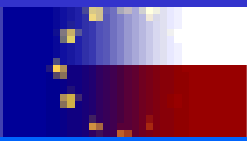


# National cluster policy framework in Poland

**Krzysztof Gulda**

**Director of the Economy Development Department  
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Poland**

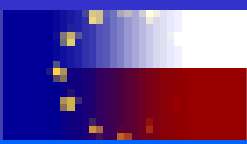
**European Presidency Conference on Innovation and Clusters  
Stockholm, 22-23 January 2008**



## The evolution of cluster policy in Poland (1/2)

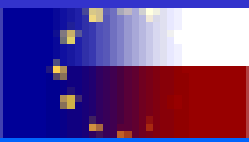
The concept of clusters as a policy tool is relatively new in Poland and seen in the context of innovation policy:

- 2004: analysis of concentration of industry and potential policy instruments.
- 2004/05: Baltic Sea Initiative – Nordic Cluster Alliance.
- 2005: Polish Agency of Enterprise Development (PAED) workshops for cluster facilitators.



## The evolution of cluster policy in Poland (2/2)

- 2005: EC project on mapping clusters in the new MS.
- 2006: “The Strategy for Increasing the Innovativeness of the Economy for 2007-2013”, highlighting the importance of supporting clusters
- 2007: PAED pilot project “Support for cluster development”
- 2007 – 13: Clusters supported by Structural Funds.

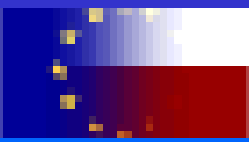


## Clusters as part of innovation policy

### Strategy for Increasing the Innovativeness of the Economy for 2007-2013

#### Priority axis „Infrastructure for innovation“:

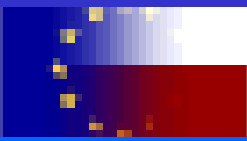
- providing proper conditions for network co-operation,
- supporting the development of clusters and technology platforms in advanced tech sectors
- strengthening the co-operation between the R&D sector and the economy.



# **Implementation of the Strategy**

## **Operational Programme Innovative Economy 2007-13**

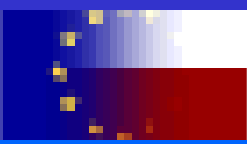
- 1) **Research and development of new technologies**
- 2) **R&D infrastructure**
- 3) **Capital for innovation**
- 4) **Investments in innovative undertakings**
- 5) **Diffusion of innovation**
- 6) **Polish economy on the international market**
- 7) **Information society establishment and development**
- 8) **Technical assistance**



# Operational Programme „Innovative Economy 2007-13”

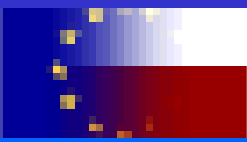
## Priority axis 5 „Diffusion of innovation”

- investments and counselling services related to development of cooperative relations on a supra-regional scale, including clusters,
- comprehensive support for innovation centres (e.g. science and technology parks, technology incubators, technology transfer centres) located in the areas with top development potential,
- support for establishment and development of business support networks on a supra-regional scale rendering services related to innovative activities of entrepreneurs,
- support for use of intellectual and industrial property rights by entrepreneurs



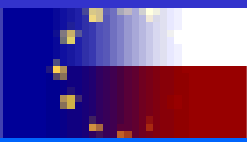
## The characteristics of cluster development in Poland

- Early stage of cluster development in Poland is observed.
- Spontaneous bottom-up approach crucial to the exploitation of endogenous potential.
- Empirical evidence supports the notion that clusters can drive regional growth.
- Strong regional element of Polish clusters in traditional and high-tech branches.
- Strong potential for the development of competitive cluster structures in Poland.



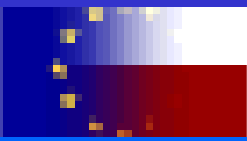
## The major barriers for clustering in Poland

- Lack of trust among entrepreneurs and lack of will to cooperate among firms, fear to get ideas stolen.
- Lack of understanding of the importance of cooperation.
- Fiscal barriers (e.g. higher taxes for associations).
- Poor management skills of entrepreneurs.



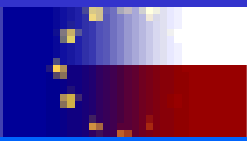
## Key challenges for developing clusters in Poland (1/2)

- Integrate research centres and other key knowledge organizations into thinking about cluster policies.
- Adopt bottom-up approach: clusters cannot be started from scratch by government intervention.
- Create framework conditions conducive to:
  - enterprise development in general,
  - cluster development in particular (regulation, infrastructure, real estate, barriers to associative activity).
- Support local public-private partnerships.
- Identify and address market failure.



## Key challenges for developing clusters in Poland (2/2)

- Let the private sector sit in the driving seat of cluster development.
- Respect that each cluster has different policy implications.
- Become part of an international cluster learning network.
- Building of social capital.
- National and regional policy coordination.



**Thank you for your attention**

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