



# EU Structural Funds: Absorption Capacity and Effectiveness of their Use - Polish regional perspective -

*„The Cohesion Policy from Lisbon Agenda to Europa 2020 Strategy:  
New Perspectives” Conference, Bucharest, April 30, 2010*

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## *Increasing role of Polish regions*

- ü Established in 1999
- ü **Till 2004 – very limited responsibilities** – only activities supportive to Implementing Authorities of pre-accession programmes (e.g. PHARE, ISPA)
- ü **2004-2006 – part of management system** for the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (185 MEUR allocated to Malopolska)
- ü 2007-2013:
  - **taking full responsibility** for Regional Operational Programmes (1 290 MEUR allocated to Malopolska)
  - Intermediate Body for Human Capital Operational Programme (590 MEUR allocated to Malopolska)
- ü 2014-2020 – according to draft National Regional Development Strategy: 70% of SF to be implemented via integrated regional OPs



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## Can we be successful?

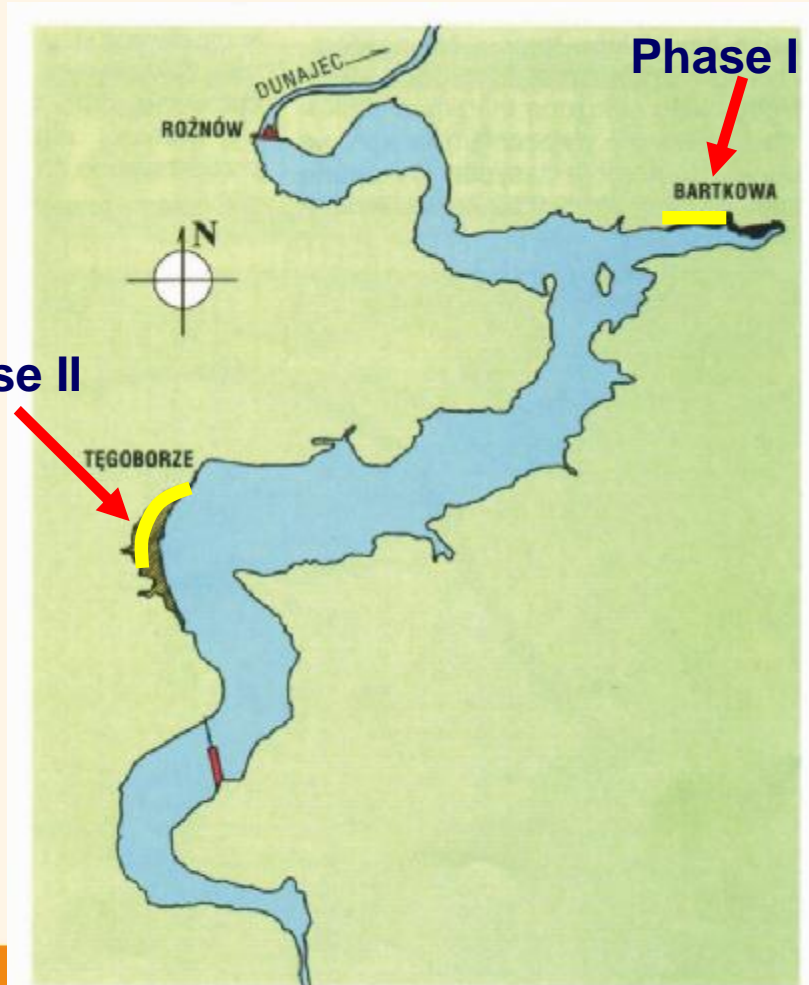
ü Yes, we can... support long-lasting undertakings

### Recultivation of the Czchów – Rożnów Lakes



Rys. 5. Plan zagospodarowania lewego brzegu zbiornika czchowskiego

Phase II



Rys. 3. Plan zbiornika rożnowskiego

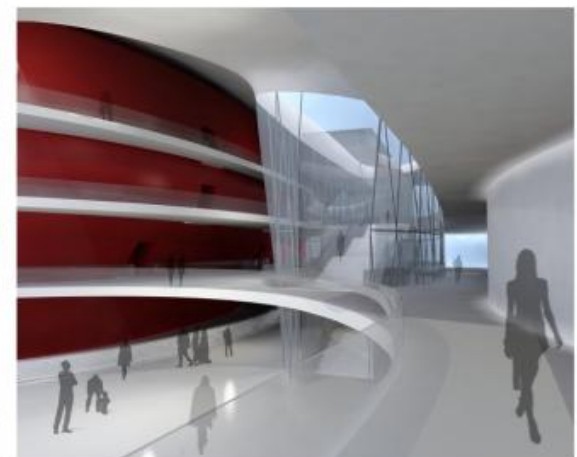
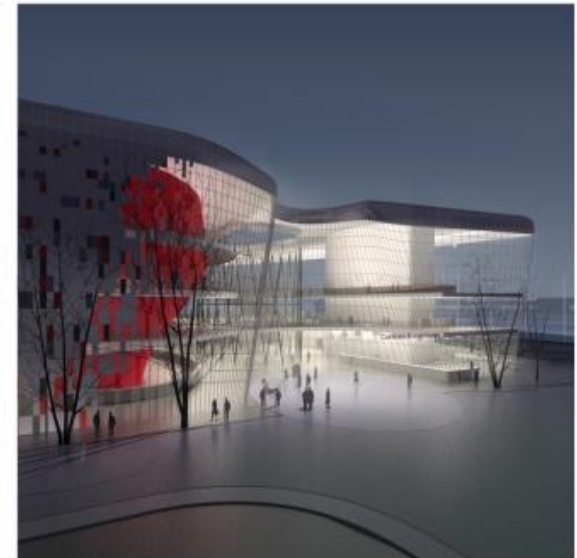


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## *Can we be successful?*

ü Yes, we can... face giant challenges

### Congress Centre in Krakow





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## Can we be successful?

ü Yes, we can... take care for territorial balance

By-pass  
roads of  
towns





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## *Can we be successful?*

ü Yes, we can... take care for territorial balance

Development of university level education  
infrastructure in major towns



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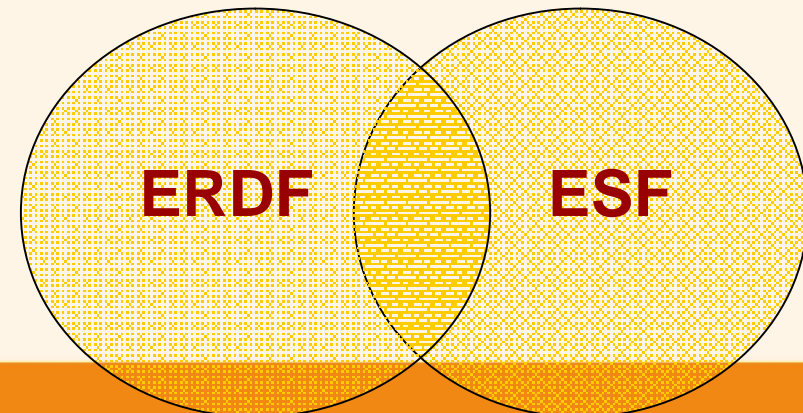


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## *Can we be successful?*

ü Yes, we can... ensure complementarity between ERDF and ESF

	ESF – HC OP	ERDF - RPO
Project title	„Modernisation of vocational education in the Malopolska Region”	19 infrastructure projects chosen for funding under Malopolska ROP
Types of beneficiaries	The Malopolska Region	local self-government units
EU resources contribution	105 mln PLN	36 mln PLN





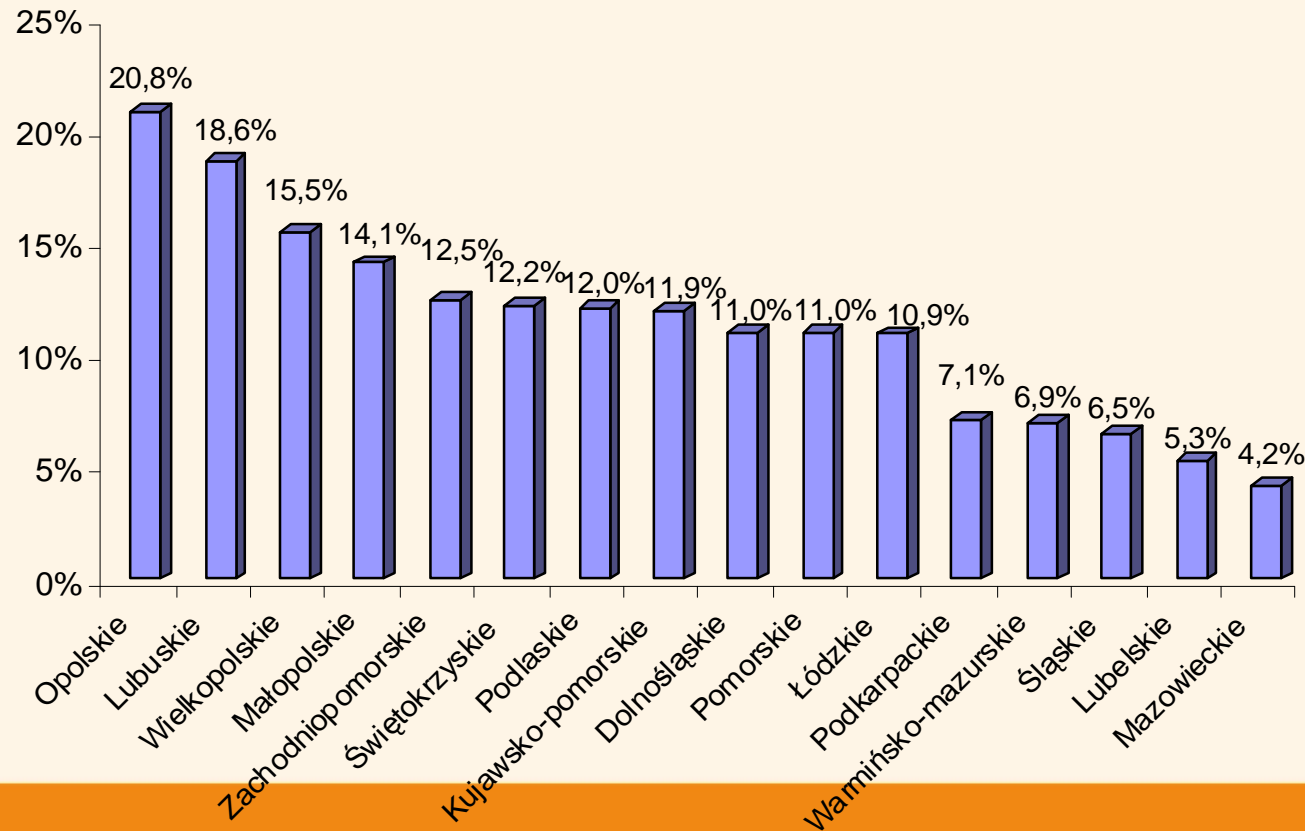


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## Can we be successful?

ü Yes, we can... use the money in compliance with N+3/N+2 principle

Amount of certified payments to allocation [%], as of April 14, 2010



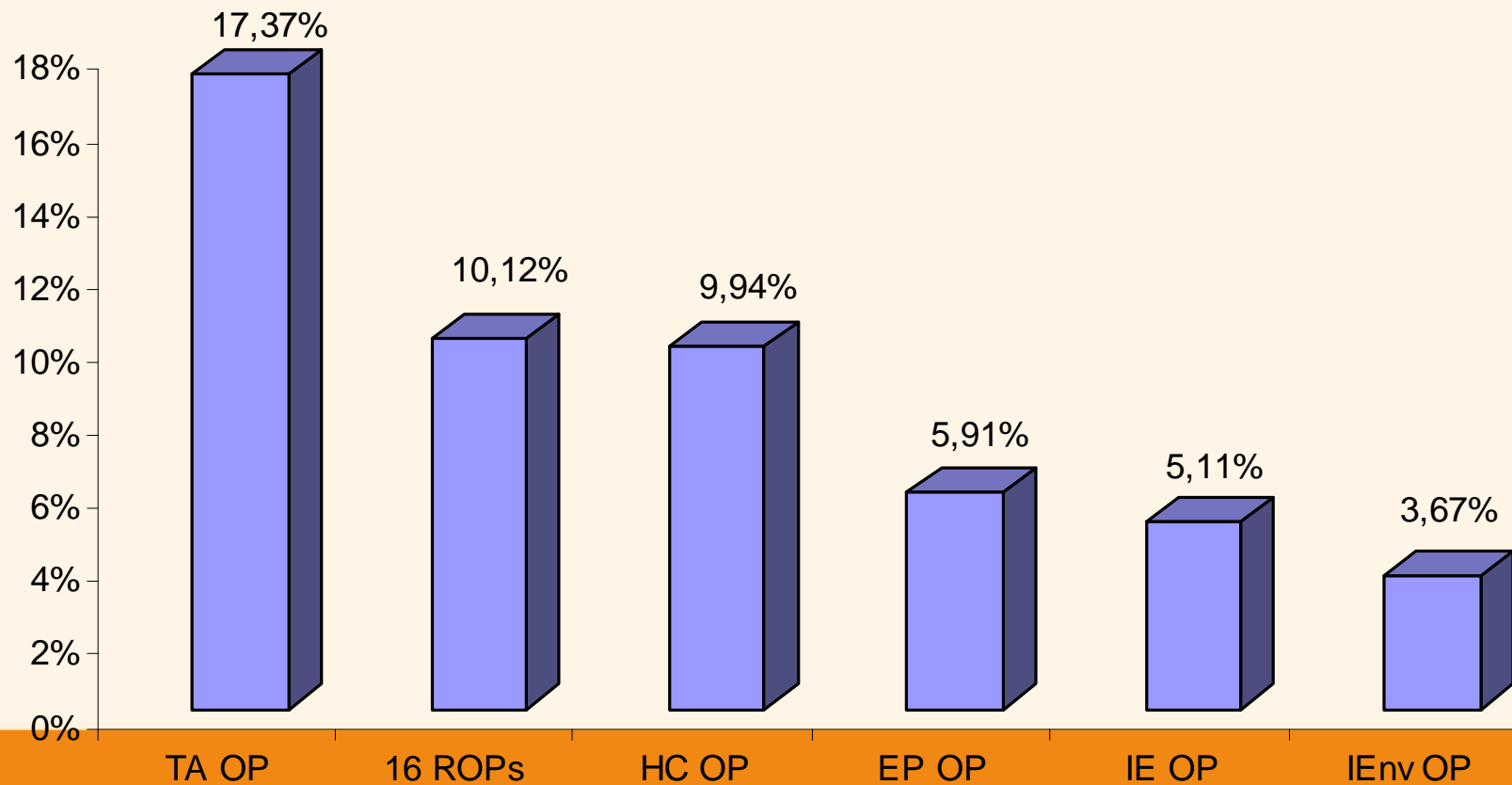


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## *Can we be successful?*

ü Yes, we can... use the money as fast as central administration

Amount of certified payments to allocation [%], as of April 14, 2010





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## *How can effectiveness be improved?*

- ü 2004-2006 – pressure to spend money (result: 107%)
- ü 2007-2013 – more time to select, prepare and carry-out good quality projects, but still „payments” are an important issue
  
- ü What can be improved?
  - Concentration on most important fields of intervention
  - More attention to impacts and qualitative results during programming phase
  - Let’s negotiate outputs! (in particular - those bound with EU2020)
  - Establishing criteria for qualitative performance assessment at the very beginning (performance reserve for best programmes, depending on achieving objectives)



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## *Can we find reserves for better effectiveness?*

- ü Better use of multi-level governance:
  - By placing responsibility in hands of those, whose interest to achieve objective in most direct
  - By developing cooperative attitude and partnership skills to support seeds of success
  
- ü Assigning coordinating role to Cohesion Policy:
  - Policies for specific sectors: setting-up goals (what kind of intervention is needed)
  - Cohesion policy: setting-up ways to achieve the goals (how, where, using which resources and with what actors should intervention be undertaken)



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## *Concluding remarks*

Being part of Cohesion Policy system:

- ü Creates for Polish regions opportunities to undertake strategic projects, but
  - We need to remember SF is only a minor part of all public and private investments made at the same time...
  - Therefore, independent strategic thinking needs to be developed on all levels
- ü Helps all beneficiaries improve general managing skills (strategic and operational planning, multiannual investment planning, human resources)
- ü Gives incentives to be active

But

- ü We need to put **more efforts to plan and verify outputs!**



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*Thank you for your attention!*  
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