Annual implementation report
SUMMARY

Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020

2021

Fundusze Europejskie Infrastruktura i Środowisko

Rzeczpospolita Polska

Ministerstwo Funduszy i Polityki Regionalnej

Unia Europejska Europejskie Fundusze Strukturalne i Inwestycyjne

1. About the programme

Infrastructure and Environment 2014-2020 is the largest programme financed by the European Union not only in Poland but also in the European Union.

Areas of support under the programme:

- low-emission economy;
- environmental protection, including adaptation to climate change;
- transport (TEN-T road network and multimodal transport, road infrastructure for cities, railway transport, low-emission public transport in the cities);
- energy security;
- strategic healthcare infrastructure;
- cultural heritage.

On September 2021 the European Commission adopted amendments to the OPI&E to implement **REACT-EU**. These are additional funds for **investment support and countermeasures in response to the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic**. The additional amount is nearly EUR 675 million, of which EUR 331 million will be allocated to the health sector and EUR 317 million to the energy sector.

Financing:

- **European Regional Development Fund** — EUR 4.97 bln;
- **Cohesion Fund –** EUR 22.44 bln;
- European Regional Development Fund – **REACT-EU** – EUR 674.87 bln;
- **National funds –** public and private – minimum EUR 4.85 bln.

Allocation mln euro

2. Review of the implementation of the programme

The year 2021 was the eighth year of implementation of the Infrastructure and Environment Programme.

The implementation of EU projects in 2021 was still affected by the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We continued implementing tasks such as:

- the project selection criteria were adopted and some of them updated;
- new projects were introduced to the *List of projects identified under the non-competition procedure*;
- new competitions for operations were announced and applications submitted were being assessed;
- the process of signing co-financing agreements and applying for payments has been continued.

By the end of 2021:

- we announced **104 competitions** in **all sectors** for the amount of funding of EUR **8.4 billion**[1];
- the ***List of projects identified under the non-competition procedure*** contained **757 projects** with the estimated amount of EU funding of **EUR 20.8 billion**;
- we signed **2 840 co-funding** agreements for the amount of EU support of **EUR 24.4 billion;**
- beneficiaries submitted **payment claims** for the amount of almost **EUR 28.6 billion** of which the amount of EU funding was EUR **17.8 billion**;
- we submitted to the European Commission **payment claims** for the amount of **eligible expenditure of EUR 23.5 billion**, **the requested amount was EUR 20.8 billion.**

[1] Financial data according to the EBC exchange rate from January 2022 - 4,596 PLN/EUR.

3. Issues affecting the implementation of the programme

The implementation of EU projects in 2021 was still affected by the situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As much as **PLN 910.4 million** of **European Funds** have been allocated from the program to combat COVID-19 (PLN 850 million for new projects in the health sector and PLN 60.4 million to expand the scope of transport projects).	The money in the health sector was used to equip hospitals for the treatment of infected people, including the purchase of medical equipment and apparatus (respirators, CT scanners), the purchase of ambulances or the purchase of personal protective equipment and disinfectants. Support under the programme has been granted to Medical Rescue Teams from all over Poland, as well as to medical entities which carry out activities related to preventing, counteracting, and combating COVID-19. Rescue services - police and fire department have received additional funds for the purchase of specialist vehicles, disinfectants, containers for transportation of CBRNE materials or personal protective equipment. The EU co-financing in the amount of PLN 115 thousand was allocated to mitigation measures related to the material scope of the project (cleaning and disinfecting rolling stock and urban transport infrastructure, personal protection equipment for employees).
The issue that affected all investment projects in the program was a significant increase in the prices of construction materials and services.	The continuing difficult situation on the construction services market results in increased project costs. Due to the lack of funds to cover the difference between the value of works specified in the application for co-financing and the value obtained as a result of the tender, beneficiaries are forced to cancel tenders, which causes delays in project implementation. The institutions involved in the implementation analyze each case in which there is an increase in project costs as a result of a tender procedure. Depending on the availability of funds, decisions are made to increase support for projects, after ensuring compliance with the selection criteria. Meetings with beneficiaries are organized and possible solutions are analyzed.

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