



European Committee
of the Regions



DZIENNIK
GAZETA PRAWNA

Green deal - Building resilient communities



#EUlocal



Event type

Local debate

Date

14.06.21

Initialising member

Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of West Pomerania, CoR member (EPP/PL)

Audience

Local authorities, NGOs, Polish stakeholders, experts

Organiser

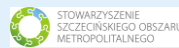
Gazeta Prawna

European Commission

CoR



Partners



Themes

Green deal, Conference on the Future of Europe



Speakers

Witold Naturski, Acting Director of the Polish political party P.O, EC

Patrycja Otto-Duszczyk, editor of Polish newspaper Dziennik Gazeta Prawna

Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of West Pomerania, CoR member (EPP/PL)

Katarzyna Szumielewicz, (DG REGIO); **Magdalena Horodyska**, (DG REGIO); **Julia Majewska**, (DG REGIO); **Katarzyna Bałucka-Dębska** (CLIMA)

Roman Walaszkowski, director of the Office of the Szczecin Metropolitan Area Association,

Urszula Miller-Grzybowska, director of the Koszalińsko-KołobrzESCO-Białogard Functional Area Office

Daniel Wacinkiewicz, Deputy Mayor of Szczecin; **Piotr Jedliński**, President of Koszalin; **Ewa Pelechata**, vice-president of Kołobrzeg; **Emilia Bury**, mayor of Białogard



Key messages

- The West Pomeranian Voivodeship is a leader in Poland in terms of green and blue projects for the urban environment.
- The Green Deal is crucial to local governments to transform future cities and achieve EU's climate goals.
- The Integrated Territorial Investment has been vital so far for the achievement of smart, sustainable Polish cities and regions. Collaboration between cities and poviats is key to provide the needs of overall citizens.
- The Cohesion Policy supports locally-led development strategies and empowers local authorities in the management of the funds: the new EU funding for the 2021-2027 perspective is based on 5 thematic objectives. Poland is the biggest beneficiary of the upcoming funding with already diverse urban projects in mind.
- The following years will be the decade of digitalisation in Europe. It's time to invest in smart transport and energy saving perspectives.
- EU Funding is an opportunity to improve regions but total cooperation between local representatives is vital for the success of future projects.



Press/Social media coverage

Media coverage

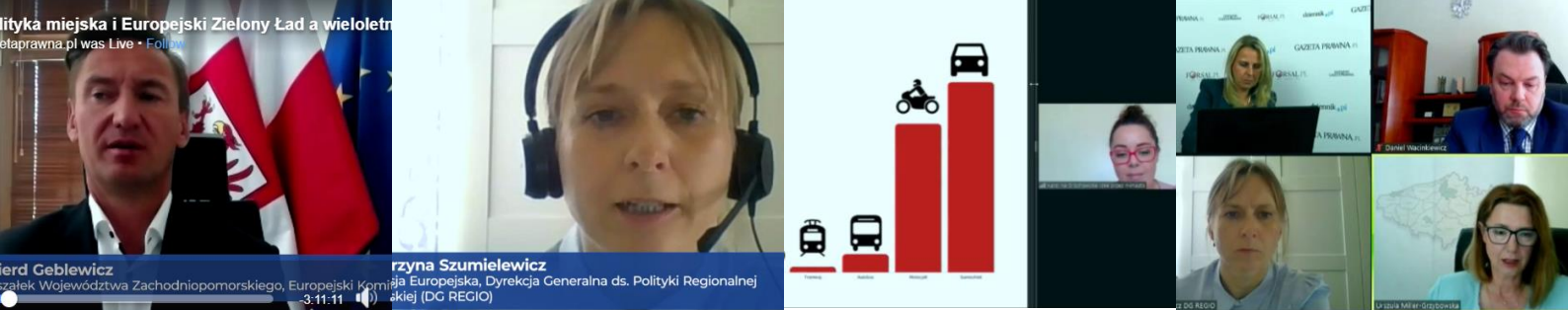
[CoR Press Release](#)

Website

[FutureofEurope](#)

Social Media

[#EU_CoR](#)



The future is green: transitioning to sustainable solutions

The 14 June event was presented by the West Pomeranian Voivodeship featuring local and regional speakers, a CoR member, P.O political party director and EC experts. The event's purpose was to enable Polish local and regional authorities, experts and interested Green Deal stakeholders to discuss the urban policy in the new EU financial perspective, especially in the context of Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI). The debate highlighted the manner governments work to tackle environmental changes in the Green Deal framework and achieve their goals locally in terms of finances, green energy, zero-emission transportation and a more sustainable city landscape.

Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of West Pomerania, CoR member

Together with Witold Naturski, O. Geblewicz welcomed panelists and participants to the webinar. The debate began with an introductory note on the current stage of work on the new EU perspective, the need to maintain the ITI/RIT and the division of funds between national and regional operational programs in the 2021-2027 perspective. Mr. Geblewicz highlighted the importance of citizens' dialogue and cooperation between local authorities on future projects such as the Green Deal, Digitalisation and the Post Covid-19 recovery. As the Marshal of West Pomerania, his vision is to continue his extensive work on the region's development with innovative technologies. Thanks to his advancements, the region is considered as a "leader" in green and blue sectors by using more than 70% of renewable energy. To him, the ITI are an opportunity to improve urban policy by tackling ecological challenges ahead. However, its success depends on a multilateral collaboration between authorities.

Urban policy and the EU Green Deal: a European Commission's perspective

Regions already have a good understanding of previous EU regulations on funding for new projects. However, what makes projects successful is a common territorial vision for their future and how those funds will be divided for the citizens' sake. In the new perspective, a strategy for green development and revitalisation of cities are key factors. While a healthy and revitalised environment is important for existing cities, technology (digitalisation) should be put forward in smart cities.

According to Julia Majewska, the following years will be the decade of digitalisation in Europe. Some cities have already taken a big step towards smart development: Valencia and Saint-Quentin have combined innovative technologies to improve their public transportation, urban facilities, energy-building savings, recycling, etc by making the most out of their funding. To manage different problematics and encourage day-to-day cooperation between local authorities, a digital platform (living in EU) has been launched to help gather data, exchange ideas on future projects.

Urban policy and the EU Green Deal - the perspective of local government units

The local governments of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship demonstrated different projects that were already implemented (or ongoing). Thanks to a consequent help from EU funding and the Polish government, the cities involved in the debate showed the improvements that were done in terms of social and urban developments. Speakers all agreed to say that their projects' success depends on how well they collaborated between poviats, while tackling demographic changes ahead. The EU funds helped them so far to build new infrastructures while implementing environmental solutions for the future. Most projects implied sustainable transportation (electric buses, hydrogen cars, a clean bus-boat to avoid traffic jams), green housing transition (energy building savings), creation of 20 km bicycle paths, building safer roads, installation of LED urban lighting. Most of those changes increased the air quality of the region and encouraged people to change their means of transportation.

The recording of the event can be found on [Gazeta Prawna's webpage](#).