



POLAND

RURALIZATION



Demographics

- 60.06% of the population live in urban areas, while the remaining population lives in more than 43,000 villages.
- A continuous decline in the birth rate leads to an ageing of the population which affects also the demographic situation for rural areas.
- Only 2.8% of farm managers finished agricultural tertiary education.
- The large part of farmers are men in the age of 40-64.

Agriculture



- Agriculture accounts for a relatively large part of GDP and the number of employed in agriculture is relatively high.
- The food industry is an important element of agribusiness and an important branch of the entire national economy.
- Polish agriculture seems to be following a path of modernization similar to that which many European countries took in the recent decades. In Poland, the number of employed in this sector is still relatively high, young farmers are more prevalent and productivity is not as high as in other countries.
- The share of organic certified farms in the agricultural area has been decreasing since 2013 and stated a share of 2.48% in 2018.



Challenges

- Activities other than agriculture and farming are rather at an early stage of development.
- Even though Poland has a tradition of rural cooperatives, today their role in rural development is lower than in other European countries.
- There are significant spatial differences between the most developed areas (that are part of functional urban areas) and poorly urbanized areas with a low level of socio-economic development. Rural areas close to surrounding major urban centers have access to social infrastructure at a relatively high level, while in other rural areas the access to social infrastructure is more difficult.

New entrants



- Most people migrating to rural areas are young, rejuvenating the areas.
- The implementation of promising practices is limited by the economic prospects of farmers, which compete on markets which lock them in a race towards more productivity and profitability.
- Promising practices are typically undertaken in the framework of private initiatives, while Polish policies do not directly address new entrants into farming.



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