

# Poland Case Study

## Analysis of National Strategies for Sustainable Development

This document is one of 19 country case studies that form the knowledge base for a synthesis report entitled “National Strategies for Sustainable Development: Challenges, Approaches, and Innovations Based on a 19-country Analysis.” The synthesis report and country case studies are available electronically at:

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### Notice to Reader

Information in the country case studies was obtained primarily from publicly available sources (e.g., Internet and literature sources) and, where possible, was supplemented through interviews with government officials. The information was up-to-date as of May 2004. Every effort was made to ensure that official national sustainable development focal point contacts had the opportunity to provide feedback on the research, but such contacts were not successful in all cases. **This case study is in an unedited, working paper format.**

These case studies are made publicly available to add to the national sustainable development strategy knowledge base. The project’s research partners accept responsibility for any inaccuracies or omissions. The views expressed in this working paper do not necessarily represent the views of the funding partners.

The research partners welcome your comments on this country case study. Please e-mail comments to Darren Swanson at [dswanson@iisd.ca](mailto:dswanson@iisd.ca).

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## 1 Introduction

Poland is located in middle-east Europe. Border countries are: Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania, Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast), Slovakia and Ukraine. The state of the neighbourhood is peaceful. The population is about 38,6 million (CIA 2003). During the past century, the country experienced processes of deep political, social and economic transformation. Therefore, Poland can be still characterised as a *country in transition*, like other CEE-countries from the former Eastern Block.

### *Economy*

After World War II, the country initiated, under the auspices of the Soviet Union, an economic transformation from an agrarian country to a planning-based economy with a strong importance of basic industries. Following the break-down of the Eastern Block, the country witnessed a rapid economic transformation to a market-based economy, with strong growth rates (+ 44,6 % change between 1990 and 2001). GDP is 176,5 billion USD (2001, absolutely). Taking into account the purchase power parity, Poland reaches 9,100-9.900 USD/capita (OECD 2003, p.135; NFEP 2002, p.61), which is about 40% of the average in OECD-Countries. The transition to a well-developed industrialised country is expected to be fostered by the accession to the EU. The Service sector accounts for 65,3% of GDP (2001 est.; 1990: 43,7), Industry for 31,2 % (1990: 48,3) and Agriculture for 3,4 % (1990: 8,0). Despite the successful growth, unemployment and poverty remain serious problems. Unemployment rate is 18,1% (2002 est.). The labour force accounts for 17,6 million (2000 est.). The country's main industries today are machine building, iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages and textiles (CIA 2003).

### *Society*

Since 1997, the *Republic of Poland* is an unitarian, democratic and rule-of-law state. The legislative strand consists of two chambers, the Lower Chamber (Sejm) and the Upper Chamber (Senat). Their Deputies are elected in common, direct elections for a period of four years. The President is the supreme representative of the country, elected for five years, also in universal and direct elections. The Prime Minister is appointed by the Sejm and heads the Council of Ministers (Cabinet). In 1999, political and administrative reforms took place, that lead to a stronger decentralisation of political responsibilities across the layers of political decision-making. Poland consists of 16 regions (voivodships) and 371 counties (poviats). The 2458 municipalities (gminas) represent the lowest level of the locally elected government. The juridical power consists of Civilian courts, the Supreme Administrative Court, Constitutional Tribunal and the State Tribunal. Poland has also signed and ratified several bilateral, European and international treaties.

Polish is the only official language. The Human Development Index is 0,841 and life expectancy in the same year 2001 accounts for 73,6 years. Concerning the crime rate, the percentage of people victimised by crime - as % of total population - is near 23% (UNDP 2003).

### *Environment*

Poland comprises a total area of 312700 km<sup>2</sup>. 30% is covered by forests. More than 60 % is in agricultural use. The climate is temperate with cold, cloudy and moderately severe winters and frequent precipitation; mild summers with frequent showers and thundershowers. Natural disasters like floodings have proven to be of serious concern. It is estimated, that 7 % of the Polish territory can be affected by natural disasters. In 2001, social assistance due to flooding damage had to be granted to 18607 families; the damage is estimated to account for 3 billion PLN (OECD 2003, p.68; NFEP 2002, p.36).

The country is quite rich in natural resources like coal, sulfur, copper, natural gas, silver or lead. The massive industrialisation – especially with regard to coal extraction, steel and iron, petrochemical plants or energy generation - came at the expense of the environment, leading to high rates of air, water and soil pollution. GHG emissions of Poland in 1997 amounted to 361 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (3 % of total OECD emissions, Pesko & Lenain 2001, p.5), but have fallen to 296 million till 2001. Poland ranks 46,7 in the Environmental Sustainability Index.

Due to its less intensive agriculture and forest management, the country has maintained, however, its rich biodiversity and valuable landscapes. Within the last years, Poland has undertaken efforts to strengthen environmental protection. The system of protected areas, for example national parks, meanwhile covers over 30% of the country. 9,7% belong to the IUCN-categories I-VI. Forests host 75-80% of the country's biodiversity. Nevertheless 14,6 % of mammals, 14,7 % of birds and 9,6 % of fish (% of species known) are threatened. The accession to the EU is going to tighten Environmental Policy, as Poland has to adjust its legal framework to the provisions of EU Environmental Law. On the other side, new pressures arise from more intensive forms of land use like road construction, traffic, or agriculture after integration into the common market.

**Table 1: Profile by Selected Indicators**

Indicator	Value
Human Development Index (and ranking) - 2001	0,841 (17 <sup>th</sup> )
Human Poverty Index	-
Environmental Sustainability Index (and ranking)- 2002	46,7 (87 <sup>th</sup> )
GHG Emissions - 2001	296 million tons CO <sub>2</sub>
GDP and GDP per capita - 2001	352 billion USD and 9450 USD

**Sources:** OECD; UNDP; Columbia-University; CIA (see chapter 4: supporting information)

The study is based on governmental sources, but includes additional secondary literature information. Official documents could not be verified, so the study might overestimate some of the information provided there.

## 2 Content of the national Sustainable Development strategy<sup>1</sup>

The “Sustainable Development Strategy for Poland up to 2025” (Polska 2025) is the main framework, elaborated by the Polish Government. It is a *multidimensional strategy* and the focal point for other plans, programmes and strategies. Due to its long-term perspective, sustainable development is perceived of as a *process* that allows for a gradual balancing of growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. The overall strategy aims at not disturbing the country’s efforts to catch-up with the industrialised countries. Insofar, Polska 2025 has an open character - like a compass for the state and society - and is not narrowly concentrated upon some quantified objectives.

### *Strategy Content*

Polska 2025 has a relevant time-frame until the year 2025 and tries to include this demand by visions of the future society, economy and environment (GCSS/MoE 2000, Chapter 2). The Strategy contains 3 parts:

1. Visions for sustainable development, goals and political backgrounds
2. Policy fields and measurements in relation to society, economy and (national) state, including environment
3. Implementation and monitoring.

The study’s *main topics* are:

- dynamics of the economic growth
- life standards
- level of employment as well as
- quality of the environment and rational use of resources.

An important focal point and a distinguishing feature of the Polish approach is the role of the *family*, which is considered as the basis for a good functioning society. The strategy denotes the importance of „to assure the growth of wealth of Polish families, to strengthen their material independence and their feeling of security“ (Council of Ministers 2000). The Polska 2025 defines wealth as covering the material needs, but also to enabling people to achieve a better life in a healthy environment.

The aspect of security is conceptualised very widely: Pension securities for older people, health and life protection, compliance with law, external security (assuring the sovereignty of the country) and ecological security, which includes the rational use of resources. Other chapters of the Polska 2025-strategy deal with the education system, science and research, or the structure of economy: development of the national innovation system or the modernisation of agriculture and traditional industries as well as developments in energy-, transport- and communication infrastructure. The protection of the environment is part of the “State”-Chapter, like spatial structure and regional development. Finally the strategy takes international agreements into account, including concepts defined in the V and VI EU-Programme with regards to environmental

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<sup>1</sup> The following description is not according to the Chapters of the Agenda 21, to which Poland also made a contribution in front of the Johannesburg Summit 2002.

protection and sustainable development of the European Union, the Agenda 21 and the Transformation Programme towards sustainable development of the OECD.

*Coordination and Linkages with Other Strategies or Planning Processes*

Polska 2025 is an overarching strategy, that aims at creating the structural frame and direction of development for other national and regional strategies or plans such as:

- Second National Environmental Policy (from 2000)
- Strategy of Public Finances and the Economic Development in Poland 2000 -2010
- National Strategy of Regional Development 2000-2006
- Concept of the Spatial Management of the Country
- National Strategy of Employment Growth and Development of Human Resources
- A National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity – Together with an Action Programme (from 2003)
- National Strategy of Environment Protection 2000-2006
- National Strategy of Transport Development 2000-2006
- National Plan of Development 2004-2006
- Polish Energy Policy up to the Year 2020
- Polish Climate Policy up to the Year 2020 (from 2003)
- WSSD Implementation Plan (from 2003)
- Strategy of Sustainable Development of Production and Consumption.

All the strategies shall agree with Polska 2025. Therefore, sector policy plans are best understood as a detailed version and clarification of the aims, rules and measures set up in the strategy (GCSS/MoE 2000). The detail of interlinkages could not be assessed and clarified in detail. Concerning the transport sector for example, cross-linkages are intended, when the legal frameworks integrate economic goals, land-use planning imperatives and ecological aspects as a statutory requirement (OECD 2003, pp.117, 154).

*Quantifiable objectives* can be mostly found in related policy programmes. The strategy lists only some objectives like raising the share of private investments in the field of R&D to 70% of total expenses in this sector or of raising university enrollment rates to 50% of school leavers until 2025. The strategy itself intends the economy to grow in average with 4-5% per year. It aims at increasing the effectiveness of the natural resources exploitation by 4 times, in a long time period. The process of formulating policy goals is still going on. In addition, Box 1 lists quantified objectives of the Polish SDS approach, that are taken from the Second National Environmental Policy, which is considered as one of the most important documents meeting sustainability issues in Poland. Remarkable is also the objective of *growth in biodiversity* (Council of Ministers 2001, p.51).

**Box 1: Examples for Quantified Objectives (Medium-Term Perspective by 2010)**

Water consumption - Water intensity of production: 50% reduction compared to 1990 (calculated per GDP and sales value)

Material consumption - Material intensity and waste-generation: 50 % reduction compared to 1990 (calculated per GDP, production unit or production value). Also: ensuring average OECD levels.

Energy consumption – 25% reduction compared to the year 2000 level; furthermore 50% reduction till the year 2025 (calculated per GDP).

Renewable energy use – At least two-fold growth in the utilisation of energy from renewable sources compared to 2000.

Waste generation – Two-fold increase in the volume of industrial waste recovered and reused in production processes compared to 1990.

Emissions – Load of pollutants discharged to surface waters from industry: 50 % reduction; from municipal sector: 30 % (from the area of towns and human settlements), from surface run-off: 30 % compared to 1990.

Emissions - Reduction of particulate emission by 75 % on average; sulphur dioxides emissions by 56%, nitric oxides emissions by 31 %, VOC emissions (excluding methane) by 4 % and ammonia emissions by 8%, compared to 1990.

GHG - achievement, in the years 2008-2012, of the GHGs emission not exceeding 94 % of 1998 levels.

*Source: Council of Ministers 2001 (own compilation)*

### *Integration of Sustainable Development Principles*

The Polska-strategy follows a broad understanding of Sustainability. Some cross-linkages are mentioned, for example in the advice of using eco-efficiency criteria and indicators like energy use/GDP or related to a certain product resp. outcome. Article 74 of the Constitution ensures, that the ecological security (in a broad, social aspects including sense) of *current and future generations* has to be taken into account.

## **3 Institutional and Procedural Aspects of the National Sustainable Development Strategy**

### **3.1 Development and Institutional Aspects**

The “Sustainable Development Strategy for Poland up to 2025“ was adopted on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2000 by the Council of Ministers. It has not been institutionalised by law, but the *legal basis* is provided by the Constitution from 1997. Article 5 lays down that “The Republic of Poland provides for the protection of the environment, while pursuing the principle of sustainable development” (GCSS/MoE 2000).

Polska 21 emerged from existing strategy processes in the field of *Environmental Protection*. The basic concepts of Polish Ecological Policy have been discussed during the “Round Table” in 1989.<sup>2</sup> This policy has been adopted by the government in 1990 and came, after approval by the Polish Parliament, into force on May 1991. In the same year, Poland signed also the international *Agenda 21* (one year before the summit in Rio de Janeiro).

Article 74 of the Constitution stipulates, that sustainable development shall be the duty of public authorities. The *Council of Ministers* is the highest executive body of public administration. Concerning the development of Polska 2025, also other main actors have to be mentioned: The strategy was prepared on the basis of the Parliamentary Resolution of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1999 by the Rzadowe Centrum Studiow Strategicznych (Governmental Centre for Strategic Studies) in co-operation with the Ministry of Environment. The Centre was founded in 1997 as an administrative unit, belonging to the Ministry for Regional Development. Its tasks were analysis of socio-economic trends, futurology and elaboration of programmes and strategies. On 3<sup>rd</sup> of August

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<sup>2</sup> The round table (Okragly Stol”) is in Poland a symbol for the (first) meeting of the ruling Central Party with representatives of the opposition.

2000, the Council of Ministers handed the strategy over to the *Sejm*, as a chamber of the Polish Parliament (all new laws must be voted in Poland by the Sejm).

The Council's activities in *coordination* of inter-governmental negotiations were supported by a policy forum (for details see UN 2002, p.18). To be mentioned is the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), established in 1994. Its function was to provide a forum for discussion and for ensuring *congruence* between plans, documents, new regulations, and the national environmental policy (Andersson 2002, p.359). The Commission consisted of high-level representatives of all ministries and central offices, chaired by the Minister of Environment. In the context of administration reform in 1998, the Commission was replaced by the Commission for Regional Policy and Sustainable Development (CRPSD), then headed by the Minister of the Economy. The CRPSD was in charge for co-ordinate government actions on development issues with regional and environmental issues. This important committee, which oversaw Polska 2025, was abolished in 2001, as part of an overhaul of the Council of Ministers administrative structure.

In 2002, a new *Board of Sustainable Development* was established. It has consultative functions and is attached to the Prime Minister's office. The Board is chaired, like the former Commission for Sustainable Development, by the Minister of the Environment and consists also of high-level representatives of other ministries and scientists. In contrast to the earlier organisations, now also representatives of business and industry as well as NGOs are included. The Commission is now responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of Polska 2025 (see OECD 2003, p.114). The strategy process is therefore driven to a certain extent by high-level political support.

Regarding negotiations and *conflict resolution* mechanisms, basic documents have to be circulated for comments to other sectors and publicly discussed, if necessary. The EU-Accession (see Box 2) and other international agreements and memberships have been an essential *external support* for the national development. Technical support for the strategies figures and maps came from the UNEP/GRID Centre, Warsaw.

**Box 2: Role of the EU-Accession**

The Accession to the EU was one of the highest political priorities in Poland. Therefore an important driving force in the process of Development of the Polish SDS was the association agreement between Poland and the EU in 1991 (see also Millard 1998). The signing of the European Treaty enabled a stabilisation of the economic transition process, fostered the State Reform, guaranteed human rights and – together with the membership later in the NATO – the countries sovereignty. For a country in transition like Poland, this assistance is a great external support as well as a great challenge. Polska 2025 refers explicitly in a separate chapter to integration aspects with the EU (GCSS/MoE 2000). Since the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004, Poland is a new member of the European Union.

**3.2 *The planning process: participation and integration in the planning process of the Sustainable Development Strategy***

Only two *non-governmental organisations* played a role during the formulation of Polska 2025: The Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) and the Institute for Sustainable Development in Warsaw (a non-profit institute, whose task is to promote sustainability processes). The Institute can be seen as a, however more symbolic, representative

of NGOs. In the Commission for Regional Policy and Sustainable Development, NGOs have not been involved.

Although during some phases of the process, opportunities to get information about the *draft version* of the strategy by Internet existed. Different NGOs have been invited to comment the SDS, however, an evaluation of the integration of social actors into the planning process remains impossible. Also in the (official) documents, no public forum for discussions or stakeholder involvement is cited. Concerning the integration of interests from the *communities*, it is referred to a procedure for launching development programs in Poland (see Lubiowski & Zachariasz 2001, p.11): Central programs are drafted by the Council of Ministers. During this process, the draft is subject to inter-ministerial consultations within the Council of Ministers and subject to consultations with affected constituencies, with local governments on the forum presented and by the Joint Commission of Central and Local Governments.

After the consultations, the program is launched by the Council of Ministers by a decree or submitted to the Sejm as a bill. The budgetary law earmarks resources for implementation of the program. National local government associations have the right to comment on any bill that may directly or indirectly affect their areas of responsibility.

A new example for policy formulation as well as participation of social actors is the Polish Biodiversity-Strategy (Ministry of Environment 2003). In this case the national strategy has been subject to discussions across government departments and to consultations with NGOs and other stakeholder representatives (OECD 2003, p.98). The documents were presented to the *public* and have been available on the Internet. Because of the overall aim of assuring acceptance and also responsibility by policy makers as well as by different actors in relevant policy fields, this process is more opened to participation. Concerning the policy integration between different levels, the government intends to strengthen the relationship between local spatial plans and national or conservation plans for protected areas (OECD 2003, p.102).

### 3.3 *Monitoring Aspects*

The government refers to the international indicators, prepared by the Commission of Sustainable Development UN-CSD, EPOC (Committee of Environmental Policy of OECD) and by the European Commission. But it seems difficult to use these indicators in practice due to a certain degree of conservatism in the existing national statistical systems, which delays changes in methods and ways of collecting, processing or distribution of information. The *State statistical system*, and other control mechanisms, need to be adapted to international commitments and EU requirements in order to pursue adequate monitoring and assessment periodically (Governmental Centre 1999).

Polska 2025 recommends also, that research institutions develop a system for different decision-making options as well as qualitative indicators of progress and efficiency of political measures. Several social institutions as well as different governmental agencies shall play a role in the monitoring process. The process shall be initiated and co-ordinated by the Governmental Centre for Strategic Studies (Council of Ministers 2000). In addition, The Second National Environmental Policy sets out the main medium term goal to achieve a harmonised control and monitoring system by the year 2010 at the latest (Council of Ministers 2001, p70).

The *strategic environmental impact assessments* in Poland have to be conducted according to the legal act from the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2001 (Environmental Protection Law) for two groups of strategic documents:

- Concepts of spatial management policy, projects of spatial management plans as well as projects of regional development strategies.
- Projects of policies, strategies, plans or programmes in the area of industry, energy, transport, fishing sector and tourism, the realisation of which is foreseen in legal acts.

Following Articles 8 and 10, the rules of environmental protection and sustainable development must be considered and everybody has the right to participate in the process concerning the environmental impacts and in decisions about the proposal of the policy, strategy, plan or development and restructuring programme. But till today, in Poland is only limited experience in implementation of strategic assessments (Eco-Konsult 2002).

The above mentioned Ministers' Council's Committee on Regional Policy and Sustainable Development existed from 1997-2001 (see Chapter 3.1). It was also responsible for “supervision” of the governments policy, especially in the light of a long-term and cross-cutting strategy. Since 2002, the Board of Sustainable Development takes the responsibility of monitoring the Polska 2025 strategy. Regarding *adaptation aspects*, nothing can be said.

### 3.4 *Implementation Aspects and Specific Initiatives*

Since the Strategy has an “open” character, the implementation of Polska 2025 could not be assessed in detail.<sup>3</sup> Polska 2025 at least implicates, which *sectoral policies* and agencies must support the implementation process. For example, the realisation of social guarantees must be supported by integrated sectoral policies and programmes (of social policy, financial and tax policy, health policy, environmental protection, education policy, labour policy, countryside development policy or immigration policy). The Council of Ministers adopted in 2003 a detailed *implementation plan* for the resolutions of the Johannesburg Summit: a measurement control sheet was elaborated that allows 1) an overview about all initiatives and objectives mentioned, 2) the special administration unit or minister in charge for implementation, 3) the legal background and 4) the state of implementation process, ranking from A to D, where A means a full coherence of the activity with the working plan and D that the initiative has to start as soon as possible. This checklist is comprehensive and very concrete, in administrative terms (see Council of Ministers 2003).

Polska 2025 itself stresses the role of different, mainly *non-governmental actors* in at least all sectors. It refers to the family as the main social institution and names with regard to corporate stakeholders youth organisations and NGOs. Also, the importance of the school system and universities, local governments and organisations; trade un-

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<sup>3</sup> But to many topics of sustainable development the study of the National Foundation for Environmental Protection „Agenda 21 – 10 Years after Rio“, prepared for the WSSD 2002, allows an overview from a more official point of view.

ions as well as research and development institutes is named. Last not least, the media and the Catholic Church are seen as important actors (Council of Ministers 2000). Although it is obviously intended by the Polska 25-strategy to start a wide discussion in the Polish society about Sustainable Development, it seems not always easy to *get to know* the strategy even in the internet, where at the beginning of the year 2004 neither an English nor a Polish version was available. Also the Second National Environmental Policy wants to include stakeholders, respective the users of natural resources as business and social partners (“down-to-top approach” to implement e.g. an effective waste-management, Council of Ministers 2001, p.35). To what extent social actors really were involved into these implementation process could not be clarified.

The institutional restructuring of the political and administrative system is still going on. Related to implementation of sustainable development, some *new institutions* can be highlighted: For ensuring a better compliance with law, the *Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection* as well as *Regional Inspectorates* have been established (NFEP 2002, p.8). These organisations are responsible not only for overseeing legislative compliance of industry and other actors, but also for better monitoring the environmental situation. They also have the possibility to initiate new (legal or other) activities. In the meanwhile, there are inspectors in each voivodship, with a staff of 2400 persons throughout the country. The total number of inspected entities between 1998-2000 is expected to some 40.000 (following OECD 2003, p.132). The *National Environmental Impact Council* includes scientists and specialists and works as an advisory body to the Minister of the Environment.

Since a great deal of responsibility is devolved to regional administrations, these can create their own strategies for sustainable development, especially regarding spatial planning and decisions about local use or natural resources. They are also responsible for education and health system. It allows them to balance the social and ecological aspects with the economic and infrastructural policies (see also the “Polish Development Portal” in Table 2). But the links between the national and local activities seem to be weak (Dorsch 2003, p.21).

The Polish approach to initiate and promote private and municipal *investments* has attracted attention as a model for financing important parts of sustainable development (see Box 4). Relating to the ecological funds, a change in funding is discussed, from investing directly into environment’s protection to all areas of sustainable development: education, science, development of technologies, achieving the certificates “EMAS”, “ISO 14 000”, renewable energy and resources, organic agriculture, or ecologisation of the transport infrastructure. Total investment cost for the implementation of the National Environmental Policy in the period of 2000 - 2010 shall amount to 34,5 billion USD. It is anticipated, that the structure of these expenses throughout the period of 2000-2010, by their source of origin, will be as follows: proprietary resources (of territorial self-governments and businesses): 50%; environmental funds 30%; the state budget 7%; foreign assistance 5% and structural funds of the European Union 8% (Council of Ministers 2001, p.81).

#### **Box 4: Fees and Funds as Resources for Implementation**

The system of financial facilities encompasses:

1. Ecological fees in general. A big role in the sustainable development process have the so-called “green budgeting”. It would mean increasing taxes for petrol, energy etc., at the same time decreasing the value added tax.

2. Public and private institutions, especially financial ones, both commercial and non-commercial which allocate funds on and off the market to the applying entities as enterprises, public institutions, local governments and households. Institutions are:
- The state budget, local and regional budgets.
  - Specific ecological funds; general (environmental protection and water management funds) and specific (e.g. fund for protection of agricultural forestry areas). These funds have been financed by high pollution charges and fines,<sup>4</sup> and they redistributed these resources to investments for pollution abatement. The Second National Environmental Policy projected a gradual reform. Reduced charges and fines would be offset by introduction of product charges (more on this topic: OECD 2003, pp.42-44, 129 f.).
  - The “EcoFund” as a non profit foundation, established by the Ministry of Finance in 1992. Following the so called “Paris Club”, the fund receives money, as Poland’s foreign debt to creditor countries have not to be paid back, when it is used instead of environmental investments (so called *debt-for-environment swaps*). The expected revenue between 2002 and 2009 is estimated about 335 million USD (OECD 2003, p.161).
  - Commercial financial institutions, especially banks that extend ecological loans on market terms.
  - Other non-commercial domestic financial institutions (apart from environmental protection funds), e.g., foundations. Commercial institutions are included to the extent to which they let environmental credits and loans on terms better than market terms due to the support from the National Fund (e.g. Bank for Environmental Protection).
  - Pre-accession aid funds from the EU (PHARE, ISPA, SAPARD).
  - Foreign financial institutions and other aid programs (for example World Bank).

**Source: Based on Second National Environmental Policy (Council of Ministers 2001), supplemented.**

A certain *communication strategy* could not be identified. The government published “Polska 2025”, but it was not available via the Internet in the beginning of 2004. Most of the other national strategies can be downloaded from official web-sites. The report Agenda 21 - 10 Years after Rio (NFEP 2002) is also available in a print version.

**Table 2: Some specific SD initiatives**

Initiative	Outline
Partnership with business	Companies should get help for better facing new ecological requirements. Following the government’s implementation plan “Polish environmental Policy for the years 2003-2006”, assistance in fulfilling obligatory demands – apart of legally allowed material help - will be based on securing “right” information flow between public institutions und business, as well as on training. Information flow shall be secured through creation of consultant bodies, formed by representatives of environment protection administration and business area. Business representatives should also be included in work on legal acts, program documents and projects. Entrepreneurs should be invited to consult these projects. Training on environmental protection issues for employees of some companies will be delivered by public institutions together with interested firms as well as in form of specially profiled training run by specialised institutions. High-ranking training should

<sup>4</sup> Poland has used emission fees in air management since 1980. Some 62 air pollutants are included .”Total revenue of air emission fees (PLN 762 million in 2000) accounted for about half the revenue of all emission fees, including fees for water discharges and waste disposal.” (OECD 2003, pp.42, 134: overview).

	deliver essential know-how and motivate to implement new solutions.
VASAB 2010	This intergovernmental programme of 10 countries of the Baltic Sea Region is a multilateral co-operation in spatial planning and development, established in 1992. In 2001, the Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning and Development in the BSR-countries adopted a New Action Programme for the future, which identifies several themes: Co-operation of urban regions on key issues of sustainable development; strategic development zones important for transnational integration within the BSR; transport links important for integration across BSR and with Europe; diversification and strengthening of rural areas or development of transnational green networks, incl. cultural landscapes. Therefore the VASAB-Organisation units recommend transnational policy measures, promote co-operation projects or initiate dialogues with sector institutions and assist regional or local governments by political backing from international or national levels. The Polish Committee is a kind of public-private-partnership platform. The secretary is located at the Governance Centre for Strategic Studies, whose President also headed this Committee. It connects representatives of Polish government and self-governments (voivodships) acting in the Baltic regions of Poland. Another task is initiating and co-ordinating Polish activities in the framework of Baltic inter-governmental co-operation. Since the Polish participation in the EU-Initiation Programme "Interreg IIIB" these activities will be financially supported by EU funds. Some intended projects are: integrated and sustainable development in the South Baltic or networking tourism of cultural and natural heritage as by a touristic river-routes system Kaliningrad – Nogat – Wisla – Notec – Warta – Berlin-Szczecin.
Polish Development Portal	The Portal is a project of the World Bank's programme "Global Development Gateway". The aim is supporting co-operation between governmental and local administration, NGOs and commercial companies for the benefit of SD. The Polish portal allows orientation towards eGovernment, eLearning and knowledge based economy. It is a communication-tool between institutions and organisations engaged in the process of creating economic, social and cultural changes through using the electronic media. Poland presented one of the strongest technical strategies. The information partners of this portal are among others: World Bank, UNDP, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Infrastructure, Committee of the Scientific Research, Polish Information Society, Forum for Responsible Business, Economic Academy in Poznan and the firms providing technical assistance.

### 3.5 *Summary of National SD Strategy*

**Table 3: Summary of Poland's National Sustainable Development Strategy**

Aspects	Summary
Content of SDS	Polska 2025
Typology	Multidimensional, cross-linking strategy; partially integrated with connected special strategies and plans.
Content/Objectives	All dimensions of Sustainability, main topics are: dynamics of the economic growth; life standard; level of employment as well as quality of the environment and rational use of resources. For the most part qualitative guidelines and objectives. In the short-term

Linkages with other strategies and planning processes	range often related to the EU-Accession in 2004. Polska 2025 is an overarching strategy which serves as a focal point for other national plans, programmes and strategies
<b>Development and Institutional Aspects</b>	
Legal basis	Adopted in 2002
State of the process	
Decision mechanisms	Government Decision, based on a parliamentary resolution Partially based on the National Environmental Policy, Agenda 21-processes.
External Support	Main actors are the Council of Ministers, - also the whole cabinet and the parliament were involved. Due to new memberships in international organisations and the EU-negotiations: legal and material assistance.
<b>Participation and Integration in the Planning Process of SDS</b>	
Coordination	Intergovernmental coordination by the Council of Ministers, Commission for Regional Policy and Development (CRSPD) and special committees. Therefore the executive authorities play a strong role. Since 2002 the <i>Board of Sustainable Development</i> has consultative functions and is attached to the Prime Minister's office. The Board is chaired by the Minister of the Environment and consists also of high-level representatives of other ministries and scientists.
Inter-governmental actors	Polish Academy of Sciences and Institute for Sustainable Development as NGO-Organisations, no overall discussion in the public during the formulation of Polska 2025.
Civil Society, NGOs actors	In contrast , now also representatives of business and industry as well NGOs are invited to the Board of SD and sometimes also to related policy processes (e.g. National Biodiversity Strategy).
<b>Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptation Aspects</b>	An adequate monitoring and reporting systems is actually not established; but policy monitoring by a (changing) Board of Sustainable Development. New acts regulate SIA and EIA.
<b>Implementation of SDS and Specific Initiatives</b>	
Responsibility and coordination	All sector policies and agencies of different levels have to support the implementation of the long-term strategy. Several implementation plans, also for the resolutions of Johannesburg. The Cabinet and also Parliament are the "guarantees".
New institutions	Inspectorates for Environmental Protection; new administrations on the voivodship-policy level. Since 2002 Board of Sustainable Development (NGOs included).
Financing and capacity	A system of fees and funds initiates and promotes investments in relation to sustainable development.
Specific initiatives	Partnership with business; VASA 2010; Polish Development Portal

#### 4 Supporting information

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<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/pl.html> (Accessed: 2004, March 29)

EU-Trade Statistics, see for example <http://www.fifoost.org/EU/statistik/polen.php> (Accessed: 2004, February 28)

UN-Development Organisation: Human Development Index / Human Poverty Index:

[http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/pdf/hdr03\\_HDI.pdf](http://www.undp.org/hdr2003/pdf/hdr03_HDI.pdf)

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