

**Speech of Ms Małgorzata Jarosińska-Jedynak, Undersecretary of State in the Polish Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, at the EoRPA conference**

**“Developing new models of regional policy in Poland”**

**Brussels, Scotland House, 9<sup>th</sup> of October, 2019**

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Let me welcome you at today's conference. I am very honoured to be here with you.
- As it has been said in the conference paper, we live in a time of constant change. It is important to know how the different levels of government take advantage of the opportunities coming with this change and how to react to inevitable challenges.
- Also, it is important to know what governance should be applied to address these challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities.
- For this to happen, analyses, comparative studies and data from various levels of governance become a necessity. **The forty years of studies by the European Regional Policy Research Consortium enrich the regional development planning and programming.** Thank you very much for that.
- **Taking this opportunity, I would like to congratulate you on the tremendous knowledge, data and observations that EoRPA shares with us.** The efforts of your team are outstanding and reflect the importance of regional and cohesion policies for Member States, regions and economic and social partners.
- What is even more important - the very broad and in-depth discussions that your consortium organises every year provides us with a **valuable insight, new perceptions and ideas so useful for an efficient delivery of public policies.**
- **Therefore, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the excellent cooperation between EoRPA and my ministry.** I am also strongly convinced that the Polish-EoRPA cooperation really sets up new standards for a fruitful development of regional policy in its domestic and European dimension.
- Now I would like to say a few words about new models of regional policy in Poland.

*Priorities in the regional policy*

- ***The Strategy for Responsible Development*** presents a new development model - responsible development that builds competitive strength using new development factors and provides benefits to all social groups living in different places in our country.
- Responsible development also means territorially balanced development, based on effective use of local resources and potentials of all territories. In particular, it supports

the development of those areas which are less resistant to a crisis, cannot fully make use of their development potential or lose their socio-economic functions.

- Therefore, regional policy puts emphasis on the sustainable development of the whole country, on reducing the disparities in the level of socio-economic development of various areas.
- Currently, the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development has finalized work on updating ***The National Strategy of Regional Development 2030***. The document sets out the objectives of regional policy in reference to individual territories of the country, covering urban and rural areas.
- **We identified three main objectives of regional policy**, namely, (1) **sustainable development of the country with the use of individual potentials of territories**, (2) **strengthening regional competitive advantages** and (3) **increasing effectiveness and quality of implementation of territorially targeted policies**.

*Objective 1: Sustainable development of the country with the use of individual potentials of territories*

- **Here, the support is focused on areas facing adaptation and restructuring difficulties.** This includes the supra-regional level (Eastern Poland), the regional level (Silesia) and the supra-local levels (areas endangered by permanent marginalization, medium-sized cities losing socio-economic functions with the surrounding rural areas).
- We also focus on **stimulating the development of areas with untapped growth potential** (better investment opportunities, mobilizing social activity, improving the quality of public institutions and access to services, additional sources of financing).
- **The supra-regional programme for the economically weakest areas will include a complex package of actions** related to the development of local entrepreneurship, activation of local human resources, stimulation of local economic and social initiatives and improvement of the accessibility of basic public services for residents.

*Objective 2: Strengthening regional competitive advantages*

- In addition to compensatory measures, **regional policy interventions will apply to all territories**, taking into account their development position, in particular the quality of human capital, development of entrepreneurship and innovation, or infrastructure saturation. **Regional policy will continue to support all regions in building their competitive position** on the international arena.

*Objective 3: Increasing effectiveness and quality of implementation of territorially targeted policies*

- In order to improve the effectiveness of the development policy, **it is important to strengthen the institutional potential of the entities engaged in implementation of territorially oriented public policies.** The possibility to apply development actions depends on the competences of employees of the institutions, the way decisions are taken, cooperation skills and the effort to integrate sector-based interventions to achieve the greatest synergy effect.

**The new approach to regional policy may also cover such issues as:**

- Cross-sectoral collaboration of public, private entities, NGOs, local community, schools, universities at stage of planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating.
- Complex package of projects (investment, legal, institutional) precisely targeted to territorial needs and potentials.
- The process of creating instruments for implementation of regional policy until 2030 is facilitated by the project approach. **Pilot projects will be implemented by 2020**, for example: the **Package for medium-sized cities** losing socio-economic functions, the City Initiative Partnership, the **Programme for Silesia**. The outcome of pilot projects will be continuation of the developed solutions, in the form of systemic actions.
- **We are on the eve of negotiations on cohesion policy programmes for the new financial perspective. We are equipped with a complete set of national strategic planning documents and we hope that cohesion policy will be an adequate support.**
- Thank you for your attention.