

Moreover, PAED carries out numerous projects of its own the aim of which is to promote the development of co-operative links, as well as innovative projects and enterprises and also the implementation of modern technologies by small and medium-sized enterprises. With this end in view the PAED is running the internet portal relating to the innovation issues www.pi.gov.pl and is organising the "Polish Product of the Future" competition on an annual basis. SMEs' representatives can also participate in the periodic meetings in the framework of the "Innovative Enterprises' Club". The objective of the educational portal PAED Academy (www.akademiarp.gov.pl) is to facilitate access to business knowledge in the form of e-learning among the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises. PAED is a partner organisation of the Enterprise Europe Network which offers information about the European law and conducting economic activity in the Single Market to entrepreneurs.

PAED is an initiator of the National SMEs Services Network (KSU), National Innovation Centres (KSI) and the Consultation Centres. These institutions offer the advisory, information, training and financial services free of charge or at preferential rates. The PAED's regional partners in the process of implementation of selected activities are Regional Financing Institutions (RFIs).

In the financial perspective for 2004-2006, PAED executed tasks relating to the implementation of the Sectoral Operational Programmes: Human Resources Development and Improvement of the Competitiveness of Enterprises. Almost half a million people were granted support under 700 training projects totalling approximately PLN 922 million; and more than 5300 entrepreneurs received assistance under investment and consulting projects to the value of PLN 2.5 billion.

Enterprise Europe Network

From January 1, 2008 PAED is a partner organisation of the Enterprise Europe Network. The Enterprise Europe Network is a part of the EU's Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and combines and builds on the former Euro Info Centers and Innovation Relay Centres business support networks.

The Enterprise Europe Network is made up of close to 600 partner organisations in more than 40 countries, promoting competitiveness and innovation at the local level in Europe and beyond.

The Enterprise Europe Network offers the following services to the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises:

- Information and advise on the European law and policies, conducting economic activities abroad, access to funding, technology transfer and participation in the EU framework programmes,
- Organisation of the trainings, workshops and seminars,
- Assistance in the business partner search, including matchmaking events, trade missions and brokerage events,
- Assistance in the technology transfers, including technology audits, exchange of the technology offers, helping finding a business partner and the research institutes interested in cooperation.

The Enterprise Europe Network is providing the European Commission with regular feedback on the difficulties SMEs face operating in the Single Market. More information about the network and its services is available on-line at: www.een.org.pl



Structural funds for 2007-2013

Subsidies for innovations

The **Operational Programme Innovative Economy (OP IE)** is addressed to entrepreneurs who pursue investment projects in: research and development, modern technologies, investments of major importance for the economy, and the implementation and application of information and communication technologies. Support under the Programme is also intended for the protection of industrial property and tightening the co-operation between science and economy. The aim of the activities focused on research and scientific institutions is to enhance the significance of the academic sector in the economy and improve the competitiveness of Polish science through support to capital expenditure on the development infrastructure in specialist laboratories.

Another group of OP IE beneficiaries comprises business environment institutions which will get support, amongst other things, to improve the quality of their services to entrepreneurs and develop a network of private investors.

The Agency's budget under OP IE is EUR 3.9 billion.

People – the best investment

One of the aims of the **Operational Programme Human Capital (OP HC)** is to increase the level of employment and advance the idea of improving employees' qualifications. In pursuance of the Programme concepts, PAED acts towards improving the competitiveness of enterprises through increasing outlays on human capital (principally through training) and enhancing access to high-quality services which support business development. The Agency's budget under OP HC is EUR 672 million. The Programme addressees are entrepreneurs and their employees, social and economic partners, scientific and R&D institutions, technological parks, technology transfer centres, business incubators, training providers, business support institutions and centres, individuals who intend to set up their business, central and local government administration, and the media.

For the development of Eastern Poland

The idea of the **Operational Programme Development of Eastern Poland (OP DEP)** is to accelerate the rate of social and economic development of the Voivodships on Poland's so-called eastern wall, i.e. Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie, Świętokrzyskie and Warmińsko-mazurskie. Projects pursued by PAED under OP DEP concern, amongst other things, development of schools of higher education, congress infrastructure, access to broadband Internet and growth of environmentally-friendly public transport. The pool of funds for these projects is more than EUR 2.67 billion.