

**The Polish examples/good practices of strategies, policies, and measures employed to implement obligations under the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone to the LRTAP Convention:**

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SYSTEM IN POLAND  
CONTRIBUTING TO AMMONIA EMISSION REDUCTION**

<p><b>Country:</b></p> <p><b>POLAND</b></p>	<p><b>Sector:</b></p> <p><i>Please indicate the sector (e.g. agriculture, industry, urban planning, environment, etc.), or sectors (if several) for which the strategy, policy or measure has been mainly designed</i></p> <p>Agriculture (farmers)</p>
<p><b>Type of strategy, policy or measure:</b></p> <p><i>Please identify the type of strategy, policy or measure – economic e.g. incentive or disincentive (taxes, funds, subsidies, prices or caps/ceilings, payments, rebates, etc); voluntary (agreements, programmes, contracts), regulatory (legislation), or other measures (educational, informational, other)</i></p> <p>Public agricultural advisory system (provision of education, training, information and promotion)</p>	<p><b>Level:</b></p> <p><i>Please state at which level (municipal, regional, sub-national, national) the policy, strategy or measure is targeted or implemented</i></p> <p>Operation level (scope of activity): national Implementation level: regional/local Target group: farmers</p>
<p><b>What is the main objective of the strategy, policy or measure? When has it been implemented/or will be implemented?</b></p> <p><i>Please describe briefly what the measure attempts to achieve or what has been the result of its implementation. Please also describe since when it is being employed or for when its implementation is foreseen. Please explain whether implementation is/was immediate or gradual. [150 words max]</i></p> <p>The major goal of the public agricultural advisory system, supervised by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MRiRW), is to provide high quality advisory services and to support farmers and rural inhabitants to implement tasks resulting from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the national agricultural development programme and existing legislation in place, taking into consideration environmental, food safety and livestock welfare requirements.</p> <p>The whole system is composed of 16 regional (16 voivodship) agricultural advisory centres (ODRs) and the Main Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR), located in Brwinow in central Poland.</p> <p>ODRs provide direct advisory services carrying-out educational and promotion activities in the field of agricultural production methods and innovation solutions in line with good agricultural practice, contributing to, <i>inter alia</i>, the reduction of ammonia emissions by farmers.</p> <p>CDR provides support in in-service training for advisors which must continue to upgrade their qualifications in the context of scientific and technical progress, updated legislation and increasing needs and requirements of farmers.</p>	

**Background and driving forces:**

*Please explain briefly why this strategy, policy or measure was implemented; mention the driving forces for its introduction e.g. policy development, legislation (EU, national), action plans, voluntary, incentive, or other [150 words max]*

The demand for advisory services for farmers in Poland results, *inter alia*, from:

- The structure of farms (with small family farms still dominating),
- Changing legal requirements, including those resulting from environmental protection and from co-funding possibilities for agricultural activities,
- On-going progress in agriculture,
- Increasing demand for healthy food.

There is a need for more specialised advisory services on the improvement of farm cost-effectiveness, on new environmentally friendly technologies, as well as on possible support in cases of production change or starting new production. Farmers profit from advisory services as they allow them to meet the standards and requirements of cross-compliance regarding proper management [3,7], as well as good agricultural principles [8] in line with environmental protection. The above determine the level of possible financial support under the Programme for Rural Development (PROW) [2-6].

The public system of agricultural advisory services in Poland is based on national legal acts [1,7] and EU legislation [2,4].

**Description of the strategy, policy or measure:**

*Please explain briefly how the strategy, policy or measure works and why it has been chosen compared to other policies/measures. Please also explain how its implementation is being monitored. [200 words max]*

The existing 16 regional ODRs provide, *inter alia* [1]:

1) Training and advisory services in the field of:

- a) application of modern, low-emission agri-technical and breeding methods,
- b) environmentally friendly agriculture (organic farming),
- c) solving technological and organisational as well as economic problems in farms,
- d) modernisation of agricultural holdings and their proper management;

2) Cooperation within tasks resulting from agri-environmental programmes and action programmes aimed at reduction of nitrogen releases from agricultural sources [17];

3) Dissemination of information on agricultural production methods and life styles that are environmentally friendly;

4) Educational activities leading to professional qualifications' upgrading of farmers;

5) Support in the preparation process of documentation required to apply for EU or national funding.

With a view to reducing ammonia emissions from agriculture the advisors' tasks include:

- training in good agricultural practices [20,21], incl. natural fertilisers' storage and use,
- preparation of agri-environmental action plans [12], incl. fertilisation plans based on nitrogen budget and chemical soil analyses,
- optimum feeding strategies and microclimatic conditions ensuring livestock welfare [10],
- requirements to meet the needs of sustainable and organic farming [5-6,22].

The advisory centres (ODRs) are controlled by MRiRW and the Supreme Audit Office (NIK).

**Costs, Funding and Revenue allocation:**

*Please state how much the implementation of the measure costs including its monitoring and how it is funded (national budget, industry, taxes, etc.) If the measure is creating revenue, please also explain how this revenue is being allocated and collected. [200 words max]*

The costs of the ODRs' functioning are differentiated depending on individual statutory, additional and investment tasks or measures undertaken by the centres in different years. The average annual costs amount to approx. 63 million EUR<sup>\*/</sup> [40]. It is not possible to estimate costs connected with activities leading only to the reduction of ammonia emissions from agriculture [24-39].

The ODRs' staff includes around 4300 persons, including approx. 3000 highly qualified advisors - specialists, keeping up-to-date with their professional development in the process of self- education and upgrading (regular training), pursuant to the legal requirements [6, 9].

The public agricultural advisory system operates mainly as a form of lifelong learning support for farmers disseminating knowledge on innovation in agriculture. The majority of advices are provided free of charge. Furthermore, some advisory centres provide experimental pilot fields or farms where different farming and breeding techniques are tested and practiced during various training courses.

Annually, the statutory activities of ODRs are financed from the state budget in the form of target donations not exceeding approx. 42 million EUR<sup>\*/</sup> [40].

The main ODRs' financial sources include the state budget (around 45-65%) and income obtained from economic activity (around 30-45%) [41].

<sup>\*/</sup> according to average exchange rate of 21 April 2017: 1 EUR = 4.2705 PLN

**Effect and impacts on air pollution abatement:**

*Please explain briefly the effect of the policy, strategy or measure and how it has impacted the abatement of air pollution. If impacts are known, please quantify, if possible. Please highlight also other effects of the implementation of the measure e.g. with regard to compliance, the acceptance of the measure or its transposition (e.g. from a voluntary to a regulatory or another type of measure). [150 words max]*

In 2007-2013 over 67 thousand training courses were carried out by ODRs, *inter alia*, related to the use of EU funds, the Code of good agricultural practices, eco-production and generation of highest quality agricultural products and food. Over 1.1 million farmers (with their families) participated in them. Over half a million advices were provided under the PROW and over 2.3 million applications for funding were prepared promoting the CAP. Measures taken in the above period, *inter alia*, contributed to:

- effective and sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas,
- the upgrading of professional qualifications of farmers, incl. environmental activities,
- the improvement of livestock welfare and of the state of the environment through, *inter alia*, reduction of ammonia emissions to the air and nitrogen releases to waters.

Participation of farmers in the agricultural advisory system in Poland is fully voluntary. In general, small- and medium-sized farms take advantage of advisory services.

**References/Further information:** *Please provide most relevant sources for information such as references for web links, books, other resources.*

- [1] Act of 22 October 2004 on agricultural advisory units (OJ 2004 No 251, item 2507 as amended)
- [2] Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487–5480)
- [3] Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549-607)
- [4] Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 establishing rules for direct payments to farmers under support schemes within the framework of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 637/2008 and Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 608–670)
- [5] Act of 7 March 2007 on supporting the development of rural areas with the contribution of funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development under the Rural Development Programme for 2007-2013 (OJ 2007 No 64, item 427 as amended)
- [6] Act of 20 February 2015 on supporting the development of rural areas with the contribution of funds from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development under the Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020 (OJ 2017 item 562)
- [7] Promulgation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 10 March 2015 on the change of the list of provisions set by European legislation taking account of national legal acts implementing that legislation (MP 2015 item 329, as amended)
- [8] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 9 March 2015 on standards for good agriculture principles meeting environmental protection requirements (OJ 2015 item 344 as amended)
- [9] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 23 October 2015 on detailed methods for carrying out training courses and complementary training as well as exams and complementary exams (OJ 2015 item 1821)
- [10] Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 20 July 2004 on detailed requirements for granting financial support for agri-environmental undertakings and improvement of livestock welfare covered by the rural development plan (OJ 2004 No 174 item 1809 as amended)
- [11] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 15 February 2010 on requirements for keeping farm animal species for which EU legislation provides certain protection standards (OJ 2010 No 56 item 344 as amended)
- [12] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 28 June 2010 on minimum requirements for keeping species of farm animals other than those for which protection standards have been set in the EU legislation (consolidated text OJ 2017 item 127)
- [13] Act on 10 July 2007 on fertilisers and fertilisation (consolidated text OJ 2017 item 668)
- [14] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 16 April 2008 on detailed rules for using fertilisers and conducting training courses on their use (consolidated text OJ 2014 item 393)
- [15] Act of 7 July 1994 – Construction Law (consolidated text OJ 2016 items 290, 961, 1165, 1250)
- [16] Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 7 October 1997 on technical requirements for agricultural buildings and for their location (consolidated text: OJ 2014 item 81)
- [17] Act of 18 July 2001 – Water Law (consolidated text: OJ 2015 item 469, as amended)
- [18] Act of 27 April 2001 - Environmental Protection Law (consolidated text: O.J. of 2017 item 519)
- [19] Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of 27 August 2014 on the types of installations likely to cause significant pollution of different nature elements or environment as a whole (consolidated text: 2015 items 469, 2295)

[20] Code on Good Agricultural Practice. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2014

[21] Code on Odour Abatement. Ministry of the Environment, Warsaw 2016

[22] Act of 25 June 2009 on organic farming (consolidated text: OJ 2015 item 497, OJ 2016 items 1001, 1579)

[23] Materials of the Main Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) <http://www.cdr.gov.pl>

**Materials of the 16 regional (voivodeship) agricultural advisory centres (ODRs):**

[24] Dolnoslaski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.dodr.pl>

[25] Kujawsko-Pomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.kpodr.pl>

[26] Lubelski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.wodr.konskowola.pl>

[27] Lubuski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.lodr.pl>

[28] Łódzki Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.lodr-bratoszewice.pl>

[29] Małopolski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.modr.pl>

[30] Mazowiecki Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.modr.mazowsze.pl>

[31] Opolski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.oodr.pl>

[32] Podkarpacki Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.podrb.pl>

[33] Podlaski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.odr.pl>

[34] Pomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.podpr.pl>

[35] Śląski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.czwa.odr.net.pl>

[36] Świętokrzyski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.sodr.pl>

[37] Warmińsko-Mazurski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.w-modr.pl>

[38] Wielkopolski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.wodr.poznan.pl>

[39] Zachodniopomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre <http://www.zodr.pl>

[40] Materials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development <http://www.minrol.gov.pl>

[41] Supreme Audit Office (NIK). Report on the activity of agricultural advisory units in 2010-2013 (1st half of the year) Warsaw 2014

**Contact:** *Please insert your contact details below.*

**Name:** Kinga Majewska

**Country:** Poland

**Organization:** Ministry of the Environment

**Address:** Wawelska 52/54, 00-920 Warsaw

**Telephone:** (+48 22) 36 92 437

**Email:** kinga.majewska@mos.gov.pl

**Additional comments:** *Please include any additional information you may wish to provide here.*

In Poland the farmers and rural businessmen can take advantage of the advisory services provided by:

- public advisors from regional (voivodeship) agricultural advisory centres (ODRs),
- branch-specific advisors from voivodeship agricultural chambers, organisations and associations, such as the Polish Crop Production Association,
- private advisors.

Agri-advisors not only help to prepare the documentation required for funding but also support activities connected with the restructuring of farms and more effective production indicating most modern technologies and facilitates participation in special training courses. The scope of problems to be solved by the advisors includes cross-compliance issues, agricultural economics and accounting as well as environmental protection (incl. agri-environmental and climate programmes: PROW 2007-2013 and PROW 2014-2020). Advisors help to upgrade professional qualifications of farmers and to implement modern farm production technologies. The ODRs' staff also take part in the work of the committees estimating farmers' losses due to natural disasters.

The task of the Main Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) in Brwinow in central Poland is to provide upgrading of the scope and level of technical knowledge of the advisors through know-how and innovation transfer, improvement of instruments supporting their effective activities. CDR also maintains lists of advisors – experts in agriculture, environment, forestry and nature. The advisors are listed only if they take part in specialist training courses and pass exams covering, in particular, advisory methods.

Apart from the advisors themselves also the beneficiaries of the EU programmes and agricultural school teachers participate in various training courses. Practical skills are developed, *inter alia*, on a pilot farm in Chwalowice (central Poland) which is certified as an organic agricultural holding.

The activity of the Main Agricultural Advisory Centre and its 3 branch offices in Radom, Krakow and Poznan [23] supporting agricultural advisors includes:

1. An on-line (via Internet) Support System for Agricultural Advisors (<http://helpdesk.cdr.gov.pl/>),
2. Publications: films, leaflets, bulletins, books, for example:
  - Good agricultural practices on areas especially endangered by nitrates from agriculture, Brwinow 2015 (incl. a chapter on organic fertilisers and their application rules),
  - Kujawiński W. A New Glossary for an Agricultural Advisor, Brwinow 2011,
  - Environmental protection on farms. A guidebook for agricultural advisors, Poznan 2010 (incl. chapters on fertilisers' management and air protection).
3. Operation of databases accessible through CDR's website (<http://www.cdr.gov.pl/>):
  - Educational guide-book,
  - Timetable of promotion events,
  - Agricultural production standards,
  - Software and other computer programmes in agriculture,
  - Agricultural press publications,
  - A guide-book on scientific research results intended for dissemination.
4. Educational, stationary and on-line training courses, workshops on advice methodology, seminars and scientific conferences.
5. Exams for agri-environmental advisors and exams on fund granting rules within the direct support system.
6. International projects.

The list of advisors presently (as of 21 April 2017) includes:

- 3780 agricultural advisors,
- 4015 agri-environmental advisors providing services under the PROW 2007-2013 (2127 advisors) and under the PROW 2014-2020 (1888 advisors),
- 862 nature experts (490 ornithologists, 372 biologists) developing required expertise,
- 385 forestry advisors.

Their contact details are made available to all interested farmers through the Internet (<http://195.205.152.135/doradca/>). All advisors included in the list must have high education (academic level), preferably in agriculture, specialisation and complementary courses as well as positively passed exams.