deaths). In 2017, the coefficient expressing the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births was 4.0‰. The Euro Health Consumer Index (EHCI), measuring the care quality level, indicates that Poland's position is still poor, 12th in 2005 and 31st in 2016<sup>19</sup>. A significant factor is the low level of public spending on health care (4.4% of GDP in 2015, while the average for OECD countries is 6.5%). The health of the population is adversely affected by air pollution, one of the largest in Europe, which causes 40,000 deaths per year. This shows that there are many challenges for the national health system.

### Priorities

**The priority for Poland is to reduce the incidence and mortality of civilisation diseases, as well as to reduce inequalities in access to health care, and to increase health awareness** and detection of diseases at early stages of development. **There is a need to increase investment in health care, while maintaining flexibility in spending**, and to improve the quality of the health care system and patient safety. The Polish health care system also requires the development of e-health. For many years now, the priority has been to increase the number of medical staff in the system in response to various needs of particular age groups, including mainly children and the elderly, and due to the need to improve working conditions of medical staff.

Poland also aims to achieve a comprehensive improvement of air quality to a non-emergency state in line with EU legislation and, in the longer term, the WHO guidelines, as well as to raise public awareness of the negative impact of air pollution on human health.

18. See Eurostat, *Health in the European Union – facts and figures*, [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Health\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Union\\_%E2%80%93\\_facts\\_and\\_figures](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Health_in_the_European_Union_%E2%80%93_facts_and_figures) (accessed: 07.05.2018).

19. In 2005, 12 countries participated in the EHCI study, while 35 in 2016.

## Measures

The key documents in the area of public health in Poland are the Act on public health from 11 September 2015 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] 2017 item 2237, as amended) and the National Health Programme for 2016-20 (NHP). The programme sets out priority directions for action in 6 areas:

1. improvement of diet, nutritional status and physical activity in the population;
2. preventing and solving problems related to the use of psychoactive substances, behavioural addictions and other risky behaviours;
3. prevention of mental health problems and the improvement of mental well-being;
4. reduction of health risks arising from physical, chemical and biological hazards in the outdoor environment, workplace, home, recreation and study areas;
5. promotion of healthy and active ageing;
6. improvement of reproductive health of the society.

The following health policy programmes complement the activities implemented under the NHP.

One of the elements limiting the number of complications and consequences of neonatal developmental defects is the *Programme of comprehensive diagnostics and intrauterine therapy in the prevention of the consequences and complications of fetal developmental defects and diseases - as an element of improving the health condition of fetuses and newborns 2014-17*. In addition, the *Polish newborn screening programme* is implemented to reduce newborn, infant and child mortality from congenital metabolic abnormalities and to prevent severe and permanent physical and intellectual impairment resulting from these abnormalities. In terms of improving the reproductive health of the population, the *Comprehensive programme for the protection of reproductive health in Poland* has been implemented, aimed at increasing the availability of high quality services in the field of fertility diagnostics and treatment. Since 2016, Poland has introduced a health service called *Coordinated care for pregnant women*.

The *Programme for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases POLKARD 2017-20* finances tasks related to the fitting and equipping with medical equipment of medical entities dealing with the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, conducting nationwide prevention of primary cardiovascular diseases, screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm in patients over 65 years of age, ensuring remote consultation of clinical situations of patients with severe stroke for invasive treatment in stroke units, introducing Day Units of Heart Failure and establishing and maintaining medical records.

On the other hand, within the framework of the *National Programme for Combating Cancer Diseases*, activities related to the promotion of cancer prevention, screening, purchase of equipment for cancer diagnostics and treatment and educational activities are carried out. In January 2015, the so-called oncological package was launched in

Poland, the aim of which was to shorten the period from the suspicion of cancer to the commencement of treatment, to guarantee the complexity of this treatment, as well as unlimited financing of diagnostics and oncological treatment.

The policy of the state towards the HIV and AIDS epidemics has been defined in the law and in the *National Programme for Preventing HIV Infections and Combating AIDS*, under which the programme *Antiretroviral treatment of people living with HIV in Poland 2017-21* is implemented.

Poland also has a system of widespread preventive vaccination, effectively preventing the spread of dangerous infectious diseases.

As regards prevention of mental health problems and improvement of mental well-being, the *Programme for prevention of depression in Poland 2016-20 and the National Programme for Mental Health Protection 2017-22* are carried out in Poland.

On the other hand, the subject of addictions - prevention and solving problems related to the use of psychoactive substances, behavioural addictions - is included in the *National Programme for Counteracting Drug Addiction and the National programme for prevention and resolution of alcohol problems*.

In order to reduce the mortality and post-traumatic disability of injured persons in accidents, injury centres for adults have been established in Poland, where traumatic patients, including accident victims, are treated. It is planned to create injury centres for children.

In the area of chemicals management, Poland undertakes, within the framework of cooperation with the European Union and OECD countries, actions to eliminate substances posing a threat to human health, including workers using chemicals and consumers, as well as to the environment from the market. Such substances shall be subject to procedures for restricting or prohibiting their manufacture, use or placing on the market. A group of substances considered to be dangerous for human health and the environment shall be subject to identification procedures and to progressive substitution by suitable safer alternatives. At the national level, there has been a system in place for several years to collect information (on physicochemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties) on hazardous mixtures placed on the national market.

In the field of telemedicine and telecare, a number of recent legislative changes have been introduced which have removed barriers to the development of telemedicine, such as the requirement for the patient to be personally examined by a doctor has been abolished, the possibility of determining his state of health also by ICT systems has been introduced, the provisions enabling a doctor, a dentist, a nurse and a midwife to practise the profession and the provisions enabling the provision of pharmaceutical services also by means of information and communication systems have been introduced, as regards entities providing exclusively outpatient health services by means of informa-

tion and communication systems - the obligation to meet technical requirements concerning premises and equipment required from entities providing services under the classic formula (i.e. with the patient's and doctor's personal contacts) has been abolished. At the same time, the possibility of defining requirements for „telemedicine” providers was introduced. The National Health Fund has introduced a new range of health care services to be contracted separately: geriatric teleconsultation, cardiological teleconsultation and hybrid cardiological telerehabilitation. In addition, the project *Electronic Platform for Collection, Analysis and Sharing of Digital Medical Records* (P1) is being implemented in Poland. It is co-financed from European funds and includes the implementation of IT systems that will enable the improvement of processes related to the planning and provision of health services, monitoring and reporting on their implementation.

It is also worth pointing out to other IT projects of strategic importance in the area of e-health: building a nationwide platform of high quality

and accessibility of public e-services in medical entities established and supervised by the Minister of National Defense, introduction of modern e-services in medical entities supervised by the Minister of Health, e-Blood - computerization of public blood services and development of blood management supervision, e-health in Independent Healthcare Centres of Ministry of the Interior and Administration - implementation of integrated IT systems and development of modern medical e-services to improve the accessibility, quality and efficiency of public services.

In the context of improvement of health condition, activities aimed at comprehensive improvement of air quality - implementation of the Clean Air Programme<sup>20</sup> - reduction of air pollution emissions, in particular dust pollution, will be important.



20. Detailed description in SDG 11.

## Strategic projects



Healthy Mother - awareness-raising activities aimed at improving public knowledge of reproductive health, improving qualifications of doctors and midwives, infertility treatment, improving the quality of perinatal care, developing prevention for pregnant women (and prenatal children).



Effective health care - a package of programmes to improve the situation in Polish health care, including mapping of health needs, introduction of coordinated care, determining the demand for medical personnel, training of personnel, investments in modern medical equipment and apparatus, development of e-health and building information systems in health care.



A healthier society - a package of actions to strengthen prevention, health awareness and healthy lifestyles.



Comprehensive support programme for families "For Life" - comprehensive solutions concerning support for families with persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, in particular in areas concerning support for pregnant women, early support for the child and its family, support and rehabilitation services, health, education, housing support, as well as coordination, counselling and information. The solutions adopted in the Programme are aimed at enabling real and full social integration of people with disabilities and at providing psychological, social, functional and economic support to their families.

## Examples of initiatives

Preparation of *the Health as an Investment Report* in the context of the Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Health 2020, prepared by the WHO, the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health - NIPH.

Within the framework of the National Health Programme (NHP) within the Operational Objective 1 - Improving the diet, nutritional status and physical activity of the population e.g. non-governmental organisations initiated the organisation of health picnics throughout the country in towns of less than 5 thousand inhabitants, the aim of which was to encouraging the physical activity of the local community. During the meetings, nutritionists offered advice. Substantive materials have also been developed to provide information on the benefits of regular physical activity.

Within the framework of the NHP as regards the Operational Objective 3 - Prevention of mental health problems and improvement of mental well-being of the society, the assessment of mental health was carried out by non-governmental organisations, within which, inter alia, tools for mood disorders screening were developed, dedicated websites [www.zdrowiepsychiczne.org](http://www.zdrowiepsychiczne.org) and [www.pozytywnyrozwoj.org](http://www.pozytywnyrozwoj.org) and an online forum were created, expert advice on mental health was provided, educational and information campaigns were conducted, educational materials on coping with crisis situations and information materials on available assistance on mental problems were developed and made available, as well as instructional films, radio programmes and publications.

## SDG 4

# Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



The right to education is guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. The current educational system is aimed at improving the performance of students at different levels of education and equipping them with the competences necessary for later social and professional life. The results of the education system in Poland in international comparisons are above the OECD average. The statistics also show that men and women have equal access to education.

Poland recorded a significant increase in the rate of attending children in pre-school education (from about 58% in 2006 to almost 81% in 2016), although there are significant urban-rural disparities. Since September 2017, every child aged 3-6 has been provided with a place of pre-school education, and in 2018, numerous facilities for running crèches and children's clubs came into force. In some municipalities it is also possible to subsidise childcare at home as a public service. The tertiary attainment rate exceeded the EU average and in 2016 amounted to 44.6% of the population aged 30-34. On the other hand, adult participation in lifelong learning amounts to 3.7% of the population aged 25-64 and is significantly lower than the EU average (10.8%).

### Priorities

**The challenge of the Polish education system is the quality and attractiveness of vocational education, for which the demand will grow. It is also crucial to further improve the quality of the higher education system and to improve the labour market relevance of vocational education and training.** It is necessary

to develop such skills as: creativity, problem solving, teamwork, preparation for lifelong learning. It is equally important to create conditions for the development of education throughout the country and for equalisation of educational opportunities, as well as to create conditions for greater involvement of adults in raising / updating qualifications.

The challenge remains to improve the **innovativeness of education**, which we strive to achieve e.g. through changes in the curricula, taking into account the emphasis on universal and digital competences, knowledge of foreign languages, creativity, initiative, entrepreneurship, innovation, teamwork skills and support for students with special educational needs.

The key direction of measures is adjusting vocational education to the needs of modern economy, e.g. through promotion of cooperation of schools and local governments with employers, stronger emphasis on developing practical skills, modernisation of education offer and content, vocational training and counselling, monitoring the labour market in terms of demand for occupations, vocational counselling, improving the competence and qualifications of vocational teachers. On the other hand, the target system of higher education should guarantee its effective cooperation with the economic, social and cultural environment of universities, based on more autonomous and non-bureaucratic rules. It will be crucial to match higher education with the needs of the modern economy, including greater involvement of practitioners in the educational process.

## Measures

Since the beginning of 2017, an education reform has been introduced with the main objective of better preparing students completing the entire cycle of education for the needs of individual development and the modern labour market. The changes cover all components: education reform, higher education reform, vocational and lifelong learning reform.

In connection with the change in the structure of education, a new core curriculum has been implemented since the school year 2017/2018, which takes into account the opinions expressed by social organisations in the course of consultations. Social, civic, environmental and cultural education issues are guaranteed a permanent place in the new document, as are the development of social competences based on the principles of solidarity, democracy, tolerance, justice and freedom, and respect for European and world cultures. Under the Strategy, a number of directions of activities to be implemented by 2030 have been planned, which will include in particular shaping pro-social attitudes, including by creating conditions for volunteers, associations and other organisations to operate at school. Also, steps are taken to improve the skills of adults and their participation in education e.g. by strengthening educational and professional counselling, developing a flexible offer of institutions operating in the local community, promoting other forms of adult learning, developing soft skills through practical activities within non-formal education, continuous monitoring of the skills of adults, including participation in international surveys in this field.

In September 2017, a draft Act on higher education and science, the so-called *Constitution for Science*, was presented. It provides for a fundamental change in the organisation, functioning and financing of higher education and research systems, as well as in the quality assessment and management of the education process and the development of academic and scientific careers. As part of the reform, a new model of education will be introduced, aimed at better matching the competences of students and doctoral students with the needs of the labour market. In order to strengthen the cooperation of higher education institutions with the social and economic environment in the development and implementation of study programmes, the draft Act provides for two educational paths in fields of practical study, i.e. compulsory six-month apprenticeship or training in the form of dual studies. The bill also includes projects aimed at the implementation of the idea of sustainable development of higher education, aimed at supporting regional universities: the Regional Initiative of Excellence, the Teaching Initiative of Excellence. The draft law was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 20 March 2018.

Moreover, under the Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development, projects are implemented which strengthen the practical dimension of education and the development of social competences, i.e. Integrated School Curricula, Vocational Training Programme at the State Higher Vocational Schools, *Do you study? Practice!* As part of the higher education reform, projects are also being implemented

to strengthen the third mission of universities, i.e. the creation by universities of innovative forms of social and educational activation of the region's inhabitants, and the initiation by universities of training programmes for people in different age groups.<sup>21</sup>

It is also important to disseminate subject-based systems for financing development services. They will allow for simple and quick financing of advisory or training services selected by the entrepreneur and for repayable specialist training/courses for employees. It is also important to internationalise and open Polish universities to innovation. On 1 October 2017, the National Academic Exchange Agency was established, whose main tasks include initiating and implementing activities supporting international academic exchange and the process of internationalisation of Polish universities and research units, as well as dissemination of information about the Polish system of higher education and science. Legislative and programming solutions were also introduced to foster innovation and commercialisation of research results (under the Act of 21 April 2017 amending the Act on academic degrees and academic title and on degrees and title in art and certain other acts (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2017 item 859), the Industrial doctorate programme was launched to provide training for participants in doctoral programmes in cooperation with entrepreneurs who employ them and to guarantee scholarships). Measures aimed at ensuring the quality of training offer are also important, in particular through the implementation of the Integrated Qualifications System.

An important direction of activities will also be dissemination of ICT solutions in education and support for management and human resources development at universities.

Since December 2017, the Act on the National Educational Network has been implemented (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2017 item 2184), aimed primarily at equalising educational opportunities of children by providing them not only with broadband Internet, but also with digital educational resources. As part of the reform of vocational education, a two-tier industry school is being introduced, which will ensure the full permeability of vocational education, giving students both vocational qualifications at two levels and the opportunity to take the maturity exam and proceed to the university. The implementation of foreign internships in enterprises/companies/service providers and vocational education or training centres (supported with funds from the Erasmus+ programme and projects co-financed by the ESF under the OP KED (Knowledge Education Development Operational Programme) is also an important direction of the initiated measures.

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21. Examples: Young Explorer's University, Third Age University. On 17 April 2018 an OP KED competition for the development of the university's offer relating to the third mission, contributing to the strengthening of key competences, responding to the needs of the labour market, economy and society, has been announced.

## Strategic projects



**Integrated Qualifications System** - a project covering the implementation of the Integrated Qualifications System, which will raise the level and quality of human capital in Poland.



**Modern staff for the Polish industry (vocational education)** - a new model of cooperation between vocational education and the economy, including e.g. education combined with professional practice at the employer's enterprise, active participation of the industry in the preparation of curricula, development of practical training centres, etc.



**Study and work in Poland** - a project aimed at closing the human capital gap in the strategic sectors of the Polish economy by encouraging foreign students to study and work in Poland and supporting the study of children of Polish repatriates in Poland.



**Education@ in the digital society** - providing equipment and infrastructure for the competences of students and teachers to apply ICT in the educational process.



**Schools for innovators** - preparation of a comprehensive system of education for innovators covering different levels of education and strengthening the resources of the innovation system.



**The Skills Initiative** - a programme to promote lifelong learning in its various forms.



**Included in education** - a new model of education of people with disabilities and special educational needs, aiming at greater economic activation of disabled graduates of schools and universities.



**National Educational Network** - a dedicated network connecting all schools in Poland, which will provide access to the Internet, educational services and content, as well as network security.



**Solidarity Youth in Action Programme** - a package of measures aimed at creating and shaping social activity of young people.



**Effective system of agricultural consulting** - strengthening and increasing the effectiveness of agricultural consulting through e.g. improvement of the system of training of agricultural advisors, modernisation of techniques of agricultural activity and farm management.



**Higher education reform** - prepared by the scientific community, in particular oriented towards the search for new solutions in the scope of using the research and teaching potential of the university.

## Examples of initiatives

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**Initiatives are being taken to promote lifelong learning.** The Chief Technical Organisation participates in the awarding of the title of Euro Engineer and issues a Professional Card for Engineers, which allows for the mobility of Polish engineers.

**The National Programme for the Development of Reading** is a multiannual programme 2016-20 adopted by the Council of Ministers in order to improve the readership in Poland by strengthening

the role of public, school and teachers' libraries as local centres of social life constituting a centre of access to culture and knowledge.

**e-Pionier** - the project of the National Center for Research and Development based on the support of talented programmers for solving identified social or economic problems.



## SDG 5

# Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



In Poland, the principle of equality between women and men is of constitutional importance (Article 33 of the Polish Constitution). Labour law, as well as a number of special acts, including the Act on the implementation of certain provisions of the European Union relating to equal treatment (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2016 item 1219), contain guarantees against violation of the prohibition of gender-based discrimination. The Electoral Code (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2018 item 754, as amended), on the other hand, contains provisions concerning quotas on electoral lists: the shares of women-candidates and men-candidates - may not be lower than 35%. These rules apply to elections in multi-member constituencies, i.e. to the Sejm, the European Parliament, voivodeship assemblies and councils of cities (gminas) with powiat status.

Over the years, gender equality in Poland has improved, for example:

- The share of women in managerial positions in the total number of people working in managerial positions increased from 36.8% in Q4 2010 to 41.5% in Q4 2016.
- In 2010, 18.7% of women were members of powiat councils, and 9.5% were mayors or city presidents. In 2016, it was 20.6% and 10.8%, respectively. The

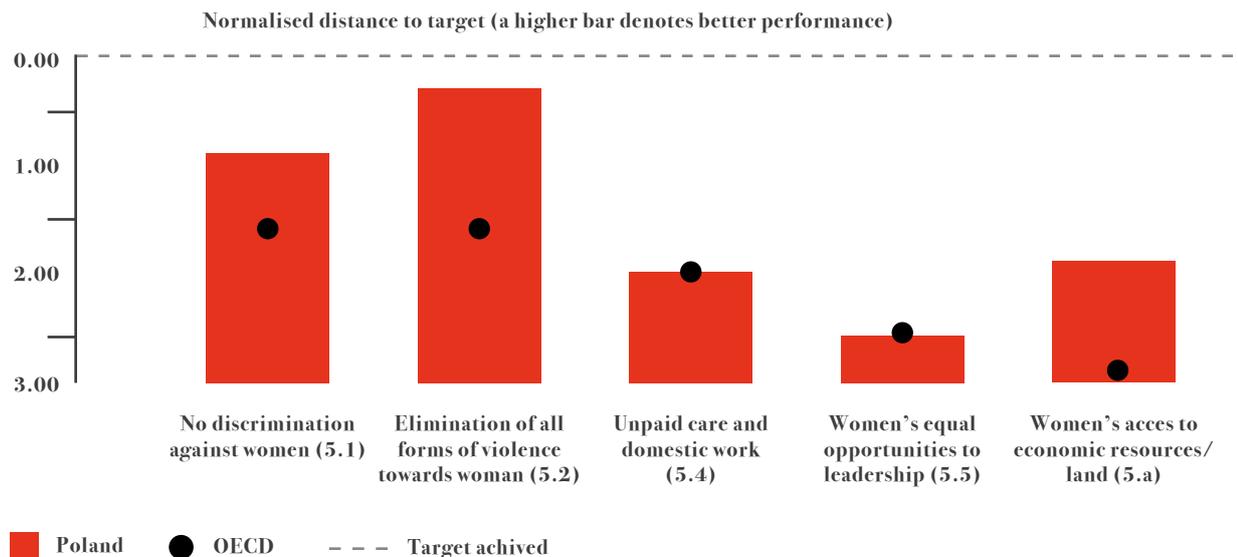
share of women in the Sejm increased from 23.9% in the previous term (2011-15) to 27.4% at present.

- The access to an increasing number of childcare facilities for children under the age of 3 enables parents to combine work and family responsibilities.
- According to Eurostat, the gender pay gap (the wage gap) was 7.2% in 2016 (EU average - 16.2%).

In the OECD's assessment, Poland performs better than many other OECD countries in a number of areas related to the implementation of SDG 5.

### Priorities

Despite improvements in many areas, one of the government's policy objectives is to empower women and girls as well as to **fully implement the principle of equality between women and men**. The priorities in this respect include: **active family policy** and ensuring conditions for the return of women to the labour market after a break due to childbirth and childcare. It is important to consolidate the existing programmes, strategies and mechanisms of supporting families e.g. through the programme of procreative health care, development of prenatal care and child care, with particular emphasis on rural areas.

**Chart 1.** Poland compared to OECD countries in areas relating to the monitoring of gender equality improvement

Source: [www.oecd.org/std/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metoda.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/std/OECD-Measuring-Distance-to-SDGs-Targets-Metoda.pdf). After: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: Towards a Successful Implementation by Poland. OECD "Better Policies" Series, 2017.

## Measures

Most of the measures planned until 2020 will aim to further develop the diversity of childcare provision by increasing the availability and quality of care and early childhood education services, so as to ensure that women can return to the labour market.

Within the framework of changes on the labour market, a number of measures aimed at economic activation of economically inactive persons and the long-term unemployed, including women, are envisaged. It is planned to support the economic activity of women e.g. through appropriately targeted programmes of financed family support, development of various forms of childcare, and a programme for improving the qualifications of employees after a break from employment.

On 1 September 2017, the right of 3-year-olds to pre-school education has come into force. Support for the development of forms of care for the youngest is provided through co-financing of units providing places for childcare within the framework of the Ministry's *TODDLER* programme for the development of institutions for care of children aged up to 3 (from 2017 *TODDLER+*). Between 2010 and 2017, the number of all childcare facilities up to 3 years of age increased more than eightfold (from 511 to 4.3 thousand), the number of childcare places in these facilities more than threefold (from 32.5 thousand to 110.7 thousand). In addition, the state budget paid contributions from the base, not exceeding the minimum salary, for 8,500 nannies in 2017. Since 2018, it has been decided to allocate the amount of up to PLN 500 million annually (i.e. 350 million more than in 2017) to subsidise and establish institutions for the youngest children under

the *TODDLER+* programme. PLN 450 million was allocated for the 2018 edition, due to which it is estimated that approximately 24.5 thousand new care places will be created and about 56 thousand will receive co-financing for their functioning.

The following legislative changes are also important: the amendment of the Labour Code from 26 June 1974 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2018 item 917) rendering the rules of taking paternity, maternity and parental leave more flexible, e.g. by increasing the number of cases where an employee - the father of a child or an employee - another closest family member can take over part of the maternity and parental leave; introducing the possibility of taking paternity leave in parts; proportionally extending the parental leave where it is combined with part-time work; increasing the age of the child for whom paternity leave can be taken (up to 24 months); raising the age of the child for whom parental leave can be taken (until the end of the calendar year in which the child reaches 6 years of age) and amending the law on the employment of temporary workers from 9 of July 2003 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2018 item 594), introducing e.g. increased protection for pregnant workers who perform agency work.

By 2030, it is also planned to promote flexibility in work arrangements, including part-time work, teleworking and flexible working arrangements, which are particularly important for active family-friendly policies and to ensure the conditions for the return of women to the labour market after a break due to childbirth and childcare.

In order to ensure equal opportunities on the labour market by eliminating wage differences, a computer application *Equal pay* was prepared, which allows to estimate the differences in wages of employees, taking into account their gender, age, education and other characteristics. Actions are also being taken to disseminate knowledge of both the new tool for measuring the wage gap and the issue of wage inequality to a wide audience.

Balancing the division of domestic responsibilities and reconciling professional, private and family life is also actively promoted. The main tool is the portal [www.rodzinaipraca.gov.pl](http://www.rodzinaipraca.gov.pl) prepared as part of the project *Family and work - it pays off!* It presents and promotes tools and mechanisms supporting reconciliation of professional and family life.

Elimination of gender-based discrimination in all areas of social life is a task carried out within the framework of the government's *National Action Programme for Equal Treatment*. The first edition of the programme was implemented in 2013-16 and the work on the draft programme for the following years is currently underway.

Within the framework of the *National Programme for Counteracting Violence in the Family 2014-2020* measures are taken in 4 areas: prevention and social education, protection and assistance to persons affected by domestic violence, influencing the perpetrators of violence and increasing the competence of services and representatives of entities responsible for counteracting domestic violence. There is a national emergency service for victims of domestic violence called *Blue Line*, under which, among other things, the following operates a telephone call for victims of violence. According to a study carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency, in 2014 violence against women in Poland was the lowest in the European Union, at 19%, with an EU average of 33%.

Programmes of procreative health care and development of prenatal care are described in the part concerning the implementation of SDG 3.

## Strategic projects



Family policy and childcare - comprehensive and systemic support for families with children - provision of institutional care for young children, enabling professional activation of parents and guardians, as well as a programme for increasing the number of places of pre-school education and improving the quality of pre-school education.



## SDG 6

# Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Poland is characterised by relatively small water resources of about 1,580 m<sup>3</sup>/year per inhabitant, which is only about 35% of the European average. Given the population density, Poland often faces water scarcity problems in some areas of the country. Water deficits periodically occur in 75% of the country. Poland's total water balance depends on the amount of rainfall in the river basins, its distribution over time and the natural and artificial retention potential, including the ability to utilise rainwater. In this context, insufficient retention of local catchments is a problem, caused e.g. by the increase in the area of sealed areas resulting from the process of urbanisation and development of transport infrastructure, as well as changes in agricultural production. Despite these problems, significant reserves of groundwater resources enable stable water abstraction, which satisfies most of the domestic and economic needs (70% of water intended for consumption in Poland comes from groundwater intakes).

In Poland, access to sewage and water supply systems for the population is gradually being levelled out. In 2016, almost 92% of the total population used the water supply system. In cities, over 96% of the total population had access to the water supply system. In rural areas this percentage was lower and amounted to 85%. In Poland, there is a noticeable decrease in the amount of water

used per capita. The length of the sewage network is systematically increasing. In 2016, 90% of the population used the network in cities and 40.3% in rural areas.

The quality of water in Poland improves. It can be drunk directly from the tap in cities all over the country. Increased investment in infrastructure in Poland has made it possible to improve access to water services and helped reduce pollution. Poland also has the opportunity to increase access to drinking water worldwide through projects implemented in developing partner countries under development cooperation programmes.

### Priorities

The priority relating to sustainable management of water resources remains the **increase in available water resources, improvement of their ecological status and chemical quality**. It is crucial to create legal and financial mechanisms conducive to **sustainable use of water resources and implementation of water-saving technologies, as well as construction and modernisation of sewage treatment plants**. The implementation of flood risk management plans for river basin districts and the development and implementation of a drought management plan remain important.

## Measures

Poland implements the provisions of the EU Water Framework Directive – Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (Official Journal of the European Union 327, 22.12.2000, pp. 1, as amended) through the implementation of measures aimed at the improvement of the status or potential of water bodies specified in the developed planning documents (river basin management plans, *National water and environmental programme*, *National municipal wastewater treatment programme*). In addition, in accordance with the provisions of the Floods Directive – Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (Official Journal of the European Union L 288, 06.11.2007, pp. 27), actions to reduce flood risks are planned and implemented through the parallel implementation of a number of actions, **spatial planning** changes and the restoration of field retention.

It is important to create and develop a unified water management structure in the catchment area. Therefore, the newly established State Water Farm *Polish Waters* (“Wody Polskie”) will carry out tasks in the field of flood safety and support the municipalities in ensuring access to water for the needs of the population and the economy.

A number of measures are envisaged, the implementation of which will be of a continuous nature, such as **pro-ecological management of local water resources**, including also landscaping conducive to water retention. Measures aimed at the **development of flood protection infrastructure** will be continued, based on investments with a high degree of effectiveness and economic viability, as well as appropriate spatial planning, including the construction of small and large retention reservoirs. Additionally, information and education activities will be

carried out in the scope of dissemination of environmentally friendly ways of storing and using fertilizers, including activities aimed at rational fertilizer management.

In addition, further works are being carried out related to the construction and modernisation of the sewage treatment plants, e.g. with the use of EU structural funds. The priority programme *Investments in wastewater management outside Poland, in the Bug River catchment area* is being implemented.

Actions will be implemented to develop a national programme of surface water renaturalisation, which is an action aimed at identifying the threats and causes of hydromorphological changes in watercourses and at planning remedial actions that will enable the achievement of environmental objectives for these watercourses.

It is also worth mentioning the measures implemented under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 favouring the creation of water retaining landscapes, imposing the obligation not to transform permanent grassland and to preserve natural habitats dependent on water.

The implementation of the project *Protection of habitats and species of non-forest areas dependent on water* is of great importance. The main objective of the project is to implement active protection measures within selected natural habitats and species' habitats, aimed at achieving a measurable environmental effect at the national level, i.e. improvement of their conservation status and dissemination of knowledge about the principles and protection requirements of selected natural habitats and species.



## Strategic projects



Water for agriculture - a programme of support for family farms and improvement of water management in agriculture in conditions of temporary shortages and excess of water, including construction, reconstruction and proper use of drainage equipment to improve production conditions, increase water retention and achieve environmental effects.



A comprehensive programme of adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change by 2020 - aims at preventing or minimising the negative effects of natural phenomena (droughts and fires) the damaging effects of floodwater, floods and inundation through the development of low retention systems, combating excessive soil erosion, strengthening the resilience of forest ecosystems threatened by progressive climate change.



Infrastructure for rural development - the objective is to increase the accessibility of rural areas' inhabitants to basic public services and to improve their quality, including water and sewage management.

## Examples of initiatives

**Carpathians Connect** - floral meadows: implemented by UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre in cooperation with Żywiec Zdrój S.A. The project concerns active protection of non-forest natural habitats (meadows surrounding drinking water intakes) and water resources.

**GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment)** - coordinated by the UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre – contains e.g. a hydrological research module in which students from participating schools examine selected water quality parameters.

**Domaszków-Tarchalice** - restoration of the natural flood retention of the Odra river valley: Within the framework of the project, a flood barrier was built on the section from Domaszków to Tarchalice. The aim was to restore the natural flood retention of the Odra river valley and the natural floodplain terrace of the river.



## Measures

The Polish government is of the opinion that the energy transformation must ensure that citizens have access to certain energy supplies at acceptable prices.

The main instrument to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be the replacement of power generation units, whose emissions exceed the standards and whose average annual efficiency is less than 35%, with new, highly efficient units based on domestic energy resources (such as the new Kozienice power plant unit with an efficiency of 46% commissioned in 2017). In 2018, another reporting document entitled *National Action Plan for energy efficiency* was adopted, containing information on progress towards the national energy efficiency target for 2017, which also contains an updated description of energy efficiency improvement measures. It sets out concrete actions to improve energy

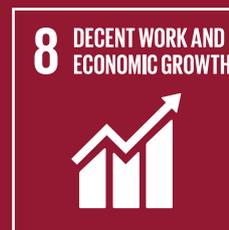
efficiency in specific sectors of the economy, including measures to achieve the overall energy efficiency target of achieving a 20% saving in the consumption of so-called primary energy in the EU by 2020. The development of innovations in the energy sector will focus on solutions contributing to improving the balance of electricity supply and demand, reducing dependence on external fuel supplies, using waste from the sector and for the energy sector for economic reasons.

Poland is developing smart grids and smart metering to maximise the use of the available energy. Legislative changes are being introduced to facilitate the modernisation and expansion of energy networks. The Minister of Energy appointed the Team for reducing energy poverty in Poland by virtue of the Order of 26 June 2017 (Dz. Urz. ME [Official Journal of the Minister of Energy] item 7) in order to prepare the assumptions and implement the policy in the scope of counteracting the occurrence of energy poverty.



## Strategic projects

	<p>Power market - implementation of a mechanism ensuring continuity and stability of electricity supply to households and industry.</p>
	<p>Polish nuclear energy programme - diversification of energy sources, reduction of the environmental impact of the power sector, development of scientific and research centres and Polish industry.</p>
	<p>Gas Hub - establishment of a gas transmission and trade centre on the territory of Poland for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.</p>
	<p>Electromobility Development Programme - focusing public funds on the development of the electric vehicle sector in Poland and the construction of infrastructure for alternative fuels in 32 Polish agglomerations.</p>
	<p>Development and use of geothermal potential in Poland - creating conditions for the promotion and development of renewable energy sources based on geothermal sources.</p>
	<p>Restructuring of the hard coal mining sector - creating conditions conducive to the construction of a profitable, effective and modern hard coal mining sector.</p>
	<p>Distributed energy - a project aimed at the development of electricity and heat generation from renewable sources (RES) for the local community and the creation of regulatory conditions for the development of local areas of energy sustainability - energy clusters, energy cooperatives, etc.</p>



## Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Polish economy remains one of the leaders of economic growth among the EU countries. It is characterised by a large scale of entrepreneurship, illustrated e.g. by a higher than average share of microenterprises in the group of economic entities in the EU. The share of the entire SME sector in generating value added is still lower than the EU average (54.3% as compared to 56.8% in 2016). However, Poland is one of the EU countries where medium-sized enterprises achieved better results than the EU average in 2016, both in terms of added value and employment. The number of micro- and small companies is dynamically growing, as well as the number of newly registered entities. Challenges for Polish SMEs remain low level of internationalisation and insufficient development of innovation, low level of survival of small companies, as well as relatively weak ability to networking and cooperation.

The policy of supporting entrepreneurship is one of the priorities of the Polish government. The challenge is to effectively stimulate the development activity of companies, in particular innovative ones, which is necessary for positive structural changes in the economy and increasing its productivity. An important aspect of pro-development activities is the removal of existing barriers, including regulatory and financial ones. Much has been achieved in recent years, e.g. in improving access to finance for SMEs. It is worth pointing out that in terms of the size of government guarantees for loans to SMEs (0.8% of GDP in 2016), Poland is among the leading OECD countries.

The situation on the labour market has improved significantly and is showing positive trends. The number of employed persons is growing, and the employment rate in the 15-64 age group has significantly increased over the decade, reaching 66.5% in Q3 2017 (68.2% in the EU). Thanks to a drop in the number of unemployed people over the course of the year by more than a quarter of a million, the registered unemployment rate reached a low level of 6.6% at the end of 2017. In the under-25 age group, the share of the unemployed in the total number of registered unemployed decreased from 18.6% at the end of 2013 to 12.4% at the end of 2017 (in 2014, the *Youth Guarantee* programme was launched<sup>22</sup>).

258 thousand women were covered in 2017 by active forms of support on the labour market, i.e. 53% of the total number of the unemployed using activation instruments.

### Priorities

At the current stage of development, Poland **seeks new competitive advantages based on the technological advancement of its products, the quality and innovativeness of its products, as well as mechanisms for internationalisation of enterprises.**

The priority is also the development of entrepreneurship through the introduction of legal facilities related to running a business, including access to financing instruments for the development of a company adapted to its size.

Increasing the employment rate, promoting stable forms of employment and, at the same time, flexible work organisation and delivery methods, remain crucial. An important element is the proper creation of the labour market in order to ensure decent work for all.

Economic activation of young people, women, people aged 50+, the long-term unemployed, as well as people with disabilities is the overriding objective at the junction of economic and social policy. It is also important to improve the flow of unused labour from agriculture to other sectors e.g. by facilitating the acquisition of professional skills and qualifications (in particular by people from small and medium-sized agricultural holdings) and making it possible to combine work and agricultural activity. Active labour market instruments are being designed, cooperation with employers is being improved and barriers to taking up employment are being eliminated. In connection with the growing international economic migration, we also recognise the need to develop a responsible migration policy.

22. Information about the programme is available at: <http://gdm.praca.gov.pl>.

## Measures

For years, the government has been making many efforts to improve the conditions for business and investment in Poland. In order to improve the legal and institutional environment for business, the largest reform of the economic law since 1989 was prepared, consisting of two packages: 100 changes for companies and *Constitution for Business*.

The key impulse for supporting economic development is the creation of the Polish Development Fund, which provides greater opportunities to obtain additional funds from the financial markets, both domestic and foreign, for the purpose of implementing development investments. General availability of guarantees supporting the development of enterprises was ensured by the establishment of the National Guarantee Fund.

Corporate Income Tax (CIT) was reduced to 15% for small taxpayers and for taxpayers starting their operations in the first tax year, due to which the smallest business entities gained the possibility of accumulating additional capital for future investment and development activities.

A number of measures are aimed at supporting start-ups and involving large enterprises in the development of technology companies. The *Start in Poland* programme was launched and a new system of supporting innovative ideas at the junction of the science and business sectors was prepared, among others through R&D tax reliefs.

At the same time, it is planned to introduce a new mechanism of supporting entrepreneurs in undertaking new investments in the territory of Poland (Special Economic Zones - Poland). The planned support concerns the exemption from income tax (CIT or PIT) and free information services provided by entities responsible for supporting new investments. It is expected that the new solutions will contribute to an increase in investments made by SMEs, and the introduction of quality criteria is aimed at covering investments with a higher added value with support. Further support for the internationalisation of the economy is planned, e.g. through increasing the participation of Polish companies in contracts for international organisations.

In 2016, the Codification Commission of Labour Law was established, composed of representatives indicated by the minister competent for labour, representatives of social partners, members of the Social Dialogue Council, as well as representatives of science and experts. Its purpose was to prepare two draft acts: the Labour Code with justification and the Collective Labour Code with justification. In 2018, the Commission completed its works. Draft Labour Code and Collective Labour Code, developed by the Commission, were submitted to the Minister of Family, Labour and Social Policy. Proposals for legal solutions included in both draft acts will be used in legislative works conducted in the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy. On the basis of the selected proposals, draft legislation will be presented which will gradually amend the labour law provisions. These will primarily be proposals relating to working time.

In line with the principle of ensuring decent work for all, steps have been taken to equalise labour costs between civil law contracts and work provided under the Labour Code. A statutory guarantee of a minimum amount of remuneration for specific civil law contracts in the form of a minimum hourly rate has been introduced. Every year, the amount of this rate will be indexed to the extent that it corresponds to the increase of the minimum wage for work.

Every year, the minimum wage is increased, which in 2016-18 grew by 13.5%. The amount of the minimum wage currently constituted in 1Q of 2018 slightly above 45% of the average wage in the national economy.

In order to prevent employers from using their advantage in the labour market, in September 2016, a statutory obligation was imposed on employers to confirm in writing the terms of an employment contract concluded with an employee before the employee is admitted to work, if the employment contract was not concluded in writing. Previously, the employer was obliged to confirm the contract in writing at the latest on the day of commencement of work, if the contract of employment was not concluded in writing. Failure by the employer to do so is an offence punishable by a fine.

Appreciating the potential of young people, special activities are directed at activating this group. *Youth Guarantees* (a Europe-wide initiative) are being implemented to ensure that every person under 25 (in Poland, under 29) is provided with job offers, professional activation or further education within 4 months from graduation or loss of job. The measures taken over the last few years to reduce the excessive use of temporary contracts, in particular those which reduce the differences in employment costs based on employment relationships and non-standard contracts, also contribute to the stabilisation of the labour market, as a result of which we can observe a gradual reduction in the trend of replacing employment contracts with civil-law contracts.

We consider measures aimed at professional activation of women to be crucial. Measures taken by regional (poviat) labour offices include forms of assistance that also facilitate the return of unemployed women to the labour market. Provision of an adequate number of childcare facilities is essential for the smooth reintegration of women into the labour market after childbirth and for the provision of childcare. Such activities are undertaken within the framework discussed in SDG 5.

An important element of the development of the Polish labour market is to ensure its openness to the most vulnerable groups, i.e. people with disabilities. The *Strategy for persons with disabilities 2018-30* and the related *National Programme for Employment of Persons with Disabilities* are being prepared, which provide e.g. for supplementing or modifying the currently functioning instruments supporting employment and economic activation of persons with disabilities and supporting them in entering and maintaining the labour market or taking up economic activity.

Provisions on employment of foreigners have also been amended, taking into account the need to facilitate access to the Polish labour market. One of the objectives of the changes was also to prevent the occurrence of abuses and to improve the management of economic migrations.

Poland is also raising its labour market standards through an active international policy in this area. Poland has ratified the 2014 Protocol to the 1930 ILO Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour from 21 October 2016 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 1942), which requires e.g. that effective action be taken to prevent, eradicate and protect the use of forced or compulsory labour and that adequate remedies be available to victims of forced or compulsory labour.

It is also worth noting that on 29 May 2017 Polish government adopted the *National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights 2017-20*. (NAP, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights were approved by the UN Human Rights Council in 2011). The NAP provides information on corporate social responsibility activities and refers to strategic documents in this field. Placing this information in the NAP is connected with the conscious policy of the state supporting enterprises and at the same time emphasising the necessity of their observance of human rights.<sup>23</sup>



23. The document is available on the website of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology: [www.mpit.gov.pl/media/42613/kpd.pdf](http://www.mpit.gov.pl/media/42613/kpd.pdf).

## Strategic projects

	<p>“100 changes for companies” - key solutions for SMEs, including e.g. succession of family businesses, legal formula of „Simple Joint Stock Company” or „tacit consent” procedure.</p>
	<p>Second Chance Policy - a system of support for enterprises in difficulties and a new start - creating a comprehensive system of support for entrepreneurs, focused on preventing the bankruptcy of companies and facilitating the restart of business activity for those who have suffered a business failure.</p>
	<p>New opportunities for rural areas - a programme of economic activation of farmers and persons related to agriculture for the needs of the non-agricultural labour market, with the use of instruments financed from the funds of the cohesion policy, RDP 2014-2020 and national instruments of the labour market.</p>
	<p>SME Development Centre - a framework initiative implemented by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development and the Polish Development Fund Group. Training support targeted at the SME sector, including in particular family businesses.</p>
<p><b>Start In Poland</b> </p>	<p>Start in Poland Programme - a new instrument aimed at creating an ecosystem conducive to the development of start-ups in Poland at every stage of their development.</p>
	<p>Youth Guarantees - a programme of individual and comprehensive professional and educational activation of young people entering the labour market. The guarantees are part of the „Youth Employment Package” developed by the European Commission.</p>
	<p>Polish Migration Policy - a comprehensive document presenting the Polish model of active migration policy, which assumes, among others, improvement of management of migration and immigration processes, integration of foreigners and incentives to settle in Poland, taking into account national security.</p>
	<p>Construction of the House of Polish Tourist Territorial Brands together with the system of coordination of tourism policy - creation of systemic and comprehensive legal, organisational, financial and tool solutions relating to integration, coordination, commercialisation and internationalisation of Polish, branded tourism products based on the cultural and natural potential of the country.</p>

## Examples of initiatives

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**Business and Human Rights Programme** - implemented by Global Compact Network Poland - is aimed at the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights in Poland and their practical application in Ethical Programmes in companies and institutions. The Coalition, established as part of the Programme, brings together over 100 companies and institutions actively involved in activities related to the implementation and dissemination of ethical values.

**Minimum Standard of the Ethical Programme** - as a set of values and tools recognised as a set of basic solutions for creating an ethical programme in an organisation of any size - developed jointly by Global Compact Network Poland and Partner Institutions and the Coalition of Ethics Officers.





## Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The development of innovation remains one of the key challenges of the Polish economy. Poland's gross domestic expenditure on research and development increased from 0.56% of GDP in 2006 to 0.97% of GDP in 2016, but it is still below the EU average. Polish exports are dominated by low-processed goods, and the share of high technology and services sectors is still unsatisfactory. At the same time, positive trends can be observed. The technological process has been accelerated, e.g. with the help of EU funds, the machinery has been renovated, new R&D infrastructure has been created and the competence of personnel implementing innovative projects has increased. Additionally, apart from the absorption of ready technologies, enterprises more and more often strive to develop their own solutions based on the results of their own R&D works and to build a competitive advantage on them.

The changes that have taken place in Poland in recent years have had a positive impact on the innovativeness of the economy. In the annual Bloomberg rankings, we have been constantly promoted for several years (Bloomberg Innovation 2018 Index to the 21<sup>st</sup> place). According to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2016, Poland belongs to the group of moderate innovators. Thus, one of the challenges will be to stimulate the Polish economy and encourage entrepreneurs to undertake investments in the area of innovation.

While access to mobile Internet is common in Poland, actual usage of digital technologies is low. According to the OECD data, only 25% of people use the Internet for communication and information retrieval on a daily basis.

For years, Poland has been carrying out activities for the benefit of the network of connections in the communication infrastructure. The technical condition of the national road network (still 18,608 km long in 2010) has significantly improved. Between 2000 and 2015, the percentage of roads in good condition with improved hard surface was increased from 55.1% to almost 64%<sup>24</sup>.

Since Poland's accession to the European Union, thanks to the use of funds under the cohesion policy, there has been a significant increase in the length of expressways and motorways in the country<sup>25</sup>. According to data from the Statistics Poland and the General Directorate for National Roads and Motorways, in the decade between 2003 and 2013 the length of motorways increased by 266%, and of expressways by 452%.

### Priorities

The long-term objective of economic development is **to put Poland firmly on the path of innovation**, exit the trap of average income and the backbone of cheap labour. It is crucial to improve the legal and institutional environment stimulating to undertake risky innovative activities. As a consequence, the share of industries and knowledge-intensive services in the structure of the economy will increase. This progress will be measured e.g. by the intensity of GERD and BERD (growth to 1.7% of GDP and 0.8% of GDP in 2020, respectively). A noticeable effect will be an increase in the technological advancement of products, stimulation of the creation of new technological and organisational solutions, basing competitive advantages on the quality and innovation of products and services.

The support function for the implementation of the above priorities will be to be provided by an **extensive transport infrastructure** (facilitating cooperation and trade), universal and better used access to telecommunications infrastructure, the Internet and digital technologies, as well as access to data, and the internationalisation of enterprises, in particular SMEs, through the creation of support instruments for Polish exporters and investors.

24. Statistics Poland, *Transport - wyniki działalności w 2000 r.*, 2001; Statistics Poland, *Transport - wyniki działalności w 2016 r.*, 2017.

25. Ministry of Economic Development, *Strategy for Responsible Development*, 2017, p. 303.

## Measures

In order to give new impulses to the development of innovativeness in Poland, the *White Paper on Innovation* was developed where legislative and organisational solutions aimed at increasing innovativeness of the Polish economy were identified. They were included in the following acts: Act on Entrepreneurs Law of 6 March 2018 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 646), acts on innovation: in the Act on amending certain acts specifying the conditions for conducting innovative activities of 4 November 2016 Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 1933) and the Act amending certain acts to improve the legal environment of innovative activity of 9 November 2017 (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] item 2201), and also draft laws: on the Research Network: Łukasiewicz and Industrial property law. These have introduced and expanded a system of instruments that promote and encourage innovative activities, and have also stabilized the method of financing the commercialization of research and development results. The changes also concerned R&D allowances and granting the status of a research and development centre for smaller enterprises, as well as increasing the possibilities of financing innovative enterprises by venture capital. Changing the business model and encouraging entrepreneurs to take greater risks when introducing new products is becoming an integral part of innovation policy. This will help to make collective forms of investment in innovative and more demanding projects, largely co-financed with public funds, more attractive.

The *Start in Poland* programme was launched to support the development of the start-up ecosystem, which brings together the most important instruments for supporting start-ups in Poland and covers all stages of development of young companies. It also supports long-term cooperation between companies of all sizes, the process of sharing knowledge and intellectual property.

The effectiveness of support for Polish exporters and companies deciding to undertake attempts to expand on foreign markets is increasing. What is important, it is adapted to the needs of Polish exporters.

Considering that the specific nature of industry (in particular industrial processing) is far-reaching mechanisation and automation of manufacturing processes, and as a result the potential for productivity growth in this area is high, Poland relies on a strong industry and necessary structural changes in this area. Industrial policy is based on an ecosystem approach, which creates a strong potential for the transfer and absorption of knowledge and competences. Support is targeted at sectors with permanent comparative advantages or product niches. An additional development impulse will be to meet the requirements of environmental protection, including halting the process of climate change and air protection.

The government's activities focus on the implementation of new digital technical, technological and organisational solutions, as well as the development of industries based on digital technologies, capable of creating breakthrough products *Industry 4.0*. The effect of measures taken in favour of intelligent reindustrialisation will be saturation of

industry with high quality services (R&D, design, ICT) in order to increase the share of innovative products.

The development of digital technologies and the creation of conditions for the construction of broadband networks (mobile and fixed) are particularly important. The measures are targeted primarily at the development and modernisation of ICT and telecommunications infrastructure, in particular in rural areas. Many activities are also focused on the development of the information society and digital competences - including support in the area of education, science, lifelong learning, increasing citizens' access to public sector information, ensuring cyber security related to the protection of information confidentiality, the continuity of IT systems, and conducting education and information campaigns to disseminate the benefits of the use of digital technologies.

In this respect it is crucial to ensure data security, including support for data policy development, the creation of a regulatory framework for new digital services and a regulatory authority.

Given the importance of data, its ownership and use, the concept of *Industry+* has been developed. Its aim is to strengthen the data-based economy in Poland. *Industry+* assumes that non-personal data is a leverage for modern economy and should be free of charge, because the most modern computer technologies cannot exist without free access to data and free flow of data.

Poland is aware that in order to fully exploit its development potential, it is necessary to develop traditional transport infrastructure in the form of roads, railways and intermodal transport.

The transport system can create growth impulses in the economy if it is able to meet the challenge of increasing accessibility over time and in the space of transport services, the challenge of reducing transport costs and times, while at the same time successively improving energy efficiency and lowering unit benchmarks, as well as the need to develop multimodality and other user expectations.

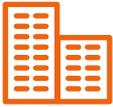
Efforts to expand the network of connections in the transport infrastructure have continued. The effect of the measures will be the construction of a multi-branch (railway, road, agglomeration network, inland waterway and maritime transport networks, airports) integrated and complementary transport network. It will e.g. reduce transport unit costs, improve safety, the quality of transport services for goods and passengers, transport accessibility at European, national, regional and local level and reduce pollutant emissions from the sector. The development of transport infrastructure of regional and local character (especially in the area of road and rail transport and to a limited extent of inland waterway transport) will aim at including areas with poor accessibility (including rural, border and peripheral areas) in economic and development processes.

## Strategic projects

	<p>GLOBAL Inno-STARS - a project addressed to technological enterprises from the SME sector, aimed at facilitating their effective entry to the foreign market in the form of strategic partnership or capital exposure.</p>
	<p>New industrial policy - preparation of a document defining industrial potential, identifying needs and barriers of industry, directions of state intervention and support instruments necessary for its development.</p>
	<p>GreenInn - creating preferences for green technologies in application in programmes, including the creation of industry accelerators that will promote solutions on the global market.</p>
	<p>Polish Industry Platform 4.0 - appointment of a national integrator responsible for bringing about the transformation of the domestic industry to the level referred to as Industry 4.0.</p>
	<p>Developing Intermodal Transport - identifying actions, including necessary investments in transport infrastructure, to ensure increased intermodal transport.</p>
	<p>Youth Guarantees - a programme of individual and comprehensive professional and educational activation of young people entering the labour market. The guarantees are part of the „Youth Employment Package” developed by the European Commission.</p>
	<p>Programme for the Construction of National Roads 2014-23 - a project ensuring the completion of the construction of the most important expressway lines, motorways and ring roads, as well as the implementation of investment activities improving road traffic safety.</p>
	<p>The greening of Transport - a review of measures needed to develop low-carbon transport, including public transport, including solutions for the transition to low-carbon rolling stock in public transport and low-carbon vehicles; development of low-carbon transport infrastructure by 2030.</p>
	<p>National Railway Programme - a project ensuring connection of voivodeship centres by 2023 with modernised railway lines, up to at least an average speed of running passenger trains of 100 km/h, and implementation of the European Rail Traffic Management System on the most important railway routes.</p>



Development of the inland waterway sector - includes the development of inland waterways in Poland, strengthening human capital for shipping, development of the fleet of Polish inland vessels and wider economic and social use of the resulting infrastructure in local development.



The Ecobuilding Programme - stimulating the preparation and implementation of selected ecological construction products, taking into account energy efficiency requirements of modern construction materials.



National Broadband Plan - ensuring access to broadband infrastructure for all citizens.



Competences in the Information Society - implementation of measures to involve citizens in the creation of the information society by limiting digital exclusion and developing digital skills at all levels.

## Examples of initiatives

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**Construction of the Telecommunications Information Point** - the project of the Office of Electronic Communications

**Open data - access, standard, education** – the project of the Minister of Digitization





## Reduce inequality within and among countries

GDP generated in Poland in 2016 amounted to PLN 1.86 trillion, which after conversion into EUR, taking into account the purchasing power of currencies, constituted 5.2% of the GDP of the European Union (compared to 3.9% in 2006). In 2016, GDP per capita reached PLN 48.4 thousand, i.e. EUR 11.1 thousand (in current prices). According to the purchasing power parity of currencies, it constituted 19.9 thousand PPS<sup>26</sup>, i.e. 68% of the EU average. In terms of the level of this indicator, Poland is ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> in the EU-28 (in 2006 it was the 26<sup>th</sup> position). At the voivodship level, the GDP per capita ratio in relation to the EU average in 2015 ranged from 47% to 109%. In 2007-16, the development gap between Poland and the average level of economic development in the EU decreased significantly, measured by the level of GDP per capita calculated taking into account differences in purchasing power of currencies.

At the same time, Poland belongs to the countries with a moderate level of inter-regional differentiation at the level of voivodships. According to the Statistics Poland (GUS), the average voivodship variation in the level of GDP per capita increased from 18.6% in 2006 to 20.8% in 2015. Subregions are characterized by the considerable differentiation. Clear disproportions visible within voivodships result, among others, from strong inequalities between urban and rural areas.

A negative phenomenon, being a result of the process of development polarisation, is the progressive accumulation of social and economic problems in certain areas of the country. These areas, showing peripherality in relation to the strongest growth centres, such as voivodship capitals, or as a result of structural transformations of the economy, record a significant drop in the quality of life and deteriorating investment conditions.

The group of areas with concentration of development problems includes concentrations of rural gminas and functionally related small and medium-sized cities located

mainly in the northern and eastern part of the country. These also include border areas on the EU's external border. They are characterised by peripheral location outside the functional areas of large cities and poor transport accessibility. A significant threat is the further deterioration of the competitive position of these areas and the decrease in their participation in development processes, which may lead to their permanent social and economic marginalisation.

### Priorities

**Bridging the differences in the social and economic development of regions, preventing the creation of new development disparities** and challenges related to the development of regions are the subject of regional policy defined in the National Strategy for Regional Development (NSRD). The main objective of the regional policy until 2030 is the effective use of specific endogenous potentials of territories and their development specialisations. This will translate into the achievement of the objectives of the country's development - creating conditions for an increase in the income of the Polish population, while increasing cohesion in the social, economic and spatial dimension.

The overall objective will be implemented on the basis of three strategic objectives: **effective use of development factors of the regions** („competitiveness”), **cohesion of the country in the social, economic and spatial dimension** and **efficient administration for development**.

26. Purchasing power parities (PPP) are types of currency exchange rates that are used to convert economic indicators expressed in national currencies to a common conventional currency. They eliminate the impact of differences in price levels between countries. GDP per capita UE28 = 100 expressed in Purchasing Power Standards (PPS) shows the GDP of a given country in relation to the EU average, the value of which was assumed as 100. Values lower or higher than 100 indicate on lower or higher GDP than the EU average, respectively.

## Measures

On the one hand, regional policy will strengthen key factors of competitiveness of regions, mainly in the direction of economic activation, development of regional specialisations, development of local labour markets and professional mobilisation of inhabitants. On the other hand, it will be aimed at preventing the deepening of intra-regional differences and reducing disparities in the development of individual regional territories. Regional development activities in the 2030 perspective will be implemented in an integrated way, combining sectoral interventions with regional and different sources (EU and national) and forms of funding (grants and feedback mechanisms), taking into account supraregional, regional and local specificities as well as functional areas.

The objectives of the regional policy focus on the implementation of measures leading to the development of human and social capital, innovative development of the region and improvement of the approach based on Regional Smart Specialisations, stimulation of investments of enterprises (new and existing) in the areas which are considered important for the economy of the region. Moreover, it is important to strengthen development opportunities of areas threatened by permanent marginalisation, including rural areas and small and medium towns, as well as to strengthen the potential of medium towns losing their social and economic functions. Strengthening cooperation and an integrated approach to development at local, regional and supra-regional level is key in this process. This will be achieved by improving the organisation of public service provision at local level, strengthening the administrative capacity of local and regional authorities and their willingness to cooperate with development partners, as well as by an effective and coherent system of financing development policy.

According to the model of sustainable development of the whole country, based on the pro-development potential of the polycentric settlement network, including centres of various size, importance and functions, the regional policy will focus to a greater extent on areas with restructuring difficulties, medium-sized cities losing their social and economic functions and rural areas with their local urban centres. Appropriate attention will also be paid to large cities (more specifically about the cities in SDG 11). Functional links between the above-mentioned areas are also becoming an extremely important element.

On the institutional level, it will be important to further strengthen the capacity to plan and carry out development activities (in particular at the local level), to improve the quality of management of the settlement network centres and their functional areas and to gradually develop the management of whole functional areas as well as to create better conditions for the coordination of these activities by the local authorities and to facilitate their cooperation at regional, national and European level.

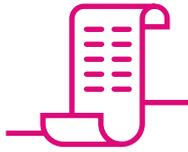
With a view to equalising the living standards of communities living in different areas of Poland, it is important to improve access to services, including social and health services. Within this area, solutions are implemented to increase access to cheap housing, changes in the functioning of the private rental market and supported housing for people at risk of social exclusion. Social activities aimed at reducing inequality among children, access to assistance and care services and rehabilitation equipment for persons with disabilities, promotion of professional and social activity of seniors, ensuring accessibility to public space for persons with reduced mobility are implemented.

Equal access to the labour market ensuring the use of the potential of human resources is also important for the preservation of social equality within the country. In this respect, support instruments are adjusted to individual needs of the local labour market, taking into account human capital reserves available in the region (young people, women, people with disabilities, people aged 50+, the long-term unemployed, including those in sectors with unused labour resources - agriculture, mining, etc.).

Measures aimed at poverty reduction indicated in SDG 1, as well as measures aimed at appropriate creation of the labour market in order to ensure decent work, presented in SDG 8, will also contribute to reducing inequalities in the income dimension.

An appropriate migration policy is important for levelling out all developmental disproportions within the country and in the international context. Measures in this area will aim at creating a comprehensive, multidimensional instrument for human resources management covering e.g. preparing the concept of a responsible immigration policy targeted at the needs of the labour market and Polish entrepreneurs, creating integration paths for selected categories of foreigners, limiting the phenomenon of illegal immigration, development of integration instruments aimed at both foreigners coming to Poland and persons returning to the country. It should be stressed that refugees and persons with subsidiary protection, with the exception of electoral rights, have the same rights as Polish citizens.

## Strategic programmes



Package of measures for areas at risk of permanent marginalisation - a set of measures relating to e.g. development of local entrepreneurship, activation of local human resources, stimulation of local economic and social initiatives, as well as improvement of inhabitants' access to basic public services. The project is implemented in two stages - by 2020, it is of a pilot nature and its main task is to work out solutions and translate conclusions and recommendations relating to particular issues e.g. into instruments of regional policy after 2020 addressed to the economically weakest areas.



Advisory Support Centre - an instrument to support local government administration at the local level, especially in areas at risk of by permanent marginalisation, in the preparation of development projects, multifaceted and integrated, which have a significant impact on the improvement of the social and economic situation of the functional area.

## Examples of initiatives

Most of the instruments for implementing regional policy to date have their origin in the cohesion policy (the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund). Intervention for less developed regions in 2014-2020 is implemented through operational programmes, i.e.: Regional Operational Programmes and the operational programme dedicated to Eastern Poland. These instruments are supported by the Common Agricultural Policy (Pillar II funds - European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development measures) and the Common Fisheries Policy (European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - EMFF).



## SDG 11

# Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Poland has a well-developed, polycentric urban network. Cities play a key role in the social and economic development of the country. About 60% of the Polish population lives in cities, where about 80% of GDP is concentrated. Since the political transformation, Polish cities have changed significantly. Some of them, in particular the largest ones, make good use of their development potential. Others, on the other hand, deal with the problem of significant internal disparities in the level of development, or the problem of the loss of existing functions and population outflow. The development potential of Polish cities is confronted with growing challenges, such as demographic changes, air quality or transport accessibility, including high vehicle numbers.

Poland is committed to the EU Urban Agenda, which is an instrument for the implementation of the UN New Urban Agenda at the European level, and 16 Polish cities are participants in URBACT III projects, which helps cities to develop practical, innovative and sustainable approaches that combine the economic, social and environmental dimensions of improving the functioning and quality of urban life.

### Priorities

Urban issues occupy an important place in the SRD, in the form of priority intervention lines and strategic projects. Special attention was paid to three areas of impact, i.e.: the largest agglomerations, medium cities losing their social and economic functions and areas threatened by permanent marginalisation.

The National Urban Policy 2023 has as its strategic objective to strengthen the ability of cities and urban areas to develop sustainably and create jobs and improve the quality of life of their inhabitants.

Improving air quality requires urgent intervention. This applies in particular to the reduction of dust pollution emissions generated in the household and municipal sector as a result of the combustion of poor quality solid fuels at low temperatures and in low power boilers, as well as waste incineration. In this respect, multi-dimensional and coherent corrective actions carried out at the national, voivodeship and local levels are necessary.

## Measures

Measures relating to urban policy in Poland are aimed e.g. at creating economically active and citizen-friendly cities. In the activities focused on improving the development conditions of Polish cities, main attention is paid on:

- dissemination of the principles of public participation in decision-making and management of cities and their functional areas, including support for revitalisation activities;
- implementation of low-carbon urban strategies, reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions;
- implementation of sustainable urban mobility strategies, the use of public transport or the creation of conditions for the development of electromobility;
- improvement of access to various types of public services of a development nature;
- creation of a national network of cooperation between cities, enabling exchange of knowledge and best practices on sustainable urban development, improvements in management, coordination and implementation of innovative projects.

It is envisaged that the potential of the largest Polish agglomerations will be fully used e.g. by adopting appropriate legal regulations concerning the metropolitan association.

Initiatives will be taken to activate cooperation and links between rural areas and cities, and to promote cooperation and partnership instruments in order to involve inhabitants of rural areas in development activities.

An important direction of measures is to activate the potential of medium-sized cities, which lose their social and economic functions through, among others, support for the development of entrepreneurship, particularly in the sectors which determine the economic specialisation of a given city, stimulation of investment activity in medium-sized cities, creating opportunities for medium sized cities and their municipal companies to take advantage of new solutions in the area of financing local government investments. Investment in urban transport infrastructure - development and integration of public transport systems improving the quality of connections - is also important.

## Strategic projects



City Partnership Initiative - 34 cities of all sizes participate in the works of one of three pilot cooperation networks: air quality, revitalisation, urban mobility. The project focuses on solving local problems and formulates recommendations for policies at the regional, national or European level.



A package of measures to support urban regeneration - aims to promote urban regeneration as an important element of sustainable urban development, through comprehensive actions addressing technical, economic and social issues in parallel. Establishment of a Revitalisation Knowledge Centre disseminating experiences and practices of local governments from revitalisation projects.



Package of measures for medium-sized cities losing their social and economic functions - targets a group of cities with identified problems and hindering the development of areas around them. It is assumed that support will be provided for increasing the attractiveness of these cities for potential investors, improving the quality of human capital and stimulating local economic and social initiatives, as well as supporting local government pro-development investments.



Human Smart Cities - smart cities co-created by the inhabitants. The project is addressed to local government units and aims to support cities in creating, with the use of smart solutions, a living-friendly urban space, for which residents are also jointly responsible.



On April 25, 2017, the so-called *Clean Air Programme* was launched. Additionally, as part of the National Air Protection Programme, actions are taken to minimize, in the shortest possible time, concentrations of particulate matter and other harmful substances in the air. The first measurable measure in this respect was the Ordinance of Minister of Economic Development and Finance from 1 August 2017 on the requirements for solid fuel boilers (Dz. U. item 1690). Another is the introduction of a requirement to determine the quality of solid fuels and a pilot scheme to finance thermal modernisation and replacement of boilers for the poorest people. It will target 33 towns and cities in the World Health Organisation's ranking of Europe's top 50 polluted cities.

### Examples of initiatives

**Sustainable Cities. Living in a Healthy Atmosphere Programme** - implemented by Global Compact Network Poland - allowed to create a partnership for clean air, based on Polish cities that are members of the network of cities for climate change NAZCA operating under UN-FCCC. The aim of the partnership is to diagnose air quality in Poland and to present detailed recommendations of measures to be taken.

Through conducting **debates and thematic conferences**, **publishing research results and statistical analyses**, including those undertaken by Global Compact Network Poland with its partners, a list of recommendations has been developed, which are currently the basis for the creation of the governmental „Stop Smog” air quality improvement strategy. The publication of a series of articles in the media and as part of the **Breathing Like a Human Being campaign** also raises awareness of the problem.



## SDG 12

# Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



The experience of developed countries shows that the higher the wealth of society, the higher the level of consumption. This process is also noticeable in Poland. Real consumer spending more than doubled between 2000 and 2014. It is therefore necessary to take action to change the structure of consumption, which will favour the dissemination of environmentally-friendly products and services, while meeting the needs of society.

Poland is at the beginning of its path towards a circular economy. Currently, there is considerable potential in Poland for promoting eco-design among manufacturers, as well as improving the level of recovery of secondary raw materials from waste and reducing the resource consumption of the economy. Poland has slightly improved its resource efficiency between 2004 and 2016, but is still below the European average.

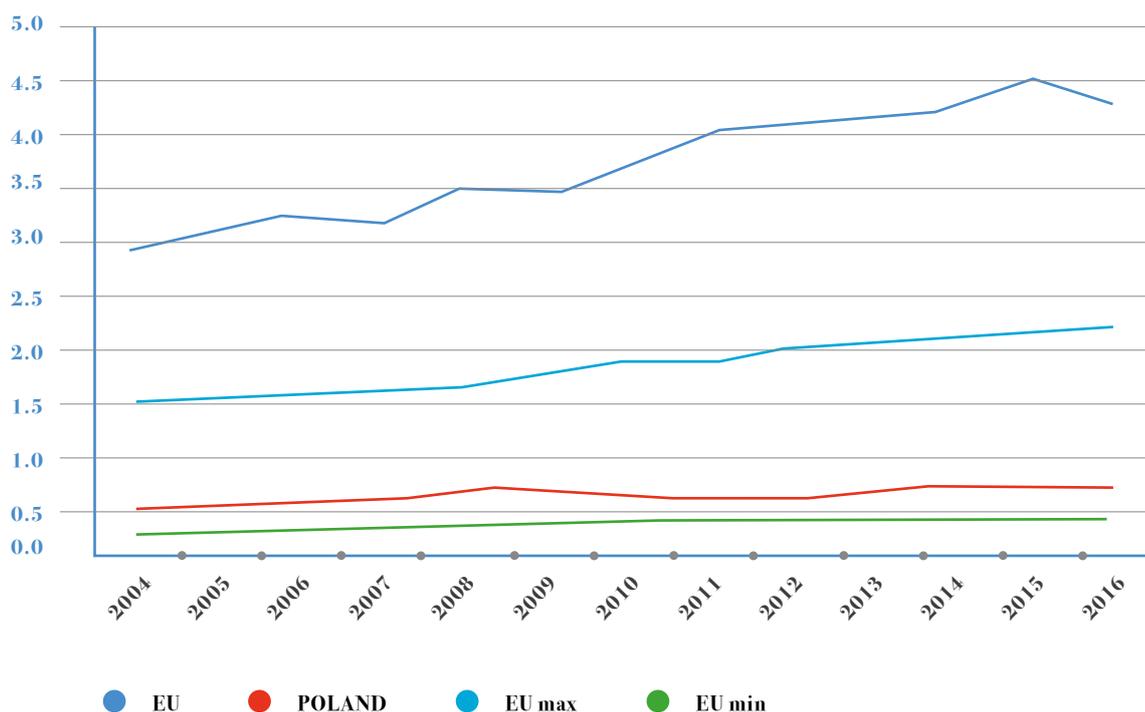
Currently only slightly more than a ¼ of selected fractions of municipal waste (paper, metals, plastic and glass waste) is recycled. In order to move towards a circular economy,

it is important to consume relatively less natural resources while maintaining GDP growth (Figure 2).

### Priorities

**Access to natural resources** as an input is, in addition to technological development and qualified scientific staff, an important prerequisite for economic development. Environmental sustainability, on the other hand, requires an appropriate approach to the management of environmental resources. This includes moderation in the use of raw materials, their planning in accordance with the laws of nature and the principles of sustainable development, and monitoring compliance with these principles by specialised organisations. Therefore, the government's priority is to increase resource efficiency and change its approach to resources by moving away from linear management, as well as changing consumption patterns. The further development of organic farming is also one of the priorities, given that it is one of the fastest growing branches of agriculture in the world today.

Figure 2. Resource productivity EUR/kg



Source: Eurostat.

## Measures

An ambitious plan to improve the situation with regard to waste management was included in the *National Waste Management Plan 2022*. Waste legislation has been amended to provide for a hierarchy of waste management practices.<sup>27</sup> Prevention, subsequent re-use, recycling, other forms of recovery and ultimately disposal were identified as the most important.

Poland has developed a *Roadmap for the transition to circular economy* (CLE Map), which aims to move away from linear resource management. It focuses on four main areas of intervention: sustainable production, sustainable consumption, bioeconomy and new business models. Thanks to the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, it was possible to adapt the project to the specificity of the social and economic situation in Poland.

Poland is also involved in the *Transition from linear to circular: policy and innovation* project, which aims to investigate the role of innovative business model solutions and state policy tools supporting these solutions in the transition to a circular economy. The project is based on case studies from a wide range of sectors and countries, the results of which should allow the identification of best practices for business models in a circular economy and the development of a set of recommendations for policy makers.

Poland also participates in works on the methodology of calculating the environmental footprint of products and organisations. In the future, this methodology may form the basis of the proposed instruments aimed at supporting environmentally friendly products and processes and at phasing out environmentally inefficient products.

Among the instruments implementing this objective there is also the measure of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 entitled *Organic farming*, which contributes to the development of the organic farming system.

Poland also operates within the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials, whose objective is to support innovative solutions in the area of raw material management optimisation.

27. The hierarchy of waste management was already included in Polish legal regulations (prior to the adoption of the National Waste Management Plan 2022).

## Strategic projects



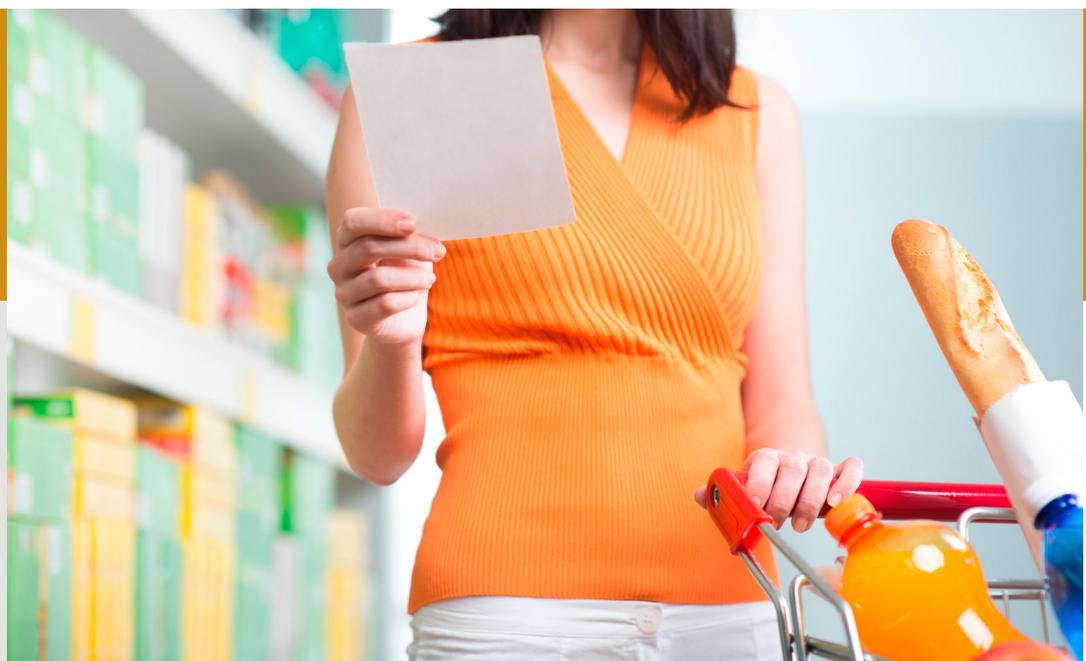
Roadmap for the transition to a closed-loop economy - a document identifying measures to increase resource efficiency and reduce waste.

State purchasing policy - focusing purchases on innovative and sustainable products and services provided to public institutions; administration as a smart customer creating the market of innovative goods in good advance.

## Examples of initiatives

**Implementation of the principles of corporate social responsibility** - the expert team, which has been operating since 2009, conducts debates on creating changes in production and consumption patterns among the Polish society and Polish entrepreneurs. A series of meetings, debates and discussions were held with representatives of various industries on the improvement of production processes, technological innovations, consumption of raw materials or packaging.

Development and promotion of the **Which fish for dinner?** consumer guide on fish and seafood among consumers and producers - for years, WWF Poland has been carrying out activities for the benefit of sustainable consumption of fish and seafood. **Between 2014 and 2016, the WWF Polish Campaign to Protect the Biodiversity of Seas and Oceans reached approximately 14 million recipients.**



## SDG 13

# Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Poland has been a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change since 1994 and to the Kyoto Protocol since 2002, thus contributing to the efforts of the international community to reduce climate change. Poland reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in relation to the base year (1988), with a simultaneous increase in GDP of about 220%. This means that the reduction is well above the 6% commitment made in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. In addition, Poland is taking part in the process of climate negotiations. Among other things, it twice hosted and three times chaired sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC. In December 2018, Poland will host the Conference of the Parties for the third time, this time in Katowice. It should also be noted that Poland was one of the first EU Member States to ratify the Paris Agreement.

EU policy plays a special role in the context of Polish actions aimed at combating climate change. It aims to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions by introducing an emissions trading mechanism. For Poland, this is a relatively difficult task due to the high emissivity of the economy, resulting from the dominant role of coal in the production of electricity and heat.

However, Poland has great potential to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere e.g. by using the potential of forests (30.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed annually by forest land according to the data for 2015)

and intensifying the storage of carbon in harvested wood products, mainly due to the development of wooden construction as a storage facility (about 4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> according to the data for 2015 for all categories of harvested wood products). In Poland, the prospect of reducing emissions through investments in energy efficiency and thermomodernisation is very promising. The transport sector also offers significant scope for reducing emissions, with low-carbon and electric vehicles helping, as well as investments in rail infrastructure and the promotion of rail and intermodal transport, at the expense of road and air transport. The state policy is conducive to the achievement of Poland's objectives and commitments on the international level, especially in the context of the three Rio Conventions, including the Climate Convention.

### Priorities

As far as climate change is concerned, the priority of the Polish government is to **effectively reduce the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere**. This will be done through the **introduction of innovative technologies for the use of available energy sources**, including the development of geothermal energy with financial support for the exploration and recognition of thermal water deposits and the possibility of obtaining thermal energy from dry rocks. We also see great potential for appropriate forest management to adapt to climate change.

## Measures

Efforts to reduce emissions remain key climate change measures. Programmes relating to energy saving, improving the efficiency of energy production and making greater use of renewable energy sources are essential. Measures in this respect include the programme *Support for projects relating to low-carbon and resource-efficient economy* aimed at reducing the negative impact of projects on the environment through investment activities, and the programme *Improvement of air quality* aimed at popularising the production of energy from renewable sources and reducing energy consumption in buildings in order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

In the light of the problem of emissions, it is also important to develop policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from non-ETS sectors. In turn, within the framework of the Green Investment Schemes, it is possible to finance measures limiting the emission of greenhouse gases. The system ensures that the funds obtained are used for purposes related to the broadly understood protection of the climate and the environment. So far, more than 400 have been completed. The Norwegian Financing Mechanism and the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-14 implement the PL04 programme *Saving energy and promoting renewable energy sources*, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution and increase the share of energy from renewable sources in the overall energy consumption balance. Due to the implementation of this Programme, greenhouse gas emissions were reduced. The value of limited or avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions amounts to approximately 490 thousand tons per year.

Actions to counteract climate change are also implemented under such measures of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 as *Investments in the development of forest areas and improvement in forest viability*, *Agri-environment-climate measure*, *Organic farming*. Through environmentally friendly practices primarily aimed at protecting soil and water, promotion of organic management methods and soil carbon sequestration, these measures are important instruments of support for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These actions take form of voluntary commitments.

A detailed description of the measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (in all relevant sectors) is provided in the Seventh Government Report and the Third Biennial Report to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2017.

Moreover, Poland takes a number of adaptation measures aimed at reducing the vulnerability of society and economy to the effects of climate change. Adaptation to climate change is designed to protect society and the economy from the adverse effects of weather events such as storms, floods and flooding, ice and droughts. Flood prevention infrastructure is being developed as well as appropriate rainwater management in urban areas. Measures related to proper water management for agriculture will also be continued. The main emphasis will be put on comprehensive solutions, which include irrigation and

accumulation of water in the landscape, storage of water in the soil, appropriate agrotechnics, improvement in the efficiency of water management by arable crops.

These actions are implemented through a number of programmes. Under the new environmental programme for 2014-2021 (financed from the Norwegian and EEA Financial Mechanisms), the following activities will be implemented: concerning e.g. renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Implementation of the national climate change adaptation policy, which includes a set of guiding actions for adaptation by 2020 for sectors and areas sensitive to climate change (SPA 2020), is crucial. The main objective of SPA 2020 is to ensure sustainable development and effective functioning of the economy and society in the context of climate change.

The regional level is emphasised, where within the project *Developing plans for adaptation to climate change in cities of over 100,000 inhabitants* an assessment is made of the vulnerability and vulnerability to climate change of 44 largest Polish cities and the planning of adaptation actions, adequate to the identified threats.

The development of water infrastructure (flood protection and drought adaptation infrastructure) aims to strengthen resilience to the risks of climate change and to enhance the capacity to prevent and respond to natural hazards to which Poland is particularly vulnerable, i.e. floods and droughts.

The project *Polish wooden houses - live in harmony with nature* aims at promoting the use of wood, which is a coal storehouse, in the construction industry.

As part of the projects related to the construction, development and reconstruction of hydrotechnical facilities, actions are taken to improve flood safety, reduce drought and water retention. Within the framework of the abovementioned tasks, activities related to the construction of the so-called green infrastructure are also planned. In addition, flood risk management plans will be implemented and flood risk management plans will be updated, and a drought plan will be developed and implemented.

Under the official development assistance, Poland supports developing countries in the implementation of SDG 13. All measures of Polish development assistance take into account the impact on the natural environment and climate. In selected African countries - Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and Tanzania - projects under the thematic priority *Environment* are being implemented on issues such as increasing access to renewable energy sources or building resilience and capacity to cope with the effects of natural disasters, including those caused by climate change.

In December 2018, Poland will host the most important global forum devoted to global climate policy: the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), together with the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 14).

Almost 40,000 delegates from around the World will participate in the event, including heads of government and ministers responsible for the environment and climate issues. During the Summit, the full implementation package of the Paris Agreement will be adopted.

## Strategic projects

	<p>Strategy for the transition to a low-emission economy - a set of measures contributing to the reduction of the carbon intensity and energy intensity of the economy, while ensuring that the competitiveness of structurally energy-intensive sectors is protected.</p>
	<p>Forest carbon farms - pilot project of forest carbon farms (FCF), which will be based on additional measures related to sustainable forest management.</p>
	<p>A comprehensive programme of adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change by 2020 - a programme implemented by the State Forest Holding - Lasy Państwowe in order to prevent or minimise the negative effects of natural phenomena (droughts and fires), destroying effects of floodwater, floods and inundation through the development of low retention systems, combating excessive soil erosion, strengthening the resilience of forest ecosystems threatened by progressive climate change.</p>
	<p>Water for agriculture - support programme for family farms and improvement of water management in agriculture in conditions of temporary shortages and excess of water.</p>

## Examples of initiatives

**Education and information campaign ECOLOGICAL HOUSE 2014/2015** - the aim of the campaign was education in the field of thermal modernisation of single-family buildings, and thus reduction of low emissions first of all, as well as sustainable energy management in buildings, resulting in reduction of pressure of households on the natural environment and their impact on climate change.

**CIRCULARECONOMY - CLOSING THE LOOP! workshop series** - a series of workshops conducted by UNEP-GRID Warsaw Centre. The

aim of the cycle is to integrate the business environment and business environment institutions around the subject of circular economy. The workshops focus on sharing knowledge, experiences and practices, and on working together to develop conclusions and actions that can be implemented in a multi-agency environment. Meetings are attended in particular by representatives of business, as well as representatives of scientific and research institutions, non-governmental organisations and public administration.



# Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Poland is a party to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area done in Helsinki on 3 April 1992, (Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] from 2000 item 346), which aims to solve the problem of pollution from land-based sources, ships, waste discharged into the marine environment, as well as to conduct research activities. The main threats to the biodiversity of the Baltic Sea are eutrophication, overfishing, pollution with various substances, including oil and the introduction of non-indigenous species.

The levels of nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea from Poland have declined with investment in wastewater treatment, but Poland remains a large contributor to pollution in the Baltic Sea. Environmental pressures from nutrients have not been decoupled from agricultural production and remain a threat to water quality. Although 36% of Poland's maritime areas are protected, further efforts are needed to strengthen the management of marine Natura 2000 sites. Moreover the Polish fish processing industry remains one of the largest in Europe. In order to ensure the sustainable development of maritime areas, it is important to improve knowledge of the condition of habitats in the Baltic Sea and coastal zones, as well as the protection of nature and biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

### Priorities

Given the increasing scale of spatial conflicts caused by the increasing number of uses of marine space, it has become necessary to redefine the ways in which the benefits of the sea can be reaped and to ensure coexistence and synergy between the various users of maritime areas and their surroundings. The spatial plan for Polish maritime areas will be a tool for coordination of various spatial activities, including implementation of investment projects in maritime areas. The premise of the proposed

mechanism is the **efficient and sustainable use of marine resources for various social and economic purposes**, while ensuring the sustainability of non-renewable natural resources and processes in the perspective of present and future generations.

The first maritime spatial plan in the history of Poland will be adopted by 2021 and it will contribute in particular to:

- the promotion of sustainable development in the maritime sector, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects, including the improvement of the environmental status and resilience to climate change;
- ensuring coordination of actors and uses of the sea, coherent management of maritime and coastal areas, including the resources of the Baltic Sea;
- increasing the share of the maritime sector in GDP and increasing employment in the maritime sector;
- strengthening the position of Polish seaports, increasing the competitiveness of maritime transport and ensuring maritime safety;
- the economical use of space, leaving as much room as possible for future, including currently unknown, uses of the sea;
- the effective use of maritime areas and their development potential to achieve general development goals – competitiveness, increase in employment, efficiency of state operation and cohesion in the social, economic and territorial dimension in the long term.

Maritime spatial planning and development will not replace other decision-making processes (such as Nature 2000 plans, designation of areas for national security and protection, decisions on vessel traffic separation zones, setting of maximum fishing quotas, etc.). All these processes will be complementary to each other and will have an impact on the sustainable development of maritime areas.

## Strategic projects



Polish Maritime Spatial Development Plan - will be the basis for effective use of the maritime space with the application of the ecosystem approach, streamlining of procedures concerning investment processes in Polish maritime areas, strengthening the position of Polish seaports, increasing the competitiveness of maritime transport, ensuring maritime safety and increasing the share of the maritime sector in GDP. The inclusion of Polish maritime areas in spatial maritime plans will contribute to the introduction of spatial order and sustainable development in these areas.



Programme for the development of Polish seaports until 2020 (with perspective to 2030) - the main objective of the programme is to improve the competitiveness of Polish seaports and increase their share in the social and economic development of the country and raise the rank of seaports in the international transport network.



## SDG 15

# Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



The good condition of nature in Poland is mainly evidenced by its diversity at the level of ecosystems and species of fauna and flora. Poland has one of the highest biodiversity indicators on the continent; as an effect of the preservation of unique landscapes resulted from the dispersion of agricultural land, the maintenance of extensive agriculture and the domination of state ownership in the forest management structure. The richness of ecosystems is determined e.g. by the constant increase in the number of common forest birds or the occurrence of large predators, i.e. wolves, lynxes and bears.

As a result of the adoption of EU regulations, a network of Natura 2000 areas, focusing on the protection of specific species of plants and animals (including birds) and natural habitats, was introduced into the national legal system. At present, the Polish Natura 2000 network consists of 145 Special Protection Areas for birds and 849 Special Areas of Conservation for habitats covering about 1/5 of the Polish territory on land.

The highest form of nature protection in the Polish legal system includes national parks, which also serve environmental education and science, as well as providing access to natural and cultural resources located on their territory. The total area of 23 national parks in Poland is almost 318 thousand ha.

In terms of forest cover, Poland is at the forefront of Europe (forests cover almost 30% of the country's territory). Poland's forest area represents 0.23% of the world's forests and approximately 6% of the EU's forest area. Multifunctional and sustainable forest management guarantees the preservation of the natural wealth of Polish forests, while using their resources to meet social and economic needs.

In the Polish legal system, soil protection is connected with the wider concept of land surface protection and also includes protection against pollution and other forms of degradation. The area of degraded and devastated land is only about 0.2% (2016) of the country's area. This land is gradually being recultivated and reused.

### Priorities

The state policy focuses on **protection and improvement of the quality of the environment through protection of biodiversity**, including area forms of nature protection, waste management system, improvement of water quality and protection of water purity, as well as **modernization and development of treatment plants and sewage systems, and also air protection** (elimination of sources of pollution emissions or reduction of their impact) and soil protection.

## Measures

Given the negative impact of high intensity investments on biodiversity and nature-value areas, it will be crucial to assess and verify protected areas and their resources in order to increase the effectiveness of the protection of areas of particular natural and landscape value. In addition, mapping and valuation of ecosystem services will be carried out. Also adaptation of the standards of the spatial planning and management system and introduction of changes in the management of protected areas in order to reduce the natural conflict of conservation of highly valued values will be done.

It is important to identify the landscape resources in the whole country, including the designation and protection of the most valuable, priority

Polish landscapes. Measures for the preservation of landscapes and natural resources are implemented under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. In the longer term the development of green and blue infrastructure in urbanised areas is planned. It will also be important to maintain and increase the country's overall forest cover.

Protection of soil against degradation will also be an important area of activity, in order to preserve its proper functions (ecological and economic). This also applies to urban development and the preservation and full utilisation of soil production capacity in rural areas with a continuing agricultural function. Activities will be conducted in the direction of implementation of the principle of priority of secondary use of space in investment processes, identification of contaminated soils and support for their remediation, as well as protection of agricultural and forest land productivity.

## Strategic projects



**Landscape audits** - their aim is a methodologically consolidated identification, characterisation and assessment of landscape resources, which will allow to determine priority landscapes, i.e. areas most valuable for the society in terms of preservation of natural and cultural heritage of Poland and the definition of recommendations and conclusions for these areas and other protected areas (both natural and cultural) in terms of their development and protection. Landscape audits will constitute the basis for measures in the process of spatial planning and development of the most valuable landscapes, as well as will contain substantive premises for verification and development of a network of protected areas.



**Water for agriculture** - a programme of support for family farms and improvement of water management in agriculture in conditions of temporary shortages and excess of water.

## Examples of initiatives

**Carpathians Connect** - support for traditional herding as a form of active protection of semi-natural non-forest habitats of Carpathian mountain pastures, as well as development of a National Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol on the Protection and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians on the Polish side, done in Kiev on 22 May 2003 (Dz. U. (Journal of Laws from 2007 item 634).

**GreenGo!** Green infrastructure in rural areas as a sanctuary of biodiversity (2016-17) - the objective is to raise the awareness of recipients

about the role of green infrastructure and ways of its sustainable development in rural areas. It is addressed to local government officials and residents of the Mazowieckie and Lubelskie Voivodeships.

**Partnership for implementation of environmental SDGs „TOGETHER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT”** - a long-term, cross-sectoral initiative coordinated by UNEP/GRID and aiming at building a friendly climate for implementation of SDGs, with particular emphasis on their environmental dimension.

## SDG 16

### Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



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The quality of state operation is one of the key factors of competitiveness and, at the same time, a fundamental determinant of the ability to fully exercise democratic freedoms and civil rights. Poland has substantially improved its evidence-based policymaking system, but continues to face challenges in implementing the legislation. The level of development of e-Government is gradually increasing, but effective use of information and communication technologies remains a challenge.

#### Priorities

The policy in this area is focused on **increasing the effectiveness of the state and institutions serving growth and social and economic inclusion**. The priority is to **improve the quality of legislation and its application**, increase the effectiveness of functioning of public institutions, strengthen the strategic management system of development processes, increase the use of information and communications technologies in state management and communication with citizens (including entrepreneurs). Better management of public funds, including effective use of EU funds, will also be a measure of the state's efficiency.

## Measures

Measures will be taken to improve the quality of drafting and implementation of legislative and regulatory instruments, while enhancing public participation in lawmaking processes. Actions will be implemented to improve the competencies of participants in the process of lawmaking and monitoring, as well as to increase the transparency of legislation. Moreover, activities will be undertaken aimed at shaping conscious and responsible attitudes conducive to cooperation, creativity and communication between the administration and civil society institutions. Strong civil society organisations contribute to dense social networking and community building, thereby increasing public confidence in government policies.

The functioning of the judiciary remains a challenge: improvement of the judiciary and prosecution, introduction of modern methods of court management, a mechanism for verifying the effectiveness of proceedings, incentive mechanisms, alternative dispute resolution. It is important to increase the computerisation of courts, as well as the quality of the education system for judges and prosecutors.

Creating a system of strategic coordination and management of the country's development is key to proper management of the country's development policy. It is important to consolidate and strengthen the development management system through the implementation of a project approach in the administration, development of a system for monitoring and evaluation of public policies and closer integration of spatial and social and economic planning.

In this context, it is important to strengthen the social dialogue in the country at various levels – national, sectoral and enterprise.

Equally important is the introduction of modern communications tools, enabling efficient communication within the administration and with the citizen, development of computerization of the country through

making available a wide range of public administration services by electronic means. From this point of view, it is important to develop standards of customer service in the common courts. This will ensure efficient management and communication and will enable customers to obtain uniform information on the services provided by court employees, as well as service taking into account the same procedures throughout the country. In turn, as part of the implementation of the e-Payments system, a single payment platform for all e-services provided by the Ministry of Justice and common courts was also created, and the ICT system of the National Court Register was included in the system of European registers BRIS. The implementation of the e-DOK document circulation system in the Penitentiary Service is also a sign of increased computerisation in the judiciary.

Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the sustainability of public finances from the point of view of guaranteeing the country's sources of financing for development. In order to maintain budgetary balance, regulatory and institutional changes will be introduced to tighten the tax system.

Security and foreign policy aimed at protecting against threats, especially those related to terrorism, are also very important. It remains important to prevent and combat crime by strengthening border protection and migration control, improving the management of national security and ultimately the capacity of the armed forces.

As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Poland considers it one of its priorities to support the Council's efforts to uphold the international law. Appreciating the importance of the correlation between development and security, Poland actively participates in the discussion on this interdependence at the Security Council. We are thus working to increase the confidence of the international community in the Security Council and in the UN as a whole. By doing so we also contribute to making it more sensitive to the most pressing issues affecting lives of the citizens of the UN member states.

## Strategic projects



Establishment of Arbitration and Mediation Centres - integrated and comprehensive system of managing information on mediation in commercial matters by: integrating information, consolidating the practices of mediation in commercial matters, increasing the competences of entities providing mediation services in commercial matters, and consequently improving the quality of mediation services.



Register of Sexual Offenders (RSO) - construction of a register of sex offenders.



Consolidation and strengthening of the development management system - establishment of a centre supporting the management of the country's development processes and extension of the scope of evaluation of public policies in connection with the spatial policy.



Integrated system of development investments after 2020 - defining the way of coordination and absorption of funds by Poland within the framework of various available external and national instruments.



Ensuring citizens' access to properly organized justice - improving the functioning of the justice system and the institutions influencing its shape in such a way that the postulate of citizens' access to the justice system, including the promotion of non-judicial methods of dispute resolution, will be implemented to a greater extent.



Criminal policy - preparation and implementation of harmonised statutory and organisational solutions improving the functioning of the justice system in the area of criminal law.



Effective fight against VAT crime - introduction of legal and organisational changes to remove barriers to cooperation between entities involved in preventing and fighting tax fraud, in particular regarding professional secrets and exchange of information.



E-services in the area of justice and judiciary - replacing paper-based consolidation of court proceedings with digitisation and enabling provision of part of e-services of justice in order to improve the efficiency of court proceedings and ensure transparency of court proceedings.



Committee for Public Benefit - has become a government administration body competent in matters of public benefit and volunteerism, including programming, coordinating and organising cooperation between public administration bodies and entities operating in the sphere of public benefit. At the same time, the National Institute of Freedom - Centre for Civil Society Development - was established as an executive agency to manage funds and programmes supporting the development of civil society, including the newly established Fund for the Support of Civil Society Development.

## Examples of initiatives

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### **Programme “The Counteracting corruption and grey market”**

- Global Compact Network Poland programme, in partnership with the Ministry of Finance and with the support of the Ministry of Economic Development, enabled the creation of a unique platform for cooperation with state institutions dealing with combating the grey market, smuggling, bribery and fraud in sectors that are most exposed to the negative impact of economic crime. Industry reports were prepared describing criminal practices and recommendations for state institutions, which supported the development of regulatory packages by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice, as well as operational practices of the Prosecutor’s Office, Central An-

ti-Corruption Bureau, Central Bureau of Investigation, etc. Works continue within the National Revenue Administration.

**e-Delivery** - a service of registered electronic delivery in Poland Development of the State Registers System - project of the Minister of Digitization.

**Education and information campaigns for dissemination of benefits from the use of digital technologies** - project of the Minister of Digitization.





## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Poland supports global efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. Development cooperation is an integral part of Poland's foreign policy. Its main objective is to support the sustainable economic and social development of the partner countries and their populations, with particular emphasis on poverty reduction.

Acting pursuant to the Act on development cooperation<sup>28</sup>, the Minister of Foreign Affairs coordinates development cooperation through the National Coordinator for Development Cooperation at the rank of the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Act also established the Development Cooperation Policy Council functioning alongside the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which is an advisory and consultative body. Its role is crucial e.g. in the pursuit of development policy cohesion. Polish aid is also institutionally linked to the Solidarity Fund, whose role is to promote democracy and strengthen civil society.

Development cooperation shall be carried out in the framework of the *Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2016-20*. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepares annual Development Cooperation Plans, which indicate e.g. specific allocations of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for selected priority countries and programmes.

In 2005-16, Polish Official Development Assistance (ODA) maintained an upward trend. ODA/GNI<sup>29</sup> ratio remains stable and accounted for 0.15% of GNI in 2016. In 2016, Poland's ODA amounted to over USD 600 million, which is an increase of approximately 43% compared to the previous year. Over 73% of Polish ODA was granted through multilateral organisations, including first of all through European Union external financial instruments. The European Union remains Poland's most important channel of development assistance.

### Priorities

The geographical priorities of Polish development aid include the countries of the Eastern Partnership<sup>30</sup>, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. For 2016-20, 6 main thematic areas of assistance have been selected:

- **good governance** - regional development; public safety and civil protection; development of public administration; rule of law and fight against corruption; approximation of legislation to EU and international standards; access to reliable and objective information; independence of the media (SDGs 10 and 16);
- **democracy and human rights** - democratic electoral process; human rights and civil liberties; strengthening civil society organisations; civil dialogue (SDG 16);
- **human capital** - improving the quality of health care; inclusive education and access to quality education; civic education; integration of people from groups at risk of exclusion (SDGs 3, 4, 5 and 10);
- **entrepreneurship and the private sector** - competitiveness and innovation of micro- and small enterprises; social economy; entrepreneurship of women and young people; vocational education and training (SDGs 4, 5, 8);
- **sustainable agriculture and rural development** - food security; productivity and competitiveness of agricultural production; market access; modern agricultural technologies; upgrading local infrastructure (SDG 2);
- **environmental protection** - renewable energy sources; energy efficiency; water management; waste management; disaster prevention; combating climate change and its consequences; protection of natural resources (SDGs 6, 7, 8, 13 and 15).

28. The Act of 16 September 2011 on development cooperation.

29. Gross National Income.

30. The Eastern Partnership assumes closer EU cooperation with Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

## Measures

In addition to multilateral development assistance, Poland also participates in bilateral cooperation. These are projects implemented by government administration bodies and their subordinates, through non-governmental organisations, local government units, public universities, research institutes, the Polish Academy of Sciences and its organisational units under the open tendering procedure Polish Development Assistance, Humanitarian Aid in the Middle East and Ukraine, Global Education, Polish Aid Volunteering 2018, as well as projects implemented through Polish foreign institutions under the Small Grant System. In addition, Poland ensures policy coherence for development (i.e. developmental, foreign and domestic) by avoiding actions that negatively affect global development and the development capacities of other countries. Two priority areas are currently being implemented: Support to the fight against illicit financial flows and Dissemination and implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR/RBC) standards.

## Examples of initiatives

**KENYA** - project *Training and refurbishing of fire brigades in Kenya*. Increasing the capacity of fire brigades and emergency services in the six counties of Kenya to cope with the risks and consequences of natural and man-made disasters, improving the fire safety of the population and enhance the investment attractiveness of the regions concerned.

**LEBANON** - the humanitarian aid programme for Syrian refugees in Lebanon, launched in 2012, is the largest humanitarian aid initiative co-financed by Poland in the Middle East. Its direct beneficiaries at that time were 47 thousand Syrian refugees and over 20 thousand Lebanese citizens.

**MOLDOVA** - projects in the area of migration management, preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, preventing and combating organised crime (including cross-border crime) and training for firefighters in the field of recognising and eliminating hazards during fires, chemical and technical rescue (including providing Moldovan services with rescue equipment).

It should also be pointed out that apart from the external dimension, Poland uses the idea of partnership in the implementation of national policy priorities, and thus measures for the implementation of sustainable development objectives on the national ground. An example is the Multilateral Partnership Declaration launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Economic Development (more in the next chapter).



# Dialogue, cooperation, partnership for the achievement of SDGs in Poland

The complexity and permeability of SDGs requires the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders from different backgrounds in the process of achieving the objectives, thus creating a social and institutional partnership for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

We focus on cooperation, partnership and joint responsibility of public entities, businesses and citizens for the development processes. We are guided by the principle of **Poland's strong due to cooperation**, which means involvement and extensive cooperation between public and private entities, non-governmental organisations, the scientific sector and civil society at various stages of planning and implementing development activities. Therefore, various entities not only co-become participants of development activities, but also they co-create them, which strengthens the sense of joint responsibility

for their course. This concerns both horizontal cooperation, between individual headings and areas of intervention of public policies, and vertical cooperation between individual levels of influence: central, regional and local. Such an approach is consistent with the 2030 Agenda commitment *no one will be left behind*.

Considering that cooperation is particularly important on the way to a more sustainable future, eliminating poverty in all its forms and ensuring conditions for sustainable social and economic growth, in June 2017 the **Partnership for the Implementation of the SDGs in Poland** was initiated in Poland. The aim of the Partnership is to integrate representatives of various circles in cooperation for effective achievement of sustainable development objectives. The initiative increases the awareness of sustainable development goals, their importance for individual social groups and the need to cooperate in their effective implementation among growing number of stakeholders. The signatories provide an example of active involvement and responsible implementation of the principles of sustainable development within the organisation, providing a valuable source of inspiration for others.



**MINISTERSTWO  
ROZWOJU**

## Partnerstwo na rzecz realizacji Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju (SDGs)

Warszawa, 5 Czerwiec 2017 r.

Swiadomi globalnych wyzwań gospodarczych, społecznych i środowiskowych oraz ich złożoności, upatrujemy w celach zrównoważonego rozwoju szanse na wykrzesanie nowej rzeczywistości gospodarczej, otwierającej nowe ścieżki rozwoju dla dzisiejszej, opartej na zasadach transparentności i budującej rozumienie Polski jako wiarygodnego partnera gospodarczego. Uważamy, że osiągnięcie ambitnych celów i zadań będzie możliwe dzięki wspólnemu działaniu w efektywny sposób, mobilizacji sił, kreowaniu synergii, obywatelności i wzmocnionemu partnerstwu, będącemu efektem dialogu, otwartego dla wszystkich zainteresowanych stron.

Dążymy wspólnie do wykrzesania szans na dokonanie zmian w kraju, regionie i firmie, zwiększenia wpływu na zrównoważony rozwój, wyrażamy intencję współpracy w ramach niniejszego partnerstwa na rzecz realizacji Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju.



 Ministerstwo Rozwoju	 IM Piekarski Sp. z o.o.	 AM Lubuszczyzna	 AM Śląskie	 Bank Ochrony Gospodarki S.A.	 Bank Zachodni WBK S.A.
 BZ WBK	 CEMEX POLSKA Sp. z o.o.	 COA COI-HC	 COI COI Poland	 Deloitte Advisory Sp. z o.o.	 Fabryka Boga
 Funduszy Group Aktywność	 GABRIELIOTIS S.A.	 HELLER GRS S.A.	 Jelitowski Wędrzynski Polska S.A.	 KONGRES	 Papiernia Olsztyn
 Jelenia Góra	 JZOWER POLSKA Sp. z o.o.	 IPRKO POLSKA S.A.	 M&P	 M&P Bank S.A.	 M&P Group Sp. z o.o.
 Nieruchomości	 Orange Polska S.A.	 P&W Group S.A.	 Polska Akcja	 Polska Sieć	 Promocja Dobrej
 Przewozy	 Remyt	 Rossmann	 S&P	 S&P Energy	 S&P Group
 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P
 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P	 S&P

*Aware of global economic, social and environmental challenges and their complexity, we see sustainable development as an opportunity to create a new economic reality, opening new paths of development for business, based on the principles of transparency and building the image of Poland as a reliable economic partner.*

*We recognise that ambitious goals and targets will be achieved through working together in an effective manner, mobilising forces, creating synergies, a lively and strengthened partnership, the result of dialogue that is open to all stakeholders.*

*In an effort to jointly exploit opportunities for change in the country, region and enterprise, to increase the impact on sustainable development, we express our intention to cooperate within the framework of this partnership initiative for the achievement of the SDGs.*

Under the Partnership, the signatories sign a jointly agreed declaration of intent:

Apart from signing the declaration, the signatories of the Partnership make an individual commitment, in which they confirm the implementation of specific actions aimed at achieving selected SDGs, adequate to their activities. Accessing to the Partnership and making a commitment takes place within the framework of cyclical conference events. So far, more than 70 organisations representing a wide range of stakeholders have entered into partnerships, with a total of more than 130 commitments.

The abovementioned projects often concern the fulfilment of more than one of the 2030 Agenda SDGs. The main goals are usually SDG 4 – good quality of education and SDG 12 – responsible production and consumption. Many commitments also underline the importance of SDG 17, a partnership to be implemented as a „leverage” to fulfil many other declarations. Polish companies and organisations are also taking a number of measures to contribute to climate protection, thereby complying with SDG 13.

Most of the signatories are representatives of the business community. There is a change in the approach of enterprises, which more and more often modify their strategies in response to megatrends in the development of the world economy. Enterprises recognize the interdependence of development processes, correctly identify challenges for the industry and sector and take decisive adjustment measures, becoming an active actor of social and economic changes in the country. What is important, enterprises and business environment institutions in Poland are characterised by increasing market maturity and awareness of their impact on the environment and more and more often engage in shaping public debate by actively participating in activities aimed at adaptation of the Polish economy to new development trends and challenges. Therefore, the partnership enjoys great interest from the business community.

Participation in the Partnership is voluntary and open to all interested parties. It is undoubtedly a good thing that representatives of social and economic and non-governmental organisations are also actively joining the Partnership. We are also counting on further accession of academic, youth and local communities. We are taking steps to intensify cooperation in this area with regions (Marshal's Offices) and cities in order to increase awareness and sense of responsibility for the success of the process of achieving Sustainable Development Goals also in the local dimension.

The initiator and signatory of the government partnership was the Minister of Economic Development. Together with his signature, he made a commitment to establish a National Stakeholder Forum for the achievement of the SDGs. The Forum is a platform for conducting a substantive debate, exchanging information and experiences, and establishing effective cooperation between representatives of various circles for the benefit of the implementation of SDGs in Poland. The Forum focuses on creating practical added value by formulating

recommendations for the administration and other participants of the process in order to create appropriate conditions for effective implementation of SDGs in Poland. In addition, the Forum aims to:

- create a space for mutual learning and exchange of experiences in the field of policies and good practices in the implementation of SDGs;
- strengthen cooperation at national, regional and local level and address supraregional issues;
- provide a platform for the participation of all stakeholders, including social and economic partners, organisations, academia, academia, the private sector, administrations at all levels;
- actively participate in the process of preparing Poland for the review of the state of SDGs implementation during the HLPF.

The Forum's discussion is adjusted to the theme and work programme of the UN HLPF for a given year, and at the same time it focuses on those aspects which concern in particular the activities and development prospects of Poland. The Forum is organised once a year in cooperation with the signatories of the SDGs Implementation Partnership and other partners.

The Forum will be organised under the direction of the Programming Council as a consultative and advisory body. Its tasks will include:

- supporting the national coordinator in regular activities aimed at the implementation of sustainable development objectives in Poland, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- analysis of key processes and phenomena influencing the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, with particular emphasis on the impact of policies, programmes and strategies in the internal and external dimension in various sectors and social and economic areas;
- defining the directions of the debate conducted within the National Stakeholder Forum and cross-sectional issues related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and assessing the progress in the implementation of SDGs in the country in an integrated and coherent manner;
- formulating opinions and recommendations on the activities of the national coordinator for the effective achievement of global development goals at the national and local levels.

The activities of the Programming Council and the organisation of meetings of the National Stakeholder Forum for the implementation of SDGs in Poland are in line with SDG 17 of the 2030 Agenda, which concerns the strengthening of the implementation measures and the revitalisation of the global partnership for sustainable development.

## Key conclusions and future plans

Poland takes a responsible approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015 and the start of its implementation coincided with the development and implementation of a new approach to development policy as set out in the medium-term Strategy for Responsible Development. In order to define the directions of the future social and economic policy, an in-depth macroeconomic analysis of Poland was carried out. Strengths and development potentials were determined. At the same time, key development gaps were identified and directions for concentration of public intervention around these areas were identified in such a way as to eliminate developmental inequalities and social disproportions within the country. As a result of the measures taken, the abovementioned Strategy was developed.

The SRD is the result of a reflection on the identified development traps of the Polish economy and serves to present a new economic paradigm adopted by the Government of the Republic of Poland. At the same time, as a result of an in-depth analysis of the coherence of the SRD with the 2030 Agenda, a high compliance of the national strategy with the global Sustainable Development Goals can be seen. The Strategy therefore responds to the international challenges of sustainable development and the megatrends of the global economy, and to the need to rethink national development policies to ensure that the benefits of development can be reaped by present and future generations alike.

As part of a comprehensive approach to the implementation of SDGs, additional studies and analyses were undertaken to determine the scale and strength of interaction between the various objectives and targets of the 2030 Agenda, with a view to identifying the areas with the greatest impact that could accelerate the effective implementation of SDGs and should serve as a reference for public policies. Using econometric models, factors, areas of public policy expenditures and their effects were analysed, taking into account Polish macroeconomic conditions.

Taking into account the lists of outlays influencing the effects in the areas of SDG activity, a grouping of factors was created based on the impact on several objectives at the same time. In order to show the interaction between public expenditure and individual SDG areas, network analysis based on the Kamada-Kawai model of identifying separate factors was used.<sup>31</sup>

The analysis shows that for Poland the most important issues in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals are poverty reduction and ensuring sustainable development of cities and communities. It is equally important to ensure good quality education, gender equality and the reduction of inequality in the country. It also remains important to promote a peaceful and inclusive society by ensuring access to justice for all and by building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Action on access to clean water and sanitation, climate action and the protection of oceans, seas and marine resources will be essential to achieve the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda in Poland. Measures and feedback between economic growth and decent work and responsible consumption and production will be equally important. Investment in the protection of biodiversity, which has an impact on health and quality of life, sustainable urban development and the climate, should also be considered crucial.

Increased outlays under public policies in these areas should bring the desired effect and constitute a lever for effective implementation of Sustainable Development objectives in Poland.

To increase the effectiveness of achieving SDGs in the coming years, the following matters seem particularly important for Poland:

- Selective intervention - mainly in the areas where increased outlays bring measurable effects, including reducing marginal energy consumption per capita by households, increasing energy efficiency, increasing gross expenditure on R&D, supporting research on agriculture, increase in organic farming;
- Education for sustainable development - implementation of educational and information projects raising awareness of the principles of sustainable development and their importance, and of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in various environments and social groups;
- Effective monitoring - the system for monitoring sustainable development in Poland plays a crucial role in assessing progress. There is a need to refine and operate SDG indicators to measure the achievement of individual SDGs;
- Coherence of Development Policy - the international character of the Agenda and the mutual interpenetration of the sustainable development goals indicate the need to review all future development strategies in terms of the coherence of sustainable development policies, their impact on the implementation of the principle of sustainable development and the achievement of the sustainable development goals. It is also necessary to jointly programme the multiannual development cooperation policy and the national development strategies after 2020;
- A well-functioning organizational structure - taking measures to strengthen the organisational structure within the framework of coordination, management and monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development objectives in Poland - strengthening the national coordinator for the implementation of objectives in human and financial resources, so that ambitious dissemination plans and efficient implementation of goals have a chance of success. It is also crucial to ensure the continuation of the activities of the Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development with the 2030 Agenda, as well as the National Stakeholder Forum

31. W. de Nooy, A. Mrvar, I V. Batagelj, *Exploratory Social Network Analysis with Pajek: Revised and Expanded Second Edition*, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2011.

as platforms for the cooperation of representatives of various circles in the partnership for the active implementation of SDGs in Poland

As part of the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Poland has developed solutions which may constitute good practices/experiences for other countries involved in the process:

- **Project approach to process coordination in Poland.** Our experience shows that the real effects are most visible and are achieved as quickly as possible through the implementation of specific, even the smallest initiatives, undertakings and projects. Therefore, within the framework of coordination activities, we focused on setting milestones which, implemented within the project approach, allow us to successively achieve subsequent stages by improving strategic management of the entire process (the SRD strategic projects, the 2030 Agenda project);
- **Participatory model of cooperation.** The applied practices of integrating various environments around the challenge of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals increase the sense of shared responsibility of various environments for the success of transformational changes towards sustainable development of the country. Ultimately, the active participation of stakeholders in public policy-making increases their confidence in the authorities and their willingness to engage in dialogue to find common solutions. (Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development with the 2030 Agenda);
- **Initiatives of the national coordinator.** Openness to dialogue and creation of space for systematic exchange of knowledge, information and good practices, in our opinion is the best programme of market self-education. Mutual inspiration has the effect of raising market awareness of the challenges of sustainable development and a sense of equality as to how governments, organisations, businesses, local communities and individual citizens can influence the opportunities for change. (the Partnership for achieving the SDGs in Poland, or National Stakeholder Forum).



## Synthesis of the report on public consultations of the document

The draft report was presented to the public and a wide range of partners in order to learn their opinions and observations. The consultations were conducted on the basis of § 38(1) Resolution No. 190 of the Council of Ministers of 29 October 2013 - the works regulations of the Council of Ministers between 6 and 27 April 2018 (M.P. (Official Gazette) from 2016 item 1006, as amended).

The information on the commencement of consultations was sent directly to ministries, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and members of the Council of Ministers, the Social Dialogue Council and to selected parliamentary committees, organisations and institutions, including those gathering the scientific community, the business community, farmers, as well as foundations, agencies and institutes. Voivodeships and voivodeship marshals were also informed about the start of the consultations. The Trade Union Forum, the National Commission of the Solidarity Trade Union Association and the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions were also invited to participate in the consultations. Moreover, information on the commencement of consultations was made available on the website of the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Technology - both on the home page, in the news, and dedicated tab, thanks to which the draft report was available to all stakeholders. A special form was prepared to allow entities and individuals to submit comments.

In total, more than 200 contributions, comments and opinions were received from more than 30 stakeholders during the consultation process. All the opinions expressed in the consultation were analysed in the course of work on the final version of the report.

The comments submitted in the consultations were characterised by different levels of detail and nature. These were both substantive proposals for additions and clarifications to the existing provisions, comments on the existing state of affairs, and editorial remarks. The comments made during the consultations were taken into account to a large extent, which allowed the report to be properly developed and influenced the introduction of significant corrections and additions to the provisions of the draft report, particularly in the area of poverty reduction, health care, creating the labour market to ensure decent work, entrepreneurship, social dialogue, education, air protection and climate in general as well as environmental resources, highlighting the role of local governments, selection of statistical indicators. The report also took into account selected examples of initiatives taken in support of the Sustainability Targets, among those proposed in the consultation.

Many comments contained proposals and solutions, which were too detailed in the context of the general, synthetic nature of the presented report. There were also opinions that the report contained too many references to the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD), while the document, as a report on the implementation of the goals of the 2030 Agenda and not SRD, should be more based on information from other sources. It should be stressed that, in accordance with Article 21 of the UN Resolution on the 2030 Agenda, each country is responsible for its implementation at national, regional and global level, taking into account its realities, capacities and priorities. The 2030 Agenda and its goals are implemented in Poland through the Strategy for Responsible Development. Due to the fact that the key document is the SRD - a comprehensive strategy defining objectives, areas and development priorities by 2030 - the Task Force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs agreed that the Report on the achievement of the SDGs should be synthetic, clear, present the priorities and key measures. Other countries also prepare reports under the VNR in this manner.



## Statistical annex

Set of national indicators monitoring the  
**2030 Agenda Goals**

## SDG 1. No poverty

Name of indicator	Name of indicator	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
At risk of relative poverty rate	%	17.4	16.9	16.3	16.2	16.2	15.5	13.9	GUS	Percentage of persons in households living below relative poverty threshold which is determined at 50% of the mean expenditure at the level of all households
Real adjusted gross disposable income of households per capita at PPP (UE28=100)	-	62.9	64.8	67.3	67.7	68.2	69.0	70.3	Eurostat	Adjusted gross disposable income of households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) divided by the purchasing power parities (PPP) of the actual individual consumption of households and by the total resident population, related to the European Union average (EU-28=100)
Number of dwellings per 1,000 population	-	349.6	352.6	356.1	359.9	363.4	367.3	371.3	GUS	Number of dwellings in conversion per 1,000 population
Overcrowding rate	%	47.5	47.2	46.3	44.8	44.2	43.4	40.7	Eurostat	Percentage of population living in an overcrowded household. A person is considered as living in an overcrowded household if the household does not have at its disposal a minimum number of rooms equal to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. one room for the household;</li> <li>2. one room per couple in the household;</li> <li>3. one room for each single person aged 18 or more;</li> <li>4. one room per pair of single people of the same gender between 12 and 17 years of age;</li> <li>5. one room for each single person between 12 and 17 years of age and not included in the previous category;</li> </ol>

## SDG 2: Zero hunger

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Prevalence of obesity among adults	%	22.5	22.9	23.4	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.6	WHO	Percentage of population aged 18 years and more with a BMI equal 30 or more
Agricultural land area in farms exceeding 30 ha of agricultural land area as % of agricultural land area in farms in total	%	39.0	38.0	40.0	41.0	41.0	41.0	42.0	Statistics Poland	Agricultural land area in agricultural holdings exceeding 30 ha of agricultural land area in agricultural land area of farms in total
Average monthly income per capita from individual agricultural holding in relation to income per capita from self-employment	%	46.1	40.9	48.7	51.2	39.0	36.8	38.8	Statistics Poland	Relation of average monthly disposable income per person in a household, received from individual agricultural holding , to disposable income per person in a household, received from self-employment
Agricultural Orientation Index for government expenditures (AOI)	-	0.73	0.61	0.59	0.46	0.37	0.40	0.42	Statistics Poland	Share of central government expenditure allocated to agriculture in total central government expenditure, related to the share of agriculture in GDP
Share of certified organic agricultural land area of organic farms in total agricultural land area of farms	%	2.07	2.48	3.05	3.37	3.82	3.45	2.96	Main Inspectorate of Agricultural and Food Quality / Statistics Poland	Certified organic agricultural land area of organic farms in relation to total agricultural land area of farms (in %)
Expenditure on R&D in agriculture in relation to GDP	%	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.04	Statistics Poland	Ratio of intramural expenditures on R&D in the field of agricultural and veterinary sciences to GDP

## SDG 3. Good health and well-being

Name of indicator		Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Healthy Life Years – males and females:	males	years	58.5	59.1	59.1	59.2	59.8	60.1	61.3	Eurostat	Average number of years that a person lives in a healthy condition, i.e. without limitation in everyday functioning and without disability
	females		62.3	63.3	62.8	62.7	62.7	63.2	64.6		
Active Ageing Index (AAI)		points	27.0	.	27.1	.	28.1	.	.	Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy	A synthetic measure of the underutilisation of the potential of older people to participate more in the economy, society and independent living. The active ageing index was developed by combining measures from 4 areas: employment; participation in the society; independent living in health and safety; potential and conditions for active ageing
Deaths per 100 thousand population due to:	diseases of the circulatory system	persons	451.8	440.9	460.8	460.8	441.1	469.0	437.1	Statistics Poland	Number of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system and malignant neoplasms per 100 thousand population
	malignant neoplasms	persons	240.4	239.3	245.9	244.4	248.3	261.6	260.1		
Number of physicians per 10 thousand population		persons	20.6	20.9	22.1	22.1	22.8	23.0	23.9	Statistics Poland	Number of physicians (employed persons in the main place of work) per 10 thousand population
Number of nurses and midwives per 10 thousand population		persons	53.7	54.2	61.2	58.0	57.6	57.2	56.9	Statistics Poland	Number of nurses and midwives (employed persons in the main place of work) per 10 thousand population

## SDG 4. Quality education

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Adults participating in education or training (aged 25-64)	%	5.2	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.0	3.5	3.7	Statistics Poland	Share of the number of persons aged 25-64 participating in education and training in the total number of population in the same age group
Unemployment rate of basic vocational school leavers (LFS)	%	36.1	40.6	41.6	43.2	38.8	33.8	35.0	Statistics Poland	Share of unemployed graduates aged 15-30 who have completed post-secondary, secondary vocational or basic vocational education in the last 12 months and do not continue education in the total number of economically active graduates aged 15-30 with postsecondary, secondary vocational or basic vocational education
Results of PISA tests - percentage of top-performing students in reading literacy	%	7.2 (2009)	.	10.0	.	.	8.2	.	OECD / Ministry of National Education	Share of the top-performing students (levels 5-6) in reading literacy in total number of students taking the exam
Results of PISA tests - percentage of top-performing students in mathematics	%	10.4 (2009)	.	16.7	.	.	12.2	.	OECD / Ministry of National Education	Share of the top-performing students (levels 5-6) in mathematics in total number of students taking the exam
Percentage of children aged 3-5 covered by pre-primary education	%	62.6	69.2	69.7	74.1	79.4	84.2	81.1	OECD / Ministry of National Education	Share of children aged 3-5 covered by pre-primary education in the number of population in the same age group

## SDG 5. Gender equality

Name of indicator		Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Employment rate of women with the youngest child up to 5 years old (LFS)		%	58.5	57.7	58.3	59.1	61.8	64.1	63.0	Statistics Poland	Share of employed women with the youngest child up to 5 years old in the total number of women with the youngest child up to 5 years old
Percentage of women in managerial positions (IV quarter)		%	36.8	39.5	38.2	37.0	38.4	41.4	41.5	Statistics Poland	Share of women in managerial positions in the total number of employed persons in managerial positions
Gender pay gap		%	4.5	5.5	6.4	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.2	Eurostat	Difference between average gross hourly earnings of men and women expressed as a percentage of average gross hourly earnings of men
Activity rate:	females	%	47.6	47.8	48.1	48.2	48.5	48.4	48.3	Statistics Poland	Share of the economically active persons in a given category in total population in that category
	males	%	63.7	64.0	64.3	64.4	64.7	64.6	64.8		

## SDG 6. Clean water and sanitation

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Percentage of population connected to wastewater treatment plants	%	64.7	65.7	68.6	70.3	71.5	72.7	73.5	Statistics Poland	Share of population connected to wastewater treatment plants in total population
Percentage of population connected to water supply system	%	87.4	87.6	87.9	88.0	91.6	91.8	91.9	Statistics Poland	Share of the number of persons living in residential buildings and collective accommodation facilities connected to the water supply system in total population
Exploitable underground water resources per 100 thous. inhabitants	hm <sup>3</sup>	44.6	44.8	45.2	45.5	45.7	46.0	46.5	Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute / Statistics Poland	Part of underground water resources which, taking into account the principles of their conservation and technical conditions, may be collected from a given aquifer without disturbing the hydrogeological balance per 100 thousand inhabitants

## SDG 7. Affordable and clean energy

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index)	min.	316.1	309.1	254.0	254.2	191.3	243.6	.	Ministry of Energy	SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index), expressed in minutes per power customer per year, is the products sum of the duration of a long and very long interruption in the electricity supply and the number of power customers exposed to effects of this interruption in a year, divided by the total number of power customers served. SAIDI informs about total duration of interruption of electricity power supply (in minutes) that power consumer can expect on average in a year
Share of energy from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption	%	9.25	10.29	10.90	11.37	11.49	11.93	11.29	Statistics Poland	Ratio of gross final energy consumption from renewable sources to gross final energy consumption from all sources
ODEX (Aggregated energy efficiency index, 2000=100)	-	74.9	73.4	71.5	68.9	67.8	66.8	.	Statistics Poland	Aggregated changes in individual energy consumption, observed in a given time on defined level of final use, calculated as the quotient of the actual energy consumption in a given year and the theoretical energy consumption not taking into account individual use effect (i.e. on assumption of previous energy intensity of given product production process)

## SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Employment rate of persons aged 15 years and over by LFS	%	50.0	50.2	50.2	50.2	51.2	51.9	52.8	GUS	Share of employed persons in total population
Udział eksportu wyrobów wysokiej techniki w eksporcie ogółem	%	6.0	5.1	6.0	6.7	7.9	8.5	8.5	GUS	The value of exported products with high R&D intensity to the value of total exports
Share of exports of high technology products in total exports	%	73.8	73.4	73.0	73.0	73.2	73.2	73.6	GUS	Share of persons employed on the basis of employment contract in total number of employed persons
Ease of Doing Business Index (ranking positions in Doing Business)	-	.	.	55	45	32	25	24	World Bank	Country position in the Doing Business ranking in terms of ease of doing business. The higher the ranking, the simpler the rules for running a business and the stronger the protection of property by law
Percentage of children aged 1-3 covered by different kinds of institutional care	%	.	.	.	8.3	10.5	12.4	13.9	MRPiPS	Share of children covered by institutional care in total number of children aged 1-3

## SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data Source	Definition
Expenditure on R&D in relation to GDP	%	0.72	0.75	0.88	0.87	0.94	1.00	0.97	GUS	Ratio of gross domestic expenditure on research and development incurred by all entities in the country carrying out such activities, regardless of the source of funds, to GDP
Business enterprise expenditure on R&D in relation to GDP	%	0.19	0.22	0.33	0.38	0.44	0.47	0.63	GUS	Ratio of intramural expenditure on research and development incurred by units belonging to the Business enterprise sector in the country carrying out such activities (BERD), regardless of the source of funds, to GDP
Share of net revenues from sales of new or significantly improved products in total turnover in industrial enterprises	%	11.3	8.9	9.2	8.7	8.8	9.5	8.1	GUS	Share of the value of net revenues from sales of innovative products in the total value of net revenues from sales of products of industrial enterprises that employ 10 and more persons
Index of multimodal accessibility of transport	-	30.8	.	.	33.7	34.6	35.9	.	PAN/ MHIR	The indicator is a synthetic qualitative measure of mutual, potential time accessibility between the main national settlement centres and transport nodes (internal and external), taking into account all essential means of transport (in proportion to their share in the transport performance) and weighted by the level of socio-economic development
Percentage of households with broadband Internet access at home	%	57.0	61.0	67.0	69.0	71.0	71.0	76.0	GUS / Eurostat	Percentage of households with at least one person aged 16 to 74 having access to broadband Internet at home (connection to Internet featuring high speed of information flow measured in hundreds of kilobits per second or in megabits per second)

## SDG 10. Reduced inequalities

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data Source	Definition
Diversity of gross value added per employed person at voivodeships' level (NTS 2)	%	15.0	15.3	15.2	14.7	14.8	14.6	.	GUS	Indicator of dispersion – the sum of absolute values of differences between voivodeships' and national gross value added per employed person, weighted with the share of number of employed of particular voivodeships and expressed in percentage of national gross value added per employed person in total
Diversity of GDP per capita at sub-regions' level (NTS 3)	%	34.3	34.0	34.2	34.2	34.0	34.2	.	GUS	Indicator of dispersion – the sum of absolute values of differences between sub-regions' and national GDP per inhabitant, weighted with the share of population of particular sub-regions and expressed in percentage of national GDP per inhabitant
Average annual net disposable income per person in a household in rural areas in relation to the urban areas	%	66.5	67.5	67.2	69.0	68.0	69.5	.	GUS	Relation of annual average disposable income per 1 person in a household in rural areas to the average disposable income per 1 person in a household in urban areas
Income quintile inequality ratio	-	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	GUS	Relation of income earned by 20% of people with the highest income level to total income earned by 20% of people with the lowest income level

## SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data Source	Definition
Air quality indicator (46 zones of the country where the air quality is assessed)	%	91.3	91.3	84.8	80.4	91.3	87.0	.	GIOŚ	The ratio of the number of zones with exceeded acceptable level of pollution to 46 zones on a national scale where air quality is assessed, expressed as a percentage  An annual assessment of air quality from the point of view of human health protection for 12 pollutants (SO <sub>2</sub> , NO <sub>2</sub> , benzene, CO, O <sub>3</sub> , PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> and arsenic, cadmium, lead, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene) is carried out for each zone separately
Share of buses powered by alternative fuels in the total number of buses serving urban transport	%	2.3	2.8	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.6	3.8	GUS	Share of buses powered by alternative fuels in the total number of buses serving urban transport
Mixed municipal waste collected per capita in urban areas	kg	316.9	302.3	291.5	272.9	266.3	265.2	275.8	GUS	Weight of collected mixed municipal waste per 1 inhabitant of urban areas
Average useful floor area of dwelling per capita in urban areas	m <sup>2</sup>	24.7	25.0	25.4	25.7	26.1	26.4	26.8	GUS	Average useful floor area of dwelling per 1 person in urban areas

## SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production

Name of indicator	jednostka prezentacji	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	źródło danych	definicja
Resource productivity	euro/kg	0.56	0.48	0.56	0.60	0.62	0.65	0.64	Eurostat	The Resource Productivity Index is the ratio of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to Domestic Material Consumption (DMC), chain linked volumes (2010)
Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) per capita	tony	17.0	21.0	18.3	17.3	17.2	16.9	17.7	Eurostat	Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) covers all materials directly consumed in economic processes for the economy. It constitutes the sum of materials obtained in the territory of the country and materials imported less materials sent for export
Level of recycling and preparation for re-use of selected waste fractions: paper, metals, plastics and glass	%	.	.	18.0	24.0	.	26.0	28.0	Ministry of the Environment	The ratio of the total weight of recycled paper, metal, plastic and glass waste prepared for re-use from the municipal waste stream from households and other municipal waste producers (in Mg) to the total weight of paper, metal, plastic and glass waste generated from the municipal waste stream from households and other municipal waste producers (in Mg)
Energy intensity of the economy	kgoe/1000euro	278.3	265.3	252.8	250.3	233.3	227.3	231.4	Eurostat	The ratio of gross energy consumption (coal, electricity, oil, natural gas and renewable energy sources available for use) to GDP in constant prices of the base year (2010)

## SDG 13. Climate action

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Greenhouse gas emissions (1990=100)	-	87.17	87.05	85.50	84.75	82.11	82.76	.	Institute for Environmental Protection – NRI National Administration of the Emissions Trading Scheme / Statistics Poland	Ratio of greenhouse gas emission in a surveyed year to greenhouse gas emission in year 1990
Share of renewable energy in transport	%	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.2	5.6	3.9	Eurostat	The share of energy from renewable sources in all forms of transport in final energy consumption in transport

## SDG 14. Life below water

nazwa wskaźnika	jednostka prezentacji	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	źródło danych	definicja
Cargo traffic at seaports	mln t	59.5	57.7	58.8	64.3	68.7	69.5	72.9	Statistics Poland	Total volume of commodity weight (tonnes) moved through the seaports within a year, brought or taken out by vessels
Percentage of average paid employment in maritime economy	%	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	Statistics Poland	Average paid employment in maritime economy as % of average paid employment in the national economy

## SDG 15. Life on land

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Percentage of Natura 2000 sites covered by management plans	%	.	.	.	3.97	38.30	44.90	50.76	General Directorate for Environmental Protection	The percentage of NATURA 2000 sites, which are covered by management plans (conservation management plans or protective tasks plans)
Forest cover	%	29.2	29.2	29.3	29.4	29.4	29.5	29.5	Statistics Poland	Percentage ratio of the forest area to the total geodesic area of a territorial unit
FBI - Farmland Bird Index (2000 = 100)	-	88.3	87.1	84.4	84.8	83.4	85.7	86.6	Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection	Aggregated index of population condition of 22 bird species typical for rural habitat (base year 2000=100)
Share of devastated and degraded land requiring reclamation in total area	%	0.196	0.205	0.206	0.198	0.201	0.203	0.207	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/ Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography/ Statistics Poland	Share of land which completely lost its utility value or land which agriculture of forestry utility value was diminished in total geodesic area

## SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

Name of indicator	Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data source	Definition
Regulatory quality	points	0.98	0.93	0.96	1.05	1.05	1.00	0.95	World Bank	Perception of the government's ability to create and implement the proper policy and regulations which enable promotion of development of the private sector
Time required to enforce a contract	days	830	830	685	685	685	685	685	World Bank	The median duration required to enforce contractual claims in court from the date of filing a petition in court by a seller to the date of recovery of his debt
Governance effectiveness index	points	0.64	0.62	0.68	0.72	0.83	0.80	0.69	World Bank	Quality evaluation of public services, the quality of the civil service and its independence from political pressures, the competences of public officers and the credibility of the government's commitment to its stated policies
Percentage of individuals using the Internet for contacts with public authorities or public services for submitting completed forms	%	10.0	9.0	11.0	11.0	15.0	16.0	19.0	GUS/ Eurostat	Percentage of individuals aged 16-74 using the Internet for private contacts with public authorities or public services for submitting completed forms online (in the last 12 months)

## SDG 17. Partnerships for the goals

Name of indicator		Unit	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Data Source	Definition
Official Development Assistance, net, total and in favour of least-developed countries, in relation to Gross National Income:	total	%	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.15	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland	Net amount of disbursed Official Development Assistance (total and in favour of least-developed countries) in relation to Gross National Income
	for the least-developed countries		0.0021	0.0025	0.0025	0.0092	0.0077	0.0096	0.0159		

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Implementation of the Sustainable  
Development Goals in Poland  
The 2018 National Report