

MAREK KOS<sup>1</sup>, PIOTR KSIĄŻEK<sup>2</sup>, BARTŁOMIEJ DROP<sup>2</sup>

## Fundusze unijne w inwestycjach SPZOZ w Kraśniku

### Streszczenie

Wejście Polski w skład krajów członkowskich Unii Europejskiej otworzyło okres niepowtarzalnej szansy na rozwój naszego makroregionu. Szansę tą stwarzają między innymi fundusze strukturalne powodujące wyrównywanie się różnic dzielących poszczególne regiony. W skali całego kraju uruchomiono wiele programów operacyjnych udzielając wsparcia finansowego dla najbardziej istotnych problemów społecznych regionów. Część z nich dotyczy specyficznego obszaru zajmującego się ochroną zdrowia i polityką społeczną.

Autorzy pracy przedstawili zasadność kierowania funduszy strukturalnych w obszar zdrowia na przykładzie powiatowej jednostki ochrony zdrowia jakim jest Samodzielny Publiczny Zakład Opieki Zdrowotnej w Kraśniku. Jednostka ta jeszcze przed kilkoma laty dysponowała starymi, wysłużonymi budynkami szpitalnymi oraz wyeksploatowanym sprzętem medycznym. Dzięki kilku projektom unijnym realizowanym w ramach Zintegrowanego Programu Operacyjnego Rozwoju Regionalnego, Programu Operacyjnego Infrastruktura i Środowisko, Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego Województwa Lubelskiego oraz Fundacji EKO-FUNDUSZ pozyskała środki na realizację takich zadań jak termomodernizacja budynków szpitalnych, przebudowa bloku operacyjnego i przychodni specjalistycznej, zakup nowoczesnego, specjalistycznego sprzętu medycznego, informatyzacja jednostki oraz wdrożenie nowych technologii informatycznych (m.in. e-usługi medyczne). Działania te przyniosły prawie 18 mln złotych pozyskanych ze środków unijnych, a całkowita wartość przeprowadzonych w tym okresie inwestycji to ponad 25 mln złotych. Obecnie trudno sobie wyobrazić kraśnicki SPZOZ bez tych niezbędnych inwestycji. Należy w tym miejscu zaznaczyć wielkie zaangażowanie w powyższe działania Starostwa Powiatowego w Kraśniku. Powiat Kraśnicki, jako organ założycielski SPZOZ w Kraśniku na realizację inwestycji współfinansowanych przez UE przeznaczył prawie 7,8 mln zł jako tzw. „wkład własny” i na bieżąco nadzorował prace w tym zakresie. W chwili obecnej można zauważyć, że brak wsparcia finansowego ze strony Unii Europejskiej może skutkować obniżeniem poziomu udzielanych świadczeń zdrowotnych, a nawet likwidacją jednostek ochrony zdrowia.

**Słowa kluczowe:** fundusze europejskie, zdrowie, ochrona zdrowia, źródła finansowania, współfinansowanie.

## The contribution of EU funds in investments of the Independent Public Health Care Unit in Kraśnik

### Abstract

Poland's accession to the EU has opened unique opportunities for the development of our macroregion. The opportunities are created by, inter alia, the Structural Funds that balance the gap between different regions. In the whole country a significant number of operational programs providing financial support for the most important social problems of the regions have been implemented. Some of them concern a specific area dealing with health and social policy.

The authors present the relevance of targeting structural funds in the health care area on the example of poviats health-care unit, namely Independent Public Health Care Unit in Kraśnik (SPZOZ Kraśnik). A few years ago this unit had the old, worn-out hospital buildings and depleted medical equipment. With several EU projects implemented under the Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Infrastructure and Environment Operational Programme, the Regional Operational Programme of Lubelskie Province and the Lublin Foundation EKOFUNDUSZ, it acquired funds for the implementation of such tasks as thermal modernization of hospital buildings, reconstruction of the operating theater and specialist outpatient clinics, purchase of modern, medical specialized equipment, computerization of the unit and the implementation of the new information technologies (among others, e-health services). These actions resulted in nearly 18 million PLN obtained from the EU funds and the total amount of the investments held in this period was more than 25 million PLN. At present it is difficult to imagine SPZOZ Kraśnik without these necessary investments. Great involvement in these activities of the Powiat Starosty in Kraśnik should be noted here. Kraśnicki Powiat, as the founding body of SPZOZ in Kraśnik has allocated nearly 7.8 million PLN for investments co-financed by the EU funds as so called "own contribution" and constantly supervised the work in this field. At present, it can be seen that the lack of financial support from the European Union funds could result in lower level of provided health services, and even the elimination of health care units.

**Keywords:** EU funds, health, health care, sources of funding, co-funding.

<sup>1</sup> Independent Public Health Care Unit in Kraśnik

<sup>2</sup> Chair and Department of Public Health, II Faculty of Medicine with English Language Division, Medical University of Lublin

One of the most important values in life of every human being is health. Looking from the social point of view, a healthy society is a key component of workforce productivity, prolonged activity of employees or competitiveness in the labor market. This has been noticed by the European Union and international organizations, which emphasize the importance of investing in health in the context of such long-term forecasts, as the aging population, the risk of civilization diseases or the persistence of inequality in access to health. Such documents as the Maastricht Treaty of 1992 [1], the Amsterdam Treaty of 1997 [2] or the White Paper „Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013” of 2007 [3] provide that European Union is to work to ensure a high level of health and pay particular attention to the need of investing in the health of the Member States citizens [4].

In accordance with the above guidelines, in our region in 2007, the Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 for Lubelskie Province (ROP) [5] was launched, the main aim of which was to improve the competitiveness of the Lublin region leading to faster economic growth and increasing employment taking into account the natural and cultural assets of the region. A part of the Lubelskie Province ROP is the Priority Axis VIII: Social Infrastructure. The objective of this axis is to improve education and access to knowledge, health services and social support. The Marshal Office in Lublin within Priority Axis VIII has conducted a series of competitions in order to improve the health situation in our province. These were projects related to the adjustment of health facilities to the requirements of the Regulation of the Minister of Health, the purchase of modern medical equipment, or thermal modernization of health care buildings. The needs in this area in our region are enormous, and the financial possibilities of founding bodies of public health units are not sufficient. A good example is the premises and equipment used by the Independent Public Health Care Unit in Krasnik.

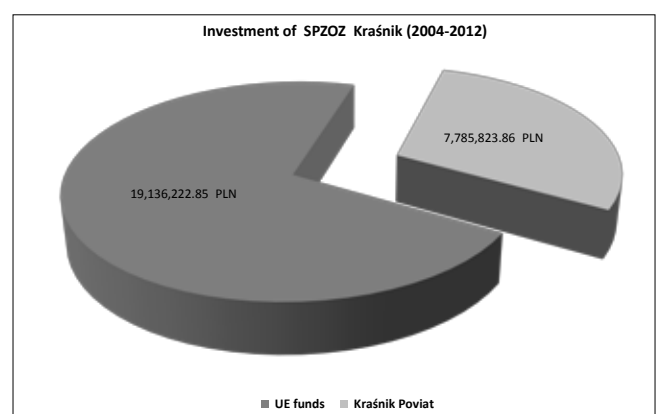
Independent Public Health Care Unit (SPZOZ) in Kraśnik provides among others, such medical services as hospital treatment, out-patient care, medical rehabilitation, primary health care [6]. The founding body of the Unit is Kraśnik Poviát. The SPZOZ in Kraśnik includes Poviát Hospital with 402 beds, Poviát Outpatient Specialist Clinic with over 30 specialized outpatient departments and Rehabilitation Center. Health care services are provided mainly to Kraśnik Poviát residents and in emergency situations – to everyone in need. As far as the demographic data is concerned, it should be added that the Kraśnik Poviát is situated in south-western part of the Lubelskie Province, and in terms of total area of 100,534 hectares, takes the 12 position in the region (out of 24 poviáts). There are 10 municipalities and 2 cities (Krasnik and Annopol) and 206 villages on its territory. The poviát population is 99,531 people, including 48.6 thousand men, 50.9 thousand women. The population density in the 1 km<sup>2</sup> is 99 people. The cities of the Kraśnik Poviát are inhabited by 38,588 people, the countryside – by 60,943 people [7].

The premises and equipment of SPZOZ in Kraśnik in 2006 presented a significant wear. Earlier, in 2004-2005, a revamp of one of the floors of the hospital had been performed to improve conditions in the Intensive Care Unit and Department of Traumatic Surgery. It was the proverbial

„drop in the ocean of needs” of fairly large, poviát unit. The main hospital building was built in the 60’s, and its satellite buildings and the building of outpatient clinic in the 70’s and 80’s of the twentieth century. They required a comprehensive modernization, often with reconstruction of entire floors of buildings. The medical equipment used in the daily work of staff was in a dilapidated condition. These problems could not be solved by Kraśnicki Poviát – the founding body of the healthcare Unit, despite the fact that the Local Government Act of 1998, in addition to the introduction of new tiers of local government authorities in the form of local government poviáts and provinces, introduced the principle of the responsibility for meeting the health needs of the residents of the respective areas [8]. Poviáts then were given the supervision over the poviát hospitals and specialized outpatient care and treatment, centered in pre-existing health care facilities, which in most cases functioned in the newly established poviáts. However, the poviát local government did not have sufficient financial resources or financial instruments in order to radically improve the situation outlined above.

The external funds coming from the European Union have become a partial solution to these problems. Since 2007, SPZOZ in Kraśnik, as one of the few such entities in its region, has been greatly successful in winning EU funds. In the last five years, there have been almost 100% of positively assessed projects. This has provided almost 18 million PLN obtained from the EU funds and the total amount for investments held in this period amounted to more than 25 million. Today, it is difficult to imagine SPZOZ in Kraśnik without hospital buildings renovation, CT scans, modern medical equipment, or refurbished and retrofitted with Poviát Specialist Outpatient Clinic. Here, a great involvement of the Poviát Starosty in Kraśnik in all these activities, should be emphasized. Kraśnik Poviát, as the founding body of SPZOZ in Kraśnik has allocated nearly 7.8 million PLN as so called „own contribution” for investments co-financed by the EU. Figure 1 presents the structure of the contribution of Kraśnik Poviát and of EU funds in investments in SPZOZ Kraśnik co-financed from EU funds.

SPZOZ in Kraśnik had already started efforts to acquire EU funds in the first period of EU funding in 2004-2006. Within the Integrated Regional Operational Programme



**FIGURE 1.** The structure of the contribution of Kraśnik Poviát and of EU funds in investments of Independent Public Health Care Unit (SPZOZ) in Kraśnik co-financed by the EU (2004-2012).

(IROP) and the project implementation „Computerization and purchase of medical equipment for SPZOZ in Kraśnik”, a sum of 1,381,273.88 PLN was acquired. Computerization was implemented in the whole hospital and the necessary medical equipment was bought (among others, X-ray for the operating theater). Another great step was in 2007 the acquisition of funds from of the EKOFUNDUSZ Foundation for thermal modernization of the main hospital building with the construction of a modern gas boiler house. For this purpose 1.1 million PLN was obtained with a total investment cost of 4,171,689.47 PLN. Powiat Starosty in Kraśnik subsidized over 3 million PLN for this project. In 2010 in a competition conducted by the Ministry of Health (Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment) the hospital in Kraśnik acquired funding for the project „Increasing the efficiency of emergency medical services in SPZOZ in Kraśnik through modernization of emergency department and purchase of medical equipment”. The Ministry transferred for this project 1,463,050.00 PLN from the EU funds.

But the real „heaps” of the investments occurred after the Marshal’s Office in Lublin had launched a Regional Operational Programme of Lublin Province for 2007-2013. Under this program, SPZOZ in Kraśnik received funding for five major projects, and the amount of money obtained was as much as 15,191,899.63 PLN. The detailed titles of the projects and the amount of EU funding are presented in Table 1 (including the investments of IROP, OPIE and the Foundation EKOFUNDUSZ). The funds were used to purchase a modern and specialized medical equipment (among others CT scanner, digital x-ray cameras, digital mammograph), and for thermal modernization and reconstruction of hospital buildings and specialized clinics. The next stages of hospital computerization were carried out (e-health services were implemented).

## CONCLUSIONS

1. EU funds are a great tool to carry out investments in buildings and equipment of the health care units.
2. The commitment of local government units as well as joint activities with the subordinate health care units are recommended for effective acquisition of EU funds.
3. Local governments being the owners of healthcare institutions, are not able to finance necessary investments in their units on their own.
4. No financial support from the European Union could result in lower levels of health services provided, and even the liquidation of healthcare institutions.

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**TABLE 1. The projects implemented by SPZOZ in Kraśnik under the programmes: Regional Operational Programme of Lublin Province, the Integrated Regional Operational Programme, Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment and Foundation EKOFUNDUSZ, their total value and amount of funding by the European Union.**

No.	Project	Total value of the Project in PLN	EU funding in PLN
1.	“Computerisation and purchase of medical equipment for SPZOZ in Kraśnik” (IROP)	1,654,635.75	1,381,273.22
2.	“Retrofitting of the main building of the Powiat Hospital in Kraśnik with the exchange of coal boiler to a gas one” (Kraśnik Powiat, EKOFUNDUSZ)	4,171,689.47	1,100,000.00
3.	“Increasing access to medical services in SPZOZ in Kraśnik through the purchase of medical equipment and the implementation of e-health services” (ROP)	2,864,579.70	2,252,588.14
4.	“Adaptation, purchase of equipment and retrofitting of a hospital outpatient clinic building of SPZOZ in Kraśnik to improve medical services” (ROP)	3,615,165.43	1,989,625.29
5.	“Increasing the efficiency of emergency medical services in SPZOZ in Kraśnik through modernization of emergency department and purchase of medical equipment” (OPIE)	1,721,239.86	1,463,050.00
6.	“Retrofitting of three buildings at SPZOZ in Kraśnik at Chopin’s St. 13 and Wyszynski St. 6” (ROP)	2,088,987.99	1,775,639.78
7.	“The purchase of specialized and highly specialized equipment for SPZOZ in Kraśnik” (ROP)	5,082,800.50	4,320,380.42
8.	“Reconstruction of the operating theatre in Kraśnik SPZOZ to the requirements specified in the regulations of the Minister of Health” (ROP)	5,723,048.01	4,853,666.00
Total		26,922,046.71	19,136,222.85

**Informacje o Autorach**

Dr n. med. MAREK KOS – z-ca Dyrektora ds. Medycznych SPZOZ w Kraśniku; prof. dr hab. n. med., dr h.c. PIOTR KSIĄZEK – kierownik; dr n. med. BARTŁOMIEJ DROP – asystent, Katedra i Zakład Zdrowia Publicznego, II Wydział Lekarski z Oddziałem Anglojęzycznym, Uniwersytet Medyczny w Lublinie.

**Adres do korespondencji**

Marek Kos  
ul. Chopina 13, 23-200 Kraśnik  
tel. 695 330 700  
E-mail: marekkos@op.pl