

STATE OF PLAY FOR

# BIOECONOMY IN THE SOUTH BALTIC AREA





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# Overview of state of play for bioeconomy in the Polish South Baltic Area

Poland does not have a dedicated, national resource efficiency strategy or action plan. However, there are several documents (either ready or well advanced ) that touch upon the question of resource efficiency.

Due to the need to adjust the National Development Strategy 2007-2015, adopted on 29 November 2006, to the new socio-economic conditions and to the internal and external challenges, as well as the requirements of the newly introduced development policy management system, it was decided to update it and to extend its time horizon until 2020. At the moment, it is a major document defining the country's development direction. The efforts to update the strategy were correlated with the work on other strategic documents under development, such as the Long-term National Development Strategy and the Integrated Strategies. These are outlined in Fig. 1.

In Poland, there is no single, wide-ranging and strategic document dedicated to bioeconomy. Issues related to the development of bioeconomy are incorporated in three integrated strategies, which are included in the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of the Country.

The main strategic documents of the new system, on the basis of which the development policy is implemented, include:<sup>1</sup>

1. Long-Term National Development Strategy - LTNDS (Poland 2030 – the Third Wave of Innovation) which defines major trends and challenges as well as the concept of development of the country in the long-term,
2. Medium-Term National Development Strategy - MTNDS (National Development Strategy 2020) which is the most important document in the medium term, setting out strategic objectives for the development of the country until 2020, and which is key in determining the development activities, including those that can potentially be funded under the EU financial perspective 2014-2020,
3. 9 Integrated Strategies, whose aim is to assist in achieving the long-term and medium-term development objectives:
  - a. Strategy for Innovation and Efficiency of the Economy,
  - b. Human Capital Development Strategy,
  - c. Transport Development Strategy,
  - d. Energy Security and the Environment Strategy,
  - e. Efficient State Strategy,
  - f. Social Capital Development Strategy,

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<sup>1</sup> National Development Strategy 2020 Active Society, Competitive Economy, Efficient State, Warsaw, September 2012

- g. National Strategy for Regional Development 2010-2020. Regions, cities, rural areas,
- h. Strategy for Development of the National Security System,
- i. Strategy for Sustainable Development of Rural Areas, Agriculture and Fisheries.

The schematic view of National Spatial Development Concept 2030 can be seen in Fig. 1.



Figure 1. The system of Country National Spatial Development strategic documents. <sup>2</sup>

There are also other plans, programs and strategies that are connected with the bioeconomy. To mention a few:

1. **National Forest Programme** (in preparation); the prospective strategy for the development of the forest sector for 2030–2080; European environment agency: This country profile is based on information provided by: Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Environment, Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, and Central Statistical Office. Coordination: Małgorzata Bednarek, EEA/EIONET National Focal Point, CIEP (May 2016).
2. **National Waste Management Plan 2014**; This 2014 National Waste Management Plan is an updated version of the 2010 National Waste Management Plan (hereinafter "the 2010 National Plan"), which was approved by Regulation No. 233 of the Council of Ministers (i.e. Polish Cabinet) of 29 December 2006 (Governmental Gazette No. 90, Item 946). The National Waste Management Plan should be the origin of all strategic documents approved at both the national and the Community levels.

<sup>2</sup> National Development Strategy 2020 Active Society, Competitive Economy, Efficient State, Warsaw, September 2012

3. **National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP)** by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection, Warsaw 2014; According to the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives), which is a key act of Community law in the field of waste management, the EU strives to create a "recycling society", "seeking to avoid waste generation and to use waste as a resource".

On the one hand, national documents transfer the European challenges and recommendations into the national area, and on the other, they enable active participation in the formulation of strategic objectives of the EU through the identification of national potentials and barriers. The development of objectives and priorities indicated in the national documents are, to a significant extent, a part of the European objectives, and are consistent with them.

In the Strategy for Innovation and Efficiency of the Economy (SIEE), the Energy Security and Environment Strategy (ESES) as well as in the National Development Strategy 2020 (NDS) the resources have been divided into natural, i.e. those extracted for example by mining and used for the first time, and secondary resources, those acquired by recycling.

The SIEE is not focused on specific resources but it emphasizes interdependencies between resources and economic progress and it also describes action in the areas of sustainable agriculture and sustainable building as the most important in the context of resource efficiency. Generally, implementation of SIEE in the Polish SBA is based on the individual, regional strategies. All three Baltic neighbouring regions have developed their regional strategies and fortunately they focus on similar issues such as <sup>3,4,5</sup>:

- higher energy efficiency, especially in electricity production (preferably by virtue of cogeneration) and energy transmission and rationalization of its use (mainly residential and public sectors);
- high level of use of renewable energy sources, mainly in the distributed generation system;
- lower costs of using energy;
- better air quality;
- innovative solutions implemented in power engineering, including smart grids;
- high public awareness of the need to rationalize energy consumption and the impact of energy on the quality of the environment and living conditions, as well as common consumer attitudes.

The primary focus of the ESES and NDS is on energy resources and water, whereas in the case of ESES it is also on timber. All strategies focus on the increase in three areas: competitive and innovative economy, effective and robust state, and demonstration of the differences in the development of the provinces.

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<sup>3</sup> Strategia rozwoju Województwa Pomorskiego do roku 2020 (Strategy for development of Pomeranian Region by 2020)

<sup>4</sup> Strategia rozwoju Województwa Zachodniopomorskiego do roku 2020 (Strategy for development of West-Pomeranian Region by 2020)

<sup>5</sup> Strategia rozwoju społeczno-gospodarczego Województwa Warmińsko-Mazurskiego do roku 2025 (Strategy for development of Warmia and Mazury Region by 2025)

The main objective of medium-term strategy is to strengthen and make use of the economic, social and institutional capabilities, in order to ensure rapid and sustainable development of the country, and to improve the quality of life.<sup>6</sup>

Some actions have already been initiated. Among them the following already exist :<sup>7</sup>

1. Value chain approaches to supply and waste, processing and conversion and bio-based products are being combined into the strategies.
2. The first bioregion in Poland, which is the establishment of a plan to transform Łódzkie into one of the most innovative regions in Poland with sustainable bioeconomy as a strategic and integrated cornerstone. The recognition of Łódzkie as a bioregion has given the region the role of coordinator of all Polish Bioregions”.
3. R&I (Research and Innovations) support and service providers for the bioeconomy such as Łódzkie in Poland, use events to gather together stakeholders and to raise visibility of their own R&I activities. Events are also an important tool to bring together all stakeholders in the bioeconomy innovation ecosystems.
4. The Marshall’s office of the Łódzkie region organises annually a bioeconomy congress in the city of Łódź. The purpose of the Congress is to create a friendly atmosphere around the innovative, effective and competitive approach to activities, intended to support the development of bioeconomy.

The implementation of the bioeconomy issues is supported by the numerous national and regional funds. Under this development theme, several bioeconomy projects have been funded. To mention a few:

- ERA NET Bioenergy; ERA-NET Bioenergy is a network of R&D&I financing entities in the field of bioenergy, operating since 2004. The aim of the initiative is to increase the production of bioenergy in Europe and the development of technologies in this field. The Program runs annual competitions in which international scientific consortia can participate. Participating agencies are: Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe, National Centre for Research and Development, Bundesamt für Energie (Switzerland), Swedish Energy Agency and Innovate UK,
- "Natural environment, agriculture and forestry" - BIOSTRATEG is a strategic program of scientific research and development prepared by the Council of the National Center for Research and Development and approved by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. The program includes five strategic problem areas, resulting directly from the National Research Program, consistent with the priority directions of research currently conducted in the European Union and across the world. These areas are:
  - Food security and food safety;

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<sup>6</sup> Strategia Rozwoju Kraju do roku 2020 Aktywne społeczeństwo, konkurencyjna gospodarka, sprawne państwo (National Development Strategy 2020 Active society, competitive economy, efficient state, Warsaw, September 2012)

<sup>7</sup> Bioeconomy development in EU regions. Mapping of EU Member States’ / regions’ Research and Innovation plans & Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3) on Bioeconomy. February 2017

- Rational management of natural resources, with particular emphasis on water management;
- Counteracting and adapting to climate change, with particular emphasis on agriculture;
- Biodiversity protection and sustainable development of agricultural production space;
- Forestry and the wood industry.

The main objective of the Program is the development of knowledge in the areas of the Program, leading to the growth of Poland's international position in scientific research and development work in this field, and to transfer to the socio-economic environment innovative solutions developed under the Program. The Program aims to stimulate the growth of innovation and competitiveness in the Polish economy.

The results of the projects implemented under the program will be the development and preparation of implementation of new products, techniques and technologies as well as a whole range of other solutions applicable to the fields covered by the thematic scope of the program. The assumed total budget of the Program, under which projects covering scientific research, development works and activities related to preparation for implementation (which will be implemented in 2014-2019), will amount to ca. PLN 500 million.