

Pre-selecting integrated projects in Śląskie

The Polish Śląskie region has a polycentric structure with four major agglomerations. In order to involve municipal and district authorities in the process of Structural Funds implementation, four sub-regional platforms were created around these bases: Central (*Centralny Śląski*), South (*Bielsko-bialski*), North (*Częstochowski*) and West (*Rybnicko-jastrzębski*). Each sub-region developed partnership arrangements involving local self-governments at NUTS IV and NUTS V level. In 2007-13, they received funding from the regional OP according to different socio-economic indicators. For 2014-20, the Managing Authority will implement Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) to support the generation of more complex and integrated projects to achieve stronger and more sustainable effects.

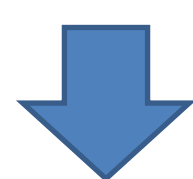
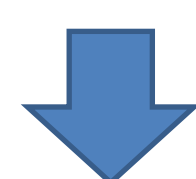
In 2014-20, the Śląskie region will implement a multi-fund ERDF and ESF programme, benefitting from €2,505 million of ERDF and €969 million of ESF.

Evaluation evidence:

Despite slightly lower than average funding absorption, the sub-regional strategies were evaluated to be successful in identifying suitable projects in response to complex territorial challenges and in contributing to programme targets.¹ The effectiveness of projects within the sub-regional strategies is a result of the partnership method used during their preparation. The approach offers scope to work with beneficiaries to set realistic indicators and targets. It also creates a comprehensive way to solve a problem existing in a specific area. As a result, the approach will be continued in 2014-20, alongside competitive project selection procedures.

Sub-regional projects were particularly effective in the following fields:

- Broadband infrastructure
- Infrastructure for tourism and recreation areas
- Public cultural infrastructure
- Restoration of degraded areas, elimination of waste landfills
- Adaptation of buildings for the purpose of revitalisation



Implementing sub-regional strategies through ITIs

The four sub-regional strategies will be implemented through Integrated and Regional Territorial Investments:

- 1 ITI in central Śląskie, funded from the 'envelope' of Cohesion policy funds set aside for ITIs at the national level,
- 3 'Regional Territorial Investments' (RTI) in the west, north and south, following the model established by the Sub-regional Development strategies and funded from the regional OP

Strategic Plans for each sub-region

- socio-economic analysis
- strategic objectives (in line with OP specific objectives)
- project list
- financial plan
- description of implementation system
- description of consultation process



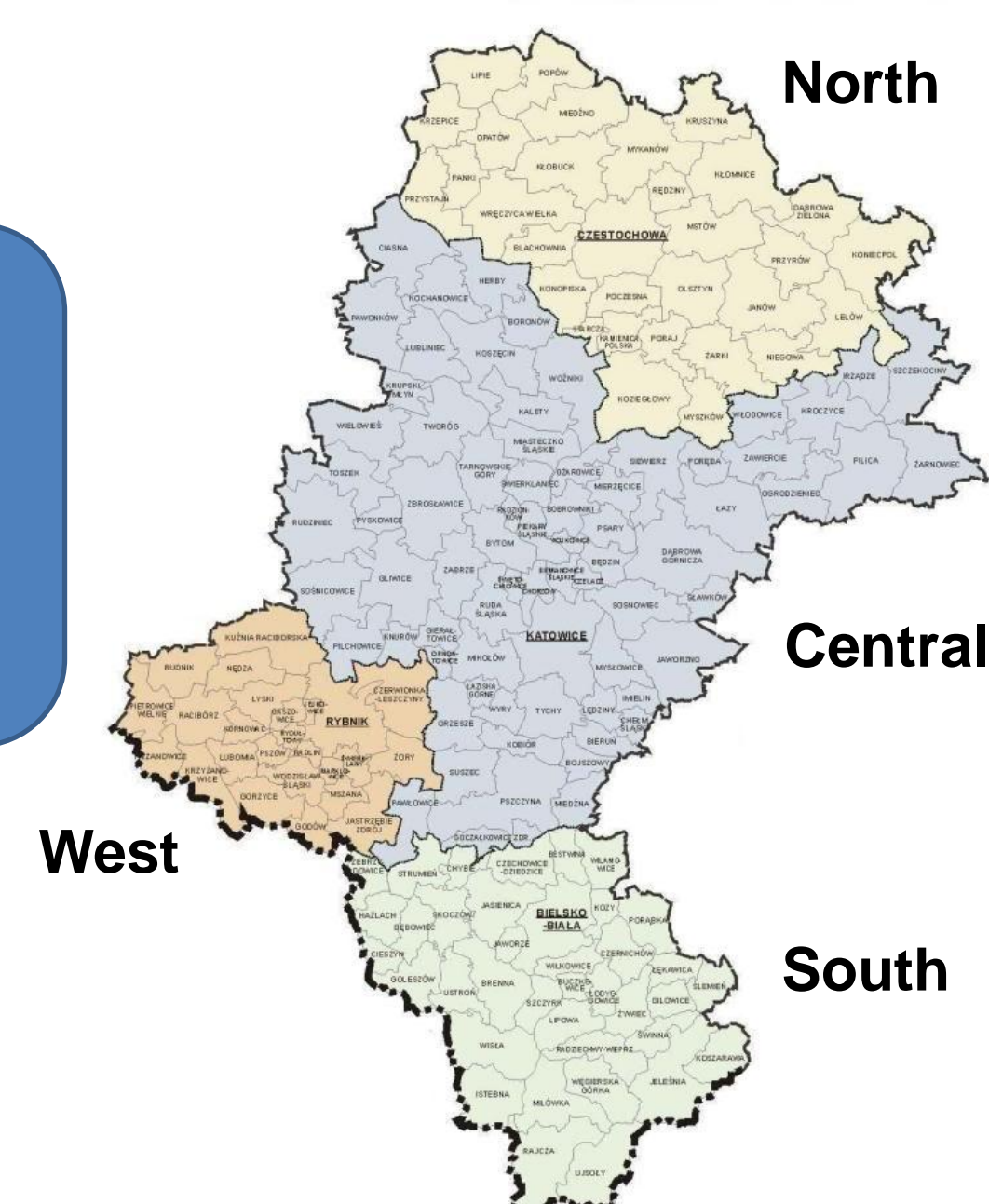
Individual projects need to

- meet general selection criteria
- contribute to results targets



Project appraisal:

Importance of strategic coherence increased compared to other criteria



Learning

Governance – Leadership of the sub-regional platforms is vital, and it is recommended that local authorities appoint a separate unit for this task to ensure objectivity

Efficiency – Project preparation, pre-appraisal and appraisal processes need to be streamlined and better monitored to avoid delays in project submission and implementation

For further information, please contact the Regional Development Department of the Śląskie region: tkolton@slaskie.pl

Background information on the sub-regional programmes in 2007-13 is available at http://rpo.slaskie.pl/?grupa=1&art=1253789278&id_m=188

1) PSDB (2012) *Wstępna ocena realizacji i efektów Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego Województwa Śląskiego na lata 2007-2013*.