



# Wielkopolska

The power of possibility



**Wielkopolska**

Kierunek wodór

**RELOS3**  
Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## Action Plan for Wielkopolska

### Part I - General information

**Project:** RELOS3, „From Regional to Local: Successful deployment of the Smart Specialization Strategies”

**Partner organisation:** Wielkopolska Region

**Other partner organisations involved (if applicable):** Not applicable

**Country:** Poland

**NUTS2 region:** Wielkopolska Region

**Contact person:** Michał Ptaszyński, Blanka Blajer-Kujawa

**E-mail address:** [michal.ptaszynski@umww.pl](mailto:michal.ptaszynski@umww.pl); [blanka.blajer@umww.pl](mailto:blanka.blajer@umww.pl)

**Phone number:** +48 61 626 62 553, +48 61 626 62 53

### Part II - Policy context

**The Action Plan aims to impact:**

- ✓ Investment for Growth and Jobs programme,  
European Territorial Cooperation programme,
- ✓ Other regional development policy instrument.

**Policy instruments addressed:**

1. Regional Operational Programme for Wielkopolskie Voivodeship 2014-2020,  
Thematic objective 1 and 3, priority axis 1,
2. Wielkopolska RIS3

## Improvement needs:

Wielkopolska is a large region of almost 30 thousand square km and 3,5 million inhabitants. The region is diversified as for the structure of the economy as well as geographical and demographical situation. The differences can be illustrated by the basic economic indicators of the region's six subregions, as in the table below:

Table 1 Economic indicators illustrating the development differences of the Wielkopolska subregions

Subregion	Unemployment rate		Entrepreneurship		GDP per capita, region=100%	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2015	2016
Kalisz subregion	3,3	3,0	6,8	6,7	83,8	82,3
Konin subregion	6,8	5,6	6,2	6,0	69,7	69,9
Leszno subregion	3,8	3,4	8,9	8,4	82,6	82,4
Piła subregion	6,3	5,5	6,7	6,5	71,0	70,0
Poznań subregion	2,5	2,1	9,1	8,7	112,6	114,9
City of Poznań subregion	1,4	1,2	15,4	14,3	181,8	181,9

Source: Statistics Poland, Bank of Local Data

The table shows the latest available statistics for two consecutive years. They reveal structural differences that will persist despite visible economic growth throughout the whole region. At one extreme there is the highly developed capital of the region with the surrounding functional area, at the opposite: Konin and Piła subregions struggling with socio-economic problems related to the historical transformation and current changes. In between there are two subregions: Leszno and Kalisz.

Until now the RIS3 in its priorities and implementation modes did not reflect enough the differences between sub-regions. Therefore there is a need for improvement of innovation policy by adjustment of priorities and activities on local and subregional level. RIS3 in the region is implemented mainly via Regional Operational Programme (ROP) and there has been a need for improvement of its implementation through subregional approach to EDP. The RIS3 effective implementation through ROP requires mobilisation of local authorities and companies for generating local initiatives and projects contributing to RIS3 objectives.

Within RELOS3 specific approaches to RIS3 development and implementation recognising subregional level were shared in policy learning process. This inspired regional authorities and stakeholders to address the need for economic transformation in all subregions in Wielkopolska, with the special emphasis on Konin and Piła area. The Konin subregion especially faces the structural changes triggered by the decline of the lignite mining and power production industry, the subregion has been heavily dependent on. Such dependency on the sector represented by large companies is interrelated with the low level of entrepreneurship. These features make this subregion different from the rest of Wielkopolska landscape. Due to the presence of large energy plants it has also a specific know-how in this sector and the qualified manpower. The stakeholders from Konin have been active participants of the subregional EDP inspired by the global challenge formulated in EU Strategy: *A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy*. The response formulated for Konin area is to focus on clean energy, based on development of hydrogen technologies. The stakeholders from Piła subregion also discovered in EDP that the current smart specialisation focus of the region does not fit their needs. They want to focus on the smart and eco-friendly technologies in developing their economy. As mentioned above, this subregion is also characterized by a low rate of entrepreneurship, industrialization and economic activity. This is due to more complex overlapping historical factors, primarily the political transformation of the end of the previous century. However it differs from the rest of the region by high concentration of natural assets: forests, lakes and rivers. Nevertheless, other subregions are also facing the issue of heavy pollution and smog problems, which was identified in the EDP process and therefore clean energy solutions are relevant to them as well.

The action plan is focusing on testing new approach to economic transition in sub-regional dimension of Wielkopolska sub-regions with the use of ROP. In the action plan, it was decided to concentrate in one action a series of activities implemented under Wielkopolska ROP 2014+, as well as from the region's own funds, which on the one hand aim to introduce another horizontal specialization to RIS3 and on the other to activate cooperation with stakeholders at local level in order to develop bottom up initiatives and projects, which in turn could be financed through ROP.

The action plan has been inspired in the conceptual dimension by conclusions from the thematic workshops of the project, especially those related to going beyond the traditional divisions of policy interventions, e.g. to scientific, economic, public services, etc. Such multidimensional view of policy allows better integration of local institutional, economic and social systems with actors operating research, development and innovation. In this approach, the so-called mission policies addressing important social challenges, as well as the use of many roles that local authorities play, including initiating innovation in the public services sector such as transport, education, water supply, sewage, garbage collection and environmental protection may play an important role. In the practical dimension, two good practices from the RELOS3 Interreg Europe project inspiration was used, i.e., “sTARTUp Day” and “Review and re-design of Malta Enterprise’s industry support schemes for RD&I”.

The action is named “Economic transformation of the Wielkopolska subregions - direction hydrogen”. The action plan will be implemented by the Department of Economy, within the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.

Is the Partner organisation responsible for these policy instruments? : Yes.

### Part III: Details of the action envisaged

Action name:

**Economic transformation of the Wielkopolska subregions - direction hydrogen**

#### 1. Relevance to the RELOS3 project

The lessons learnt and inspirations from the inter-regional learning process in the RELOS3 project used in the development of the action are summarized in the table below.

2. Table 2 Overview of RELOS3 inspirations for Wielkopolska Action Plan

Lesson learnt	Source of the lesson
<b>Focusing smart specialisation on energy issues</b>	
<b>Smart specialisation can be defined with regard to energy issues in the region.</b>	Findings of the meeting in Sevilla, Spain 13-14.06.2017

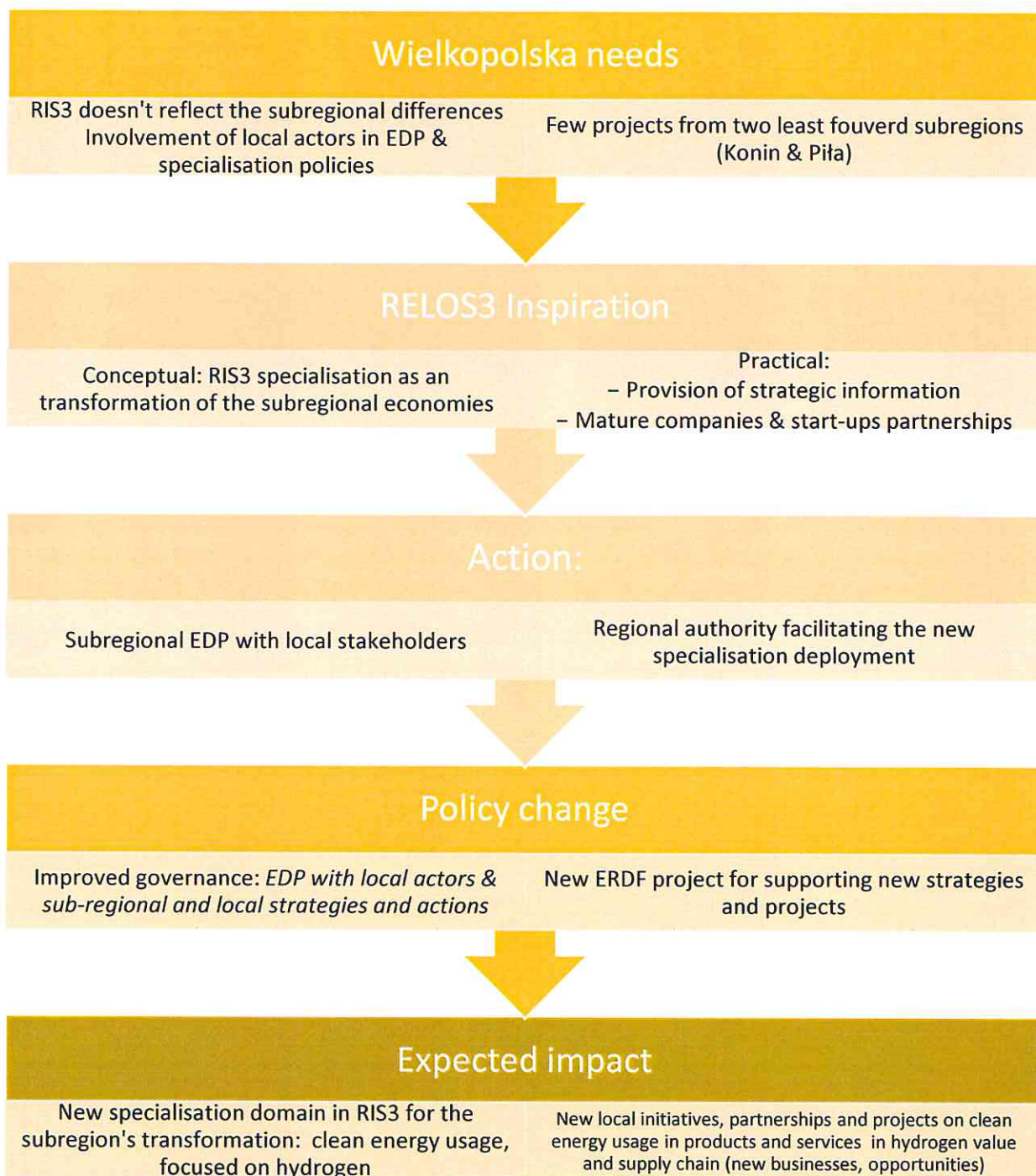
<b>Integration of various local policies with smart specializations</b>	
<p>Mission policies (addressing major societal challenges) can be a link between research and innovation and local innovation strategies</p> <p>The R &amp; D &amp; I system and local innovation systems should be better linked and joint initiatives should be developed</p>	<p>Findings of thematic Event 4 in Wielkopolska: <i>Removing policy silos between R+D policies and Public Led Innovation Ecosystems</i></p> <p>27.02. - 01.03.2018</p>
<b>Importance of involvement of local stakeholders in quadruple helix formula</b>	
<p>EDP must be organised with participation of representatives of 4 collaborating groups: authorities, business, education and R&amp;D sector and society</p>	<p>Findings of the meeting in Sevilla, Spain 13-14.06.2017</p>
<b>Local/subregional hubs for smart specialisation</b>	
<p>Local dimension of smart specialisation can be developed focusing on existing potential, involving start-up and existing companies and strengthened by partnership of local authorities with intermediaries</p>	<p>Findings of thematic meeting in Tartu, Estonia, 20-22.11.2017</p>
<b>Providing strategic information to decision-makers and entrepreneurs</b>	
<p>Redesigning the support schemes must be based on facts. It must reflect the global challenges but taking into account the potential of local innovation system.</p>	<p>Good practice from Malta (Malta Enterprise), named “Review and re-design of Malta Enterprise’s industry support schemes for RD&amp;I”</p>
<p>Specific cooperation projects involving mature enterprises in new technologies are needed to strengthen specialization</p>	

<p>A platform enhancing collaboration between mature companies, including the traditional sectors, and start-ups, students/originators assisted by other stakeholders (authorities, R&amp;D sector and intermediaries) can create an added value to EDP process in a form of new business ideas. Regular events focusing on specific RIS3 issues can create such a platform.</p>	<p>Good practice from the Tartu City Government, named “sTARTUp Day”</p>
--	--

## 2. Nature of the action

The basic concept of the action is the Department of the Economy of The Marshal Office of Wielkopolska region undertaking a coordinator and animator role in the partnership forming process with local authorities, companies, chamber of commerce, education and research institutions and in the provision of information and guidance in order to mobilise introduction of local strategies, projects and incentives for the companies to use the business opportunities related to the new technologies, which create opportunities to generate new services and products, throughout the entire supply chain of hydrogen economy.

The logic of the action in relation to the region’s needs, RELOS3 inspirations, planned activities and the expected results is presented on the graph below:



The action implementation has already started in August 2018. The EDP on subregional level has been implemented through specific activities:

1. The issue of the economic transition has been recognised by regional and local authorities.
2. The lessons learnt from the interregional process of RELOS3 project have shown the opportunities of linking the smart specialisation with the energy sector which is a

specific asset of the Konin subregion and the new smart technologies in Piła “green subregion”.

3. In parallel the process of defining development potential (R&D, companies) has been carried out for Konin and Piła subregions, involving quadruple helix partners, i.e. the interaction and cooperation of representatives of four types of stakeholders: public administration, enterprises, science and education, and citizens. As its importance was discussed with the RELOS3 partners during the project meeting in Sevilla.
4. The process of smart specialisation re-definition on subregional level has been launched by setting a direction of the transition towards hydrogen-based solutions in collaboration within quadruple-helix. This formula had been explored during the interregional RELOS3 meeting in Sevilla and in Wielkopolska has been implemented in a form of “Hydrogen Platform” involving business, R&D sector, authorities and society.
5. In 2018, the region self-government appointed a Working group for restructuring the economic potential of the Konin subregion. In 2019, the government appointed the Envoy for Eastern Wielkopolska, who will coordinate the activities of the Self-Government in supporting the economic transformation of the entire subregion.
6. In another subregion local Piła Working Group for Hydrogen Technologies was established with the participation of city authorities, the chamber of commerce and industry, higher school of Piła and a municipal enterprise dealing with water supply, wastewater treatment and implementation of renewable energy solutions in relation to services. The group is working out a local action plan and financing model.

These initial initiatives will be strengthened and structured into a **coherent set of instruments for the region policy focused on the development and application of hydrogen technology solutions**, development of the related economy, including the creation of new public-private cooperation initiatives at the subregional level, e.g. investments in the area of public services, investments by enterprises, supporting the application of hydrogen technology solutions by households as well as research, development and innovation projects in subregions. To this end, it is planned to develop and implement by the Department of Economy of the Marshal's Office a non-competitive



project of the Wielkopolska Regional Operational Program for the years 2014-2020 Action 1.2 *Increasing the innovation potential of companies in Wielkopolska region*. This project aims to create the foundations for the entrepreneurs and scientific and industrial consortia developing new innovative projects with commercial potential based on low and zero emission technologies, with particular emphasis on hydrogen.

An important element of this project will be the adaptation of good practice from Malta: [Review and re-design of Malta Enterprise's industry support schemes for RD&I to support higher value added growth and R&I](#) based on strategic information important for decision makers from public administration and enterprises. The redesign of instruments was preceded by the development of a set of strategic documents containing specific technology, market and financial information as the basis for building an innovation ecosystem associated with new specializations. Also in Wielkopolska, a set of strategic documents will be developed as the basis enabling enterprises from Wielkopolska to build a coherent and competitive business ecosystem based on hydrogen solutions. These documents will include:

- *Global hydrogen value and supply chain* - analysis of the global state of affairs with an indication of the largest players in the hydrogen technology supply chain;
- *Opportunities for the Wielkopolska economy in implementing the 'Clean planet for all' strategy* - analysis of business opportunities emerging for Wielkopolska companies in connection to EU decisions implementing policies related to climate protection and counteracting the effects of its changes;
- *Strategy for the development of Hydrogen Wielkopolska until 2030* - the document will describe the opportunities for the region enterprises in the delivery of products and services in the hydrogen economy. It will be divided into individual elements of the supply chain with an indication of what should be done in the short, medium and long term, in terms of economy, science and the institutional environment to fulfil the vision of developing a hydrogen ecosystem in Wielkopolska.

The next element of the project is to strengthen EDP at the subregional level by organizing events that will create a platform for generating new business ideas, in cooperation between mature companies and start-ups supported by the public sector in the thematic area originating in the RIS3 subregional process. The idea of such events was inspired by Tartu (EE) good practice ("[sTARTUp Day](#)"). Following a model of good practice from Estonia,

a series of events is planned in the form of Start-up Day and Thematic Seminar. The purpose of the events is to gather stakeholders from the business sector related to clean energy solutions (especially with the use of hydrogen solutions), start-ups, students/originators, business support organizations, regional and local authorities and the media. In addition to serving as a platform for generating new business ideas, exchanging experiences and contacts the events will also contribute to raising awareness about the importance of investing in developing low-carbon and zero-emission solutions among business and public stakeholders. The planned events and initiatives include:

- “Road-show” - Hydrogen vehicle route through Wielkopolska region (bus). The aim of the road-show will be reinforcement of EDP process in subregions. The events will be organised in subregions’ capital cities, with special focus on Konin and Pila subregions,
- Meet Hydrogen - conference with B2B meetings. This event will be opportunity for companies, including start-ups as well as R&D Units and local authorities to get to know new low emission technologies,
- Start-up Day - the event will be focused on starting technology transfer process to support new companies interested in with low emission technologies,
- Hydrogen School: cooperation program with high schools and higher education institutions based on bilateral agreements with these institutions.

The activities of Wielkopolska Hydrogen Platform will be continued The work of Platform is organised within 4 Working Groups called Panels:

- Business Panel,
- Science Panel,
- Local authorities leaders Panel,
- Citizens Panel.

Each Panel meets once a month (from January till November) when at least half of the Panel members confirm their participation. Platform members have access to a dedicated online forum to speed up the process of consultations, proposal development, etc.

The Platform will play a key role in the project. The strategic documents will be elaborated in a participatory way with the Platform panels. Whereas all the events listed above are designed as a prototype of the novel way of entrepreneurial discovery process. The events will use the synergies with the Platform in the identification of specific themes

and actors and places and will be an “incubation” of RTDI projects, local initiatives with the involvement of the citizens. The novelty of EDP lies in the “incubation” ideas as so far EDP was directed on identification and monitoring of the smart specialization areas.

In addition, the activities started by the regional authorities in 2018 will be continued, complementing the above-mentioned ERDF funded project. They will be financed by the region own budget or other projects. These activities will contribute to the process of building partnerships with local authorities, enterprises, associations of enterprises, education and research institutions. They will consist in the provision information and advice to mobilize local strategies, projects and incentives for enterprises to use business opportunities related to new technologies that create opportunities to generate new services and products, including the use of hydrogen throughout the entire supply chain. An example of such an activity are regularly organized trips of representatives of local and regional authorities, representatives of science, intermediaries to countries building the hydrogen economy. It is planned to organize at least one such visit per year.

### **3. Stakeholders involved**

The regional authorities, local authorities, companies, business support organisations, universities, media, citizens.

### **4. Timeframe**

#### **a. Entrepreneurial Discovery Process for the subregional needs:**

- i. Meetings with local actors of subregions of Piła, Konin, Leszno and Kalisz: August 2018 - December 2020;
- ii. Formation of a special “Hydrogen Platform” for the new specialisation area definition for subregional economies transformation involving business, R&D sector, authorities and society: July 2019. Since that date regular meetings of the 4 panels (monthly or bi-monthly);
- iii. Appointment of new structures within the region self-government:  
Working group for restructuring the economic potential of the Konin subregion: March 2018;  
Envoy for Eastern Wielkopolska: February 2019;

- iv. Analyses of needs and potential of Wielkopolska subregions: September 2018 - December 2019, including reports of external experts for Leszno, Piła and Konin subregions;
  - v. Preparation of the RIS3 Wielkopolska new concept, which includes a plan for subregional and decarbonisation of energy aspects: October - December 2019;
  - vi. Development of updated RIS3 Wielkopolska: January - December 2020.
- b. Non-competitive project for Wielkopolska ROP: "Construction of a support system for high-quality R & D & I projects, in particular those developing low and zero emission technologies, with particular emphasis on hydrogen":**
- i. Preparation of the project - June 2019-March 2020;
  - ii. Submission and evaluation of the project - April 2020;
- Implementation of the project activities - October 2019 - December 2023. By the of 2021 it is planned the following outputs will be delivered:
- *Global hydrogen value and supply chain* - analysis of the global state of affairs with an indication of the largest players in the hydrogen technology supply chain: December 2020 - 1;
  - *Opportunities for the Wielkopolska economy in implementing the 'Clean planet for all' strategy* - analysis of business opportunities emerging for Wielkopolska companies in connection to EU decisions implementing policies related to climate protection and counteracting the effects of its changes: December 2021 - 1;
  - Events: 1 event of each type per year (6 in total till the end of 2021).

## 5. Costs

### a. Entrepreneurial Discovery Process leading to RIS3 update:

- i. External expertise expenses related to the analyses:
  - By the end of 2019: 556 000 PLN (ca. 129 000 EUR) from various sources (ERDF projects and own budget);

- In 2020: 160 000 PLN (ca. 37 000 EUR) of own budget and 104 000 PLN (ca. 24 000 EUR) ROP ERDF technical assistance project;
  - Human resources (own staff) ca. 2 persons full time since 2018.
- b. Non-competitive project for Wielkopolska ROP: "Construction of a support system for high-quality R & D & I projects, in particular those developing low and zero emission technologies, with particular emphasis on hydrogen":**
- External expertise expenses related to the strategic documents: 750 000 PLN (ca. 175 000 EUR) in total, including 450 000 PLN (ca. 105 000 euro) for the 2 documents to be ready by the end of 2021;
  - Wielkopolska Hydrogen Platform meetings: 130 000 PLN (ca. 30 000 EUR) till the end of 2021;
  - Events organisation: 1 720 000 PLN (ca. 400 000 EUR) till the end of 2021;
  - Human resources: 5 people (3 fte) for the duration of the project.

## **6. Funding sources**

The action will be funded through the own resources of the Self-government and a non-competitive project financed under Measure 1.2 of Wielkopolska ROP 2014+ under the working title "Construction of a support system for high-quality R & D & I projects, in particular those developing low and zero emission technologies, with particular emphasis on hydrogen".

## **7. Conclusions and summary**

The Action Plan for Wielkopolska is a document that will allow to use the conclusions drawn from the exchange of experience in the RELOS3 project to improve regional policy in the field of RIS3 on local level.

The Action Plan will be implemented by the Self-Government of the Wielkopolska Region. The process of implementation will be subject to monitoring by the Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region.

Date: 11.03.2020

Województwo Wielkopolskie  
z siedzibą Urzędu Marszałkowskiego  
Województwa Wielkopolskiego w Poznaniu  
al. Niepodległości 34  
61-714 Poznań  
NIP 778-13-46-888 , REGON 631257816

Stamp of partner organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, surname and position of representative:

Beata Joanna Łozińska, Director of the Department of Economy, Marshal Office of Wielkopolska Region

DYREKTOR  
DEPARTAMENTU GOSPODARKI  
  
*Beata Joanna Łozińska*

Signature and stamp of representative: \_\_\_\_\_