

POLAND

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- *Integrating rural development strategies into Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSPs) or other economic/development strategies*

The rural development situation analysis as well as the regulations concerning the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development indicate that for the reasons of harmonious rural development it is essential to apply measures going beyond the possibilities provided by the instruments co-financed by this Fund. A significant supplement to the support scope which is essential from the perspective of the identified needs of rural areas is the use of instruments under the remaining Community policies, in particular the use of the cohesion policy.

In the area of the cohesion policy, the main development objectives and priorities of Poland are determined in the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF). One of the NSRF objectives is objective 6: “equalisation of the development chances and support for structural changes in rural areas”.

Under this objective, problems related to rural areas should be examined on two levels - the first one, related to supporting changes in agriculture, which is the main source of income for many rural inhabitants, and the second one, related to enabling the use of the potential of these areas for growth in the economy and rise in employment. The first level problems will be solved with the use of Common Agricultural Policy instruments, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The second level, concerning the use of the non-agricultural development potential of rural areas, requires the application of cohesion policy measures and instruments. The measures intended for realisation in rural areas with the support of structural policy instruments refer directly to the directions determined in the Community Strategic Guidelines to “Promote the economic diversification of rural areas”.

Due to this, the cohesion policy will also be aimed at development of rural areas which are often marginalised in economic, social, educational and cultural terms in our

country. Measures aiming to balance chances for development in rural areas will focus on support for the development of technical and social infrastructure. Conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and new non-agricultural jobs will be created. Structural investments in the scope of local roads, environmental protection, waste collection and management, sewage collection and treatment, supply of energy and good-quality water will be implemented. In the social sphere, the equal opportunity for education of young generation will be provided, as well as life-long learning, and conditions for better accessibility of basic services, especially as regards health protection will be created. Moreover, the transport infrastructure between rural and urban areas and collective transport systems are to be improved in order to increase accessibility to largest towns, and thus to labour market without the necessity to change the place of domicile. Measures creating efficient telecommunication connections allowing wide use of the Internet in rural areas are planned.

The implementation of the above mentioned assumptions will be carried out under the operational programmes for 2007-2013, out of which the most important from the point of view of implementation of the above mentioned NSRF objective of “equalisation of the development chances and support for structural changes in rural areas” are to be the regional operational programmes of the 16 voivodeships and the Human Capital Operational Programme.

As regards structural changes in rural areas, support will be provided through services related to professional counselling and retraining of persons withdrawing from agricultural activity, promotion of entrepreneurship, development of non-agricultural functions of rural areas (e.g. farm tourism, rural cultural heritage protection).

In addition, it is the towns that play a special role in the process of rural development since they are the places where rural population can find jobs and increase their level of education and skills as well as fulfil their health needs and cultural aspirations. It is especially important to support the development of those functions of small towns and selected gminas which are directly connected with restructuring processes in rural areas, including in particular health services, secondary level education, development of small and medium-sized enterprises in non-agricultural sectors, tourism and spa functions.

In order to ensure coordination between the authority managing RDP and authorities managing operational programmes, of which the National Strategic Reference Framework constitutes the basis, the Minister of Regional Development in cooperation with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development will coordinate the cohesion of provisions of sector and regional operational programmes as regards rural development.

In order to achieve the synergy effect, the scope of support for rural areas under 16 regional programmes, OP Infrastructure and the Environment, OP Innovative Economy, OP Development of Eastern Policy (intended to support the following voivodeships: warmińsko-mazurskie, podlaskie, lubelskie, podkarpackie, świętokrzyskie), co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and OP Human Capital co-financed by the European Social Fund, shall cover the possibility to support rural development in the scope resulting from NSRF.

Due to the fact that the scope of the aid, especially in the case of Axis 3 – “improvement of the quality of life in rural areas and economic diversification of rural areas” and Leader Axis 4, may potentially overlap with the scope of aid under the programmes co-financed by structural funds, all the managing or intermediary institutions for the programmes under the Cohesion Policy and RDP 2007-2013 jointly work on developing “demarcation lines”. Depending on the measure, scope of support and potential beneficiaries, these will be based on the definition of the beneficiary, the administrative boundary, the scope of aid or the scale of the project. Regardless of the determination of demarcation lines, in the case of projects – especially those where a risk of overlapping of the support scope may potentially occur – the beneficiary will be requested to provide respective declarations regarding the use of only one source of financing for the implementation of the project.

- ***Causes of rural-urban migration, and policies to reverse this trend***

On the basis of data of the Central Statistical Office, which were used in RDP 2007-2013 to describe migration, it may be stated that there has already been a reversal of the tendency connected with the migration from rural to urban area.

The Republic of Poland witnesses migration, which has significant impact on the situation of rural areas. Greater influx of people from the cities to the rural areas than migration from the rural areas to towns has been noted since 2000 (Table). The phenomenon was especially noticeable in 2002. According to CSO estimations this tendency will remain within the next few years (the share of rural residents, in 2002 amounting to 38.3%, may increase to as many as 42.6% persons in 2030)¹. The phenomenon results from numerous factors, including city dwellers settling down in rural areas, a decrease in the number of people migrating to cities for work, return to the countryside of persons who lost their jobs, change of the status of towns/villages.

It may be noted that a new category of persons living in the rural areas appeared, i.e. those who become residents or rural entrepreneurs. They represent the affluent group of the population. Most often they settle around large urban areas and along main communication routes. They bring the new anonymous (city) type of human relationships. The arrival of new rural residents is often a factor, which significantly changes the structure and interrelations of the typical rural communities.

The maintenance of the positive migration tendency will be supported by the measures “Early retirement” and “Setting-up of young farmers”, implemented under the Rural Development Plan for 2004-2006 and the SOP “Restructuring and modernization of food sector and rural development 2004-2006” respectively, as well as the continuation of these measures under RDP 2007-2013: “Early retirement” and “Setting-up of young farmers”.

Table. Internal migrations for permanent residence between urban and rural areas and foreign migrations of the rural population between 1995 and 2005

Year	Internal migrations		Foreign migrations	
	for permanent residence	balance	for permanent residence	balance for

¹ LEADER+ initiative in Poland, research ordered by the Office of the Committee for European Integration, Warsaw 2005.

	from rural to urban areas in thousands	from urban to rural areas in thousands	for rural areas in thousands	from rural areas to foreign countries in thousands	from foreign countries to rural areas in thousands	rural areas in thousands
1995	118.5	91.6	-26.9	4.3	1.8	-2.5
2000	99.0	103.2	4.2	5.5	2.2	-3.3
2001	92.4	98.9	6.5	5.2	1.9	-3.3
2002	96.5	114.1	17.6	5.5	2.0	-3.5
2003	99.7	130.1	30.4	5.1	2.1	-3.0
2004	96.6	138.2	41.6	5.0	2.8	-2.2
2005	97.6	130.2	32.6	5.1	2.7	-2.4

Source: Central Statistical Office

- ***Main driving forces for economic growth and social development in rural areas (e.g. agriculture, small and medium enterprises development, employment and other non-agricultural sector)***

In Poland, the agricultural sector is of great social and economic importance. The fragmented agrarian structure, low technological level of production, and low level of education among agricultural producers result in the need to take measures to facilitate an increase in competitiveness and profitability of Polish agriculture.

Such measures were implemented mostly with the use of Community funds under the SAPARD Programme - Measure "Investments in agricultural holdings" and Sectoral Operational Programme "Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004-2006" – Measure 1.1. „Investments in agricultural holdings.” The Measures were aimed at improving competitiveness of agricultural holdings through reduction of production costs, improvement in organisation of production, adjustment of agricultural products’ quality, improvement in the conditions of production and animal housing.

Aid to agricultural producers consisted mainly in reimbursement of a set portion of project implementation costs regarded eligible. The support covered i.a. purchase of real estate, machinery and equipment for agricultural production, of basic herd, breeding animals, modernisation of infrastructure used for agricultural production.

At present, implementation of Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 is being prepared in Poland. The Programme provides for support for modernisation of agricultural holdings. Aid will be granted for investments related to modernisation of animal and plant production, excluding forestry and fisheries production. The scope of supported investments, as well as the criteria and principles of aid granting, have been developed on the basis of experiences from the SAPARD Programme and Sectoral Operational Programme implementation. The amount of EUR 1,779,333,333 of public funds has been allocated to the investment aid in 2007-2013.

Under the SAPARD programme, aid for small and medium-sized enterprises (as a measure targeted directly at this group of enterprises) was available under Measure 1 “Improvement in processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products” (The Measure was available to small, medium and large enterprises) and under Measure 4 „Diversification of economic activities in rural areas.”

Aid under Measure 1 was granted for investments closely related to adjustment to EU sanitary and veterinary requirements, increase in the value added, improvement of quality, introduction of new technologies and innovation, and reduction of costs and of negative environmental impact. Putting special attention to those requirements was directly connected with the need to strengthen Polish companies, so as to facilitate their functioning in the Common Market.

Financial support under Measure 4 “Diversification of economic activities in rural areas” was allocated to projects contributing to provision of additional income sources in agricultural holdings and to improvement of working and business activity running conditions, also as regards tourist services (Scheme 4.1. Providing additional income sources to farm households” and Scheme 4.2. „Providing new jobs in rural areas”). In addition to entrepreneurs supported under Measure 4, Scheme 4.3. supported gminas and inter-gmina associations, as well as NGOs implementing projects aimed at development of the public tourist infrastructure in rural areas.

Sectoral Operational Programme “Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004-2006” did not include aid instruments intended specifically

to small and medium-sized enterprises. It should however be stressed that the structure of enterprises in Poland made small and medium-sized enterprises the basic group of beneficiaries of measures intended for entrepreneurs.

The said aid instruments covered Measures such as 1.5. “Improvement in processing and marketing of agricultural products” and 2.4. „Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes.”

Under Measure 1.5. „Improvement in processing and marketing of agricultural products”, which is a continuation of the corresponding SAPARD Programme, 1,644 applications for project co-financing were submitted, and 1,089 project co-financing contracts for the total amount of PLN 1,820,572,848 were concluded. The support covered mostly the meat, milk and fruit and vegetables production sectors.

Measure 2.4. “Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes” favoured the provision of alternative income sources and preservation of natural resources in rural areas, promoted positive image of rural areas and agriculture among the public, improved accessibility of services to farmers and other residents of rural areas, as well as contributed to increased profitability of production and services in an agricultural holding. Aid to farmers consisted mainly in reimbursement of a set portion of project implementation costs regarded eligible. The support covered i.a. projects implemented with regard to launching or developing additional activity regarding agritourism, tourism and leisure-related services; services for agriculture and forest management; small-scale processing of agricultural products or edible forest products; direct sale of products obtained in own agricultural holding (direct sale); production of energy materials from biomass, establishing perennial plants plantations intended for energy purposes; craft and handicraft; small services for the inhabitants of rural areas; sale and promotion of agricultural products on the Internet. 7,168 applications were submitted and 4,290 contracts to the amount of PLN 310,054,515 were signed under this Measure.

As regards development of infrastructure for distribution of agricultural products on the market, Measure “Improvement in processing and marketing of agricultural products” supported projects related to wholesale of agricultural products (fruit and vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants, cereals). The support was aimed at creation and

streamlining of marketing channels and improvement in the logistic infrastructure. In this regard, aid could concern the construction of infrastructure for trade, purchase of machinery and equipment and means of external and internal transport.

Owing to the fact that the abovementioned support instruments were very popular with entrepreneurs, which was reflected in the number of applications submitted in excess of budgets of particular measures, implementation of the aid instruments will be continued under Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (RDP 2007-2013).

Under the Measure „Increase of the added value of basic agricultural and forestry production”, which will prefer projects submitted by the small and medium-sized enterprises sector, aid will be intended for entrepreneurs who run activity related to processing and marketing of agricultural products. Aim of the Measure is to improve competitiveness of enterprises in the sector of processing and marketing of agricultural products, dependent on increase in value added, production quality, cost reduction and development of new products, processes and technologies of production, as well as to improve the conditions of production in relation to the existing and newly introduced standards. The Measure is estimated to cover around 3,500 projects.

One of the RDP 2007-2013 Measures is “Diversification towards non-agricultural activities,” which is intended to provide conditions for sustainable social and economic rural development providing support for farmers, household members and farmers’ spouses starting or developing non-agricultural activity related to production or services (including tourism). It is supposed to contribute to the provision of non-agricultural sources of income in holdings, as well as to the creation of non-agricultural jobs in rural areas. It is estimated that around 30,000 projects will be covered by co-financing under the abovementioned Measure.

RDP 2007-2013 will also start Measure “Establishment and development of micro-enterprises” which, by supporting entities with regard to investments related to the establishment and development of micro-enterprises providing i.a. services to rural population, agricultural and forestry sector, transport and tourist services, will contribute to the increase of economic competitiveness of rural areas, enterprise and labour market development, and consequently to employment growth in rural areas. It is estimated that around 47,250 projects will be covered by co-financing under the Measure.

- ***Improved access to basic services and infrastructure in rural areas (e.g. adequate shelter, education, employment opportunities, health, sanitation).***

The improvement in access to basic services and infrastructure in rural areas is achieved mainly through the implementation of the SOP “Restructuring...” measures for 2004-2006:

- Measure 2.3. “Rural renewal and the preservation and protection of cultural heritage” (where financial support is granted for the projects concerning the modernisation of the rural public areas);
- Measure 2.4. “Diversification of agricultural activities and activities close to agriculture to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes” (where one of the aims of the measure is to facilitate access to services for farmers and other rural inhabitants);
- Measure 2.6 “Development and improvement of infrastructure related to agriculture” (where one of the aims of the measure is the improvement in sanitation in rural areas).

In the present programming period the measures which contribute to improving access to basic services and infrastructure in rural areas are mainly measures of Axis 3: “Diversification towards non-agricultural activities”, “Basic services for the economy and rural population”, “Village renewal and development”.

- ***Access to land and property***

In compliance with the provisions of the Act of 11 April 2003 on shaping the agricultural system, the acquirer of an agricultural property does not have to have any agricultural education. But if he/she does have agricultural qualifications, which include:

- agricultural education of at least vocational education level or secondary or higher education, or
- individual management of an agricultural holding or work in an agricultural holding for at least 5 years

and lives in a municipality, where one of the agricultural properties is located constituting a part of a family holding maintained by the acquirer and meets the requirements set for individual farmers – then there are no limitations to the acquirement of property.

But if such person does not have the above mentioned qualifications, he/she may also acquire agricultural land if the Agricultural Property Agency does not exercise its right to pre-emptive purchase. The right to purchase and pre-emptive purchase enjoyed by the Agricultural Property Agency pursuant to the provisions of the Act on shaping the agricultural system, constitutes a limitation only to the sale of agricultural land. It needs to be stressed here, that the Agency enjoys these rights only if the acquirer of the property is an individual farmer, a family member of the vendor, as referred to in the provisions on property management, or an agricultural production cooperative.

Upon implementing the tasks following from the Act on managing agricultural property owned by the State Treasury of 19 October 1991, the Agricultural Property Agency allocates the property assumed for the Agricultural Property Resource of the State Treasury mostly by means of sale and lease.

Considering the fact, that both the acquirers and the leaseholders of “organised” property (complete with infrastructure) of more than 100 ha most often set up new holdings, and the land acquired in the amount of up to 100 ha – mostly lacking production infrastructure – is in the majority of cases used to extend the existing private individual agricultural holdings, it is assumed that not only the sale, but also the lease of agricultural property owned by State Treasury constitutes in fact privatisation. Entities undertaking economic activity on leased property of the Agricultural Property Resource of the State Treasury do so at their own risk and for their own account and shall therefore be treated (and classified) as private.

- ***Improved access for producers to local markets (for example, farm to market roads)***

Basic activities in developing technical and social infrastructure in the rural areas in the years 2004-2006 were implemented within the framework of *Integrated Operational Programme of Rural Development*”, supported from the budget of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Within the priority *Local Development* investments in the field of local infrastructure were undertaken (supply of water and energy, sewage system, roads, waste management, preparation of land for investments, social infrastructure – schools, kindergartens, ambulatories etc.) in places with at least 25

thousand of inhabitants. Additionally, development of rural areas is influenced by other activities undertaken under the *Integrated Regional Operational Programme* such as: supporting vocational training for those who want to change jobs, establishing and development of micro-enterprises, supporting tourism development.

Sectoral Operational Programme *Development of Human Resources*, which has been implemented by the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, has also a positive impact on rural development.

- ***Improved access to reliable and affordable energy services as well and modern using biomass technologies and fuelwood sources; commercialisation of biomass operations in rural areas***

In SOP Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004 – 2006, under Measure 2.6 “Development and improvement of the infrastructure related to agriculture”, support is provided for – among other things – tasks related to construction of individual facilities for supply of energy from associated or renewable sources for agricultural holdings. The budget for the whole measure amounted to about PLN 161 million; agreements were concluded for the amount of around PLN 162 million; by 6 June 2007, 48.8% of payments were executed. The projects and amounts related to energy from renewable sources have not been singled out. Under the RDP 2004-2006 Measure 9 “Complementing area payments”, financial aid is granted for specialist crops for the energy sector, i.e. willow *Salix* sp. and the thornless rose *Rosa multiflora*.

RDP 2007-2013 will increase the contribution of energy from renewable sources in the whole of the produced energy. The increase will be directly caused both by the axis 1 measure “Increase of the added value of basic agricultural and forestry production” (under which support is provided for the production of bioethanol as an agricultural product) and the axis 3 measure “Basic services for the economy and rural population” (under which aid is granted – among other things - for the production of energy from renewable sources). The beneficiaries of measure “Basic services for the economy and

rural population” will be the self-governments of gminas. The budget for the whole measure amounts to EUR 1.47 billion, out of which about 30% is provided for the tasks under I. 3.1. Under measure “Modernisation of agricultural holdings”, support will be granted for investments related to the production and utilisation of energy from renewable sources for the needs of farming. Under this measure, support will be granted to beneficiaries who – up to date - have not obtained financing under the SOP Restructuring and Modernisation of the Food Sector and Rural Development 2004–

2006 measure 1.1 “Investments in agricultural holdings”. Moreover, under measure “Establishment and development of micro-enterprises”, financial aid will be granted to entities for investments related to the establishment or development of micro-enterprises producing energetic products from biomass. As for measure “Diversification towards non-agricultural activity”, financial aid will be granted to the beneficiaries who will decide to take up or develop activities related to the production of energetic products from biomass.

In 2000 the *Development Strategy of Renewable Energy Sector* was developed in the Ministry of the Environment. This document was drawn up in order to fulfil the obligation specified in the Resolution of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland of 8 July 1999 on the increase in the use of energy from renewable energy sources.

On 4 January 2005 the Council of Ministers adopted the document *Polish Energy Policy until 2025* drawn up by the inter-ministerial Energy Policy Team. The programme confirms the legitimacy of continuing an energy policy aiming at: ensuring energy safety of the country, greater competitiveness of the economy and its energy efficiency, environmental protection against the negative effects of energy-related activities connected with the production, transmission and distribution of energy and fuels.

One of the main elements of energy policy is an increase in the use of renewable energy sources.

Information on energy services is presently available through the Internet. A separate source of information concerning companies supplying energy services is the REGON National Official Business Register. The register is made available by the Central Statistical Office in the form of catalogues issued periodically and covering a selected group of entities entered into the register and in the form of excerpts from the register issued upon individual request and upon a specific fee.

The following information concerning an entity can be made available from the REGON National Official Business Register: information on business activity, including the specification of predominant activity, along with the following dates: the date of business establishment, of the beginning of business activity, of suspension, restoring or closing of a business. In order to properly exercise their business activity, companies providing energy services are obliged to employ workers who have appropriate qualifications. This matter is governed by the Ordinance of the Minister of Economy, Labour and Social Policy of 23 April 2003 *on detailed rules concerning checking whether persons occupied with operation and maintenance of devices, installations and networks possess the required qualifications* (Dz.U. of 2003, No 89, item 828, as amended).

Companies providing energy services may make use of the results of research undertaken by R&D institutions. A National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the European Union has been founded.

Within the framework of the Fifth European Community Framework Programme (FP5) covering Research and Technological Development, a competition (INCO) to set up Centres of excellence (CE) in candidate countries was organised by the European Commission in 1999. In 2004, during the Opening Conference of FP6 in Warsaw, Poland, 140 Centres of Excellence received diplomas and the status of CE. The list of Polish Centres of Excellence is available on the website of the National Contact Point (www.kpk.gov.pl). Some of these centres specialise in technologies relating to renewable energy sources, including the use of biomass for energy purposes.

At present, the biomass market in rural areas is a fledgling one. Individual purchasers of biomass sign contracts for the supply of this resource directly with farmers. On 26 January 2007 an Act *on payments to agricultural areas and sugar payment* was passed. This Act imposes an obligation on the President of the Agricultural Market Agency to keep a register of farmers producing biomass and a register of biomass processing units, as well as a register of purchasers. In order to apply for payments for energy crops, the farmer has to be entered into the register and he has to present information concerning the area of land on which crops for energy purposes are grown.

- ***Enhancement in sustainable tourism development***

The acceleration of the development of sustainable tourism occurs as a result of the implementation of the following SOP 2004-2006 measures: 2.4 “Diversification of Agricultural and Agriculture-Related Activities to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes” (where the aim is to – among other things – favour the establishment of alternative incomes, favour the preservation of the natural resources of rural areas, promotion of a positive image of rural areas and agriculture in society) and 2.3 “Renovation of Rural Areas and Preservation and Protection of Cultural Heritage” (where the aim is to - among other things – raise the living and working standards in rural areas, increase the tourist attractiveness, develop the identity of rural population and preserve the cultural heritage).

In the current programming period, the measures in question are continued under RDP 2007-2013 as “Diversification towards non-agricultural activity” and “Village renewal and development”.

- ***Capacity building for small and medium-sized enterprises***

Small and medium-sized enterprises are established and developed in rural areas through the implementation of measures from the 2004-2006 programming period and current programming period.

A significant example of such measures is measure 1.5 “Improving processing and marketing of agricultural products” and measure 2.4 “Diversification of Agricultural and Agriculture-Related Activities to Provide Multiple Activities or Alternative Incomes”, implemented under SOP 2004-2006. As for the former one, the development of the potential of small and medium-sized enterprises occurs as a result of market orientation of the production and the use of the existing production niches, creation of new and rationalisation of the existing market channels, increasing of the value added of the production as well as introduction and modernisation of the existing production technologies. In measure “Diversification...”, the potential of micro-enterprises is created via the financing of investments aimed at taking up or development of additional agriculture-related activities by farmers, members of household and legal persons running agricultural activities.

In the current programming period, the measures which will contribute to the creation of the potential of small enterprises under RDP 2007-2013 are: “Increase of the added value of basic agricultural and forestry production”, “Diversification towards non-agricultural activity” and “Establishment and development of micro-enterprises”.

The beneficiaries of the latter measure can be natural persons, legal persons or organisational units without legal personality, who carry out business activities as micro-enterprises employing less than 10 persons, with a turnover not exceeding the PLN equivalent of EUR 2 million.

- ***Empowerment of local rural communities, especially those living in poverty and their organisations***

Axis 4 LEADER under the Rural Development Programme for 2007 – 2013 is oriented towards the strengthening of local rural communities. It is particularly focused on the building of social capital via stimulation of rural inhabitants and creation of new jobs in rural areas. It also aims to improve the management and valorisation of local resources. Local partnership approach related to a specific region and implemented at the grass roots enables the better defining of its problems and determining of ways of solving them. Such an approach also strengthens the coherence of decisions taken at the local level, improves the quality of management, contributes to the strengthening of social capital in rural areas and encourages rural communities to apply innovative solutions for the development of a given region.

Under LEADER, local action groups draw up a local development strategy and implement projects which have been developed within this strategy and combine human, natural, cultural, historical and other resources as well as the knowledge and skills of the representatives of three sectors: public, economic and social one.

- ***Waste management systems in the rural areas – waste prevention and minimization, reuse and recycling, and environmentally sound disposal facilities***

The improvement in the condition of waste management and its rationalisation was related to the implementation of the normal good agricultural practice rules, obligatory for each beneficiary of measures “Support for agri-environment and animal welfare” and “Support for management in less favoured areas (LFA)” implemented under RDP 2004-2006. One of the elements of Normal Good Agricultural Practice was the rationalisation of waste management in agricultural holdings. Furthermore, the issue of waste was touched upon in the SOP 2004-2006 measure 1.1 “Investments in agricultural holdings”. Under this measure, the eligible costs of the project may cover the costs of purchase, installation and construction of devices for environmental protection (among other things, it concerns projects related to waste disposal). Under the SOP 2004-2006 measure 1.5 “Improving processing and marketing of agricultural products”, an entity covered by the measure had to meet the minimum environmental protection standards (among other things, those related to waste management) defined by national and EC regulations.

Although the RDP 2007-2013 axis 2 measures, “Agri-environmental programme” (agri-environmental payments) and „Support of management in mountain areas and in other less favoured areas (LFA)”, are continuation of the respective RDP 2004-2006 Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC), the Normal Good Agricultural Practice is not applicable to them, but so-called basic requirements are applicable instead. Basic requirements for “Agri-environmental programme” include also certain requirements concerning waste management in a household. Under the RDP 2007-2013 measure 3.2 “Basic services for the economy and rural population”, support will be provided for – among other things – tasks related to the creation of municipal waste collection, segregation and disposal system. The beneficiaries of this measure will be the self-governments of gminas. The budget for the whole measure amounts to EUR 1.47 billion, out of which around 10% is provided for tasks related to improvement in the condition of waste management.