



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

ACTION PLAN

for Lubelskie Voivodship



Lubelskie

Part I – General information

Project: Effectiveness of environmental Urban policies to improve Resources Efficiency

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Lubelskie Voivodeship

Country: Poland

NUTS2 region: Lubelskie

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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

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed:

- **Regional Urban Policy**

Further details on the policy context and the way the action plan should contribute to improve the policy instruments:

The Regional Urban Policy is an instrument adopted in 2017 by regional authorities to develop and provide with details concerning urban development aspects defined in *Regional Development Strategy 2014-2020 (with perspective till 2030)*. RUP is a tool for coordination and orientation of activities of different actors to create favourable conditions for further development of urban areas.

Regional Urban Policy:

- adopts the idea of supporting urban functional areas in an integrated way and is not limited to administrative areas of cities themselves;
- divides towns in the region into several groups (in relation to the role they play in regional urban network) and identifies their specific functions and development opportunities, in order to harness their potential in more efficient way;
- recognises need of strengthening links between different actors and importance of cooperation and involvement stakeholders in preparation of the policy.

Based on EURE project effects (findings and recommendations in the reports, experiences and discussions during partner meetings and regional meetings, analysis of good practices) the process of the Regional Urban Policy updating will be commenced. One of the recommendation in the report *For a better and sustainable quality of life in European cities - Catalogue of policies, actions, good practices and recommendations* is stronger involvement of small and medium cities in the policy development. The process of RUP revision envisages active participation of stakeholders which is particularly important due to the fact the ITI instrument is extended in the financial perspective 2021-2027 to seventeen functional urban areas compared to five instruments existing in the previous perspective 2014-2020. Even though this is already a big step forward in supporting territorial authorities in their self-determination further assistance needs to be provided by the regional authorities and lessons learnt during EURE projects will have a significant influence – from creating integrated strategies in the functional areas to providing help in transforming strategic goals into operational activities such as for instance projects with ERDF and ESF+ support and co-financing. Therefore, implementation of this Action Plan is crucial for the way the whole process will be conducted, but also to the scope of change to be made.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1:

Name of the action: **Update of the Regional Urban Policy**

- 1. Relevance to the project** *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

The process of updating the document will be in line with findings and recommendations from EURE joint report *For a better and sustainable quality of life in European Cities* that focus on activities that will enhance development of urban areas:

- ✓ Reduction of urban sprawl
- ✓ Reduction of flood risk and underground water pollution
- ✓ Introduction of Circular Economy Packages
- ✓ Integration of energy efficiency measures
- ✓ Creation of sustainable intermodal urban mobility
- ✓ Adaptation to climate change, risk prevention and resilience to disasters through prevention measures
- ✓ Implementation of social inclusion activities.

These activities are strengthened also by good practice examples presented by the project partners during study visits.

RUP points out, that quality of environment is important for living conditions and economic development in urban areas. During project implementation and thanks to project effects it became clear, that this policy has to pay even more attention to climate change adaptation and circular economy. This is crucial due to growing needs of the cities in the region to transform in line with EU “green” policies goals. It is also important in macro scale (i.a. input of cities to CO₂ reduction) but also in local scale (friendly living conditions for their citizens). The inspiration for revision of this issue in RUP were good practices examples presented by the project partners during study visits:

- + *Pontevedra Urban Model* – that promotes development of the city with special attention to suburbs and better connection of city center with its peri-urban environment. This type of thinking may help cities in Lubelskie to minimise problems of urban sprawl and monofunctional areas developing at city periphery;
- *Yeitonia + ; Urban Innovation Alta Valdesa; PIU/HOPE: Home of People and Equality, a new life for Empoli city center; Lobzy Park – Eco hydrologic and climate benefit; Tram depot Slovany - the green roof concept; Athalassa Forest Park* - all projects thanks to investments in bike paths, green areas and “green” solutions facilitate the movement of pedestrians and bicycles, offer new recreation opportunities for citizens, and at the same time build resilience of the city to climate change;
- *Ecological efficiency of urban neighbourhoods*, as an example of holistic attitude for urban regeneration, where rehabilitation of historical building and revitalisation of neighbourhood is combined with issue of energy supply (from renewable sources) and raising awareness of citizens about green energy;
- *Integrated waste management system Alba*, as an example for systemic attitude to circular economy which is crucial for developing more ecological and citizen-friendly cities that can tackle current problems and issues;
- *Lugo + Biodynamic*, with a concept of design of carbon-neutral neighbourhoods which can be used by local authorities in Lubelskie for new investment areas (mostly for resident and service purposes).

Although the role of medium and small cities had been widely recognized, the new document will try to determine how territorial tools should be assigned and developed to construct development opportunities and implement integrated approach. The source of inspiration are regional reports, where Partners shared information about their systems of territorial investments and good practice Urban Innovation Alta Valdelsa (development planning of two municipalities, to overcome administrative borders).

The whole process of the Regional Urban Policy update will be characterized by its participatory approach. During seminar in Empoli, where mechanism of Urban Innovation Projects (PIU) was presented, it was stressed that projects have been prepared with strong involvement of citizens. Furthermore, + Pontevedra Urban Model highlights need of participation of civil society and institutions in decision-making process (not only consultation at preparatory stage of the document). Therefore, the crucial element of the whole process in Lubelskie will be involvement of stakeholders who will co-decide how the final document will be structured and which will be the most crucial directions for the future development. In that way the recommendation from EURE report *Opinion of medium/small and peripheric cities about priorities for urban policies* of empowering public and social participation of the local administration in the design, implementation and evaluation of urban policies will be fulfilled. The co-designing of the regional urban policy will be also in line with further recommendations concerning promotion of strategic planning in the functional urban areas which overflow administrative borders and demarcations and strengthen natural functional links and interactions.

2. Nature of the action (please precisely describe the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?)

- ✓ **The process of RUP revision** will be conducted in participatory way. A series of meetings and workshops will be organized to enable discussion between main stakeholders (local authorities of urban areas) but also to present new paths of development, new ways of dealing with problems and new solutions by different experts. The issues discussed on workshops, in particular, will be:

- green transformation and circular economy;
- social inclusion, labour market and immigration policies;
- territorial instruments in the functional areas – strategic planning, management structures, monitoring and evaluation;
- smart city

During the participatory process, we will use good practices presented in EURE project as inspirations for future projects implemented by project executors.

- ✓ **Update of the strategic regional document “Regional Urban Policy”** with special attention to the following aspects:

- Adaptation to climate change as one of the main factors influencing cities nowadays and one of the main issues that should be addressed in any development activities. The revision will affect:
 - *Chapter 5.9 Development problems of cities and towns* – a new factor will be added titled “Adaptation to climate change and green transition” which will address issues connected with creating climate resilience, achieving carbon neutral economy, creating citizens friendly cities and towns, using more renewable energy sources, identifying circular economy goals, and providing vast educational activities for all citizens
 - *Chapter 8 Areas and activities within the Regional Urban Policy* – alterations will be made in the third area “Increasing attractiveness of cities and towns as places for living” which will focus on green transition, climate change and circular economy. The social impact of all climate-neutral policies will also be mentioned strengthening possibilities of boosting jobs in managing ecosystem services and renewable energy.



- Current migration crisis and war in Ukraine affects also local policies – housing, social inclusion, health care. The need to think about development of the urban areas in integrated way, taking into consideration new circumstances, is more obvious than it was before. This will be a big challenge that needs to be addressed in the coming months and years, and local authorities need support in creating more resilient cities which will be able to face different kind of threats and challenges.

3. Stakeholders involved *(please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the implementation of the action1 and explain their role)*

- representatives of local authorities forming urban functional areas in the region, with particular attention paid to small and medium cities; due to the objectives of the national regional development policy particular attention will be paid to the national strategic intervention area i.e. small cities losing their socio-economic functions (11 cities in the Lubelskie Voivodship) – as active participants of meetings, workshops, who give information relevant to policy development, but also gain knowledge on strategic planning, inspiration for new projects;
- representatives of local NGOs and businesses – as knowledge transfer actors;
- representatives of poviats (additional authorities in the Polish self-government system) – as actors responsible for delivering public services, as active participants of meetings and workshops;
- public entities responsible for national tasks executed on a regional level in the following spheres: transport, energy safety and education – as experts during thematic meetings and workshops;
- external experts (urban policy, environment, revitalisation etc.)

4. Timeframe *(please specify the timing envisaged for action 1)*

The process of updating the document will commence in September 2022 at the latest and will last minimum a year due to planned extensive participation activities and ongoing dialogue with its crucial stakeholders – cities from the region.

5. Costs *(please estimate the costs related to the implementation of action 1)*

Most works will be programmed and implemented by the employees of the Marshal's Office as a part of their responsibilities however we plan to engage several experts with specific expertise who could facilitate workshops as independent actors. The estimated cost is EUR 10 000 and will include among others the following:

- Organization of workshops (depending on a situation - carried online or in reality),
- Urban experts.

6. Funding sources *(please describe how action 1 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II)?*

All activities will be financed from the budget of the Lubelskie Voivodship.

ACTION 2

Name of the action: **Changes in the organisation chart of the Marshall Office of the Lubelskie Voivodship**

1. **Relevance to the project** *(please describe how this action derives from the project and in particular from the interregional exchange of experience. Where does the inspiration for this action come from?)*

In the process of EURE project implementation and during meetings with stakeholders, issues concerning communication between the regional authorities and urban authorities were raised and discussed. The attention was paid to a lack of coordinating body responsible for contacts with representatives of different municipalities concerning their development activities, apart from issues strictly focusing on co-financing projects from European funds available at the regional level. Since towns and cities play an important role in programming, designing, and implementing development policies, also those identified on a regional level, it is crucial to construct efficient and flexible communication channels that will facilitate mutual contacts. This is also in line with the recommendation focusing on stronger involvement of small and medium cities in the policy development. Creation of a sort of a contact point for sharing views and ideas on regional urban policy that also coordinates tasks within the Marshal's Office will facilitate the processes of RUP development and will extend mutual trust among multiple stakeholders.

2. **Nature of the action** *(please describe precisely the content of action 1. What are the specific activities to be implemented?)*

The first step will focus on specifying which department and organisational unit will be directly responsible for regional urban policy. Even though creation and update of the document is one of activities carried by the Department of Strategy and Development, no direct tasks referred to management of regional urban policy are identified in the Organizational Rules adopted by the Board of the Lubelskie Voivodship. This might be misleading for different actors in the regions. Therefore, necessary alterations will be introduced. The next step will be assigning tasks of coordinating urban issues, specifically starting from updating the Regional Urban Policy, to a specific unit or a team in the department.

The tasks will include, but will not be limited to, organization of regular meetings and workshops providing local authorities of urban areas with useful information on strategic planning and management in functional areas, good practices, new initiatives of cities support, etc.

The tasks executed by the responsible unit will be monitored on steady basis as a part of audit procedures within the Marshal's Office.

3. **Timeframe** *(please specify the timing envisaged for action 2)*

The change in Organizational Rules will be made till September 2022

4. **Funding sources** *(please describe how action 2 will be financed. Is it through the policy instrument(s) indicated in part II)?*

The cost will be covered from the budget of the Lubelskie Voivodship and is estimated at EUR 800.



Date: _____

Name of the organisation(s):

Lubelskie Voivodship

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s): _____
