

SFC2021 programme supported by ERDF (goal: Investment for Jobs and Growth), ESF+, Cohesion Fund, FST and EFMRA - Article 21(3)

CCI	2021PL16RFPR001
English title	European Funds for Smart Economy 2021–2027
Title in national language(s)	PL - Fundusze Europejskie dla Nowoczesnej Gospodarki 2021– 2027
Version	2.2.
First year	2021
Last year	2027
Eligible from	01 January 2021
Eligible until	31 December 2029
EC decision number	
EC decision date	
No of Member State's amending decision	
Date of entry into force of the Member State's amending decision	
Transfer other than substantial (Article 24(5) of the CPR)	No
NUTS regions covered by the programme	<p>PL714 - Sieradzki PL715 - Skierniewicki PL72 - Świętokrzyskie PL721 - Kielecki PL722 - Sandomiersko-jędrzejowski PL8 - Makroregion wschodni PL81 - Lubelskie PL811 - Bialski PL812 - Chełmsko-zamojski PL814 - Lubelski PL815 - Puławski PL82 - Podkarpackie PL821 - Krośnieński PL822 - Przemyski PL823 - Rzeszowski PL824 - Tarnobrzegi PL84 - Podlaskie PL841 - Białostocki PL842 - Łomżyński PL843 - Suwalski PL9 - Makroregion województwo mazowieckie PL91 - Warszawski stołeczny PL911 - Miasto Warszawa PL912 - Warszawski wschodni PL913 - Warszawski zachodni PL92 - Mazowiecki regionalny PL921 - Radomski PL922 - Ciechanowski PL923 - Płocki PL924 - Ostrołęcki PL925 - Siedlecki PL926 - Żyrardowski PLZ - Extra-Regio NUTS 1 PLZZ - Extra-Regio NUTS 2</p>

PLZZZ - Extra-Regio NUTS 3
PL214 - Krakowski
PL217 - Tarnowski
PL218 - Nowosądecki
PL219 - Nowotarski
PL - Polska
PL2 - Makroregion południowy
PL21 - Małopolskie
PL213 - Miasto Kraków
PL21A - Oświęcimski
PL22 - Śląskie
PL224 - Częstochowski
PL225 - Bielski
PL227 - Rybnicki
PL228 - Bytomski
PL229 - Gliwicki
PL22A - Katowicki
PL22B - Sosnowiecki
PL22C - Tyski
PL4 - Makroregion północno-zachodni
PL41 - Wielkopolskie
PL411 - Piłski
PL414 - Koniński
PL415 - Miasto Poznań
PL416 - Kaliski
PL417 - Leszczyński
PL418 - Poznański
PL42 - Zachodniopomorskie
PL424 - Miasto Szczecin
PL426 - Koszaliński
PL427 - Szczecinecko-pyrzycki
PL428 - Szczeciński
PL43 - Lubuskie
PL431 - Gorzowski
PL432 - Zielonogórski
PL5 - Makroregion południowo-zachodni
PL51 - Dolnośląskie
PL514 - Miasto Wrocław
PL515 - Jeleniogórski
PL516 - Legnicko-głogowski
PL517 - Wałbrzyski
PL518 - Wrocławski
PL52 - Opolskie
PL523 - Nyski
PL524 - Opolski
PL6 - Makroregion północny
PL61 - Kujawsko-pomorskie
PL613 - Bydgosko-toruński
PL616 - Grudziądzki
PL617 - Inowrocławski
PL618 - Świecki
PL619 - Włocławski
PL62 - Warmińsko-mazurskie
PL621 - Elbląski
PL622 - Olsztyński

	PL623 - Ełcki PL63 - Pomorskie PL633 - Trójmiejski PL634 - Gdański PL636 - Słupski PL637 - Chojnicki PL638 - Starogardzki PL7 - Makroregion centralny PL71 - Łódzkie PL711 - Miasto Łódź PL712 - Łódzki PL713 - Piotrkowski
Relevant fund(s)	ERDF
Programme	<input type="checkbox"/> under the 'Investment for Jobs and Growth' goal, for the outermost regions only

Table of contents

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and related policy responses	8
Table 1.	19
2. Priorities.....	24
2.1. Priorities other than technical assistance	24
2.1. 1. Priority 1. Priority: 1. Support for entrepreneurs.....	24
2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies(ERDF).....	24
2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	24
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation: 24	
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	27
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	27
Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	28
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	29
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(vii) of the CPR.....	29
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	30
Table 2. Output indicators.....	30
Table 3. Result indicators	32
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	34
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	34
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	35
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	35
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	35
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	36
2.1. 1. Priority 2. Innovation-friendly environment.....	37
2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies(ERDF).....	37
2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	37
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation: 37	
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	39
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	40
Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	41
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	41
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	42
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	42
Table 2. Output indicators.....	42
Table 3. Result indicators	44
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	46
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	46
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	49
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	50
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	50
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	50
2.1.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities	51
2.1.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	51
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation: 51	
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	52
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	52

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	53
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	53
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	54
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	54
Table 2. Output indicators.....	54
Table 3. Result indicators	55
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	56
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	56
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	56
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	57
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	57
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	57
2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.(ERDF).....	58
2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	58
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:	58
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	60
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	60
Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	61
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	61
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	62
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	62
Table 2. Output indicators.....	62
Table 3. Result indicators	63
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	65
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	65
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	66
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	66
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	67
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	67
2.1. 1. Priority 3. 'greening' of enterprises.	68
2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO2.1. Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.(ERDF).....	68
2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	68
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:	68
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	69
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	69
Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	70
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	70
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	70
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	71
Table 2. Output indicators.....	71
Table 3. Result indicators	72
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	73
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	73
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	74
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	74
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	75
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	75

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)(ERDF).	76
2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds	76
Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:	76
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	76
Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+.....	76
Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR.....	77
The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	77
The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(vii) of the CPR.....	77
2.1.1.1.2. Indicators.....	78
Table 2. Output indicators.....	78
Table 3. Result indicators	78
2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	79
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	79
Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing	79
Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting.....	80
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	80
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	80
2.2. Technical assistance priorities	81
2.2. 1. Technical Assistance priority under Article 36(4) of the CPR: 4. Technical assistance	81
2.2.1.1. Intervention under the Funds	81
Related types of actions - Article 22(3)(e)(i) of the CPR	81
The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR.....	84
2.2.1.2. Indicators.....	85
Table 2. Output indicators.....	85
2.2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention	86
Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention.....	86
Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics.....	87
Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST ..	87
3. Financial plan.....	88
3.1. Transfers and contributions (1).....	88
Table 15A. Contributions to InvestEU* (broken down by year).....	88
Table 15B. Contributions to InvestEU* (summary)	88
Justification in terms of how these amounts contribute to the policy objectives chosen in the Partnership Agreement pursuant to Article 10(1) of the InvestEU Regulation.....	89
Table 16A. Transfers to direct or indirect management instruments (broken down by year)	89
Table 16B. Transfers to direct or indirect management instruments* (summary)	89
transfer to direct or indirect management instruments (justification).....	89
Table 17A. Transfers between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to other Fund(s)* (broken down by year)	89
Table 17B. transfer between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to other Fund(s) (summary)	90
Transfers between funds under shared management, including between cohesion policy funds (justification).....	90
3.2. JTF: Programme allocations and transfers (1)	90
3.3. Transfers between categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review	90
Table 19A. Transfers between categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review under the given programme (broken down by year).....	90
Table 19B. Transfers between the categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review, to other programmes (broken down by year).....	90
3.4. Back transfers (1).....	91
Table 20A. Back transfers (broken down by year)	91
Table 20B. Back transfers* (summary)	91
3.5. Financial resources broken down by year.....	92

Table 10. Financial resources broken down by year.....	92
3.6. Total financial resources per fund and national co-financing.....	93
Table 11. Total financial resources per fund and national co-financing.....	93
4. Basic conditions	94
5. Programme institutions	112
Table 13. Programme institutions	112
Breakdown of reimbursement for technical assistance under Article 36(5) of the Common Provisions Regulation if more than one recipient of payments from the Commission is indicated.....	112
6. Partnership	113
7. Communication and visibility.....	116
8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to cost.....	119
Table 14. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to cost.....	119
Annex 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates.....	120
A. Summary of main elements.....	120
B. Detailed information by type of operation	121
C. Calculation of standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates.....	121
1. Source of data used to calculate standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who prepared, collected and stored the data, place of data storage, cut-off dates, validation, etc.):	121
2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation under Article 94(2) of the CPR is appropriate for this type of operation:	121
3. Please specify how the calculations have been made, including in particular the assumptions made about the quality or quantity of the data. Where appropriate, use statistical data and benchmarks and present them (on request) in a format that allows their use by the Commission.	121
4. Please explain how it is ensured that only eligible expenditure is taken into account when calculating standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates:	121
5. Assessment by the audit authority(ies) of the calculation method, amounts and arrangements to ensure data verification, quality, collection and storage.....	121
Annex 2: Union contribution based on the financing not linked to costs.....	122
A. Summary of main elements.....	122
B. Detailed information by type of operation	123
Annex 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance, with timetable	124
DOCUMENTS.....	125

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and related policy responses

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(a)(i)-(viii), Article 22(3)(a)(x) and Article 22(3)(b) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

European Funds for Smart Economy Programme (EFSE) responds to EU and national challenges

The EFSE focuses its support on **economic development, innovation and R&D; technology transfer; implementation of the European Green Deal (EGD) in Poland and digitisation of enterprises.**

Challenges related to economic development, innovation and R&D[1].

In the European Innovation Scoreboard 2021, Poland is described as an *emerging innovator* (65.9% of the EU average). Analysis of individual areas indicates a low, in relation to the EU average, level of innovativeness of enterprises, among others in the following areas: enterprise expenditure on R&D, innovation expenditures per employee, product innovations or innovative SMEs cooperating with other entities.

Significant challenges include increasing:

- business innovation, in particular improving the commercialisation of research results,
- companies' R&D investment,
- the share of innovation-active businesses that will generate revenues from the sale of advanced products and services,
- effective cooperation between companies and science sector units,
- increasing the level of competence, particularly in terms of identified competence deficits.

These challenges are in line with the Country-Specific Recommendations for 2019 and 2020 (hereinafter: CSRs).

Experiences from the Smart Growth Operational Programme (SG OP)

The broad offer of the SG OP made it possible to co-finance all stages of the innovation process - the implementation of R&D works and the implementation of their results. The advantage of the support offered was that it stimulated the research activity of companies not only by financing the implementation of an R&D projects, but also in an indirect way, e.g. through support for investments in R&D infrastructure or incentives to use the services of scientific entities.

The disadvantage was the fragmentation of the SG OP offer. The individual support instruments of the SG OP allowed only specific stages of the R&D&I process to be financed. This generated additional administrative burdens for enterprises[2] and made it difficult to maintain the continuity of the innovation activities.

In the SG OP, it was not possible to include the tasks of infrastructure modernisation and R&D staff development within a single research organisation project. This limited the possibilities for commercialisation. From the perspective of enterprises, it caused difficulties in finding partners with the appropriate infrastructure and human resources to implement joint ventures.

The SG OP introduced solutions to increase synergies between activities co-financed from the European level (Horizon 2020) and the national level. The number of these solutions and the volume of funding were relatively low.

In terms of the development of R&D competences[3], the following was pointed out: limited possibilities to support the development of R&D staff in enterprises and research organisations. Meanwhile, it is the human resources, in addition to the infrastructural potential, which determine the capability to conduct research work.

Support for the development of enterprises' competencies relevant to innovative activities was limited in the SG OP, primarily due to regulatory reasons (division of support between ERDF and ESF+). Approximately 30% of the beneficiaries were micro and small companies, for which it was difficult to

delegate appropriate human resources to the project. There is a high rotation of R&D staff, as well as a shortage on the labour market of employees with the required qualifications.

A limited number of start-ups with high innovation potential (especially those created on the basis of solutions developed at universities and research institutes) and a limited number of VC fund management teams were identified.

Despite positive signals about the rapid development of the VC market in Poland, the analysis points to its structural weaknesses, such as[4]:

- insufficient supply of capital at later stages of the innovative companies' development,
- lack of a sufficient number of large institutional investors that would inject significant private funds into the VC market,
- not all newly established management teams are able to offer companies not only capital, but also sufficient support in their further development,
- too few large-cap funds. The VC market in Poland therefore still needs support. The scale of investment in the VC sector is too low in relation to the potential of the Polish economy.

Activities foreseen in the EFSE Programme

The EFSE in the area of innovation development and R&D activity will have an impact on:

- increasing the productivity of the economy, by creating strong incentives for enterprises to engage in R&D activity, especially within Priority 1,
- increasing the number of innovative enterprises (the support will be directed both to entities already active in terms of innovativeness and to new or inactive companies in the area of R&D&I),
- developing competencies of entrepreneurs in the area of smart specialisation, innovative business models, technology transfer and innovation management, strengthening the potential of clusters, research organisations and innovation centres,
- increasing the implementation of R&D projects in the formula of problem-driven research, in particular innovation partnerships and pre-commercial procurement,
- the potential of the Polish start-up market and the VC market,
- increasing the level of cooperation between enterprises, thanks to the use of synergy of European and national support,
- development of the potential of the science sector, in particular in terms of cooperation with companies and technology transfer.

Indicators for assessing EFSE interventions in the area of economic development, innovation and R&D

The following macroeconomic indicators are expected to be affected:

- R&D expenditure in relation to GDP[5].

Value for 2020 indicated in the Strategy for Responsible Development (SRD) - 1.7%.

Value achieved, according to the Statistics Poland (GUS) and Eurostat - 1.39%[6].

Value projected for 2030, according to the SRD - 2.5%.

- Business sector R&D expenditure in relation to GDP[7].

Value for 2020 indicated in the SRD - 0.8%.

Value achieved, according to the Statistics Poland and Eurostat - 0.88%[8].

Value for 2030 - 1.3%.

- Share of innovative enterprises in the total number of industrial businesses.

Value achieved in 2020 according to the Statistics Poland data - 31.4%[9].

Value for 2030 - 35%**[10]**.

The EFSE is not the only factor determining the achievement of the above indicators over the projected timeframe. The scale and extent of the EFSE impact on their achievement will be verified during the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

Challenges related to technology transfer

Cooperation between science and business remains one of the main obstacles to increasing Poland's innovativeness, as indicated among others by the Council Recommendations on the 2020 National Reform Programme of Poland**[11]**.

Polish experience shows that in the process of innovation diffusion, the role of technology transfer centres remains limited**[12]**, they focus on a narrow portfolio of provided services**[13]**, and successful commercialisation often takes place bypassing technology transfer units**[14]**.

A low awareness of the importance of commercialisation for a modern university is evident among the senior administration of Polish and foreign higher education institutions (HEIs)**[15]**. To date, the academic career path has been largely based on generating publications and less on creating commercially useful solutions. The social and economic impact of research receives little attention**[16]**, as teaching and administrative obligations to the university take priority for academics.

The mechanisms for verifying scientific competence are much better recognised in the scientific community than assessing the credibility of a team member with business competence**[17]**, which translates into difficulties in creating spin-off teams. The Law on Higher Education and Science, adopted in 2018**[18]**, has increased the role of technology transfer in a broad sense, including commercialisation revenues and services provided to external parties, in the overall assessment of scientific entities. In the long term, this should change the perception of the role of technology transfer in research organisations.

HEIs in Poland have low revenues from knowledge transfer, including licensing and technology sales, despite an increase in patent applications. Private R&D expenditures of universities in 2019 amounted to 0.02% of GDP, which is below the EU average - 0.03% of GDP**[19]**. Factors influencing this include risk aversion and difficulties in valuing intellectual property**[20]**, lack of identification of thematic and research areas that have the potential for commercialisation**[21]**. A barrier to commercialisation is also the low level of technological readiness of solutions developed at HEIs and the lack of funding for prototyping or preclinical research**[22]**.

Joint R&D projects between the science and business sectors are not quite common, nor are joint publications or joint participation in patenting solutions. In 2018-2020, industrial enterprises active in innovation most often undertook cooperation with companies outside their own group of enterprises from Poland (67.4%), as well as with universities from Poland (39.1%), entities belonging to their own group of enterprises (34.9%) and with public research institutes (25.6%). Innovation-active service enterprises most often undertook cooperation with companies outside their own group of enterprises from Poland (72.2%), entities belonging to their own group of enterprises (38.7%), universities (23.1%) and with public research institutes (13.5%)**[23]**.

In 2018-2020, only 7.4% of innovatively active enterprises collaborated with universities**[24]**. In 2021, publications created jointly by science and business are only 67 publications per million people, when the EU average is 127, and among neighbouring countries it is 154.4 in the Czech Republic, or 126.1 in Hungary**[25]**.

Experiences from the SG OP

The support of the SG OP showed the need for:

- professionalisation of the activities of technology transfer centres, due to the different level of quality of the services provided and their effects,
- long-term support for these entities so that they can maintain a stable, high-quality offer for entrepreneurs,
- support for such projects at earlier stages of development (in particular research teams and spin-off

companies) by shaping their business skills, preparing commercialisation paths, and through small grants for fine-tuning the idea in cooperation with the Proof-of-Concept (PoC) fund.

Activities foreseen in the EFSE Programme

Among other things, the EFSE will:

- support the professionalisation and expansion of the activities of technology transfer centres, as well as develop the competences of research centre managers,
- help research organisations to generate higher revenues from commercialisation, contract research services,
- improve the competences of researchers in business management and collaboration.

Indicators for assessing EFSE interventions in the area of technology transfer The following macroeconomic indicators are expected to be affected:

- **R&D expenditure in relation to GDP.**

Value indicated in the SOR for 2020 - 1.7%

Value achieved, according to the Statistics Poland (GUS) and Eurostat - 1.39%**[26]**.

Value indicated in the SOR for 2030 - 2.5%

- **Business sector R&D expenditure in relation to GDP.**

Value indicated in the SOR for 2020 - 0.8%

Value achieved, according to the Statistics Poland (GUS) and Eurostat - 0.88%**[27]**.

Value indicated in the SOR for 2030 - 1.3%

The strengthening of technology transfer will be verified on the basis of indicators reflecting R&D activity in Poland, including entrepreneurs.

On the supply side, the indicator will refer to the revenue of research organisations from commercialisation - the target value will be defined later.

The EFSE is not the only factor determining the achievement of the above indicators over the projected timeframe. The scale and extent of the EFSE impact on their achievement will be verified during the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

Challenges related to the implementation of EGD in Poland

The EGD includes an action plan to enable a more efficient use of resources by transitioning to a circular economy (CE), climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, and pollution prevention and control.

Analyses indicate low awareness among the Polish public, including companies, of the need to contribute to achieving climate neutrality or the benefits of a green transition for their business.

A study by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED)**[28]** shows that the most important barriers for the development and implementation of CE solutions include:

- low awareness of market participants (both consumers and producers),
- insufficient knowledge (competence gaps),
- insufficient resources (including financial).

According to the EU Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP), '(...)supporting research and innovation will be a major incentive for such a transformation and will also contribute to the competitiveness and to the modernisation of industry in the EU'.

Experiences from the SG OP

The SG OP did not implement instruments aimed directly at CE and green transformation. Projects addressing these issues could be co-financed if submitted in competitions. In CT 1 instruments, support was granted to projects in line with National Smart Specialisations (NSS). One of the specialisations was

NSS 7 - Circular economy.

SG OP projects had to demonstrate compliance with horizontal principles such as sustainability.

Activities foreseen in the EFSE Programme

Strategy documents[29] suggest that EFSE support should focus on:

- reducing energy consumption/reducing CO₂ emissions (energy efficiency),
- circular economy,
- reducing exploitation of resources.

The EFSE in the area of green transformation focuses on supporting:

- creation and dissemination of new business models and frameworks for the operation of enterprises,
- introduction of eco-innovation and eco-design, improvement of resource efficiency in the economy,
- raising entrepreneurs' awareness about the environmental and economic benefits of implementing eco-innovation and increasing the use of RES,
- consultancy services for environmental assessment of products and identification of business areas with a view to their change to the CE model, activities popularising CE,
- IPCEI projects in the area of hydrogen technologies and systems, batteries, as well as new high-technology initiatives to support the green transition,
- investments in business transformation in the area of energy efficiency,
- use of innovative procurement, in the area of sustainable development, greening of enterprises, CE, low-carbon and energy policy.

An important element of the environmental transition is the **DNSH (Do No Significant Harm) principle**, defined in Article 17 of Regulation 2020/852[30] and also included in Article 9(4) and recital 10 of Regulation 2021/1060[31] and in recital 6 of Regulation 2021/1058[32]. All instruments financed by EU funds must comply with this principle, which relates to the 6 environmental goals.

The EFSE's areas of intervention, i.e. reduction of energy consumption/CO₂ emissions (energy efficiency), CE, reduction of resource exploitation, fit into the 6 environmental goals of the DNSH.

The assessment of the fulfilment of the DNSH principle at the level of the EFSE Programme was prepared on the basis of the European Commission (EC) note[33] and the DNSH guidelines for the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)[34]. Each type of action identified in each priority and specific objective was assessed and referred to each of the 6 environmental goals. The assessment did not recognise any instruments in the Programme that are not DNSH compliant. For the identified potential environmental threats, mitigation measures were proposed to eliminate or minimise the negative environmental impacts.

The Programme will not support projects that are not compatible with the DNSH principle, i.e. those that will harm the environment. In addition, preference will be given to projects concerning eco-innovation or undertakings prepared in accordance with eco-design principles.

Indicators for assessing EFSE interventions in the area related to the implementation of the EGD in Poland

The following macroeconomic indicators are expected to be affected:

- **Eco-innovation Index of Poland**

Value in 2021 - Poland in the group of Countries catching up with Eco-I[35].

Value for 2030 - Poland will join the group of Average Eco-I performers by the end of 2030.

- **Material reuse rate**

Value in 2020 - 9.9%[36]..

Value for 2030– 19.8%[37].

With regard to the above-mentioned indicators, a separate study will estimate the potential contribution of the EFSE to the achievement of the targets. First verifications of these estimates may be carried out during the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

- **Increase in awareness/improvement of environmental competences as counted by the number of supported enterprises**

Value in 2020 - 0 (indicator was not monitored).

Value for 2030 - 8,000 enterprises.

The EFSE is not the only factor determining the achievement of the above indicators over the projected timeframe. The scale and extent of the EFSE impact on their achievement will be verified during the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

Challenges related to digitisation, economy 4.0

The EU's digital strategy indicates that the most important areas in digital transition include investing in the digital skills of all Europeans, protecting people from cyber threats, ensuring the development of artificial intelligence in a way that respects human rights and gaining people's trust[38].

The recommendations in the CSR 2019 indicate a priority investment need to enable citizens, enterprises and public authorities to benefit from the opportunities of digitisation. This can be done through, among other things: supporting the adoption of digital technologies by SMEs to increase their productivity and efficiency; promoting upgrading of digital skills, acquisition of new qualifications and re-skilling to bridge the gap between the demand for and availability of workers with relevant digital skills.

The Productivity Strategy 2030 indicates that the basic barrier for digital transition of the Polish business sector is ignorance of technological trends occurring globally and, consequently, a feeling of apparent security within business operations. The Integrated Skills Strategy 2030 also identifies digitisation as one of the key challenges.

Significant challenges addressed in the EFSE include:

- raising the level of knowledge among enterprises regarding the practical application of digital solutions,
- setting up a consultancy system where suitably qualified specialists can demonstrate to a company the tangible benefits associated with embarking on a path of digital transition as well as the dangers of ignoring global change,
- financing investment in the area of business digitisation.

Experiences from the SG OP

In the SG OP instruments aimed at increasing the use of digital technologies in companies were:

- pilot activities under the Inno_LAB project:
 - awards for the best solutions in SME digitisation,
 - Industry 4.0 solutions in manufacturing enterprises;
- Measure 6.2 digitisation vouchers, prepared to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and to reduce the economic and social risks caused by the pandemic.

In addition, digitisation projects could be supported if submitted in competitions. In the CT 1 instruments, support was given to projects in line with the NSS, including NSS 10 - Smart networks and information and communication technologies and geoinformation technologies.

Activities foreseen in the EFSE Programme

By digital transition, we mean the process of adoption by companies of a broad catalogue of digital solutions for industrial production, service delivery and the application of business models.

The EFSE will support:

- creation of advanced digital solutions, their uptake and optimal use,
- investments related to the application of digital solutions within companies in production, processes, products, services and business model, as well as enhancing cyber security,
- technology and business advisory services as well as access to demonstration infrastructure to support companies in their digital transition,
- inclusion of companies in a cross-border Artificial Intelligence (AI) testing and experimentation network.

Indicators for assessing EFSE interventions in the area of digitisation and Economy 4.0

The following macroeconomic indicators are expected to be affected by EFSE:

- **Poland's position in the DESI ranking in the digital technology integration component**[39].

Value in 2021 - 24th place among EU countries in the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)[40].

Value in 2030 - 22nd place in the above-mentioned DESI ranking in the Digital Technology Integration component.

- **Number of robots per 10,000 employees in industrial processing**[41].

Value in 2019 - 46 robots per 10,000 employees in industrial processing (according to data from the International Federation of Robotics).

Value in 2030 - 135 robots per 10,000 employees.

- **Increase in awareness/improvement of environmental competences as counted by the number of supported enterprises**

Value in 2020 - 0 (indicator was not monitored).

Value for 2030 - 8,000 enterprises.

The EFSE is not the only factor determining the achievement of the above indicators over the projected timeframe. The scale and extent of the EFSE impact on their achievement will be verified during the mid-term evaluation of the Programme.

Main Programme rules

The EFSE will have a positive impact on Poland's achievement of the SRD goal to increase R&D expenditures to 2.5% of GDP in 2030.

PO 1 and PO 2 will co-finance the programme.

EFSE intervention in Policy Objective 1, Specific Objective SO1.1, will be in line with NSS to the extent referred to in Article 73.2.b of the CPR. In the remaining area, i.e. under SO1.2-SO1.3, a preference for NSS is foreseen depending on the type of instrument.

The main recipients of support under the Programme are entrepreneurs and research organisations, within the meaning of state aid rules. An enterprise is understood as an entity engaged in economic activity, offering goods or services on the market for a fee, regardless of its legal form. The term research organisation shall be understood as defined in Article 2(83) of the GBER, i.e. an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer.

Fundamental research will be excluded from support under the Programme.

The Programme will be implemented throughout Poland; therefore its effects should be considered through the prism of all types of Areas of Strategic Intervention (hereinafter: ASI). ASI may be given

special preferences in selected competitions, including medium-sized cities losing socio-economic functions and areas threatened with permanent marginalisation. In addition, instruments are envisaged for reducing innovation disparities between Polish regions, transferring experiences from R&D&I support between national and regional institutions and improving the innovation ecosystem.

Within the Programme's budget, around EUR 900 million will be earmarked for rural development or the agri-food sector. The detailed scope, form and amount of support allocated for these purposes will be determined at the preparation stage of the Detailed Description of the EFSE Priorities.

EFSE uses a wide range of support forms provided for in General Regulation 2021/1060:

1. Non-repayable (grants).

2. Repayable or combination of repayable financing plus grants (approx. 30% of the total programme allocation), including:

- equity instruments,
- guarantee instruments (combining support in the form of guarantees and grants in a single operation), mixed instruments (using partly repayable private financing in the form of a bank loan or equity investment and non-repayable ERDF funds),
- grants under conditions (partly repayable financing).

The type of funding is adjusted to the specifics of the projects. In the first (1) priority, all support modules, except for the module concerning the implementation of R&D results, are financed in the form of a grant. The grant in the R&D module can only be used for industrial research and experimental development in accordance with Art. 2(84) and (85) and Art. 25 of the GBER. The R&D infrastructure financed under the first priority is to be used for the implementation of industrial research and experimental development in accordance with the scope of the GBER. R&D works and R&D infrastructure projects are the riskiest undertakings for entrepreneurs in the innovation cycle, which results from the uncertainty of the works' effects and their commercialisation and the postponement of profits in time. The high level of risk, as well as the need for specialised knowledge to assess this type of undertaking, means that R&D projects are generally not financed by the banking sector. Financing part of the costs of projects involving R&D work and the development of R&D infrastructure in the form of grants reduces the level of risk and increases the propensity of entrepreneurs to implement projects in this area, which is essential from the point of view of the goals set for the EFSE. The complementary modules provided for grant funding are linked to the obligatory modules. Their implementation should increase the long-term effects of R&D work.

During the implementation stage of R&D results, the level of risk is lower than during the implementation of R&D work. Technological risk is already reduced, but market risk and uncertainty about the effects of commercialisation remain. A repayable grant is used to finance implementations, combining a non-repayable grant and a grant that will be partially repayable once conditions related to the effects of the implementation - e.g. revenues generated from the investment - are met.

Priorities 2 and 3 use support in the form of grants, financial instruments (equity and guarantee) and mixed financing, which combine private repayable financing and ERDF grants. Mixed financing is provided using commercial banks (innovation loan and green loan) or equity funds (BRIDGE Alpha). Project financing decisions are made using the unique competence of banks and equity funds to assess the economic potential and financial feasibility of investment-grade projects.

The EFSE institutional system takes into account the experience and capacity of the institutions to implement the support instruments. To avoid making changes to the programme for technical reasons, the MA may introduce changes to the institutional system, including the appointment of other Intermediate Bodies than those listed in the EFSE in the description of the individual priorities. The condition to introduce changes in the institutional system is to inform the EC in writing (without changing the EFSE).

The EFSE is complementary to the following programmes: national, regional and centrally managed by the European Commission, as well as the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). The EFSE targets all types of enterprises - primarily SMEs; and to a limited extent large enterprises. In contrast, the NRRP does not cover R&D activities or all NSS. In contrast, the NRRP does not cover R&D activities or all NSS.

The scope of EFSE support fits into the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)[42], directly in the policy area (PA) of Innovation and indirectly in areas where innovative technologies or research are mentioned, i.e. PA Transport, PA Nutri, PA Energy, PA Tourism and PA Health.

Support for research and development works and R&D infrastructure in the EFSE is in line with the European Research Area Policy Agenda (ERA Policy Agenda), in particular in the areas of mobility, international cooperation and excellence in science, green transition, increasing the availability and quality of research infrastructure. It is also planned to use synergies between cohesion policy and Horizon Europe.

Where appropriate, the EFSE can support investments that combine the principles of sustainability, aesthetics and integration of the 'New European Bauhaus' initiative to find affordable, inclusive, sustainable and attractive solutions to climate challenges.

The durability period of the projects will be in line with the CPR, i.e. 5 years for large companies, 3 years for SMEs.

Provided that the requirements set out in the provisions of the CPR (2021/1060) are met, the EFSE may support projects phased from the SG OP and reported in the final report.

[1] Resulting from Polish and EU strategic documents.

[2] Assessment of the administrative burden of beneficiaries of the Smart Growth Operational Programme (SG OP) 2014-2020.

<https://www.poir.gov.pl/strony/o-programie/raporty/opracowania-i-analizy/#!/domyslne=1/strona=2>.

[3] Ibidem.

[4] <https://www.vcleaders.com/thought-leadership/ecosystem-profile-picture-poland>.

[5] As per the SRD.

[6] Research and development activities in Poland in 2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2021 and Eurostat:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/RD_E_GERDTOT__custom_2590761/default/table?lang=en.

[7] As per the SRD.

[8] Research and development activities in Poland in 2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2021 and Eurostat:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/RD_E_BERDINDR2__custom_2590931/default/table?lang=en.

[9] Innovative activities of enterprises in 2018-2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2022.

[10] Value estimated by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (MFiPR).

[11] [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020H0826\(21\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020H0826(21)&from=EN).

[12] *Knowledge transfer at universities: Can technology transfer offices, business incubators and science and technology parks in Poland provide good support services*, Katarzyna Łobacz, 2018, The European Journal of Service Management.

[13] *Peer Review Poland's Higher Education and Science system*, 2017, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

[14] Diagnosis of the state of technology transfer through SPVs (special purpose vehicles) using the experience to date of the SPIN-TECH Programme of the National Centre for Research and Development, 2016, NCRD evaluation.

[15] *Ten Things Heads of Institutions Should Know about Setting Up a Technology Transfer Office*, Lita Nelsen, 2007, Intellectual Property Management in Health and Agricultural Innovation a handbook of best practices.

- [16] *Background Report Peer Review of the Polish Research and Innovation System*, 2017, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.
- [17] The commercialisation of scientific research, a view of investors and academics, Jan Urmański, 2016: https://archiwum.ncbr.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/import/other/raport_komercjalizacja_badan_2016.pdf.
- [18] The Law on Higher Education and Science, Journal of Laws of 2022, item 574, 583,655, 682.
- [19] https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/RD_E_GERDFUND__custom_3025643/default/table?lang=en.
- [20] The commercialisation of scientific research, a view of investors and academics, Jan Urmański, 2016: https://archiwum.ncbr.gov.pl/fileadmin/user_upload/import/other/raport_komercjalizacja_badan_2016.pdf.
- [21] Diagnosis of the state of technology transfer through SPVs (special purpose vehicles) using the experience to date of the SPIN-TECH Programme of the National Centre for Research and Development, 2016, NCRD evaluation.
- [22] Ibidem.
- [23] Innovative activities of enterprises in 2018-2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2021.
- [24] Ibidem.
- [25] <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/45894/attachments/2/translations/en/renditions/native>.
- [26] Research and development activities in Poland in 2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2021 and Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/RD_E_GERDTOT__custom_2590761/default/table?lang=en.
- [27] Research and development activities in Poland in 2020, Statistics Poland (GUS), Warsaw, Szczecin, 2021 and Eurostat: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/RD_E_BERDINDR2__custom_2590931/default/table?lang=en.
- [28] 'Assessing the need for enterprises to support the circular economy'.
- [29] Recommendations resulting from the 'Environmental Analysis for the EFSE', and commissioned by the MFIPR in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology (MRiT).
- [30] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32020R0852>.
- [31] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32021R1060>.
- [32] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1058>.
- [33] Commission explanatory note - Application of the 'do not significant harm' principle under Cohesion Policy.
- [34] [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/PL/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218(01)).
- [35] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/indicators/index_en.
- [36] Statistics Poland (GUS) data: https://sdg.gov.pl/statistics_nat/12-1-c/.
- [37] The goal of doubling the value of the indicator by 2030 stems from the EU's new Circular Economy Action Plan for a cleaner and more competitive Europe (COM/2020/98 final).
- [38] https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/shaping-europe-digital-future_pl.
- [39] Productivity Strategy 2030.
- [40] Data according to <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/desi>.
- [41] Productivity Strategy 2030.

[42] <https://www.gov.pl/web/gospodarkamorska/strategia-ue-dla-regionu-morza-baltyckiego>

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and related policy responses

Table 1.

Policy goal or specific objective of the JTF	Specific objective or separate priority *	Justification (summary)
<p>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity.</p>	<p>RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>	<p>Improving the innovativeness of the Polish economy requires increasing the R&D&I activity of enterprises and strengthening the cooperation between the enterprise and science sectors. It is essential to increase the use of green and digital technologies and to develop the cooperation between enterprises from the particular sector and research organisations in the above-mentioned areas. It is necessary to support SMEs and, to a limited extent, large enterprises to direct their development towards R&D&I activity. This is due to the low R&D effort of large enterprises and the low value of the BERD/GDP ratio compared to the EU. The EFSE provides for a higher intensity of support for SMEs than for large enterprises, in line with the limits set by the GBER. In SO 1.1 in Priority 1, we support R&D work of enterprises and their consortia, including with research organisations. This is complemented by support for research infrastructure, innovation deployment, greening, digitisation, competence and internationalisation. In SO1.1, Priority 2 supports the innovation environment, including cooperation projects between science and business for the commercialisation of research results. Priority 2 also focuses on support for capacity building of public administration, regions, clusters and innovation centres in the areas of NSS, digital and low-carbon industrial and business transformation, innovative business models, technology transfer</p>

Policy goal or specific objective of the JTF	Specific objective or separate priority *	Justification (summary)
		<p>and innovation management to provide services to entrepreneurs. Coordinated systemic actions are needed to support green technologies and the demand for them, as well as the development of a network of experts offering green support to entrepreneurs. This will be achieved mainly through the activities of Green Innovation Hubs. The competence of regions in supporting R&D projects in Inno_Regio_Lab will be raised. Support is targeted indirectly at companies, mainly SMEs. Through the need to increase the pace of digital and green transformation, support services for these types of transformation and innovation will also be offered to large entrepreneurs.</p>
<p>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity.</p>	<p>RSO1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities.</p>	<p>The actions implemented under SO1.2 of Priority 2 address the need to increase the benefits of digitisation for enterprises. An important part of the assistance available under SO 1.2 will be to support the digital transition of SMEs. The instruments identified in this part of the programme also address the challenges of digital transition of the economy. In doing so, they contribute to the implementation of the EU Digital Strategy and other EU and national strategies in this area. In particular, this applies to the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) and the Testing and Experimentation Facilities Artificial Intelligence (TEF AI) ecosystems dedicated to these issues. Support is targeted at enterprises, primarily SMEs, as well as large companies and EDIHs and TEF AIs, which will be tasked with providing high quality services to enterprises, particularly SMEs. Support under the EDIH and TEF AI instruments will be complementary to the funding provided by</p>

Policy goal or specific objective of the JTF	Specific objective or separate priority *	Justification (summary)
		<p>the EC under the Digital Europe Programme (DEP). As EDIHs and TEF AIs under the DEP will also assist large enterprises, support for these companies will also be provided in the EFSE. The services provided to SMEs will be free of charge, while those provided to large companies will be delivered at market price.</p>
<p>1. A more competitive and smarter Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity.</p>	<p>RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.</p>	<p>The implementation of specific objective 1.3 (SO1.3) has been planned under Priority 2 and focuses on supporting the development and competitiveness of SMEs. The instruments planned under this specific objective combine project financing with complementary support - advisory, promotional - and are therefore largely targeted at companies that have less potential and experience in innovative activity or see their development potential in other areas. Measures are also being implemented to promote the expansion of innovative enterprises through specialised programmes tailored to the development stage of innovative SMEs, enabling accelerated growth and expansion abroad, as well as meeting the challenges of digital and green transition. In addition, activities are planned to increase the internationalisation of SME enterprises that are struggling to maintain competitive advantages and operate in domestic and foreign markets. Support is directed primarily at the SME sector, while larger small mid-caps and mid-caps will be supported by a financial instrument named the guarantee fund. Indeed, access to finance is a significant barrier for this group of companies as well. Furthermore, through support instruments, these groups of companies should be encouraged to make</p>

Policy goal or specific objective of the JTF	Specific objective or separate priority *	Justification (summary)
		<p>investments with positive economic and social effects that go beyond the single enterprise. Thanks to the support offered, entrepreneurs will gain access to new sources of financing for pro-development investments, particularly those involving digital and green transition. The effects of the activities carried out will be measurable through evaluations carried out as part of the programme.</p>
<p>2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.</p>	<p>RSO2.1. Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p>Support for increasing energy efficiency in enterprises is an especially important element of the green transition of the Polish economy. Under this specific objective, it is planned to finance projects increasing energy efficiency of enterprises to the extent resulting from the conclusions of energy audits carried out or demonstrating energy efficiency on the basis of an analysis of investment implementation options, through a financial instrument supplemented with a grant and a mixed instrument. It is planned to provide guarantees for investment and working capital loans that increase the energy efficiency of enterprises and to supplement these guarantees by a small subsidy component to encourage businesses to implement projects. Subsidised loan financing combining private and public financing (so-called blended financing) is also intended. The support in the form of subsidies is expected to increase the creditworthiness of companies and thus increase the possibility of obtaining external financing for investment funding. Both SMEs and larger enterprises (small mid-caps, mid-caps) will be supported, as energy transition exists irrespective of the size of the company and the potential</p>

Policy goal or specific objective of the JTF	Specific objective or separate priority *	Justification (summary)
		positive environmental externalities resulting from the implementation of such projects by mid-caps or mid-sized companies can be particularly large. Grant support, complementary to the financial instrument, will vary according to the size of the enterprise.
2. A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.	RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E).	The support foreseen will include a research component and first industrial implementation in projects covered by public aid under the Important Projects of Common European Interest initiative, in particular in the field of hydrogen technologies and systems. The projects funded will fit into EU-wide value chains, increasing the uptake of modern energy technologies, in particular those based on the use of hydrogen. The thematic and subject-matter scope of the support will be in line with the range of projects included in the EC's IPCEI Decision in the area of hydrogen.

* Separate priorities according to the ESF+.

2. Priorities

Legal basis: Article 22(2) and 22(3)(c) of the CPR.

2.1. Priorities other than technical assistance

2.1. 1. Priority 1. Priority: 1. Support for entrepreneurs

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies(ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

The way Priority 1 has been designed, the so-called bottom-up approach, results from the needs reported by entrepreneurs concerning support provided directly to businesses (so-called tailor-made support) within the framework of the possibility to implement complex projects consisting of modules.

Comprehensive projects address the needs of entrepreneurs in the following areas:

- R&D works,
- implementation of innovations,
- development of R&D infrastructure,
- internationalisation,
- development of competencies of employees and company managers,
- digitisation of companies,
- 'greening' of enterprises.

The scope of the project is determined by the Applicant depending on the identified needs.

Support is directed at areas defined as national smart specialisations and, additionally, at emerging specialisations resulting from the process of entrepreneurial discovery, which is part of the monitoring process of the National Intelligent Specialisation (NSS). Consideration of emerging specialisations is aimed, among other things, at verifying their potential as smart specialisations, which, in the case of positive results, may lead to further updates of the NSS.

It is possible to provide support targeted at industries or sectors included in the NSS, which have a significant impact on the development of the economy, and which have been identified in strategic documents. Competitions organised under Priority 1 may be of a general nature or have a specific thematic scope (in particular taking into account recommendations of cooperating expert bodies, sectoral organisations, e.g. Sector Competence Councils, available results of studies and analyses, works of NSS working groups) or be addressed to a specific group of entities.

In the case of the implementation of projects by consortia (also with a research organisation or NGO), it is an obligatory condition that the consortium includes a company as consortium leader.

Support under Priority 1 is granted in a competitive mode. There is no division into activities under Priority 1. The only scope of support under this Priority are modules enabling the implementation of complex projects (tailor-made-measure). The applicant selects from the following catalogue those modules, which result from his/her needs - while one of the modules: R&D works or innovation implementation is obligatory (in the case of large companies, the R&D module is always obligatory). The remaining modules are optional. It is possible to support linear projects, which enable the innovative enterprise to go through successive stages of its development, as well as non-linear projects, in which individual modules respond to the identified needs of the entrepreneur in the R&D&I area, but their implementation is not dependent on each other.

It is possible to target support at challenges related to the implementation of the European Green Deal in Poland, with digital and social challenges, including measures to increase the accessibility of products and services for people facing cognitive and physical barriers.

The above means that EFSE Priority 1 will be implemented under two paths:

- 1) A general path, enabling support for projects defined by modules (obligatory and optional). This path will make it possible to co-finance projects of enterprises with a higher level of innovation.
- 2) Dedicated to support projects that will implement the assumptions of the EGD or related to digital or social challenges. In this path, a possible tool for the evaluation of selected criteria will be the use of algorithms. Within this path, competitions will be organised in which one of the three modules will be obligatory: implementation of innovation module, greening of enterprises or digitisation module).

Below is a detailed description of the support under each module in Priority 1.

R&D module

Under this module, the Applicant may obtain funding for all or selected elements of the research process - from industrial research, through experimental development, including creation of a demonstrator/prototype, testing it (also with involvement of end users), according to the scope provided for in the GBER. Within the framework of this project, multiple implementation of some stages of research and experimental development is allowed, if it is necessary to achieve results that can be commercialised. The result of the R&D module should be the development of an innovative solution that can be implemented in business. Implementation can be subsidised within the same project, in the module 'Implementation of innovation' or entirely from other funds.

Implementation of innovations module

Within this module, it is possible to finance the implementation of R&D work results in the enterprise's activity, in the form of innovative solutions, consistent with the areas of national smart specialisations, as well as other costs directly related to these implementations. R&D works can be financed within the 'R&D' module, financed from other resources or purchased by the Applicant.

R&D infrastructure module

Under this module, the Applicant may obtain funding for investments in infrastructure necessary to implement the research agenda for the creation of innovative products or services consistent with areas of national smart specialisations. The infrastructure must be used to carry out industrial work or experimental development, as defined in the GBER. The research agenda can be subsidised under the 'R&D' module or realised entirely through other means.

Competences module

Implementation of R&D works, their results and introduction of innovations is possible when employees and management staff of the enterprise have appropriate skills. Support granted in this module allows for improvement of employees' and managers' competencies (related to R&D works), gaining new skills and qualifications, also qualifications included in the Integrated Qualification System (IQS), understood as a formal confirmation of possessed competencies by an authorized entity or qualifications and competencies recommended by Sector Competence Councils (also within dedicated competitions), in particular in the following areas: R&D, smart specialisation, industry transformation towards economy 4.0, technology transfer, innovation management, commercialisation of R&D work results, competencies in the field of internationalisation, industrial property protection, digitisation, climate policy, eco-design, circular economy, low-carbon economy, as well as competencies necessary to operate the research infrastructure financed under the comprehensive project.

Greening of enterprises module

The objective of the support offered under this module is the transformation of enterprises towards sustainability and a circular economy, including the development of new business models. The implementation of the module is intended to influence the change in the way companies think about their overall business activities, taking into account their environmental aspects and shifting to a circular model: from the selection of contractors and resources, through the design of products and services, to sustainable production and waste and product life cycle management. The module includes support for eco-design, conducting environmental and product life-cycle assessments (Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA)), Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) and implementation of the resulting recommendations and support for greening investments. The investments made should give a significant contribution to environmental objectives.

Digitisation module

The support is intended to finance investments related to the application of solutions aimed at digitisation of production, processes, products, services and the business model in an enterprise. It will also be used to increase the level of cyber security in companies. Funding will be available for the implementation of specialised ICT solutions in the enterprise, while expenditure on the purchase of office and accounting software and operating systems for personal computers using commonly known and available technologies will be excluded from the possibility of obtaining it.

Internationalisation module

The aim of the support offered within this module is foreign promotion of the enterprise's products or services. Support in this respect may concern, among others, commercialisation of the R&D work results abroad, participation in international supply chains, promotion of products or services on foreign markets, obtaining protection of industrial property rights outside Poland or their defence. The cost limit for expenditures in the aforementioned module will be specified in the project selection criteria.

All modules were assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

The main recipients of support are entrepreneurs (SMEs and large companies, including small mid-caps and mid-caps), consortia involving companies, NGOs, other entities, e.g. research organisations.

Support is directed primarily to enterprises from the SME sector, which are mostly affected by barriers in R&D&I activity. Due to the low level of R&D and innovation activity of large enterprises, compared to other EU countries, and in accordance with the CPR, support will also include small mid-caps, mid-caps and other large companies. Support for productive investments of enterprises other than SMEs and small mid-caps will be conditional on the need to cooperate with SME companies. A maximum of 25% of the Priority 1 allocation will be earmarked to support projects carried out independently by large enterprises under the conditions formulated above. The share of the allocation earmarked for large companies will be monitored during the implementation of the programme.

Support is provided by 2 Programme Institutions (PI), to which projects are assigned depending on the type of Applicant:

- PAED ,
- NCRD.

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the horizontal principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR)

procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. The participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the Monitoring Committee. The principle of equal opportunities will be implemented taking into account universal design.

Research shows the need to increase support for people with special needs. In SO1.1 there will be competitions, with a dedicated allocation targeting availability, or accessibility bonus criteria introduced.

Measures promoting equal opportunities or bonus criteria or measures promoting the involvement of women, in particular young ones, will be implemented. In the competence module, activities will be foreseen to raise knowledge and awareness on, among other things, the benefits of diversity management, the development of female managerial attitudes, the avoidance of stereotypes.

As far as it is justified by the scope of the project, projects will be required to make newly developed products, services and infrastructure accessible, as well as WCAG digital accessibility.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (DDP), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the EFSE cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

An important and current territorial challenge at EU and PL level remains the increasing disparity in regional development (measured in GDP per capita). Differences are mostly visible at the sub-regional and local level. Areas with unsatisfactory macroeconomic parameters can be found in both less developing regions and More developed ones.

It has become crucial in this context to programme interventions combining different sources of funding in such a way that they are as responsive as possible to the needs of individual territories, building on and developing existing potentials.

The territorial dimension of development policy is implemented by identifying areas of strategic intervention (ASIs), which are characterised by a set of social, economic or spatial conditions and features that determine the existence within their territory of development barriers or sustainable, activable growth potentials.

Taking into account the above, thematic competitions will be allowed in Priority 1, e.g. dedicated to projects implemented in the area of medium-sized towns losing socio-economic functions or areas threatened by permanent marginalisation, e.g. in the path designated to support projects addressing social challenges.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Under Specific Objective 1.1 (SO 1.1) of Priority 1, support will focus on activities related to increasing research activity of enterprises and their consortia, strengthening cooperation between the business and science sectors, as well as support for research infrastructure, implementation of R&D work results and introduction of innovations. The implemented projects will be in line with EUSBSR, in particular in the PA: Innovation in the scope of activities, i.e. 1. challenge-driven innovation, 2. digital innovation and transformation, 3. co-creative innovation. Projects may include collaboration in innovation, research and digital transition, in joint projects, in the development of joint solutions and projects undertaken in the areas of R&D, internationalisation, research and implementation projects for the environment and competence enhancement projects. Cooperation can occur between enterprises, between enterprises and research centres and between domestic and foreign centres. Under EFSE specific objective 1.1, cooperation will be possible within the EUSBSR Policy Areas, primarily PA innovation area, which includes activities: 1. challenge-driven innovation, 2. digital innovation and transformation, 3. co-creative innovation.

In the above-mentioned area of EUSBSR, the Programme envisages at least one thematic competition (on R&D or innovation implementation) with a separate allocation, in cooperation with at least one country from the EUSBSR macro-region.

At the same time, within the scope of support covered by EFSE Priority 1, cooperation with other EU and non-EU Member States is planned, in particular in the field of smart specialisations and digital and green transition, e.g. in the form of thematic competitions or premiums in the criteria system.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(vii) of the CPR

Support in the form of a grant and a partly reimbursable conditional grant.

All modules (except for the implementation of R&D results), are grant-funded due to:

- the need to encourage companies (including non-innovative ones) in R&D activities,
- the high risk of R&D projects, which means that they are generally not financed in a repayable form (e.g. by banks),
- the complex nature of projects, which increases the risk for the beneficiary but also positively influences the effects of the R&D works carried out,
- the need to encourage companies, mainly SMEs, to implement activities related to green and digital transition.

R&D in enterprises carried out using R&D infrastructure will include industrial research and experimental development in accordance with the scope set out in Regulation 651/2014 (GBER).

A partly repayable form (grant under condition) is used to finance the implementation of R&D results. Part of the support (min. 50%) is repayable.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	7.00	144.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	7.00	144.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	1.00	26.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE	6.00	91.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations	0.00	7.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR	2,428,451.00	34,908,981.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	1.00	21.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	0.00	21.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	0.00	36.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	13.00	290.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	13.00	290.00

1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	2.00	52.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE	13.00	184.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations	1.00	13.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR	4,856,902.00	69,817,962.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	2.00	43.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	1.00	44.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	2.00	74.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	93.00	2,031.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	93.00	2,031.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	17.00	362.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE	90.00	1,285.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations	4.00	93.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR	33,998,311.00	488,725,734.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	14.00	298.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	5.00	303.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	11.00	516.00

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	626.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	228,426,635.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	84.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises	0.00	2021	88.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	37.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR07	Trademark and design applications	trademark and design applications	0.00	2021	10.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	467.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	4.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	31.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	1,253.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	456,853,271.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	170.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises	0.00	2021	176.00	CST	

										2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	74.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR07	Trademark and design applications	trademark and design applications	0.00	2021	22.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	934.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	7.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	63.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	8,771.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	3,197,972,894.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	1,188.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR05	SMEs innovating in-house	enterprises	0.00	2021	1,230.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	517.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR07	Trademark and design applications	trademark and design applications	0.00	2021	152.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	6,536.00	CST 2021	
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	49.00	CST 2021	

1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	438.00	CST 2021	
---	--------	------	----------------	---------	---	-----	------	------	--------	----------	--

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	009. Research and innovation activities in micro-enterprises, including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	11,764,706.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	125,817,647.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	112,623,529.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	4,205,882.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	030. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and business-to-business cooperation focusing on a circular economy	1,941,177.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	009. Research and innovation activities in micro-enterprises, including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	23,529,412.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	251,635,294.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	225,247,059.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	8,411,765.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	030. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and business-to-business cooperation focusing on a circular economy	3,882,353.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	009. Research and innovation activities in micro-enterprises, including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	164,705,882.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	1,761,447,059.00

			developed		
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	1,576,729,412.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	58,882,353.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	030. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and business-to-business cooperation focusing on a circular economy	27,176,470.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			4,358,000,000.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	256,352,941.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	512,705,883.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	3,588,941,176.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			4,358,000,000.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	256,352,941.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	512,705,883.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	3,588,941,176.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			4,358,000,000.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	256,352,941.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	512,705,883.00
1	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	3,588,941,176.00
1	RSO1.1	Total			4,358,000,000.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.1. 1. Priority 2. Innovation-friendly environment

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies(ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

Support areas:

Increasing the capacity of the science sector to cooperate

The aim of the support is to mobilise individuals and institutions from the science sector to cooperate with business, as well as to cooperate internationally to increase the number of commercialised research results, to raise the competence of scientific teams in technology transfer, to increase the mobility of R&D staff. Implemented instruments include:

- **International Research Agendas** - supporting the establishment and development of world-leading research organisations and teams, working with a foreign partner and applying global best practice. The support will be a systemic instrument of stabilisation. The instrument is part of the support for Centres of Scientific Excellence in Poland and will continue in the following years, with national funds. The instrument is complementary to HE Teaming for excellence (ToE) competitions and can fund projects receiving SoE in ToE.
- **Team projects** - support for R&D work carried out in Poland by teams led by scientists from all over the world (or partly abroad), performed in partnership with a foreign laboratory (led by academic units or companies) and an entrepreneur from Poland.
- **Cooperation of top research teams in the form of consortia in selected strategic areas** - support for the implementation of research agendas in areas identified on the basis of social and economic challenges.
- **Supporting the infrastructure of research organisations for the economy** - priority will be given to the use of existing infrastructure; support for projects from the Polish Roadmap for Research Infrastructures and projects meeting, inter alia, the criteria indicated in the Partnership Agreement; implementation of a research agenda in line with the NSS, taking into account in particular the areas of cooperation with enterprises. The investment includes the possibility of launching so-called '**learning factories**' and the training of staff/testing of new solutions by entrepreneurs. **An obligatory element of the projects is the development of competencies of scientific and research personnel** concerning, among other things, commercialisation of R&D results, technology transfer and innovation management.

Technology transfer

- Supporting preparation for commercialisation of technological solutions (including those created at universities and by research organisations), e.g. R&D and pre-implementation works; strengthening cooperation with enterprises also through cooperation with Sector Skills Councils, innovation centres, NSS working groups; long-term development of services of technology transfer centres and special purpose vehicles and raising awareness of managers of research organisations on the importance of commercialisation.

- Improving the business competences of research teams at universities and verifying their alignment with market needs, also through cooperation with Sector Skills Councils, innovation centres, NSS working groups.
- Instruments to develop spin-offs, including with private investors, as well as supporting the commercialisation of solutions developed by individual innovators. Teams and companies benefiting from commercialisation funding can then seek further support from development programmes and equity instruments.

Support for initiatives selected at European Union level

Support will be given to the best projects successfully validated in the calls for proposals carried out from the EU level:

- **Financing the Seal of Excellence projects** from HE or other EU programmes.
- **Support for IPCEI projects.**
- **Financing the projects carried out by Polish partners in NSS areas within the framework of S3 transnational partnerships.**

Alternative methods of financing R&D work

- **Joint research undertakings** - support for R&D projects of enterprises and research organisations, their implementation, jointly with partners (e.g. public entities, private actors, local governments, including international partners).
- **Grants for Eurogrants** for research organisations and entrepreneurs to prepare for applying for funding in centrally managed EU programmes.
- **Innovative Public Contracts** - new ways of financing R&D projects in the *problem-driven research* formula (using the innovation partnership mode and pre-commercial procurements). Funding will cover R&D work and technology demonstrators, particularly related to the European Green Deal. As a complement, we foresee the organisation of Grand Challenges open to interested innovators.

Pilot and monitoring projects, animations, networking

- **Inno_LAB** - designing and testing new forms of support for universally understood innovations, R&D and pro-innovative competences. The project, including animation activities, makes use of recommendations resulting from the work of the Sectoral Skills Councils and NSS working groups.
- **Projects on the National Smart Specialisation** - include the process of entrepreneurial discovery and monitoring of the evaluation of activities in the area of smart specialisations. We also envisage activities in the area of coordination and cooperation between the national and regional levels, as well as those aimed at increasing the involvement of Polish entities in international cooperation in the areas of NSS and RSS (Regional Smart Specialisation). The project, in particular in the work of the NSS working groups, uses recommendations resulting from the work of the Sector Skills Councils, and ensures the flow of information on smart specialisation to the Sector Skills Councils.
- **Inno_Regio_lab** project - support for regions in R&D&I capacity building through knowledge exchange and networking; analyses on business development, innovation and effectiveness of regional development policy; preparation of assumptions for support tools in regional policy. Recommendations coming from the work of the Sector Skills Councils, NSS working groups may be used in the project.

Development of enterprises through support of clusters

Support for clusters under the Programme focuses on Key National Clusters and development clusters of a supra-regional nature. It is primarily planned to strengthen human and infrastructural resources, test new services, build platforms and internationalise. Support is tailored to the level of cluster development and linked to the implementation of new services by clusters for companies, taking into account the recommendations of the Sector Skills Councils, as well as the results of the NSS working group activities.

Development of enterprises through support of innovation centres

Support is provided for activities of Innovation Centres (ICs) based on the **new model of the IO accreditation system** in the scope of specific functionalities, as well as activities of consortia of technological specialisations with the participation of ICs , i.e.:

- **support for the development potential of centrally accredited entities**, in connection with testing and implementation of new/improved services for entrepreneurs within the accredited functionality or technological specialisation,
- **support for the provision of high-quality pro-innovation services** by accredited **consortia**, including support for digital and green innovation hubs (DIH, GIH).

The ICs will take into account the cooperation with the Sector Skills Councils, as well as with the NSS working groups on the competences needed for the development of smart specialisation areas. All activities of the ICs support the transformation of the economy (including digital, green), stimulate the behaviour of entrepreneurs and motivate them to improve competences, in particular among companies from the SME sector.

Development of enterprises that commence innovative activities

The Programme supports activities aimed at enterprises commencing innovative activities that have no experience in implementing R&D projects financed from EU funds.

As part of the **Innovation Coach** information service, directions of development of potential Programme beneficiaries in the area of innovation will be identified and a diagnosis of their innovation potential will be prepared. Subsequently, Innovation Coach graduates will be able to benefit under the **INNOSTART** project from:

- **expert advice** on concept development and preparation of the first R&D project,
- financial support for the implementation of the first **R&D project on START**.

All instruments under the specific objective have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Support under SO1 of Priority 2 is mainly aimed at the following groups:

- research organisations,

- entities involved in technology transfer,
- research teams,
- individual researchers,
- entrepreneurs,
- cluster coordinators and members,
- Innovation Centres, including Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH), Green Innovation Hubs (GIH),
- BEI consortia of technological specialisations, led by the innovation centre.

It is possible for public institutions, as beneficiaries, to implement projects aimed at the above-mentioned target groups.

In addition, under SO1 of Priority 2, out-of-competition public administration projects are implemented, whose target groups are enterprises, research organisations, business environment institutions, socio-economic partners, regions.

Under Priority 2 of SO1, the function of Intermediate Bodies is performed by:

- National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD),
- Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED),
- Foundation for Polish Science (FPS),
- National Information Processing Institute - National Research Institute (NIPI -NRI).

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the horizontal principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. The participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the EFSE MC. Universal design will be taken into account within projects.

Research indicates risks associated with the possibility of discrimination of persons with special needs. Non-discriminatory conditions of employment and cooperation will be required. Services, documents and information will be accessible according to WCAG. Within the research infrastructure, accessibility will be ensured. Analysis and verification of products/services for accessibility will be required for technology transfer and commercialisation planning.

Measures will be implemented to promote equal opportunities for groups at risk of discrimination e.g. women, especially young ones.

As part of the pilot instruments, competitions will be implemented for groups at risk of discrimination. It will be possible to support diversity management competences, support of women's managerial competences, avoidance of stereotypes, etc.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (DDP), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the Programme cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

Taking into account the non-territorial nature of innovation and the specificity of R&D&I projects to be implemented under the Programme, as a rule the targeting of interventions on ASI is not foreseen in this respect. However, in the Programme, under the SO1.1 of Priority 2, it will be possible to provide support aimed at creating better organisational, legal and infrastructural conditions for the development of SMEs, through the development of the potential of public institutions to carry out interventions supporting the growth of enterprises.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Inter-regional, cross-border and transnational activities involving actors from other EU or non-EU countries are foreseen in thematic areas related to the NSS and representing Europe's most significant scientific, economic, environmental and social challenges:

- developing an international R&D cooperation network to support innovative projects and integration with regional and global innovation networks,
- inter-institutional exchange of knowledge and experience in building the innovation ecosystem, co-organisation of competitions with foreign partners, with the possibility of common application documents and criteria,
- supporting R&D&I projects of international consortia (including IPCEI and international doctoral projects of applied importance) and research teams, search for international investors,
- supporting participation of Polish entities in international undertakings under Horizon Europe, COSME, LIFE, Creative Europe and other EU programmes as well as in S3 or V4 transnational partnerships,
- direct supporting of projects selected under Horizon Europe co-funds in accordance with Article 73(4) of the CPR,
- international cooperation between ICs, clusters, DIH and GIH,

- international cooperation of institutions in Inno_LAB to exchange knowledge, good practices and networking: on smart specialisations, innovation policy, industrial policy, green economy and IC networking, through participation in peer-review meetings, study visits, conferences,
- programmes developing Polish talents to reduce the migration of professionals from Poland, carried out in international cooperation - in the framework of Inno_LAB for students to develop answers to socio-economic challenges with entrepreneurs,
- EUSBSR projects, in the Policy Areas: PA Innovation, PA Transport, PA Nutri, PA Energy, PA Tourism and PA Health - possible cooperation between institutions, enterprises and research organisations.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

The use of financial instruments (FI) is not foreseen. Projects consist of R&D, are carried out by international consortia or are complementary to grant support from central instruments, do not generate profits or savings or are consistent with a form defined at EU level (e.g. IPCEI). These are very risky projects. They are often implemented by beneficiaries who cannot obtain repayable funding (research teams, research organisations).

Repayable forms of funding are not possible in instruments implemented by public institutions. They have no direct financial benefit and are implemented for social reasons, including strengthening the innovation ecosystem. Also in the case of support for clusters and business environment institutions, support is non-repayable, due to the lack of a direct commercial purpose of the projects.

Some of the projects, especially those involving technology transfer from research organisations, will build the supply of projects for potential funding by financial instruments, primarily VCs.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	69.00	280.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	15.00	80.00

2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	55.00	206.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	0.00	9.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations	3.00	12.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR	85,261.00	19,115,585.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	1.00	5.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	1.00	4.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	6.00	18.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	138.00	559.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	30.00	160.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	110.00	411.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	1.00	17.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE	0.00	4.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations	5.00	23.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR	170,522.00	38,231,170.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises	2.00	9.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	3.00	8.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	12.00	36.00

2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises		964.00	3,916.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises		206.00	1,121.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises		771.00	2,877.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises		4.00	119.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO06	Researchers working in supported research facilities	Yearly FTE		0.00	29.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO07	Research organisations participating in joint research projects	research organisations		37.00	164.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO08	Nominal value of research and innovation equipment	EUR		1,193,655.00	267,618,189.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO10	Enterprises cooperating with research organisations	enterprises		14.00	65.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises		19.00	58.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises		84.00	256.00

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	23.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	8,884,481.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)	enterprises	0.00	2021	9.00	CST	

			developed		introducing product or process innovations					2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	31.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR08	Publications from supported projects	publications	0.00	2021	34.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	7.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	28.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	25.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	2.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	46.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	17,768,962.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	18.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	62.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR08	Publications from supported projects	publications	0.00	2021	68.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	14.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	55.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	50.00	CST	

										2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	5.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	325.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	124,382,737.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	129.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR06	Patent applications submitted	patent applications	0.00	2021	432.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR08	Publications from supported projects	publications	0.00	2021	475.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	97.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	386.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR102	Research jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	353.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	32.00	CST 2021	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	004. Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and innovation activities	28,411,765.00

2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	008. Investments in intangible assets in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and innovation activities	2,176,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	10,823,529.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	5,488,235.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	012. Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education institutions and competence centres, including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	14,470,588.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	1,176,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	014. Digitising large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	411,765.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	020. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including technological parks and industrial facilities)	1,411,765.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	023. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and the adaptability of businesses in the event of change	4,117,647.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	3,000,000.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	1,941,176.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	026. Support for innovation clusters, including between enterprises, research organisations and public authorities as well as between business networks, mainly benefiting SMEs	3,910,430.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	028. Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and the higher education sector	1,941,176.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	6,676,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	470,588.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	004. Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and innovation activities	56,823,529.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	008. Investments in intangible assets in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and	4,352,941.00

				innovation activities	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	21,647,059.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	10,976,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	012. Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education institutions and competence centres, including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	28,941,177.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	2,352,941.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	014. Digitising large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	823,529.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	020. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including technological parks and industrial facilities)	2,823,529.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	023. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and the adaptability of businesses in the event of change	8,235,294.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	6,000,000.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	3,882,353.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	026. Support for innovation clusters, including between enterprises, research organisations and public authorities as well as between business networks, mainly benefiting SMEs	7,820,860.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	028. Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and the higher education sector	3,882,353.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	13,352,941.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	941,177.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	004. Investment in fixed assets, including research infrastructure, in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and innovation activities	397,764,706.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	008. Investments in intangible assets in public research and higher education institutions, directly related to research and innovation activities	30,470,588.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	010. Research and innovation activities in SMEs, including networking	151,529,412.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	011. Research and innovation activities in large enterprises, including networking	76,835,294.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less	012. Research and innovation activities in public research centres, higher education institutions and competence centres,	202,588,235.00

			developed	including networking (industrial research, experimental development, feasibility studies)	
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	16,470,588.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	014. Digitising large enterprises (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	5,764,706.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	020. Business infrastructure for SMEs (including technological parks and industrial facilities)	19,764,706.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	023. Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition, entrepreneurship and the adaptability of businesses in the event of change	57,647,059.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	42,000,000.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	27,176,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	026. Support for innovation clusters, including between enterprises, research organisations and public authorities as well as between business networks, mainly benefiting SMEs	54,746,020.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	028. Technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and the higher education sector	27,176,471.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	93,470,588.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	6,588,235.00
2	RSO1.1	Total			1,469,277,310.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	86,428,077.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	172,856,154.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	1,209,993,079.00
2	RSO1.1	Total			1,469,277,310.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	86,428,077.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	172,856,154.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	1,209,993,079.00
2	RSO1.1	Total			1,469,277,310.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	86,428,077.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	172,856,154.00
2	RSO1.1	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	1,209,993,079.00
2	RSO1.1	Total			1,469,277,310.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.2. Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies, research organisations and public authorities

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

Activities implemented under SO2 of Priority 2 address the need for enterprises to gain the benefits from digitisation. An important part of the assistance available under SO2 will be to support the digital transition of SMEs. The instruments identified in this part of the programme also address the challenges of digital transition of the economy. In doing so, they contribute to the implementation of the EU Digital Strategy and other EU and national strategies in this area. In particular, this applies to the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH) and the Artificial Intelligence Technology Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF AI) ecosystems dedicated to these issues.

The instruments used have been divided into the following groups:

- **Supporting the digital transition of Polish SMEs** through advice focused on the needs and challenges of a given SME and concerning the application of digital technologies in the enterprise, as well as grants for the purchase and implementation of technologies supporting business operations. To tailor support to the needs of a given entrepreneur, broad access to training will be provided, as well as individual counselling through which profiled digital transition paths and necessary technology investments will be identified. Support for the acquisition of technology from an external source, e.g. in the form of intangible assets for IT solutions used for digital transformation in the enterprise, is aimed at broadening access to knowledge, reducing the cost of technology and other new solutions for Polish SMEs. Funding will be available for the implementation of specialised digital solutions in the enterprise. Expenditure on the purchase of office and accounting software and operating systems for personal computers using commonly known and available technologies will be excluded from the possibility of obtaining it. The possibility of purchasing fixed assets will also be extremely limited.
- **Co-funding of activities carried out by European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs).** Support will be complementary to the funding provided by the European Commission under the Digital Europe Programme. The objective of this instrument is to increase the competitiveness of companies during the process of digital transition, especially in the SME sector, where there is a significant need to increase the level of adoption, in business operations, of the latest digital solutions. As a result, the intervention will reduce the risk of SMEs becoming less competitive and prevent them from losing their market position. The European Digital Innovation Hubs will operate on a one-stop-shop model. In particular, the services offered by EDIHs are intended to enable a business to create a digital transition plan, to provide access to up-to-date expertise, and to provide an environment for testing solutions or experimenting with the latest technologies that are potentially crucial to the products the company produces, the services it offers, the processes it uses or the business models it adopts.
- **Co-funding of Testing and Experimentation Facilities of Artificial Intelligence.** The support will be complementary to the funding provided by the European Commission under the new Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF) instrument, under the Digital Europe Programme. The objective of this instrument is to increase the competitiveness of enterprises during the digital transition process in the area of artificial intelligence,

especially in the SME sector and, as a result, stimulate the behaviour of entrepreneurs and motivate them to improve their competence in this area. In particular, the services offered by TEF AI shall enable entrepreneurs to experiment, test and validate AI solutions in both virtual and real environments. At the same time, support for the creation of the TEF will allow to join the cross-border network of testing and experimentation of artificial intelligence, monitoring, validation and certification of this technology on the basis of technical, organisational and ethical standards and rules developed, also in Poland. Poland demonstrates the organisational and technical capacity to establish centres in the area of, among others: Edge TEF AI (hardware) for AI and sectoral systems: Agri-Food, manufacturing TEF, smart cities and communities TEF, and health TEF.

All instruments under the specific objective have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Support under SO2 of Priority 2 is mainly directed to:

- entrepreneurs,
- European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH),
- Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs).

It is possible for public institutions, as beneficiaries, to implement projects aimed at the above-mentioned target groups.

Under SO1.2 of Priority 2 the function of Intermediate Body is performed by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD).

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. The participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the EFSE

MC.

The principle of equal opportunities will be implemented taking into account universal design. A significant percentage of digitally excluded persons have been identified. The EFSE can improve the situation of a discriminated group, e.g. on the basis of age, which affects the exclusion from the digital economy of older persons and those with disabilities. Selected instruments will address non-discrimination and accessibility issues concerning the provision of available products/services by entrepreneurs. The EDIH projects will provide info-promotional, demonstration, advisory services aimed, inter alia, at increasing companies' awareness of the potential of digital technologies and the benefits arising from their use.

Equalisation measures will be proposed, including support for diversity management competences, avoidance of stereotypes and awareness-raising activities for companies to support groups at risk of discrimination in and through projects.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (DDP), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the EFSE cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

In the Programme, under SO1.2 it will be possible to support the digital transition of Polish enterprises through consultancy concerning the application of digital technologies in the enterprise, tests and experiments of artificial intelligence and grants for the purchase and implementation of technologies to support business operations.

Given the non-territorial nature and specificity of the projects planned to be implemented under SO1.2, targeting of interventions on ASI is not foreseen.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Potential areas of cooperation in interregional, cross-border and transnational projects are based on the investment guidelines contained in the Polish CSRs 2019 and 2020.

The Programme envisages support for inter-regional, cross-border and transnational activities involving entities located in at least one other Member State.

Under this specific objective, international activities will be undertaken in the form of inter-institutional cooperation, thematic cooperation, mechanisms to

support partnerships, in the area of EDIHs, TEFs AI - digital innovation hubs belonging to a pan-European network. EDIHs and TEFs AI will be supported both in the EFSE and under the EU Digital Europe Programme. This will enhance their capacity for activities with a clear European added value, based on the creation of a pan-European network and promoting the transfer of expertise (both between these actors and to the companies benefiting from their services).

Under Specific Objective 1.2, it will be possible to implement projects in line with the EUSBSR objectives, in particular in the Innovation Policy Area, covering activities: 1. challenge-driven innovation , 2. digital innovation and transformation , 3. co-creative innovation , as well as under other Policy Areas such as PA Transport, PA Nutri, PA Energy, PA Tourism and PA Health. Projects implementing EUSBSR objectives will be able to deal with international partnerships, inter-institutional cooperation, pan-European networking and knowledge transfer. Cooperation within the framework of inter-institutional exchange of knowledge and experience, including between enterprises and innovation centres, will also be possible. In the above-mentioned scope, the Programme assumes the possibility of implementing competitions with criteria favouring cooperation with entities from outside Poland, including from the EUSBSR macro-region.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

The intervention in Priority 2 under SO 1.2 is realised using grants. Analogically to the 'digitisation' module from Priority 1, projects in this area are financed using non-refundable support. Support offered is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of enterprises by raising the level of digitisation of various processes in companies. Support in the form of grants of a relatively small value (below the equivalent of EUR 200,000) is complemented by support of a brokering and advisory nature. In the case of EDIH and TEF AI projects, the grant form is also due to the complementarity of funding with EC central programmes.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	93.00	322.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	3.00	17.00

			developed						
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	91.00	308.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	93.00	322.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	186.00	643.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	6.00	34.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	182.00	617.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	186.00	643.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	1,304.00	4,504.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	40.00	241.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	1,272.00	4,319.00	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO009	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of digital technologies	enterprises	1,304.00	4,504.00	

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	809,967.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	79.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	234.00	CST 2021	

2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	1,619,934.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	158.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	468.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	11,339,537.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	1,109.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	RCR98	SMEs staff completing training for skills for smart specialisation, for industrial transition and entrepreneurship (by type of skill: technical, management, entrepreneurship, green, other)	participants	0.00	2021	3,280.00	CST 2021	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	6,947,059.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	13,894,118.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	013. Digitising SMEs (including e-Commerce, e-Business and networked business processes, digital innovation hubs, living labs, web entrepreneurs and ICT start-ups, B2B)	97,258,823.00
2	RSO1.2	Total			118,100,000.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	6,947,059.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	13,894,118.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	97,258,823.00
2	RSO1.2	Total			118,100,000.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	6,947,059.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	13,894,118.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	97,258,823.00
2	RSO1.2	Total			118,100,000.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	6,947,059.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	13,894,118.00
2	RSO1.2	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	97,258,823.00
2	RSO1.2	Total			118,100,000.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO1.3. Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments.(ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

Measures implemented under SO1.3 of Priority 2 address, inter alia, the need to support SMEs in the internationalisation of their activities. At the same time, an important part of the support available under SO1.3 are instruments supporting the development of innovative *start-up/scale-up* companies. Assisting this type of enterprises requires the application of various measures - from instruments supporting the creation of start-ups (popularisation and preparation for running one's own business, seed funding), through specialised support for the expansion and scaling of a selected group of start-ups (development programmes of an accelerator nature) to capital funding of innovative companies.

The implementation of the instruments under SO1.3 thus contributes to the EC's challenge set out in the Polish CSRs 2019 and 2020 aimed at increasing the competitiveness and internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The instruments used have been divided into the following groups:

Support for internationalisation

- **Supporting the promotion and internationalisation of innovative SMEs** - building competences and strategies for foreign expansion and tailoring products and services to specific markets, customer segments and sales channels.
- Support is planned for projects **increasing the export potential of companies** from the SME sector, based on participation of these entrepreneurs in prestigious exhibition events, which will contribute to including them in the ecosystem promoting the Polish brand and economy. This support, in the scope of promoting individual entrepreneurs, will be accompanied by systemic measures consisting of assistance in preparing enterprises for participation in selected, most prestigious events, as well as supporting the promotion of individual companies and branches important for increasing the innovativeness of the Polish economy and connected with national smart specialisations according to the scope of the CPR.

Support for the creation and development of innovative companies (start-up/scale-up)

- **Support for individual innovators.** Support will be addressed to a wide range of inventors and individuals interested in implementing innovative solutions, through the creation of an accessible and friendly space for experimenting, experiencing, testing, working on innovative solutions, as well as verifying the commercialisation, technological and business potential of ideas. This support is primarily intended to help individual innovators in identifying the optimal form of commercialisation of a given solution, e.g. by setting up a company or establishing cooperation with another entity involved in the implementation of innovations.
- **Development programmes for innovative companies (of an accelerator and post-accelerator nature):** specialised support for the development of a selected group of originators and start-ups, including foreign start-ups encouraged to develop their business in Poland and companies at a further stage of development.

Development programmes are intended to provide support tailored to the stage of development of an innovative company, including through support in the form of a grant, individualised substantive support by experts (business and technology mentoring, specialised services), including international ones, access to potential customers, investors (including at events such as hackathons, pitch-decks etc.), creation of conditions for the realisation of a trial implementation of a product/service, as well as support in the process of acquiring external funding (e.g. from VC funds) and in the internationalisation of activity (including trips to selected foreign markets in order to develop business and prepare a product for a specific market).

It is also possible, for large/medium companies, to implement a path that includes an educational strand and guides enterprises through the process of changing their business model from linear to circular. At the same time, it is offered to companies to look for technological solutions (e.g. among start-ups) that can be applied in the process of transforming the business model.

Financing innovative business activities using financial instruments and mixed instruments

- Equity instruments: funding of start-up/scale-up companies using venture capital funds and business angels, with a special focus on funding for R&D companies (both start-up companies in the finalisation stage of R&D work and more mature companies developing products/services through further research work). Equity funding is provided to companies by financial intermediaries (venture capital funds), with private contributions. In the case of high-technology companies carrying out R&D activities, it will also be possible to supplement equity financing with non-refundable support in the form of grants (within a single operation). The aim of the implementation of equity instruments under the Programme is not only to provide equity financing to innovative companies, but also to support the development of an ecosystem comprising such entities as seed/venture capital funds, corporate venture capital funds, networks of 'business angels'. Capital support will be complemented by legal support for SMEs aimed at securing the interests of entrepreneurs in the process of acquiring an investor. Start-ups that have developed innovative products or services to improve the quality of life of people with special needs will also be able to benefit from the available support.
- **The guarantee facility** is aimed at micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as well as small mid-caps and mid-caps who wish to obtain debt financing for the implementation of investments and/or for increasing the working capital necessary for the development of the company, and to ensure liquidity. The guarantee can be used by companies that are creditworthy in the assessment of a financial institution, but have difficulties in obtaining financing due to lack of or insufficient collateral for repayment of debt. The purpose of support in the form of guarantees is to facilitate entrepreneurs' access to investment loans for financing projects involving the implementation of new or improved product, process, organisational or marketing solutions identified at least at company level, or the implementation of business models based on automation, robotisation or digitisation of enterprises. In the case of guarantees securing the repayment of working capital loans (linked to an investment), the condition for access to financing will be that the enterprise meets at least one of the specified access criteria for identifying a so-called innovative enterprise (these conditions are, for example, use of intellectual property protection, possession of the R&D department, membership in a Key National Cluster). It is also available to combine support in the form of a guarantee with financing of part of the investment costs in the form of a capital grant or interest costs, in the form of an interest rate subsidy (within a single operation). For companies other than SMEs (small mid-caps and mid-caps), complementary support in the form of grants will only be able to cover interest subsidies, SMEs can benefit from interest subsidies (in the case of working capital loans) or capital subsidies (in the case of investment loans).

Instruments combining debt and grant financing (mixed). It is planned to continue the loan for technological innovations - an instrument combining debt financing of SMEs with the participation of commercial banks and non-repayable funding in the form of grants. This type of funding makes it possible to

increase the share of commercial banks in the financing of innovative ventures and, as a result, **increases the propensity of companies to finance innovative projects.**

All instruments under the specific objective have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Support under SO1.3 of Priority 2 is mainly directed to:

- SMEs, as well as small mid-caps and mid-caps under the guarantee facility,
- accelerators, including those run by NGOs.

In addition, out-of-competition projects of public administration, whose target groups are SMEs, individual innovators and financial instruments, are being implemented.

Under SO1.3 of Priority 2, the function of Intermediate Bodies is performed by:

- Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED),
- Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK).

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the horizontal principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. The participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the EFSE MC. The principle of equal opportunities will be implemented taking into account universal design.

The results of the studies show that in Poland there are restrictions for companies entering the market, especially innovative ones. As the analyses show, ERDF intervention may affect access to funding and advice due to the premise of age: young entrepreneurs. Therefore, an allocation will be set aside in the development programmes for competitions targeting groups at risk of discrimination.

The instruments selected will provide alternative forms of funding for such entities. Measures will be proposed to promote equal opportunities and to raise knowledge and awareness of the benefits of diversity management, shaping women's managerial attitudes, avoiding stereotypes.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (programme documents), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the Programme cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

In the Programme, under SO1.3 of Priority 2, it will be possible to provide support targeted at ASII, including areas at risk of permanent marginalisation and medium-sized towns losing socio-economic functions, in the form of a separate path of action aimed at new enterprises (acceleration), whose activity is based on new technological solutions (start-ups) and a friendly start-up ecosystem.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

The Programme envisages support for inter-regional, cross-border and transnational activities involving entities located in at least one other Member State and outside the EU:

- programmes implemented in agreement with foreign public agencies and accelerators, inter-institutional exchange of knowledge and experience in building an innovation ecosystem, e.g. in the form of: co-designing of instruments, creation of a network of mentors from a selected area of specialisation in a given market, co-organisation of joint competitions, preparation of Polish enterprises for international cooperation, integration into global value chains, joint internationalisation programmes for start-ups of the start-up exchange type;
- support for foreign start-ups planning to set up in Poland;
- - attracting to Poland from abroad renowned management teams of large venture capital funds using private capital from foreign institutional, financial or industry investors; partnership cooperation of environments (management entities, accelerator programme providers, investors, business angels) related to the VC sector in Poland and the EU;

- projects in line with the objectives of EUSBSR, inter alia in the following Policy Areas: PA Innovation, PA Transport, PA Nutri, PA Energy, PA Tourism and PA Health, concerning international partnerships, inter-institutional cooperation, knowledge exchange, networking - in the framework of inter-institutional ventures undertaken by enterprises and participation in projects supported by the programme funds of foreign investors.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

In SO1.3, repayable instruments are the main form of financing for projects implemented by companies. Equity instruments, guarantees complemented by a grant, instruments combining private repayable financing with a grant from the ERDF are also available.

The subsidy under the guarantee instrument and the blended instrument is intended to increase creditworthiness and thus encourage innovative projects. The guarantee instrument and the technology credit make use of:

- private funds available in the banking sector,
- the banks' competencies to evaluate projects.

Subsidies are planned for projects implemented by public institutions (economic promotion of Polish SMEs), as well as for the provision of development services for start-ups, which is to serve, among other things, to prepare such companies for cooperation with investors and to increase their pre-investment value. Non-reimbursable support is also planned to increase competencies regarding internationalisation and support for innovators - due to the advisory nature of the projects.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	57.00	246.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	37.00	146.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises	16.00	79.00

			developed					
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	8.00	51.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	3.00	62.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	1.00	10.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	115.00	493.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	74.00	291.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises	33.00	158.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	15.00	101.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	7.00	124.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	1.00	20.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	805.00	3,450.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	514.00	2,037.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises	228.00	1,109.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO04	Enterprises with non-financial support	enterprises	107.00	709.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO05	New enterprises supported	enterprises	48.00	866.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	9.00	139.00

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	145.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	46,259,498.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	74.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	24.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	3.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	289.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	92,518,995.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovations	enterprises	0.00	2021	149.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	48.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	7.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	2,024.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	647,632,968.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR03	Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process	enterprises	0.00	2021	1,040.00	CST 2021	

					innovations						
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR17	New enterprises surviving in the market	enterprises	0.00	2021	339.00	CST 2021	
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	48.00	CST 2021	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	021. SME business development and internationalisation, including productive investments	49,396,324.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	022. Support for large enterprises through financial instruments, including production investments	3,497,794.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	4,352,941.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	5,305,882.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	137. Support for self-employment and business start-ups	294,118.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	021. SME business development and internationalisation, including productive investments	98,792,647.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	022. Support for large enterprises through financial instruments, including production investments	6,995,588.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	8,705,882.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	10,611,765.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	137. Support for self-employment and business start-ups	588,235.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	021. SME business development and internationalisation, including productive investments	691,548,529.00

2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	022. Support for large enterprises through financial instruments, including production investments	48,969,118.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	024. Advanced support services for SMEs and groups of SMEs (including management, marketing and design services)	60,941,177.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	025. Incubation, support to spin offs and spin outs and start ups	74,282,353.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	137. Support for self-employment and business start-ups	4,117,647.00
2	RSO1.3	Total			1,068,400,000.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	24,738,236.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	02. Support through financial instruments: equity or quasi-equity	24,117,647.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	8,814,441.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	5,176,735.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	49,476,470.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	02. Support through financial instruments: equity or quasi-equity	48,235,294.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	17,628,882.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	10,353,471.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	346,335,294.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	02. Support through financial instruments: equity or quasi-equity	337,647,059.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	123,402,177.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	72,474,294.00
2	RSO1.3	Total			1,068,400,000.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	62,847,059.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	125,694,117.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	879,858,824.00
2	RSO1.3	Total			1,068,400,000.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	62,847,059.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	125,694,117.00
2	RSO1.3	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	879,858,824.00
2	RSO1.3	Total			1,068,400,000.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.1. 1. Priority 3. 'greening' of enterprises.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO2.1. Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.(ERDF)

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

Under the specific objective, actions are planned that will contribute to increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thus contributing to the objectives of the European Green Deal as well as the national strategy documents.

Mixed-instrument investment to increase energy efficiency in enterprises

An instrument (**Green Loan**) is being implemented, combining debt financing for SMEs and small mid-caps and mid-caps with the participation of commercial banks, and non-refundable funding in the form of grants. The objective of this measure will be to support the transformation of enterprises in terms of energy efficiency through the modernisation of their infrastructure, as well as the implementation of new or improved products, services in connection with the change of processes, enabling a significant reduction in energy consumption (e.g. electricity, gas) at the enterprise in question (processes) or at the end user (products, services).

Financing of enterprises' investments increasing their energy efficiency, using a guarantee instrument

Accelerating and scaling up the energy transition of enterprises in Poland requires ensuring adequate sources of financing for this process, including investments and other costs related to such a transition. In the EFSE, this task will be carried out, inter alia, through the guarantee facility.

Under Policy Objective 2, this instrument is intended to provide debt financing for investments to increase energy efficiency of enterprises, including modernisation of buildings, production lines, purchase of equipment to reduce electricity or heat consumption, increase the use of renewable energy sources, installations producing energy from renewable sources. It is also possible to finance investment costs and working capital to increase the energy efficiency of enterprises, including costs incurred by installers of energy-efficient solutions in connection with the performance of contracts for third parties (contracting parties). Funding will be provided through guarantees securing the repayment of bank loans. The guarantee can be used by companies that are creditworthy in the assessment of a financial institution, but have difficulties in obtaining financing due to lack of or insufficient collateral for repayment of debt. It is planned to combine support in the form of guarantees with financing of a part of investment costs in the form of a capital grant and interest costs in the form of an interest rate subsidy (within one operation). In the case of companies from outside the SME sector, complementary support in the form of a grant will be possible only in the form of an interest subsidy for loans (irrespective of the type of loan, i.e. working or investment loan), and in the case of SMEs, a grant will be possible both for interest costs (working capital loans) and a subsidy for a part of investment costs (investment loans).

The green transition of enterprises, involving the modernisation of existing economic activities towards greater energy efficiency, will be preceded by an energy audit to justify the need for and scope of the green solutions introduced, which can be financed in the form of a guarantee instrument with a grant component, or in the form of an environmental/green bonus, with the possibility of financing the costs of the energy audit.

In the case of new investment funding, an alternative to an energy audit may be a comparison of two potential variants of such an investment carried out by the applicant. The comparison of the variants should demonstrate the added value in the form of the environmental effect that could not be achieved without an increase in investment costs, as a result of the energy efficiency solutions. The added value of the new investment thus identified will justify the use of a guarantee instrument with a grant component or an environmental bonus.

All instruments under the specific objective have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Support under SO2.1 of Priority 3 is mainly directed to:

- entrepreneurs.

In addition, financial instruments are being implemented, aimed at:

- enterprises,

In SO2.1 of Priority 3, the function of the intermediate body is performed by the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), and in the case of some measures the involvement of the intermediate body is not foreseen.

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the horizontal principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. The participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the EFSE MC. The principle of equal opportunities will be implemented taking into account universal design.

The analysis did not reveal groups at risk of discrimination. Measures will be proposed to promote equal opportunities and to raise knowledge and awareness of the benefits of diversity management, avoiding stereotypes.

The research shows the need for climate change adaptation measures to improve the living conditions and quality of life of Polish citizens. Supported projects are expected to have a positive impact on the environment. Investments contributing to the improvement of energy efficiency through the modernisation of infrastructure in companies will have a positive impact on health and life expectancy and will indirectly reduce social exclusion and poverty. Caring for the environment will foster the creation of places that are safe for life and resilient to new crisis phenomena related to climate change.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (DDP), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the Programme cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

Under SO2.1 it will be possible to provide ASI-focused support, in the form of a preference for projects implemented under the Green Loan instrument, in areas at risk of permanent marginalisation and medium-sized towns losing socio-economic functions.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

SO2.1 foresees the possibility of supporting inter-regional, cross-border and transnational activities involving actors from other EU Member States or from outside the EU. To achieve specific objective 2.1, it will be important to develop networking and cooperation at international level, in the field of energy transition. Therefore, it is envisaged to carry out joint competitions with partners from other EU or non-EU countries, based on a common application documentation, including criteria for the evaluation of projects, or a dedicated thematic competition, or the implementation of a competition with criteria favouring cooperation in the field of energy transition.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

All activities under this specific objective shall be financed by means of repayable funding, i.e.:

- a guarantee facility supplemented by grant funding for part of the costs,
- a green loan using repayable-debt financing in the form of a bank loan, and a grant from the ERDF.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	14.00	43.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	6.00	20.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises	8.00	23.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	14.00	43.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRO023	Number of energy-modified buildings	pcs	3.00	9.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	29.00	87.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	13.00	40.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises	16.00	47.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	29.00	87.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRO023	Number of energy-modified buildings	pcs	6.00	17.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	202.00	608.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	91.00	282.00

			developed						
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCO03	Enterprises supported by financial instruments	enterprises		111.00	326.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises		202.00	608.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO023	Number of energy-modified buildings	pcs		38.00	119.00

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	42.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	42,087,614.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	RCR26	Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)	MWh/year	9,653.00	2021	6,757.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	52.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	84.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	84,175,228.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	RCR26	Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)	MWh/year	19,307.00	2021	13,515.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	104.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	587.00	CST	

			developed							2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	589,226,596.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	RCR26	Annual primary energy consumption (of which: dwellings, public buildings, enterprises, other)	MWh/year	135,145.00	2021	94,602.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	728.00	CST 2021	

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	038. Energy efficiency projects and demonstration projects in SMEs plus support measures	13,526,471.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	039. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in large enterprises and supporting measures	10,821,176.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	040. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs or large enterprises and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria	2,705,294.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	8,158,824.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	076. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in large enterprises	2,041,176.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	038. Energy efficiency projects and demonstration projects in SMEs plus support measures	27,052,941.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	039. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in large enterprises and supporting measures	21,642,353.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	040. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs or large enterprises and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria	5,410,588.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	16,317,647.00

3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	076. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in large enterprises	4,082,353.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	038. Energy efficiency projects and demonstration projects in SMEs plus support measures	189,370,588.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	039. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in large enterprises and supporting measures	151,496,471.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	040. Energy efficiency and demonstration projects in SMEs or large enterprises and supporting measures compliant with energy efficiency criteria	37,874,118.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	075. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in SMEs	114,223,529.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	076. Support to environmentally-friendly production processes and resource efficiency in large enterprises	28,576,471.00
3	RSO2.1	Total			633,300,000.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	27,052,941.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	6,426,000.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	3,774,000.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	54,105,882.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	12,852,000.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	7,548,000.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	378,741,177.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	04. Support through financial instruments: guarantee	89,964,000.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	05. support through financial instruments: grants under the financial instrument	52,836,000.00
3	RSO2.1	Total			633,300,000.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	37,252,941.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	74,505,882.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	521,541,177.00
3	RSO2.1	Total			633,300,000.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	37,252,941.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	74,505,882.00
3	RSO2.1	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	521,541,177.00
3	RSO2.1	Total			633,300,000.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.1.1.1. Specific objective RSO2.3. Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage outside the Trans-European Energy Network (TEN-E)(ERDF).

2.1.1.1.1. Interventions supported by the Funds

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(i), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) and (vii) of the CPR.

Related types of action - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+ Regulation:

Support for IPCEI projects - financing projects of Polish enterprises participating in the implementation of Important Projects of Common European Interest (so-called IPCEI projects). Under Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), IPCEI projects have, in the light of recent developments in the sector concerned, a clearly innovative character. Funding will be provided for projects falling under the specific objective related to the development of smart energy and grid systems as well as energy storage systems, in particular projects involving hydrogen technologies. The thematic and subject-matter scope of the support will be in line with the range of projects included in the EC's IPCEI Decision in the area of hydrogen.

All instruments under the specific objective have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Support under SO2.3 of Priority 3 is mainly directed to entrepreneurs.

Under SO2.3 of Priority 3, the National Centre for Research and Development acts as the Intermediate Body.

Activities to ensure equality, social inclusion and non-discrimination - Article 22(3)(d)(i) of the CPR and Article 6 of the ESF+

Compliance with the non-discrimination principles indicated in Article 9 of the General Regulation will be ensured through the project selection criteria. Their fulfilment will be a condition for receiving support. Projects will be selected and implemented in accordance with the horizontal principles regulated in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of Equality Principles under the EU Funds 2021-2027* and their annexes, i.e. EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (CFR) procedures, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and accessibility standards. It will be recommended to apply the provisions of the European Accessibility Act. Moreover, the participation of, among others, delegates of NGOs representing groups at risk of discrimination will be ensured in the Monitoring Committee. The principle of equal opportunities will be implemented taking into account universal design.

In SO2.3, the support foreseen will include a research component and the first industrial implementation, under the IPCEI initiative, of projects in the area of hydrogen technologies and systems. In this instrument, the analysis did not identify groups vulnerable to discrimination. However, projects must respect the principles of non-discrimination in accordance with the aforementioned laws and regulations and, to the extent possible, research processes should take into account the availability of the resulting technology and the results of the R&D work carried out.

Prior to the adoption of the Detailed Description of Priorities (programme documents), external experts will be commissioned to analyse disadvantaged groups and the diagnosed equality barriers will be taken into account when preparing the competition documentation.

Where the beneficiary is a local authority (or an entity controlled by or dependent on it) which has taken any discriminatory action contrary to the principles referred to in Article 9(3) of the Regulation 2021/1060, support under the Programme cannot be granted.

Indication of the specific territories targeted, taking into account the intended use of territorial tools - Article 22(3)(d)(v) of the CPR

Given the non-territorial nature and specificity of the projects planned to be implemented under SO2.3, targeting of interventions on ASI is not foreseen.

The interregional, cross-border and transnational actions - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Under SO2.3, IPCEIs on the development of smart energy systems and grids as well as energy storage systems, in particular hydrogen technologies, are being implemented. IPCEIs, as Important Projects of Common European Interest pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), are by their very nature transnational. These projects, which are approved by a decision of the European Commission, comprise a large number of different European projects that are integrated into a common structure, complementary and necessary to achieve common European objectives. The benefits of such projects are not only limited to a particular company or sector, but also constitute the foundations for building new value chains throughout the EU. Thus, they have European added value and contribute to increasing the competitiveness of the entire EU industry and solving pan-European challenges. Within the scope of the Programme, these projects are funded by the EFSE.

Under Specific Objective 2.3 (SO2.3), it will be possible to implement projects in line with the EUSBSR objectives, in particular in the PA Innovation, covering activities: 1. challenge-driven innovation, 2. digital innovation and transformation, 3. co-creative innovation, as well as under other PA such as Energy. Projects falling under EUSBSR will be able to address transnational initiatives aiming at achieving common EU goals in, among others, the use of modern energy technologies. Support will be directed in particular at entrepreneurs.

The planned use of financial instruments - Article 22(3)(d)(vii) of the CPR

The use of financial instruments is not planned as assistance will be provided to IPCEI projects for which support is the result of state aid approval by the European Commission.

2.1.1.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the Common Provisions Regulation and Article 8 of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

Table 2. Output indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	0.00	1.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	0.00	1.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	0.00	1.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO01	Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)	enterprises	1.00	2.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCO02	Enterprises supported by grants	enterprises	1.00	2.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	PLRO006	Number of enterprises receiving support in the field of transformation towards sustainable development	enterprises	1.00	2.00

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(d)(ii) of the CPR.

Table 3. Result indicators

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline or reference value	Reference year	Final target (2029)	Data source	Remarks
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	18.00	CST 2021	
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial	EUR	0.00	2021	2,062,128.00	CST 2021	

					instruments)							
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	35.00	CST 2021		
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	4,124,256.00	CST 2021		
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	1.00	CST 2021		
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR01	Jobs created in supported entities	Yearly FTE	0.00	2021	247.00	CST 2021		
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	RCR02	Private investments matching public support (of which: grants, financial instruments)	EUR	0.00	2021	28,869,796.00	CST 2021		
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	PLRR051	The number of pro-ecological undertakings	pcs	0.00	2021	2.00	CST 2021		

2.1.1.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(d)(viii) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	9,805,882.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	19,611,765.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	029. Research and innovation processes, technology transfer and cooperation between enterprises, research centres and universities, focusing on the low carbon economy, resilience and adaptation to climate change	137,282,353.00
3	RSO2.3	Total			166,700,000.00

Table 5. Dimension 2 - Form of financing

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	01. Grant	9,805,882.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	01. Grant	19,611,765.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	01. Grant	137,282,353.00
3	RSO2.3	Total			166,700,000.00

Table 6. Dimension 3 - Territorial implementation mechanism and territorial targeting

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	9,805,882.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	19,611,765.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	33. Other approaches - lack of territorial focus	137,282,353.00
3	RSO2.3	Total			166,700,000.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	--------------------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Specific objective	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	9,805,882.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	19,611,765.00
3	RSO2.3	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	137,282,353.00
3	RSO2.3	Total			166,700,000.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

2.2. Technical assistance priorities

2.2. 1. Technical Assistance priority under Article 36(4) of the CPR: 4. Technical assistance

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(e) of the CPR

2.2.1.1. Intervention under the Funds

Related types of actions - Article 22(3)(e)(i) of the CPR

Priority 4. - Technical assistance (TA)

The implementation of Priority 4 is aimed at ensuring an effective management and implementation system for the Programme. 3 areas of support have been identified:

1. efficient Programme implementation system,
2. ensuring capacity of beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and partners,
3. effective information and promotion of the Programme.

Concentration of support, under the technical assistance system, on the indicated areas and the appropriate selection of measures are important in view of the Programme's role in the implementation of the objective of a smart and competitive Europe. Maximisation of the Programme's impact on the implementation of the objective will require, first of all, effectively functioning institutions of its implementation system, as well as high potential of the beneficiaries to implement innovative projects, including those involving R&D works. Therefore, the Managing Authority will place particular emphasis on the objectives indicated in the Partnership Agreement when implementing the measures.

The aim will be to foster an administrative culture that is environmentally friendly, customer-aware and open to cooperation with entrepreneurs. Also the preparation of the implementation system will be based on modern technical facilities and IT systems for a more efficient use of time and available resources. The offered instruments will take into account the needs reported by entrepreneurs and employees of the institutions involved, so that the implementation system will effectively support them. During the implementation of the Programme, ecological solutions will be applied, e.g. use of qualified signatures by the processes participants to enable electronic circulation of documentation related to the process of management, implementation and promotion process of the Programme.

The assistance provided under Priority 4 is complementary to the support provided under the national programme named Technical Assistance for European Funds (TAEF), in accordance with the adopted demarcation line, technical assistance measures used in other national and regional programmes as well as with other EU assistance instruments.

Technical assistance funds finance activities related to:

1. Ensuring an efficient Programme implementation system, in particular with regard to project selection and enrolment, monitoring system, evaluation, control, certification, inter alia for:

- Activities building effective functioning of institutions of the implementation system and supporting their administrative potential. Ensuring the continuity of staff functioning until the completion and closure of the Programme requires comprehensive measures, e.g. financing the remuneration system and ensuring adequate competence of the staff through tailored training.
- Activities ensuring the efficient realisation of the Programme implementation processes, including:
 - creation and maintenance of appropriate working conditions and tools as well as systems for planning, monitoring, reporting and controlling the Programme;
 - development of an evaluation culture, expert support;
 - supporting an administrative culture oriented towards the needs of the present and future beneficiaries, including preparation of the staff of institutions to perform the role of individual tutors/advisers at the project, e.g. preparation of a report on the implementation of the Programme, support for the organisation and implementation of project servicing processes, modern and coherent tools for communication with beneficiaries and IT systems reducing the burden on the beneficiaries and involved institutions;
 - strategic use of public procurement in support of cohesion policy objectives. Encouraging the use of more criteria related to quality and life-cycle costs. Environmental (e.g. green procurement criteria), social and innovative considerations will be integrated into the procurement procedures used by the beneficiaries and the institutions implementing the Programme;
 - promotion of the Integrity Pacts and their application in legitimate projects. The Monitoring Committee will be consulted on the implementation of the Integrity Pacts.
- Financing activities in the field of prevention, detection, correction and reporting of irregularities and fraud

Depending on the results of the fraud risk analysis, the MA will consider introducing the following preventive measures:

- introducing procedures for reporting and updating irregularities under the Irregularities Management System (IMS);
- strengthening control procedures for the management of conflicts of interest, including verification of the ownership structure of beneficiaries, contractors and experts evaluating and supervising projects;
- establishing a control system for the selection of projects that ensures an adequate audit path;
- introducing a mechanism for excluding from funding entities that pose a threat to the EU's financial interests;
- considering new risks related e.g. to changes in the rules on the disbursement of EU funds;
- using tools to detect suspected fraud, e.g. Arachne or similar, and anti-plagiarism tools;
- enhancing the role of the equality and non-discrimination coordinator and providing appropriate support (training/advice/budget);
- promoting the principle of equal opportunities and preventing discrimination by providing support for beneficiaries, MA, PI, PI II and Monitoring Committee staff during the implementation of the horizontal principles, with particular attention to the barriers and needs of persons from groups at risk of discrimination, expert support, training and thematic conferences, as well as auditing of existing solutions and evaluation of their effectiveness, in order to develop tools and mechanisms for effective implementation of the horizontal principles of equal treatment, non-discrimination and respect

for the Charter of Fundamental Rights;

- involving social and economic partners and NGOs that are members of the EFSE MC in the promotion and dissemination of knowledge, in the broad sense of accessibility, including under the requirements of Directive 882/2019.

2. Ensuring an effective system of information and promotion of the Programme, including e.g.:

- informing potential beneficiaries about the possibilities of co-financing and their activation to obtain these funds;
- informing the public about the activities and effects of the Programme, including the demonstration of the positive impact and added value of support from the EU;
- implementing activities aimed at ensuring wide/common public acceptance for development activities implemented with the assistance of the Programme and the European Funds as a whole,
- information activities in the field of green public procurements.

3. Ensuring an effective information and publicity system for the Programme, including, inter alia, the capacity building of beneficiaries, end beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries as well as strengthening their competencies.

The experience of the 2014-2020 perspective has indicated a great need to develop the competence of beneficiaries, especially entrepreneurs, and their potential to apply and implement projects, especially innovative ones and those involving R&D works.

Activities will be tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries so as to strengthen their potential and increase the number of good quality projects. Such activities will cover:

a) potential beneficiaries, e.g.:

- **during the analysis of the idea in terms of possibilities to obtain funding from the Programme (analysis of strengths and weaknesses, indication of elements worth strengthening),**
- **assistance during the application process, including the selection of support instruments appropriate to the needs and possibilities,**

b) beneficiaries of the programme, e.g.:

- **during the implementation of projects at the organisational, management, legal, communication, research level, universally understood mentoring, strengthening their competences (conducting a competitive procedure),**
- **when starting R&D work (e.g. concerning the specificity of performed research projects, protection of intellectual property, including industrial property, cooperation with research organisations, tax relief for R&D, commercialisation),**
- **during the creation of systems for comprehensive handling of the implemented contract (reporting, settlement, communication, changes, controls),**
- **when using simplified costs for settling expenses.**

There will also be tested and implemented new instruments and solutions responding to the notified needs of entrepreneurs within the scope of R&D&I project realisation, as well as those resulting from the need to improve the Programme implementation system, including:

a) actions supporting the establishment of relations between companies, beneficiaries and institutions of the implementation system, promoting cooperation, knowledge exchange, building relations, e.g. creating project consortia, organising virtual and physical space so as to facilitate the establishment of business contacts between companies in Poland and abroad;

the Innopoint information service addressed to entrepreneurs to obtain comprehensive information on support possibilities from instruments implemented under the EFSE Programme. This service will be implemented by Information Points of the European Funds (IPEF) in coordination with the TAEF Programme;

monitoring of the development path of participants of programmes dedicated to innovation (monitoring of young incubated or accelerated companies, individual innovators, one-time beneficiaries of the Programme, etc.).

All instruments under this Priority have been assessed, based on the DNSH technical guidance for the RRF, as complying with the DNSH principle.

The main target groups - Article 22(3)(d)(iii) of the CPR

Target groups under technical assistance will be:

- institutions involved in the implementation and management of the Programme,
- entities supporting the implementation of the Programme,
- beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries as well as final recipients of the Programme.

Target groups under information and promotion activities will be:

- the general public,
- micro, small, medium and large enterprises,
- business associations,
- local government units,
- socio-economic partners,
- universities,
- research organisations.

2.2.1.2. Indicators

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(e)(ii) of the CPR

Table 2. Output indicators

Fund	Region category	ID No.	Indicator	Measurement unit	Interim target (2024)	Final target (2029)
ERDF	More developed	PLRO149	Average annual number of posts financed from TA	pcs	26.00	28.00
ERDF	More developed	PLRO150	Number of participants of trainings for institutions	pcs	8.00	79.00
ERDF	More developed	PLRO151	Number of evaluations carried out	pcs	0.00	2.00
ERDF	More developed	PLRO152	Number of expert opinions	pcs	3.00	32.00
ERDF	More developed	PLRO153	Number of meetings of committees, networks, groups and other events to exchange experience with partners	pcs	1.00	5.00
ERDF	More developed	PLRO155	Number of participants of trainings for beneficiaries	pcs	18.00	106.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO149	Average annual number of posts financed from TA	pcs	53.00	55.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO150	Number of participants of trainings for institutions	pcs	15.00	159.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO151	Number of evaluations carried out	pcs	1.00	4.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO152	Number of expert opinions	pcs	7.00	65.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO153	Number of meetings of committees, networks, groups and other events to exchange experience with partners	pcs	1.00	11.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO155	Number of participants of trainings for beneficiaries	pcs	35.00	212.00
ERDF	Transition	PLRO158	Number of wide-scale information and promotion actions	pcs	1.00	1.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO149	Average annual number of posts financed from TA	pcs	371.00	387.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO150	Number of participants of trainings for institutions	pcs	107.00	1,112.00

ERDF	Less developed	PLRO151	Number of evaluations carried out	pcs	7.00	31.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO152	Number of expert opinions	pcs	45.00	453.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO153	Number of meetings of committees, networks, groups and other events to exchange experience with partners	pcs	7.00	74.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO155	Number of participants of trainings for beneficiaries	pcs	247.00	1,482.00
ERDF	Less developed	PLRO158	Number of wide-scale information and promotion actions	pcs	2.00	7.00

2.2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of programmed resources (EU) by type of intervention

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(e)(iv) of the CPR

Table 4. Dimension 1 - scope of intervention

Priority	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	More developed	179. Information and communication	342,577.00
4	ERDF	More developed	180. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	8,625,943.00
4	ERDF	More developed	181. Evaluation and studies, data collection	176,471.00
4	ERDF	More developed	182. Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	235,294.00
4	ERDF	Transition	179. Information and communication	685,155.00
4	ERDF	Transition	180. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	17,251,885.00
4	ERDF	Transition	181. Evaluation and studies, data collection	352,941.00
4	ERDF	Transition	182. Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	470,589.00
4	ERDF	Less developed	179. Information and communication	4,796,088.00
4	ERDF	Less developed	180. Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	120,763,195.00
4	ERDF	Less developed	181. Evaluation and studies, data collection	2,470,588.00
4	ERDF	Less developed	182. Reinforcement of the capacity of Member State authorities, beneficiaries and relevant partners	3,294,117.00
4	Total			159,464,843.00

Table 7. Dimension 6 - Additional ESF+ topics

Priority	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
----------	------	-----------------	------	--------------

Table 8. Table 8: Dimension 7 - Gender equality in ESF+*, ERDF, Cohesion Fund and FST

Priority	Fund	Region category	Code	Amount (EUR)
4	ERDF	More developed	03. Gender neutrality	9,380,285.00
4	ERDF	Transition	03. Gender neutrality	18,760,570.00
4	ERDF	Less developed	03. Gender neutrality	131,323,988.00
4	Total			159,464,843.00

* As a general rule, 40% of ESF+ is dedicated to monitoring expenditure related to gender equality. 100% applies where a Member State decides to apply Article 6 of ESF+.

3. Financial plan

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(g)(i), (ii) and (iii), Article 112(1), (2) and (3) and Articles 14 and 26 of the CPR

3.1. Transfers and contributions (1)

Legal basis - Articles 14, 26 and 27 of the CPR

Change of programme due to	<input type="checkbox"/> contribution to InvestEU
	<input type="checkbox"/> transfer to direct or indirect management instruments
	<input type="checkbox"/> transfer between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to other Fund(s)

(1) Applies only to modifications of the programme in accordance with Articles 14 and 26 with the exception of transfers complementary to JTF pursuant to Article 27 of the CPR. The transfers may not affect the annual distribution of funds, at the level of the multiannual financial framework, for the Member State concerned.

Table 15A. Contributions to InvestEU* (broken down by year)

Contribution from		Contribution into	Breakdown by year							
Fund	Region category	InvestEU segment	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

* For each new contribution request, the amendment to the programme sets out the total amounts for each year by Fund and by category of region.

Table 15B. Contributions to InvestEU* (summary)

Fund	Region category	Sustainable infrastructure (a)	Innovation and digital transition (b)	SME (c)	Social investment and skills (d)	Total (e)=(a)+(b)+(c)+(d)
Total						

* Cumulative amounts of all contributions made through programme amendments during the programming period. For each new contribution request, the amendment to the programme sets out the total amounts for each year by Fund and by category of region.

Justification in terms of how these amounts contribute to the policy objectives chosen in the Partnership Agreement pursuant to Article 10(1) of the InvestEU Regulation

--

Table 16A. Transfers to direct or indirect management instruments (broken down by year)

Transfer from		Transfer to	Breakdown by year							
Fund	Region category	Instrument	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

Table 16B. Transfers to direct or indirect management instruments* (summary)

Fund	Region category	Total
Total		

* Cumulative amounts of all contributions made through programme amendments during the programming period. For each new transfer request, the programme amendment shall specify the total amounts transferred for each year by fund and by category of region.

transfer to direct or indirect management instruments (justification)

--

Table 17A. Transfers between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to other Fund(s)* (broken down by year)

Transfer from		Transfer to		Breakdown by year							
Fund	Region category	Fund	Region category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

* Transfers to other programmes. Transfers between ERDF and ESF+ can only be made within the same category of region.

Table 17B. transfer between ERDF, ESF+ and Cohesion Fund or to other Fund(s) (summary)

	ERDF			ESF+			Cohesion Fund	EMFAF	AMIF	ISF	BMVI	Total
	More developed	Transition	Less developed	More developed	Transition	Less developed						
Total												

* Cumulative amounts of all contributions made through programme amendments during the programming period. For each new transfer request, the programme amendment shall specify the total amounts transferred for each year by fund and by category of region.

Transfers between funds under shared management, including between cohesion policy funds (justification)

--

3.2. JTF: Programme allocations and transfers (1)

3.3. Transfers between categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review

Table 19A. Transfers between categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review under the given programme (broken down by year)

Transfer from	Transfer to	Breakdown by year			
Region category*	Region category*	2025	2026	2027	Total

Applies to ERDF and ESF+ only.

Table 19B. Transfers between the categories of the region resulting from the mid-term review, to other programmes (broken down by year)

Transfer from	Transfer to	Breakdown by year			
Region category*	Region category*	2025	2026	2027	Total

Applies to ERDF and ESF+ only.

3.4. Back transfers (1)

Table 20A. Back transfers (broken down by year)

Transfer from	Transfer to		Breakdown by year							
InvestEU or another EU instrument	Fund	Region category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total

(1) Applies only to changes to the programme in relation to resources transferred back from other EU instruments, including AMIF, ISF and BMVI elements, under direct or indirect management, or from InvestEU.

Table 20B. Back transfers* (summary)

from	to								
InvestEU/Instrument	ERDF			ESF+			Cohesion Fund		
	More developed	Transition	Prepared	More developed	Transition	Prepared			

* Cumulative amounts of all contributions made through programme amendments during the programming period. For each new transfer request, the programme amendment shall specify the total amounts transferred for each year by fund and by category of region.

3.5. Financial resources broken down by year

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(g)(i) of the CPR and Articles 3, 4 and 7 of the JTF Regulation

Table 10. Financial resources broken down by year

Fund	Region category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026		2027		Total
							Funds without amount of flexibility	Amount of flexibility	Funds without amount of flexibility	Amount of flexibility	
ERDF*	More developed	0.00	80,116,270.00	81,405,025.00	82,719,861.00	84,060,988.00	34,829,195.00	34,829,195.00	35,526,855.00	35,526,855.00	469,014,244.00
ERDF	Transition	0.00	149,555,093.00	155,219,756.00	161,928,677.00	168,918,177.00	73,690,760.00	73,690,760.00	77,512,633.00	77,512,633.00	938,028,489.00
ERDF*	Less developed	0.00	1,047,776,534.00	1,087,179,551.00	1,133,840,096.00	1,182,398,973.00	515,505,251.00	515,505,251.00	541,996,882.00	541,996,882.00	6,566,199,420.00
Total ERDF		0.00	1,277,447,897.00	1,323,804,332.00	1,378,488,634.00	1,435,378,138.00	624,025,206.00	624,025,206.00	655,036,370.00	655,036,370.00	7,973,242,153.00
Total		0.00	1,277,447,897.00	1,323,804,332.00	1,378,488,634.00	1,435,378,138.00	624,025,206.00	624,025,206.00	655,036,370.00	655,036,370.00	7,973,242,153.00

* Amounts after supplementary transfer to JTF.

3.6. Total financial resources per fund and national co-financing

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(g)(ii) and Article 22(6) and Article 36 of the CPR

For programmes under the 'Investment for Jobs and Growth' objective where technical assistance has been selected in the Partnership Agreement pursuant to Article 36(4) of the CPR

Table 11. Total financial resources per fund and national co-financing

JTF policy/specific objective number or technical assistance	Priority	Basis for calculating EU support	Fund	Region category*	EU contribution (a)=(g)+(h)	Breakdown of the Union contribution		National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of the national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Funding rate (f)=(a)/(e)
						Lower amount of flexibility (g)	Amount of flexibility (h)		Public (c)	Private (d)		
1	1	Total	ERDF	More developed	256,352,941.00	217,896,087.00	38,456,854.00	256,352,941.00	0.00	256,352,941.00	512,705,882.00	50.0000000000%
1	1	Total	ERDF	Transition	512,705,883.00	430,064,494.00	82,641,389.00	219,731,093.00	0.00	219,731,093.00	732,436,976.00	69.999999727%
1	1	Total	ERDF	Less developed	3,588,941,176.00	3,012,563,975.00	576,377,201.00	633,342,561.00	0.00	633,342,561.00	4,222,283,737.00	84.999999893%
1	2	Total	ERDF	More developed	156,222,195.00	132,788,866.00	23,433,329.00	156,222,195.00	15,622,220.00	140,599,975.00	312,444,390.00	50.0000000000%
1	2	Total	ERDF	Transition	312,444,389.00	262,078,353.00	50,366,036.00	133,904,739.00	13,390,473.00	120,514,266.00	446,349,128.00	69.999999865%
1	2	Total	ERDF	Less developed	2,187,110,726.00	1,833,673,633.00	353,437,093.00	385,960,717.00	38,596,071.00	347,364,646.00	2,573,071,443.00	84.999999786%
2	3	Total	ERDF	More developed	47,058,823.00	39,999,999.00	7,058,824.00	47,058,823.00	4,705,882.00	42,352,941.00	94,117,646.00	50.0000000000%
2	3	Total	ERDF	Transition	94,117,647.00	78,945,883.00	15,171,764.00	40,336,135.00	4,033,614.00	36,302,521.00	134,453,782.00	69.999997025%
2	3	Total	ERDF	Less developed	658,823,530.00	552,357,647.00	106,465,883.00	116,262,976.00	11,626,298.00	104,636,678.00	775,086,506.00	84.999999871%
TA36(4)	4	Total	ERDF	More developed	9,380,285.00	7,973,242.00	1,407,043.00	9,380,285.00	9,380,285.00	0.00	18,760,570.00	50.0000000000%
TA36(4)	4	Total	ERDF	Transition	18,760,570.00	15,736,366.00	3,024,204.00	8,040,245.00	8,040,245.00	0.00	26,800,815.00	69.999981344%
TA36(4)	4	Total	ERDF	Less developed	131,323,988.00	110,102,032.00	21,221,956.00	23,174,822.00	23,174,822.00	0.00	154,498,810.00	84.999996764%
Total			ERDF	More developed	469,014,244.00	398,658,194.00	70,356,050.00	469,014,244.00	29,708,387.00	439,305,857.00	938,028,488.00	50.0000000000%
Total			ERDF	Transition	938,028,489.00	786,825,096.00	151,203,393.00	402,012,212.00	25,464,332.00	376,547,880.00	1,340,040,701.00	69.999998731%
Total			ERDF	Less developed	6,566,199,420.00	5,508,697,287.00	1,057,502,133.00	1,158,741,076.00	73,397,191.00	1,085,343,885.00	7,724,940,496.00	84.999999793%
Grand total					7,973,242,153.00	6,694,180,577.00	1,279,061,576.00	2,029,767,532.00	128,569,910.00	1,901,197,622.00	10,003,009,685.00	79.7084318028%

* For ERDF: less developed, in transition, more developed regions and, where appropriate, a specific allocation for the outermost and sparsely populated northern regions. For ESF+: less developed, in transition, more developed regions and, where appropriate, an additional allocation for outermost regions. For the Cohesion Fund: not applicable. For technical assistance, the application of the region category depends on the choice of fund.

** indicate the total resources of the JTF including the complementary support transferred from ERDF and ESF+. The table should not include the amounts indicated in Article 7 of the JTF Regulation. In the case of technical assistance financed by the JTF, the resources of the JTF should be split between those related to Article 3 and those related to Article 4 of the JTF Regulation. For resources referred to in Article 4 of the JTF Regulation, there is no amount of flexibility.

4. Basic conditions

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(i) of the CPR

Table 12. Basic conditions

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms for the public procurement market			Yes	The existence of monitoring mechanisms covering all procurement agreements and procurements under the Funds in accordance with Union procurement legislation. This requirement shall include: 1. arrangements to ensure the collection of factual and reliable data on procurement procedures with a value above the Union thresholds, in accordance with the reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of the Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of the Directive 2014/25/EU;	Yes	Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190002019/U/D20192019Lj.pdf Link to annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement system: https://www.uzp.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/analizy-systemowe/sprawozdania-o-funkcjonowaniu-systemu-zamowien-publicznych	In line with its obligations under the Directives, the Public Procurement Office (PPO) prepares reports every three years on monitoring the public procurement system based on data received from contracting authorities in their annual reports on contracts awarded, data from the e-Procurement Platform, data from TED and information on the results of inspections carried out by the President of the PPO.
			Yes	2. arrangements to ensure that the data covers at least the following: (a) quality and intensity of competition: names of successful bidders, number of bidders at the beginning of the procedure and value of the contract; (b) information on the final price at the end of the procedure and on the participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national	Yes	Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190002019/U/D20192019Lj.pdf Link to annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement system: https://www.uzp.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/analizy-systemowe/sprawozdania-o-funkcjonowaniu-systemu-zamowien-publicznych	The Public Procurement Office has access to all the data required under basic conditionality (the data comes from the TED database maintained by the EC on the basis of annual reports submitted to the President of the PPO by contracting authorities and the Public Procurement Bulletin (PPB) database).

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				schemes provide such information;			
				3. arrangements to ensure the monitoring and analysis of data by national competent authorities pursuant to Article 83(2) of the Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of the Directive 2014/25/EU;	Yes	<p>Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190002019/U/D20192019Lj.pdf</p> <p>Link to annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement system: https://www.uzp.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/analizy-systemowe/sprawozdania-o-funkcjonowaniu-systemu-zamowien-publicznych</p>	In line with its obligations under the Directives, the Public Procurement Office (PPO) prepares reports every three years on monitoring the public procurement system based on data received from contracting authorities in their annual reports on contracts awarded, data from TED and information on the results of inspections carried out by the President of the PPO.
				4. arrangements to ensure that the results of the analyses will be made publicly available pursuant to Article 83(3) of the Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(3) of the Directive 2014/25/EU;	Yes	<p>Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190002019/U/D20192019Lj.pdf</p> <p>Link to annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement system: https://www.uzp.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/analizy-systemowe/sprawozdania-o-funkcjonowaniu-systemu-zamowien-publicznych</p>	The PPO publishes annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement system and periodic Information Bulletins on its website.
				5. arrangements to ensure that any information indicating bid rigging will be communicated to the competent national authorities pursuant to Article 83(2) of the Directive	Yes	<p>Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20190002019/U/D20192019Lj.pdf</p> <p>Link to annual reports on the functioning of the public procurement</p>	If, in the course of a control conducted by the PPO, a suspicion arises that bid rigging/collusive bidding may have taken place during a tender procedure, the PPO transmits relevant information in this regard to the Office of

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of the Directive 2014/25/EU.		system: https://www.uzp.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/analizy-systemowe/sprawozdania-o-funkcjonowaniu-systemu-zamowien-publicznych	Competition and Consumer Protection (OCCP). A memorandum of understanding has also been signed between the PPO and the OCCP which provides for cooperation of both institutions, exchange of information and experience. Notwithstanding the above, contracting authorities and entities may directly contact the OCCP in case of suspected bid rigging.
2. Tools and abilities for effective application of state aid rules			Yes	Managing authorities have the tools and ability to verify compliance with State aid rules: 1. for enterprises in difficulty and subject to an aid requirement.	Yes	Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20041231291/U/D20041291Lj.pdf	Pursuant to Article 31b(2) of the Act of 30 April 2004 on the procedural issues concerning State aid (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 743, as amended), the President of the Office for Competition and Consumer Protection is obliged to publish information on EC decisions related to the reimbursement of State aid, in the Public Information Bulletin on the website. At the same time, entities granting aid are obliged to examine the conditions for admissibility of public aid. Pursuant to Article 37(5) of the Act, bodies granting aid are obliged to obtain from entrepreneurs applying for public aid information enabling them to determine whether a given entrepreneur is in a difficult situation as at the date of granting the aid. As a rule, this also applies to financial statements for the last three fiscal years, prepared in accordance with accounting regulations, on the basis of which the correctness of the presented data is verified. In the case of entities subject to bankruptcy proceedings, all events in these proceedings are announced and, in addition, the

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							entrepreneur is obliged to use the name of the company together with the designation 'under restructuring' or 'in bankruptcy'.
				2. through access to specialised State aid advice and guidance provided by State aid experts who are members of local or national entities.	Yes	Link to the Act: http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20041231291/U/D20041291Lj.pdf	The function of the national state aid authority, responsible for the effective implementation and application of the EU state aid rules, is performed by the President of the OCCP and, with regard to state aid in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The President of the OCCP gives an opinion on state aid guidelines, draft aid programmes and individual aid, including those financed from structural funds, notifies them to the EC, represents the Polish government in proceedings before the Commission and monitors state aid. The Act regulates the duties regarding the monitoring of aid granted to entrepreneurs, i.e. collecting, processing and transmitting information in this respect. The OCCP provides full information on the Office's website and, where necessary, conducts workshops for institutions implementing programmes, on the application of state aid. Within the framework of cooperation with the OCCP, two working groups on state aid granted under the structural funds of the cohesion policy (for national and regional programmes), coordinated by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, develop horizontal interpretations on the granting of state aid.

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights			No	<p>The existence of effective mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (hereinafter 'the Charter'), which include:</p> <p>1. arrangements to ensure that the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation comply with the relevant provisions of the Charter;</p>	No	None	<p>The uniform procedure applies to the verification of compliance with the CFR both at the stage of submitting the grant application and during project implementation. Suspicions of non-compliance of the projects and/or Beneficiary's or PI/II/MA's activities with the CFR are reported respectively to the PI/Implementing Institution (II)/MA/EU Funding Officer (in the case of programmes financed from EMFAF, AMIF, BMVI and ISF there is an appropriate counterpart). The competent institution shall analyse, take steps to verify the facts and decide on the validity of the notification. If a violation of the articles of the CFR will be confirmed, depending on the nature of the case, the competent institution forwards the notification of the violation to the relevant services, i.e. the Ombudsman, the National Labour Inspectorate (NLI), the Patient Ombudsman or/and the relevant law enforcement authorities. The MA of the programme is also responsible for conducting the information policy in the aforementioned area. According to the Polish side, the condition is fulfilled according to the position of 7 July 2022, however, in the absence of the EC's reaction to this position - the status of it has been marked as not fulfilled.</p>
				<p>2. arrangements for reporting to the Monitoring Committee of cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and</p>	No	None	<p>The procedure takes into account the obligation of the Programme MA to prepare annual summary information on all reports of non-compliance of projects with the CFR and complaints, for</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				complaints of non-compliance with the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements adopted under Article 69(7).			consideration by the Programme MC. The MC decides on appropriate remedial actions for the reported cases. According to the Polish side, the condition is fulfilled according to the position of 7 July 2022, however, in the absence of the EC's reaction to this position - the status of it has been marked as not fulfilled.
4. Implementation and application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC			Yes	The existence of a national framework to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes: 1. general objectives including measurable targets, data collection and monitoring mechanisms;	Yes	The condition is met through the adoption of the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 adopted by Resolution No. 27 of the Council of Ministers dated 16 February 2021. Link to the document: https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/MP/rok/2021/pozycja/218 https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/projekt-uchwaly-rady-ministrow-w-sprawie-ustanowienia-polityki-publicznej-pt-strategia-rozwoju-uslug-spoecznych-polityka-publiczna-na-lata-20212035	The Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 adopted by Resolution No. 27 of the Council of Ministers dated 16.02.2021 fulfils the criterion by indicating a national policy framework intended to ensure the implementation of the aforementioned Convention and including: - objectives and actions to be achieved in a designated period of time with indicators and responsible actors, - mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the objectives and actions and collecting data in this regard, - ensuring compliance with the Strategy at the level of development and implementation of action plans and programmes of accessibility policies and legislation and standards in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned Convention. Fulfilment of the criterion is ensured by the Strategy for the Development of Social Services, Public Policy until 2030 (with an Outlook until 2035), adopted

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							on 7.06.2022 by the Council of Ministers, which assumes the implementation of the deinstitutionalisation process. Social services will focus on family and children, seniors, people with disabilities or mental disorders, as well as the homeless. Persons with disabilities are supported, among others, in terms of independence through the implementation of assisted housing - Objective 3 and the development of Care and Housing Centres.
				2. arrangements to ensure that accessibility policies, legislation and standards are appropriately reflected during the preparation and implementation of programmes;	Yes	<p>The condition is met through the adoption of the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 adopted by Resolution No. 27 of the Council of Ministers dated 16 February 2021.</p> <p>Link to the document: https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/MP/rok/2021/pozycja/218 https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/projekt-uchwaly-rady-ministrow-w-sprawie-ustanowienia-polityki-publicznej-pt-strategia-rozwoju-uslug-spoecznych-polityka-publiczna-na-lata-20212035</p>	<p>The criterion will be met by requiring the MA to:</p> <p>(1) identifying specific articles of the CRPD related to the scope of support planned to be implemented under the programme,</p> <p>(2) ensuring compliance with the CRPD of all processes and procedures implemented at each stage of the programme implementation, i.e. programming, selection and implementation of projects, as well as control of projects, monitoring and evaluation, which will be reflected, inter alia, in the content of procedures/guidelines/rules specifying the manner of implementation of individual processes related to the programme implementation,</p> <p>(3) assessing projects against the criterion of compliance with the CRPD,</p> <p>(4) ensuring the application of accessibility standards through Guidelines defining norms for ensuring</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>accessibility in investments financed under the Cohesion Policy,</p> <p>(5) implementation of information/awareness activities related to compliance with CRPD,</p> <p>(6) Introduce in the programme implementation system a procedure for reporting suspicions and complaints regarding non-compliance of interventions/measures with the CRPD.</p>
				<p>3. arrangements for reporting to the Monitoring Committee of cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints of non-compliance with the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements adopted under Article 69(7).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The condition is met through the adoption of the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030 adopted by Resolution No. 27 of the Council of Ministers dated 16 February 2021.</p> <p>Link to the document: https://dziennikustaw.gov.pl/MP/rok/2021/pozycja/218 https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/projekt-uchwaly-rady-ministrow-w-sprawie-ustanowienia-polityki-publicznej-pt-strategia-rozwoju-uslug-spoecznych-polityka-publiczna-na-lata-20212035</p>	<p>This criterion will be met by introducing mandatory annual reporting to the Monitoring Committee on reported cases of non-compliance of interventions/activities with the CRPD and complaints of non-compliance with the CRPD.</p> <p>The MC will be informed about the nature and number of complaints and cases of non-compliance of the programme intervention with the provisions of the CRPD and what actions have been taken by the relevant institutions in relation to their occurrence. In the case of systemic or recurrent violations, the MC will be able to take a number of actions to counteract their occurrence in the future after the MA has submitted its report.</p> <p>The extent of the MC's prerogatives in this regard will be defined in the MC Rules of Procedure, based on the minimum powers defined for MCs of all programmes, including: (1) the possibility to set up a working group to deal with a particular issue/problem identified, (2) to carry out further</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							analyses to develop specific prescriptions/recommendations on the most recurrent violations, or (3) to intensify ongoing awareness and information activities.
1.1. Good governance of the national or regional smart specialisation strategy	ERDF	RSO1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies	Yes	Smart specialisation strategy(s) should be supported by: 1. an up-to-date analysis of the challenges of innovation dissemination and digitisation;	Yes	https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony/informacje-o-strategii-na-rzecz-odpowiedzialnego-rozwoju https://www.gov.pl/web/rozwoj-technologie/rada-ministrow-przyjela-strategie-produktywnosci-2030 https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/economics/oecd-economic-surveys-poland-2018_eco_surveys-pol-2018-en https://publikacje.siemens-info.com/ebook/554/raport-smart-industry-polska-2019 https://publikacje.siemens-info.com/ebook/165/raport-smart-industry-polska-2018 https://przemyslprzyszlosci.gov.pl/baza-wiedzy/bibliot	<p>Criterion 1. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovation development challenges are identified in the Strategy for Responsible Development (within the description of the objective on sustainable economic growth based increasingly on knowledge, data and organisational excellence), as well as in the Productivity Strategy 2030. 2. Ongoing identification and analysis of barriers takes place within the meetings of the Innovation Council and the Inter-departmental Innovation Team. 3. Specialised analyses of barriers and development needs of various entities participating in the entrepreneurial discovery process and in the transfer and dissemination of innovations (e.g. National Smart Specialisation Working Groups) and barrier analyses concerning particular thematic issues, such as those concerning digitisation or Industry 4.0. 4. Barrier analysis carried out at regional level to incorporate solutions in actions taken at national level.
				2. existence of a relevant regional or national institution or body responsible for managing the smart specialisation strategy;	Yes	National Smart Specialisation document - Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology https://smart.gov.pl	<p>Criterion 2. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Minister in charge of the economy has experience and competence in the implementation of

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>tasks related to smart specialisation (concept development, implementation, entrepreneurial discovery process, monitoring, evaluation).</p> <p>2. Conduct by the Minister in charge of the economy activities concerning the coordination and monitoring of national and regional smart specialisations.</p> <p>3. Conduct of work on innovation, technology and industrial policy by the Minister responsible for the economy, including coordination of the work of the Innovation Council (effects of the Council's activities: Start In Poland programme, Łukasiewicz Research Network, R&D relief, IP Box relief, Innovation Manager Academy, Good Idea Programme, Act on the Future Industry Platform Foundation, Reform of science, implementation doctorates, School for the Innovator project, circular economy roadmap).</p> <p>4. Designation by the Council of Ministers of the Minister in charge of the economy to coordinate NSS in the document National Smart Specialisation.</p>
			Yes	<p>3. monitoring and evaluation tools to measure performance towards the objectives of the strategy;</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>National Smart Specialisation document and NSS website - Ministry of Economic Development and Technology https://smart.gov.pl</p> <p>SmartRadar IT tool - Ministry of Economic Development and Technology</p>	<p>Criterion 3. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <p>1. Continuous monitoring of smart specialisations based on data from the implementation of national and regional operational programmes, Horizon 2020, including a list of common indicators and a list of key indicators, resulting in management information on, inter alia, submitted and positively assessed projects from individual NSS, success rate and interest in particular</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						<p>https://mpit-smartradar.avility.pl/</p> <p>Ex-ante and mid-term evaluation of a non-competition project - PAED (in publication)</p> <p>Evaluation of the support within the framework of the SG OP with regard to the NSS (in publication) - MFiPR</p> <p>https://www.ewaluacja.gov.pl/strony/badania-i-analazy/wyniki-badan-ewaluacyjnych/badania-ewaluacyjne/ewaluacja-wsparcia-w-ramach-po-ir-w-zakresie-krajowych-inteligentnych-specjalizacji/</p>	<p>specialisations.</p> <p>2. Use of the Smart Radar IT tool aggregating data on Smart Specialisations as well as cooperation with the EC on the Innovation Radar tool.</p> <p>3. Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy for Responsible Development (determination of the degree of achievement of S3 objectives which is the growth of innovation). Activity of NSS Working Groups, interviews with entrepreneurs, meetings of focus groups so-called Smart Panel and Smart Labs, evaluation of the NSS Monitoring project, evaluations and thematic analyses performed by PAED and the Minister responsible for economy, under the NSS Monitoring project.</p>
				4. functioning of stakeholder co-operation ('entrepreneurial discovery process');	Yes	<p>National Smart Specialisation document - Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology</p> <p>https://smart.gov.pl</p> <p>Rules of Procedure for the recruitment and work of the National Smart Specialisation Working Groups of 14 February 2020 - Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology</p> <p>https://smart.gov.pl</p> <p>Business Technology Roadmaps (BTR) - Polish Agency for Enterprise Development</p>	<p>Criterion 4. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <p>1. Ensure the continuity of the work of the NSS Working Groups with the participation of representatives of enterprises, scientific entities, business environment institutions, business organisations and NGOs, resulting in changes in the list of NSSs as a result of monitoring, e.g. combining specialisations, changes in their description, analysis of trends, identification of barriers to implementation of investments in specific R&D areas, interpretation of monitoring results.</p> <p>2. Functioning of the NSS Consultative Group, consisting of representatives of</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						https://smart.gov.pl Competitions under sub-measure 1.1.1 Fast Track for BTR - National Centre for Research and Development https://archiwum.ncbr.gov.pl/programy/fundusze-europejskie/poir/nabory-zakonczone/	central and local government administrations dealing with smart specialisations at national and regional level. 3. Continuous organisation of entrepreneurial interviews and focus meetings (so-called Smart Labs) with representatives of enterprises and scientific units as part of the entrepreneurial discovery process (so far 260 interviews in 21 thematic areas, 43 Smart Labs and 11 Business Technology Roadmaps). 4. Launch of thematic competitions under Measure 1.1.1 "Fast Track" in the SG OP for selected Business Technology Roadmaps
				5. actions necessary to improve national or regional research and innovation systems, where relevant;	Yes	http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WMP20190000131 https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20160001933 https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20170002201 https://www.gov.pl/web/rozwoj-pracotechnologia/przemysl-4-0 http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20180001668 http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download	1. Innovation Council and Team. 2. Solutions for innovative activity. 3. Legislative solutions: reform of science. 4. Coordination actions for policy synergies at national and regional level in the Innovation Council. Coordination actions for policy synergies (national-regional) in the Innovation Council. 5. Instruments of R&D&I support. 6. Accreditation of BEI, support of clusters. 7. Multiannual strategy on social challenges. 8. Reform of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 06.2021 - Meeting of the

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						<p>d.xsp/WDU20190000534/T/D20190534 L.pdf</p> <p>https://www.gov.pl/web/fundusze-regiony/informacje-o-strategii-na-rzecz-odpowiedzialnego-rozwoju</p>	<p>Scientific Policy Committee on the reform of PAN,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 07.2021 - I Q2022 - Consultations with the scientific and academic community - analytical work, 30.09.2022 - Draft Act submitted for public consultation, IIQ2023 - Draft will be submitted to the Government Legislation Centre (RCL). <p>9. Evaluation of the system of support for links between science and business (performance evaluation and development of recommendations for the Technology Transfer Centre (TTC)). Deadline - 2024, using the TSI mechanism.</p> <p>10. Carry out an evaluation of the accepted solutions for R&D tax credits. First phase of work completed in 2021 (ORGMASZ report). It is planned to study the effectiveness of the R&D tax credit based on data from the tax administration - results in 2024.</p>
				6. where relevant, actions to support industrial transition;	Yes	<p>http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20190000229</p> <p>https://www.gov.pl/web/rozwoj/gospodarka-o-obiegu-zamknietych</p> <p>https://www.gov.pl/web/rozwoj/mpit-oglasza-konkurs-dla-hubow-innowacyjnych</p>	<p>Criterion 6. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation towards a circular economy (implementation of the circular economy roadmap), work of the NSS for the circular economy, Extended Producer Responsibility activities, environmental footprint and eco-design activities, raw materials management. Digital transition and the transition towards Industry 4. 0 (Future

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/narodowy-plan-szerokopasmowy--- https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/konsultacje-spoleczne-projektu-polityki-rozwoju-sztucznej-inteligencji-w-polsce-na-lata-2019--2027 https://dane.gov.pl/ https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/otwarte-dane-publiczne	<p>Industry Platform Foundation - standardisation and integration of training and advisory activities, Tax credit for robotisation, creation of Digital Innovation Hubs and the process of standardisation of services, European Digital Innovation Hubs, modern workforce for the industry of the future - up-skilling and re-skilling), learning factories, artificial intelligence (AI) policy, Implementation PhD and AI School, Academy of Innovative Applications of Digital Technologies, data policy, Public Data Opening Programme, National Broadband Plan).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transformation towards a climate-neutral economy (Strategy for Transition to a Climate Neutral Economy, National Energy and Climate Plan for the years 2021-2030, Clean Air Programme, 'My Electricity' Programme, Electromobility Development Plan).
				7. measures for enhancing cooperation with partners outside a given Member State in priority areas supported by the smart specialisation strategy;	Yes	<p>Information on the participation of Polish entities, inter alia, in S3 transnational partnerships and international projects under Horizon 2020 - European Commission/Ministry of Development, Labour and Technology/National Focal Point, Horizon 2020 Framework Programme</p> <p>https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/thematic-platforms, https://smart.gov.pl, https://www.kpk.gov.pl/analizy-i-statystyki</p> <p>Competitions for companies launched</p>	<p>Criterion 7. Fulfilled as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting inter-regional and transnational cooperation in smart specialisation areas - e.g. S3 Partnerships at the EC, Interreg, European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT), Horizon 2020, Innovoucher, TravelGrants, Visegrad Group projects, TeamNet, bilateral accelerator projects. Support instruments aimed at the internationalisation of Polish companies, supporting cooperation with foreign

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
						<p>under specific programmes in the field of internationalisation and international cooperation</p> <p>Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy</p>	<p>partners - e.g.: internationalisation of National Key Clusters, Brand, Go to Brand, Poland Prize, Polish Technological Bridges, Grants for Eurogrants.</p> <p>3. Planned instruments to support international cooperation under the new financial perspective 2021-2027 - including institutional cooperation on international partnerships - exchange of knowledge and good practices, support for the creation of international partnerships, assistance for the internationalisation of enterprises.</p>
2.1. Strategic policy framework to support the energy efficiency renovation of residential and non-residential buildings	ERDF	RSO2.1. Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Yes	<p>1. A national long term renovation strategy to support the renovation of the national stock of residential and nonresidential buildings is adopted, in line with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2010/31/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, which:</p> <p>(a) entails indicative milestones for 2030, 2040 and 2050,</p> <p>(b) provides an indicative outline of financial resources to support the implementation of the strategy,</p> <p>(c) defines effective mechanisms for promoting investments in building renovation.</p>	Yes	<p>Link to the document:</p> <p>https://www.gov.pl/attachment/64841ec3-1e9c-49d9-85f7-2a58bead36b2</p>	<p>The Long-Term Renovation Strategy (LTRS) establishes interim targets for 2030, 2040 and 2050, which are set out in the recommended building renovation scenario, and presents an analysis of different options for the implementation of renovation: 1. the rapid and deep thermomodernisation scenario, 2. the phased thermomodernisation scenario, and 3. the recommended scenario (Chapter 9). Furthermore, it provides a detailed summary of national policies and financial tools to support building renovation, to which a list of budgetary measures is provided (Chapter 5). In addition, the LTRS provides an indicative scale of support for building renovation (Chapter 9), and identifies mechanisms to facilitate investors in undertaking and carrying out building renovation (Chapter 8). The LTRS provides guidance on further actions concerning support for building renovation in Poland. In addition to</p>

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							meeting the requirements under Condition 2.1, the LTRS also meets the requirements imposed by Article 2a of the Directive 2010/31/EU.
				2. Energy efficiency improvement measures to achieve required energy savings	Yes	https://www.gov.pl/web/aktywa-panstwowe/krajowy-plan-na-rzecz-energii-i-klimatu-na-lata-2021-2030-przekazany-do-ke	The criterion for energy efficiency measures to achieve the required energy savings should be considered fulfilled based on the National Energy and Climate Plan for the years 2021-2030 submitted to the European Commission on 30 December 2019. In addition, on 16 June 2021, through the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the EU, a document entitled Information on the methods and measures applied in Poland to implement Articles 7, 7a and 7b of the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency - containing a description of the detailed method of operation of the energy efficiency obligation schemes and alternative policy measures referred to in Articles 7a and 7b of the aforementioned Directive - was submitted to the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) of the European Commission. The above-mentioned documents provide information on measures taken and planned, by 31 December 2030, to improve energy efficiency to achieve the required energy savings, including, inter alia, the total amount of required energy end-use savings.
2.2. Energy sector governance	ERDF	RSO2.1.	Yes	Submission to the Commission of an integrated national energy and climate plan, in accordance	Yes	https://www.gov.pl/web/aktywa-panstwowe/krajowy-plan-na-rzecz-energii-i-klimatu-na-lata-2021-2030	Criteria 1 and 2. The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) includes actions to implement the 5 dimensions

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.		<p>with Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, and ensuring consistency with the long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set out in the Paris Agreement. This plan shall include:</p> <p>1. all elements required in the template set out in Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2018/1999;</p>		przekazany-do-ke	<p>of the energy union: Energy Security, Internal Energy Market, Energy Efficiency, Decarbonisation, Research, Innovation and Competitiveness.</p> <p>The NECP sets climate and energy targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% reductions of GHG emissions in non-ETS sectors compared to 2005, • 21-23% RES share in gross final energy consumption (23% goal is achievable with additional EU funding, including for a fair transition), taking into account: 14% of RES share in transport and an annual increase in RES share in heating and cooling of 1.1 p.p. on average per year. • a 23% increase in energy efficiency compared to PRIMES2007 projections, • reduction of the share of coal in electricity production to 56-60%. <p>The national objectives and targets of Poland's energy and climate policy are described in detail in Chapter 2 of the document, while Chapter 3 identifies policies and measures aimed at achieving them. An analysis of the effects of the planned policies and measures is presented in Attachment 2 to the NECP.</p>
			Yes	outline of planned resources and financial mechanisms for measures to promote low-carbon energy.	Yes	https://www.gov.pl/web/aktywa-panstwowe/krajowy-plan-na-rzecz-energii-i-klimatu-na-lata-2021-2030-przekazany-do-ke	Criteria 1 and 2. The National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) includes actions to implement the 5 dimensions of the energy union: Energy Security, Internal Energy Market, Energy

Basic condition	Fund	Specific objective	Fulfilment of the basic condition	Criteria	Meeting the criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
							<p>Efficiency, Decarbonisation, Research, Innovation and Competitiveness.</p> <p>The NECP sets climate and energy targets for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% reductions of GHG emissions in non-ETS sectors compared to 2005, • 21-23% RES share in gross final energy consumption (23% goal is achievable with additional EU funding, including for a fair transition), taking into account: 14% of RES share in transport and an annual increase in RES share in heating and cooling of 1.1 p.p. on average per year. • a 23% increase in energy efficiency compared to PRIMES2007 projections, • reduction of the share of coal in electricity production to 56-60%. <p>The national objectives and targets of Poland's energy and climate policy are described in detail in Chapter 2 of the document, while Chapter 3 identifies policies and measures aimed at achieving them. An analysis of the effects of the planned policies and measures is presented in Attachment 2 to the NECP.</p>

5. Programme institutions

Legal basis: Article 22(3)(k) and Articles 71 and 84 of the CPR

Table 13. Programme institutions

Programme institutions	Name of the institution	Name of the contact person	Position	E-mail
Managing Authority	Minister responsible for regional development	Małgorzata Szczepańska	Director of the Department for Innovation and Development Support Programmes	sekretariatdir@mfipr.gov.pl
Audit Authority	Head of the National Revenue Administration	Dominik Zalewski	Director of the Department for Audit of Public Funds at the Ministry of Finance	sekretariat.das@mf.gov.pl
Authority receiving payments from the Commission	Minister responsible for public finance	Dorota Jaworska	Director of the Paying Authority Department at the Ministry of Finance	sekretariat.IP@mf.gov.pl

Breakdown of reimbursement for technical assistance under Article 36(5) of the Common Provisions Regulation if more than one recipient of payments from the Commission is indicated.

Legal basis: Article 22(3) of the CPR.

Table 13A. The proportion of the percentage referred to in Article 36(5)(b) of the CPR which would be reimbursed to those receiving payments from the Commission in the case of technical assistance, pursuant to Article 36(5) of the Common Provisions Regulation (in percentage points)

6. Partnership

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(h) of the CPR

Programme preparation

The institution responsible for the preparation of the Programme is the Department for Innovation and Development Support Programmes (DIR) at the Ministry serving the Minister responsible for regional development. The discussion on the scope of support for the Programme took place among the widest possible range of stakeholders.

As part of the work on the preparation of the Programme, a survey was carried out on the expectations of Polish companies as regards the scope of the designed instruments of innovation support. In the four-stage process of developing these instruments and arranging them into a coherent system, consisting of strategic, research, creative and prototype-testing parts, design thinking tools were used, including the design thinking method, which takes into account the approach to creating new solutions based on user needs.

The survey included companies already benefiting from previous support from EU funds, as well as those that are potential new applicants, to identify and address their actual innovation development needs.

Research was conducted with three groups of enterprises: companies that develop new products and services without support from EU funds, companies that have unsuccessfully applied for support and companies that have repeatedly implemented R&D projects using EU funds. In addition, a meta-analysis of conclusions from several hundred studies and evaluations of entrepreneurial support instruments was prepared. The aim of the research activities was to get to the source of problems and challenges related to the development of companies in the context of the implementation of innovation projects in Poland. The next step was a series of creative workshops, during which as many ideas as possible were sought for solving the identified challenges. These workshops were attended by entrepreneurs, creative industry representatives, business strategy experts and administration experts. Based on this, a concept for the support logic of the entire programme has been developed.

At the same time, within the framework of the work performed by the **Policy Objective 1 Group** (PO1 Group, chaired by DIR as MA of the SG OP), both: the division of interventions between the national and regional levels in PO1, as well as the assumptions of the Programme were discussed. By the end of July 2021, there were 5 meetings of the entire PO1 Group (10.06.2019, 13.09.2019, 4.03.2020, 23.10.2020, 16.03.2021) as well as meetings of subgroups within PO1 (clusters, BEIs - 26.11.2019; internationalisation - 11.12.2019).

The draft Programme was subject to working consultations **with the relevant ministries** (in particular the Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education) **and intermediary institutions** (PAED, NCRD, BGK) **and implementing institutions** (FPS, NIPI -NRI). In the course of preparing the Programme, DIR cooperated also **with relevant departments** in the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, including among others: the department responsible for the coordination of the preparation of other cohesion policy documents, the department coordinating the preparation of regional operational programmes, the department coordinating the work on the implementation of EU funds, as well as departments responsible for the preparation of other national operational programmes.

The draft Programme was also subject to a public consultation from 10.03. to 14.04.2021, where an electronic version of the Programme was made available at www.poir.gov.pl. All comments sent during the public consultation, were documented and posted on the website: <https://www.poir.gov.pl/strony/o-programie/fe-dla-nowoczesnej-gospodarki/konsultacje-spoleczne-feng/>, together with the report from the public consultation. A public hearing on the draft EFSE was held on 21.04 and a reverse public hearing on 5.11. In addition, work was carried out with the Programme both with members of the PO1 Group and with a wide range of social partners including the Social Dialogue Council and the Public Benefit Works Council. Moreover, an inter-ministerial consultation on the Programme was carried out between 29.06. and 9.07.2021. As part of these consultations, 70 comments were submitted to the draft, most of which were (fully or partially) taken into account. As a result of the analysis of these comments, the next version

of the draft EFSE has taken into account PO2 and put more emphasis on the implementation issues of the EU policy for a European Green Deal. As of 10.09.2021, the draft programme was the subject of arrangements conducted at the committees of the Council of Ministers (European Union Affairs Committee - KSE, Council of Ministers Committee for Digital Affairs - KRMC) and within the Joint Committee of Government and Local Self-Government. In the course of these arrangements, among other things, the description of support for undertakings increasing the energy efficiency of enterprises was made more precise to the extent resulting from the conclusions of energy audits carried out or demonstrating energy efficiency on the basis of an analysis of investment implementation options. In addition, co-financing from the EFSE for the creation of Artificial Intelligence Technology Test and Experimentation Centres was included, along with a complementary measure concerning support for the participation of national entities in consortia creating European Network of AI Excellence Centres.

Between 8 and 15.11.2021, the draft programme was discussed by the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers, at which no comments were made. It was then considered by the Council of Ministers by circulation. Within the deadline indicated for possible comments, i.e. until 6.12.2021, no observations were received on the draft programme and therefore the Council of Ministers adopted it.

A key role in the implementation of the EFSE Programme will be played by the **Monitoring Committee**, whose functions are defined in Article 40 of the CPR. The Committee will be composed of representatives of organisations representing the partners listed in Article 8 of the CPR. In addition, when determining the composition of the Committee, the MA will take into account the composition of the PO1 Group and the composition of the Monitoring Committee of the Smart Growth Operational Programme 2014-2020.

The MA has also developed a 'Strategy for Cooperation with Partners within the Framework of the European Funds for Smart Economy 2021-2027 Programme'. The purpose of this document is to systematise the activities undertaken jointly with partners, including partners from outside the administration, in the preparation of the draft EFSE programme and also to outline the principles of cooperation at further stages of programme realisation, i.e. during its implementation, monitoring and summary, lessons learned and evaluation. The document was consulted with the partners from the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy's Partnership Development Sub-Committee, from 29.12.2021 to 18.01.2022. It was also presented at the meeting of the aforementioned Sub-Committee on 27.01.2022. Consultation on the document with the members of the SG OP 2014-2020 Monitoring Committee took place from 15.02 to 01.03.2022. The document will be reviewed after each decision amending the Programme.

Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment

Pursuant to Article 46(1) of the EIA Act[1], the Programme required a strategic environmental impact assessment. To assess the potential and actual effects of the implementation of the Programme on the environment, the 'Environmental Impact Assessment for the draft European Funds for Smart Economy Programme' was prepared, which was one of the elements of the proceedings on strategic environmental impact assessment.

On 17.06.2020 the draft Programme was sent to the General Director for Environmental Protection (GDEP) and the Chief Sanitary Inspector (CSI) to agree on the scope and level of detail of information required in the Assessment.

The Assessment presents a description of potential impacts on particular elements of the environment, which shows that no major/significant negative environmental impacts which may result from the implementation of the Programme have been identified, in particular on the objectives and the subject of protection of Natura 2000 sites and the integrity of those sites. On the other hand, in relation to the identified minimal possible impacts, recommendations were proposed to minimise such impacts.

An important part of the Assessment was the analysis of the compatibility of the EFSE with the environmental objectives set at international and national level. The analysis carried out referred, in particular, to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to the objectives formulated in the European Green Deal, the draft 8 Environment Action Programme, Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, and the 2030 National Environmental Policy. The assessments carried out did not show any contradictions between the Programme and the

environmental objectives, and once the proposed recommendations related to the DNSH principle will be adopted, the implementation of the EFSE can strengthen the achievement of the environmental objectives.

In accordance with the recommendation of the GDEP, the Assessment focused primarily on indicating recommendations for the formulation of project selection criteria allowing for the fulfilment of environmental protection requirements during their implementation. Taking into account the nature and extent of potential impacts, a system of criteria included in the Regulation (EU) No. 2020/852 has been proposed.

Pursuant to Article 39 (1) and Article 54 (2) of the EIA Act, the Draft Programme together with the Assessment was subject to public consultations and agreements with the authorities - GDEP and CSI. **The public consultations** of the Assessment together with the draft Programme as part of the strategic environmental impact assessment were conducted from 1.04.2021 to 30.04.2021, i.e. within the period of at least 21 days provided for in the EIA Act.

Pursuant to Article 54(1) of the EIA Act, the EFSE Programme and the Assessment have been consulted with the authorities referred to in Articles 57 and 58, i.e. the GDEP and the CSI.

On 31 March 2021, the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy sent notifications to the said authorities for an opinion on the draft EFSE Programme and on the Environmental Impact Assessment of the draft EFSE Programme.

The GDEP made several comments on the Assessment - all were taken into account, while the CSI did not make any comments on the Assessment.

A conference to summarise the public consultation carried out was held on 10.05.2021, at which the contractor of the Assessment presented the main its results and responded to the comments made by the environmental authorities.

A report was produced from the public consultation and the consultation with the environmental authorities, i.e. GDEP and CSI, which has been posted on the website <https://www.poir.gov.pl/2021-2027>.

As a result of inter-ministerial consultations, Priority 3 was added to the Programme, falling under PO2. Some of the instruments that were originally envisaged for implementation under PO1 were transferred to the new Priority 3. It was a formal change that did not affect the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, as all instruments had previously undergone this assessment.

[1] Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 247, as amended).

7. Communication and visibility

Legal basis - Article 22(3)(j) of the CPR

Communication about the Programme means to inform about its offer, results and the impact of the Cohesion Policy on the development of the country and the EU in terms of:

- supporting research, technological development and innovation,
- increasing the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises,
- increasing accessibility, degree of utilisation of new technologies.

A special place in communication is given to activities raising awareness among the general public of the role and added value of EU support, including the values set out in Article 2 of the TFEU, and in stimulating the socio-economic development of regions, the country and the EU, as well as raising perception and understanding of the idea of European integration as a space for cooperation in building the European future.

Communication activities link the objectives of the programme to the main objectives of cohesion policy, which are in line with those of the EU. Communication on the European funds is also driven by the need to maintain transparency of expenditure from the Union budget.

Communication will emphasise the EU strategies into which the projects fit. Development benefits will be highlighted at national level and for EU development goals, including cohesion policy.

Details of the communication objectives can be found in the attachment to the EFSE of the 2021-2027 European Funds Communication Strategy.

Goals:

- 1) to inform and encourage the public to take advantage of the funds,
- 2) to ensure high public awareness of the measures and effects of the programme, including demonstration of the positive impact of EU support in the area of innovation, technology, development of R&D&I competences, development of enterprises, the country and the economy, improvement of the quality of life of the citizens,
- 3) supporting beneficiaries in the implementation of projects.

Activities shall be carried out exclusively in the field of European funds in relation to the above goals, excluding activities having a different purpose, e.g.: promoting institutions or persons and activities of a political nature.

Target groups:

- potential beneficiaries, communication objectives pursued: 1,2,
- beneficiaries, communication objectives pursued: 1, 2, 3,
- micro, small, medium and large enterprises.

In addition:

- research organisations, communication objectives pursued: 1,2, 3,
- start-ups, communication objectives pursued: 1,2, 3,
- business environment institutions and clusters, communication objectives pursued: 1,2, 3,
- general public, communication objectives pursued: 2

Communication channels:

Main channel: Internet

- an education and information support system based on direct contact between a potential beneficiary and an expert or consultant,
- TV, radio, press, idea placement, content marketing, social media,
- events, information events,
- European Funds portal - a common internet platform for all programmes and a network of IPEFs.

The communication will use the information potential of beneficiaries also as ambassadors of the European Funds brand. Clauses on the beneficiary's promotional duties will be part of the co-financing agreements.

Communication will take place in relation to individual projects and whole groups of assistance - bundles of projects. Special promotional activities are foreseen for projects of strategic importance, which are detailed in the manual for beneficiaries.

The European dimension of communication will be ensured through, among others, invitations of EC representatives during project launches/openings/completions, inclusion of an EC speech in the scenario of project events, incorporation of a quote from the EC in a press release/website information, etc. Cooperation also includes consultation with the EC on changes to the EFSE Programme communication strategy.

The competent public authorities (national, regional and local) will ensure the visibility of the support in all activities directly related to operations supported by the Funds, undertaken under their material or territorial responsibility, in the planning, financing, implementation or supervision of the implementation of projects receiving EU financing.

Budget

The estimated budget for the communication activities of MA, PI is approximately €7 million, including an EU contribution of approximately €5.8 million.

2022 - € 0.1 million

2023 - € 1.16 million

2024 - € 1.16 million

2025 - € 1.16 million

2026 - € 1.16 million

2027 - € 1.16 million

2028 - € 0.5 million

2029 - € 0.5 million

2030 - € 0.1 million

Monitoring and evaluation

Extensive communication activities are subject to constant evaluation and monitoring in terms of their quality, relevance in achieving communication goals and effectiveness in reaching target groups.

Strategic evaluation includes systematic monitoring of the attainment of the set objectives and indicators of the communication strategy (at intervals of 1-3 months). In addition, a regular survey of the Polish public shall be carried out to assess knowledge and awareness and recognition of the European Funds and to provide useful recommendations for the activities performed.

A number of indicators are monitored and evaluated, including:

1. The percentage of respondents perceiving the impact of European Funds on Poland's development

Value in 2021: 84%

Value in 2030: 86%

2. Knowledge of the objectives, areas or activities to which European Funds are allocated in Poland

Value in 2021: 28%

Value in 2030: 32%

3. Percentage of Polish residents who believe they personally benefit from European Funds

Value in 2021: 58%

Value in 2030: 65%

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to cost

Legal basis - Articles 94 and 95 of the CPR

Table 14. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to cost

Planned application of Articles 94 and 95 of the CPR	Yes	No
From its adoption, the programme will use the reimbursement of the Union contribution on the basis of unit rates, lump sums and flat rates within the priority, as provided for in Article 94 of the CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
From its adoption, the programme will use the reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to cost, as provided for in Article 95 of the CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Annex 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Region category	Estimated share of the total financial allocation under the priority to which simplified cost options (SCO) will be applied, in %.	Type(s) of operation(s) to be financed		Indicator triggering reimbursement		Unit of measurement of the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of simplified cost option (standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of simplified cost options
					Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			

(1) Indicates the code for the dimension 'Scope of intervention' in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and in Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

(2) Indicates the code of the common indicator, if applicable.

Annex 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Detailed information by type of operation

C. Calculation of standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who prepared, collected and stored the data, place of data storage, cut-off dates, validation, etc.):

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation under Article 94(2) of the CPR is appropriate for this type of operation:

3. Please specify how the calculations have been made, including in particular the assumptions made about the quality or quantity of the data. Where appropriate, use statistical data and benchmarks and present them (on request) in a format that allows their use by the Commission.

4. Please explain how it is ensured that only eligible expenditure is taken into account when calculating standard unit costs, lump sums or flat rates:

5. Assessment by the audit authority(ies) of the calculation method, amounts and arrangements to ensure data verification, quality, collection and storage.

Annex 2: Union contribution based on the financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of main elements

Priority	Fund	Specific objective	Region category	Amount to which financing not linked to costs relates	Type(s) of operation(s) to be financed		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Indicator		Unit of measurement of the conditions to be met/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Type of method envisaged for reimbursing the beneficiary or beneficiaries
					Code(1)	Description		Code(2)	Description		

(1) Indicates the code for the dimension 'Scope of intervention' in Table 1 of Annex I to the CPR and in Annex IV to the EMFAF Regulation.

(2) Indicates the code of the common indicator, if applicable.

B. Detailed information by type of operation

Annex 3: List of planned operations of strategic importance, with timetable

Legal basis: Article 22(3) of the CPR.

List of planned operations of strategic importance:

- IPCEI projects for which the EC has issued a positive decision allowing assistance, i.e. cover the same tasks, resources and provide for the same purpose as the IPCEI project. In the EFSE, IPCEI support will be provided for projects implemented on the territory of Poland. The thematic scope of IPCEI projects in the EFSE will result from decisions taken at EU level. In the EFSE, actions will be taken to support Polish IPCEI applicants:

1) provision of timely, complete and accurate information about the IPCEI and the opportunities provided by participation in this initiative,

2) promotion of networking among Polish companies and their foreign IPCEI participants,

3) provision of complete and up-to-date information on the status of applicants applying for participation in IPCEI,

4) analysis of reasons for unsuccessful application for participation in IPCEI.

- **the Inno_LAB project** - which allows new support instruments to be tested and implemented on a pilot scale as well as animation activities for participants of the National Innovation System (a continuation of the SG OP project),

- **research programmes or projects aimed at solving specific problems** and needs of economic importance (in particular those related to EGD), implemented using innovative public procurement - innovation partnership mode and /pre-commercial procurement, as well as competitions open to innovators (grand challenges),

- **a project** involving the strengthening of the potential of entities carrying out activities in the field of commercialisation of the results of scientific research and experimental development (**university** TTCs, special purpose vehicles),

- **a project involving the search for and selection of technological solutions with a high potential for commercialisation** (including those created at universities), as well as the provision of specialist support to selected projects: from the incubation stage, the establishment and development of the technology company, to the stage of obtaining a capital investor,

- **equity and guarantee instruments** providing repayable financing to entrepreneurs (possibly complemented by grant funding).

All of the projects listed above are planned for implementation in 2022-29. Detailed timetables will be set out in the funding applications.

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference No.	Commission reference No.	Files	Date sent	Sender
Methodology for estimating EFSE indicators	Supplementary information	08 September 2022	5	Ares(2022)6239974	Methodology for estimating EFSE indicators	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
Programme diagnosis	Supplementary information	13 July 2022	1	Ares(2022)6239974	Programme diagnosis	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
EFSE complementarity	Supplementary information	13 July 2022	2	Ares(2022)6239974	EFSE complementarity	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
Monitoring and evaluation system	Supplementary information	13 July 2022	3	Ares(2022)6239974	Monitoring and evaluation system	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
EIA forecast for EFSE	Supplementary information	29 March 2022	4	Ares(2022)6239974	EIA forecast for EFSE	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
Written summary of the EIA for EFSE	Supplementary information	29 March 2022	4a.	Ares(2022)6239974	Written summary of the Strategic EIA for EFSE	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
DNSH EFSE analysis	Supplementary information	11 March 2022	6	Ares(2022)6239974	DNSH EFSE analysis	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
Budget table	Supplementary information	13 July 2022	7	Ares(2022)6239974	Budget table	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta
Programme snapshot 2021PL16RFPR001 2.2	Preview of data before sending	09 September 2022		Ares(2022)6239974	Programme_snapshot_2021PL16RFPR001_2.2_en.pdf Programme_snapshot_2021PL16RFPR001_2.2_pl.pdf Programme_snapshot_2021PL16RFPR001_2.2_pl_en.pdf	09 September 2022	Sobota-Białas, Aneta