Cohesion Policy
Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

information brochure

1st July – 31st December 2011
The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union comes in a particular moment of the European agenda. The new shape of EU policies will be formally negotiated by the Council and the European Parliament after the official presentations of those policies by the European Commission. The negotiations will be especially challenging in the light of the economic, social and political effects of the crisis and of its vastly diversified impact on EU Regions. The Presidency Trio Poland-Denmark-Cyprus will ensure continuity in the EU proceedings in order to provide a smooth transition into the next programming period. Poland as a country rapidly closing the gap in economic and social development through efficient implementation of Cohesion Policy, has a special role to play at a time when post-crisis negotiations of the new financial perspective begin.

The aim of Cohesion Policy is to support comprehensive actions for the well-being of future generations and to invest in human and intellectual capital in order to allow the whole Europe to reach its potential and to face the challenges in the national, European and global scale. Therefore, the Polish government notices the potential of the Europe 2020 Strategy. Its implementation needs to take into account the territorial dimension of the EU development challenges which is reflected in the programme of our Presidency in the field of Cohesion Policy.

As the Polish Presidency motto states - “Cohesion Policy as an efficient, effective and territorially differentiated response to EU development challenges” – I believe that for the successful take up of the European challenges we should reform Cohesion Policy and strengthen its attributes as the European development and growth policy. Its main characteristics such as: multi-level governance, multiannual strategic programming, territorial and integrated approach to development prove the importance of Cohesion Policy and should be further reinforced.

After 4 years of the European debate on the future of Cohesion Policy, I am convinced that all EU partners will productively aim at reaching the agreement on the reform of this policy. We all together should make Cohesion Policy both more effective and less burdensome for the beneficiaries.

I do hope that our strong determination to advance the debate on the future Cohesion Policy will be appreciated by our European partners. We are determined to take a strong and balanced leadership in the Council, listening attentively to the diverse expectations of all Member States.

Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Minister of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland
Strategic objectives

Poland will assume the role of the Presidency in a special time of the debate on the future shape of Cohesion Policy after 2013. The potential role of the Cohesion Policy as a development policy is perceived both in terms of financial resources and the desired directions of their allocation, which have an essential impact on the growth performance of European regions. Therefore, it is essential to begin the negotiations on the future shape of the policy at the earliest possible date.

The Polish Presidency sets out three objectives:

I. Ensuring both an efficient management of the negotiations of the regulations for Cohesion Policy after 2013 and achievement of as far-reaching consensus as possible in selected areas.

II. Strengthening the attributes of Cohesion Policy (integrated approach to development and results orientation) as the territorial development policy under the new EU economic governance system and Europe 2020 Strategy.

III. Raising the political profile of Cohesion Policy.

Taking into account the time necessary for good preparation of the future programming documents, Poland expects that the draft regulations concerning Cohesion Policy will be presented by the Commission (EC) in summer this year. Poland is convinced that Cohesion Policy, as one of the most important European policies, deserves more attention at a political level. Therefore, the Presidency will raise the profile of the policy by involving the political level early in the negotiation process and organizing several meetings with the participation of ministers, high-level officials from the European institutions and representatives of regional and local authorities.
The objectives will be achieved simultaneously – through formal negotiations concerning the new Cohesion Policy’s regulations at the meetings of the Structural Actions Working Party - B.05 in the Council and through an informal debate conducted both at the expert and political level. The informal debate will be used to advance and complement the official negotiations.

The results of these two paths will be summarized respectively in the Presidency document following the strategic debate of ministers in the General Affairs Council and the Presidency conclusions adopted during the informal meeting of ministers.
Ambitions of the Polish Presidency in the area of future Cohesion Policy post 2013

- Advancing the negotiations of the Cohesion Policy programming package, particularly in the areas such as: strategic programming, thematic concentration, conditionality and evaluation. The Polish Presidency will try to conclude the discussion on the selected articles in those areas, which are crucial from the point of view of the beginning of the programming phase on time. The outputs of this debate and possible issues to be decided will be presented at the formal meeting of ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy which will take place on 16 December in the framework of the General Affairs Council.

- Holding the first stage of the discussion among the Member States on the project of Common Strategic Framework (CSF) after its presentation by the European Commission during the informal meeting of ministers responsible for regional policy, territorial cohesion and urban development on 25 November, assuming that the project will be published by the Commission before. CSF which will include the guidelines not only for Cohesion Policy but also for the other EU policies should become an example of integrated approach to development which is one of two leading themes of the Polish Presidency and the main axis of the discussion at the conference “Integrated Approach to Development” on 24 November.

- Presenting the proposals for strengthening the territorial dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy which will be raised for discussion during the meeting of Directors General responsible for regional policy, territorial cohesion and urban development on 3-4 November and the informal meeting of ministers responsible for regional policy, territorial cohesion and urban development on 25 November. The Polish Presidency will concentrate its efforts mainly on territorial dimension of the Cohesion Policy. Its proposals aim at translating the principles of the new Territorial Agenda 2020 into practical arrangements within Cohesion Policy. Particular attention will be paid to instruments supporting urban and local development. Background reports and non-papers prepared by the Polish Presidency will be presented during the above mentioned political meetings and conferences such as "Effective instruments for territorial development” on 24-25 October and “Territorial dimension of the ESF” on 29-30 September.
Deciding together with the next Presidencies on the further work on **practical strengthening the territorial dimension of the other EU policies**. In this way, territorial dimension will be mainstreamed to the European debate and political importance of Cohesion Policy, which is the best practice in this field, will be increased.

Working on the basis of the consensus among the Member States, regions and institutions involved in the implementation of Cohesion Policy and developing concrete recommendations for **strengthening the policy approach based on results and evidence** with the aim to **increase the effectiveness** of the Cohesion Policy in the future. The debate during the conference “Evidence Based Cohesion Policy” on 7 July aims at elaborating concrete proposals in this area.
Main events planned during the Polish Presidency

The Polish Presidency will organize conferences, seminars and meetings at political level, which will demonstrate the role of the Cohesion Policy as a regional/territorial policy based on results and on integrated approach to development.
The following timeline illustrates the most important events planned by the Polish Presidency in relation to Cohesion Policy.

July
- Evidence Based Cohesion Policy
- Territorial dimension of the ESF
- Seminar on Territorial Dimension in Development Policies

August
- Effective Instruments for Territorial Development
- Joint Conference of ETC Transnational Cooperation Programmes
- 4 SAWP

September
- Integrated Approach to Development
- Catalysing reforms - ESF Support for Better Governance
- OPEN DAYS
- Cohesion Policy and Catching-up Regions

October
- Meeting of Directors General
- Informal Meeting of Ministers
- Formal Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Cohesion Policy within General Affairs Council
- Impact Evaluation Seminar

November
- Evidence Based Cohesion Policy
- Territorial dimension of the ESF
- Effective Instruments for Territorial Development
- Integrated Approach to Development

December
- Formal Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Cohesion Policy within General Affairs Council

LEGEND

- **Political meetings:** aiming at making progress on key issues concerning Cohesion Policy, including regional development, territorial cohesion and urban development

- **Conferences/seminars:** aiming at promoting international exchange of information and knowledge, giving experts and policy makers the opportunity to interact and to provide valuable ideas on the future shape of Cohesion Policy after 2013

* The Polish Presidency ensured the possibility to organize up to 24 meetings of the Structural Actions Working Party, SAWP, B.05 (ca. 3-4 meetings per month, including 2-day-long meetings). However, the decision regarding summoning the concrete meetings and the rhythm of SAWP proceedings will be taken after the final date of publication of the Cohesion Policy’s legislative package (and other documents relevant for SAWP) is confirmed.
Scope of the debate

The following motto will guide all activities of the Polish Presidency:

**Cohesion Policy as an efficient, effective and territorially differentiated response to EU development challenges**

The programme aiming at advancing the debate focuses on two main leading themes:

- **INTEGRATED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT** with the topics such as strategic programming, ex-ante conditionality, territorial dimension of Cohesion Policy, multi-level governance system and instruments for territorial development, as well as relations between various instruments

and

- **RESULT-ORIENTED COHESION POLICY** including such thematic blocks as thematic concentration, evaluation, conditionality (performance-based) and indicators.

The incoming Polish Presidency expects that other important aspects of the Cohesion Policy system e.g.: architecture of objectives (possible changes in the current architecture of objectives, strategic, financial and operational consequences of these changes), system of implementation and financial management (institutional system, reduction of administrative burden, financial management and control) and general principles (additionality, proportionality, etc.) can also constitute a significant element of the programme. The Polish Presidency programme could be complemented to include those items depending on the progress of the debate in the 1st half of 2011, on the scope of the draft regulations governing the functioning of the Cohesion Policy in the future as well as on the date of their publication by the European Commission.
Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

5th Cohesion Forum

31st January-1st February 2011
Brussels

11:00 – 12:00 - Opening Session:
EUROPE 2020 - NEW CHALLENGES FOR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND TERRITORIAL COHESION

José Manuel BARROSO, President of the European Commission
Viktor ORBÁN, Prime Minister of Hungary
Donald TUSK, Prime Minister of Poland

12:00 –12:20 - Award ceremony "Regions of excellence" with President José Manuel BARROSO

Award for outstanding regions in implementing projects related to the seven Flagship Initiatives of EUROPE 2020

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at the Fifth Cohesion Forum in Brussels (31st January-1st February 2011)
Integrated approach to development

Potential issues, which could be elaborated on during the Polish Presidency as regards the Integrated approach to development include:

**Strategic programming**

Strategic programming covers the issues related to the structure and linkages between the strategic documents concerning Cohesion Policy such as Common Strategic Framework (CSF), Development and Investment Partnership Contract, as well as operational programmes and other related documents. Coordination with other policies and the possible multi-fund approach, as well as the capacity to use the full potential of the European Social Fund without introducing barriers that would decrease efficiency of integrated approach, will also be of major significance.

**Instruments for territorial development**

The debate on the instruments supporting the territorial dimension would cover issues related to special arrangements for cities (within the meaning of functional areas) and rural areas, as well as urban-rural linkages. The debate will also cover future mechanisms - of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), incl. European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC), as well as macro-regional strategies. The Polish Presidency will be responsible, inter alia, for the review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. It will also continue the debate on territorial dimension of the European Social Fund.

In order to assure the integrated approach to development at border areas, an important issue will be also the inclusion of cross-border cooperation programmes of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument in the future objective of the Cohesion Policy - European Territorial Cooperation (the harmonization of principles of implementation and procedures of the ENPI programmes with those of the ETC is needed).

**Territorial Agenda 2020 as a useful tool for implementing Cohesion Policy**

The efficiency of Cohesion Policy could be improved through proper application of integrated approach and its more pronounced orientation on results. This approach requires special consideration of the territorial dimension in the further development of Cohesion Policy. In this context the Territorial Agenda has an important role to play: it could be operationalized as a useful tool for Cohesion Policy implementation, further strengthening of the Cohesion and other EU policies’ territorial dimension. The Territorial Agenda was agreed on by the European Union Ministers competent for spatial development during the Informal Ministerial Meeting held in Leipzig in May 2007. It aims at mobilizing the potentials of European regions and cities and using their territorial diversity for the benefit of sustainable economic growth and jobs through integrated spatial development. The Polish Presidency will present a proposal on how to integrate
the priorities of Territorial Agenda 2020 with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

**New challenges to the multi-level governance system**

Multi-level governance underlying Cohesion Policy will have to be consistent with the arrangements concerning strategic programming, conditionality or instruments supporting territorial development. Discussion on the issues related to the division of competences between the central, regional and local level should lead to effective solutions dependent on the specific situation in individual Member States. Contribution of European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee, European Investment Bank, European Investment Fund, European Central Bank to the discussion on the most effective implementation of the integrated approach is welcome and would be used by the Polish Presidency to ensure Cohesion Policy makes the use of the principle in practice.

**Ex-ante conditionality**

The EC’s proposal envisages defining ex-ante the success factors of the co-financed investment in order to increase the Cohesion Policy’s efficiency. Its translation into concrete policy measures requires a close and intensive cooperation between the EC and the Member States. The discussion should be based on a thorough and reliable assessment of the effectiveness of the proposed tools for Cohesion Policy, their feasibility and their impact on administrative burden. The incoming Polish Presidency welcomes the openness in which the Commission discusses the issue with Member States and other partners and that gives rise to hopes that the Commission’s final proposal will be well-justified, fully consistent with the subsidiarity and proportionality principles, and will take into account the discussion and concerns raised. Achieving substantial progress in this area during the Polish Presidency would make it possible to start swiftly negotiations between the European Commission and the Member State and the regions on the content of the future programming document at the national level.
Result-oriented approach

Potential issues which could be elaborated on during the Polish Presidency as regards *result-oriented approach* include:

**Performance orientation**

The EC’s proposal for the future Cohesion Policy will also include mechanisms which should reorientate strategic programming and delivery process towards results. Until now a variety of incentives were examined which can serve as rewards or sanctions depending on the progress made towards achieving the objectives defined in the operational programmes, e.g.: European performance reserve, national performance reserve, modulation of the co-financing rates, suspending EC’s reimbursements or reallocating resources to other, more promising measures. Further work should aim at developing effective performance mechanisms, which will not generate more unnecessary burden and administrative costs.

**Thematic concentration and the Europe 2020 Strategy**

A balance is sought between the pursuit of greater concentration and possible adjustment of the priorities of the Europe 2020 Strategy to the territorial, economic and social conditions of individual regions. The theme will also focus on the issue of having an effective link to objectives of Europe 2020 Strategy and ensuring that sectoral goals especially in the field of R&D, innovation, employment, education, social exclusion, poverty, energy, transport, environment and counteracting the climate change are well incorporated into the existing EU and national policies. This should be done without losing the flexibility to allocate the funds at appropriate level which is necessary to achieve full effectiveness of the policy. In this context the issue of optimizing the architecture of existing instruments and integration of their objectives will also be touched upon in the context (the European Social Funds and the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – EGAF).

With regard to cross-border cooperation programmes the discussion will also concentrate on setting up a formal requirement for developing joint strategies for the cross-border territory that would form the basis for drafting the OPs and would both analyse the development challenges of the cooperation area and suggest its key priorities. Such strategies would establish political commitment of stakeholders to effectively implement objectives of the future programmes.
Evaluation as a tool for strategic management

Greater reliance of Cohesion Policy on results will be possible only if the evaluation tools are strengthened at various levels of European system. The evaluation results should be better used in order to make strategic decisions concerning instruments and directions of intervention (thematic concentration). Another significant aspect will include the discussion on the possibilities of using the evaluation to strengthen the strategic debate on Cohesion Policy effects.

Common system of indicators

The Cohesion Policy needs to be evidence-based and results-oriented, which requires the elaboration of a functional and consistent system of indicators. The debate will concern methods of preparing indicators and their links with strategic objectives as well as with Europe 2020 Strategy.
Other priorities

Depending on the scope of the debate and the progress in the negotiations concerning the future shape of Cohesion Policy other possible topics which could be discussed during the Polish Presidency include:

**Architecture of Cohesion Policy Objectives**

The topics under this item will be discussed, to a certain point, simultaneously in a group responsible for Cohesion Policy package and in the group responsible for the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework. The key issues discussed in this field will cover inter alia: architecture of Cohesion Policy Objectives, support for the transition regions, application of the so-called Berlin methodology, allocations for the Cohesion Fund and European Social Fund as well as additional allocations.

**System of implementation and financial management**

Most Member States expect the European Commission to present proposals that reduce the burden of procedural compliance to the advantage of concentration of efforts on monitoring and assessment of the results of Cohesion Policy actions. This will be a very difficult task which will encompass a number of detailed, sometimes technical, but politically significant proposals concerning first of all audit and control system, automatic decommitment rule, revolving instruments, revenue generating projects, eligibility rules and others.

**General principles**

The principles underlying Cohesion Policy operation are a horizontal issue, which will appear in many discussions. Depending on the progress in other issues, the Polish Presidency may start the negotiations on the articles devoted to these principles during the meetings of the Structural Actions Working Party. The most important principles cover: subsidiarity, proportionality, additionality, shared management, complementarity, cohesion, coordination, partnership or territorial delivery level.
Other co-related issues during the Polish Presidency

Negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework

This theme is of big importance for the future design of the Cohesion Policy post-2013. Decisions regarding issues of direct financial implications will be made in the framework of the Friends of Presidency Group for the Multiannual Financial Framework (the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has the leading role in this process). It includes allocations for specific objectives listed under the Architecture of objectives block. The Polish Presidency will ensure that the debate regarding those issues is not reduced to purely financial aspects and will make efforts to stress their strategic importance, namely for the effectiveness and efficiency of the policy.

Future of sectoral EU policies: innovation, transport, etc.

In parallel to the debate on Cohesion Policy post 2013, the discussions and negotiations on the future of the EU sectoral policies will take place. In order to assure the coherency of actions, the cooperation among the parties involved in all processes is necessary. It concerns in particular future EU instruments supporting innovation, transport, environment and tackling climate change.

Future of the 2nd pillar of the Common Agriculture Policy

New strategic and legislative frameworks of the Common Agricultural Policy will be also negotiated within frameworks of the Multiannual Financial Framework negotiations. The activities of the Common Agriculture Policy dedicated to local development and environmental protection, energy and adaptation to climate change go hand in hand with many activities of Cohesion Policy. This will be an ideal moment for improving cooperation between Cohesion Policy and Common Agriculture Policy funds by setting common/ similar rules for their implementation and monitoring.

Review of the Financial Regulation

Regulation on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the Union has been revised every three years. The rules imposed by the Regulation concern system of
management and control of policies under shared management, among which Cohesion Policy is counted. The proposal of the regulation brought forward by the European Commission is being debated in the European Parliament and Budget Committee of the Council of the European Union with active participation of representatives of the Polish Ministry of Finance in the latter. Several new rules in the regulation proposed by the Commission, e.g. general requirements of the institutional system and annual clearance of accounts mechanism give rise to the controversies among Member States. During the Polish Presidency of the EU Council the adoption of the Financial Regulation is probable. This will enable in 2012, after the Polish Presidency, to start the debate on rules of Cohesion Policy’s implementation system, constituting the part of the package of regulations on Cohesion Policy.

**Amendment to the Regulation 1083/2006 concerning financial instruments**

The Polish Presidency will ensure fast and smooth negotiation process of a European Commission proposal to amend the General Regulation 1083/2006, which applies to 2007-2013 programming period, concerning provisions for financial instruments not covered by Art. 44 of the regulation currently in force.

**Review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**

The Polish Presidency will also be responsible for review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as the leading ministry and the Ministry of Regional Development is the supporting one. The legal base for the review is the record of the European Council Conclusions from October 2009 requesting the European Commission to submit to the Council of the EU the Report on the progress of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region until the end of June 2011. At the same time, the first Annual Report of progress in implementation of the Strategy towards the year 2010 published by the Commission demonstrates that a complete political discussions is foreseen under the Polish Presidency and will constitute an opportunity for a review. This work will take place within a specially appointed working group of the EU Council.

**Review of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund**

The Polish Presidency will carry out and finalize the negotiations on legislative changes in the regulation establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund. In addition, during the review process of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund regulation the Polish Presidency will pay particular attention to coordination of the instruments pursuing the same objectives (European Social Fund and European Globalisation Adjustment Fund). The negotiations and the discussion on the review of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund regulation will be conducted at the meetings of the Social Questions Working Party (I.01).

**Review of the Regulation for European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation**

The Polish Presidency will commence the process of amending the regulation on the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) on the basis of the EC Report on its implementation. According to Article 17 of the EGTC Regu-
lation, the Commission is obligated to publish the report till the 1st August 2011.

**Review of the Solidarity Fund**

The proposal by the European Commission for an amendment to the Regulation establishing the EU Solidarity Fund is expected to be published during the Polish Presidency. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration has a leading role for this process in Poland. The draft regulation is not going to be discussed in the Structural Actions Working Party.

**Review of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism, the Norwegian Mechanism and the Swiss Fund**

Due to the commencement of programming and implementation actions aimed at the realization of a new (second) perspective of the Financial Mechanisms 2009-14 in particular beneficiary states, the Polish Presidency, operating in co-operation with the said countries, will elaborate and disseminate during the EFTA Working Group information on the implementation progress. Taking into account different stage of the implementation varying from country to country, such concise information should be issued during the Presidency.

The Polish Presidency will carry on a comprehensive summary of the implementation pace of the ongoing Swiss Contribution in particular beneficiary states. This important source of financing Cohesion Policy within the enlarged European Union will come to an end in mid 2012, along with a conclusion of its commitment period. The Presidency will conduct the review during the EFTA Working Group based on the information on the implementation progress of the Swiss Contribution collected from all beneficiary states. Originally, such a review may serve as an introduction to the discussions held on the EU forum dedicated to the acceleration of a disbursement process and/or possible establishment of second perspective of the Swiss Contribution.

**ESPON Programme 2014-2020**

Strengthening of the role of the ESPON programme after 2013 is a necessary element in the process of shaping future European interventions. The meetings concerning territorial dimension of European policies, that will be organised during the Polish Presidency, will contribute to the progress of the discussion on the shape of ESPON programme in 2014-2020. The discussed options will cover the ESPON programme implementation as an European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation. For Poland, it will also be very important to strengthen the practical application of the previous ESPON programme experience, including past analyses of EU policies’ impact on the territorial cohesion of Europe and its regions, as well as to make the analyses more tailored to the specific solutions and more accessible forms of providing information.
Cooperation of the Member States within the area of territorial cohesion

The development of a dialogue between the Member States, European Commission, European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions remains the key element in the efforts to strengthen the territorial dimension of EU policies. The establishment of a joint platform of understanding requires that the language of the Territorial Agenda is translated into the language of other policies. For this to happen, it is necessary to continue the actions undertaken by the National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and assure closer cooperation with the respective Urban Development Group (UDG). The modalities of this cooperation will be discussed during the Polish Presidency.
**Political events during the Polish Presidency**

**16.12. Brussels**  
*Formal Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Cohesion Policy within the General Affairs Council*

**Objective:** to summarize the progress made in negotiations of the new legislative package for the next programming period of Cohesion Policy during the Polish Presidency and to identify potential areas of compromise, clarify most controversial issues and point out directions of the debate during the next Presidencies

**Level of the meeting:** Ministers competent for Cohesion Policy

**Participants:** 100 (Ministers + delegations)

**Contact:** monika.dolowiec@msz.gov.pl

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**25.11. Poznań**  
*Informal Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Regional Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development,*

**Objective:** to engage Ministers and high representatives of European institutions in the political debate on strategic aspects of Cohesion Policy and in particular on integrating key territorial policies for smart, inclusive and sustainable growth and to present the key outcomes of the discussions carried out at all meetings held during the Polish Presidency in the area of Cohesion Policy (in the form of Presidency conclusions). The conference “Integrated Approach to Development – a Key to Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe” (planned on the 24.11) will be an integral part of the Informal Meeting of Ministers.

**Level of the meeting:** ministers competent for regional policy, territorial cohesion and urban development

**Participants:** 360 (Ministers + delegations)

**Contact:** kamila.wadecka@mrr.gov.pl
04.11. Warsaw

**Meeting of Directors General Responsible for Regional Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Development**

**Objective:** to present the results of actions undertaken during the Polish Presidency in the area of territorial and urban dimension of Cohesion Policy after 2013 and to prepare for discussion at the Informal Meeting of Ministers

**Level of the meeting:** Directors General competent for regional policy, territorial cohesion and urban development

**Participants:** 120

**Contact:** ewa.malik-kapler@mrr.gov.pl

*The capital city of Warsaw*
Main conferences during the Polish Presidency

07-08.07. Gdańsk

Evidence Based Cohesion Policy

Objective: to demonstrate how to use evidence from evaluation for programming and more performance-oriented management of Cohesion Policy in the fields of thematic concentration, monitoring and indicators (07.07); to develop a platform for a joined discussion between representatives of two DG Regio and DG Employment evaluation working groups (08.07)

Level of the meeting: (07.07) high level decision-makers, practitioners from EU Member States, experts, evaluators; representatives of evaluation working groups; (08.07) exclusively representatives of DG Regio Evaluation Network and DG Employment Partnership Meeting

Participants: 400

Contact: stanislaw.bienias@mrr.gov.pl

29-30.09. Warsaw

Territorial Dimension of the European Social Fund

Objective: to carry out the discussion on the territorial dimension of the ESF and mechanisms of territorialization, especially in the context of Europe 2020 Strategy

Level of the meeting: high-level policy makers, representatives of EU Member States and practitioners from the EU Member States, experts representing the national, regional and local levels

Participants: 300

Contact: piotr.krasuski@mrr.gov.pl, monika.gawron@mrr.gov.pl
24-25.10. Warsaw
Effective Instruments for Territorial Development

Objective: to discuss instruments for territorial development (for cities, rural areas, urban-rural linkages) within Cohesion Policy after 2013 in order to improve their effectiveness

Level of the meeting: practitioners, regional and local authorities, decision-makers responsible for regional policy, urban development, agriculture and rural development, employment, social affairs and inclusion

Participants: 400
Contact: daniel.balinski@mrr.gov.pl

24.11. Poznań
Integrated Approach to Development – a Key to Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe

Objective: to strengthen strategic thinking and integrated approach in the decision making process for a better future of our continent in the globalised world; to show how to effectively use European potential and focus on strategic objectives in the global market economy; to contribute to the on going discussion on how to integrate different policies in order to increase the effectiveness of public interventions and to discuss the role of Cohesion Policy in achieving the goals of Europe 2020

Level of the meeting: Ministers, Commissioners, high-level experts in policy making representing different portfolios of regional, territorial development, urban matters and Cohesion Policy, practitioners from EU Member States, experts, decision-makers at central and regional levels

Participants: 400
Contact: sabina.kason@mrr.gov.pl, patrycja.artymowska@mrr.gov.pl
Other events

18-19.07. Ostróda

Seminar on Territorial Dimension in Development Policies

Objective: to discuss different roles of territorial dimension in public policies in EU and non-EU countries and provide a comparison of their experiences and practices taking into account new theories in the area of regional policy

Level of the meeting: high-level experts representing the EU Member States, international organizations (OECD, World Bank, the European Commission) and academic community

Participants: 100

Contact: ewa.malik-kapler@mrr.gov.pl

15-16.09. Katowice

Joint Conference of ETC Transnational Cooperation Programmes

Objective: to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views on the role of transnational cooperation and its future in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Level of the meeting: EU decision-makers, representatives of EU Member States, regional decision-makers, programme level decision-makers and experts

Participants: 500-600

Contact: teresa.macinow@mrr.gov.pl
19-20.10. Warsaw

Catalysing reforms - European Social Fund Support for Better Governance

Objective: to summarize the effects of good governance supported by the ESF and to deepen discussion on its future within Cohesion Policy

Level of the meeting: public administration officials from different EU Member States, experts

Participants: 100-150

Contact: monika.deszczka@mrr.gov.pl, wojciech.wroblewski@mrr.gov.pl

24-26.10. Gdańsk

2nd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Baltic Development Forum

Objective: to discuss the progress in terms of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) implementation, including the Commission’s Progress Report as well as all experiences of bodies and institutions directly involved in the implementation of the Priority Areas and Flagship Projects (organized by the Commission in cooperation with Polish partners)

Level of the meeting: high level experts, decision-makers, practitioners from EU Member States and relevant third countries.

Participants: 600

Contact: joanna.wojtkowska@msz.gov.pl, k.wroblewska@woj-pomorskie.pl
**27-28.10. Warsaw**

**Annual Conference on financial instruments**

**Objective:** to present the results of the implementation of the financial engineering instruments (JEREMIE and JESSICA), including case studies presented by national and regional authorities and financial institutions, to develop discussion on financial engineering instruments within Cohesion Policy after 2013 (organized by Directorate-General Regional Policy in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Regional Development)

**Level of the meeting:** high-level experts, decision-makers, policy-makers, experts of the European Investment Bank, experts of the European Investment Bank Group, practitioners from EU Member States, representatives of the public and private sectors

**Participants:** 500

**Contact:** magdalena.piotrowska@mrr.gov.pl, regio-financial-engineering@ec.europa.eu

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**17-18.11. Lublin**

**Cohesion Policy and Catching-up Regions**

**Objective:** to discuss ways of addressing development challenges and accelerating growth dynamics of problem areas using most effective support mechanisms available within the framework of the EU Cohesion Policy

**Level of the meeting:** experts, decision-makers, practitioners from EU Member States and EU regions

**Participants:** 250

**Contact:** anna.szymborska@mrr.gov.pl
12.12. Warsaw

Impact Evaluation Seminar

Objective: to promote using rigorous evaluation methods for gathering evidence on effectiveness and efficiency of EU Cohesion Policy followed by a discussion on lessons learned and policy implications (organized by DG Regio in cooperation with the Polish Ministry of Regional Development)

Level of the meeting: high-level experts, decision-makers, practitioners from EU Member States

Participants: 100

Contact: daniel.mouque@ec.europa.eu, stanislaw.bienias@mrr.gov.pl

The capital city of Warsaw
Main working groups, committees

12.07, 26-27.09. Warsaw

Joint Meeting of the National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and Urban Development Group (UDG)

**Objective:** to continue the intergovernmental cooperation in the framework of territorial cohesion, including urban policy, to present the activities undertaken during and before the Polish Presidency in this area in order to prepare the discussion during the Informal Meeting of Ministers

**Level of the meeting:** representatives of the NTCCP and UDG, representatives of the Commission (DG Regio) and Managing Authority of the ESPON Programme

**Participants:** 70

**Contact:** magdalena.zagrzejewska@mrr.gov.pl, anna.baucz@mrr.gov.pl

14.11. Warsaw

Monitoring Committee URBACT II

**Objective:** to prepare and launch the third round of call for proposals - the last one in the current programming period, to discuss current progress regarding the implementation of projects and the ongoing issues concerning the coordination and implementation of the Programme. The Monitoring Committee of URBACT II is the policy-making and decision-making body of the Programme.

**Level of the meeting:** working/expert level, representatives of the contributing Member States (EU 27) and Partner States (Norway and Switzerland), representatives of the European Commission (Directorate General for Regional Policy), the Committee of the Regions as well as of the Managing Authority (French Ministry for Urban Policy), URBACT II Secretariat and Certifying Authority

**Participants:** 55

**Contact:** magdalena.skwaraska@mrr.gov.pl

27-28.10. Warsaw

Coordination Committee of the Funds (COCOF)

**Objective:** to have a “Stakeholder Dialogue” on implementation mechanisms of the Cohesion Policy

**Level of the meeting:** experts representing the Member States and the European Commission

**Participants:** 70

**Contact:** martyna.olszewska@mrr.gov.pl, kamila.szymusiak@mrr.gov.pl
Cracow
European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) Week

28.11. ESPON Contact Point Meeting

**Objective:** to discuss the ESPON Programme after 2013 concerning the tasks for the National Contact Points and tasks of ESPON Programme resulting from the adopted Territorial Agenda 2020

**Level of the meeting:** representatives of the National ESPON Contact Points and ESPON Secretariat

**Participants:** 50

**Contact:** magdalena.zagrzejewska@mrr.gov.pl, emilia.malak-petlicka@mrr.gov.pl

29-30.11. ESPON 2013 Seminar – Territorial Cohesion in practice

**Objective:** to discuss goals of the ESPON Programme, possibilities of practical use of the Territorial Agenda 2020 and the shape of the ESPON Programme after 2013; to promote the cooperation between academic institutions and to build the mutual relations between the government institutions

**Level of the meeting:** experts, policy-makers, academics

**Participants:** 250

**Contact:** magdalena.zagrzejewska@mrr.gov.pl, emilia.malak-petlicka@mrr.gov.pl

01-02.12. Monitoring Committee of ESPON 2013 Programme

**Objective:** to discuss potential solutions for the future shape of the ESPON Programme after 2013 and tasks of the Committee in the context of works on practical use of the territorial dimension in the Cohesion Policy. The Monitoring Committee of ESPON Programme is responsible for the overall strategic implementation, management and monitoring of the ESPON Programme.

**Level of the meeting:** members of the Monitoring Committee, representatives of the ESPON Secretariat

**Participants:** 50

**Contact:** magdalena.zagrzejewska@mrr.gov.pl, emilia.malak-petlicka@mrr.gov.pl
## Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political events</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of Directors General</td>
<td>3-4 November</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers</td>
<td>25 November</td>
<td>Poznań</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Cohesion Policy within General Affairs Council</td>
<td>16 December</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main conferences</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Based Cohesion Policy</td>
<td>7-8 July</td>
<td>Gdańsk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Territorial Dimension of the European Social Fund</td>
<td>29 -30 September</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effective Instruments for Territorial Development</td>
<td>24-25 October</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Approach to Development – a Key to Smart, Inclusive and Sustainable Europe</td>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>Poznań</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar on Territorial Dimension in Development Policies</td>
<td>18- 19 July</td>
<td>Ostróda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Conference of ETC Transnational Cooperation Programmes</td>
<td>15-16 September</td>
<td>Katowice</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPEN DAYS</td>
<td>10-13 October</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Dimension of the Cohesion Policy</td>
<td>11 October</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catalysing reforms – ESF Support for Better Governance</td>
<td>19-20 October</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and Baltic Development Forum</td>
<td>24-26 October</td>
<td>Gdańsk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Conference on financial instruments</td>
<td>27-28 October</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohesion Policy and Catching-up Regions</td>
<td>17-18 November</td>
<td>Lublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Forum of Cities and Regions</td>
<td>23 November</td>
<td>Poznań</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESPON Week: ESPON 2013 Seminar</td>
<td>29-30 November</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region</td>
<td>30 November</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Policy Attache Meeting on Cohesion Policy Regulations after 2013</td>
<td>7-9 December</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact Evaluation Seminar</td>
<td>12 December</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
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</table>

**Working groups, committees**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Meeting of the National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and Urban Development Group (UDG)</td>
<td>12 July</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group on Territorial Cohesion &amp; Urban Matters (TCUM)</td>
<td>21 September</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint Meeting of the National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP) and Urban Development Group (UDG)</td>
<td>26-27 September</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Working Group ESF</td>
<td>25-26 October</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination Committee of the Funds (COCOF)</td>
<td>27-28 October</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring Committee URBACT II</td>
<td>14 November</td>
<td>Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESPON Week: ESPON Contact Point Meeting</td>
<td>28 November</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Working Group ESF</td>
<td>29-30 November</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESF Committee</td>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESPON Week: Monitoring Committee of ESPON 2013 Programme</td>
<td>1-2 December</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group on Territorial Cohesion &amp; Urban Matters (TCUM)</td>
<td>15 December</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

More information on other events:
www.mrr.gov.pl/presidency/events
Who is who?

**MRD executives**

**Elżbieta Bieńkowska**
**Minister of Regional Development**
phone: +48 22 461 39 14
phone: +48 22 461 39 15
fax: +48 22 461 32 75
e-mail: sekretariatebienkowskiej@mrr.gov.pl

**Waldemar Sługocki**
**Undersecretary of State**
overall coordination of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the Ministry of Regional Development
phone: +48 22 461 39 50
fax: +48 22 461 31 23
e-mail: sekretariatwslugockiego@mrr.gov.pl

**Media and public relations:**

**Piotr Popa**
- **Presidency Spokesperson at the MRD**
phone: +48 22 461 39 65
fax: +48 22 461 33 10
e-mail:
piotr.popa@mrr.gov.pl
media@mrr.gov.pl

**Address:**
Ministry of Regional Development of the Republic of Poland (MRD)
ul. Wspólna 2/4, 00-926 Warsaw
Poland
Working Parties and Committees

Working Parties of the EU Council

Structural Actions Working Party

Piotr Żuber
Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
Head of Regional and Cohesion Policy Section at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU
Chairman of the Structural Actions Working Party (B.05)
phone: +32 2 7804 487
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: piotr.zuber@msz.gov.pl

Structural Actions Working Party and Social Questions Working Party

Paweł Chorazy
Director of the Department for European Social Fund Management, MRD
responsible for: European Social Fund in Structural Actions Working Party (B.05) and European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in Social Questions Working Party (I.01)
phone: +32 2 7804 486
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: pawel.chorazy@msz.gov.pl

Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels

Monika Dołowiec
Counsellor
phone: +32 2 7804 290
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: monika.dolowiec@msz.gov.pl

Krzysztof Kasprzyk
Counsellor
phone: +32 2 7804 364
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: krzysztof.kasprzyk2@msz.gov.pl

Joanna Held
First Secretary
Chairwoman of Friends of Presidency Group for EUSBSR
phone: +32 2 7804 334
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: joanna.held@msz.gov.pl

Karolina Kierońska
Second Secretary
phone: tel. +32 2 7804 366
fax: +32 2 7804 297
e-mail: karolina.kieronska@msz.gov.pl
Working groups and committees on territorial cohesion and urban development

European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON)
National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points (NTCCP)

Magdalena Zagrzjejewska
Head of Unit, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
Chairwoman of the ESPON Monitoring Committee during the Polish Presidency responsible for: territorial cohesion, ESPON, NTCCP
phone: +48 22 461 32 94,
fax : +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: magdalena.zagrzjejewska@mrr.gov.pl

Emilia Malak-Pętlicka
Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
Policy Analyst – territorial cohesion responsible for: territorial cohesion, ESPON, NTCCP
tel.: +48 22 461 35 91
faks: +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: emilia.malak-petlicka@mrr.gov.pl

Urban Development Group (UDG)

Anna Baucz
Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
Policy Analyst - Urban Policy and programmes responsible for: the meetings of the Urban Development Group (UDG) and the Working Group on urban dimension of the Cohesion Policy
phone: +48 22 461 36 05
fax : +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: anna.baucz@mrr.gov.pl

URBACT

Magdalena Skwarska
Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
Chairwoman of the URBACT Monitoring Committee during the Polish Presidency
Policy Analyst – Urban Policy and programmes
phone : +48 22 461 33 70
fax : +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: magdalena.skwarska@mrr.gov.pl
Other contacts

Presidency Programme

**Renata Calak**
Deputy Director of the Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
responsible for: planning, coordination and inter-institutional relations
phone: +48 22 461 39 11
fax: +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: renata.calak@mrr.gov.pl

Policy issues

**Marek Kalupa**
Director of the Department for Coordination of the EU Funds Implementation, MRD
responsible for: implementation of structural funds, COCOF, delivery mechanisms, simplification issues
phone: +48 22 693 47 63
fax: +48 22 693 47 62
e-mail: marek.kalupa@mrr.gov.pl

**Iwona Brol**
Director of the Territorial Cooperation Department, MRD
responsible for: transnational, inter-regional and cross-border cooperation issues
phone: +48 22 330 31 04
fax: +48 22 330 31 56
e-mail: iwona.brol@mrr.gov.pl

Evaluation

**Stanisław Bienias**
Head of Unit, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
responsible for: evaluation, indicators and evidence based Cohesion Policy
phone: +48 22 461 32 96
fax: +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: stanislaw.bienias@mrr.gov.pl

Presidency Programme

**Aleksandra Kisielewska**
Head of Unit, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
responsible for: Presidency Programme and the future of Cohesion Policy post 2013
phone: +48 22 461 35 68
fax: +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: aleksandra.kisielewska@mrr.gov.pl

Regional Policy at national level

**Daniel Baliński**
Head of Unit, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, MRD
responsible for: regional policy
phone: +48 22 461 32 73
fax: +48 22 461 32 63
e-mail: daniel.balinski@mrr.gov.pl
Logistics team

**Monika Kusina-Pycińska**  
Director of the Department of the European Union and International Cooperation, MRD  
phone: +48 22 461 39 20  
fax: +48 22 461 31 35  
e-mail: monika.kusina-pycinska@mrr.gov.pl

**Wojciech Porczyk**  
Deputy Director of the Department of the European Union and International Cooperation, MRD  
phone: +48 22 461 39 00  
fax: +48 22 461 31 35  
e-mail: wojciech.porczyk@mrr.gov.pl

**Zuzanna Raszkowska**  
Department of the European Union and International Cooperation, MRD  
Presidency Logistics Unit Coordinator  
phone: +48 22 461 36 41  
fax: +48 22 461 31 35  
e-mail: zuzanna.raszkowska@mrr.gov.pl

More information:  
www.mrr.gov.pl/presidency  
www.pl2011.eu  
e-mail: prezydencja@mrr.gov.pl