

Swiss Contribution to the enlarged EU

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Introduction

In accordance with Article 8 of the *Framework Agreement between the Government of the Polish Republic and the Swiss Federal Council on the implementation of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme to reduce economic and social disparities within the enlarged European Union*, the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, acting as the National Coordination Unit for the implementation of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, has prepared a document entitled *Poland Final Programme Report – Swiss contribution to the enlarged EU*.

The purpose of the document is to sum up activities and results achieved under the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme during 10-year period (2007-2017).

The report demonstrates that thanks to the good cooperation, sound project management and the readiness to respond to challenges, the beneficiaries representing public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organisations have put the assistance to good use and contributed to the meeting the goal that is the improvement of social and economic cohesion in Poland thanks to the Swiss support.

The objective referring to reduction of economic and social disparities has been reported based on achievements of projects which is in line with project-related approach adopted in the course of the whole SPCP implementation. The effects of the Programme have been described by focus areas and/or individual projects grouped by 5 specific objectives of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme according to the Swiss side expectations.

1. Accomplishment of objectives

1.1 Reduction of economic and social disparities in the EU and within the country

1.1.1 Promoting economic growth and improving working conditions

This objective has been realized in several focus areas of the SPCP by implementation of 15 projects and/or programmes of different kind with local or regional character (Regional development focus area) or on nation-wide scale (five projects aimed at promoting the development of the private sector and research activities).

1.1.1.1 World Bank project

One of the interventions aimed at promoting economic growth and improving working conditions is an individual project implemented by the World Bank addressing institutional and regulatory capacity building for corporate sector financial reporting and auditing at the national level (KIK/05). The relevance of the project related to the great challenges faced by the reporting and auditing sector in Poland. The most important objectives in this regards were: i) to implement a public oversight system for statutory auditors, ii) to establish a quality assurance system for statutory auditors, iii) to enhance relationships between accounting and taxes iv) enhancing the accounting regulatory framework, v) ensuring compliance, vi) continue education for accounting professionals etc.

The activities that contributed most to the visibility of the project were the training courses on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which attracted in total **5 813 specialists**, while the training courses devoted to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) were frequented by **8 120 people**. The best evidence of the scale of the project is the fact that practically all active auditors in Poland have participated in the training. An example of the tangible results of the project is the creation of maintenance services for the register of auditors in the National Chamber of Statutory Auditors. Numerous reports have also been prepared, including an analysis of the accounting services market in Poland and a report dedicated to the alignment of the Polish tax law with the accounting standards. The very helpful "Compendium of accounting, finance and banking" has to be also mentioned.

Through these activities, private businesses shall gain access to a higher quality of accounting services, which should also translate into easier access to capital. In addition, the institutional capacity of the public administration was enhanced and the regulatory environment for the private sector strengthened.

During the implementation the activities of the project had to be modified due to the need to tailor them to the new expectations of the project beneficiaries (this required extending the scope of training and changing the modalities of the IT support provided) as well as to respond to changes in the legal and economic environment (change of the EU audit directive, EU work on the harmonization of public sector accounting). These changes essentially contributed to the achievement of the project results.

1.1.1.2 Corporate Social Responsibility project

The aim of the project KIK/60 implemented by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED) was to increase awareness and knowledge on the *Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)* among representatives of regional authorities (Marshall Offices), people dealing with investor and export services in the regional Investors and Exporters Attendance Centers (COIE) as well as the employees of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in order to increase the competitiveness of Polish SMEs in the international business environment.

The project assumed a complex approach to the issue of the **promotion of CSR**, consisting of three elements:

- 1) **competence building** with regard to CSR through trainings, information meetings, study visits, promotional and informational activities;
- 2) **assistance in the implementation of CSR solutions through pilot projects for SMEs**, including granting financial support for e.g. advisory services and investments;
- 3) **promoting the best practices and communication activities on the results of subprojects** which received grants under the project.

The project results are better than expected. The **most visible outputs** are: **14 regional strategies** referring to CSR (175% of the target value), **367 candidates** listed in the database of CSR consultants (1468% of the target value), **400 submitted valuable project proposals** (120% of the target value), **177 supported projects** (111% of the target value).

The outputs delivered by the project have been translated into **sustainable results** including:

- **173** subsidized SMEs with improved environment standards;
- **154** subsidized SMEs with improved employment standards;
- **154** subsidized SMEs with improved social participation standards;
- **55** implemented CSR projects recognized as best practices.

The external evaluation of the project proves that the implementation of subprojects allowed the entrepreneurs to achieve a number of business benefits, e.g.: in 22% of the enterprises the implementation of subprojects contributed to reducing the operating costs, 46% of the enterprises developed new areas of activity and 25% entered new markets, in 44% of the companies the level of net employment increased. Thus, the project has undoubtedly contributed to the increase of competitiveness of Polish SMEs in the international business environment.

Thanks to the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme for the first time in Poland a project supporting enterprises in implementing CSR principles has been launched. Its results prove that CSR is not only intended for big companies. According to the findings of the project evaluation, **66% of supported companies** indicated that the implementation of the CSR project enabled them to achieve a competitive advantage by: improving their image resp. building an environmentally friendly or a pro-social image of the company, introducing a new product/service, reaching new customer groups. What is more, almost all beneficiaries continue to implement CSR actions – **90% of companies** continue the actions started as part of the PAED's project and 6% take other actions than those implemented as part of the PAED's project.

1.1.1.3 National Capital Fund project

One of the most important tools designed within the SPCP to promote economic growth and improve working conditions was the project KIK/01 *Improving business environment and access of small and medium-sized enterprises to financing*, implemented by the National Capital Fund (NCF), at a later stage in partnership with the State Development Bank (BGK). The main objective of the project was defined as a reduction of the capital gap identified in the Polish SME sector by providing financial support to Venture Capital / Private Equity (VC/PE) funds investing in SMEs (in particular innovative or R&D enterprises facing difficulties to access long-term external financial resources). In 2016, this objective was broadened – by establishing a second component of the project, whose implementation was entrusted to BGK – to support SMEs by means of a *de minimis* loan repayment guarantee scheme.¹

Till the end of the physical implementation of the project (i.e. March 31st, 2017), under its VC/PE component, 4 capital funds – supported by the SPCP resources – signed **33 investment agreements** with innovative Polish SMEs and **invested over CHF 25,3 million**. The number of jobs created in supported businesses amounted to **over 200**. The pace of investments in SMEs turned out to be slower than anticipated at the time when the project was launched. Identified barriers hindering the pace of investments may be split into those pertaining to the external macroeconomic environment and issues directly related to the program implementation environment.² Despite the encountered obstacles, as well as the

¹ This second component ensured a financial contribution to an already existing *de minimis* loan guarantee scheme carried out by BGK.

² The Polish economy suffered from the effects of the global financial crisis with some delay if compared to the most developed economies. This was particularly noticeable in the years 2012-2013, when the GDP growth rate fell below 2% and to a significant extent negatively deviated from the average annual rate of economic growth in the last quarter of the 20th century. The economic slowdown led to an increase in the risk aversion of investors on financial markets. On the other hand, the most

fact that the originally assumed indicators of the first component of the KIK/01 project were not achieved to 100%, the project impact on the reduction of the equity gap in the SMEs sector should be assessed as significant. The SPCP financial resources, in addition to the funds of the EU Operational Program *Innovative Economy 2007-2013* and national funds, contributed to strengthening the supply side of the venture capital/private equity market aimed at financing projects being at early stages of development and looking for nominally small capital.

Establishing the second component of the project KIK/01 in 2016 additionally strengthened the impact of the SPCP financial resources on the SMEs sector in Poland. The financial resources transferred to the BGK within the 1st tranche of support, i.e. before closing the physical implementation of the project, were used to support over 500 SMEs, and the value of loans contracted thanks to the *de minimis* guarantees, granted within the project, was nearly PLN 157,2 million. The BGK's analyzes show the unique role that the *de minimis* guarantee scheme played in the process of obtaining external financing by SMEs. They prove also that the guarantee offer for the SMEs activates financial resources of Polish companies and motivates them to invest, thus resulting in a high ratio of financial leverage, not available in the case of other forms of support.

Due to the revolving nature of the project, the NCF's returns on investment (as well as interest accrued on the escrow account) may be used within the VC/PE component of the project. They may also be one of the non-budgetary forms of financing the National Guarantee Fund, established recently³. Thus, the SPCP financial resources, despite closing the physical implementation of the project KIK/01, will stimulate the development of the SMEs sector in Poland also in the coming years.

Table 1. Results achieved within the two components of the KIK/01 project (in parenthesis: ratio of achievement compared to initial target values specified respectively in the project logframes of November, 28th, 2018 and April 1st, 2017)

Results achieved by 31 March 2017	
under the VC/PE component	under the <i>de minimis</i> guarantee component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of support to 4 capital funds (100%)⁴ signing of 33 investment agreements with SMEs (92%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of PLN 17.42 million to <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantee scheme of BGK (100%) achievement of the amount of PLN 87.1 million of <i>de minimis</i> guarantees (100%)⁵

Important internal barriers include a likely over-estimation by the project managers of the number of interesting projects that can be found on the market at reasonable prices, the natural process of "learning" of the funds' operation using private finances in cooperation with a public investor such as the NCF, as well as problems associated with changes in the line-up of private investors, which significantly delayed investment processes.

³ So far the *de minimis* guarantee scheme was financed mainly from the State budget. The new law on sureties and guarantees (adopted on December 27th, 2017) established, starting from the 1st January 2018, the National Guarantee Fund (NGF) in the BGK. This new Fund took over the financing of *de minimis* guarantees. The Fund collects the proceeds from various resources (including i.a. the guarantee programmes accomplished and certified in the framework of the EU Operational Programmes after the eligibility period of the past and present EU financial perspective). The state budget is the guarantor for the final loss incurred by the Fund in the case of the deficit of the flows from other sources. The rationale for the new system is the idea of budgetary savings related to the creation of the NGF. The Swiss allocation dedicated for the Component II of the Project will be provided to the *de minimis* guarantee scheme via NGF.

⁴ The contract with a fifth fund, which was established as the last one – PGF III, was terminated in 2015.

⁵ It was negotiated with BGK that it would provide guarantees of 5 times of the value of the budget of component II of the project (5 x PLN 17.42 million).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of financial support to 29 SMEs (81%) with a value of CHF 25,3 million (56%) • creation of 209 jobs in the supported SMEs (105%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • value of loans granted thanks to the SPCP funds via the <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantee scheme – PLN 167.2 million (108%) • support provided to 508 SMEs through provision of <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantees (102%) • creation of 357 new jobs in the supported SMEs (119%)⁶
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Results achieved by the end of 2017	
under the VC/PE component	under the <i>de minimis</i> guarantee component
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of support to 4 capital funds (100%)⁷ • signing of 48 investment agreements with SMEs (123%) • provision of financial support to 35 SMEs (90%) with a value of CHF 30,1 million (72%) • creation of 242 jobs in the supported SMEs (121%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of PLN 44.13 million to the <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantee scheme of BGK (100%) • achievement of the amount of PLN 223 million of <i>de minimis</i> guarantees (101%)⁸ • value of loans granted thanks to SPCP funds via the <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantee scheme – PLN 389 million (106%) • support provided to 1224 SMEs through provision of <i>de minimis</i> loan guarantees (111%) • creation of 883 new jobs in the supported SMEs (124%)⁹

The SPCP, through the NCF project, constituted an important platform of learning about the effective implementation of specific financial instruments. In the advanced phase of the project implementation, on the basis of the experience gained in the first years, the realization of the investments accelerated thanks to changes introduced in the applicable project regulations (for instance, increasing the original investment limit from EUR 1.5 million to EUR 3 million in 2014, making it possible to buy out for existing shareholders and consenting to co-investments with other NCF portfolio funds, or introduction of the call option, that is a possibility to buy out the portfolio companies by private investors). Besides of stimulating changes in the legal environment of VC/PE funds, the project – in addition to the EU Operational Program *Innovative Economy 2007-2013* and national funds – promoted the readiness to use VC/PE in the Polish market. It also fostered institutional capacity building for the implementation of financial instruments in Poland. The experience gained during the implementation of the project is used inter alia in the activities of PFR Ventures¹⁰.

⁶ This is an estimation based on analyses and studies carried out by BGK and related to the general *de minimis* loan guarantees programme, to which the SPCP contributes.

⁷ The contract with the fifth fund, which was established as the last one - PGF III, was terminated in 2015.

⁸ It was negotiated with BGK that it would provide guarantees of at least 5 times of the value of the budget of component II of the project (5 x PLN 44,13 million).

⁹ This is an estimation based on analyses and studies carried out by BGK and related to the general *de minimis* loan guarantees programme, to which the SPCP contributes.

¹⁰ This Polish public Fund of Funds is part of the Polish Development Fund and is aimed at supporting the development of Polish SMEs.

1.1.1.4 Regional development

10 projects aimed at the development of regional initiatives were completed. The projects covered the SPCP geographical concentration area, i.e. lubelskie (3), małopolskie (3), podkarpackie (3) and świętokrzyskie voivodeships (1). The overall objective of the projects was to reduce the economic and social disparities in the regions - improve the quality of life of the population and ultimately bridge the gap with more developed countries and regions of the European Union.

To achieve this objective the projects aimed at:

- creating new economic entities in agricultural areas, including non-agricultural economic activities;
- increasing the competitiveness of existing economic entities by applying innovative tools;
- promoting social and cultural initiatives;
- developing tourism and agritourism;
- supporting start-ups or co-operatives, SMEs, NGOs;
- creating new jobs, strengthening human resources.

The projects overachieved the targets and expectations in many areas. The Executing Agencies and Beneficiaries used various approaches to achieve the set goals, they built strategies and applied **Swiss best practises** to create possibilities for development. The results achieved within the implementation of the projects include: economic activation of the targeted sub-regions, new opportunities for development of rural areas, improvement of the qualifications and capacity of individuals and entities, development of local entrepreneurship and agricultural processing, identification of local resources that promote entrepreneurship and tourism.

The accomplished educational activities fostered local awareness and identities, shaped entrepreneurial attitudes among rural residents and young people. The projects contributed to the **increase of employment and income** in the area of rural communes, supported local development through a variety of possibilities and resources such as grants for start-ups, SMEs, NGOs, support for processing of organic produce. They **increased the attractiveness of the sub-regions for tourism and investments** and improved the quality of life of the inhabitants and their economic situation.

Over **50%** of funds were allocated to the so-called re-granting, i.e. to schemes of small grants for various categories of beneficiaries. In total, **81 calls** for proposal were announced and **over 1 300 grants** were awarded.

Among the outcomes of the support, it is worth mentioning the promotion of the targeted regions in the broad sense as well as the **promotion of regional and local products**. A good example of such initiatives are local brands launched within the SPCP, e.g. *Made in Karpaty* (KIK/07), *Carpathia* (KIK/12) or *Gotania* (KIK/13). The brands are an element of the system tools, promoting a region and contributing to maintaining the sustainability of projects after they have been completed. Another example of a region promotion is an initiative implemented within KIK/09 – **the Centre for Local Culinary Culture – Bistro Carrot**. Its goal is to promote a healthy diet based on products of local producers. The Bistro, along with local fairs and purchasing clubs, is an element of a local system enhancing a direct purchase of local products. Regional products have become more recognisable due to, among others, the SPCP project implementation.

Local resources are also referred to by e.g. the *'List of Important Things'*, developed within KIK/08. It is a catalogue of local resources, whose aim is to identify and promote local resources of the świętokrzyskie region. In addition, a pilot action was carried out to develop a **Carpathian template** and to commercialise the **Carpathian pattern** (KIK/07). This folk design has a huge potential – if properly used it may become an attractive tool to promote the region and it may add value to the offered touristic product.

One should not neglect the importance of **informative and promotional campaigns** that were launched with the use of increasingly modern methods and that can strengthen the projects' impact, in particular in the area of tourism. Interesting examples are the field game organised within the project – *'Local Brand – Chance of Entrepreneurship Development on the Nobility Trail in Lubelskie Voivodeship'* (KIK/11). The trail promoted within this project (also called the Jan III Sobieski Trail) has been included in the Zoning Plan for Lubelskie Voivodeship in the field of cultural heritage, protection and creation of regional identity.

Several activities aimed at achieving lasting changes of the image of the target regions, increasing tourist movement, incl. environmentally friendly tourism, and ensuring the development of entrepreneurship were carried out under the projects in the Regional development area. Due to project activities, **new networks of touristic infrastructure** were established, e.g. new trails, new viewpoints, network of nordic walking trails, network of horse trails, ornithological trails, network of bike and canoe rental points, many neglected places and spaces were managed, some tourist trails were marked once again. The implementation of the programmes contributed to the **Increase of tourist traffic** and the extension of tourists' stay in the regions, which translates into higher residents' revenues from the offered services – accommodation, catering, souvenir services and sports attractions. For instance, in the Podkarpacie region the **number of tourists is steadily increasing**: in 2016 over 1 million tourists used the tourists accommodation facilities, which corresponds to a 13,2% growth comparing to 2015. In the same period, the number of foreign tourists has increased by 12,1%, according to the Statistical Office in Rzeszow. Both growth rates are impressive and can be partly attributed to the endeavours promoted by the SPCP.

An important objective of the regional development projects was to increase local employment opportunities. Altogether, the 10 projects contributed to the **creation of 700 new jobs**, which is a remarkable achievement. Together with the 1'125 jobs created by the venture capital and loan guarantee schemes (see Table 1 in ch. 1.1.3.3), **almost 2'000 new jobs have been created by SPCP supported initiatives** aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and access to capital.

The Regional development projects succeeded also in **creating partnerships** between the public and the non-governmental sector and in promoting the products and services created during implementation of the projects. They worked out a social consensus and a shared vision for the sustainable development of the target sub-region (e.g. KIK/15). A range of versatile solutions were developed and described in the project's publications. The implementation of the projects contributed to the development of local actors who are engaged for the benefit of the local community.

Trainings were a significant component of the projects in the area of Regional development. Inhabitants of the geographical concentration area broadened their knowledge and gained new skills in various fields, ranging from food processing to computer literacy. An interesting example of SPCP educational initiatives are **trainings and Internships for youths and the unemployed**. In this field, good practices have been reflected in the educational programme

- *Business of my dreams* implemented by the Centre for Promotion and Support of Agricultural Entrepreneurship in Sandomierz (KIK/08) as well as an internship programme implemented by the Commune of Zator in the małopolskie voivodeship (KIK/14).

The activities aimed at development of entrepreneurship in the commune of Zator also included the creation of a business support center for SMEs, i.e. the **Center for Vocational Development**. Moreover, within the framework of the project activities, a dual vocational training system was established at the level of the municipality, which foresees a tight cooperation between the *Multi-vocational School* and the *Special Economic Zone* in the municipality of Zator.

It is worth mentioning also the creation of **kitchen incubators** (KIK/08 and KIK/09), where it is possible to prepare food from own agricultural produces. Due to those innovative endeavours, the access of small processors to professional kitchen facilities that meet the relevant sanitary standards has been increased, and the opportunities for marketing new local products have been expanded.

Summarising it is worth pointing out that the projects implemented within the Regional development support area were complex. They combined 'soft' initiatives with some investment elements. Such a combination represented a coherent and holistic approach and it strengthened the effectiveness of the projects.

1.1.1.5 Sciex Scholarship Fund

The main aim of the Programme operated by the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities was to establish scientific partnerships that would:

- develop individual researchers' capacities (human capital);
- foster scientific progress and innovation (scientific prospects);
- establish or enhance networks between researchers (networking).

The Sciex Programme provided two instruments to achieve these objectives:

- 1) **Research Fellowships for Junior Researchers from the ten New Member States (NMS) of the EU to pursue their research in cooperation with Swiss researchers in Swiss research institutions – 135 fellowships have been conducted and 370 applications submitted.**
- 2) **Short-term research Visits for Senior Researchers – 209 short term visits have been conducted.**

The Sciex Fellows were formally employed on a regular Swiss work contract at the Host Institution. The Fellowships lasted between a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 24 months for Doctoral Candidates and between a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 18 months for PostDocs. The Programme was open to all academic disciplines and subjects.

The impact of SCIEX programme on development of the competences and the career paths of the participants, on the development of the Polish universities that received financial support under the programme and on the quality and sustainability of the established partnerships of Polish and Swiss institutions involved in the implementation of the SCIEX project is as follows:

- ✓ intensification and expansion of the scope of research;
- ✓ opportunity to develop concrete and necessary scientific solutions;

- ✓ development of the scholarship fellows' linguistic competence and soft skills;
- ✓ opportunity to work in diversified research teams;
- ✓ establishment of new scientific contacts;
- ✓ formation of research partnerships;
- ✓ sharing the results of the research;
- ✓ development of the scientific potential of home institutions.

1.1.1.6 Polish-Swiss Research Programme

The aim of the Polish-Swiss Research Programme (PSRP), operated by the National Information Processing Institute, was to support the R&D sector as inherent and crucial part of human, social and economic cohesion, to contribute to its further development in Poland and its international integration.

Since the PSRP was the first comprehensive support instrument dedicated to Polish-Swiss scientific cooperation, the interest in it proved to be significant. Out of the 239 submitted applications for the overall value of PLN 800 million (the amount was almost nine times as high as the available allocation), **31 bilateral projects** were approved for co-financing (of which ca. 1/3 included more than 2 entities), which were implemented by **79 research teams from 49 different Institutes and universities** from Poland and Switzerland involving **535 scientists**.

Cooperation was established in different thematic areas such as: natural environment (9 projects), health (8 projects), energy – renewable energy sources (5 projects), information and communication technologies (5 projects) and nanotechnology (4 projects). It resulted in over **600 research articles and 22 patent applications as well as 130 innovations/ improvements/inventions**. As confirmed by the Executing Agency, after completion of the Programme, the Polish-Swiss cooperation will be continued.¹¹

The effects of joint cooperation were further disseminated by in total **1 370 presentations** given by the scientists during external events (e.g. international conferences, symposia) or internal events (e.g. seminars, workshops and meetings organised under the individual research projects). There were also **240 conferences, seminars and workshops** organised. Moreover, the scientific and research infrastructure of the Polish partner institutions was expanded by equipment worth ca. **PLN 10 million**.

The PSRP was positively assessed both in the report "Evaluation: Swiss Contribution to the Enlarged European Union", commissioned by the Swiss side, and in the evaluation report of the SPCP, commissioned by the NCU. In the light of the evaluation results, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the PSRP should be assessed as highly satisfactory. In the opinion of the evaluators, the positive effects result from the following factors: the PSRP was well tailored to the needs and expectations of the scientific environment and the reality of research work; the high quality and efficiency of the Executing Agency in managing the Programme; the valuable support by the Joint Selection Committee; and the established partnerships. As it turned out, **the partnerships have become an effective instrument** for implementing joint tasks, transferring experiences and knowledge

¹¹ By the end of March 2017, 26 new joint projects were initiated, some of which have already received funding and are already being implemented (20 proposals of new joint projects, being a continuation of the so far cooperation, were submitted to Polish and European grant institutions still during the implementation of the respective research projects, the other 6 project proposals were submitted by the end of March 2017).

between participants of the research teams, developing existing contacts and establishing new ones. According to the evaluators, the partnerships have proven to give perspectives for further bilateral (Polish-Swiss) or multilateral cooperation, engaging teams from scientific centres in different countries.

1.1.2 Improving public safety and security

The objective of improving public safety and security was realized through 7 projects approved under the *Measures to secure borders* thematic area. They differed in terms of content and scope and constituted a response to different needs and problems identified in the area of safety and security on the territory of Poland. Most of them, however, aimed at improvement of the security and tightness of Poland's eastern border, being at the same time the external eastern border of the European Union, to meet the EU standards with regard to external borders as well as requirements of the Schengen Treaty.

The activities realized within the projects have been translated into sustainable results, which in most cases have been better than expected. The new infrastructure of two border crossings points located on the Poland's border with Belarus **has significantly improved their security and efficiency**. In Siemianówka (project KIK/20) the average train clearance time has been reduced from 2.5 h to 1.7 h (by 60% shorter than planned) and the revenues from the charge accounts have increased by **91%**. In Połowce (KIK/74) the value of seized contraband goods has increased from 78.87 PLN to 1 719.31 PLN per person/annually whereas the detection of falsified documents has increased by **16%** (over 3 times more than anticipated). Thanks to change of the status of the border crossing point in Połowce from bilateral to international and extension of cross-border traffic to include trucks up to 7.5 t and coaches, the realization of the project has also increased the capacity of the border crossing point in Połowce. The assumed result concerning the new status of the crossing point is planned to be reached within a few-year period after the project completion. The new infrastructure of both border crossings and the purchased equipment have contributed also to creating the right conditions for passport and customs clearance and improving the working conditions of border services.

The epidemiological filter in Biała Podlaska (KIK/02) is innovative and unique both at the national and the European level. This is connected, among others, with the fact that three medical zones, i.e. medical reception, outpatient clinic and isolation wards have been merged in one facility. In the opinion of a Polish external expert, commissioning of the Biała Podlaska filter is a great success in providing **epidemiological and sanitary safety** on the micro-scale (migrants, local community, Polish society) but also on a wider scale – the macro-scale, i.e. European societies.

When assessing the contribution of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme to the improvement of the security of the Poland's eastern border, the significance of the new equipment and vehicles for customs and police units located near the border as well as specialized training courses, including emergency response should not be neglected. In the period between 2012 and 2016 one can observe a significant **increase in the quality and efficiency of operations** of the mobile groups of Customs Service units from the area covered by the projects. The number of detected cases increased from 81 478 in 2011 to **136 155** in 2016 and the number of imposed fines – from 6 735 to **137 345** respectively. The data reflects a significant development of mobile groups connected, among others, with a greater number of assigned tasks, which would not have been possible without appropriate training and highly specialized equipment. On the one hand, the project KIK/03 financed from the Swiss funds constituted one of the sources of funding for the transformation of mobile

groups and contributed significantly to improvement in their work efficiency. On the other hand, the activities realised under the KIK/04 project and the purchased equipment brought tangible benefits in the form of **Increased knowledge, skills and capabilities** to act in the event of an emergency situation and increased operational capabilities of the relevant actors. The greatest added value of the project were the newly developed modalities of cooperation among representatives of different emergency response institutions operating in the same area.

The activities taken in order to improve the security of Poland's eastern border were supplemented by actions aiming at improvement of the process of migration management in Poland (KIK/75), but also at improvement of road safety in poviats with the highest number of road accidents (KIK/76).

In the light of the current migration situation, the relevance and justification of activities realised under the project KIK/75 is beyond any doubt. The project reached its objectives and contributed to promoting intercultural dialogue, increasing understanding of migration issues and boosting intercultural skills of different stakeholders influencing the integration process of migrants. The main benefit of the project was undoubtedly its **comprehensive approach to the issue of migration management** and the large range of activities directed to **different target groups**, including: representatives of governmental and local institutions as well as NGOs which have or might have an impact on migration management, teachers from schools attended by foreign children, representatives of migrants organizations, international organizations, experts in migration related issues, researchers, migrants themselves and the whole Polish society.

The unique character of the project KIK/76 results from the **cooperation between the Police and the self-government units** which has been undertaken for the first time. The cooperation allowed applying in the project a multi-dimensional approach to the issue of road safety and thus enhanced its impact and visibility. Strong motivation and involvement of the partner counties in the project implementation resulted in higher funds spent on investments than originally planned in the project budget and in a number of promotional actions which was twice as large as the number planned in the project proposal, resulting in a wider dissemination of the project message than initially planned. The new approach to road safety can be seen as a pilot undertaking and is worth continuing in the future.

1.1.3 Protecting the environment

The aim of protecting the environment was promoted through various actions implemented in the areas of waste management, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, public transport as well as biodiversity.

1.1.3.1 Waste management

There were 3 projects implemented in this area, whose common objective was improving the condition of the natural environment and the living conditions of the inhabitants through asbestos removal. Consequently, a reduction of health risk exposure of the population in the regions of lubelskie and małopolskie voivoships to this harmful substance has been achieved.

The implementation of the projects brought significant results allowing for neutralization of more than **131 thousand tonnes** of asbestos containing materials, which means that **88 277** people have been released from asbestos threat. Based on the data reported by the

Executing Agencies 43 611 buildings or households benefitted from the possibility of removing asbestos roof coverage. This resulted in a direct reduction of negative influence on the natural and human environment and contributed to the implementation of the **National Programme for Elimination of Asbestos**, adopted in 2009, through which Poland is under obligation to completely remove asbestos from the territory of the country by 2032.

Due to huge savings resulted from exchange rate gains and public procurement procedures, the effects achieved considerably exceeded the planned values, e.g. the final amount of eliminated asbestos constituted **185% of the initially assumed value**.

The impact of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Program (SPCP) on the situation related to asbestos waste treatment was substantial at the regional level. It entails from the fact that the lubelskie region is in the second place in Poland in terms of incidence of asbestos materials. The importance of the Programme for the małopolskie region stems from the fact that in the past an asbestos manufacture operated on the territory of one of its municipalities, i.e. Szczucin - the Executing Agency (EA) of KIK/71 project. Thus, the asbestos materials were in the past widely used for construction purposes in that area and also in the whole territory of małopolskie voivodship. Consequently, this region was particularly affected by a strong concentration of the negative effects on health and on environment caused by asbestos production.

The Swiss grant enabled to visibly decrease the problem of asbestos containing products in the lubelskie region as the quantity removed within the project constitutes ca. **10% of all asbestos materials** identified in the region before the beginning of the intervention. When it comes to małopolskie voivodship, the removed asbestos constitutes ca. **5% of the total asbestos quantity** detected at the project start. Thus, it can be stated that the funding from the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme has considerably accelerated the process of safe asbestos removal in the areas concerned. Furthermore, it should be highlighted that, based on the analysis carried out for the purpose of the Programme evaluation, the SPCP was the main source of external funding for this type of initiatives during the time of projects' implementation. Hence, it contributed to stimulating the country's process of asbestos waste management. As it derives from the current data included in the Polish asbestos data base, the amount of asbestos neutralized within the SPCP in the małopolskie voivodship constitutes ca. **76%** of all the asbestos eliminated in this region. When it comes to the lubelskie voivodship, this ratio amounts to ca. **94%**.

Additionally, due to the great amount of asbestos neutralized and the large geographic area of works, the tender procedures realized within the projects were among the biggest in the country in the field of asbestos disposal, which increased the cost effectiveness of the implemented activities.

The components concerning support in financing new roofing for the poorest beneficiaries were introduced in all three projects; this is regarded as innovative solution because previously such schemes were not implemented in Poland due to different procedural and legal obstacles. As a result almost **2 300 unprivileged households** obtained new roof coverage in replace for asbestos ones. Thanks to that the projects contributed to counteracting social exclusion and in that way to reducing social and economic disparities between the inhabitants of both regions.

The importance of the intervention in the field of asbestos removal was also confirmed by the fact that the projects engaged wide-range of municipality partnerships – **278 participating communes** out of which 209 are from the lubelskie voivodship, which constitutes **98%** of all

municipalities from the lubelskie region. The implementation of such challenging projects based on large scale partnerships can be regarded as a success as well as model of good cooperation between local government units. Centralisation of administrative and procedural issues at the level of Executing Agencies as leaders of projects' partnerships has also positively influenced the projects' overall performance and proved to be a good solution for future projects.

The still great demand for asbestos removal as well as valuable capital in the form of increased interest of the inhabitants of the regions led the EAs to seek for possibilities to continue the activities started within the Swiss funded projects. Strong pressure of the residents and high motivation of the project partners to further eliminate the asbestos products stimulated the efforts of self-government units to apply for additional financing in this field. For instance the Lubelskie voivodeship, based on knowledge acquired in the course of KIK/39 project, is planning to continue the asbestos removal works with funding from the EU under the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020.

The results of wide-ranging educational and promotional initiatives focusing on harmfulness of asbestos and the need for its safe treatment were also impressive – in total, **697 events** and meetings with **more than 220 thousand participants** were organised including meetings with local communities and students at schools, which influenced the people awareness of the asbestos risk as well as attracted them to join the projects.

Moreover, the project KIK/42 contributed to organizing a comprehensive waste management system. The most important part concerned the construction of a modern **Waste Management Facility (WMF)** using innovative technological solutions, which are unique both on the scale of Poland and Europe. The technology is based on energy recovery from organic municipal waste through fermentation and the use of biogas to produce electric energy and heat. This type of installation serves as a good practice example having a demonstration character and should encourage other entities to introduce similar modern solutions based on alternative, environmentally friendly technologies within the country and abroad.

The Waste Management Facility **serves 172 723 local inhabitants** from the area of the Association of the Communes of Lubartów Subregion covering 5 municipalities and additionally from the nearby Lublin Town, which is far more than anticipated. The plant has also obtained a status of regional installation for waste processing, having in this way an important role in the waste management system at voivodeship level. Thanks to the WMF it is expected that the stream of communal waste directed to waste disposal sites will in the long run **decrease by 50%**. The sorting plant is anticipated to process **37 000 tonnes** of municipal waste annually and provides **employment to ca. 50 people**.

The goals reached in the area of waste management are of high importance for the regions in which they were implemented and undoubtedly contributed to the improvement of the state of environment and health protection in those areas. Due to their comprehensive and systematic approach to eliminating the problem of asbestos as well as their efficient and successful rules and procedures, the projects proved to be effective and thus worth replicating if further financing is available.

1.1.3.2 Energy efficiency and renewable energy

10 projects located in 6 voivodeships (małopolskie, mazowieckie, podkarpackie, pomorskie, świętokrzyskie and zachodniopomorskie) have been successfully implemented in the area

concerning increase of energy efficiency and reducing emissions, in particular of greenhouse gases and hazardous substances. Most of the projects aimed at introducing renewable energy resources combining different technologies such as solar collectors' systems, heating pumps, photovoltaic systems, but also at improving energy efficiency (e.g. through decrease of heat losses).

The biggest group of projects focused on the installation of **solar panels on private buildings** (projects KIK/41, KIK/44, KIK/46, KIK/50 and KIK/66). Public utility buildings were also included in these projects and benefitted from solar collectors' systems, photovoltaic systems or heat pumps, however the main beneficiaries were the inhabitants of the communes included in projects. The second group of projects focused exclusively on **public buildings** (KIK/48, KIK/51, KIK/63) and aimed at a comprehensive improvement of their energy efficiency through different measures. Finally, two projects (KIK/61 and KIK/73) targeted only the improvement of heating systems.

The projects addressed the current needs and contributed to fulfilling Poland's obligations stemming from *The climate and energy package* concerning energy savings, increased use of renewable energy sources and reduction of CO₂ emissions. What is more, they tackled the problem of poor air quality, which is observed in many regions of Poland where permissible levels of pollutants are often exceeded.

The evaluation of the Programme showed that the total surface area of **25 627** solar collectors installed as a result of the SPCP amounting to **155 862 m²** corresponds to approx. **14% of the total surface area** of collectors installed within the subsidiary programmes (i.e. financial support from National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management 2010-2014, Regional Operational Programmes 2007-2013 and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development 2007-2013) and **nearly 9%** of total surface area of solar collectors in Poland reported in 2014 which should be considered as a significant result, considering the relatively small scale of the programme if compared to EU-funded programmes.

Projects were accompanied by a **wide range of educational and promotional activities** aimed at popularizing the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES), including trainings, ecological competitions, conferences, outdoor events, distribution of promotion materials. Some of them involved also innovative methods of reaching the target groups, e.g. *home consultants* (KIK/66) – young people who were trained to carry out direct information campaign, which entailed visiting residents of Wisłoka River Basin at their homes and informing about environment protection, need for energy savings and benefits from using clean energy. This was an inspiration for similar educational actions with involvement of youth and teachers. The campaigns on RES helped to raise the awareness of the air pollution's problem as well as ways of solving it among the inhabitants.

Added value to the projects results was the increase of inhabitants' satisfaction resulting from decrease of the energy costs, improvement of health condition and environment quality. With regards to protecting the air and the human health of residents, the implemented projects offered solutions relevant to the identified needs and problems.

A significant impact of the SPCP in the area of energy can be noted especially on the regional level, particularly in the małopolskie voivodeship where 4 projects of this kind were implemented. Consequently, following the SPCP evaluation report committed by the Polish side in 2017, **nearly 40% of solar collectors** in this region was installed with the use of funds from the Swiss Contribution. Having in mind the high demand of the małopolskie region for initiatives of this type, and owing to the fact that in recent years one of the

country's highest levels of particulate matter pollution was observed in this region, the Programme contributed to important local benefits.

Efficiency and effectiveness of the projects are very satisfactory. The achieved results significantly exceeded preliminary assumptions, e.g. the number of installed solar collectors' systems constitutes **152% of the amount planned** at the beginning. Also the scope of some projects was extended compared to the initial plan (e.g. the thermomodernization of 40 public utility buildings and the replacement of existing lighting with LED lamps in 18 buildings were not included in the Final Project Proposal (FPP) of the project KIK/41; the same is true for the additional installation of 19 photovoltaic systems within KIK/48). These over-achievements were possible mainly due to exchange rate gains, but also to post-tender savings.

What is most important: the abovementioned direct results are not the only effect of the projects. Significant additional outcomes can be identified. Two main outcomes for all projects are related to the improvement of the natural environment through reduction of pollutants' emission and to the increased production of energy coming from RES. As a result of project implementation, the following ecological effect has been achieved based on the indicators included in the Project Completion Reports¹²:

- **117 400 ton per year (t/y) less CO₂**;
- **1 215 t/y less CO**;
- **703 t/y less SO₂**;
- **84 t/y less NO_x**;
- **954 t/y less PM₁₀**.

According to the data provided by the Executing Agencies the renewable energy production has been increased by **891 241 gigajoule per year (GJ/y)**.

These are common and aggregated outcomes of all 10 projects, however the catalogue of mid-range effects for particular projects is much wider and includes reduction of the use of fossil fuels, savings for households and public utility buildings, increase of RES share in the energy balance and greater awareness on RES among inhabitants.

In addition to the measurable effects based on the indicators stipulated in the projects' logical frameworks, other **non-measurable effect** shall be pointed out. Thanks to the Swiss support, cooperation between Executing Agencies has been established. It has directly fostered the development of effective, common procedures for the implementation of projects, including tender procedures or utilization of savings. Considering the fact that the energy projects were not only complex and long-lasting but also engaging cross-communal partnerships, they were good examples of a successfully applied model of cooperation between several local government units. Thanks to that the projects were often perceived as **models of good practices** for activities concerning local government investments in green energy, providing useful know-how for other municipalities. The effectiveness and quality of the projects' outputs was also increased thanks to tender procedures that were organized centrally by the Executing Agency for all the partners participating in the project.

As already mentioned, projects in this area have contributed to **increasing the awareness** of local residents and local authorities about RES as well as air and environmental pollution.

¹² Not all projects' data covers a full year of operation of the renewable energy systems, thus it can be anticipated that these values will further increase.

On the one hand projects' indicators provide data on the number of trained residents (**19 000**), distributed informational and promotional materials (**164 000**), participants in promotional campaigns or conferences (**1 800**), but on the other hand they do not reflect the true scale of the projects' impact. With Swiss support, residents have begun to change their approach to new RES technologies. This was reflected in the steadily increasing interest in installing solar collectors' systems on residential buildings, which surpassed the expectations (and the financial capabilities) of the Executing Agencies. In addition, the EA's themselves turned to RES, actively seeking for external funding for new projects.

At this point, it should be emphasized that there is currently a wide range of **possibilities to continue the activities realized within the SPCP with the support** of the resources available under the Regional Operational Programmes (EU structural funds). The EA of KIK/66 currently implements two new projects which include the installation of solar collectors and photovoltaic panels on residential buildings and has submitted applications for another two projects. The remaining EA's are planning to replace coal boilers for upgraded boilers or photovoltaics, often in conjunction with incentives for thermomodernization of residential buildings.

The results of the projects have been noticed and well received not only by the local communities, but also on the national scale. Their recognition is reflected in **awards** within nationwide competitions, for example the ranking of Renewable Energy 2014 (KIK/44), the contests "Green public procurement" (KIK/73) or "Active for clean air" (KIK/48). These awards confirm that the effects of projects and beneficiaries' actions stand out among actions of other local authorities in terms of energy efficiency or green technologies. Moreover, their recognition facilitates the spread of good practices and innovative solutions used in the projects.

Finally, other investments within the SPCP, involving the exchange of group substations for individual substations or the construction of biomass power plants, although of little importance on a national scale, play an **important demonstration role**, due to the applied innovative technologies and also the possibility of upscaling their positive environmental impact.

1.1.3.3 Public transport

There were 3 projects implemented in the area related to public transport. Two of them were located in the mazowieckie voivodeship (KIK/22 and KIK/28) while the third one (KIK/23) was implemented in the pomeranian region. All projects were focused on the **improvement of public railway transport quality** with the aim to encourage people to use it instead of private cars and, as a consequence, to improve the quality of natural environment.

The main activities in all projects were focused on i) improvement of railway infrastructure (e.g. construction of a **Transport Centre** with a modern train station and **2 multi-storey car parks with 1 275 parking spaces**), ii) comfort of the rolling stocks (**10 new modern multiple units purchased and 1 modernised with 4 486 new places for passengers**), iii) quality of service and safety of travellers (for example through installation of **Passenger Information and Monitoring System with 108 electronic information boards** installed on the station platforms and stops) as well as iv) frequency, punctuality and upgraded security and comfort of passengers with special needs, i.e. elderly or disabled people.

A comprehensive approach to the passengers' needs was reflected in projects modifications, as, due to exchange rate gains, it was possible to extend the scope of the

projects and include additional investments such as service devices for electric multiple units, automatic signalling systems on the railway crossings and comprehensive repair of the railway track (KIK/22), improving access to the railway and bus stations for inhabitants of neighbourhood communes (KIK/28) or modernization of an existing electric track unit, reconstruction of a viaduct with commuting along the provincial road no 529, purchase of 51 defibrillators for rail vehicles and trainings how to use them (KIK/23).

While the overall impact of the projects is hard to be assessed due to their size (according to the SPCP evaluation report the support provided by the Programme constitutes less than 3% of the support for purchase of rolling stock within the EU cohesion policy in Poland), their individual effects are of high importance for the Executing Agencies and the local inhabitants. For example, when it comes to the Warsaw Commuter Railway project (KIK/22) it allowed to complete the process of replacing all the obsolete trains with new ones. The share of travelers in the category of elderly and disabled people increased substantially. This allowed achieving the objective of improving the availability of transport services. The project significantly improved the comfort of travelling. This was confirmed by the percentage rate of passengers satisfied with the quality of service that considerably exceeded the target value.

As a result of the projects over **900 thousands** new passengers benefitted directly from improved railway infrastructure, including over **400 thousands** elderly or disabled people. The number of passengers satisfied with the quality of service also increased by over **20%**. Furthermore, almost **950 thousands** kilometers per year are now operated by newly purchased or modernized rolling stocks. A reduction of travel time of **5%** as well as an increase of travel frequency of **25%** have been achieved. The punctuality rate exceeded **98%**. The planned values of some of these indicators are even higher and they are expected to be reached in subsequent years.

Common goal of all three projects was to improve safety, service quality and accessibility of public transport as well as to improve its efficiency. In spite of different measures undertaken in each project, all 3 projects contributed to achieving this overall objective. Having in mind the constantly growing role of public transport in Poland, the implemented projects should positively influence the interest in using passenger railway transportation also in the long run.

1.1.3.4 Biodiversity

7 projects were implemented within the biodiversity area, aimed at protection of the environment and sustainable functioning of ecosystems in the areas of geographical concentration, i.e. in the voivodeships of lubelskie, podkarpackie, świętokrzyskie and małopolskie. For almost all projects, the Executing Agencies were non-governmental organisations (with the exception of KIK/25). All projects were implemented in partnerships (of even a dozen or more Polish and Swiss entities), and their implementation was mostly focused in the voivodeships of małopolskie and podkarpackie.

The projects' scope included the following aspects: i) improving the cohesion of areas belonging to the Natura 2000 networks and other protected areas, wildlife inventory and biodiversity monitoring, ii) preparing regional strategies for sustainable development of tourism in protected areas, iii) increasing awareness and knowledge on environment protection, iv) implementing the Carpathian Convention and cross-border environmental initiatives. The projects had comprehensive and innovative character, and were compatible with local, regional or national strategies for environmental protection.

The projects included initiatives with an **indirect impact** on protecting biodiversity, for example:

- **wildlife inventory** (in KIK/24, KIK/25, KIK/31 and KIK/65 – covering a total area of over **1 800 hectares** and nearly **3 000** inventory actions and field inspections);
- **wildlife monitoring** (in KIK/24, KIK/25, KIK/53 and KIK/65 – covering a total area of over **500 000 hectares** and **230 species**);
- **local or regional strategies** (**33 documents** of this type were prepared, e.g. *Regional strategy of sustainable tourism development in the Lower Beskid mountains and the Carpathian*);
- **guidelines, manuals** (e.g. *Code of Good Agricultural Practice Protecting Biodiversity; Report with recommendations on the methods of establishing National Biodiversity Monitoring System of Agri-environmental Schemes; Code of good practice in the spatial planning in the Polish Carpathians; Technical and biological interventions in natural mountain rivers' maintenance - best practice*);
- **electronic database** (c.a. 174 900 records) collecting the results of the bird inventory within existing ecological corridors for Podkarpackie Voivodeship;
- **education and promotion** (over **300 training sessions** for **6 900 participants**, **51 conferences** and seminars for **2 200 participants**, approx. **180 press publications** of popular science and natural science character, **150 000 copies** of informational and promotional materials, brochures, folders);
- **scientific research** (KIK/25).

Within four projects, initiatives (mainly investments) with a **direct impact** on protecting biodiversity were implemented:

- **remodeling of cascades and dams** on rivers to enable fish migration, removing invasive exotic plants, rearranging species in tree stands and reed beds in KIK/37;
- **cleaning and revitalising the Vistula backwater areas**, including planting and reintroducing wetland species in KIK/65;
- **reduction of tourism-related human pressure** in protected areas through building of small tourist structures, such as toilets, a foot bridge, a resting shelter and reorganisation of parking areas in KIK/31; the new structures allow channeling the touristic flow on specific "hot-spots" and reducing its negative impact on the remaining part of the protected areas;
- **restoration of sheep grazing** on mountain pastures and semi-natural meadows of **over 700 ha** (active protection measure, as the maintenance of this type of habitat relies on the occurrence of grazing) in KIK/32.

Bearing in mind the individual character of the projects and their different scopes, actions and target groups, their impact can be assessed only locally. However, thanks to the chosen approach the projects were tailor-made, addressing specific needs in given circumstances, which increased their positive influence on the protection of species and natural habitats.

The importance of biodiversity projects relies also on their demonstration character, which shall lead to further multiplication effects. It should be stressed that the results achieved within the projects have already been used and replicated by other institutions. For instance, the data gathered during the inventory in KIK/24 project are used on an ongoing basis by the

Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection, among others for the preparation of investments and the processes related to the preparation of preservation task plans. The guidelines developed in the project KIK/37 concerning mountain river management have been used 23 times in several locations throughout Poland.

Furthermore, the relevance of the projects implemented in the biodiversity area is augmented by the fact that, as described in the SPCP evaluation report, the funding of this type of initiatives, e.g. wildlife inventory and monitoring, scientific research and river deregulation to such a wide extent and in such wide areas was not possible within other programmes, which usually set a narrow and standardised scope for eligible initiatives, whereas the requirements of biodiversity protection often need to be treated on an individual basis.

1.1.4 Improving social security

1.1.4.1 Health

The objective of the interventions in the area of health, which was to promote a healthy lifestyle and prevent non-communicable as well as blood borne diseases, was achieved by the implementation of 4 nationwide prophylactic programmes.

Fighting false beliefs on teeth treatment in childhood was one of the aims of the **KIK/33 programme**. A social campaign encouraged in a few simple steps parents, carers and children to give attention to every-day oral hygiene. It referred the audience to the website zebymalegodziecka.pl – where helpful information can be found on effective oral hygiene and tooth-friendly foods, and resources/booklets can be downloaded and used to interact with a child. In total, **397 447 children** from **5 726 kindergartens** (which constitutes **50,57%** of the total number of kindergartens in Poland) were covered by educational actions in the area of oral hygiene; **928 kindergartens** were located in rural areas.

1 499 nurses and midwives and **285 paediatricians** were trained in oral hygiene, which helped to enhance their knowledge and reach with proper oral care education little patients. Needs of handicapped children were also taken into consideration. Guidelines on maintaining oral hygiene among disabled and chronically ill children are distributed with the support of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy among social welfare homes. The Ministry of Health's brochure on children oral hygiene, which takes into account the project achievements and the evaluation of educational needs carried out under the project, will be distributed in hospitals, primary health care entities, etc. Moreover, results of evaluation activities will be used for the purposes of the **Programme of Monitoring of Oral Health of Polish Population 2016-2020**.

The draft of act on school medicine recently presented by the Ministry of Health foresees providing dental care in each school, which would considerably strengthen the project results. Surveys conducted within the KIK/33 programme provide sound data for creating a health policy in the area of dental care.

The main aim of the **KIK/34 programme** was to promote a healthy lifestyle, including the prevention of overweight and obesity as well as other chronic illnesses, by educating on nutrition and physical activeness the society, and in particular relevant target groups like pregnant women, children and their environment as well as people already suffering from overweight/obesity and in the result poor health condition. The body weight reduction programme covering **2 100 patients** became a role-model for other institutions and already fund favour with self-governments, eager to implement it using own financing.

The EA experts and dieticians encouraged pregnant women to improve their eating habits and become more physically active. **26 740 patients**, including over **12 300 pregnant women** were covered by dietary counselling in the health protection system. The EA managed to involve over **1 600 nurseries/schools** in the certification programme on nutrition and incorporating more physical activity into every-day life. An important result of the programme has been the creation of the **National Centre for Nutrition Education**, which now provides on an ongoing basis important and trustworthy messages about eating well and being active, e.g. in newsletter distributed via email.

Preventing and combating Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infections in Poland is hindered by the low level of awareness of HCV in the society. The **KIK/35 programme** put emphasis on the necessity of increasing social awareness of the HCV infections problem and availability of diagnostic tests for HCV. It also managed to provide a basis for planning a long-term strategy. Its educational part aimed at raising the awareness on HCV infection transmission routes and the risk factors in the population. As a result of activities implemented within the programme **over 34 000 people were tested** for HCV. Additionally **221 trainings** for **7 508 people** were carried out on HCV prevention.

E-learning material produced within the project has been incorporated in the **post-diploma studies** for nurses and midwives as an obligatory course, while doctors, medical analysts and paramedics receive additional educational points in their training process if they follow a corresponding training. It is also planned to include the conclusions and results of the project in the curricula of post-diploma training for doctors and dentists. The Chief Sanitary Inspectorate is currently revising the control procedures in medical centres, laboratories, hairdressers, tattoo studios and beauty parlours in order to strengthen prophylactics. The results of the project will be distributed to chambers for doctors and dentists and other stakeholders.

The main objective of the **KIK/68 programme** was to contribute to diminishing the consumption of psychoactive substances. A wide range of undertakings, including trainings, prophylactics programmes for youth and adults as well as prophylactic activities carried out by doctors, nurses and midwives directed to pregnant women were supplemented with social campaigns. The main campaign message aimed at inducing self-reflection on behaviours linked to drugs abuse, is still reproduced in various contexts, positively affecting youth social life patterns.

Through the **e-stawiamnazdrowie.pl** website and other tools, the Executing Agency allowed youngsters to get acquainted with drugs harmfulness. Also parents, teachers and caretakers have been counselled on how to discuss the issue with young people and recognise symptoms of addiction. The mentioned website as well as other platforms components (**zdrowiewciazy.pl**, **e-zdrowiewpracy.pl**) is a verified and credible source of knowledge on how drugs operate and on the consequences of drug abuse; it also provides inspiration for actions fighting the problem. One of the most valuable products of the project is **“Ars, That is How to Take Care of Love” programme** – an educational programme prepared by experts targeted on reducing the use of psychoactive substances among the youth. The programme highlighted stimulant-related threats to parenthood, partnership and love – the most important values for youths. The certification process of the programme is expected to be completed shortly. In total **493 869 pupils** from 60% of upper-secondary schools in Poland benefitted of an educational programme; **900 general practitioners, gynaecologists, nurses and midwives** as well as **3 639 teachers** were trained in addiction prevention.

Sustainability of results of all four programmes has been ensured within the **National Health Programme 2016-2020**, for instance by incorporating non blood-borne infections measures promoted by the KIK/35 project. Having all necessary tools and experiences gained due to SPCP and financial (state budget) sources at disposal, undertakings shall be continued to prove long-term effects.

The preventive initiatives undertaken within the Programmes were complex, long-lasting and effective, especially when it comes to the selected tools and channels of communication, which were adequately chosen taking into account preferences of the different target groups. For instance the mobile applications were assessed as highly relevant – e.g. a free mobile game was prepared within the KIK/33 Programme – ‘Pampis – Tooth Adventure’ – which became very popular with children taking part in educational programmes and their parents. Another example of a tailor-made tool was an internet campaign in KIK/68 project called ‘Partying. Expectations vs. Reality’, whose aim was to attract the attention of youths aged 15-19 to the negative effects of stimulants. This nationwide action included 10 spots shared on You Tube, which were displayed at least 2 million times among the target group.

What is equally important, the products of the prophylactic initiatives are still available and further distributed with the use of internet portals created within the Programmes. Thanks to this, free and broad access to reliable knowledge, practical guidelines and promotion materials on preventive health care is ensured for everyone interested.

1.1.4.2 Social assistance

4 projects have been successfully implemented, one in each of the geographic concentration area of the SPCP, i.e. lubelskie, małopolskie, podkarpackie i świętokrzyskie. Accomplished projects aimed at improvement of living conditions of residents of **Social Welfare Houses and childcare centers**, quality of services provided to them as well as working conditions of the personnel.

Each project consisted of three components: the first aimed at the improvement of the infrastructure (resulting in **29 299 m²** area of built/modernised social welfare homes and childcare centres and **175 707 m²** of surface of built/modernised accompanying infrastructure); the second targeted the enhancement of professional qualifications of personnel employed in Social Welfare Houses and childcare centers (resulting in **2 171** employees and **619** nurses and midwives participating in courses/training activities); the last component aimed at providing Social Welfare Houses with the equipment for nurses to improve the provided services (as a result, **623** pieces of medical equipment for nurses in social welfare homes were purchased).

The impact of the implemented interventions is substantial. As a result of the projects, access to modern forms of occupational therapy has improved. The employees of the involved institutions acquired knowledge and skills due to courses, trainings and study visits. The percentage of nurses that would increase their qualification thanks to the projects was on average estimated at the level of 53% at the beginning of the project, while at the end **more than 65% increased their qualifications**. As a result of the projects **77% of the personnel** directly working with the residents were satisfied with the working conditions, while at the planning stage the target of 36% was foreseen.

The implemented projects allowed over **68% of the residents** to take part in rehabilitation or other kind of treatments. Some of the organized therapies were of **Innovative** character, like resilience methods aimed at developing skills to handle and adapt to challenges of everyday

life, which, as a consequence, allow a social reintegration of the residents. Many of the applied therapies and activities were new in the region or in the given institutions, e.g. hortitherapy, artetherapy, music therapy, sensor integration, or NDT-Bobath method. Activities worth being mentioned are also integrative initiatives aimed at getting together the residents of social care institutions and local communities.

Due to the high financial needs of the social care sector and also the limited availability of budget funds allocated for the modernization of the infrastructure of social care institutions in the four target regions, the projects were of particular importance. The external evaluation of the SPCP highlighted the following particularly important features of the Swiss support: adjusting infrastructure to the needs of **people with limited mobility**, and creating **sheltered housing**. Also the combination of investments in infrastructure and equipment ("hardware") with initiatives aimed at strengthening human capital, well-being of the residents and social cohesion ("software") was a particularly valuable approach.

A further result of the projects is the improved satisfaction of the residents living in Social Welfare Houses: **70%** of them are satisfied with the new conditions. At the planning stage, the corresponding target was on average set at the level of 36%. In surveys carried out by external evaluators the following unexpected effects linked with the implementation of the projects were indicated:

- decreased maintenance costs in the targeted social institutions;
- refurbished and modernized therapeutic garden (thanks inter alia to the use of savings);
- increased knowledge of the staff of Social Welfare Houses and childcare centres;
- activation and deepened social integration of elderly residents by taking additional initiatives in partnership with non-governmental organizations.

The successfully implemented projects should trigger further changes in the involved regions and beyond. In order to facilitate that changes the following activities has been carried out. **Study visits** have been organised for regional authorities responsible for social assistance. They were addressed to representatives of those regions where SPCP projects were not implemented. The participants could visit social welfare homes and childcare centres that benefitted from the SPCP and learn about good practices and innovative solutions. Moreover, a **model cost analysis** of sheltered housing and independence-training facilities was realised. The outcomes of the analysis serve as a source of information for local and regional governments on the cost-effectiveness and social benefits of giving priority to sheltered housing over more institutionalised forms of social care.

1.1.4.3 Łodygowice project

The main objective of the project was to reduce social inequalities in rural areas by creating conditions for learning and development for people with disabilities. The goal has been achieved through improved and new infrastructure increasing the opportunity of comprehensive development and rehabilitation of the students of the **Special School in Łodygowice** as well as through construction of the **Center of Cultural Integration** in Łodygowice. In June 2014, the Executing Agency completed the implementation of the project using all available funds and achieving all result indicators. Although the project was of limited importance on a regional scale, it played an important demonstration role. The following outcomes were achieved as a result of its implementation, which contributed to the overall objective:

- **80 additional mentally disabled persons accommodated and cared;**

- **5 families** of disabled persons accommodated in the school, improving in this way their chances on the labour market;
- **3 educational and cultural activities** realised, aimed at a mixed audience (disabled / able-bodied);
- **35 able-bodied persons** participating in events organized in the Center of Cultural Integration.

Additionally, positive effects related to the modernization of the infrastructure were reached, in particular a decrease for energy demand as well as a **10%** reduction of heat losses.

1.1.5 Strengthening civil society

The funds dedicated to strengthening civil society and enhancing bilateral partnerships under the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme were available within a Block Grant (operated by Ecorys Polska Sp. z o.o.), which consisted of two Funds: the Fund for the Non-Governmental Organisations and the Partnership Fund.

1.1.5.1 Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations

The objective of the Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations (02/KIK) was strengthening the civil society as an important player in increasing the socio-economic cohesion of the country. The support from the Fund was directed particularly to non-governmental organisations for actions aiming at increasing the active participation of citizens in public life. In the framework of the Fund 6 competitions were held – 3 for small and 3 for regular grants. Among the **336 implemented projects** the highest percentage share is recorded by projects in the area of civic education (262), followed by projects in the area of public participation (46) and control (watchdog) activities (28).

The analysis of the values reached within the implemented projects shows that most of the target indicators were achieved, while in case of 13 indicators the achieved value was much higher than expected. Especially satisfying is the indicator value concerning the number of citizens actively participating in project activities – it was exceeded by seven times on the national scale and by ten times on the area of geographic concentration of the SPCP, i.e. in the South-East of the country. This is a clear evidence of the wide range of activities of the Fund, of its outreach and of its strong effects. Despite the fact that most of the projects were implemented in the area of civic education rather than in the areas of public participation and control, the Beneficiaries emphasized the high activation of citizens, which was the main goal of the Fund. As a result of the Fund's support, **5 580 Initiatives** with active participation of citizens were implemented (including **2 082 in the area of geographic concentration**) – the original target was exceeded by eight times. A further impressive result concerns the indicator related to the activities focused on raising awareness among the citizens, for which the original target was exceeded by four times – there were **5 837 initiatives** of that character, including **2 240 in the area of geographic concentration**. The number of projects implemented in national and/or international partnership is also satisfactory. It was initially estimated at the level of 230 projects, while there were finally **320** such projects. In the geographic concentration area the indicator value equalled 240 projects, with an initial estimation of 68. As a consequence of the Fund's support, **151 140 citizens** actively participated in the activities realised in the framework of projects.

The support in the area of strengthening civil society was assessed as highly satisfactory in the ex-post evaluation report of the SPCP, commissioned by the NCU. The projects were well-adjusted to the needs of non-governmental organisations at different stages of their

development. The survey carried out among the beneficiaries of the 02/KIK project shows that the implemented initiatives had an impact on improving the situation of the final recipients. The respondents – beneficiaries of the Fund – pointed out that the group that received the biggest and most durable benefits are citizens (52,3% of answers), followed by NGOs, persons benefitting of social care, students and researchers, disabled persons, public administration employees, businessmen and women, children, the youth, elderly people, women, patients and their families, as well as ethnic minorities. Almost half of the respondents (46%) highlighted additional projects outcomes such as i.a.: increase of recipients' engagement for the benefit of the local community, creation of new non-governmental organisations, or increased integration in the local community.

1.1.5.2 Partnership Fund

The Partnership Fund (03/KIK) implemented within the Block Grant was designed to reinforce partnerships between regional and local authorities, as well as institutions and social partners in Poland and Switzerland, in order to enhance the role of non-governmental organizations in local communities and to involve them in the process of reducing socio-economic inequalities in Poland by increasing their role in decision-making processes at the regional or sub-regional level.

Within 2 calls for proposals, **21 projects** were approved for co-financing. Furthermore, savings generated under re-granting activity made it possible to additionally co-finance and implement **10 mini-projects** in 2015, intended at strengthening the results of partnership projects completed earlier. Partnerships established within the implemented undertakings were of local and regional character, and they concerned various subjects – i.a. education, ecology, tourism, local development and social economy, or promoting readership. According to information provided by the Beneficiaries, only few entities will continue cooperation with their Swiss partner in the foreseeable future, after the completion of the Fund. Therefore, the established partnerships seem to be less sustainable than those promoted under the Polish-Swiss Research Programme. Nevertheless, the knowledge and experience gained during the project implementation with Swiss partners resulted in some cases in the inclusion of some project activities into local policies. This increases their chances for further funding (this was the case of initiatives implemented, among others, in Gdynia Municipality, Lubelskie Region, Myślenicki Province, Koźuchów Municipality, Lublin Municipality, and by the Association Carpathia Euroregion Poland).

The project achieved all output indicators, even if the outcome indicators were achieved at a lower level than expected, e.g. number of inquiries by interested parties (35% of the original target), number of submitted applications (52%), number of submitted applications meeting the technical criteria (53%). In the opinion of the Fund Operator, this underachievement was a result of lower than expected interest in applying for support, as well as the lack of financing possibilities for investment activities.

According to the results of the ex-post evaluation of the SPCP, commissioned by the NCU, the partnership cooperation initiated within the Partnership Fund should be assessed all in all as satisfactory. The financed ventures allowed to locally implement new solutions inspired by the experiences of foreign partners and they gave rise to some further joint endeavours. As it stems from the evaluation report, the SPCP support contributed to strengthened bilateral cooperation, although the impact scale was to some extent limited, due to the broad thematic focus, territorial dispersion and the small number of financed initiatives.

1.2 Enhanced partnerships and cooperation

Although the main aim of the Swiss Contribution is the reduction of the economic and social disparities faced by the new EU member states, the cooperation between Poland and Switzerland under the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme is beneficial for both countries. On the one hand – for Poland – it means the possibility to implement a number of innovative valuable projects, the improvement of the environment, support for local activities and initiatives or study visits that allow sharing knowledge and experience.

On the other hand, Switzerland benefits politically and economically from safety and stability in Europe and from closer relationships with the EU and its new member states. The Swiss can expect to strengthen trade relations, can count on sharing experiences and implementing joint projects. Similarly to other countries benefitting from the Enlarged Contribution, Poland is an attractive market offering new opportunities to entities from the Swiss Confederation.

European science has also benefitted from exchanges. Scholarship programmes for researchers and doctoral students, conducted in Switzerland thanks to the Swiss Contribution, exchange of research staff (in the framework of joint research projects), all that enables both parties to see more development also in this area.

1.2.1 Levels of cooperation

Strengthening bilateral cooperation and promoting Swiss presence and image took place on many levels via:

- ✓ Polish and Swiss administrative cooperation in the implementation of the SPCP;
- ✓ joint Polish-Swiss implementation of some projects and programmes (e.g. the Polish-Swiss Research Programme and the Partnership Fund).

1.2.2 Entities involved

Partnership cooperation during the implementation period of the SPCP was realised under the involvement of many beneficiaries: national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations, universities, R&D units.

However, most Swiss-Polish partnerships were implemented by universities and other scientific and research units and by local governments and other public administration bodies.

1.2.3 Reasons for cooperation

According to Polish partners the most frequently indicated reasons underlying the establishment of partnerships were¹³:

- ✓ Will to start new co-operation;
- ✓ Good experiences from co-operation with other entities;
- ✓ Will to continue earlier co-operation;
- ✓ Beneficiary's idea;
- ✓ Formal requirement in order to benefit of a form of support.

1.2.4 Scope of partnership cooperation

¹³ On the basis of „Assessment of Impact and of Management and Implementation System of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme – Final Report” by the Idea Institute Ltd. , Warsaw, June 2017.

The partnership cooperation during the implementation period of the SPCP covered a variety of topics.

Table 2. List of projects in which partnerships developed

Programme/project
<p>Polish-Swiss Research Programme (PSRP) 31 partnerships including 79 research teams have been realized. 2/3 of them were partnerships of two units (Polish and Swiss). As for the others, the number of partners amounted to 3-6. The partnerships were based, to a large extent, on previous cooperation of scientists / scientific teams, but it should be noted that some partnerships were made solely due to the PSRP. Exemplary partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the Institute for Agricultural and Forest Environment, Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznań, cooperated with the Swiss partner: the Institute of Geological Sciences, University of Bern, and the Polish partner: the Silesian University in Katowice; ✓ the Jagiellonian University- Collegium Medicum cooperated with the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF).
<p>Partnership Fund 21 projects and 10 mini-projects were implemented in cooperation with Swiss partners.</p> <p>Exemplary partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ project <i>Krakow Impact – steering the meetings industry in Krakow</i>. Partners: Krakow Municipal Office, Foundation of University of Economics in Krakow, the Krakow Festival Office and the Institute of Tourism of the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland HES-SO in Sierre; ✓ project <i>Cooperation and exchange of experiences between professionals from the Canton de Vaud and the Łodygowice Municipality on the opportunity for sustainable development and equal access for children and young people with disabilities to live in the community and outside</i>. Partners: the Canton de Vaud and the Łodygowice Municipality.
<p>Sciex Scholarship Fund 135 young Polish scientists conducted research in Switzerland.</p>
<p>Project KIK/02 Construction of the epidemiological filter at the premises of the Office for Foreigners in Biała Podlaska. The Polish Office for Foreigners cooperated with the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration (SEM).</p>
<p>Project KIK/03 Preparation of mobile Customs inspection teams for emergency response and crisis management tasks. The Polish Ministry of Finance (National Treasury Administration) cooperated informally with a Swiss partner – the Swiss Federal Customs Administration.</p>

Project KIK/07 *The Alps for the Carpathians – programme for the release of economic potential of mountainous areas in the subcarpathian region through the transfer of Swiss practices.*
 The Carpathian Foundation – Poland cooperated with the Swiss partner Helvetas Swiss Intercorporation.

Project KIK/09 *Local Product Małopolska – development of local entrepreneurship and manufacturing based on a partnership initiative of economic education of residents and a regional system for marketing products from Małopolska.*
 The Foundation Partnership for the Environment cooperated with the Swiss training and consultancy organisation REDD SA (Le Réseau Echanges - Développement Durable).

Project KIK/10 – *Comprehensive Development Programme "Ourselves to Ourselves" in "Dolina Strugu" micro-region.*
 The Regional Agri-Industrial Society "Dolina Strugu" cooperated with the Swiss company Pro-Future Investments GmbH.

Project KIK/12 *Alpine – Carpathian Cooperation Bridge.*
 The Carpathian Euroregion Association Poland cooperated with REDD SA (Le Réseau Echanges - Développement Durable).

Project KIK/24 *Survey of the key bird species of the Polish Carpathian Mountains and creating the system of their monitoring and protection.*
 The Polish Society for the Protection of Birds cooperated with the Swiss Association SVS Bird Life Schweiz.

Project KIK/25 *Protecting the diversity of species in naturally valuable habitats on agricultural lands at the territory of Natura 2000 in the Lubelskie Voivodeship.*
 Scientists from the Bern University of Life Science carried out a training under this project implemented by the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute in Puławy.

Project KIK/32 *Carpathians unite – mechanism of consultation and cooperation for implementation of the Carpathian Convention.*
 The National Foundation for Environmental Protection – Environmental Information Centre UNEP/GRID Warsaw cooperated with the Department of Geography of the University of Geneva.

Project KIK/76 *Safety in road traffic.*
 The Polish National Police Headquarters cooperated with the Swiss Police Institute and the Swiss Foundation Road Cross.

Healthcare programmes In programmes related to health and social assistance a close cooperation with Swiss experts took place – in particular, an expert from the Swiss Agency for

Development and Cooperation followed closely the projects, provided various advices and actively participated in the conferences summing up the implementation of the projects and sectorial good practices.

Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations – Swiss partners (for example: Alpine Initiative, Amnesty International Switzerland, Stiftung Gymnasium Untere Waid, the NGO Management Association, Swissfundraising) were engaged in the implementation of 13 NGO projects (out of 336).

Study visits

78 study visits were undertaken under the SPCP – mainly to Switzerland.

Examples:

- ✓ In June 2014, the Executing Agency for the project KIK/57 – the Świętokrzyskie Voivodship Governor's Office – organized three study visits for i.a. the nurses working in social welfare homes and social welfare home managers. The participants had the opportunity to visit: Trade Association of Vocational Education in Healthcare in the Canton of Basel; Department and Clinic of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy for the Canton of Basel-Land; Schmelzi Foundation and a Care Home for Mentally Disabled People in the Canton of Solothurn; Wirrgarten Foundation which runs a semi-stationary day care centre for people with dementia; Rodania Foundation which runs a Care Home for Disabled People in the Canton of Solothurn.
- ✓ In June 2015, a study visit to Switzerland concerning the project *KIK/71 Removal and safe storage of products containing asbestos from the area of Małopolskie Voivodship* was organized. The aim of the visit was to start cooperation between the Polish and Swiss local authorities, to exchange experience and good practices, most of all in the field of handling waste. Meetings were arranged with the following organisations: Paul Scherrer Institut Besuchszentrum – the largest research centre for natural and engineering sciences in Switzerland; the area of Egerkingen – Deponie Weid AG landfill for materials from construction sites and demolitions of buildings and roads, including asbestos and asbestos fibres; Solothurn – a meeting with the authorities and a visit to a waste incineration plant; Sondermülldeponie Kölliken – a visit to a modern landfill and a factory for separating waste into fractions for further utilization and landfilling; a visit to Eternit AG in Niederurnen and presentations of Glarus Nord municipality and the Ministry of the Environment of the Canton of Glarus.

1.2.5 Assessment of cooperation

- ✓ The effectiveness and efficiency of the partnerships were mainly influenced by their facultative character and based on need assessment and common areas of interest.
- ✓ Cooperation was established within the projects, if a real value added could have been generated.
- ✓ Previous experience in implementing projects in partnerships was important when establishing partnership projects (some Swiss host institutions had few experience in hosting foreign researchers e.g. under the Sciex Scholarship Fund, while the majority of Polish beneficiaries had no such past experience at all).
- ✓ Programmes of bilateral cooperation are scarce and therefore supporting international (bilateral) research ventures was a value in itself.
- ✓ It was difficult to find, or rather to convince the Swiss partner to involve in cooperation with a Polish institution.

- ✓ A reason for the lukewarm interest of Swiss organizations in a partnership with Polish entities is the rather formal approach used by the latter when it comes to operational and financial procedures.
- ✓ Some of the Polish partners (e.g. self-governments units) pointed out at problems in ensuring their own contribution and their insufficient qualifications, including language qualifications, which are needed for international partnerships.
- ✓ The interest expressed in some cases by other Polish entities to apply the solutions worked out in the framework of a project financed by the SPCP is an indication of the existence of positive spill-over effects of partnerships.

In spite of some difficulties which occurred when implementing partnership-based activities, their added value, visibility and, in some cases, sustainability can be assessed positively.

1.2.6 Benefits

The main benefits resulting from the implementation of the partnership projects are related to:

- ✓ the opportunity to acquire new experiences and knowledge, new techniques and procedures;
- ✓ development of competences among the employees of the beneficiary's institutions, also in regard to establishing cooperation with other entities, both from their local environment and from abroad;
- ✓ the increase of the beneficiary's organizational potential;
- ✓ forming new direct relationships;
- ✓ the opportunity to carry out other common undertakings;
- ✓ activating local communities and promoting voluntary activities;
- ✓ learning about the culture and tradition of the partner state (intercultural experience, expanding cultural openness);
- ✓ a stronger opportunity to influence the decisions concerning a given region / municipality in case of multi-stakeholder partnerships of regional or local character;
- ✓ getting new insights in science / new scientific knowledge;
- ✓ strengthening scientific networks between researchers;
- ✓ organizational learning – bringing added value for the institutions which participate in a partnership.

The limited scale of resources designated for fostering cooperation between the Polish and Swiss entities, their territorial dispersion and the thematically diversified areas of cooperation do not allow formulating conclusions about the overall impact of the Swiss-Polish partnership cooperation. Undoubtedly, however, the undertakings supported under the SPCP had a crucial influence on a local level – owing to the implementation of joint projects the beneficiaries could use know-how of the Swiss partner, transpose best practices from abroad or improve their cooperative skills and qualifications.

In order to further enhance Polish-Swiss relationships, in a possible next edition of the Swiss contribution, consideration could be given to extending the range of beneficiaries and partners of the projects eligible for partnerships, including for example organizations that represent the public, private and non-governmental sectors (e.g. Local Action Groups or Local / Regional Tourist Organizations).

Furthermore, in the future informative and promotion campaigns should be carried out both in Poland and in Switzerland in order to motivate potential partnership actors. These campaigns

could, as an example, show the benefits of international cooperation among partners from both countries.

1.2.7 Image of Switzerland / Cooperation Programme in Poland

It should be emphasised that the SPCP helped to disseminate knowledge about Switzerland in Poland, to build competence, to transfer knowledge and technology, as well as to establish valuable personal contacts and increase the understanding of cultural differences. The programme had also an impact on shaping a positive image of Switzerland in Poland.

The media coverage connected with the SPCP consists of more than 1 750 PR articles in the media during the whole SPCP implementation period (data gathered on the basis of media monitoring commissioned by the Ministry of Economic Development). Additionally, numerous sponsored materials (press, TV, radio, internet, video spots in public transportation and cinemas), commissioned both by implementing entities and beneficiaries, presented a positive image of Switzerland and the SPCP.

Thanks to the effective SPCP implementation and big promotional campaigns conducted in Poland, Switzerland is additionally perceived as a responsible partner committed to provide considerable funds and expert advice for many important development projects in selected vital areas of Poland's life, which yielded visible results with special focus on the four regions of Poland's South-East.

Thus it is worth emphasizing that the partnership cooperation under the SPCP extends beyond the SPCP implementation as such and beyond the direct relations. The partnerships constitute a significant platform for future collaboration including i.a. science and business.

1.3 Strategies to inform the general public about the Contribution

The SPCP Communication strategy covered activities implemented by the National Coordination Unit, including exhibitions; printed items (brochures, articles); TV and radio programmes; conferences and events; and media relations (at the national level). Moreover, information and promotion of the SPCP was conducted by the Intermediate Bodies and Operators (sectorial / regional level) and by the beneficiaries (project / programme level).

All publicity measures were performed in accordance with the *Information and Promotion Guidelines for Beneficiaries* and the *Corporate Identity Book of Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme*.

Key messages

Messages concerning the SPCP promotion took into account the main goal of the Programme, i.e. the reduction of social and economic disparities between Poland and more advanced EU countries, and in Poland – between less and more developed regions.

Main goals of the SPCP information and promotion strategy were:

- To build awareness in the Polish general public of the Swiss support for the development of Poland via the SPCP – by demonstrating what has been done within this Programme, how efficiently the funds have been spent and what results have been achieved;

- To encourage the replication of good practices in the regions involved and all over Poland;
- To demonstrate and boost Polish-Swiss cooperation and partnership;
- To inform potential beneficiaries about the SPCP and encourage them to apply to the Programme as well as to provide them with the information necessary in the application process;
- To motivate and support the beneficiaries to implement projects properly and efficiently;
- To ensure transparency, in particular in project selection, contract awarding and financial management.

Target groups

- General public in Poland;
- Local communities – in South-Eastern Poland and the rest of the country;
- Local self-government – decision makers;
- Non-Government Organizations – local, regional and national;
- Local entrepreneurs;
- Local opinion leaders: trend setters, early and late followers;
- Selected scientists and researchers;
- Individual beneficiaries – including individual private households.

Main message on the SPCP channeled to the target groups

For the target audience the Swiss Fund aimed at helping Poland to develop on a par with the other European countries as well as to reduce the country's internal development disparities as a vital complementary part of the European support programme for Poland.

Composition of promotional measures

1. Division of the promotion in terms of content into:

a. Image-oriented promotion –

Target: general public, decision makers, opinion leaders, beneficiaries all over the country

Area: national and/or 4 regions of geographical concentration area

Message: The SPCP aimed at helping Poland to introduce local change for the better in terms of life standards and to develop on a par with the other European countries as well as to reduce the country's internal development disparities

Instruments e.g.: TV, Radio, Internet, events, outdoor – citylight posters, PR

b. Product-oriented promotion –

Target beneficiaries: institutions and individuals

Area: the 4 regions of geographical concentration

Message: Demonstrating concrete results of the SPCP projects, how they change life standards for the better, while contributing to the development of the country and what good practices are to follow; endorsement of results and encouragement to follow good practices

Instruments e.g.: regional/local radio, TV, Internet, outdoor – public transport and citylights posters, events, PR.

2. Division of the product-oriented message of the promotional measures into four region/focus areas according to their respective interests ensuing from what projects have been accomplished in each region.

Thus:

- a. świętokrzyskie with focus on: regional development; environment and infrastructure; road safety; private sector development; research; health and social welfare; civil society and partnership cooperation;
- b. małopolskie with focus on: regional development; environment and infrastructure; private sector development; research, health and social welfare; civil society and partnership cooperation;
- c. podkarpackie with focus on: regional development and border protection; environment and infrastructure; private sector development; research; health and social welfare; civil society and partnership cooperation;
- d. lubelskie with focus on: environment and infrastructure; road safety and; private sector development; regional development; research; health and social welfare; civil society and partnership cooperation.

Promotional Instruments

The promotional instruments used when implementing the SPCP Communication Strategy were:

- Opening/information conferences, promotional events/events for general public (e.g. forums, fairs, open days, photo exhibitions, urban games, outdoor – citylight posters),
- Contacts with media:
 - a. press conferences, briefings, interviews;
 - b. press kits, press releases, newsletters, articles etc.;
 - c. spots, promotional films, radio and television broadcasts;
 - d. announcements in the press concerning calls for proposals;
- info points;
- publications – electronic and paper (brochures, folders, leaflets etc.);
- Internet campaigns and websites;
- Workshops;
- PR instruments;
- other promotional materials;
- etc.

The scope and scale of information and promotion activities conducted during the SPCP implementation were affected, inter alia, by the following factors:

- the two-loop procedure and the scope of the calls for proposals (e.g., single calls, part of calls conducted outside competition, strictly specialized and narrow group of beneficiaries in many thematic areas, certain activities implemented only in four voivodships – areas of geographical concentration);
- SPCP implementation phase connected with e.g. an appraisal of applications or a final selection of projects for implementation, which enabled the start of publicity activities by the Executing Agencies, promoting selected projects in local communities;
- the geographical concentration of the majority of the large projects in 4 voivodships of South-Eastern Poland (that is.: Małopolskie, Świętokrzyskie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie) and in Warsaw.

Table 3. Publicity periods

Period	Main measures
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2008 - 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disseminating information on the availability of resources to inform potential beneficiaries about the SPCP and encourage them to apply to the Programme as well as to provide them with the information necessary in the application process; • disseminating information on functioning of the SPCP.
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • completion of the first phase of the SPCP implementation (2008-2012) – concluding the period of contracting; • organisation of subsequent calls for proposals, in particular under the programmes for which agreements were signed; • implementation of a growing number of projects and programmes. <p>Continuation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disseminating information on the availability of resources to inform potential beneficiaries about the SPCP and encourage them to apply to the Programme as well as to provide them with the information necessary in the application process; • disseminating information on functioning of the SPCP. • Starting informing about developments and results of the overall SPCP due to the more intensive implementation of projects and programmes, as well as due to the first results achieved as a result of implementation.
2013 - 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disseminating information on the availability of resources; • disseminating information on functioning of the SPCP; • informing about developments and results of the overall SPCP; • promoting the benefits of the support of the Swiss Contribution. <p>The scope and format of promotion was diversified, adapted to specificities of individual thematic areas/programmes and/or projects, thus involving broad or narrow target groups.</p>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informing about developments and results of the overall SPCP; • promoting the benefits of the support of the Swiss Contribution. <p>Intensity of information and promotion activities was related to developing process of projects and programmes implementation. In view of the fact that the majority of calls for proposals were completed at the time and many projects reached an advanced level of implementation, information and promotion activities focused on the presentation of results achieved in individual projects and, in case of the NCU, also on the promotion of the SPCP image and strengthening the SPCP brand.</p>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • informing about developments and results of the overall SPCP; • summing up and disseminating the benefits of the support of the Swiss Contribution by means of the closing event and final promotional campaign.

Media coverage

As mentioned above, minimum 1 750 positive or neutral PR materials about the SPCP and Switzerland in the context of the SPCP appeared in the media during the Programme

implementation. Moreover, numerous sponsored materials were published both in national and regional/local media.

Lessons learned

- Accurate selection of support areas, end recipients and operational methods, thematic and geographical concentration determines the scope and measures of promotion;
- Considerable diversity of the promotional measures provides high visibility in 4 voivodeships, which was justified due to the number of projects implemented and the high financial support allocated to this area;
- Big interest of the local media was triggered by demonstrations of local changes for the better thanks to the SPCP;
- Increased focus on the electronic media is recommended for the future;
- The visibility of the SPCP was rather low at the beginning of the Programme, in particular outside the 4 regions of concentration. It was due to the fact that in the first phase promotion under the SPCP focused on the information activities connected with dissemination of information about the calls for proposals. The visibility increased considerably in the final phase of the Programme implementation when the final results were achieved, mainly thanks to the large scale, nationwide informational and promotional activities realized by the NCU. In case of a second Swiss Contribution, it is recommended to intensify informational and promotional activities already at an early stage of the Programme. To this purpose, presenting in media campaigns the scope of the new Swiss Contribution together with the results of the first Contribution (the SPCP) can be a promising strategy.
- In order to communicate messages, attract the attention and interest of the consumers and motivate them to learn more, sponsored articles and broadcasts on all media – Video on Demand/TV, radio, press, Internet – proved to be very effective. These shall be carefully, creatively and attractively planned, designed, produced, written, edited, illustrated and placed.
- Since the most important recommendations of the SPCP evaluation of 2017 include strengthening the programme approach and a further concentration of the support on a smaller number of thematic areas, which will enable to improve the scale of the SPCP impact, strengthening the programme approach should also be applied to the promotion of projects / subprojects.
- The campaign messages have to be divided and distributed in the media according to media habits of selected target groups. This has to go in line with a message content adequate to selected target groups. It is recommended that the messages promote the specific individual projects, their results and good practice that are most attractive and convincing to the specific target audience – e.g. safer roads for local communes, or research grants for researchers and students, etc.
- The campaign should have measurable media – TV, radio, video – messages, so that it should be possible to assess its results properly.
- Both costs and media plans were established in advance, which is not good for assessing the real effects of the campaign, especially when tender procedures do not allow for adaptations in line with changing circumstances.

To sum up: the overall results of promotion and information under the SPCP justify the satisfactory assessment of the functioning of the information and promotion system during the Programme implementation. Taking into account the interest level of the public opinion in the Programme, the extensive interest in announced calls for proposals, the information

flows between institutions and the number of informational and promotional activities, the promotional and informational activities must be assessed as effective and efficient.

See Annex 1: List of selected publicity measures at country level

1.4 Lessons learned regarding content and modalities of the Contribution

Implementation of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme resulted in the realization of numerous valuable initiatives, which are important for the social and economic development of Poland. In terms of its content SPCP has been designed in a suitable way assuring its effectiveness and utility. The thematic areas supported within the Programme were appropriately identified and addressed issues where the intervention was really needed, thanks to which it was possible to obtain important, often unique and impressive results. This was confirmed in the Evaluation report commissioned by the National Coordination Unit.

One of the most important success factors of the Programme was its **thematic and geographical focus**.

The **bottom-up approach** and the focus on the **local and/or regional dimension** resulted in the fact that the effects of Programme's realization were most visible and significant for the local communities, as they brought noticeable changes to their surroundings and prospects of life (e.g. asbestos projects, solar projects, regional development initiatives).

The **geographical concentration** with the distribution of at least 40% of the financial allocation to peripheral regions such as lubelskie, podkarpackie, świętokrzyskie and małopolskie voivodships was seen as beneficial for the reason that it allowed cumulating the positive effects of the Programme in specific disadvantaged areas. In that way the influence and visibility of the Programme has increased thanks to the focus on the south-eastern part of Poland.

Another strength worth to be emphasized is the fact that the implemented projects were of **comprehensive character**, in many cases combining "soft" and "hard" measures as well as involving **wide-range partnerships** covering the area of various communes. This increased the level of participation as well as allowed addressing different issues within one initiative, which increased the project final effects. The extended partnerships and the generally large size of projects fostered economies of scale and a high organizational and financial efficiency. This, together with the long-term implementation period, contributed to reinforcing the scale of the Programme's impact.

The interdisciplinary and holistic approach, the wide scope and the partnership character of projects contributed to reaching high quality results as well as to develop interesting, often innovative solutions with a replication potential. Those factors had an influence on increasing the **sustainability of projects'** outcomes. Some of the solutions created within the projects have high chances to be institutionalized, continued or used on a larger scale.

Having in mind that this was the first edition of the Swiss Contribution in Poland, the rich experience gained during the Programme implementation has an important educational value for all the institutions involved in this process. Organizational aspects of the system have evolved over time and were subject to several improvements according to the situation, requirements of the Donor as well as the country legal framework. After several years of

mutual cooperation, we have learned how to link the different interests and expectations of the parties as well as how to transfer the Swiss standards in the Polish context. In view of the prospect of the next Programme, it is important to draw relevant conclusions, which allow developing the favorable aspects, while eliminating those which were less advantageous and caused uncertainty or ambiguities.

The multi-sectoral character of the Swiss Contribution was undoubtedly its strong point, which allowed solving multifaceted problems in a comprehensive manner, distinguishing the SPCP from other assistance programmes. However, there are some drawbacks related to the applied **project approach**, which also have to be mentioned, so as to give the basis for a better design of a possible future Programme. These drawbacks are associated with the fact that the management method focusing on individual projects resulted in a high dispersion of the funding as well as an **extensive diversification of activities**, causing that the effects of projects were hard to cumulate. Therefore, for the future it would be recommended to use more the **programme approach**. This would simplify the management of the SPCP, improve its consistency and allow to further concentrate the support, e.g. thematically, geographically and/or on specific target groups. Focusing on a selected number of areas would positively influence the overall impact of the funding, its visibility and significance.

Moving to the **results based management**, which would be a consequence of changing the way of implementation to a more programme-oriented approach, it could also be beneficial and improve the planning and then measurement of the whole Programme effects. While implementing the SPCP all the institutions were struggling with too many and too diversified indicators, which were prepared separately for each project using different methods and units. In some cases it was hard to capture the project progress based on the chosen indicators, which sometimes were not clearly defined, unrealistic or difficult to measure. It was also a challenge to summarize the progress of the whole Programme and show its achievements in an aggregated way. Setting in advance a list of key indicators for each sector, to be used by beneficiaries, would be very useful. The same is true with regard to applying standard rules to projects implemented in the same thematic areas. This especially concerns the appropriate identification of output and outcomes indicators, their description, measurements systems, calculation methodologies and sources of verification. Moreover, it is very important to properly guide the project promoters through the process of building the indicators tables (the Logical Frameworks).

Among the specifics of the Programme, the **strong institutional engagement** should be pointed out. This concerns not only the Polish entities responsible for the management of the SPCP, but also the Donor. The great involvement of the Swiss side, which was perceived at each stage of the Programme cycle, had various important implications, especially related to assuring for a high level of elasticity, which undeniably belongs to the positive aspects of the system. The **flexibility** in implementing the projects was highly assessed also by the Executing Agencies, as it enabled them to adjust the activities to the changing circumstances and needs or unpredictable events as well as implement additional components with the use of savings. This was especially important in view of **considerable amount of savings** in the projects' budgets resulted both from the appreciation tendency of the Swiss franc during the whole period of the Programme and post-tender savings at the level of projects. .

In view of the above the **high level of commitment** of the Executing Agencies, which increased throughout the Programme has also been important. Their engagement, open attitude and generally efficient cooperation was a success factor as it inter alia enabled to maximize the results of the projects while using savings. The EA's were ready to come-up

with the new ideas for additional project activities and increase their financial and organizational contribution to implement the extended project's scope.

The fact that the decisions of the Swiss side were normally taken on a **case by case** basis made the system very pragmatic and such approach is worth to be enhanced. However, on the other hand, the lack of systematized requirements had also some weaknesses, as it put the Executing Agencies and other institutions in a situation of uncertainty, which should generally be avoided. Our recommendation would be to adjust the system so as to be more predictable, but on the same time without losing the individual approach, which enabled constructive problem solving. Ensuring an adequate level of stability and a sense of mutual confidence is similarly important as it facilitates the coordination process and the overall performance of both the projects and the whole Programme.

Another area where improvements could be introduced in view of assuring higher clarity of the management process is the division of tasks and responsibilities between the Polish and Swiss institutions. One of the examples is the practice of supervision over the quality and legal correctness of public procurement documentation prepared by the Executing Agencies. The documents were assessed at different stages using different criteria firstly by the Intermediate Body and then by the Swiss side, which in the end directly affected the timing of announcing the tenders, since it required from the EAs making corrections at different stages. In view of assuring a smooth projects implementation, it seems more suitable to limit the scope of the appraisal of tender documents, both in terms of time (the assessment shall take place at one moment of the process) and of responsibility (the assessment shall be carried out by one institution only).

The occurred savings, which were mentioned above, entailed a **huge number of project modification requests** (several dozen each year), whose introduction required launching a complex and time-consuming formal procedure, engaging institutions on the Polish and the Swiss side. This caused a significant burden for the implementation system and resulted in the need of simplifying the process so as to improve its functioning. Thanks to the good collaboration with the donor, it was possible to simplify the project modification procedure concerning the absorption of exchange rate differences. Improvements introduced at the final stage of the Programme entailing the acceleration of approving changes, which could be decided on the Polish side only, had a positive impact on the course of implementation of projects, since modifications related to the use of project savings and the launch of additional project activities could be more quickly incorporated into the project. In this way, the achievement of the projects' objectives has been considerably enhanced.

As a result of the above, the possibility of including extra tasks beyond the original projects' scope (within the same allocation expressed in Swiss francs) was another success of the Programme. Due to that the EAs were able to achieve **far better results than planned** at the beginning, considerably exceeding the original assumptions.

Having in mind that in the current Programme most projects were elaborated and negotiated with the Swiss side till the end of the contracting period, the savings which occurred during the realization phase could only be used within the project in which they have been identified. That considerably restricted the smooth absorption of the allocation in view of the multimillion savings which occurred as a result of the exchange-rate gains. Therefore, for the purpose of the future Programme, it should be envisaged to **enable re-allocation of funds between projects** until some time after the commitment period, so as to more efficiently manage the savings during the implementation stage, assuring at the same time the highest possible quality of results.

From the point of view of the Polish side the process of assessing the projects with the **two-loop procedure** applied in the SPCP was not fully efficient as it consumed much time and resources. Although its aim was to relieve the applicants from the obligation of creating a full project documentation at the beginning of the application process and to give time for a careful and detailed preparation of the project proposals, in practice it was very complicated and thus problematic to manage. Bearing in mind that each project was individually approved also by the Swiss side, there were no set deadlines concerning subsequent phases of the process. Every project had its own different schedule for submission of the Final Project Proposal as well as different conditions as regards its preparation. As a consequence, the whole appraisal process together with the process of signing individual project agreements was long-lasting. Such approach made the planning process of the commitment period extremely demanding. All those aspects had also undesirable effect on the projects' implementation in their initial stage, as their success often depended on the interest of the final beneficiaries, whose motivation to join the initiatives decreased proportionally to the length of the appraisal period. Attracting once more the participants' attention was a real challenge for the Executing Agencies. In view of the above, in case of another edition of the Programme, it is recommended to modify this procedure, so as to avoid similar obstacles, but at the same time assure a high quality of the submitted applications.

Delays in reporting, which were tightly connected with the complex and time-consuming financial settlements of expenditures, caused the necessity to develop **alternative systems of monitoring the projects' progress using a risk-based approach**. Tasks performed on a **daily basis** for risky projects included e.g. regular contacts with the institutions involved (EA, IB, SCO), meetings with the EAs including systematic exercises in case of some projects or ad-hoc where relevant, the regular update of a milestones monitoring tool identifying risky projects and risk factors (exchanged with the Swiss side every 3-4 weeks), and regular monitoring of the progress of tender procedures within the projects. Such instruments, together with the standard monitoring activities and mid-term reviews were very useful as they allowed to recognize the risks early enough so as to decide on corrective actions and introduce mitigation measures. This, although demanding for the Executing Agencies and requiring greater workload for the institutions involved, had a positive impact on the final success of the projects and improvement of their quality.

To overcome the difficulties concerning reporting delays several **simplifying measures** in the reporting system were introduced over the implementation period. The **solution of partial requests**¹⁴ was introduced to accelerate the distribution of funds and to improve the financial situation of Executing Agencies. The mechanism was introduced for eight key projects from the area *Infrastructure and Environment*. As the solution was efficient, it was also applied for three projects from the *Health* focus area.

Reporting on irregularities was carried out pursuant to *The system for reporting on irregularities of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme*, which has been in force since the 15th October 2013. Polish side submitted to the Donor the reports on new irregularities detected in the implementation of projects financed by the Swiss funds and semi-annual reports on previously reported irregularities (follow-up reports) in line with above mentioned *System*. Irregularities usually concerned violations of the Public Procurement Law and *The Minister of Infrastructure and Development Guidelines* to orders under the Swiss-Polish

¹⁴ The procedure was agreed with the Swiss party in 2016 and enable the Intermediate Bodies to divide the reporting period in projects into shorter parts in order to pay the reimbursements to the EA's more fluently, especially in the final period of project implementation or end of the financial year.

Cooperation Programme, to which the Act of 29 January 2014 – Public Procurement Law is not applicable. Additionally, some of the reports on the new irregularities pertained to the violation of the decision to grant a subsidy from the SPCP funds, provisions of the programme document Implementation of projects under the SPCP – Guidelines for the beneficiaries of Priorities 1 and 2 and reports also concerned the incorrect recognition in the interim reports and in the requests for payment of the amounts resulting from financial documents and classing some expenditure as illegible.

A new Integrated¹⁶ reporting document template was developed for projects under the reimbursement and advance system (with or without re-granting), where one of the components was the *Interim report on the implementation of a project*. The purpose of these changes was to simplify entering data by Executing Agencies and to simplify the procedure of data verification by the Intermediate Bodies, which has resulted in less mistakes and streamlined payments.

Another solution implemented in most of the projects was to **limit the amount of documents to be verified** (verification of sample documents by the Intermediate Body). This solution has substantially streamlined the time-consuming procedure of financial documents verification.

Furthermore, for settlement of projects/programmes, including the final payment, **the rule of applying an exchange rate** to convert from PLN into CHF the payments requested for non-regranting activities has been modified with the aim of improving the financial management of the available allocation at the level of each project. Thanks to updating the exchange rate it was easier to determine the actual amount of expenditures incurred in CHF. As a consequence of all the actions taken, delays in reporting were gradually reduced.

The **Technical Assistance Fund (TAF)**, by providing aid to the institutions responsible for the implementation of the SPCP, was an effective tool to support the achievement of the entire Programme's objectives. Thus, it seems reasonable to continue with a TAF in the potential new edition of the Swiss Contribution. The experience gained during the Fund implementation shows, however, that it is advisable to take into account in the future the possibility of: (a) extending the cost eligibility date to include the period of the programme closing, (b) financing/co-financing staff remuneration in all the entities involved in the management system of the Programme, (c) resigning from annual reporting in favour of exclusively interim (semi-annual) reporting, (d) full delegating the tasks associated with the implementation of public procurement contracts to the beneficiary state following the EU subsidiarity principle.

The financial resources available within the **Project Preparation Facility** for the preparation of Final Project Proposals allowed preparing projects of better content-related quality, which undoubtedly had a positive impact on their later implementation. In the opinion of the NCU however, the offer of a potential similar instrument in the future should be promoted more widely in order to ensure a higher level of its exploitation.

¹⁶ The new template combine two separate documents: „Interim report“ and „payment claim“ into one document only in technical aspects, leaving the requested data in the same level. Additionally both language versions, i.e. Polish and English, were applied in this integrated document.

1.5 Which thematic areas supported by the Swiss Contribution do you consider most relevant?

There are some examples of thematic focus areas supported by the SPCP which represent a unique approach and cover issues not addressed by other interventions or solve problems in an exceptional way.

The thematic area concerning **initiatives for regional development** brought important and noticeable results for the development of the local communities, having a stimulating effect on their activity, improving the local labour market and the touristic attractiveness of the regions. These projects were also focused on the promotion of traditional, regional and ecological products and the creation of local brands. They also involved innovative ideas, as e.g. the construction of kitchen incubators or the development of culinary trails. The integration of various activities, i.e. re-granting, investments and training as well as the engagement of different stakeholders – NGOs, SMEs, start-ups and self-government units – was an undeniable asset and can be treated as a good practice for the future.

The projects supporting the private sector were also significant. The concept of **Corporate Social Responsibility** was not only promoted among stakeholders all over Poland, but also directly implemented in SME's of different type, which proved that small businesses are also interested in being perceived as responsible from the point of view of the local economy, environment or society. It shall be underlined that it was the first scheme in Poland making support for CSR solutions in companies available; interventions in this area are worth to be continued.

The relevance of **Nationwide prophylactic programmes implemented within the Health focus area** should also be highlighted. Thanks to their wide scope and their effective instruments they positively affected behavioural changes and promoted healthy lifestyles among the Polish society. The programmes were designed in a way to enable the institutionalization of their results, which will be mainstreamed in the National Health Programme 2016-2020.

The projects implemented in the **area of social assistance** were valuable, as they combined the improvement of infrastructure of social welfare institutions with the development of their human resources working with their residents as well as the increase of therapeutic offer for specific groups of patients. The projects included innovative aspects, e.g. the establishment of independence-training facilities and sheltered accommodation. These comprehensive actions were targeted not only at improving the working and living conditions in social welfare institutions, but also at increasing the life potential of people under care and their chances for re-integration into the society.

The initiatives implemented in the area of **Environment** were of great relevance, especially on a local and regional scale. **Asbestos schemes** mobilized extended partnerships of local government units in order to achieve the common objective of reducing the exposure of inhabitants to this hazardous substance. These initiatives are good examples of how to cooperate in an effective and systematic way so as to noticeably decrease the asbestos problem. Having in mind the still great demand for further actions in this area, the solutions elaborated and tested within the projects could be replicated. This especially concerns the development of support mechanism for the poorest beneficiaries in the form of financing new roofs.

Projects implemented in the area of **energy efficiency and use of renewable energies** should also be mentioned as those fostering important changes at the local level, especially in terms of investments in solar energy, which were widely promoted and supported among the inhabitants of south-eastern Poland, where the need for lowering emissions of air pollutants is urgent due to the poor air quality. These projects had important demonstration character for other municipalities and confirmed that the well-prepared supporting systems can trigger a pro-ecological attitude in the local society and further motivate the local governments to work for the benefit of the natural environment.

Moreover, **biodiversity** projects could serve as illustrations of model solutions in the field of inventory and monitoring activities as well as revitalization and re-naturalization measures. Preparing numerous regional strategies for sustainable development of tourism in protected areas, elaborating development policies, environmental guidelines and analyses in the field of nature protection resulted in the fact that the outcomes of these projects have long-lasting character and the created tools can be applied in further interventions.

The Swiss programme contributed to the improvement of broadly defined safety in Poland thanks to implementation of **measures to secure borders**. On the one hand in a direct manner, thanks to financing the construction or modernization of border crossings and creating a new epidemiological filter, and on the other hand indirectly, as a result of carrying out small road safety investments or improving migration management. The broad scope of the initiatives supported, which led to eliminating specific deficiencies in carefully identified areas related to security, contributed to the high usefulness of the SPCP interventions in this field.

The support provided within the **Polish-Swiss Research Programme** should be assessed as highly satisfactory. Despite the fact that the support volume within the Programme was relatively small as compared to financing from the Polish budget / EU resources, the results are very good. It can be realistically assumed that many of the results will be a good starting point for initiating new research, including applied research, endeavours. Consequently, the use of certain research results in the economy is likely to materialise. What's more, the possibility of obtaining more competitive results are in fact guaranteed. Therefore the continuation of this thematic area would be justified.

The Fund for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), whose main objective was to promote the role of civil society as an important player in increasing the socio-economic cohesion of Poland, received also positive opinions. All the citizens and non-governmental organizations involved gained the biggest and most durable benefits concerning their professional, organizational and financial potential. Taking into account i) the great amount of funding needs of the non-governmental organizations in Poland, ii) the significant influence of the implemented projects on the improvement of the situation of the recipients as well as iii) the considerable strengthening of the institutional capacities of the supported organizations, which allow them to continue and extend their activities related to building the civil society, the continuation of support in this area would be of great importance and well justified.

When it comes to the prospects of using Swiss experience in the possible next edition of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, the Polish side would be interested in using Swiss best practices in the area of **Vocational and Professional Education and Training**, having in mind the high quality and world-wide recognition of the educational system in Switzerland.

In view of possible future perspective of the Programme, the concrete areas of support shall be formulated in due course during the negotiation process, with consideration of the

requirement to ensure complementarity with another financial sources which are now being distributed, as well as Polish priorities identified at adequate time and sound assessment of needs.

2 Financial statement

2.1 Amount disbursed compared to the budget

During the whole programme implementation the amount of 552,2 million CHF was disbursed within projects, block grants and within the special Funds – the Technical Assistance Fund and the Fund for Programme Preparation. Bearing in mind the Swiss Contribution part (the grant part) almost 450 million CHF¹⁶ were disbursed (CHF 448 566 192), which constituted 96,6 % of the amount of allocation for Poland. This high level of funds absorption is assessed as satisfactory – especially bearing in mind the Swiss Franc appreciation - and it is in line with the prognosis provided by the Polish side at the Annual Meeting held in 2017.

The detailed information about all projects, programmes and block grants concerning the final disbursements is presented in the Annex 2 to this Report. Moreover, the following table presents the final disbursements from the Swiss Contribution grant vs. the amounts contracted divided by the thematic areas¹⁷.

Table 4. Spending status – comparison between the contracted amount and final disbursements including the final rate of absorption, by thematic areas

Project/Programme	The amount contracted [CHF]	The amount reimbursed [CHF]	Rate of absorption
Thematic area <i>Regional policy</i>	47 699 602	46 429 075	97,3%
Thematic area <i>Measures to secure borders</i>	32 000 000	30 721 744	96%
Thematic area <i>Environment and infrastructure</i>	188 908 779	179 350 305	94,9%
Thematic area <i>Biodiversity</i>	9 818 134	9 555 512	97,3%
Individual project of National Capital Fund S.A.	53 000 000	53 000 000	100%
Financial reporting and auditing in the private sector	10 000 000	9 536 404	95,4%
Development of the private sector and promotion of export (CSR project)	4 866 117	4 737 403	97,4%

¹⁶ The data include also the Scholarship Fund (is a Swiss Programme of Scientific Exchange with new EU Member States).

¹⁷ The data includes the Scholarship Fund.

Thematic area <i>Health care – Objective 1</i>	17 047 931 ¹⁸	15 372 811	90,2%
Thematic area <i>Health care – Objective 2</i>	21 931 907	21 732 018	99,1%
Polish-Swiss Research Programme	30 200 000	29 847 245	98,8%
Sciex Scholarship Fund	12 000 000	11 575 208	96,5%
Fund for Non-Governmental Organisations	24 701 153	24 664 716	99,8%
Partnership Fund	3 400 000	3 347 858	98,5%
The Łodygowice project put forward by the Swiss party	500 000	500 000	100%
Technical Assistance Fund	7 500 000	7 199 816	96%
Project Preparation Facility	996 277	996 277	100%
Total	464 569 900	448 566 192	96,6%

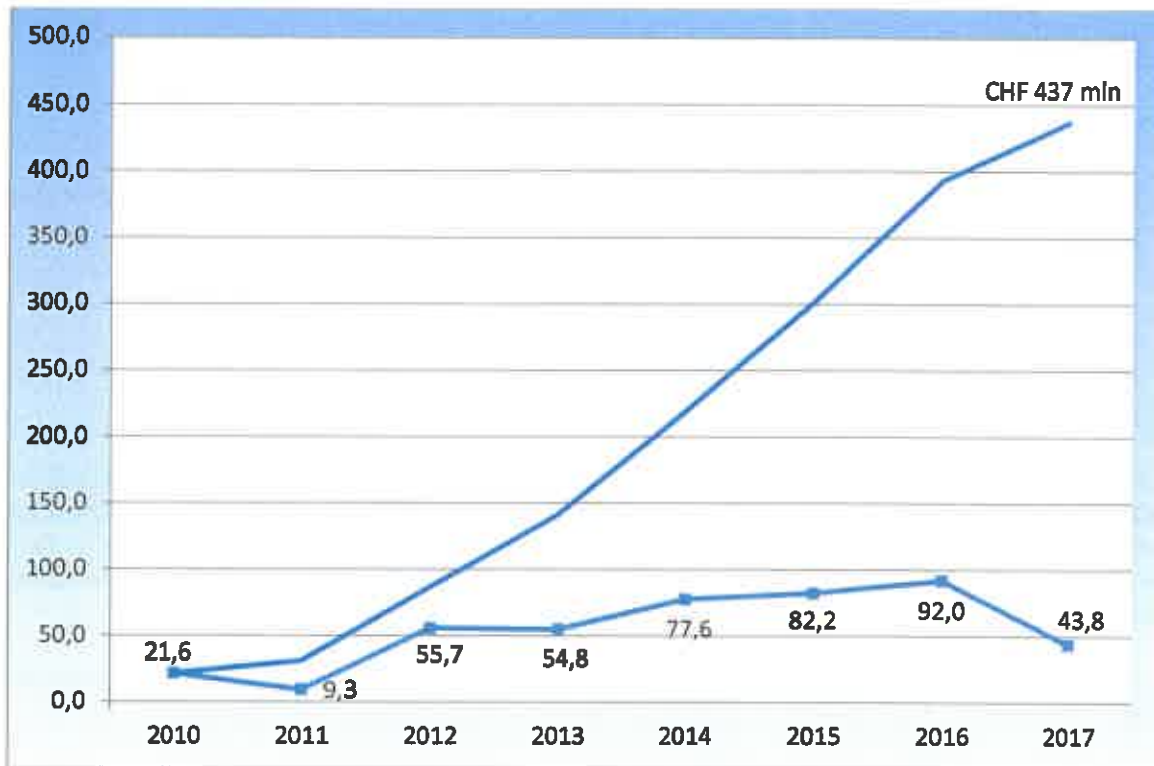
Until the end of 2017, the Polish side transferred funds amounting to almost CHF 437 million¹⁹ to the Executing Agencies. Taking into account the programme realization cycle the most intensive period for projects implementation was between 2011 and 2016. During these years most of the funds were also transferred to the Executing Agencies as reimbursements or advance payments – the amounts were rising year by year. At the end, in the second half of 2017 the payments done within the projects concerned mostly the final balance payments and retained amounts. The following chart presents payments for Executing Agencies transferred by Poland (in CHF million) – in subsequent years and also cumulated.

Chart 1. Payments for Executing Agencies transferred by Poland (CHF million) – In subsequent years of Programme Implementation and cumulated²⁰

¹⁸ The total originally approved grant for the project KIK/34 as per Project Agreement amounted to CHF 4'500'000, while in the project documentation the Executing Agency has always referred to a slightly lower amount of CHF 4'499'900, upon request of the Polish Ministry of Finance. The figure provided in this table for the thematic area "Health care – Objective 1" includes a planned amount of CHF 4'499'900 for the project KIK/34.

¹⁹ The data does not cover the Scholarship Fund, because this Fund was managed by a Swiss organisation, which was directly reimbursed by the Swiss Donor.

²⁰ The data does not cover the Scholarship Fund.



At the end of 2017 the amount refunded to the Polish side by the Swiss side was almost CHF 437 million²¹. It constituted almost 96,6% of the amount allocated to the Polish party and 100% of the amount pre-financed from the Polish state budget for the implementation of the SPCP.

2.2 Financial Audits

According to the Project/Block Grant Agreements with Switzerland all prescribed interim and final financial audits were conducted. Their conclusions and recommendations have been provided for each of the projects to the Donor.

The objective of the projects' audits was to enable the Audit Organization to express an opinion whether the financial statements were prepared, in all material aspects, in accordance with an applicable financial reporting framework (International Standard on Auditing 200). All Audit Organizations conducted the financial audits in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (ISAAB) of the International Federation of Accountants, to obtain the reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as whole were free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

Moreover, the Audit Institution (Ministry of Finance) carried out annually an audit of regularity of eligible expenditures in selected projects through Financial Audit Offices. During the aforementioned audits, the Audit Institution audited all SPCP projects and block grants. At least 5% of the certified – in accordance with the contract – eligible expenditures from each project was subject to a control.

²¹ The data does not cover the Scholarship Fund.

The audit checked whether the project was implemented in compliance with the concluded Project Implementation Agreements.

Specifically, the following issues were subject to a control:

- ensuring sufficient audit trail;
- correctness of maintaining separate accounting records for the implementation of the project;
- compliance of the incurred expenditure with eligibility rules;
- existence and amount of the project co-financing;
- compliance with the public procurement principles;
- fulfilment of information and promotion obligations;
- project's physical progress.

The above mentioned audits of regularity of eligible expenditures detected the irregularities during the implementation of several projects. Most of them concerned an incorrect application of the procurement rules. However, the Audit Institution did not detect any systemic errors. The results of these audits in the form of an annual summary report including conclusions and recommendations were submitted to the Swiss party.

Main findings of the financial audits are summarized in the Annex 3 to this Final Programme Report.

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List of annexes

- Annex 1: List of selected publicity measures at country level
- Annex 2: List of all commitments and disbursements at project level
- Annex 3: Summary of the main findings of the financial audits
- Annex 4: List of the SPCP evaluations

Annex 1: List of selected publicity measures at country level

Publicity measure	Success in terms of visibility and awareness of the Swiss Contribution and Switzerland's image (media response, feedbacks etc.)	Success factors (timing, place, adjustment to target groups, use of logo etc.)
<p>www.programszwajcarski.gov.pl</p>	<p>In 2008 the NCU launched an internet website devoted to the SPCP in Polish and English language version. During the whole SPCP implementation it was gradually up-dated and supplemented with new information and documents. The NCU created and published a gallery of projects of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, which includes descriptions of 70 subprojects/projects/programmes/funds and photographs illustrating the activities carried out within their framework. The new version of the www.programszwajcarski.gov.pl was launched on 10 December 2015. About 500 000 views were estimated to take place between the initial launch of the first version of this website and mid-October 2017.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Conference inaugurating the launch of SPCP</p>	<p>On 15 September 2008 in Warsaw the NCU together with the Swiss Embassy organised a conference inaugurating the launch of the SPCP. The meeting was attended by high officials from Poland and Switzerland and over 400 guests. The national and regional press included many article on launching the programme and the first call for applications concerning the <i>Regional development initiatives in peripheral regions or disadvantaged regions</i> (eg. <i>Gazeta Wyborcza Kraków</i> – an average circulation of 39 820 copies; <i>Gazeta Wyborcza Lublin</i> – an average circulation of 16 710 copies; <i>Gazeta Wyborcza Rzeszów</i> – an average circulation of 13 289 copies; <i>Gazeta Wyborcza Kielce</i> – an average circulation of 10 689 copies). Moreover, TVP showed interviews on SPCP given by the representatives of NCU and the Swiss partner.</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>Opening conference launching the priority <i>Environment and Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>The NCU organised an opening conference launching the priority <i>Environment and Infrastructure</i>, which took place on 19 January 2009 in Warsaw. The conference primarily aimed at familiarising its participants with the issues related to the assumptions and scope of the support, as well as the rules of the call for proposals. The conference was attended by over 200 persons. In relation to the call for proposals 2 press announcements were published in nation-wide newspapers (<i>Rzeczpospolita</i> – an average circulation of 117 079 copies in 2009, <i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i> – an average circulation of 338 659 copies in 2009).</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Forum of European Funds</p>	<p>On 1-2 October 2010, the NCU presented the SPCP during the Third Forum of European Funds in Warsaw, one of the most important and the biggest events in Poland, devoted to European Funds.</p> <p>On 1 October 2010, a panel discussion entitled <i>Funds not only from the EU - support for the development from EFTA countries - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland</i> was held. The panel was dedicated to the presentation of the SPCP, the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and gathered 60 guests. The main topics of the panel discussion were the investments in health care, measures to improve energy efficiency, issues related to environmental protection and support for NGOs. The meeting was attended by Adam Dziedzic, State Secretary in the Ministry of Regional Development, HE Bénédicte de Cerjat, Swiss Ambassador, HE Enok Nygaard, Ambassador of Norway, Danuta Jazłowiecka, Member of the European Parliament, representatives of the Swiss party, Norwegian party, the Polish Ministry of the Environment and representatives of the government, NGOs and the private sector.</p> <p>In addition, Third Forum of European Funds gathered about 100 institutions involved in the implementation of European funds at stands located on Plac Defilad in Warsaw. On 1-2 October 2010, on the stand dedicated to the Swiss instrument, the representatives of the NCU and the SCO provided information on how to apply for co-financing under this fund.</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Opening Conference of the Block Grant for NGO's and Polish-Swiss Regional Partnership Projects</p>	<p>On 31 March 2011 the opening conference on the Block Grant for NGO's and Polish-Swiss Regional Partnership Projects was held. Therefore on NCU's request an article entitled <i>The Polish-Swiss Cooperation Programme in favour of enhancing civil society</i> was published in <i>Gazeta Wyborcza</i> (circulation of 445 thousand copies). Moreover, during 4 days, 28 radio spots were broadcast in Polish Radio (Radio Three and Radio Four) at NCU's order to promote calls for proposals under the Block Grant (an average number of listeners of each spot – approximately 800 000).</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>Closure of the contracting period of SPCP</p>	<p>By mid-June 2012, a total of 58 contracts covered the entire amount of support allocated to Poland, that is CHF 464.57 million. This meant that the Swiss-Polish cooperation entered a new phase: the implementation of the projects. For this reason, the NCU in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland organized a conference summarizing the contracting period of SPCP projects. The conference was held on 3 July 2012 in Warsaw, and attended by about 200 participants. In addition, a press conference was organized and a press release was prepared and sent out to journalists.</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups</p>
<p>Urban game</p>	<p>On 5 October, 2013, the NCU held an urban game in Warsaw under the title: <i>The Swiss watch – become a watchmaker in your region</i>, promoting the SPCP, other Polish-Swiss relationships, and Switzerland itself. The aim of the game was to increase awareness of the SPCP in the Warsaw agglomeration. The participants became hosts of regions, who could develop, rebuild and improve them in order to create the best possible living conditions for residents. To change the region, it was necessary to get funding for its development, collecting points and solving tasks and puzzles. All tasks were thematically related to the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme. Social media fanpage and posts statistics: 154 000 views, sponsored advertisements: 50 000 Unique Users; 115 000 views. Moreover 750 posters were displayed all over Warsaw.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Article in national daily <i>Rzeczpospolita</i></p>	<p>On 30 October, 2013, the national daily <i>Rzeczpospolita</i> published an article under the title: <i>Swiss funds support the development of south-eastern Poland</i>, commissioned by the NCU. The purpose of the article was to provide information about the programmes to the public nationwide, in particular the presentation of selected results of the implementation of the programme (an average, daily circulation of <i>Rzeczpospolita</i> in October 2013 – about 160 000 copies including printed and electronic ones).</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>A series of Information and promotion events organised in September and October 2014 in Kielce, Rzeszów, Lublin and Krakow</p>	<p>The largest initiative promoting the SPCP in 2014 was a series of information and promotion events organised in September and October 2014 in Kielce, Rzeszów, Lublin and Krakow, commissioned by the NCU, held under the joint name <i>We develop Poland with Swiss precision</i>. The participants had the opportunity to play a computer game <i>Reduce the difference</i> and watch a cartoon presenting the results of activities implemented under the Swiss fund. Moreover, they could track the sites of geographical focus projects using an interactive map and try out a micro web service presenting the above-mentioned projects. An additional attraction was an exhibition of large format photographs of projects implemented in the regions of South-Eastern Poland.</p> <p>1 700 people participated in the events.</p> <p>The series of events was accompanied by a promotion campaign conducted in Świętokrzyskie, Lubelskie, Małopolskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships. It included: media relations activities aiming at the publication of editorial materials on these events (58 publications – reached approx. 483 548 persons); outdoor advertising: 300 posters on billboards and bill posts in each of the cities; press advertising: publication of 8 press advertisements of the events in local newspapers (coverage 71 930 persons); Internet advertising: publishing of a banner on a local website (80 000 views), and direct marketing: distribution of 11 700 leaflets next to selected shopping centres and malls in particular cities on the day preceding the event.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; appropriate adjustment to target groups; differentiated media coverage; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Video clips on city buses and on the metro in Warsaw</p>	<p>On 10–27 November 2014, two animated promotional video clips about the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, commissioned by the NCU, were displayed on city buses and on the metro in Warsaw (36 847 broadcasts of the image clip presenting the SPCP; 29 908 broadcasts of the clip about the programme on the healthcare prophylaxis).</p>	<p>Increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>an information leaflet about the Swiss Fund</p>	<p>The NCU ordered the production of an information leaflet about the Swiss Fund entitled <i>The Swiss Fund. What is it?</i> The brochure was published in 2,200 copies. They were sent to the Intermediate Bodies and Executing Agencies and were distributed during the promotional event <i>We develop Poland with Swiss precision</i>.</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>Rural Tourism and Agrotourism Fair AGROTRAVEL 2015</p>	<p>On 10-12 April 2015 in Kielce, the 7th International Rural Tourism and Agrotourism Fair AGROTRAVEL 2015 took place. In this edition of the fair, the NCU organised a joint stand for nine projects from the area of regional development implemented under the SPCP. 140 exhibitors and 20,000 visitors participated in the fair. Results of a questionnaire study show that the decisive majority of EAs evaluated the fair very highly in terms of fulfilment of their expectations in terms of promotion of their offer and projects. 5 out of 9 (55.5%) beneficiaries assessed them very highly, 3 (33.3%) highly and 1 (11%) as average. Answers to the question on estimation of the level of achievement of envisaged results of promotion were following: 4 (44.4%) beneficiaries pointed to full achievement of their promotion objectives, 4 (44.4%) said it was satisfactory, and 1 (11.1%) that it was sufficient.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Series of one-day, open-air events "The Swiss Path of Development" in the geographical focus area spanning four voivodeships</p>	<p>The main information and promotion event in August and September 2015, organised under the auspices of the NCU, was the series of one-day, open-air events <i>The Swiss Path of Development</i> in the geographical focus area spanning four voivodeships: Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Świętokrzyskie and Małopolskie. The interactive promotional events took place in the following cities: Sandomierz, Busko-Zdrój, Puławy, Lubartów, Sanok, Krosno, Nowy Sącz and Tarnów. The objective was to present results of projects in the area of regional development, including: tourism, environment protection and local entrepreneurship. Ca. 1,500 guests participated in the events. 8 press releases were sent to local media in connection with 8 events. As a result ca. 110 publications (articles and sponsored announcements) on SPCP projects implemented in the geographical focus area, appeared in press, radio, TV and Internet. 15,000 flyers were distributed. The population reached is estimated at 1,140,000 persons. In the course of events 244 persons were interviewed. In general, the events were praised. 98% of respondents evaluated them as good or rather good. The participants improved their knowledge on SPCP, as the information was presented in an attractive and innovative form. The events shaped very positive image of the SPCP brand among residents of cities and fulfilled their educational and informative role.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; differentiated media coverage; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Radio broadcasts</p>	<p>Between October and December 2015, 14 several minute programmes (features) were produced and broadcast by the order of the NCU on the Polish Radio (Radio One and Radio Three) on projects co-financed by the SPCP. The objective was to demonstrate how projects contribute to solving problems of local communities with the support of SPCP funds. The total number of listeners amounted to 4.2 million.</p>	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>Spots in cinemas</p>	<p>Between 20 November and 31 December 2015, in 289 cinemas of Helios, Kinads and Multikino networks in 16 voivodeships, two spots were screened, promoting preventive health care, implemented under KIK/33 and KIK/34 projects. Each of the spots was viewed by over 2.7 million viewers. The advantage of the campaign was that it were not only residents of big cities that could familiarise themselves with the pro-health advertising message, but also cinema goers from medium and small towns.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Promotional campaign in the means of public transport</p>	<p>Promotional campaign in the means of public transport, covering the emission of 2 SPCP health-promoting spots on buses, tramways in the Poland's capital and in 11 voivodeship capitals and on the underground in Warsaw, for 4 weeks in March 2016. During the campaign, the spots were displayed in 1,500 (individual) vehicles and on approx. 6,500 (individual) screens. The estimated number of passengers carried in vehicles during the emission period amounts to approx. 61 million people.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>TV promotional campaign "Partnership for development"</p>	<p>TV promotional campaign <i>Partnership for development</i> – in the period from August to October 2016 the campaign included the broadcast of a cycle of 8 documentaries in TV4 with well-known actors and presenters, e.g. Kinga Prels, Katarzyna Skrzynecka, Ewa Wachowicz or Marek Siudym; the broadcast of 8 feature materials on TV4 and TV6, as well as 3 live interviews with i.a. the SPCP beneficiaries, which were broadcast on Polsat, Polsat News and Polsat News 2. The campaign was watched by over 3 million viewers. The broadcasts of film materials created in the framework of the campaign were accompanied by an extensive promotion including i.a. the broadcast of trailers on the aforementioned TV channels, advertising spots on Muzyka.fm radio station, publications in social media and on the Internet.</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; increased SPCP recognition</p>

<p>Extensive promotional multimedia campaign "We develop Poland with Swiss precision"</p>	<p>Extensive promotional multimedia campaign "We develop Poland with Swiss precision" with well-known journalist – Michał Olszański, promoting the results of the SPCP, good practices and the Programme name. The implementation period: from October 2016 to May 2017. It included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TV spots: the broadcast of 8842 30 second long spots dealing with the issue of transport and health from November to December 2016, i.a. on: TVP1, TVP2, Polsat, Polonia 1, TVP Info, TVP3, TVN, thematic channels (3+ coverage: 81%); 2nd stage of the campaign: the broadcast of 1445 spots dealing with issue of tourism and entrepreneurship. 2. Radio spots: the broadcast of four 30-second-long spots dealing with regional issues, for 4 weeks in November/December 2016 in local/regional stations, e.g. PR Kielce, PR Kraków, PR Lublin, PR Rzeszów, Eska Kielce, Eska Lublin, RMF Maxxx Kraków. (average coverage 56,7%). 3. Internet campaign: broadcast of four 15-second-long spots dealing with thematic issues (eg. infrastructure, health, research, entrepreneurship) and 4 15-second-long spots dealing with regional issues in November and December 2016, e.g. on YouTube, Facebook, wp.pl; money.pl; onet.pl; interia.pl; gazetaprawna.pl; 2.6 million of full views in November 2016 and 2.7 million views in December 2016. Altogether: 13,6 millionviews. 2nd stage of the campaign: 21,5 millionof full views. 4. External advertising: display of 219 posters (citylights) dealing with regional issues in Kraków, Lublin, Rzeszów and Kielce in November 2016. 5. Interactive photographic exhibition displayed in 5 main railways stations (Warszawa, Kraków, Gdynia, Poznań, Wrocław) and 5 main airports (Warszawa-Okęcie, Kraków, Gdańsk, Wrocław, Katowice) and additionally in public spaces in Bydgoszcz, Grudziądz, Białystok, Szczytno, Radom, Kalisz, Opole, Skiermiewice, Włocławek, Piotrków Trybunalski, Kielce, Lublin, Tarnów and Warsaw (2 venues). 6. Public relations activities included i.a.: preparation of 14 testimonials with the selected beneficiaries, publication of 210 sponsored articles i.a.: in Gazeta Krakowska, Gazeta Wroclawska, Dziennik Bałtycki, Dziennik Łódzki, Głos Wielkopolski, Tygodnik W sieci, on portals: finance.wp.pl; biznes.interia.pl; sending press information to local/regional and industry media; the preparation of 2 feature materials to be broadcast on TVP2 and recording of the statement made by the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economic Development, Mr Paweł Chorąży, and Mr Guido Beltrani, the Head of the SPCP Office in Warsaw; participation at sector fairs: XXI Educational Fairs 2017 in Poznań, Warsaw Bus Expo 2017, RES Fair TEO 2017 in Bydgoszcz, Agrotravel 2017 Kielce, Europoltech Fair 2017 Gdańsk. 	<p>Appropriate adjustment to target groups; differentiated media coverage; increased SPCP recognition</p>
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<p>Conference summing up the Swiss Polish Cooperation Programme 2007-2017 and events in projects venues</p>	<p>Widespread use of logo; differentiated media coverage; increased SPCP recognition</p>
<p>Conference summing up the SPCP 2007-2017 on 19 May 2017 in Warsaw gathered 200 participants, including guests and experts from Switzerland. Moreover, the open-air events called "The Swiss Festival – the Strength of Regions" took place in Warsaw and in regions. The event in Warsaw was located near the Royal Castle and gathered about 9 000 participants.</p> <p><u>Regional open days on 20th May 2017:</u></p> <p>KIK/09 Kraków - Małopolska Local Product</p> <p>Shopping clubs with regional products were open around Cracow. Additionally 2 feasts were organised in 2 spots in the city -- Nowa Huta and Cholerzyn inaugurating agricultural season. During the feasts culinary contests were conducted, moreover farmers had the opportunity to presents their products. Small concerts concluded the event.</p> <p>KIK/46 Busko Zdrój - Installation of renewable energy systems</p> <p>The feast with educational shows explaining how solar collectors work. During the feast the exhibition presenting results of the project was displayed. A concert concluded the event.</p>	
<p>KIK/28 Legionowo - Communication Center in Legionowo</p> <p>The event consisted of few parts e.g.: entertainment part for children - board games, exhibitions and educational games connected with the train transport theme. Opening of the mural in the underground passage and competition for the best slogan promoting train transport were organized as well. A concert of Rudi Schuberth concluded the event.</p> <p>KIK/57 Zochcinek - Improving the quality of services provided in the nursing homes</p> <p>The picnic with several concerts, performances and exhibition of hand craft produced by the residents. Sport activities for handicapped people, nursing home visiting and common culinary workshops were also organised during the event.</p>	

	<p>KIK/23 Malbork – Purchase of trains</p> <p>The feast with final of the contest called „Safe as in Switzerland“. Many activities for children and adults were also proposed: a first aid show, a road rules knowledge competition, a simulation of train driving. Additionally free tickets for train rides were available.</p> <p>KIK/15 Putawy – EUROchance for the Lubelskie Voivodship</p> <p>The promotional tents with project presentations and a regional product fair were organised. The event included workshops presenting old professions e.g. pottery workshops, weaving workshops, wicker workshops and similar. Kayaking was also an attraction during the event.</p> <p>Report on the SPCP media coverage between 16th May- 26th June 2017: (on the basis of the data from Newton Media): 43 articles/broadcasts/information on the SPCP (including 27 items directly connected with the SPCP completion).</p>	
<p>Publication Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme 2007-2017 Summary</p>	<p>The publication Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme 2007-2017 Summary covering 150 pages, published in Polish (1800 copies) and English (500 copies), and available also online. The main aim: to sum-up results achieved within all the five focus areas of the SPCP and to serve as useful reference for persons in charge of implementing similar projects. The publication was distributed to recipients both in Poland (i.a. participants of the closing conference, journalists, National Library, Voivodeship Libraries in 16 regions, institutions involved in the SPCP implementation, Information Point of the EU Funds) and in Switzerland (SDC, SECO, Polish Embassy).</p>	<p>Use of logo, summary of the results achieved; increased SPCP recognition</p>

Annex 2: List of all commitments and disbursements at project level

Remark: The data in the following table does not cover the Scholarship Fund, because this Fund was managed by a Swiss organisation, which was directly reimbursed by the Swiss Donor.

Project number	Executing Agency	Contact details of Executing Agency	Total Contracted Budget - eligible [CHF]	Total Disbursed Amount - eligible [CHF]	Swiss Contribution - the grant part [CHF]			Authorisation by Paying Authority
					Eligible budget [CHF]	Disbursed budget [CHF]	Rate of absorption	
KIK/01	Krajowy Fundusz Kapitałowy	Krajowy Fundusz Kapitałowy S.A. ul. Krucza 16/22, 00-526 Warszawa kfk@kfk.org.pl (22) 578 26 86	53 000 000 CHF	53 000 000 CHF	53 000 000 CHF	53 000 000 CHF	100,0%	13.12.2017
KIK/02	Office for Foreigners	Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców ul. Taborowa 33, 02-699 Warszawa katarzyna.brzykiewicz@udsc.gov.pl kierownictwo@udsc.gov.pl (22) 601 74 82	2 300 000 CHF	2 020 590 CHF	1 955 000 CHF	1 717 501 CHF	87,9%	09.08.2017
KIK/03	Ministry of Finance	Ministerstwo Finansów ul. Świętokrzyska 14, 00-916 Warszawa marcin.bropisz@mif.gov.pl cecylia.zarabska@mif.gov.pl (22) 694 39 27	3 350 300 CHF	3 330 024 CHF	2 847 755 CHF	2 850 518 CHF	99,4%	28.07.2017
KIK/04	Polish National Police	Komenda Główna Policji ul. Domaniewska 36/38, 02-672 Warszawa sektmf@policja.gov.pl a.kuczynski@policja.gov.pl (22) 60 122 47	1 184 700 CHF	1 160 894 CHF	1 006 995 CHF	986 751 CHF	98,0%	10.05.2017
KIK/05	World Bank	The World Bank Centre for Financial Reporting Reform Praterstraße 31, 19th floor 1020 Wien, Austria ilecker@worldbank.org +43 (0)11 21 70 722	10 000 000 CHF	9 536 404 CHF	10 000 000 CHF	9 536 404 CHF	95,4%	17.10.2017
KIK/06	Małopolska Regional Development Agency	Małopolska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. ul. Kordylewskiego 11, 31-542 Kraków biuro@marr.pl, marr@marr.pl (12) 617 66 00	7 397 406 CHF	7 302 963 CHF	6 753 818 CHF	6 669 430 CHF	98,6%	13.06.2017
KIK/07	Carpathian Foundation - Poland	Fundacja Karpacka - Polska Rynek 7, 38-500 Sanok cfdp@cfoundation.org zofia.kordela@interia.eu +31 46 388 50- +48 668 301 017	4 912 662 CHF	4 856 018 CHF	4 818 388 CHF	4 761 683 CHF	98,8%	28.07.2017
KIK/08	Center for Business Promotion and Entrepreneurship	Ośrodek Promowania i Wspierania Przedsiębiorczości Rolnej Pl. Poniatowskiego 2, 27-600 Sandomierz a.franczak@opwpr.org.pl (15) 833 34 01	6 957 096 CHF	6 798 308 CHF	6 722 265 CHF	6 543 893 CHF	97,3%	10.11.2017
KIK/09	Polish Environmental Partnership Foundation	Fundacja Partnerstwo dla Środowiska Rondo Mogiła 1/226, 31-516 Kraków biuro@fpds.pl; rafal.serafin@fpds.pl +48 12 430 74 41	3 926 190 CHF	3 772 311 CHF	3 576 610 CHF	3 422 846 CHF	95,7%	16.11.2017

KIK/10	Regionálne Towarzystwo Rolniczo-Przemysłowe "Dolina Strugu" ul. Myśliwica 16, 36-030 Białowa p.grzebyki@dolinastrugu.pl; strug@intertele.pl 17 23 05 577	3 853 156 CHF	3 623 996 CHF	3 564 294 CHF	3 354 815 CHF	94,1%	15.01.2018
KIK/11	Urząd Gminy Mełgiew ul. Partyzantka 2, 21-007 Mełgiew melegiew@melegiew.pl; skusmicki@tdien.pl (81) 460 57 00; +48 502 659 381	5 881 387 CHF	5 487 467 CHF	5 284 955 CHF	4 981 716 CHF	93,3%	21.09.2017
KIK/12	Stowarzyszenie Euroregion Karpacki Polska Rynek 16, 35-064 Rzeszów opetynych@karpacki.pl; sekretariat@karpacki.pl (17) 852 52 05	5 489 967 CHF	5 466 297 CHF	5 217 903 CHF	5 196 446 CHF	99,6%	7.02.2017
KIK/13	Urząd Miasta Hrubieszów ul. mjr H. Dobrzańskiego „HUBALA” 1, 22-500 Hrubieszów prg_hrubieszow@o2.pl (84) 696 25 04	4 545 797 CHF	4 483 415 CHF	4 138 048 CHF	4 092 469 CHF	98,9%	05.06.2017
KIK/14	Urząd Miejski Zator Plac Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego 1, 32-640 Zator gmina@zator.pl; sekretarz@zator.pl (33) 841 22 15 w. 14	4 032 469 CHF	3 931 507 CHF	3 623 321 CHF	3 532 382 CHF	97,5%	20.11.2017
KIK/15	Starostwo Powiatowe w Puławach Al. Królewicza 19, 24-100 Puławy starostwo@pulawy.powiat.pl (81) 886 11 00	4 152 236 CHF	4 063 546 CHF	4 000 000 CHF	3 923 395 CHF	98,1%	7.02.2017
KIK/20	Podlaski Urząd Wojewódzki ul. Mickiewicza 4, 15-213 Białystok adawidz@bialystok.uw.gov.pl (85) 74 39 225	5 873 682 CHF	4 982 638 CHF	4 982 638 CHF	4 366 587 CHF	87,5%	14.04.2015
KIK/22	Warszawska Kolej Dojazdowa Sp. z o.o. ul. Batorego 23; 05-825 Grodzisk Mazowiecki kulcsza@wkd.com.pl; wkd@wkd.com.pl (22) 755-55-64	30 100 397 CHF	29 835 950 CHF	19 353 841 CHF	19 215 788 CHF	99,3%	28.09.2017
KIK/23	Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Pomorskiego ul. Chopowa 21/27, 80-610 Gdynia dof@pomorskie.eu (58) 32 68 614	11 777 398 CHF	11 638 794 CHF	9 041 460 CHF	8 924 649 CHF	98,7%	29.09.2017
KIK/24	Miejskie Biuro OTOP ul. Żybkiewicza 10/1a, 31-029 Kraków melo.polska@otop.org.pl	1 162 871 CHF	1 157 106 CHF	1 070 000 CHF	1 064 235 CHF	99,5%	11.08.2017
KIK/25	Instytut Uprawy Nawodnienia i Gleboznawstwa - Państwowy Instytut Badawczy ul. Czartoryskich 8, 24-100 Puławy stalanga@iung.pulawy.pl (81) 478 67 00	2 852 791 CHF	2 695 226 CHF	2 424 874 CHF	2 290 311 CHF	94,5%	10.10.2017
KIK/28	Gmina Miejska Legionowo ul. marsz. Józefa Piłsudskiego 41, 05-120 Legionowo kancelaria@um.legionowo.pl (22) 774 20 31	11 334 663 CHF	11 215 157 CHF	9 634 464 CHF	9 532 884 CHF	98,9%	06.10.2017
KIK/31	Fundacja Karpacka – Polska ul. Rynek 7, 38-500 Sanok zofia.kordala@interia.eu +48 668 301 017	882 402 CHF	807 619 CHF	794 162 CHF	726 780 CHF	91,5%	16.10.2015

KIK/32	National Foundation for Environmental Protection - Environmental Information Centre UNEP/GRID-Warsaw	Centrum UNEP/GRID-Warszawa ul. Sobieszczyńska 8, 00-764 Warszawa grid@gridw.pl	2 106 781 CHF	2 104 791 CHF	1 943 054 CHF	1 942 117 CHF	100,0%	05.09.2017
KIK/33	Poznan University of Medical Sciences	Uniwersytet Medyczny w Poznaniu ul. Fredry 10, 61-701 Poznań rektor@ump.edu.pl (61) 854 60 00	6 046 963 CHF	4 952 871 CHF	5 139 919 CHF	4 209 939 CHF	81,5%	04.10.2017
KIK/34	Institute of Food and Nutrition	Instytut Żywności i Żywienia ul. Powiśńska 61/63, 02-903 Warszawa igutowska@izz.waw.pl (22) 550 96 97	5 294 000 CHF	4 980 065 CHF	4 499 900 CHF	4 233 057 CHF	94,1%	21.09.2017
KIK/35	National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene	Narodowy Instytut Zdrowia Publicznego, Państwowy Zakład Higieny ul. Chocimska 24, 00-001 Warszawa rpatola@pzh.gov.pl (22) 542 14 00	4 669 907 CHF	4 588 707 CHF	3 969 421 CHF	3 900 401 CHF	98,3%	29.08.2017
KIK/37	"Ab Ovo" Association	Stowarzyszenie wspierania rozwoju osób niepełnosprawnych "AB OVO" ul. Chodkiewicza 14, 31-532 Kraków biuro@tarfiskagornejrabry.pl	1 378 697 CHF	1 378 242 CHF	1 240 827 CHF	1 240 418 CHF	100,0%	20.10.2017
KIK/39	Lubeńskie Powodeship	Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Lubelskiego ul. Grotzgera 4, 20-029 Lublin marszalek@lubeńskie.pl; biuro.azbest@lubeńskie.pl	15 547 982 CHF	12 621 185 CHF	13 215 785 CHF	10 720 111 CHF	81,1%	29.09.2017
KIK/41	Municipality of Niepolomice	Urząd Miasta i Gminy w Niepolomicach Plac Zwycięstwa 13, 32-005 Niepolomice stanislaw.nowacki@niepolomice.com; magistrat@niepolomice.com (12) 250-94-04	22 275 030 CHF	21 824 821 CHF	14 369 355 CHF	14 064 336 CHF	97,9%	20.10.2017
KIK/42	Association of Communes of Lubartów Subregion	Związek Komunalny Gmin Ziemi Lubartowskiej ul. Lubelska 68, 21-100 Lubartów zwiazekgmin@zwiazekgmin.lubartow.pl; badyoczek@zwiazekgmin.lubartow.pl (81) 854 21 72	16 334 877 CHF	14 273 559 CHF	11 944 510 CHF	10 406 756 CHF	87,1%	19.12.2017
KIK/44	Sucha Beskidzka Powiat	Starostwo Powiatowe w Suchej Beskidzkiej ul. Koscielna 5 b, 34-200 Sucha Beskidzka p.dyrca@powiatsucha.pl; starostwo@powiatsucha.pl (33) 87 57 938	10 306 436 CHF	10 101 005 CHF	4 837 389 CHF	4 718 927 CHF	97,6%	25.09.2017
KIK/45	National Information Processing Institute (OPI PIB)	Ośrodek Przetwarzania Informacji - Państwowy Instytut Badawczy al. Niepodległości 188 b, 00-608 Warszawa opi@opi.org.pl (22) 570 14 00	35 529 412 CHF	35 114 751 CHF	30 200 000 CHF	29 847 245 CHF	98,8%	10.07.2017
KIK/46	Busko-Zdrój Commune	Urząd Miasta i Gminy Busko Zdrój ul. Mickiewicza 10, 28-100 Busko-Zdrój urzad@umig.busko.pl (41) 370 52 51	22 560 582 CHF	19 520 699 CHF	16 845 958 CHF	14 541 232 CHF	86,3%	20.10.2017
KIK/48	Union of Town and Communes of the Parsęta River Basin	Związek Miast i Gmin Dorzecza Parsęty ul. Szymanowskiego 17, 78-230 Karfino zmigdp@parseta.org.pl; mt@parseta.org.pl (94) 311 72 47	12 643 919 CHF	12 480 198 CHF	10 747 331 CHF	10 608 166 CHF	98,7%	28.07.2017

KIK/50	Miszana Dolna Commune	Urząd Gminy Miszana Dolna ul. Spadochroniarzy 6, 34-730 Miszana Dolna gmina@mszana.pl (18) 331 00 09	10 699 434 CHF	10 709 391 CHF	9 094 519 CHF	9 094 519 CHF	100,0%	06.07.2017
KIK/51	Mielopolska Voivodeship	Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Mielopolskiego ul. Wielicka 72B, Kraków fe.sekretariat@mielopolska.umw.gov.pl (12) 29 90 744	13 184 120 CHF	13 091 923 CHF	11 206 502 CHF	11 128 134 CHF	99,3%	08.12.2015
KIK/53	The Association for Development and Promotion of Podkarpackie "Pro Carpathia"	Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Rozwoju i Promocji Podkarpackia "Pro Carpathia" Rynek 16/1, 35-064 Rzeszów agnieszka@procarpathia.pl	1 579 686 CHF	1 521 359 CHF	1 421 717 CHF	1 369 223 CHF	96,3%	27.07.2017
KIK/55	Regional Centre of Social Policy in Lublin	Regionalny Ośrodek Polityki Społecznej w Lublinie ul. Diamentowa 2, 20-447 Lublin rops@lubelskie.pl	6 084 128 CHF	6 166 805 CHF	5 171 509 CHF	5 153 396 CHF	99,6%	07.02.2018
KIK/56	The Regional Centre of Social Policy in Rzeszów	Regionalny Ośrodek Polityki Społecznej w Rzeszowie ul. Hetmańska 120, 35-078 Rzeszów sekretariat@rops.rzeszow.pl	5 508 425 CHF	5 351 331 CHF	4 683 012 CHF	4 543 047 CHF	97,0%	07.09.2016
KIK/57	Świętokrzyskie Voivode acting through the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Office	Świętokrzyski Urząd Województwa w Kielcach Al. Dł. Wierców Klek 3, 25-516 Kielce Wps38@kelce.umw.gov.pl	7 014 587 CHF	6 995 476 CHF	5 962 399 CHF	5 943 759 CHF	99,7%	18.07.2017
KIK/58	Regional Centre for Social Policy in Kraków	Regionalny Ośrodek Polityki Społecznej w Krakowie ul. Piastowska 32, 30-001 Kraków biuro@rops.krakow.pl	7 194 102 CHF	7 166 844 CHF	6 114 987 CHF	6 091 816 CHF	99,6%	10.03.2017
KIK/60	Polish Agency for Enterprise Development	Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczości ul. Pańska 81/83, 00-834 Warszawa csr@parp.gov.pl (22) 432 71 10	4 866 117 CHF	4 737 403 CHF	4 866 117 CHF	4 737 403 CHF	97,4%	8.11.2017
KIK/61	Veolia Energia Warszawa S.A.	Veolia Energia Warszawa S.A ul. Puławska 2, 02-566 Warszawa ryszard.plotnicki@veolia.com; tomasz.bankowski@veolia.com (22) 658 52 22	31 929 938 CHF	28 868 066 CHF	10 628 746 CHF	9 498 498 CHF	89,4%	19.09.2017
KIK/63	Mazowieckie Voivodeship	Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Mazowieckiego ul. Okrzei 35, 03-715 Warszawa dnwi@mazovia.pl (22) 59 79 550	10 829 792 CHF	10 113 254 CHF	9 205 323 CHF	8 596 267 CHF	93,4%	10.08.2017
KIK/65	The Society for the Earth	Towarzystwo na rzecz Ziemi ul. Leszczyńskiej 7, 32-600 Oświęcim prym@trz.most-long.pl	1 026 111 CHF	1 024 920 CHF	923 500 CHF	922 428 CHF	99,9%	14.09.2017
KIK/66	Union of the Wisłoka River Basin Communes	Związek Gmin Dorzecza Wisłoki ul. Konopickiej 82, 38-200 Jasło biuro@wisloka.pl (13) 443 70 20	24 392 641 CHF	24 194 089 CHF	18 300 143 CHF	18 150 572 CHF	99,2%	20.10.2017
KIK/68	Chief Sanitary Inspectorate	Główny Inspektorat Sanitarny ul. Targowa 65, 03-729 Warszawa inspektorat@gis.gov.pl (22) 536 13 00	4 045 519 CHF	3 564 017 CHF	3 438 691 CHF	3 029 414 CHF	88,1%	13.09.2017

KIK/71	Szczucin Commune	Urząd Miasta i Gminy Szczucin ul. Wolności 3, 33-230 Szczucin ugszczucin.projekt@gmail.com +48 602 655 827; +48 508 461 308	12 459 986 CHF	12 255 720 CHF	10 590 988 CHF	10 417 362 CHF	98,4%	03.10.2017
KIK/73	Municipality of Leborok	Urząd Miejski w Leboroku ul. Armii Krajowej 14, 84-300 Leborok sekretariat@um.leborok.pl (59) 862 22 67	11 658 194 CHF	11 449 534 CHF	9 892 465 CHF	9 732 104 CHF	98,4%	14.07.2017
KIK/74	Podlaski Voivode	Podlaski Urząd Wojewódzki ul. Mickiewicza 3, 15-213 Białystok lbazydio@bialystok.uw.gov.pl (85) 74 39 557	18 690 360 CHF	18 372 520 CHF	15 886 806 CHF	15 616 642 CHF	98,3%	04.09.2017
KIK/75	Office for Foreigners	Urząd do Spraw Cudzoziemców ul. Taborowa 33, 02-699 Warszawa bifz@udsc.gov.pl (22) 60 140 30	1 626 946 CHF	1 506 722 CHF	1 382 904 CHF	1 280 364 CHF	92,6%	23.10.2017
KIK/76	Polish National Police	Komenda Główna Policji ul. Domaniewska 36/38, 02-672 Warszawa sekbif@policja.gov.pl (22) 601 55 21	4 621 061 CHF	4 615 671 CHF	3 927 902 CHF	3 923 371 CHF	99,5%	25.07.2017
KIK/77	Commune Łodygowice	Urząd Gminy Łodygowice ul. Żywiecka 21, 34-323 Łodygowice marcin@lodygowice.pl (33) 863 13 26	623 129 CHF	598 129 CHF	500 000 CHF	500 000 CHF	100,0%	08.05.2015
02/KIK NGO	Econys Polska	ECORYS Polska Sp. z o.o. ul. Sołec 38 lok. 105, 00-394 Warszawa econys@econys.pl (22) 339 36 40	29 060 180 CHF	29 015 378 CHF	24 701 153 CHF	24 664 716 CHF	99,9%	24.01.2017
03/KIK Partnership Fund	Econys Polska	ECORYS Polska Sp. z o.o. ul. Sołec 38 lok. 105, 00-394 Warszawa econys@econys.pl (22) 339 36 40	4 000 000 CHF	3 938 421 CHF	3 400 000 CHF	3 347 658 CHF	98,5%	04.11.2016
Project Preparation Facility	National Coordination Unit	Krajowa Instytucja Koordynująca Plac Trzech Krzyży 3/5, 00-507 Warszawa kik@mr.gov.pl (22) 273 78 00	1 228 551 CHF	1 228 551 CHF	996 277 CHF	996 277 CHF	100,0%	25.10.2012
Technical Assistance Fund	National Coordination Unit	Krajowa Instytucja Koordynująca Plac Trzech Krzyży 3/5, 00-507 Warszawa kik@mr.gov.pl (22) 273 78 00	9 375 000 CHF	8 999 776 CHF	7 500 000 CHF	7 199 816 CHF	96,0%	23.10.2017
Total			561 351 174 CHF	540 612 925 CHF	452 569 900 CHF	436 990 984 CHF	96,6%	

Annex 3: Summary of the main findings of the financial audits

The financial audits were conducted on the basis of the accounting books and evidences concerning the expenditures as well as the projects' Interim Reports/Payment Claims. As a rule the verification did not indicate any necessity of changes in the ledgers and the payment claims drawn by the Executing Agencies. The audits found i.a. that:

- Projects were implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Project Agreements, applicable law and SPCP guidelines.
- The amounts of eligible expenses were shown properly, reliably and clearly.
- Accounting documents:
 - were issued correctly and complied with the requirements of the Accounting Act;
 - were verified with respect to the merits, form and calculations;
 - were authorized for payment;
 - were described correctly, in accordance with the Intermediary Bodies' guidelines;
 - were posted and correctly recognized in the EAs' account books;
 - expenditures provided for in the subject accounting documents were actually incurred during the eligibility period provided for in the co-financing Agreements;
 - economic transactions were documented properly and included in a separate accounting ledger for the period covered by the audit.
- Interim reports/Payment claims were prepared in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
- Interim reports/Payment claims, as a rule, were submitted on time.
- Financial data contained in the Interim Reports and Payment Claims was complete in comparison to source financial documents.
- Financial resources were used properly.
- Activities planned in the project applications were actually undertaken.
- Information and promotion activities were planned and funded in a reasonable manner, allowing reaching targets and meeting requirements related to projects promotion.
- The public procurements procedures covered by the audit were carried out in accordance with applicable regulations – the Act dated 20 January 2004 – the Public Procurement Law/the competitiveness and transparency rules as well as with the Public Procurement guidelines.
- Monitoring of the projects was consistent with the project agreements and guidelines.
- Schedule of the tasks and subtasks implementation within the framework of the projects was maintained.
- There were no cases of the public finance indiscipline.
- There were no cases of infringement which might cause imperilling the proper projects' realization.
- Recommendations from previous inspections and audits were implemented.
- Documentation safeguarding and archiving period were sufficient.

However, some weaknesses were also detected:

- Interim reports/Payment claims were submitted behind schedule.

- Discrepancies between the statements in the accounting records of the Executing Agency and the Partners on the eligible expenditures and the data stated in the payment applications were found during interim audits (projects KIK/34 and KIK/41).
- The interim audit reflected incorrect account assignment on a few documents (project KIK/34 and KIK/50).
- Violations of the procedure concerning the recruitment of final beneficiaries were found (project KIK/39).
- Violations of the Public Procurement Law/ the Guidelines of the Minister of Infrastructure and Development concerning procurements under the SPCP were detected (projects KIK/25 and KIK/41).

It is worth underlining that the infringements mentioned above did not pose a risk of improper projects' realization.

The main recommendations formulated by auditors were:

- Timely transmission of the Payment claims to the Intermediary Bodies.
- The Executing Agencies and Project Partners implementing projects in the advance payment system should prepare the reporting documents with more care. This would enable Intermediary Bodies to make an expedited review and faster disbursement of funds for the projects, which by definition should operate in advance payment system but quite often received de facto just a reimbursement of the incurred expenses.

All the Executing Agencies implemented the recommendations of the audits prior to completion of the projects.

Annex 4: List of the SPCP evaluations

	Scope	Title	Author	Date	English version: Yes/No	English version available at the NCU: Yes/No
Evaluation of the overall SPCP						
whole Programme	Ex-post evaluation of the Programme and projects, as well as the management and the implementation system of the SPCP, commissioned by the NCU	Assessment of Impact and Management and Implementation of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme - Final Report	Consortium: IDEA Instytut Sp. z o.o. - Authors: Stanisław Bienias (Project Leader), Tomasz Gapski, Małgorzata Kachniarz, Maciej Kolczyński, Alicja Weremiuk; Policy & Action Group Uniconsult Sp. z o.o. (PAG Uniconsult) - Authors: Maciej Gajewski, Robert Kubajek, Jan Szczurcki, Justyna Witkowska	June 2017	Yes	Yes
Sectoral evaluations						
regional development	General evaluation (based on 5 projects: KIK/06, KIK/09, KIK/10, KIK/11 and KIK/13)	Final review of selected regional development projects in south-eastern Poland	KEK CDC Consultants: Dieter Zürcher, Hans-Peter Meier	June 2017	Yes	Yes
PSRP	Programme general evaluation	The report on the evaluation of the Polish-Swiss Research Programme (PSRP)	Dr hab. Izabela Wagner	2014	Yes	Yes
Different kind of sectorial assessments						
a costing-study in the area of social care	Analysis based on projects implemented under the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme, Objective 2 of the Health Protection focus area. Analysis prepared by PCG Polska Sp. z o.o., commissioned by the Ministry of Health	Creating and operating sheltered accommodation and independence-training facilities: analysis of model solutions	Prof. Jerzy Krzyszkowski Dr. Agnieszka Łukomska-Dulaj Agata Miśkowiec Ewa Rogalska Magda Sochacka	June 2017	Yes	Yes
Ex-post projects evaluations through mandates given to external evaluators by EAs						

CSR	Ex-post evaluation	Evaluation of the project entitled "Enhancement of regional competitiveness through Corporate Social Responsibility measures" FINAL REPORT	Aleksandra Stanek-Kowalczyk (Deloitte) Katarzyna Pietrasik (Deloitte) Julia Patorska (Deloitte) Grzegorz Kowalczyk (Realizacja Sp. z o.o.) Marcin Trzcinski (Realizacja Sp. z o.o.)	2015	Yes	Yes
Partnership Fund	Report on the ex-post evaluation of the Fund	Report on the ex-post evaluation study of the Partnership Fund under the Block Grant for non-governmental organizations and the Polish-Swiss regional partnership projects of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme in 2010-2015	Ośrodek Badań i Analiz Marketingowych FEBUS oraz CBM INDICATOR	2015	Yes	Yes
NGO Block Grant	Report on the ex-post evaluation of the Fund	Report on the ex-post evaluation study of the Fund of non-governmental organisations under the Block Grant for non-governmental organizations and the Polish-Swiss regional partnership projects of the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme in 2010-2016	Ośrodek Badań i Analiz Marketingowych FEBUS oraz CBM INDICATOR	2015	Yes	Yes
NGO Block Grant/Partnership Fund	General evaluation of the Block Grant	Report on the Mid-Term Review for the Block Grant within the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme	Ewa Karólewska, NCU Aleksandra Chmielewska, SCO	February 2015	Yes	Yes
Final reviews (not ex-post) conducted by the NCU, IB and SCO and possibly accompanied by external experts						
KIK/02	Final review of the project KIK/02 - Construction of the Epistemological Filter within facilities of the Office for Foreigners' Centre in Bielsa Pociągaska , implemented by the Office for Foreigners	KIK/02 Final Review Report	Review Team: Guido Beltrani, SCO Katarzyna Tempplin-Ukleja, SCO Sophie Delessert, SCO Jenny Maggi, SCO's expert Aleksandra Guzowska, NCU Zuzanna Kuchńska, NCU Ewa Wrutkowska, IB Katarzyna Suda-Puchacz, IB Iwona Paradowska-Stankiewicz, IB's external technical expert	November 2016	Yes	Yes

KIK/04	Final review of the project KIK/04 - <i>On the borderline of terrorism – emergency response training, implemented by the General Police Headquarters</i>	„On the borderline of terrorism – emergency response training” – KIK/04 Final Review Report	Review Team: Roland Python, SCO Katarzyna Templin, SCO Małgorzata Zalewska, NCU Aleksandra Guzowska, NCU Zuzanna Kucińska, NCU Ewa Wnukowska, IB Joanna Perkowska, IB Józef Kubas, Technical Expert	October 2015	Yes	Yes
KIK/20	Final review of project KIK/20 - <i>Contribution to the improvement of the capacity and the control of the train border crossing in Siemianówka and KIK/74 - Contribution to the improvement of the capacity and the control of the road border crossing in Potowce</i>	Projects KIK/20 and KIK/74 Final Review Report	Review Team: Markus Dürst, SDC Bern Eric Rochat, Swiss Customs Service, Bern Katarzyna Templin, SCO Warsaw Małgorzata Zalewska, NCU Zuzanna Kucińska, NCU Ewa Wnukowska, IB Marta Chmielnicka, IB	May 2014	Yes	Yes
KIK/22	The report contains an analysis covering the assessment of effectiveness and quality relating to the procurement of the rolling stock within the projects KIK/22 WKD and KIK/23 Malbork – Grudziądz	Assessment of effectiveness and quality relating to the procurement of the rolling stock within the framework of KIK/22 WKD and KIK/23 Malbork – Grudziądz projects	Technical expert mandated by the Swiss side	November-December 2016	Yes	Yes
KIK/23	The report contains an analysis covering the assessment of effectiveness and quality relating to the procurement of the rolling stock within the projects KIK/22 WKD and KIK/23 Malbork – Grudziądz	Assessment of effectiveness and quality relating to the procurement of the rolling stock within the framework of KIK/22 WKD and KIK/23 Malbork – Grudziądz projects	Technical expert mandated by the Swiss side	November-December 2016	Yes	Yes
KIK/74	Final review of project KIK/20 - <i>Contribution to the improvement of the capacity and the control of the train border crossing in Siemianówka and KIK/74 - Contribution to the improvement of the capacity and the control of the road border crossing in Potowce</i>	Projects KIK/20 and KIK/74 Final Review Report	Review Team: Markus Dürst, SDC Bern Eric Rochat, Swiss Customs Service, Bern Katarzyna Templin, SCO Warsaw Małgorzata Zalewska, NCU Zuzanna Kucińska, NCU Ewa Wnukowska, IB Marta Chmielnicka, IB	May 2014	Yes	Yes

<p>KIK75</p>	<p>Final Review of the project KIK75 - <i>Increasing the effectiveness of migration management in Poland</i>, implemented by the Office for Foreigners (OFF) acting as the Executing Agency (EA) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) acting as the Project Partner (PP)</p>	<p>KIK75 Final Review Report</p>	<p>Review Team: Guldo Beltrani, SCO Katarzyna Tempim-Ukteleja, SCO Dr Joëlle Moret, SCO's External Expert Aleksandra Guzowska, NCU Zuzanna Kucifiska, NCU Ewa Wnukowska, IB Jakub Kareriko, IB Maria Nowacka, IB's External Technical Expert</p>	<p>October 2016</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>KIK76</p>	<p>Final review of the project KIK76 - <i>Safety in road traffic</i>, implemented by the General Police Headquarters</p>	<p>KIK76 Final Review Report</p>	<p>Review Team: Katarzyna Tempim-Ukteleja, SCO Magorzata Zalewska, NCU Aleksandra Guzowska, NCU Zuzanna Kucifiska, NCU Ewa Wnukowska, IB Katarzyna Suda-Puchacz, IB Jakub Kareriko, IB Marek Krawczuk, External Expert</p>	<p>June 2016</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>