



Experience of using ESF funds in EU member states

**Maciej
Brodowicz**
mbrodowicz@b4.org.pl



1. Who are we?



B-4 Profile

Association B-4 is a not profit-making organization, established in 1996. We are an independent NGO cooperating with many institutions and organizations both in the country and abroad.

We are a team consisting of economists, engineers, lawyers, sociologists, psychologists, vocational counselors, and specialists in the field of entrepreneurship and human resources management.

We have our headquarters in Rzeszów (the south-eastern part of Poland, around 180 km far from Cracow) and 8 offices in different parts of Poland.

We, at B-4, operate mainly through the implementation of projects: our own ones, co financed from the EU, local, regional, national and international fund; we have implemented around 80 projects so far both in Poland and in Republic of Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine and starting with a new project in Georgia.

Our mission statement

We mainly focus on the activities related to the local development and the improvement of life quality of Polish population.

Our aim is to strengthen the capacity of human resources. We focus on people as we know that it is thanks to them that the development of the local community, whole country and European community is possible.

We adhere to our mission statement through:

Support for economic development, inc. development of businesses and cluster initiatives

Activities for people with disabilities, for people being at risk of social exclusion

·Activities, vocational training courses overcoming the unemployment issue

Activities focused on the development of the rural areas, agro-tourism, organic farming

·Educational activities, trainings, courses, etc.

Aid for developing countries, candidates for the EU and new EU members (we have implemented or are implementing projects in Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine).

Experience of using ESF funds in EU member states

Figures and facts

- We have implemented roughly 80 various projects of the total value of more than 60 million PLN (around 14.5 million Euro), 32 of which got co-financed through the European Structural Funds
- Around 5000 persons and 168 enterprises and institutions benefited from a variety of trainings, courses, advisory services and other forms of support
- We have covered more than 20 000 hours of training and around 2000 hours of advisory services
- We have provided 178 individuals with grants to co-finance their business start-ups
- We are a coordinator of the Subcarpathian Aviation Cluster that brings together more than 20 members, including SME's, science and research units and associations. We cooperate with other clusters, including aviation clusters from Hungary and New Zealand



2. The Operational Programme HUMAN CAPITAL (OP HC) 2007- 2013 in Poland

Objectives and Priorities of the Programme

The main objective of the programme is to enable the full potential of human resources through:

- Increased level of employment
- Improving the adaptability of workers and enterprises and the flexibility of the labour market
- Improving the level of education in the society
- reducing areas of social exclusion

Objectives and Priorities of the Programme

The Programme comprises 10 Priorities, which are implemented in a parallel way at the central and regional level.

Within the central component, the funds will be allocated to enhance the effectiveness of structures and institutional systems, while the funds within the regional component will be designated mainly for support of persons and social groups.

The Priorities of the Programme

HUMAN CAPITAL

- i. Employment and social integration
- ii. Development of Human Resources and adaptation potential of enterprises and improving the health conditions of working persons
- iii. High quality of the educational system
- iv. Tertiary education and science
- v. Good governance
- vi. The labour market open for all
- vii. Promotion of social integration
- viii. Regional human resources for the economy
- ix. Development of education and competences in the regions
- x. Technical assistance

Resource allocation and use of funds within the OP HC

The total financial allocation amounts to:

11 773 409 338 EUR

The contribution of ESF is 85%

The national contribution is 15 %

Allocation of funds within the Programme:

Central level: around 40 %

Regional level: around 60 %

The algorithm of distribution of the ESF among the Polish regions (voivodships):

- population in the given voivodship
- The total amount of small and medium enterprises in the voivodship
- The number of the registered unemployed in the voivodship
- The number of population living from agriculture
- The regional level of GDP per capita

3% of the OP HC Funds have been assigned additionally to the eastern Poland voivodships, **including our voivodship, Podkarpacie**

Entities responsible for project implementation

OP HC predicts two main procedures for project implementation: systemic and competition procedure. Systemic projects are implemented by the beneficiaries appointed by name in the Programme. Competition projects can be carried out by all entities, including:

- labour market institutions,
- training institutions,
- government and self-government administration,
- entrepreneurs,
- business environment institutions,
- non-government organisations,
- educational and higher education institutions,
- other entities.

Institutions Implementing Programme

Managing Authority (MA), supervised by Monitoring Committee of OP HC, is responsible for proper management and implementation of the Operational Programme Human Capital.

In accordance with internal regulations prepared by minister responsible for regional development a specific unit of the Ministry of Regional Development plays a role of Managing Authority. Currently this function is played by Department for European Social Fund Management.

Institutions Implementing Programme

Management and supervision of implementation of individual priorities is entrusted to **Intermediate Bodies (IB)**. In the central component, where systemic support is realized, functions of Intermediate Bodies is entrusted to competent ministers.

Support for individuals, in regional component; responsibilities of the Intermediate Bodies have been transferred to voivodship self-governments.

Each Intermediate Body, considering the specifics of the Priority, may, upon an agreement with the Managing Authority, delegate a part of the duties to **2nd Level Intermediate Bodies (IB2)**.

Institutions Implementing Programme

Managing Authority (MA)

The basic specific responsibilities of the Managing Authority of the OP HC include for example:

- preparation of description of a managing and control system;
- preparation of procedures for the Managing Authority and approving procedures for the Intermediate Bodies;
- preparation of guidelines concerning eligibility of expenditures;
- establishment of a Monitoring Committee, controlling its work;
- preparation of periodical, annual and final reports;
- Monitoring and evaluation realization progress of OP HC and realization degree of indicators.

Institutions Implementing Programme

Intermediate Bodies (IB)

Chief duties of the Intermediate Bodies under the OP HC include:

- preparation of criteria for selection of projects within the Priority framework;
- preparation of description of the IB management and control system;
- selection of projects proposed for realization within OP HC;
- making decisions on financing a project selected and entering into agreements with beneficiaries;
- checking if co-financed products and services.

Institutions Implementing Programme


2nd Level Intermediate Body

Tasks entrusted to 2nd Level Intermediate Bodies may be connected with:

- receiving applications from beneficiaries;
- selecting projects for subsidizing and entering into contracts with beneficiaries;
- submitting expenditure declarations to the Intermediate Bodies;
- monitoring individual projects;
- verification of utilization of funds, including on-site controls;
- preparation of periodic, annual and final reports on the activities.



3. The use of funds and the major problems in the implementation



The use of funds, the total number of submitted projects (as of 31.03.2012)

The major problems in the implementation of OP HC

(based on the report „Assessment of the management and implementation systems of the OP HC 2007-2013, the Ministry of Regional Development, Warsaw 2010)

Problems:

- Low activity of Intermediate Bodies and Intermediate Bodies of the second degree, and of potential project initiators in the area of innovative and transnational projects,
- Activity of potential project initiators in some areas of OP HC and in some regions may be lower than expected
- A relatively high time consuming process of verifications of applications for payment

Problems:

- unrealized values of OP HC indicators set in Action Plans of intermediate bodies
- procedures of the invitation for tenders get which can cause delays in the implementation of planned activities
- a relatively high frequency of changes in procedures for the programme implementation which can lower the efficiency of the programme implementation by Intermediate Bodies and by project initiators

Thank you for your attention



www.b4.org.pl
mbrodowicz@b4.org.pl