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Poland's Rural Development Plan

Country profile:

Strengths

- Abundant land, varied agricultural production, increasing farm size, good conditions for organic farms/niche products;
- Clean soils, good environment, biodiversity, tourism potential;
- Balanced settlement pattern, big labour force

Weaknesses

- Low profitability of farming, low investment, little capital on farms, slow increase in farm size;
- Insufficient water resources;
- Poor technical infrastructure, high unemployment, poor education, low mobility, weak services

Chosen strategy corresponding to the profile:

The implementation of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 is based on the multifunctionality of agriculture and rural areas. The Programme will strengthen the economic competitiveness of agricultural holdings and of the agri-food sector, contribute to land management and environmental protection, and enhance the quality of life and diversify the rural economy.

Axis	Total public (in € million)	% of EAFRD contribution	EAFRD* (in € million)	Share %
Axis I	7 187.5	75 %	5 390.6	42 %
Axis II	5 546.0	80 %	4 436.8	32 %
Axis III	3 430.2	75 %	2 572.6	20 %
LEADER	787.5	80 %	630.0	4,6 %
TA**	266.6	75 %	199.9	1,5 %
Total	17 217.8	77 %	13 230.0	100

* EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

** TA: Technical assistance for the implementation of the programmes.

AIMS:

The aims of the Rural Development plan of Poland are:

Axis 1

Main priorities:

- Improving human potential
- Improvement of vocational preparation
- Improvement of quality and efficiency of agricultural and forestry production
- Improvement of cooperation and concentration of supply chain and processing
- Preparing to implement cross-compliance
- Improvement of infrastructure in rural areas

Axis 2

Main priorities:

- Protection of biodiversity
- Environmental protection, including soil and water protection
- Increase in forest cover

Axis 3

Main priorities:

- Improvement of living standards
- Facilitating access to services
- Improvement of infrastructure in rural areas
- Support for entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs outside agriculture
- Implementation of local strategies

Axis 4 (Leader)

Main priorities:

- Creation of local partnerships, activation of communities
- Implementation of local strategies

See also: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rurdev/index_en.htm