

Examples of anti-crisis measures supported by the ESF in Poland.

How to revitalise the economy by investing in training.

Faced with the progressing economic downturn, it is necessary to intensify actions on all levels in the area of labour market. It is particularly advisable to make use of the structural funds with a special emphasis on the role of the European Social Fund that allows to prevent further reductions in employment and consequently, help the most vulnerable to long-term unemployment return promptly to the labour market. As both the state and regional economy are declining, the economic slowdown affects most severely the areas of entrepreneurship and employment. Enterprises that experience economic problems are more concerned about maintaining their position on the market rather than investing in workforce trainings. The present situation urges to take actions that will increase demand for human resources on the labour market. In the context of the adverse economic trend, facilitating the access to additional finance for the development of human resources encourages enterprises to invest in training schemes notwithstanding the economic downturn. Such actions can be beneficial in a long-term perspective because subsidies ensure well-qualified personnel in a company not only in the economic stagnation, but also in the time of economic growth (“training instead of redundancies”). Therefore, Poland took all necessary measures to increase the number of projects implemented under the Human Capital Operational Programme through broadening support, introducing new instruments and improving procedures to speed up application process. As a result, the level of contractation was raised, particularly in the areas where an additional financial support is required to remain on the labour market or return to the professional activity.