



KEY MESSAGES of the Polish Presidency Conference

Conference “Integrated approach to development – a key to smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe” held in Poznan (Poland) on 24 November, 2011 as a part of the Informal Ministerial Meeting

The main goal of the event was to enhance strategic thinking and an integrated approach in the decision-making process on development to ensure a better future for Europe. During the meeting, the representatives of the European institutions, academia and business presented their visions and ideas on the future of Europe, the driving forces of European development in the coming decade, and the role of the EU and the Europe 2020 strategy in facing global challenges. Efficient use of European potential is a key factor in the face of forthcoming economic and social challenges. Politicians and experts from different fields and countries discussed in Poznań how we can reach those goals.

Messages from the opening session:

- Cities welcome the proposals of the European Commission concerning sustainable urban development. Tackling the socio-economic problems and challenges which are ahead of us cannot be solved without strong and efficient urban policy (Ryszard GROBELNY, Mayor of the City of Poznań).
- The world is constantly changing. However, one factor remains unchanged – the need for long-term, strategic thinking about the future of Europe, its development and growth. That is why we need integrated, well-designed, efficient and effective public policies. The Polish Presidency has put much effort into promoting this approach, especially in relation to EU Cohesion Policy (Elżbieta BIEŃKOWSKA, Minister of Regional Development).

Messages from the political session: Strategic choices for Europe

- Our culture of responsibility and solidarity regarding the future of our continent needs further strengthening. It is important for all Europeans to focus on common goals, to design policies so that they support the right priorities and the right projects. On the one hand, the principles of Cohesion Policy should be kept, but on the other hand, this policy needs to be more connected to the Europe 2020 strategy and the new EU system of economic governance (José Manuel Durão BARROSO, President of the European Commission - video transmission).
- Public finance strategies have to take into account those expenditures and those policies which will determine growth and development over the long-term. One of them is Cohesion Policy – the EU development and investment policy. This Conference, and especially the first session, has shown that Cohesion Policy does not function in a vacuum – it takes into account the broader, socio-economic environment (Danuta HÜBNER, Chair of the Regional Development Committee of the European Parliament).
- Regional and local policies do not consist of making promises before elections. They are constant reactions to changing socio-economic conditions. They are the true way to realise “participative democracy”. (Mercedes BRESSO, President of the Committee of the Regions).

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- Society must be engaged from the very beginning of the policy process, starting from its design and not only its implementation (Staffan NILSSON, President of the European Economic and Social Committee).
- Rural development is a part of regional policy, which is why all efforts must be made to integrate and coordinate Cohesion Policy funds and the Rural Development fund in the next programming period (Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA, Minister of Regional Development in response to some comments from the audience on this issue)

Messages from the session: How to do it? – Towards integrated Policies.

This session focused on the presentation and exchange of views on the latest trends in development. The experts explored the best strategies and the ways to implement them to achieve a smart, sustainable and inclusive Europe. It was agreed that Europe needs to find new foundations of development to overcome the crisis. To achieve this, it is essential to consider the following.

- Great crises create opportunities to remake the economy and society and to generate a new era of economic growth and prosperity. The European Union, and all Member States, should concentrate on new kinds of production – high technology, concentrated clustering, network forms of production. The important issue is to attract new, highly mobile factors of economic growth - technology and human capital, by creating appropriate environments in our neighbourhood. Technology, Talent and Tolerance are key aspects of this approach (Richard FLORIDA, Director, Martin Prosperity Institute, University of Toronto).
- Europe needs a new development paradigm so as to return to the path of growth instead of collapse and drift. The social aspirations of the younger generations, the impact of implementing the digital agenda, and the process of metropolitanisation are the keys to reinforcing economic growth in the European Union (Michał BONI, Minister of Administration and Digitization).
- Connecting cities, creating clusters of neighbourhoods and building efficient transport systems speed up the velocity with which the creative sector reallocates resources. Clustering and building networks of cooperation bring productivity gains and contribute to overall well-being (Richard FLORIDA, Martin Prosperity Institute, University of Toronto).
- Europe should have a joint approach to finding ways to overcome the results of the present economic crisis. It is important to focus on financing of the economy and investments, particularly through the use of new financial instruments. Without a long-term vision of European infrastructure, the regions will be unable to fully exploit their development potential. Cohesion Policy cannot function without taking into consideration the broader EU policy perspective (Vasco CAL, Economic Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers).
- Ownership at regional and local levels should be forward looking and implemented in practice. It will change the way citizens participate. One crucial element of this process is building trust between different levels of the governance system and social capital for development, which is based on tolerance and openness (Herbert WIRTH, President of the Management Board, KGHM Polska Miedź)
- The authorities should play the role of catalyst by creating appropriate conditions and environments for firms to develop and produce new added value. Governments are responsible for establishing a proper environment for economic and social entities to use their knowledge and experience in achieving their goals (Jan STURESSON, Leader, Global Government and Public Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers).

Message from the session: How to deliver?

The main goal of this session was to present how the integrated approach can be used by European and national authorities to achieve development goals. The debate concentrated on the practical aspects of policy implementation in order to achieve synergy and optimal development effects. It showed that:

- The new architecture of cohesion policy is built in accordance with the integrated approach model. The regulations proposed by the Commission present new instruments of territorial development such as: Integrated Territorial Investments, Community-led Development and Urban Development Platform. It is important to involve all levels of development management and to combine all the funds because only then will Europe gain a new stimulus for growth in the future.
- In planning European policies, it is important to take account of the different institutional arrangements in the Member States. The diversity of European society needs different solutions. Therefore, it is crucial to analyse the specificities of particular regions before implementing concrete instruments
- The new regulatory package for Cohesion Policy is positively regarded by Member States, but there are still important issues that need to be resolved, for example relating to: macroeconomic conditionality; different



territorial instruments; ownership-sharing between the relevant levels of government; capacity-building at the local level; and the mechanism of thematic concentration.

- The bottom-up approach constitutes a solid foundation for implementing an integrated approach. Local authorities are better aware of their problems and needs. Therefore, they are able to avoid mismatches of interventions and contradictions in the process of development programming.