74% of the Polish population **lives in urban areas** (based on the functional criteria)

**Polycentric** spatial and **functional** structure of the settlement system:

- regular distribution of cities of similar size
- small predominance of the capital city over other regional centres, compared to other European countries
- distribution of towns, in particular small and medium towns, is even
- the polycentric system facilitates achievement of sustainable development objectives

**In total: 919 cities in Poland**

**Three levels of administrative divisions:**
Voivodeships (Regions) - **16**
Poviats (Counties) – **314**
Gminas (Municipalities) – **2478**
Ensuring coordination – strategic documents

- Long-term National Development Strategy 2030
- National Development Strategy 2020
  - Nine integrated development strategies, including:
    - National Strategy of Regional Development 2010-2020
      - supra-regional strategies
      - voivodeship development strategies

- Strategy for Eastern Poland
-西部 Poland
- Southern Poland

(in progress)
Regional policy – key role of cities in the development processes:

- Cities as main **centers of regional development**, enhancing development possibilities of surrounding areas, specially smaller cities and rural areas, through the functional integration.

- Supporting growth of competitiveness of regions, above all, refers to the **areas of strategic intervention** of regional policy, which first of all cover the most significant urban areas.

- Establishment of the **territorial cohesion** and **preventing marginalization** in problematic areas, among others refers to: the restructurisation and revitalisation of cities losing their previously fulfilled socio-economic functions; increasing transport accessibility to voivodeship centres situated within the areas with the lowest accessibility.
Improving **competitiveness** of major urban centers through **functional integration** (economic, social, cultural, research, transport and information)

Improving national **internal cohesion** (access to services and jobs) and **territorial accessibility**

Supporting cohesion in specific **problematic** areas

Functional areas, among others: **urban** and rural

Developing functional **linkages** between **peripheral** areas

Creating conditions for **spreading** of **development** factors from major urban centres to **smaller cities** and **rural** areas
Urban Areas in Polish Strategic Documents – NUP

**NATIONAL URBAN POLICY**

**2015 – 2023**

- setting out the planned *activities of government regarding urban policy*, taking into account the objectives and directions set out in the medium-term national development strategy and a national strategy of regional development

- **territorially targeted development policy**, corresponding to the specific needs of the territories

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**Actors**

- government institutions
- local government units
- citizens
- business, science and non-governmental entities
- government corporations and bodies representing the functional urban areas (unions, associations, etc.).

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increasing the efficiency, comprehensiveness and complementarity of activities
Urban Areas in Polish Strategic Documents – NUP

**Strategic goal**

strengthening the capacity of cities and urban areas to create sustainable growth and jobs and improvement of quality of life of inhabitants

**City which is**

- competitive
- strong
- coherent
- compact & sustainable
- efficient

**Sets**

- directions
- best practices
- recommendations
- actions
- regulations
- “online urban toolkits”
Urban Areas in Polish Strategic Documents – NUP

Action Plan for Urban Policy

- Promoting innovation and supporting cities in building their economic potential
- Developing and strengthening multi-level cooperation in FUA
- Set of actions aimed at counteracting uncontrolled suburbanization
- Enhancing efforts towards a comprehensive and effective urban regeneration (social, economic, infrastructure and environmental components)
- Improvement of Cohesion Policy instruments – increasing the role of cities and their involvement
- Strengthening the capacity of cities through their networking and dissemination of good practices – the use of URBACT
STRATEGY FOR RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

(in progress)

5 pillars of the economic development of Poland

Strong Polish economy

1. Reindustrialization
   - Partnership for the strategic branches of the economy
   - National Intelligent Specializations
   - Clusters and industrial valleys
   - Foreign investments

2. Development of innovative companies
   - New „Business Constitution”
   - Friendly legal environment
   - Review of research institutes
   - Start In Poland

3. Capital for development
   - Growing savings
   - European funds
   - Polish Development Fund
   - Juncker’s plan, EBOR, EBI, AIIB

4. Foreign expansion
   - Export Support Division at PDF
   - Financial offer
   - Strong Polish brand
   - Review of business diplomacy

5. Social and regional development
   - Comprehensive demographic programme
   - Pact for rural areas
   - Effective regional policy
   - Education

Efficient state
- e-Administration
- Intelligent public procurement
- End of „departmental Poland”
- Energy – security, availability, price
Specific Objective II – social and territorially sensitive development

Horizontal support for urban areas:

• strengthening economic potential, preventing: unemployment, depopulation, aging, social exclusion

• support for degraded areas (urban regeneration)

• improving management and strengthening cooperation between local governments in FUA

• strengthening public participation

• increasing energy efficiency, environmental protection, adaptation to climate change, urban mobility and efficient public transport

• inclusion of smaller cities in the development processes and releasing their resources that were not used so far

• eliminating differences in the access to public services and labour market,
Specific Objective II – social and territorially sensitive development

Territorially concentrated support:

- Urban agglomerations
- Medium-sized cities, losing their socio-economic functions
- Areas at risk of permanent marginalization
Urban Areas in Polish Strategic Documents – SRD

URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS

- exchanging and promotion of knowledge between cities
- urban regeneration – support for model and complex projects
- instruments and actions for urban agglomerations
- increasing efficiency and the development of the ITI concept
- works on the amendments of the Metropolitan Act
Integrated Territorial Investment (art. 7 ERDF)

- 17 ITIs dedicated to 17 FUAs of regional capital cities
- Additional 7 ITIs, dedicated to 7 FUAs of other big cities in 4 regions (individual decision of MAs for ROPs)
- Merging of ERDF and ESF resources within various priority axes in ROPs (in total ca. 3,8 bln EUR + 2,4 bln EUR from complementary projects financed from NOPs)

Objectives

- Fostering cooperation and integration in functional urban areas (particularly regional capitals)
- Implementation of integrated projects responding comprehensively to the needs and problems of cities and their functional areas
- Increasing the influence of cities and their functional areas on the shape and implementation of actions financed from Cohesion Policy on these areas.
Urban Areas in Polish Strategic Documents – SRD

MEDIUM SIZED CITIES LOOSING THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC FUNCTIONS

- optimizing the delivery of public services and tackling issue of shrinking cities
- Cities Partnership Initiative
- economic activisation
- fight with poverty
- building social capital – participation, cooperation, multi-level governance
HOW TO IMPLEMENT PACT OF AMSTERDAM AND URBAN AGENDA FOR THE EU?

- **Active participation** of Poland and Polish cities in the **partnerships** of the Urban Agenda of the EU – increasing number of cities, taking part and possibly charing one of the coming Partnership

- Cooperation, **implementation** and **monitoring** of actions implemented through the **Urban Agenda for the EU**

- **Urban Agenda for the EU** – important part of V4 countries **cooperation** during Polish Presidency in V4
Thank you for your attention!