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**ABSORPTION 2007-2013(2015)¹ EU FUNDING FOR UTILIZATION
OF CULTURAL ASSETS IN DOLNOŚLĄSKIE PROVINCE BY SPATIAL
CATEGORIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO RURAL AREAS**

*WYKORZYSTANIE FUNDUSZY EUROPEJSKICH W OKRESIE 2007-2013(2015)
NA RZECZ DÓBR KULTURY W WOJEWÓDZTWIE DOLNOŚLĄSKIM WEDŁUG
KATEGORII PRZESTRZENNYCH ZE SZCZEGÓLNYM UWZGLĘDNIENIEM
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Key words: cultural assets, EU funding, Dolnośląskie province, rural areas

Słowa kluczowe: dobra kultury, fundusze pomocowe UE, województwo dolnośląskie, obszary wiejskie

JEL codes: Z32, Z19, P48

Abstract. The EU financial resources are an important source of restoration and preservation of cultural heritage objects and their adaptation to the fulfilment of tasks resulting in the rise of new socio-economic functions. The purpose of the paper is to identify the ways of the spending of EU aid funds thematically related to cultural goods with reference to the area of the beneficiary's origin in the years 2007-2015. The study was based on the SIMIK database of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development of the Republic of Poland. The analysis of the total value and of the level of the EU co-funding shows that rural areas of the Dolnośląskie Province were beneficiaries of more than 20 % of the value of the EU co-funding for cultural heritage projects and in this respect they ranked second after the Province capital. At the same time, rural communes and small towns had the highest share of the EU funds in the total value of the projects completed during this period.

Introduction

National minorities and ethnic groups which inhabited the area of the Dolnośląskie Province in the past left multiple marks of their presence, and hence cultural heritage of Lower Silesia is very rich and varied. Giving the particular objects new ways of their management and purpose is conducive to the reconstruction and preservation of the region's cultural heritage. Utilization of cultural assets for social and economic purposes leads to the appearance of new socio-economic functions, which is very important, particularly in rural areas. The neighbourhood of cultural heritage resources allows for the development of new enterprises, among which firms directly or indirectly realizing tourism-related activities play a very important role. In the local environment, adjusting a given object to fulfil a service function is mostly carried out through the location of accommodation and catering in these objects. Cultural heritage objects also play an important role from the point of view of the promotion of localities as well as the location of the region on a tourist map, which has a positive impact on the competitiveness of the region. That is why the EU financial resources are an important source of financing, reconstruction and preservation of cultural heritage objects as well as of their adjustment to the fulfilment of new socio-economic functions.

Material and methods

The financing and co-financing of the projects through EU funds in the years 2007-2015 were carried out under four Operational Programmes (hereinafter referred to as OP) implemented under the Programmes of the European Territorial Cooperation. They included OP Infrastructure

¹ Under the N+2 rule UE 2007-2013 Funds may be spent by the of 2015

and Environment, OP Human Capital, OP Innovative Economy, and OP Technical Assistance. There were also 16 Regional Programmes [MIiR 2013, MRR 2011, 2013a, 2013b]. As regards the Dolnośląskie Province, of special importance was the Regional Programme for the Dolnośląskie Province. The analysis of the level and scope of the use of EU Assistance Funds focused on a broad context of the thematic range of projects, including not only the investment strictly related to the creation of cultural tourism assets but also the financing of the projects linked up with the promotion and other socio-economic activities undertaken in the cultural heritage objects.

The aim of the paper is to identify the ways of spending the EU assistance funds allocated for the purposes related to cultural goods with special reference to rural areas presented against a background of other spatial categories of the Dolnośląskie Province over the period 2007-2015. This study aims to examine the products of projects of the financial means from the EU Aid Funds allocated for cultural purposes with reference to the types of spatial units. The analysis of the level of use of EU Funds for cultural assets in the Dolnośląskie Province was conducted using the SIMIK database of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development of the Republic of Poland. On 31st December 2015, there were 104,527 co-funding agreements on projects supported by EU Structural Funds registered in the database and allocated to Poland under all the Operational Programmes for the years 2007-2013 (2015). From among the data available in the SIMIK database, we took into consideration the agreements containing the meritorious identification of the project suitability for the analysis, including the title of agreement and the beneficiary's territorial affiliation, and the basis for the analysis were the parameters of the total value and of the value of EU funding for the accomplished projects.

On the basis of the literature studies [Rakowska 2012] and taking into consideration the peculiarity of the Dolnośląskie Province, the following spatial categories relating to the range of project implementation were distinguished: Dolnośląskie Province as a whole, Wrocław as the capital city of the Province, towns with county rights, counties, towns with health resorts, as well as rural communes and small towns, which were jointly considered to be a spatial category characteristic of the rural areas. On the basis of the analysis of the SIMIK database the following categories of purposes were distinguished: revalorization of the cultural heritage objects, development of a new tourism product, sports and recreation infrastructure, promotion and others. Each of the above-mentioned spatial categories was analyzed in terms of its share and value: the total value and the level of EU co-funding provided for the accomplished projects according to the project purposes adopted in this analysis. An introduction to the analysis presented the share of the particular spatial categories in the total value and in the amount of EU funding for the projects implemented on a Province scale.

The results

In the years 2007-2015, the number of projects co-funded by the EU and related to cultural values on a national scale in Poland amounted to 1678 for a total amount of PLN 12.3 billion. Of these, 176 agreements were completed in the territory of the Dolnośląskie Province. Their total value amounted to PLN 1.3 billion.

On the other hand, the value of the EU co-funding for cultural projects in the Dolnośląskie Province totalled PLN 590 million. Dolnośląskie Province ranked second, after Mazowieckie Province, in respect of the absolute amount of money spent on the purposes related to cultural goods [Powęska 2016]. This state of affairs was greatly influenced by a number of initiatives aimed at the reconstruction and revalorization of cultural goods in connection with the fact that Wrocław was the European capital of culture 2016 (fig. 1).

This very important role of Wrocław on the map of European culture in 2016 accounts for the domination of the Province capital both in terms of the total value of the implemented projects and in respect of the EU co-funding (fig. 2). The city spent around 30% of the total value of projects implemented in the Dolnośląskie Province and thematically related to cultural

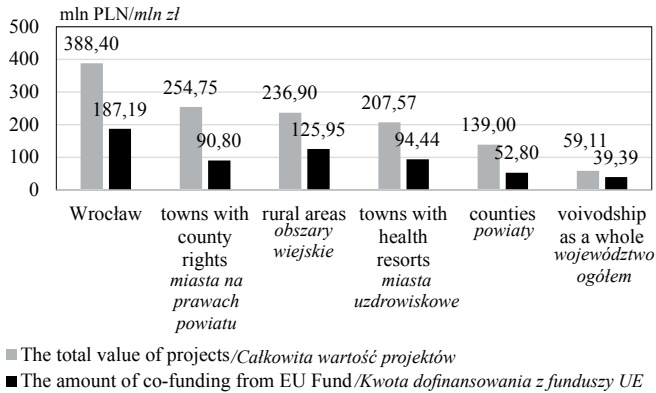


Figure 1. The total value and the amount of co-funding from UE Fund of projects in Dolnośląskie Province in the years 2007-2015 by type of area

Rysunek 1. Wartość całkowita oraz wartość dofinansowania do projektów w województwie dolnośląskim w latach 2007-2015 według typów obszarów

Source: own elaboration based on the SIMIK data of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development
 Źródło: opracowanie własne na podstawie MiIR

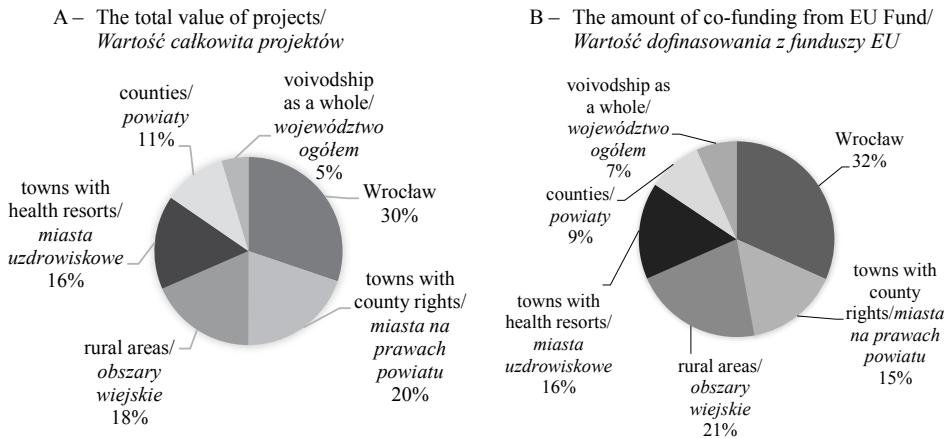


Figure 2. The structure of cultural heritage projects in Dolnośląskie Province in the years 2007-2015 by type of area

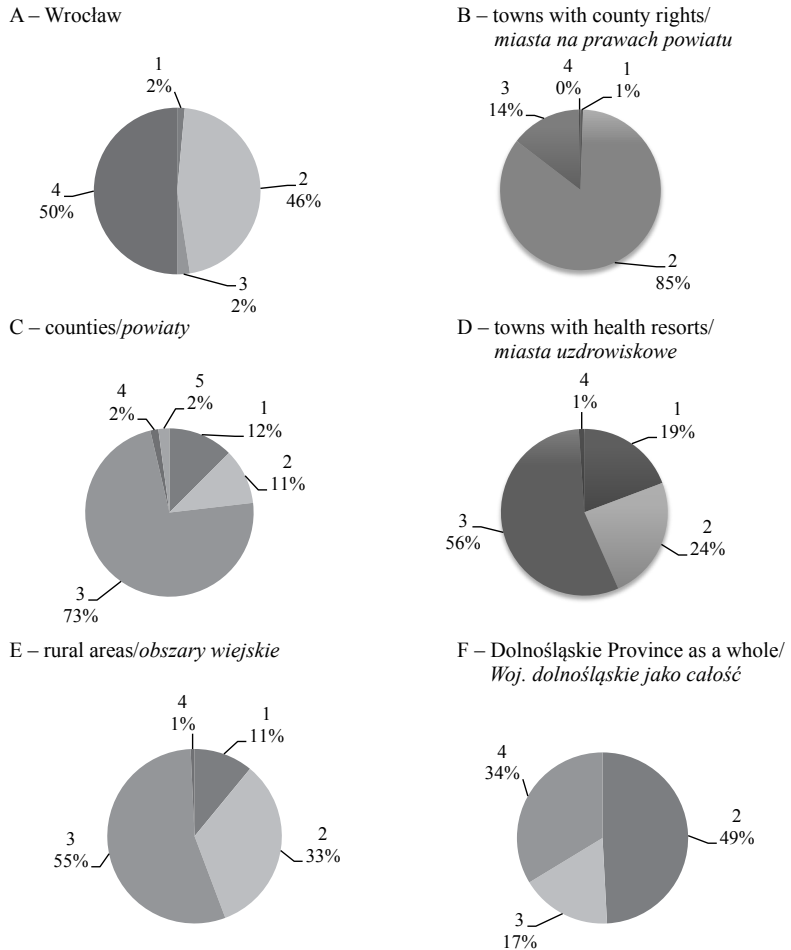
Rysunek 2. Struktura wykorzystania środków pomocowych UE przeznaczonych na dobra kultury w latach 2007-2015 w województwie dolnośląskim według kategorii przestrzennych

Source: see fig. 1

Źródło: jak na rys. 1

goods, and as much as 46% of the EU co-funding in this thematic scope. In terms of the total value of the realized projects, urban counties were ranked second; however, as regards the EU co-funding, rural communes, small towns and health resorts acquired a definitely higher funding allocation than towns with county rights. Spending for cultural purposes in rural counties, as well as on a Province scale, in particular as regards the acquisition of the EU funds, were a supplementation of the remaining spatial categories.

Among projects relating to cultural goods co-funded by EU programmes, which were accomplished in Wrocław in the years 2007-2015, the majority of spending went on the purposes related to the revalorization of cultural goods (46% of the total value); of great importance was the promotion of the city (50%), while the expenditures on tourism infrastructure and the development of a new tourism product were of minor importance at that time (2% each of the total value of "cultural" projects implemented in Wrocław respectively). Similar trends occurred in the field of co-financing from EU funds (fig. 3A).



Types of products: 1 – the new tourism product, 2 – revalorization of the objects of culture, 3 – sports and recreational infrastructure, 4 – promotion, 5 – others/*Typy produktów: 1 – nowy produkt turystyczny, 2 – rewaloryzacja obiektów kultury, 3 – infrastruktura sportowo-rekreacyjna, 4 – promocja, 5 – inne*

Figure 3. The structure of utilization of UE Aid Funds by the products of projects for cultural assets in the spatial categories of Dolnośląskie Province in the years 2007-2013(2015)

Rysunek 3. Struktura wykorzystania środków pomocowych UE według produktów projektów przeznaczonych na dobra kultury w latach 2007-2013(2015) w woj. dolnośląskim w kategoriach przestrzennych obszarów

Source: see fig. 1

Źródło: jak na rys. 1

As regards the projects thematically related to cultural goods which were co-financed through EU Funds and implemented in towns with county rights, there was also a concentration of expenditures on the revalorization of cultural heritage objects. 85% of the total value of projects implemented in the years 2007-2015 was allocated for this purpose (fig. 3B). This reflects the cultural wealth of these towns and, at the same time, a great neglect and big omission in this field in earlier periods. Among the remaining purposes of culture-related projects one should point to the building of sports infrastructure (15% of the total value of implemented projects); however, the share of the promotion and creation of a new tourism product in urban areas was minimal (1% each).

As noted earlier, in towns with county rights in the Dolnośląskie Province the co-financing through EU funds for projects relating to cultural goods was the lowest one from among all the types of areas under analysis. This was especially seen in the case of projects which were aimed at sport and tourist infrastructure as well as at the revalorization of cultural heritage objects which received EU co-funding through grants amounting to 27% and 37% respectively.

In the structure of culture-related projects realized in the area of counties the share of expenditures on the renovation of cultural objects totalled only 11%. The share of the purposes related to the creation of new tourism products was similar (12%). The purposes directly connected with the goods of culture were definitely less important than the expenditures on sports and tourist recreation which concentrated as much as 73 % of the total value of projects completed in the period 2007-2015 (fig. 3C). It is worth noting that the EU co-financing for projects realized in counties reached its highest level in the case of creation of new tourism products (66 %), as well as revalorization of cultural objects (53%), and it was definitely higher than in the case of sports and tourist infrastructure (30%).

In administrative units being health resorts, the concentration of expenditures on sports and tourism infrastructure was accompanied by the following objectives: revalorization of cultural heritage objects and creation of a new tourism product (fig. 3D). In the years 2007-2015, these purposes absorbed 56%, 24% and 19% (respectively) of the total value of projects thematically related to the goods of culture implemented in health resorts. Just as in the case of counties, in health resorts EU co-financing for the revalorization of cultural objects was considerably higher than that allocated for sports and tourism infrastructure (65 to 40%). At the same time, in these units we observed a lower level of EU-funded projects aimed at creating a new tourism product than in the remaining types of areas – only 36%.

In the case of rural areas (urban communes and small towns), in the spending structure under the projects thematically related to the goods of culture, the share of sports and tourism infrastructure also reached its highest level (55%), the level of expenditures on the renovation of cultural objects being very significant (33%). The allocation amount for the creation of a new tourism product in rural areas of the Dolnośląskie Province reached 11% of the total value of implemented EU co-funded projects (fig. 3E). One could also observe a higher share of the EU resources, compared to the remaining types of areas of the Dolnośląskie Province, in projects intended for both revalorization of cultural heritage objects (68%) and for sport and tourism infrastructure (44%), as well as for the creation of a new tourism product (52%).

In the structure of the total value of "cultural" projects, from which the Province benefited as a whole (fig. 3F), the dominant purposes were related to the revalorization of cultural heritage (49%), the share for the promotion of the Lower Silesian region being relatively high (34%), while the expenditures on sport and tourist infrastructure were of lesser importance (17%). At the same time, one must note that irrespective of the main purpose of the implemented projects the co-financing from EU Funds was relatively high and amounted to: 65% in the case of revalorization of cultural objects, 70% in the case of promotion and information, and 66 % for projects relating to sport and tourism infrastructure.

Conclusions

The analysis conducted in this study shows that in the years 2007-2013(2015) rural areas of the Dolnośląskie Voivodship were beneficiaries of more than 21% of the value of co-funding from EU financial resources for cultural projects and they ranked second in this regard, after the Voivodship capital (32). However, in respect of the total value of implemented projects, rural areas of the Dolnośląskie Voivodship ranked third after Wrocław and towns with the county rights. At the same time, one should emphasize that irrespective of the thematic scope and the main purpose of projects, the highest percentage share of EU funds in the total value of realized projects was recorded in rural communes and in small towns. Considerable spatial differences

were recorded, both in terms of the total value and of the level of co-financing for the projects supported by EU Funds, depending on the spatial areas distinguished. The analysis revealed the domination of Wrocław, which spent almost one-third of all resources allocated to cultural heritage goods. In the structure of expenditures for projects implemented in Wrocław and in towns with county rights most EU funding was spent on the revalorization of cultural objects; promotion was also of great importance in those centres. On the other hand, in rural counties, health resorts as well as in rural areas most of the projects were financed in the field of sport and tourism infrastructure, while the share of the creation of new tourism products and of the revalorization of cultural heritage objects was noticeable. When presenting rural areas against a background of other spatial categories one should indicate that the entities operating in the rural milieu, which spend the greatest amounts on the activities fostering entrepreneurship, creation of new job and the sources of income, have a positive effect on the socio-economic development.

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Streszczenie

Celem artykułu jest analiza sposobów wydatkowania funduszy pomocowych UE tematycznie powiązanych z dobrami kultury, z uwzględnieniem obszaru pochodzenia beneficjenta w okresie 2007-2015. Środki finansowe UE są ważnym źródłem odbudowy i zachowania obiektów dziedzictwa kulturowego oraz ich przystosowania do realizacji zadań, umożliwiających powstawanie nowych funkcji społeczno-gospodarczych. Wykorzystano dane bazy SIMIK Ministerstwa Infrastruktury i Rozwoju Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej. Na podstawie analizy wartości całkowitej oraz poziomu dofinansowania do realizowanych projektów ze środków UE wykazano, że obszary wiejskie województwa dolnośląskiego były beneficjentem ponad 20% wartości dofinansowania ze środków UE do projektów o charakterze kulturowym i ustępowały pod tym względem stolicy województwa. Jednocześnie w gminach wiejskich i małych miastach odnotowano największy udział procentowy funduszy z UE w wartości całkowitej realizowanych projektów.

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