

Water driven rural development in the Baltic Sea Region” Nr. R094 WATERDRIVE

Poland’s strategic pathways

**Strengthening of local partnerships
for an adaptation of rural landscapes
to climate change.**

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Finland	Finnish Environment Institute
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Socio-environmental Context of the Polish National Strategic Pathways

Poland is one of the countries with very limited water resources. Renewable fresh water resources per capita amount to 1600 m³ (annual averages from many years, GUS 2016), while already the level of 1700 m³ per capita is considered as a critical one. It causes prolonged water stress, i.e. exceeding the level of water safety. Among the European Union countries, only three countries have a lower level: the Czech Republic (1500 m³), Cyprus (400 m³) and Malta (200 m³) (Fig. 1).

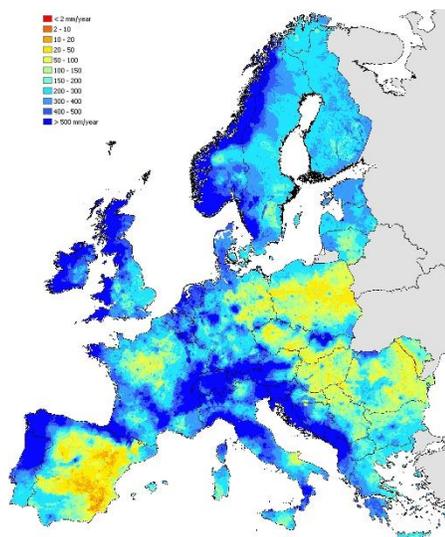
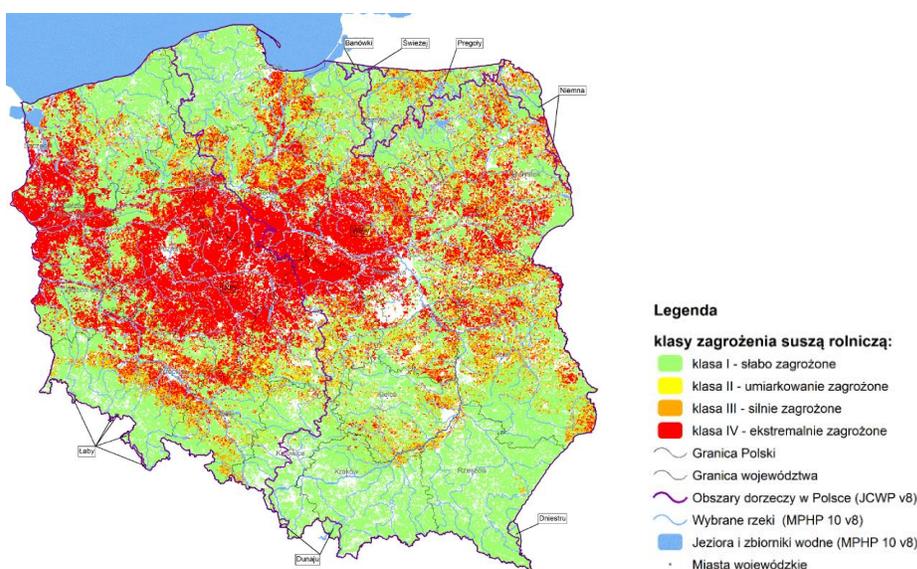


Fig. 1. Available water resources (assessment for 2012) (source: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/jrc-maps-help-match-water-supply-and-demand-7094>).

Analyses indicated also that 37.80% of agricultural and forest areas are endangered by extreme and strong agricultural drought which, together with areas endangered to a moderate degree (7.72%), qualifies as much as 45.52% of agricultural and forest areas as significantly endangered by agricultural drought (Fig. 2). In the Odra river basin district the areas endangered by severe and extreme agricultural drought constitute 52%. In the Vistula river basin district these areas constitute 37% and are situated from the mouth of the Narew River to the mouth of the Drwęca River, in the Drwęca River catchment area and in the western part of the Narew River catchment area (Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Mazowieckie voivodships). A weak and moderate agricultural drought hazard was found in the upper Vistula River basin from its sources to the mouth of the San River and in the San River basin (the Małopolskie and Podkarpackie Provinces). In the agricultural and forest areas of the Narew, Wieprz and Vistula catchment areas from the mouth of the Wieprz River to the mouth of the Narew River the drought hazard is of extreme and strong degree and covers from 20% to 35% of the catchment area. Within the Odra river basin, areas under high risk of agricultural drought occur on 10.16% of agricultural and forest areas. The greatest extent of extreme agricultural drought risk concerns the Warta and Barycz basins as well as the lower Odra basin

(Wielkopolskie, Lubuskie, Łódzkie and Zachodniopomorskie voivodships). The smallest areas of extreme and severe agricultural drought are found in the upper Odra and Nysa Łużycka drainage basins as well as in the Nysa Kłodzka and Bóbr drainage basins (the Silesia, Opole and Lower Silesia Provinces). On the other hand, in the Pregoła and Niemna river basins the area of agricultural and forest areas most threatened by agricultural drought (class III and IV) is 26.30% and 18.70%, respectively.

The drought situation is the result of a snowless and warm winters. As a result, the soil and rivers do not have a chance to sufficiently rebuild their resources after past droughts. The conclusions of the “Plans to prevent effects of drought” (PPSS, 2020) indicated also that 29.7% of Poland's river basin districts are threatened by hydrological drought while 5.65% of areas are threatened by hydrogeological drought.



Agricultural drought risk classes: Class I (green) - areas threatened to a weak degree; Class II (yellow) - areas threatened to a moderate degree; Class III (orange) - areas endangered to a strong degree; Class IV (red)- areas endangered to an extreme degree.

Counteracting the effects of drought, both in Poland and in Europe, is becoming a growing challenge. This is reflected in numerous legal regulations, e.g. in the field of water resources management, agricultural management, spatial planning and crisis management.

Drought causes impacts in the form of restrictions on water use, access to water services, or agricultural or forestry production opportunities. The occurrence of drought affects directly and indirectly areas such as environment, economy and society. Consequently, it is also part of such fields as water management and economics. The scale of the problem of drought effects is evidenced, inter alia, by the fact of compensations paid and the level of drought risk disaster aid for farmers, which amounted to: about 0.5 billion PLN in 2015, and 2.07 billion PLN in 2018. In 2019 ca 355 thousand applications for compensation for losses worth over 2.3 billion PLN were implemented.

The solution to the challenge includes technical and planning interventions as well as require de-fragmentation of water management system, better assignment of competences, anchoring of local and regional strategies into data and forecasts and setting efficient communication, information, and educational systems linking water managers of all levels from the country one – Polish Waters to the local partnerships – water companies (in Polish spółki wodne).

Another important aspect concerns institutional and organizational issues, particularly in area of policies delivery based on Multi-actors approach of horizontal action plans linking all relevant sectors and respective bodies focusing on common policies and targets at all relevant levels (from central through regional up to local level). Here the main task refers to development of effective coordination and cooperation mechanisms between all relevant actors. The Waterdrive project in Poland took particular attention to develop potential of the national network of the public agricultural advisory services through refocusing this structure activities from purely farming orientation towards more open mode of operations involving other non-farming actors (i.e. an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to establish network of Local Water Partnership across Poland).

Arguments for strengthening local water management in agricultural landscapes

The effective designing and implementation of water retention measures requires **multi-actor cooperation at all levels**. For example in case of the river channel retention it is required to couple land owners (farmers) management of the drainage network on their land with the top down actions by water manager/owner (Polish Waters). Support for local and regional authorities is a key element mobilizing local initiatives. To this end, it is necessary to build the potential for multi-actor activities by bridging stakeholders and moderating the cooperation process.

In the area of policy, the set of new type of advisory services (including agricultural services) should be launched to:

- a) secure proper collection, analysis, application of data and knowledge,
- b) ensure efficient delivery of all relevant policies at national, regional and local level.

Centralized data base and water management decision support system builds good foundation for cross-silos platform that strengthens holistic, thus ecosystem-focused approach, considering numerous synergistic and adverse effects of local and regional actions. Water advisor operating on the interface between local communities and high level governance could counteract such features of current water management as:

- a) fragmentation of existing network of public and private actors involved in water management in terms of their legal, institutional and managerial tasks,
- b) not sufficient coordination of their activities and cooperation deficiencies,

- c) not optimal public funds distribution for water oriented investments aimed at agricultural purposes.

Furthermore, adaptation to varying water availability is possible only through (1) cooperative renovation and management of the drainage system to slow down water outflow, (2) efficient dissemination of good agricultural practices to increase soil water retention, (3) optimization of the landscape structure for regulation of water cycle that requires efficient use of policy mechanisms, communication tools and long-term, collaborative visions for development from commune to catchment level.

The identified paths, therefore, refer to three aspects relevant for water management intervention:

- a) organizational,
- b) institutional,
- c) facilitating more effective use of already available forms of cooperation between all involved actors.

Selection and description of pathways

Pathway I – A new type of advisors operating within the network of the public agricultural advisory services

The network of public agricultural advisory services in Poland comprises:

- a) over 3500 agricultural advisors operating across Poland,
- b) they are located in 16 regional agricultural advisory centres representing province structure of Poland,
- c) field advisors operate at local level to provide the whole spectrum of services for farmers' communities,
- d) there are various specializations of advisors (i.e. general advisor, agri-environmental, farm business development, etc.), with exception to water management, which has been established under the Waterdrive project.
- e) public advisory services are based of twofold funding: public resources and individual payments for particular services requested by farmers.

The main objectives of this pathway are following:

- Introduction of new type of holistic services focused on water management at farm/catchment levels.
- Close cooperation of agricultural advisory services with all relevant actors at local level,
- Changing of farmers' attitudes to water resources and common action schemes.

The new type of services complements the current model of public agricultural advisory services which is based on:

- Supporting of farm holding profitability,
- Assistance in meeting standards of environment protection as defined by national and EU legislation and acquiring subsidies in the area of agri-environmental schemes (CAP).

The new approach will require some important changes in the public advisory activities in day-to-day service provision:

- substantial change of overall mode of agricultural advisors operations; new approach will require officers skilled in hard data analysis across the scales equipped with integrated data platforms, modelling tools and network of experts (knowledge) and playing a networking role – linking actors within and beyond agricultural sector;
- development of working and effective links with water governing bodies at local level – Water Companies and Water Supervision, intermediate level – the Catchment Boards and the Regional Boards for Water Management, and finally National Water Board.
- transferring knowledge of innovative water management measures from technologies to nature-based solutions with general scope on maintaining regulatory ecosystem services and reduction of sector vulnerabilities to climate-related hazards;

Additionally the water advisory system must be anchored in the water partnerships that institutionalize the idea of co-design, co-planning and shared responsibility for water in the area.

Pathway II – Use of development instruments of Local Governments as vehicle for water management.

In 2020, the Act on the Principles of Development Policy (created at December 6, 2006) was updated, introducing new tools for cooperation and forward-looking development planning. New tools for Local Governments better facilitate cooperation towards development a common policy by stakeholders at various levels (communes, poviats /counties, voivodships) and by neighbouring territorial units, in the area of water management.

The new statutory provisions link together development policy, as well as planning and spatial development.

The guidelines for conducting the development policy enable local governments establishing joint projects and common development areas. That includes cooperation in protection and management of water resources.

Urban Functional Areas (MOF's - Miejskie Obszary Funkcjonalne) cover spatially continuous settlement systems and a compact urban area, but composed of administratively separate units. The areas concentrated within individual MOF's may also together apply for co-financing from the European Commission funds for the implementation of joint projects.

Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI / ZIT – Zintegrowane Inwestycje Terytorialne) are a new form of supporting cooperation between local governments, which allows co-financing from European Funds. With this instrument, partnerships of local government units, cities and areas functionally related to them can achieve common goals and implement projects combining activities financed from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). Such a formula makes it possible to go beyond the administrative boundaries of local governments, which allows for the implementation of wider, consistent projects. ITI's are implemented not only in the formula dedicated to cities, but also to the Urban Functional Areas. Recent ITI's activities have mainly supported the improvement of access and quality of public services, the development of low-emission strategies, sustainable transport, as well as the improvement of the condition of the natural environment and the restoration of the socio-economic functions of degraded urban and suburban areas. In the future they should be used also to strengthen sustainable water management.

Strategic Intervention Areas (SIA / OSI – Obszary Strategicznej Interwencji) belong to intervention programs built on an agreement between several local government entities - communes, voivodships. They are dedicated to the areas of particular development potential or threatened by a crisis situation. Shared water resources could also be included. In the past perspective, the problems of water management were rarely considered in this instrument. In the 2014-2020 perspective, one of the Strategic Intervention Areas were rural areas.

Community-Led Local Development (CLLD / RLKS - Rozwój Lokalny Kierowany Przez Społeczność) is a tool used in Poland under the Rural Development Program (RDP / PROW) in the 2014-2020 perspective. It enables the use of the LEADER instrument within the framework of development policy. It empowers: bottom-up initiatives (wide participation of the local community in the creation and implementation of the strategy), territoriality (local development strategy prepared for specific, coherent area), integration (combining various sectors of the economy, cooperation of various stakeholders), partnership (Local Action Group's as a local partnership involving different actors from the public, social and economic sectors), innovation (on a local scale), decentralization of management and financing, networking and collaboration (exchange of experiences and dissemination of good practices). The CLLD tool enables local communities to initiate and implement development activities through participation, in response to the social, economic and environmental challenges of the indicated area. These activities may also include water resources management.

Local Action Groups (LAG's / LGD – Lokalne Grupy Działania) are bottom up, local partnership. LAG's bring together representatives of local organizations from public and private sectors and non-government organizations, as well as residents working for the local community. It is possible to use LAG's in connection with CLLD to initiate development activities related to the management of water resources in LGU's.

Other Territorial Instruments (OTI's / IIT – Inne Instrumenty Terytorialne) are dedicated to functional areas other than MOF's. They are multi-funded instruments used as part of interventions in the area of cohesion policy, to better integrate local communities. OTI can be used by LGU's independently or in partnerships with other local governments. They should be implemented in selected areas indicated in operational programs through separate activities. In order to implement them, local governments must develop OTI's action plans. On the basis of the approved IITs action plans, municipalities may apply for co-financing of development activities. Action plans IIT's may be Communal Development Strategies, Supra-local

Development Strategies or Communal Revitalization Programs and other strategic documents prepared by local governments.

The future EU financing perspective 2030 will frame the options for use of all the tools. Therefore it is critical to include water management issues in the new budget perspective of the *Cohesion Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy*, with local government units or their cooperatives as a target group.

The practice shows that investments in water facilities are cost-efficient when: they affect a larger area, they involve shared-cost approach, are able to mobilize a critical number of partners.

The latter issue can be dealt for example with the Living Labs method (Interdisciplinary Laboratories) applied for different levels of water management:

- self-government unions
- Local Action Groups
- Areas of Strategic Intervention
- Integrated Territorial Investments
- Community Led Local Development
- Local Water Partnerships

The relevant tools have been elaborated by Waterdrive and they are presented on the website www.water-drive.eu.

Pathway III - Integrated strategic planning as a method of implementing measures for landscape water retention.

The statutory changes introduced in 2020 to the Act on the Principles of Development Policy (from 6 December 2006) are important for Municipal Development Strategies and supplementary strategic documents (e.g. the Environmental Protection Program). This act determines the way of developing and implementing the Commune Development Strategy, in particular necessity in-deep analysis of the functional and spatial structure of the municipality, along with the functional and spatial structure modelling, and the areas of cooperation among local governments. Statutory provisions also specify the necessity of consulting of planning documents with other local governments (communes, poviats, voivodships) or “Polish Water” National Water Management, State Forests, etc.

The possible joint projects and development areas indicated in the implementation of development policies may include: Urban Functional Areas (MOF's), Integrated Territorial Investments (ITI's / ZIT), Strategic Intervention Areas (SIA's / OSI), Community-Led Local Development (CLLD / RLKS), Local Action Groups (LAG's / LGD) , Other Territorial Instruments (OTI's / IIT).

The functional and spatial structure models include diagnosis of the commune's condition in a range of spatial development, infrastructure, and the protection and development of natural areas - including

water resources. Based on these assumptions, the inventory of important landscape elements (including water areas) becomes an obligatory element of the Strategy - Landscape assessment.

It is important that the provisions of strategic documents determine the possibility of gaining public funds by local government units. Indicating recommendations for water management among the development directions will directly contribute to the possibility of implementing projects related to this area. This applies to both - communal and poviatal local governments.

Based on the new statutory provisions, municipalities are required to develop new strategic documents within 4 years. NIK (Supreme Chamber of Control) may impose appropriate penalties on local governments for the lack of a Strategy which should justify the implementation of municipal investments. This means that by 2025 there should be recommendations for water management in the communes.

In addition to the development policy, changes to the spatial planning and management system are also planned. The Act on Spatial Planning and Development (from March 27, 2003) was partially updated in 2021. However, the Ministry of Development, Labor and Technology (MRPiT) plans to develop the act further by changing its paragraphs, which is currently being consulted. The new provisions should tighten the integration of planning documents with strategic ones and give the possibility of greater control of spatial development. In principle, this will allow for a coherent and standardized development policy. This changes will also contribute to better water resources protection and management.

It should allow the inclusion of important guidelines for conduction of spatial development policy in the Development Strategies of LGU's (including the protection and use of water resources in catchments).

According to the new assumptions, the two-stage planning system will be based on General Land Use Plans (replacing the present Study - SUIKZP) and Detailed Development Plans. The first one are going to be acts of local law (which means that their provisions will be binding for the implementation of new development) and will be based on the guidelines indicated in the Model of the Functional and Spatial Structure of the Commune included in the Strategy. It will replace the current Studies on the Conditions and Directions of Spatial Development. Areas excluded from development and other investments should be indicated i.e. natural areas, floodplains, etc.

Detailed Plans will be based on the indications of General Plans and will cover larger spatial units in the commune, which excludes the creation of plans for individual plots. Decisions about development conditions and the location of a public purpose investment are assumed to be compatible with the General Plan.

Additionally, the new prototype of the act provides complementary tools for the implementation of development policy in communes. These include: national standards and municipal standards for development of buildings and infrastructure, public-private partnerships as a part of Integrated Investment Projects.

Individual local government units will be able to prepare their own local standards for infrastructure and building development. It should indicate the location of development areas and define respective standards.

Public-private partnerships as a part of the Integrated Investment Project (IIP / ZPI) will concern the creation of investment spaces. As part of the partnerships, agreements will be concluded between the commune and investors, in which rights and obligations of parties will be formalized, as well as the division

of activities which are part of investment implementation. With use of IIP, which will be consistent with the General Plans, local governments may indicate appropriate practices for maintaining the good status of water resources.

Strategic Objective for the pathways

To facilitate development of more coherent, holistic approach to water management at regional/local levels in close coordination with national initiatives taken by key policy decision makers through:

- a) initiating organizational and institutional changes at national and regional levels, ‘
- b) promotion of the broader application of already existing policy instruments amongst key water management actors at regional/local levels.

Overall objective: enhanced water security through collaborative implementation of NBS at landscape scale and improved institutional setting.

Integrated SWOT analysis

The SWOT analyses covers all four pathways as they are united by the common goal.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network of national and local public actors already operating in area of water management. • Fully operational network of public agricultural advisory services covering the whole area of Poland as a foundation for required water advisory services. • Network of water companies – farmers associations at local level. • Wider integration of planning and strategic documents which offers stronger control over land development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor coordination at strategic and operational levels among public actors involved in water management; • Lack of properly trained advisors to provide holistic advise on water issues; • Limited involvement of farmers in local water partnerships; • Lack of sufficient policies and financial mechanisms for more active involvement in water management, based on common inter-sectoral activities; • No consideration of ecosystem services, including PES, in regulations at any level, neither funding options;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in regulations linking spatial planning with integrated, long-term resource management, what hampers strategy building;
CHANCES	THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing risk related to climate change that raises interest in non-technical solutions among farmers and decision makers; • Launching of water partnership and farmers’ involvement in their actions through dedicated policies and financial incentives; • New incentives for local governments for more pro-active approach to water management, especially for involving other local actors and stakeholders; • Increasing attention of local authorities to the water shortage in agricultural sector – switch from theoretical approach / administrative issue towards actions minimizing economic loss, • New EU policies: European Green Deal, From Farm to Fork, Biodiversity strategy for 2030; • Changes in funding schemes in rural water management – from restricted funding, mainly for construction and operation of water facilities, to funding mechanisms (under European (RDP) and national funds) enabling both hydro-technical amenities and nature-based solutions (wetlands, mid-field afforestation, periodically flooded areas). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow process of development of cooperation instruments between all public actors involved in water management focused on agricultural needs; • Lack of coherent, integrated top-down water management, no integration of policies across water / agriculture / nature protection and communal services; • Lack of central database enabling reliable water advisory services, in particular no data on real groundwater water use; • Low awareness of the role of ecosystem services in sustaining agri-production in long-term; • Unclear legal position of water partnership under new legislation, still in the process of discussion • Underestimation of NBS amongst solutions, with strong tendency to invest in conventional systems, e.g. water supply / sewage infrastructure; low competitiveness of NBS on “must do” list; • Resistance to European regulations. • COVID-related break in supply chains, distribution systems, economic status of farms – declared reduction of spending for not-basic services, e.g. investments in NBS and any “new” approaches to water management;

Designing the implementation process

In case of all pathways, the creation of realistic way for improvement of coordination at regional/local levels requires:

- Flexible approach to apply all available legal, organisational and financial mechanisms, positively influencing voluntary cooperation between all relevant actors and stakeholders at appropriate territorial levels,
- Improved access to data: the common database is needed, covering an inventory of land drainage facilities, as well as water, soil, climate, geology and biodiversity data that allows for enhanced local analyses and development of local solutions harmonized at catchment scale, thus providing a foundation for water advisory system;
- Making the sub-catchment/area scenarios (e.g. Action Plans) of restoration and management of water resources a widely used, common basis for any investments/implementations; those should be elaborated by the experts in cooperation with water managers and farmers, landowners and other interested parties according to the following rules:
 - The proposed measures (their type/location) should be analysed in catchment scale;
 - The expert group should be able to generate a holistic approach, therefore should cover a number of disciplines in agriculture, water, biodiversity, forestry, climate, and economy;
 - The expert team should act as a support to Local Water Partnerships.
- Dissemination of knowledge about the new funding mechanisms which stimulate and secure cooperation between beneficiaries and guarantee higher efficiency per investment. This requires:
 - Development of respective criteria and indicators for the evaluation of applications, awarding complementary investments that enable holistic solutions in water management;
 - Prizing projects with multiple beneficiaries;
 - Preference for investment projects that combine hard measures with soft ones i.e. building of social and human capital, institutional capacity, broader awareness related to biodiversity, climate change, land use, etc.
- Launching of farmer – dedicated education aimed at understanding the water cycle /processes in the landscape and making the farmers responsible managers of water, improving its quality and quantity, e.g. through water-efficient agricultural practices --> connection with Water Advisor;

Progress up to now

The new type of agricultural advisory services – Water Advisor has been launched within the system of public agricultural advisory. That included: 1. developing the terms of reference for this new specialization, 2. preparation of training materials and their testing on a group of about 40 advisors during a cycle of 3

trainings, 3. setting the operational framework for the new specialization in the system of public agricultural advisory; 4. development of the training program and continuous professional development in the water advisory, 5. launching of the continuous monitoring of the needs in the field of water management in agriculture in terms of updating the training program for water advisors taking into account the requirements of the new EU approach to the CAP.

The new cooperation platforms have been established within the national water management system - The Local Water Partnerships (LWP) - an initiative of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture. The main goal of LPW is to fill a gap between country and local water management and to create consultation and decision taking platform at a county (powiat) level. Recent tasks of LWP are: (a) to develop a diagnosis of the actual status and needs of water resources management in the area of LPW operation, and (b) to coordinate and provide opinions on investment activities undertaken in the area of LPW operation.

The LPW consists of:

- representatives of county and municipal governments,
- agricultural organisations active in the LPW area,
- local organisational units of Polish Waters,
- other significant participants in the process of water management in the LPW area,
- Provincial Agricultural Advisory Centres as coordinating entities of the LPW activities.

In 2020 a pilot 17 LPWs were established, in 2021 the number is to increase up to 50-100 LPWs. Ultimately, it is planned to establish LPWs in every county in Poland.

However it seems that the following functional challenges of the system must be addressed:

- consultations at local level need to be run by local stewards, therefore developing stronger link between local communities and local water governors (water supervisions, catchment water management authorities) is critical,
- improved use of local knowledge and expertise in development of central documents for better consideration of local environmental and social constraints and needs.
- Increased recognition of advisory and expert role of local water stewards in the field of water and agriculture (formerly performed by a local land reclamator, now outsourced to external experts and planning offices)
- launching the river catchment boards as an advisory bodies complementing locally the competencies of the high level National Water Management Council
- down scaling of central water management plans, e.g. River Basin Management Plans to detailed local level action plans.

Elaborating on stakeholder roles and responsibilities (stakeholder analysis)

Body	Roles and responsibilities
National level	
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD, in Polish: Ministerstwo Rolnictwa i Rozwoju Wsi)	MARD main tasks are related to regulatory functions, policies related to agriculture and rural areas design and their subsequent implementation. The Ministry directly supervises operations of the public agricultural advisory services, including defining of scope of advisory services activities.
Ministry of Infrastructure, Department of Water Management and Inland Navigation (Ministerstwo Infrastruktury, Departament Gospodarki Wodnej i Żeglugi Śródlądowej)	Responsible of polish water politics and implementation of EU water politics; supervision of Polish Water
National Water Holding Polish Waters (in Polish. Państwowe Gospodarstwo Wodne Polskie Wody)	<p>Polish Waters is one the water management authority in Poland, responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Flood and Drought Protection: planning, project preparation and implementation of investments as well as maintenance and operation of hydrotechnical facilities; the provision of water for agriculture and matters related to monitoring the hydrological situation and crisis situations. (ii) The Water Services: deals with all matters related to water users, primarily issuing water permits, calculating water service charges, water management control, cooperation with various water users, including inland navigation, energy, industry, tourism and recreation. (iii) The Water Management Division deals with issues related primarily to the implementation of EU directives, such as the Water Framework Directive, the Directive on the Protection of Marine Waters, the Directive on Urban Waste Water Treatment and the Nitrates Directive. It also deals with issues related to protected areas such as NATURA 2000 and the Water Management Information System. <p>There are 4 levels in the organisational structure of Polish Water: local (330 Water Supervisions), catchment (50 Catchment Water Management Authorities), regional (11Regional Water Management Authorities) and national (National Water Management Authority) (Fig.)</p>

	National Water Management Authority (in Polish: Krajowy Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej z siedzibą w Warszawie) is the national unit of the National Water Holding Polish Waters. Responsible for water resources management (surface water and groundwater), e.g.: develop and publish flood risk management plan, drought management plan, river basin management plan.
Centrum Doradztwa Rolniczego (Agricultural Advisory Centre)	Central unit within the network of public agricultural advisory system responsible, inter alia, for development and delivering of professional training systems for agricultural advisors under direct supervision of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Regional level	
Marshal office (Urząd Marszałkowski)	The voivodeship government, which shape regional policies, distribute dedicated infrastructure / cohesion funding, recognizes regional needs economic, social and environmental
Regional Agricultural Advisory Centre	Part of national network of public agricultural advisory centres operating across Poland, recognizing and addressing educational and communication gaps;
Regional Water Management Authority (Regionalny Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej),	A regional Polish Waters unit engaged in the preparation of flood risk management plan, drought management plan, river basin management plan, realize measures from these plans; coordination of the implementation of investments in water regions,
Research Institutes	Provision of expert tools supporting decision making; Analysis of data for scenario building and forecasting; Optimization of monitoring systems.
Local level	
Water companies (in Polish: spółki wodne)	Independent legal bodies representing farmers operating at commune level around water resources located in areas of their territorial responsibility. Water companies fund their activities through levies paid by farm managers located around water resources in both communes. The water companies are responsible for maintenance of small water infrastructure in their area of activities. Other regionally and nationally based actors are providing financial resources for large scale water investment in area of each Water company.
Agricultural Advisors	Staffed by public regional agricultural advisory centres; operates at municipality level and are assigned to municipality. They play important role in advertising among farmers CAPs and assisting them in applications. Their advisory capacity needs to be strengthened by increase of competencies, broadening of expertise, proper linking to information sources.

<p>Local units of water management authority</p>	<p>Two levels of National Water Holding Polish Waters units:</p> <p>a) Water Supervision (in Polish: Nadzór wodny), which is a local administrative unit; their main tasks: maintain and operate water facilities, ensure proper technical condition, operation and safety of hydrotechnical structures, provide signalling of hazards in the event of extreme hydrological phenomena; conduct cases concerning decisions and notifications on water permits;</p> <p>b) Catchment Water Management Authority (in Polish: Zarząd Zlewni), which is a basin level unit; it performs tasks of maintenance of surface waters and water facilities: ensuring good technical conditions of beds of natural watercourses, carrying out technical condition assessment of rivers and streams, maintenance of hydrotechnical facilities, carrying out water management on hydrotechnical facilities in accordance with water management instructions. It implements the flood risk, drought, river basin management plans.</p>
<p>County Administrative Authority (Starostwo powiatowe)</p>	<p>Development and implementation of administrative tasks at the county level with reference to water management:</p> <p>Water management - selected tasks of the poviats / county:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carrying out flood protection tasks on the basis of an agreement concluded with Polish Waters, • receiving flood hazard maps from the minister responsible for water management, • reporting comments to draft flood risk management plans made public by the minister responsible for water management, • providing the data necessary for the preparation of the preliminary flood risk assessment, the preparation of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps, and the preparation of flood risk management plans, • carrying out the tasks of counteracting the effects of drought, based on the "Plan" prepared by Polish Waters, • submitting comments to the draft plan to counteract the effects of drought and its updating, • providing the data necessary to prepare a plan to counteract the effects of drought and update it, • exercising the ownership rights of the State Treasury in relation to inland flowing water within the boundaries of the poviats under the agreement concluded with Polish Waters, • preparing, on the basis of the report of the water supervision manager, a draft resolution of the District Council on the

	<p>determination of water management problems important for the local government community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • submitting comments to the documents prepared by the minister responsible for water management, in particular regarding the review of significant water management problems specified for a given river basin district and the draft water management plan for the river basin area, • providing the data necessary for the preparation of the river basin management plan, • providing data falling within the scope of information collected in the water management information system operated by Polish Waters, • preparation of a draft resolution of the District Council on the principles and mode of granting subsidies for water companies for the ongoing maintenance of water and water facilities and for financing investments and the method of their settlement. •
<p>Commune Office (in Polish: Urząd Gminy)</p>	<p>Tasks of the gmina/commune administrative level in scope of water management are as follows (on the basis of the Water Law Act and other relevant legal and administrative regulations):</p> <p>Water management - selected tasks of the commune:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spatial planning at the local level - documents specifying the manner of implementing investments in the commune, • issuing decisions ordering the restoration of the water level on the ground to the previous state or ordering the implementation of devices preventing damage, • issuing decisions approving settlements of land owners establishing changes in the water level on the land, • fulfilling obligations and tasks resulting from the National Program of Municipal Sewage Treatment, • determining the rules for granting financial aid from the budgets of local government units for the current maintenance of water and water facilities and for financing or co-financing investments in the form of a special-purpose subsidy and the procedure for granting this subsidy and the method of its settlement by resolution, • cooperation with other administration authorities, water users and the local community in the field of water management.