

Structural Funds and the socio-economic development of Poland – selected aspects

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Abstract

Poland is characterized by lower level of socio-economic development relative to the EU-15 member states; moreover, there is significant divergence between its regions. Therefore, the conducting of a suitable pro-development policy is a necessity, i.e. one which would counter the emergence of new disproportions or the deepening of the existing ones, and at the same time, which would contribute towards the convergence of the state as a whole. Interventions realized out of the EU funds may have a multifaceted effect on the economic development of the poorest states, leading to the speeding up of their socio-economic development and to the convergence of their economies relative to the richest EU member states.

The article presents the magnitude of the transfers made out of the EU funds to Poland after its accession to the EU. It also portrays the basic macroeconomic effects in the context of economic growth and of the labour market, as well as microeconomic ones, which can be experienced by Poland, or which have already been evidenced in the post-accession period.

Key words: convergence, structural funds, cohesion policy, absorption capacity

1 The EU funds for Poland during the years 2004-2013

In the new, 7-year period of European cohesion policy programming, i.e. in the years 2007-2013, Poland has been covered in its entirety by the Convergence objective, which relates to the regions of lower level of socio-economic development (indicated by the GDP/capita indicator under 75% of the EU-25 average) and by the European Territorial Cooperation objective (only eligible areas). This period saw Poland obtaining the largest allocation of the EU funds out of the EU member states, which amounted to Euros 67,3 billion from the structural funds and from the Cohesion Fund. These means support the realization of the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and for the operational programmes (OP) implemented within the Convergence objective there shall be earmarked over Euros 66,5 billion (in current prices). This constitutes a significant change in comparison

to the previous programming period, when the financial means allotted to Poland were incomparably smaller (as they were assigned only for the period 2004-2006), and thus, the effects of the realized interventions in the new period of implementing of the cohesion policy should be well marked. In the years 2004-2006, the allocation for Poland amounted to Euros 8,3 billion out of the structural funds for the co-financing of the operational programmes, Euros 0,35 billion from the Community Initiatives programmes INTERREG III and EQUAL, and Euros 4,2 billion from the Cohesion Fund, whereas, at the same time, national funds also constituted the source responsible for co-financing OP([1],[2]). A comparison of the volumes of financial funding as assigned to Poland in the years 2004-2006 and 2007-2013 under the respective operational programmes has been provided in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1. Allocation of structural funds assigned for Poland for the co-financing of the operational programmes in the years 2004-2006 (Euros, current prices)

Operational programmes	EU funds, in Euros	Allocation of the EU funds as assigned for the individual programmes in relation to the overall EU support (in percentage)
OP Improvement of the competitiveness of enterprises	1 251 098 419,00	15,12
OP Human resources development	1 470 033 216,00	17,76
OP Transport	1 163 384 465,00	14,06
OP Restructuring and modernization of the food sector and development of rural areas	1 192 689 238,00	14,41
OP Fisheries	201 832 064,00	2,44
Integrated Regional Operational Programme	2 968 470 769,00	35,87
OP Technical support	28 304 465,00	0,34
Community Support Framework (total)	8 275 812 636,00	100,00

Source: *Podstawy Wsparcia Wspólnoty. Promowanie rozwoju gospodarczego i warunków sprzyjających wzrostowi zatrudnienia*, Brussels-Warsaw, December 2003, pp. 136-137, (http://www.fundusze-strukturalne.gov.pl/NR/rdonlyres/3FAE9823-CD76-4125-A6E2-D7D340AB5E50/22278/pww_pl300805.pdf , 28.09.2007).

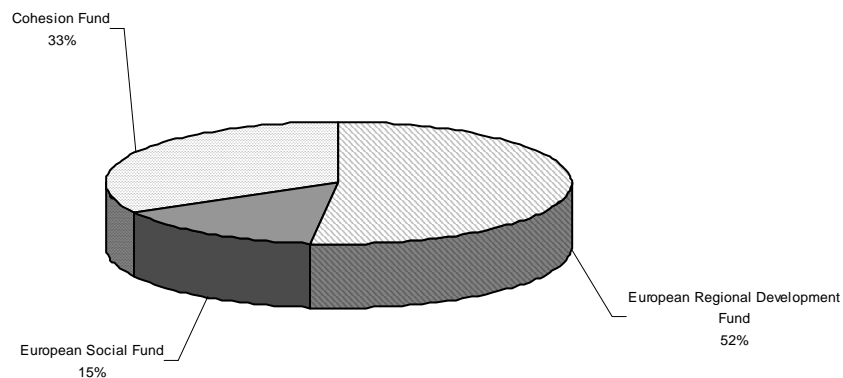
In the years 2007-2013, operational programmes framework has been changed and it should be observed that in every single voivodeship there shall be implemented a regional operational programme. Their share in the execution of the National Strategic Reference Framework shall have the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund, and the Cohesion Fund (figure 1).

Table 2. Operational programmes co-financed by the structural funds and the Cohesion Fund in the years 2007-2013 under the National Strategic Reference Framework, in Euros, in current prices

Operational Programmes	EU funds, in Euros	%	Funds' share in the co-financing of the programmes (in Euros)		
			ERDF	ESF	Cohesion Fund
OP Innovative economy	8 254 885 280,00	12,52	8 254 885 280,00		
OP Human Capital	9 707 176 000,00	14,72		9 707 176 000,00	
OP Infrastructure and Environment	27 913 683 774,00	42,32	5 737 330 000,00		22 176 353 774,00
OP Development of Eastern Poland	2 273 793 750,00	3,45	2 273 793 750,00		
16 Regional Operational Programmes	16 555 614 188,00	25,10	16 555 614 188,00		
Technical support	516 700 000,00	0,78	516 700 000,00		
OP European Territorial Cooperation	731 092 675,00	1,11	731 092 675,00		
Total	65 952 945 667,00	100,00			
Performance reserve (ERDF, ESF)	1 331 304 099,00				
National Strategic Reference Framework (total)	67 284 249 766,00		34 069 415 893,00	9 707 176 000,00	22 176 353 774,00

Source: on the basis of: *Narodowe Strategiczne Ramy Odniesienia...*, op.cit. pp. 122-123.

Figure 1. The share of the individual funds in the realization of the NSRF, 2007-2013



* does not take account of the means from structural funds assigned for the performance reserve.

Source: on the basis of data presented in table 2.

As appears from the presented data, the majority of community funding shall be assigned for the co-financing of the OP Infrastructure and Environment. A significant role as a support mechanism shall be played by the ERDF, constituting over 50% of the overall

volume of community funding as allotted to Poland. It should also be noted that the means from the EU funds shall also be targeted for key projects. Overall, on a nationwide scale, there shall be executed 350 of these types of projects (projects from the main list and from the reserve list); these strategic projects shall consume Euros 42,5 billion from the allocation total[3].

2 The influence of assistance from the EU funds on the socio-economic development of Poland

The influence of interventions through the programmes co-financed by the EU funds may be seen in two dimensions: in macroeconomic dimension and in microeconomic one[4]. This foreign aid through various channels may affect the economy, thus playing a part in the speeding up of economic growth. Poland is one of 10 EU countries, for which there are forecasts of relatively high GDP growth in the coming years (table 3).

Table 3. Growth of GDP in the EU-10 countries in the years 2000-2006 and forecast for the years 2007-2008 (in %, in comparison with previous year)

Specification	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008*
EU- 25	3,9	2,0	1,2	1,3	2,4	1,8	2,9	2,8	2,6
EU-15	3,8	1,9	1,1	1,1	2,3	1,6	2,8	2,7	2,5
Cyprus	5,0	4,0	2,0	1,8	4,2	3,9	3,8	3,8	3,9
Czech Republic	3,6	2,5	1,9	3,6	4,2	6,1	6,1	4,9	4,9
Estonia	10,8	7,7	8,0	7,1	8,1	10,5	11,4	8,7	8,2
Lithuania	4,1	6,6	6,9	10,3	7,3	7,6	7,5	7,3	6,3
Latvia	6,9	8,0	6,5	7,2	8,7	10,6	11,9	9,6	7,9
Malta	na.	-1,1	1,9	-2,3	0,4	3,0	2,9	3,0	2,8
Poland	4,3	1,2	1,4	3,9	5,2	3,6	6,1	6,1	5,5
Slovakia	0,7	3,2	4,1	4,2	5,4	6,0	8,3	8,5	6,5
Slovenia	4,1	2,7	3,5	2,7	4,4	4,0	5,2	4,3	4,0
Hungary	8,0	4,1	4,4	4,2	4,8	4,1	4,0	2,4	2,6

*forecasted figures

Source: *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit., p. 8.

However, it is necessary to keep up the high pace of economic growth so as to shorten the period of “catching up” with the EU countries in terms of economic development. As appears from table 4, the achievement by Poland of the level of economic development of the EU-27 countries may come to being, at earliest, in 2017, depending on the pace of economic growth, and so the period of catching up the ground may extend considerably. Depending on the pace of economic growth attained – in 2020, GDP/capita in Poland may constitute something from 71% to 120% of the average GDP level for the EU-27.

Table 4. The scenarios of attainment by Poland of the level of economic development of EU-27 and of EU-15

Specification	Average rate of GDP growth, in %, in the years 2001-2006	GDP per capita in PPP terms, in Euros (1.000), in 2006	Hypothetical rate of growth of GDP in Poland, assuming the remaining countries attain average rate from the years 2001-2006				
			4%	5%	6%	7%	8%
			The year of attaining by Poland of the GDP per capita				
EU-27	1,9	23,6	2037	2027	2022	2019	2017
EU-15	1,8	26,5	2040	2030	2024	2021	2019
			Poland's level as % of the level				
		in 2006	in 2020				
EU-27		53	71	81	93	106	120
EU-15		48	64	74	84	96	109

Source: *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit., p. 11

Potential macroeconomic effects of the utilization of EU funds

The analysis of potential macroeconomic effects of interventions realized through the EU funds (structural funds and the Cohesion Fund) is conducted with the use of various macroeconomic models, i.a. HERMIN type. These models are devised for peripheral areas of the EU, for interventions realized under the Objective 1; they are also helpful when estimating the attainment of cohesion by these areas. The models have also been implemented for the needs of Poland[5]. Analysis of the influence of interventions of structural funds on the Polish economy- conducted on the basis of HERMIN models for the National Development Plan (NDP) for the years 2004-2006[6] points to the occurrence of certain macroeconomic effects stemming from the transfer of EU funds. This model has assumed that the influence of structural funds on the economy shall become apparent through the making of investments in infrastructure, through investment expenditure targeted at human resources – in the sphere of training and education, and through the granting of direct aid in the industrial sector. The combined influence of these EU programmes – is the influence of supply-side and demand-side effects. In the course of implementing the EU programmes – there also appear two types of external effects, stemming from the investments that are made: external effect in the sphere of production, and in the sphere of efficiency of the factors of production and of its boosting, which may have positive influence on the improvement of economic activity and on the employment situation([7],[8]).

The influence of NDP on the main economic categories has been presented in table 5.

Table 5. The results of HERMIN simulation: deviation of the results of simulation with NDP with respect to the base simulation without NDP, in percentage terms

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
NDP as a whole							
GDP	0,22	1,13	2,51	3,33	2,83	1,56	1,22
Rate of unemployment	-0,14	-0,71	-1,48	-1,77	-1,15	-0,27	-0,05
Unemployment *	-23960	-119710	-250180	-299750	-194730	-45350	-8930
Infrastructure	0,17	0,99	2,57	4,27	5,14	5,13	5,12
Private consumption	0,15	0,78	1,83	2,54	2,20	1,11	0,52
Public funds							
GDP	0,17	0,83	1,83	2,43	2,10	1,20	0,95
Rate of unemployment	-0,10	-0,51	-1,05	-1,25	-0,81	-0,18	-0,02

* divergence from the base figure in terms of persons employed.

Source: *Podstawy Wsparcia Wspólnoty...*, op.cit.

As regards the year 2007, then, there shall be recorded the most pronounced changes in GDP, as under NDP they shall be higher by 3,33% in relation to the basic version. On the other hand, with just the investment projects being realized out of public funding, without co-financing of the private sector, they shall be higher by 2,43% in relation to this base level. Also, the changes in the level of the rate of unemployment and its shrinking may also be seen as a positive effect of the working of the structural funds, however, this influence shall not be as unambiguously experienced. The rate of unemployment, according to the simulation, shall be lower in 2007 by -1,77% in comparison to the base model, whereas the following year, it shall be lower by -1,15%. However, if just those interventions were considered that are brought about by public funding, then, the lowering of the rate of unemployment would have been less pronounced. However, GDP growth shall also come to being through increase in the efficiency of labour, which should cause a rise in the competitiveness of the Polish economy. There can also take place growth in imports causing certain reactions to pass, and the worsening of the balance of trade.

Basic NDP programme indicators for attainment in 2008 with the help of intervention from structural funds have been presented in table 6.

Table 6. Programme indicators for the Community Support Framework – figures estimated for the year 2008

Indicator	Value in the base year: 2001	Assumed value of indicator in the year 2008
GDP growth above the base indicator		2,83
GDP/capita relative to the EU average (EU15=100%)	40,0	42,0-43,0
Changes in the number of the unemployed relative to the base year		-194730
Gross accumulation in PLN million	157721,1	
Additional work places (Gross)		
Expenditure on R&D programmes overall (in % of GDP figure)	0,65	Around 1,5
Level of education (primary, secondary, higher inclusive of post-secondary)	32,2/56,1/11,7	15,0/72,0/13,0
Level of education (primary, secondary,	24,5/59,6/15,9	

higher inclusive of post-secondary) – in towns and cities		
Level of education (primary, secondary, higher inclusive of post-secondary) – in the countryside	45,1/50,3/4,6	
Employment rate for the 15-64 age group, men and women	A total of 53,5% 59,2/47,8	54-55%
New motorways/highways (in kilometres)	0	267,6/176
Investment expenditure on environmental protection (% of GDP)	0,8	1,2

Source: *Podstawy Wsparcia Wspólnoty...*, op.cit.

However, due to a new financial perspective emerging, an attempt has also been made to make a complete overview of the consequences for the socio-economic development of the overall transfers of EU funds, i.e. in the years 2004-2006 and 2007-2013, taking account of, both, the influence of NDP, and the combined effect of NDP and of the National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007-2013. The influence of many factors related to the effect of the accession of Poland to the EU has not been taken account of, i.e. of the ones, which may, additionally, have effect on how the structural funds work (table 7). In the forecasts covering the years 2004-2015, domestic private funding for the co-financing of programmes has not been taken account of ([9],[10]).

Table 7. Simulations of the influence of NDP/NSRF on GDP in the years 2004-2015

Year	Rate of GDP growth			Differentials in the rates of GDP growth		Percentage influence on the level of GDP**	
	NDP+NSRF	NDP	Base scenario	NDP+NSRF	NDP	NDP+NSRF	NDP
2004	5,35	5,53	5,53	0,00	0,00	0,00%	0,00%
2005	3,56	3,56	3,10	0,46	0,46	0,45%	0,45%
2006	6,29	6,29	5,05	1,24	1,24	1,63%	1,63%
2007	5,92	5,71	4,20	1,71	1,51	3,30%	3,11%
2008	6,24	5,48	6,41	-0,16	-0,93	3,15%	2,21%
2009	5,66	4,26	5,51	0,15	-1,25	3,29%	1,00%
2010	6,85	4,40	4,51	2,34	-0,12	5,60%	0,89%
2011	5,39	4,32	4,51	0,87	-0,19	6,48%	0,70%
2012	5,60	4,26	4,27	1,33	-0,01	7,84%	0,69%
2013	6,38	4,35	4,36	2,02	-0,01	9,93%	0,68%
2014	2,57	4,44	4,45	-1,87	-0,01	7,96%	0,67%
2015	3,47	4,52	4,54	-1,06	-0,01	6,86%	0,66%

* GDP is calculated in constant prices (2000).

** difference in the GDP levels between the scenario with NDP and the base scenario, expressed in % relative to the GDP in the base scenario.

Source: J.Zaleski, P.Tomaszewski, M.Zembaty, J.Bradley, *Ocena makroekonomicznego wpływu...*, op.cit., p. 21.

Thanks to the implementation of just the NDP, the rate of GDP growth shall be higher, than according to the base scenario until the year 2007, and then, it shall be lower, until the levelling out in the year 2012. The greatest differences in the rates of GDP growth shall take place in the year 2009 (i.e. in relation to the base scenario). However, was the percentage influence on GDP growth estimated, then, it would have to be indicated that in relation to NDP, in 2007, the percentage influence on the GDP level is highest, and then, it is subject to gradual lowering.

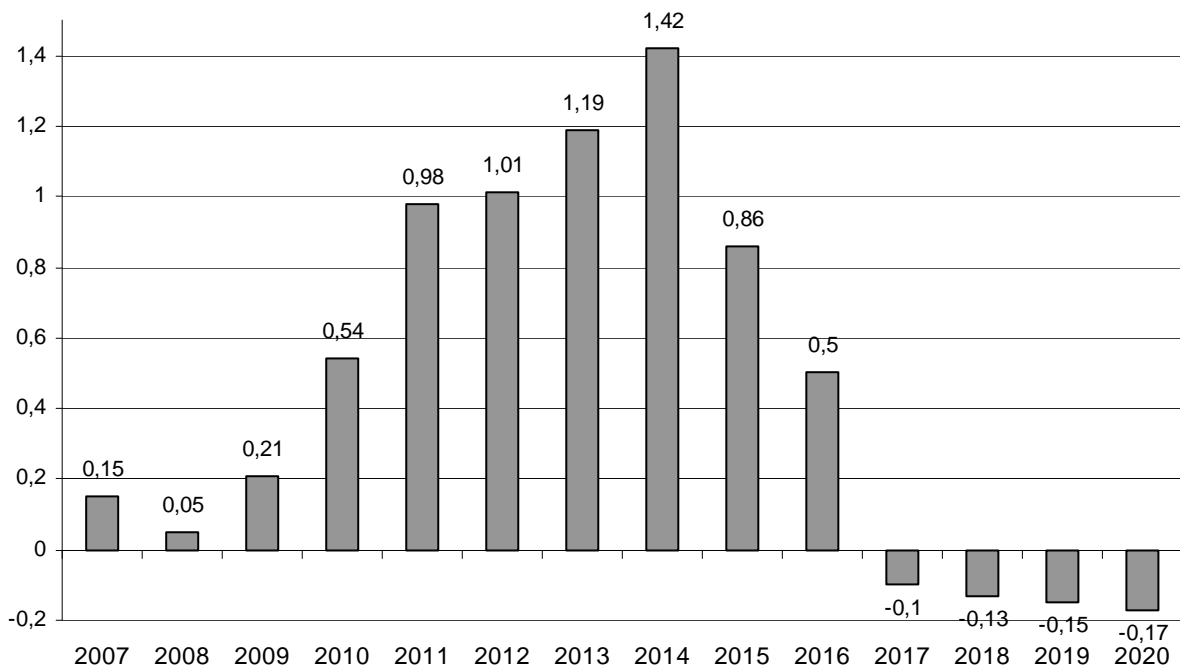
The combined effect of influence of NDP and of NSRF indicates that the rate of GDP growth shall be higher than it is shown according to the base scenario. Just in 2008, this

situation shall not come into being, and also a pronounced lowering of the rate of GDP growth shall be experienced in the year 2014, which may be cancelled by the influence of other factors, than the EU funds. However, the influence on the level of GDP shall be noticeable; it shall be higher than without NDP/NSRF, and together with the transmitted growth of transfers from the EU, it shall be on the rise. In 2013, it shall be higher by 9,93% in comparison with the base scenario.

The influence of interventions realized out of the EU funds may become more pronounced through the influence on other factors, such as, e.g. influence on the number of persons employed, in 2007, contributing to a rise in the number of the employed by approximately 300 thousand persons; the shaping of the rate of unemployment; efficiency; and the wage level. However, it is indicated that the influence of NDP or the combined influence of NDP/NSRF shall be higher with respect to economic growth, than on the labour market, which is related to the influence of the structural funds on the efficiency of the factors of production[11].

On the other hand, according to another MaMoR2 model, the influence of structural funds on the dynamics of the Polish GDP growth shall be much more modest[12] (figure 2).

Figure 2. Influence of the EU funds on the GDP dynamics (in percentage)



Source: T. Kaczor, *Prognoza oddziaływania makroekonomicznego...*, op.cit., p. 15.

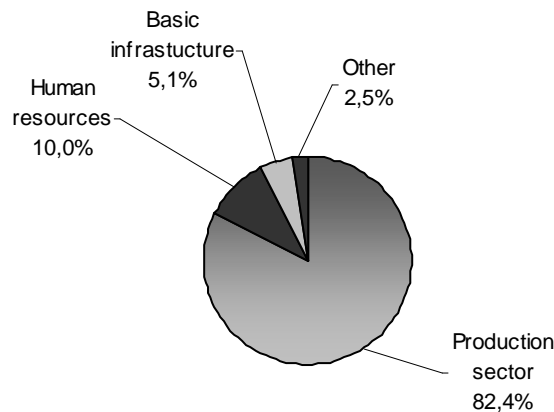
Irrespective of the model assumed, structural funds, through various „channels of influence” should have an effect on the improvement of the dynamics of socio-economic development of Poland.

Effects of implementing projects co-financed by the EU funds – selected aspects

There can be pointed out the first positive effects of the inflow of EU funds on the labour market[13]. Through the utilization of structural funds, there came improvement in the

indicator relating to the rate of unemployment – its lowering in 2004 by 0,01%, and year later by approx. 0,5% [14]. If one was to indicate the types of projects being implemented under NDP 2004-2006, then, one would show that 83% of them concerned the production sector, and 10% - human resources. According to the balance at the end of 2006, under NDP 2004-2006, there were implemented approx. 75 thousand projects (figure 3).

Figure 3. Break-down by relevant intervention categories of the projects co-financed with the help of EU funding (as at the end of 2006)



Source: IZ PWW, after: *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit., p. 109.

The results of analysis in the scope of efficiency of intervention from the structural funds on employment and development of work places point to the occurrence of significant and positive influence of funds on the employment structure. The influence of funds is noticeable in the following areas in the scope of employment: in the scope of activation of those employed in the under-24 age group, increased share of persons with higher education in employment due to the development of work places for this group, some support given to the activation of women; and the targeting of support causes a change in the structure of employment according to professions (due to there being projects implemented for machinery fitters and experts). However, the voivodeships facing harsh labour market situation absorb less projects, also, no link was observed between poorer labour market situation and better utilization of the Community funding [15].

Also, direct support given to enterprises translated into improvement in the profits attained by those companies, as well as in the improvement of their competitiveness on the Single Market. The positive aspects are also noticeable in the context of the realized infrastructural investments, due to which the living conditions of inhabitants, the conditions for conducting economic activity, and the availability of areas for investing and their attractiveness, all improved. Another significant thing are the investments being realized in the environmental protection infrastructure, those in the sphere of structural transformations in agriculture and fishing, as well as in the sphere of rural area development. Especially noticeable are the effects of infrastructural investments, in broad context (transport, environmental, social) – since they have been assigned over Euros 10,5 billion out of European funds; this especially concerns: transport investments and environmental protection. In effect of executing OP Transport, modernizations have been made, and motorways have been built (195 km); 62 km of national roads have been modernized – this was thanks to

investment projects being co-financed with the help of EU funding. The undertaken investments contributed to the modernization of voivodeship, powiat, and communal roads of total length of 1619 km (which is relatively little). In the scope of environmental protection infrastructure, 2 626 projects have been accepted, for which EU funding of over PLN 13 billion has been assigned. Considering projects relating to water supply and sewerage system - there were put to use 1298 kilometres of water-pipe network and 1451 kilometres of sewerage system (within 2006); this types of projects were in predominance, apart from projects relating to social infrastructure, which were also implemented[16].

In the scope of human resources, there were covered some 1 144 thousand persons (end of December, 2006), inclusive of projects relating to the information society, and also research and development projects. Pointing to the main subjects applying for subsidies – these were the local self-governing bodies, of which the main targets of expenditure of financial funds were: investment projects in basic infrastructure (92% of the total worth of projects), projects in the sphere of human resources development (6% of the total worth of projects), and the production sector (only 2%). The beneficiaries of the structural funds are also government administration and those entities, which execute their commands, as well as entrepreneurs[17].

However, the effective utilization of these financial resources varies depending on the individual programmes and funds. According to the end of August, 2007 figures, out of the three structural funds, i.e. ERDF, ESF, and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section - there were spent sums in the worth of 54,55% of liabilities from the start of the programming period, i.e. for the years 2004-2006. However, were the specific programmes considered in turn, then, with respect to SOP Transport – the magnitude of the payments having been made would have constituted 41,85% of the effective allocation, and with respect to SOP Improvement of the competitiveness of enterprises 45,39%. According to the estimates, it shall be possible to spend until the end of 2007 approx. 70% of funding allocated to individual programmes and funds. However, effects as positive as this did not materialize in relation to the Cohesion Fund, as the magnitude of the funding, which has been spent (according to end of June, 2007 figures) amounted to 27% (the spending of this funding must come into effect by the end of the year 2010, at the latest)([18],[19]) . It is necessary to spend the EU funding as efficiently as possible in accordance with the n+2 rule, which determines that these funds that have not been spent in the course of two years from the date of granting a subsidy are lost.

However, there are a lot of barriers impeding efficient absorption of this funding. Among these, there may be listed those that are documented by local self-governing bodies (i.e. those that were found out at the time of applying for a subsidy), which should comprise: barriers relating to financing, among which there are those that relate to the difficulties in the scope of documenting own funding, high preparatory costs, too small number of experts in the field of acquiring European funding that are employed in the offices of local self-governing bodies, barriers in the flow of information between implementing institution/intermediary and beneficiary, complex system of implementing, legislation not being adapted, criteria of selection of projects not being transparent and too long time taken for their evaluation, bureaucracy and procedural impediments in the sphere of system implementation, etc. Thus, it is possible to specify the barriers existing on the side of local self-governing bodies, as well as those that exist independently of them[20].

3 Conclusion

As follows from the earlier made considerations, the influence of structural funds on the economic development of Poland may become apparent in many areas. Due to the fact that Poland participates in the European cohesion policy only a short time, the effects may not be

fully reflected. What is important, however, is that this financial funding may contribute towards the raising of competitiveness of the regions, also in the light of the challenges posed by the Lisbon Strategy[21]. The emerging problems that are related to the utilization of the structural funds become apparent in each of the new EU member states. However, neither were these problems avoided by the countries of the earlier EU-15. Poland should make good use of the experiences gained during the first period of implementing of programmes co-financed by the EU funds, in order to be efficient at building up its absorption capacity in the scope of the European funds.

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- [6] Relates to the making of NDP ex-ante appraisal; evaluating the influence of intervention of structural funds on the socio-economic development – this model was used for it.
- [7] J. Bradley, J. Zaleski, *Wyniki modelowania wpływu funduszy...*, op., cit., p. 5 and subsequently.
- [8] also on the basis of: *Podstawy Wsparcia Wspólnoty. Promowanie rozwoju gospodarczego i warunków sprzyjających wzrostowi zatrudnienia*, Brussels-Warsaw, December 2003, (http://www.fundusze-strukturalne.gov.pl/NR/rdonlyres/3FAE9823-CD76-4125-A6E2-D7D340AB5E50/22278/pww_pl300805.pdf , 28.09.2007).
- [9] J.Zaleski, P.Tomaszewski, M.Zembaty, J.Bradley, *Ocena makroekonomicznego...*, op.cit.
- [10] The drafted simulation was based upon the assumption that the magnitude of EU funding in the period 2004-2006 amounts to Euros 11,9 billion, and within 2007-2013, over Euros 63,5 billion, which translates into an overall involvement of EU funding in the amount of 75,4. Together with the involvement of national public funds, the total funding in the period 2004-2015 shall constitute over Euros 92,5 billion, and additional funding shall come from the private sector.
- [11] J.Zaleski, P.Tomaszewski, M.Zembaty, J.Bradley, *Ocena makroekonomicznego wpływu...*,op.cit., p. 8, p. 17, p. 21.
- [12] See: T. Kaczor, *Prognoza oddziaływania makroekonomicznego realizacji Narodowych Strategicznych Ram Odniesienia 2007-2013*, Instytut Badań nad Gospodarką Rynkową, Warsaw, November 2006 (<http://www.fundusze-strukturalne.gov.pl/NR/rdonlyres/C4FF9EF3-4232-47B9-BC53-73FD594FB8D6/36909/nsro1.pdf> , 28.09.2007)

- [13] Unless source material was stated, this section of the article was based on: *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit.
- [14] *Narodowe Strategiczne Ramy Odniesienia...*, op.cit., p. 13.
- [15] Presentation of the results of the examination on: „*Wpływ interwencji z funduszy strukturalnych UE na zatrudnienie*”. The results of macroeconomic and cross-sectional analyses, Warsaw, 10.09.2007. (http://www.mrr.gov.pl/Aktualnosci/wplyw_funduszy_unijnych_na_zatrudnienie.htm, 28.09.2007.)
- [16] *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit., p. 112 and subsequently.
- [17] *Narodowe Strategiczne Ramy Odniesienia...*, op.cit., p. 14-15.
- [18] Declaration made by minister G. Gęsicka on the subject of Poland's utilization of the Community funding, 2007.09.13, <http://www.mrr.gov.pl/Aktualnosci/oswiadczenie+raport+parlamentu+UE.htm>, 24.09.2007.
- [19] Until the end of 2006, the value of refund made out of the structural funds for the benefit of Poland amounted to 24% (of the magnitude of the allocation for Poland for the years 2004-2006), and thus, Poland placed fifth out of 10 EU member states (that acceded on the 1st of May, 2004) for which were made the biggest refunds. The biggest refund was made for Malta, Hungary, Estonia, and Slovenia. In the case of Slovenia, the magnitude of the refund amounted to 39.1%. Quoted after: *Ocena postępów Polski...*, op.cit., p. 108.
- [20] Results of survey made by the Author, financed by the Karol Adamiecki University of Economics in Katowice.
- [21] For the measures related to the realization of the objectives of the Lisbon strategy, there shall be targeted over 63% of funding under the NSRF 2007-2013. See: *Narodowe Strategiczne Ramy Odniesienia...*, op.cit., p. 121.