

## Summary

The following report on implementation of Regional Operational Programme for Lubelskie Voivodship for years 2007-2013 presents activities undertaken by the Managing Authority together with achieved results in a process of ERDF funds expenditure compared to macro and micro economic conditions.

The Lubelskie Voivodship is still one of the least developed voivodships in Poland. Agriculture sector of the economy is predominant and micro companies dominate in a structure of businesses (95% compared to a general number of businesses in the region). GDP per capita is at a very low level – EUR 5 069.94 (PLN 20 913). This positions Lubelszczyzna region at the 15<sup>th</sup> place in the country.

Taking into consideration the aforementioned conditions and the world financial crisis in 2009, the Managing Authority undertook many activities aiming at acceleration of EU funds implementation, including among others: allocation of EU funds on projects in the areas influencing elimination of effects of economic slowdown.

The year 2009 was the first year for the Programme implementation, in which the first progress in achieving both financial and material progress could have been observed. Simultaneously in the reporting year under the Programme execution, there were ongoing works on changes of programme and operational documents together with institutional changes significant for efficient execution of the Programme.

In 2009 the Board of Lubelskie Voivodship, trying to meet expectations of the Beneficiaries, reconstructed a system of proposals calls and evaluation changing among others criteria according to which projects were verified. Introduced changes guaranteed higher transparency, clearness and objectivity of call for proposals procedures and proposals evaluation procedures.

Since the beginning of the programme implementation there have been 55 calls for proposals within which EUR 675 971 655.95 (PLN 2 788 315 483.63) has been allocated for co-financing from ERDF funds, what is 59.83% of available ERDF funds for execution of the Programme. Including here also funds reserved for execution of so-called key projects the level of allocated funds is even higher and it is 74%.

By the end of 2009 the Programme Beneficiaries submitted 3001 proposals for the total project value at the level of EUR 2 328 456 662.04 EUR (PLN 9 604 650 885.28), in which Beneficiaries applied for EUR 1 495 745 122.77 (PLN 6 169 799 056.94) of ERDF co-financing, what is 221.27% of ERDF funds allocation, which has been so far dedicated for calls under the Regional Operational Programme of Lubelskie Voivodship for years 2007-2013 and 133.13% of all ERDF available funds under the said Programme.

Within the reporting period the Board of Lubelskie Voivodship approved for co-financing 597 applications for the total value of co-financing from ERDF funds of EUR 188 827 672.84 (PLN 778 895 267.71), there were also 485 agreements signed for the total value of co-financing from ERDF funds of EUR 159 308 037.55 (PLN 657 129 724.08).

Till the end of the reporting period, the Certifying Authority certified to the European Commission expenditures for the amount of EUR 29 810 977.25 (PLN 122 967 300.06), and totally since the Programme commencement advance payments from EC have come to the amount of EUR 104 026 909.41 (PLN 429 100 598.63), what

is a total amount of EUR 133 837 886.66 (PLN 552 067 898.68 PLN) and exhausts 82.60% of the budgetary obligation value for 2007. In the first quarter of 2010 expenditures for the amount of EUR 31 311 719.46 (PLN 129 157 711.60) were certified to EC, what cumulatively was the amount of EUR 165 149 606.12 (PLN 681 225 610.28). This means that the target assumed for the Programme for 2007 ( EUR 162 035 558) in compliance with the rule n+3 was achieved.

Execution of the main target of the Regional Operational Programme of Lubelskie Voivodship, which provides for increase of Lubelszczyzna competitiveness, influences improvement of basic social and economic indicators. The priority indicator of the main target, which is *"additional increase of GDP value generated due to the Regional Operational Programme implementation"* has already achieved 90% of a target value specified for 2010 (0.3%) and was at the end of the reporting year 0.27%. On the other hand due to current speed of economic changes and overestimation of target values of some indicators, an indicator showing a number of created work places (net and gross) was achieved at relatively low level (suitably 17.17% and 3.92%). It also has to be emphasized that a level of achieving indicators values of particular targets of the Programme together with product and result indicators of particular Priority Axes is highly diversified, what is a consequence of varied allocation use dedicated for particular measures. For instance one may specify that the value of a product indicator of Priority Axis No. V "length of new local roads" is currently 14.437 km, what is above 721% of a target value. In turn till the end of the reporting year there were no contents under Measure 3.2 *Revitalization of degraded urban areas*, which means that a progress of indicators connected with this measure was not achieved (*Number of projects aiming at improvement of cities' attractiveness, Area of revitalized grounds, Number of companies, which undertaken activity within revitalized grounds and Number of work places created within revitalized grounds*). In 2010 it is also planned to conduct evaluation research *"Verification of target values of the Programme indicators in a context of programme targets execution"*, which is aimed at specification, based on so far signed agreements and executed projects, actually possible for achievement target values of indicators estimated for the Programme for years 2010, 2013 and 2015, taking into consideration targets and status of the Programme execution advancement. It can be expected that results of this research will be basis for possible changes in the Programme in a scope of indicators correction.

In the current year (2010) the Marshal of Voivodship Krzysztof Grabczuk has announced maintaining a high speed of the Programme execution. This is the effect of changes in a system of proposals selection. The Board of Lubelskie Voivodship plans to announce 21 calls for proposals, within which EUR 234.6 million (PLN 967.6 million) will be available, what is 20.3% of the whole ERDF allocation. This means that at the end of 2010 90% of funds available in the Regional Operational Programme will be allocated for the needs of the beneficiaries.

Achieved and forecasted status of the Programme execution indicates that granted EUR 1.156 billion for Lubelskie Voivodship will be used within agreed time frameworks. Moreover, the authorities of the region together with Beneficiaries will try to apply for additional funds from the National Performance Reserve. The efficient execution of the Regional Operational Programme of Lubelskie Voivodship will allow for participation in distribution of EUR 512 million.