



EXTRA-SMEs A5.1.

**REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR WEST POMERANIA IN
POLAND**





1 CONTENTS

Content.....	1
Abbreviation.....	2
General information.....	3
Objectives and main issues addressed.....	4
Regional Operational Programme for the West Pomerania 2014-2020 (RPOWZ 2014-2020).....	5
Regional Operational Programme for the West Pomerania 2021-2027 (RPOWZ 2021-2027).....	7
Action: Modernisation of technological lines for the production of eco food, including food processing- project recommendation.....	8

2 ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
ROP	Regional Operational Programme
MC	Monitoring Committee
PP	Programming Period
SME	Small and Medium sized Enterprises



3 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Northern Chamber of Commerce is participating in the EXTRA-SMEs project, which primarily aims to achieve the expansion of rural and coastal aquaculture SMEs in wider markets for the promotion of their products, through simpler and improved administrative processes, and innovative technologies, by supporting public authorities and assist them to join forces and exchange experiences in order to a) simplify administration, b) expand in new markets, c) introduce innovative value-added product solutions, d) up-skill personnel and e) contribute to resolving conflicts between stakeholder groups.

The EXTRA-SMEs is the consortium of 9 partners from 7 different EU countries and the project's overall goal is to improve the implementation of participating regions' policy instruments related to the SME competitiveness across the value chain of coastal and rural regional economies with a strong aquaculture component. The project aims to identify and promote experiences and practices for simpler, improved administrative processes, internationalization, and expansion to broader markets, as well as engaging in innovation processes that will act as drivers for the creation of jobs.

Based on the cooperation of partners in phase I and most importantly on the study visits and stakeholders' meetings each participating country is preparing the Regional Action Plan as a document providing details on how the lessons learnt from the cooperation will be implemented in order to improve the policy instrument tackled within that region. The minimum information to be provided per action includes the way the action is linked to the project, the nature of the activities to be implemented, their timeframe, the stakeholders involved, the costs and funding sources.

4 OBJECTIVES AND MAIN ISSUES ADDRESSED

This Action Plan is based on research, findings and conclusions the previously conducted activities such as A3.5 Exchange of experience visits on internationalization and extraversion improvement the following barriers to extraversion have been identified:

1. Shortages in qualified Staff
2. Unfavorable home rules and regulations
3. Lack of excess production capacity for exports
4. Difficulty in matching competitors' prices
5. Excessive transportation/insurance costs
6. Lack of home government assistance/incentives
7. Unfamiliar exporting procedures/paperwork/ certification
9. Meeting export product quality/standards/specifications
10. High health, safety and technical standards (e.g. sanitary and phytosanitary requirements)

As regards Western Pomerania, given the most significant barriers reported (EXTRA-SMEs, 2019b), the aquaculture sector is in need of overall government support and a policy priority of renewing the standard business models so as to meet the necessary standards for export marketing and trade. In a soft approach, such support should familiarise aquaculture businesses with foreign procedures, consumption habits but also with domestic procedures which have to be clear and easily accessible to aspiring exporters. More concrete issues, such as transportation costs and currency risks, can be addressed by prioritising export activities and, in doing so, provide incentives in the form of tax reductions for the companies willing to take on export activities. Reducing risks for companies should include efforts to provide business intelligence support and assurance needed to engage in trade activities in new markets.

Overall, the project works on improving policies for helping SMEs along the value chain to operate beyond borders and integrate into global value chains, and for fostering the commercialization of innovative products. EXTRA-SMEs aims to actively support entrepreneurship development and capacity building as a building block for business creation and growth. The project partners will exchange experiences and practices, to improve regional policies that a) respond to the key challenges that obstruct businesses on their path to growth, and b) support enterprises to create new or use existing market opportunities.

5 REGIONAL OPERATION PROGRAMME OF THE WEST POMERANIA 2014-2020 (RPOWZ 2014-2020)

The Regional Operational Programme is based on three main pillars:

- ✓ regional program documents, such as the Voivodship Development Strategy prepared in 2010, the Zachodniopomorskie Voivodship Spatial Development Plan, other sectoral strategies and the resulting Strategic Programs.
- ✓ experiences and good practices developed during the implementation of the ending Regional Operational Program for the Westpomeranian Region for 2007-2013
- ✓ Strategic directions and principles of development adopted at the level of Poland and the European Union for 2014-2020, including Europe 2020.

Strategy of the ROP WZ 2014-2020

The diagnoses carried out - both in regional, national and EU documents - show that the region's development needs and barriers are so serious and multidimensional that the implementation of each of the three priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy and each of its goals will be a challenge for the region requiring significant intervention activities. ROP WZ 2014-2020 will significantly contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy due to the planned broad intervention within its three key priorities.

Activities similar to the topic of aquaculture

Priority axis III. Environmental Protection and Adaptation to Climate Change

In the document, only the third priority axis relates to environmental protection. The actions of the axis focus on targeting the limitation of the environmental impact of threats. This approach stems from the belief that the greatest successes in environmental sustainability can be achieved through an integrated approach to environmental management.

The implementation of the planned activities is to reduce problem areas related to the impact and effects of climate change, improve flood protection through effective flood risk management and increase the retention capacity of areas.

Project proposals implemented under RPOWZ 2014-2020:

1. Construction or modernization of small water retention facilities.

Review: The implementation of this type of projects is aimed at improving the condition of water retention infrastructure and improving the water balance of the catchment area.

2. Development of early warning and threat forecasting systems.

Review: The projects will contribute to increasing the protection of people and infrastructure in the voivodeship. The possibility of early warning and forecasting the scale of threats will allow you to plan and take appropriately targeted actions.

3. Support for the system and rescue services in the event of catastrophic phenomena or serious failures

Review: The projects will contribute to the safety of the voivodeship population in the event of catastrophic events or major accidents.

Conclusion:

The essence of the intervention in the previous Regional Operational Program were measures aimed solely at stopping the process of loss of biological diversity and natural landscape values in the region. Investments were focused on strictly activities aimed at the protection of the environment, broadly understood habitats of animals and plants.

The ROP WZ 2014-2020 in the only priority axis focused on the natural environment does not include any measures aimed at improving the condition of aquaculture.

The needs of aquaculture, food production or the marine economy are not clearly shown. The priority axis focused on environmental protection does not indicate any action to be implemented in the field of aquaculture. The Regional Operational Program did not have targeted aquaculture calls.

The only possibility proposed by the Regional Operational Program was the Activity 1.5, under which the possibility was given to obtain funding for company development, implementation of innovative solutions and alternative services.

The EXTRA SME project activities show significant needs in the field of aquaculture. The lack of regional aquaculture activities is leading the sector to decline and causing the industry to disappear from the regional markets. Lack of representation of the sectoral matters in the regional instruments shows the need for further action in the new programme.

6 REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME OF WESTERN POMERANIA 2021-2027 (RPOWZ 2021-2027)

The program for the new financial perspective is in the phase of public consultations. Consultations will last until the end of August 2021. After the consultations, the next step will be to classify the forecasts and proposals from the consultations and to include the most significant initiatives for the region in the program. At the turn of the third / fourth quarter of 2021, the draft program 2021-2027 will be adopted by the Voivodship Board. The next step is the approval of the program by the government, and then handing over the draft to the European Commission and starting negotiations.

The strategy of the consulted program assumes the following action priorities:

- 1 STRATEGIC GOAL. Open community - aware residents and community involvement.
- 2 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. Dynamic economy - shaping the high quality of life of the inhabitants and strengthening the competitiveness of the region.
- 3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. Efficient local government - effective local government - integrated region. Territorial equality in access to high-quality public services.
- 4 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE. A partner region - a strong position and active role in interregional and cross-border relations.

The subject of aquaculture is not explicitly included in the new program. Only for the strategic goal "Dynamic economy - shaping a high quality of life for the inhabitants and strengthening the competitiveness of the region, there may be a possibility of funding for the aquaculture industry. There is a possibility of funding the initiatives of entrepreneurs.

These initiatives are not described in detail, which industries they may come from and what they specifically concern.

7 ACTION: RECOMMENDATION OF PROJECTS ON THE MODERNIZATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL LINES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ECO FOOD, INCLUDING FISH PROCESSING

The Regional Program for the West Pomeranian Voivodeship for the financial perspective 2021-2027 is in the phase of social consultations. The intention of the consultation is primarily to present the program and its assumptions to the community. Consultations are also intended to introduce to the program the proposed new solutions and activities in the areas not covered by the program support. In the new Regional Operational Program, it is planned to include activities related to modern agri-food processing, which may include elements of aquaculture, as well as a chain of connections related to industries.

The EXTRA SME project sees the need to recognize aquaculture issues and make the area visible in regional programs. Participation in a wide range of consultations will give the opportunity to include the aquaculture industry in the provisions of the consulted program. As part of the EXTRA SME project, we see the inclusion of the following initiatives from the aquaculture industry.

1. co-financing enterprises related to fish farming (closed facilities, e.g. fish ponds)
2. co-financing the modernization of SME's
3. launching a promotional campaign for aquaculture
4. to promote fish farming
5. promoting Polish fishery products
6. training aquaculture-related personnel

The process: Consultation Strategy Plan	
Nature of the activities and the timeframe	<p>Design and organization of the consultation strategy of the new Regional Program for the West Pomeranian Voivodeship for the financial perspective 2021-2027 leading to inclusion of food processing related to aquatic SMEs to the new ROP.</p> <p>The intention of the consultation is primarily to present the program and its assumptions to the community. Consultations are also intended to introduce to the program the proposed new</p>

solutions and activities in the areas not covered by the program support.

Proposed timeframe:

28.05.2021

Inauguration of the consultation process.

Participation in the event. Collection of the latest news regarding the scheme of the ROP. Assessing the possible areas to target for inclusion of the aquaculture matters.

03.09.2021

Appointment of a new working group for the preparation of a new Regional Program European Funds for Western Pomerania 2021-2027. NCC is the member of this body.

Working Group consultation is one of the most important elements of the process, the result of which will be the preparation and adoption by the Board of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship the new Regional Program European Funds for Western Pomerania 2021-2027.

September/October 2021

public hearings - a meeting open to all who have previously expressed their interest to speak during the hearings.

1quarter 2022

It is foreseen that the draft program 2021-2027 will be adopted by the Voivodeship Management Board and accepted by the EU.

2nd quarter 2022

Issuing implementation regulations by the Polish Parliament that will give possibility to announcement of call for applications.

The action: **Modernization of technological lines for the production of eco food, including fish processing- project recommendation**

<p>Nature of the action and the timeframe</p>	<p>There are 8 smart specializations in the West Pomeranian Voivodeship. Within the framework of these specializations, priority axes are created. Priority Axis 1 is addressed to entrepreneurs, which is called: "Economy, Innovations, Modern Technologies".</p> <p>This axis in the previous ROP 2014-2020 included the following call: "Investments of enterprises supporting the development of regional specializations and smart specializations".</p> <p>Our aim is that the same call will be repeated in the new ROP. As part of such a call, we recommend to entrepreneurs the following project on <u>modernization of technological lines for the production of eco food, including fish processing</u>.</p> <p>The next possible announcement of calls is possible in the second half of 2022 and further in the following years.</p>
<p>Stakeholders involved</p>	<p>Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship West Pomeranian University of Technology SME's</p>
<p>Cost</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>Founding sources</p>	<p>EU funding via The Regional Program for the West Pomeranian Voivodeship 2021-2027</p>
<p>Responsible organisation</p>	<p>Northern Chamber of Commerce Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian: ROP Strategic Management Department</p>
<p>Stamp & signature Piotr Wolny Northern Chamber of Commerce Director Member of the ROP Monitoring Committee of the Regional Program European Funds for Western Pomerania 2021-2027 (PR FE dPZ)</p>	<p>Northern Chamber of Commerce Al. Wolności Polskiego 86 Avenue 70-482 Szczecin, Poland phone: (0048) 91 486 07 88</p> 