



JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

# RIO Country Report 2017: Poland

*Research and Innovation  
Observatory country  
report series*

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Joint  
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## **Executive Summary**

### **Key findings**

Poland's GDP continued increasing in 2016, with positive forecast for 2017-2018. The Polish R&I system is centralised as regards funding and governance with important reforms of higher education announced in September 2017. Modest BERD continues to increase with 0.63% of GDP reached in 2016 driving the total GERD to 0.97% in 2016.

### **Challenges for R&I policy-making in Poland and main policy responses**

#### **Challenge 1 Increase the intensity of private R&I**

- increased attractiveness of R&D tax incentives
- public funding agencies offering a large portfolio of support for R&D intensive companies and targeting them with an awareness campaign
- new VC funds launched (Witelo, NCBR VC, NCBR CVC, STARTER, BIZNEST, KOFFI) with corporate partners

#### **Challenge 2 Strengthen the science and industry cooperation**

- focus of policy makers with the higher education reform, plans for the reform of research institutes and the promotion of industrially oriented career tracks for scientists
- launch of the industrial doctorate scheme
- availability of a variety of grants supporting collaboration and commercialisation

#### **Challenge 3 Increase the quality of the public research base:**

- draft of the Higher Education and Science Act and draft of the Łukasiewicz Research Network Act
- stakeholders consultation and expert peer review (PSF H2020) supporting the preparation of the Act on Higher Education and Science
- plans to differentiate between research intensive and teaching universities, change modalities for institutional assessment and allocation of institutional R&D funding
- establishment of Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) - an agency for inward and onward mobility of researchers

#### **Challenge 4 Strengthen priority setting in the R&I governance system:**

- increased inter-ministerial coordination in some areas, e.g. electromobility
- announced intention of streamlining / prioritising the list of smart specialisations presented in the Strategy for Responsible Development

### **Other major R&I developments in 2017**

- Introduction of the "Seal of Excellence" instruments by NCBR and PARP
- Streamlining the ESIF support measures for R&I as well as changes in the design and management of regional funds

### **Smart specialisation**

All 16 Polish regions have their Smart Specialisation Strategies and participate in the Smart Specialisation Platform and the national Strategy comprises of 17 priorities. The regions vary in their awareness of competitive advantages and institutional capabilities which results in diverse approaches to monitoring and evaluation. Apart from updates to the priorities, it is hard to identify tangible outcomes of the S3 monitoring process, and the coordination system is under preparation. Silesia region implemented a set of monitoring and pilot evaluation activities to support the updates of their regional strategy. Regions don't use 15% of structural funds for external actors. Strong involvement of universities in the set-up of priorities has not been fully used to drive their implementation given the strong focus of ESIF funding on industrial beneficiaries.

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