

THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 3 LOW-EMISSION ECONOMY OF THE ROP DV 2014-2020 ON REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS AND DUST EMISSIONS

INFORMATION BROCHURE



OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The main objective of conducted study was to assess the impact individual types of investments had on the level of greenhouse gas and dust emissions , the share of energy generated from renewable sources and energy efficiency, and the assessment of this impact in Dolnośląskie Voivodeship

Specific objective 1

Assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency, estimated impact and durability of interventions in the field of investments implemented in the area of low-emission economy in the context of the implementation of the objectives of the ROP DV 2014-2020 and needs of Beneficiaries

Specific objective 2

Developing recommendations, the implementation of which will contribute to the achievement of objectives concerning supporting the low-emission economy in the next EU financial perspective

USED RESEARCH METHODS

Desk research analysis

CAWI/CATI (mix mode) Interviews with Beneficiaries

CAWI/CATI (mix mode) Interviews with unsuccessful Applicants

Case study for projects implemented as part of the PA 3

Individual interviews with representatives of institutions/ authorities involved in the implementation of the Programme

Expert panel with representatives of institutions/ authorities involved in the implementation of the Programme

Delphi panel with experts from the area of low-emission economy in Dolnośląskie Voivodeship

Online focus group interviews (online FGI) with Beneficiaries

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE STUDY

Adopted change model of the PA 3 of the ROP DV 2014-2020 reflected assumptions adopted throughout the EU. It was **planned in a logical and accurate manner, constituting a direct response to problems and challenges identified in the region, contributing to the socio-economic development of Dolnośląskie Voivodeship.**

Implemented support **was tailored to needs of recipients**, which is confirmed by results of conducted quantitative research with Beneficiaries and Applicants of PA 3 of the Programme.

61,5%

Percentage of Beneficiaries declaring that the Programme funds **fully met their needs**

32,8%

Percentage of Beneficiaries declaring that the Programme funds **partially met their needs**

79,3%

Percentage of Applicants declaring that the Programme funds **fully met their needs**

19,6%

Percentage of Applicants declaring that the Programme funds **partially met their needs**

In the third quarter of 2023, indicators for monitoring progress in the implementation of PA 3 were characterized by a **high level of achievement of the target value** (from 80.0% to 89.5% of achieved indicators). Measure 3.5 was an exception, as target values were achieved in the case of 22.7% indicators. Due to the fact that a significant number of projects had not yet been completed as of December 2023, it is expected that values of indicators will increase significantly, enabling the achievement of target values, including monitoring indicators of Measure 3.5.

The majority of surveyed Beneficiaries confirmed **the durability of effects achieved as a result of project implementation.**

92,2%

Percentage of Beneficiaries declaring that the **achieved effects will exceed the required durability period**

A considerable durability of achieved effects of support was confirmed by participants of group interviews, who implemented projects, and representatives of institutions/authorities involved in the implementation of the Programme, participating in IDI interviews.

Measures implemented under PA 3 are considered to be effective. The considerable majority of surveyed Beneficiaries indicated that achieving similar or identical benefits using lower financial outlays would not be possible (84.3% and 77.2% of responses, respectively). 52.7% of beneficiaries also indicated that effects achieved as a result of project implementation exceed incurred costs. For comparison, merely 2.8% of respondents expressed a negative opinion in this regard.

Representatives of institutions engaged in the implementation of the Programme, who participated in interviews confirmed that the effectiveness of implemented activities should be assessed positively. Implemented investments were infrastructural, therefore, not allowing for a more flexible use of funds. Moreover, the possibility of receiving support under the Programme and a sudden considerable interest in low-emission solutions caused entrepreneurs offering materials, devices and services related to them to raise their prices. The deteriorating economic situation and high inflation also proved it difficult for Beneficiaries to implement planned activities in accordance with adopted budget, not making it possible to reduce costs.

Further needs of the region in the area of a low-emission economy

Effects that have been achieved so far in the area of low-emission economy, even though contributing to the achievement of set objectives in this area, did not answer all needs identified in Dolnośląskie Voivodeship. All surveyed Beneficiaries and almost all surveyed Applicants declared that **support in the field of low-emission economy implemented under the Programme should be continued in the 2021-2027 perspective.**

100,0%

Percentage of Beneficiaries declaring that **support should be continued in the following years**

97,9%

Percentage of Applicants declaring that **support should be continued in the following years**

Conclusion 1

Beneficiaries participating in the FGI confirmed that the financial support received under the Programme enabled them to implement planned activities in the area of low-emission economy. However, participants of the study stated that the need for interventions in this area was not exhausted. Therefore, according to all surveyed PA 3 Beneficiaries, support implemented under the Axis should be continued in the 2021-2027 perspective.

Representatives of DIP participating in the study added that, due to a considerable scale of needs of the voivodeship concerning the low-emission economy, the market absorbs all possible support in this area. Interventions implemented in 2014-2020, therefore, did not exhaust the demand identified in the region, thus continuation of current activities seems necessary.

Conclusion 2

According to respondents of IDI study, in the next financial perspective funds should also be allocated for thermomodernization of historic buildings, bound by different legal applications. The need in this regard was further confirmed by Beneficiaries participating in the quantitative and qualitative research.

Attention should be drawn to the fact that this issue was taken into consideration at the stage of planning of FEDS (European Funds for Dolnośląskie Voivodeship). In the Detailed Description of Priority Axes, in Measure FEDS.02.01 Energy efficiency in public buildings, it was indicated that a minimum threshold for primary energy savings should be adopted at a level not lower than 30% for buildings in total, whereas historic buildings must demonstrate savings in this respect, but without the obligation to achieve the indicated limit.

Recommendation 1

It is recommended to continue activities in the field of low-emission economy under the FEDS 2021-2027 program, to the extent adopted in it.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended to continue the adaptation of support to identified difficulties on an ongoing basis, to the extent possible under FEDS 2021-2027.

Conclusion 3

The Programme ensures an access to support for the implementation of different types of activities in the field of low-emission economy for a considerable range of recipients. Such approach facilitated the implementation of numerous investments and improved the situation in this area on several levels. On the other hand, however, the fragmentation of support caused its effects to be dispersed throughout the voivodeship, often supporting private entities that could finance similar activities from their own funds or using other sources, including commercial loans. According to the study results, in order to better target the support, it would be necessary to implement comprehensive solutions to improve the well-being of the region as a whole, rather than individual entities.

The above conclusion seems to be confirmed by the relatively low complementarity of activities implemented under PA 3. Applicants did not have to adapt to requirements in this respect, therefore, complementarity - if it existed - appeared spontaneously rather than as a consequence of planned activities.

Conclusion 4

Assessing the process of applying to the Programme, disadvantages in this respect were identified by Beneficiaries and Applicants participating in the study, including:

- time-consuming nature of this process;
- its excessive complexity, often requiring the use of the services of an external company;
- excess bureaucracy related to applying to the Programme;
- length of the application evaluation process;
- the use of complex, specialized language in application documents.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended to concentrate support primarily on public entities that have limited budget resources and at the same time are of the most considerable significance for society.

It is recommended to adopt in FEDS 2021-2027 a criterion in accordance with the adopted assumptions, that would reward the implementation of comprehensive activities coherent with identified demand, including, in particular, needs of areas most requiring support regarding the low-emission economy.

Recommendation 4

It is recommended, if possible, to simplify the documentation related to applying for support under FEDS 2021-2027 (primarily in relation to support in the form of grants), by explaining terms used in Programme and/or providing examples of described principles in an accessible manner.