Krystyna Pawłowska, Teresa Mądry

Capital expenses and operating costs of sewage disposal and treatment systems: [abstract]

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EU FUNDS IN BALANCING URBAN TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN POLAND, 2004-2006

Summary
The article includes analysis and assessment of the role of European Union funds in balancing the urban transport infrastructure in Poland in 2004-2006. It depicts the scale, proportions, as well as material effects of funds obtained through the European Regional Development Fund within the frameworks of Integrated Operational Regional Development Programme and Sectoral Operational Programme Transport. Specific projects, implemented in cities and co-financed from the EU funds are analysed, as well as their influence on balancing the transport infrastructure in the understanding related to the EU guidelines. According to those guidelines, sustainable development of infrastructure ensures accessibility of travel destinations in a way that is safe and good for people, and friendly for the living environment of both the present and next generations. It also offers a possibility of choosing a means of transport, and supports economy and regional development. Moreover, it reduces the emission of pollutions, noise and waste, as well as the consumption of renewable resources, while minimizing the consumption of the non-renewable ones.

The analysis that has been conducted shows that projects co-financed from the pool of Integrated Operational Regional Development Programme and Sectoral Operational Programme Transport conform to the concept of sustainable development. Projects implemented within the frameworks of those Programmes support, directly and indirectly, the building of sustainable transport infrastructure in Polish cities. Those projects balance the development of transport infrastructure directly, when they are directed towards the development of means of transport alternative in relation to cars (railway, tramway, underground). On the other hand, when they cut down the emission of pollution, decrease noise, reduce the number of road accidents, etc., they balance the development of that infrastructure in an indirect way. Investment projects, which were subjected to analysis, balance the urban transport infrastructure in Poland, first of all, in terms of social benefits, understood over the long term. They improve mobility of population, reduce the risk of road accidents through modernisation, modification of roads and bridges, improving availability of ring roads, etc. They allow for a better migration of people and increase spatial availability of job places and services. They balance the development of urban transport infrastructure in terms of ecology, since they cut down the emission of pollutions, reduce noise and vibrations, and provide for a drop in land absorption level. At the same time, they yield positive economic effects, since capital investment projects implemented within their framework prevent the creation of barriers to economic growth. Also balanced is the
technical factor, since the indicated technical projects improve traffic quality standards, as well as traffic capacity of transport routes and corridors. Considered in the financial perspective of 2007-2013, capital investment projects concerning transport infrastructure will be financed from Regional Operational Programmes, Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment, as well as Operational Programme Development of Eastern Poland. Those Programmes provide opportunities for further balancing of the transport infrastructure development in Poland.