

ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTING INTERVENTIONS CO-FINANCED BY THE EFS ON REDUCING SOCIAL EXCLUSION AND POVERTY IN POLAND



Research objectives

Assessment of the impact of POWER activities in the area of reducing social exclusion and poverty in Poland

Specific Objectives

1. Assessment of the impact of implemented interventions on reducing social exclusion and poverty
2. Measurement and analysis of the indicator: “Number of local government units that have used the developed tool to improve the quality of strategies for solving social problems”
3. Evaluation of the effectiveness, usefulness and sustainability of support in the area of reducing social exclusion and poverty
4. Indication of directions for support in the area of reducing social exclusion and poverty at the national level under the FERS Prpogramme

The evaluation focused on projects implemented under Measure 2.5 “Effective Social Assistance”

Methodology

Desk research

In-depth interviews with representatives MRPiPS, beneficiaries, and local government units (LGUs)

CAWI survey with training participants

CAWI survey with representatives of beneficiaries and LGUs

Focus group interviews with beneficiaries and LGUs

Case studies of solutions/models developed under Measure 2.5

Econometric and statistical analyses

SWOT analysis

Discussion panel

Support implemented under Measure 2.5 of the PO WER

Training, advisory and organisational support

Training in the organisation of social assistance and new organisational and legal solutions in social assistance

Training in streetworking, supervision and soft skills

Specialist training – Level I and/or Level II – for social workers and social work aspirants, including training related to acquiring new specialisations

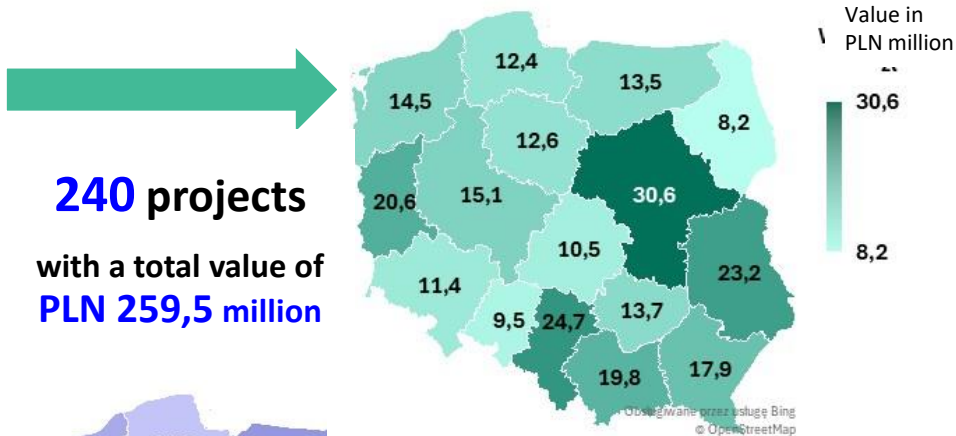
Training and advisory support regarding IT tools and cooperation models

Implementation of organisational improvements in Social Welfare Centres (OPS)

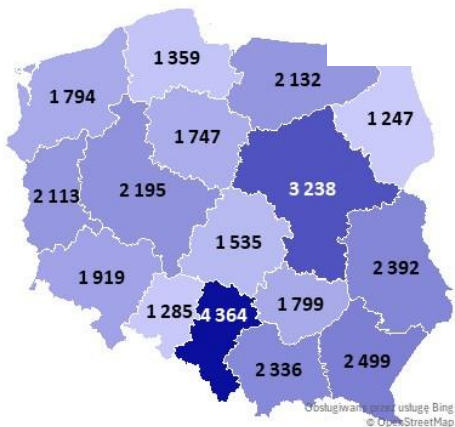
Development of education standards for new professional specialisations in social work

Development of STRATEGOR and OZPS IT tools

Development of cooperation models between social assistance institutions, social employment institutions and entities from other sectoral policies



240 projects
with a total value of
PLN 259,5 million



33 954
project
participants

Support outcomes



1 tool for data aggregation and monitoring (area of social inclusion, OZPS)



1 tool aimed at improving the quality of local and regional strategies for addressing social issues



3 new professional specializations (1. Social Assistance and Mediation, 2. Social Services Organizer, 3. Local Community Animator)"



1 nationwide cooperation network (National Reintegration Network)



3 models of cooperation between social assistance and integration institutions and entities from other sectoral policies



207 social welfare centers with implemented organizational improvements (separation of administrative procedures from social work)



1 cooperation model between social employment institutions and other entities providing social services

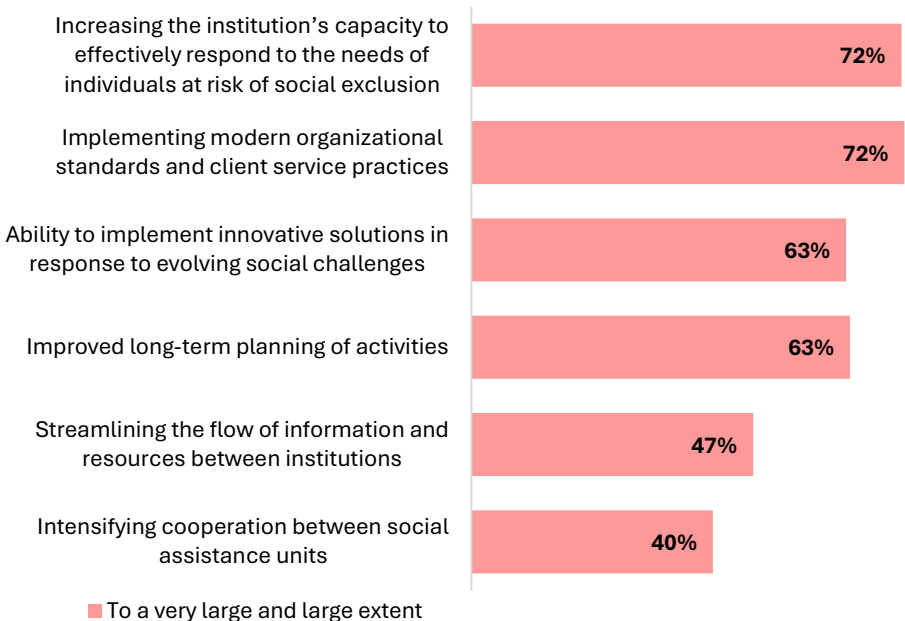


13,893 people participating in training and advisory services (specialized and competency-based training)

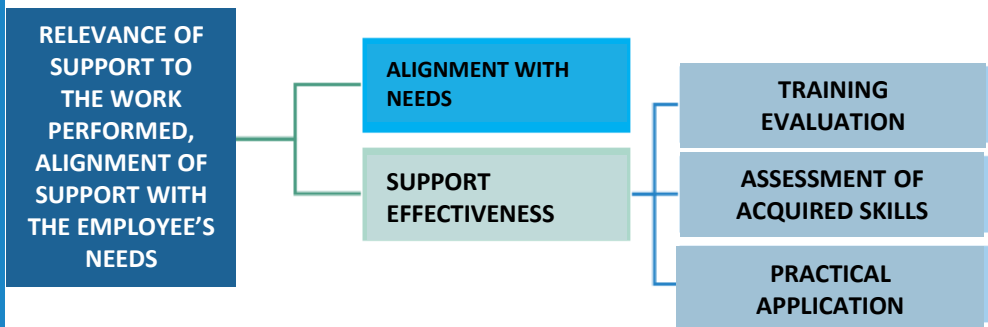
Key outcomes of the projects in terms of staff/workforce



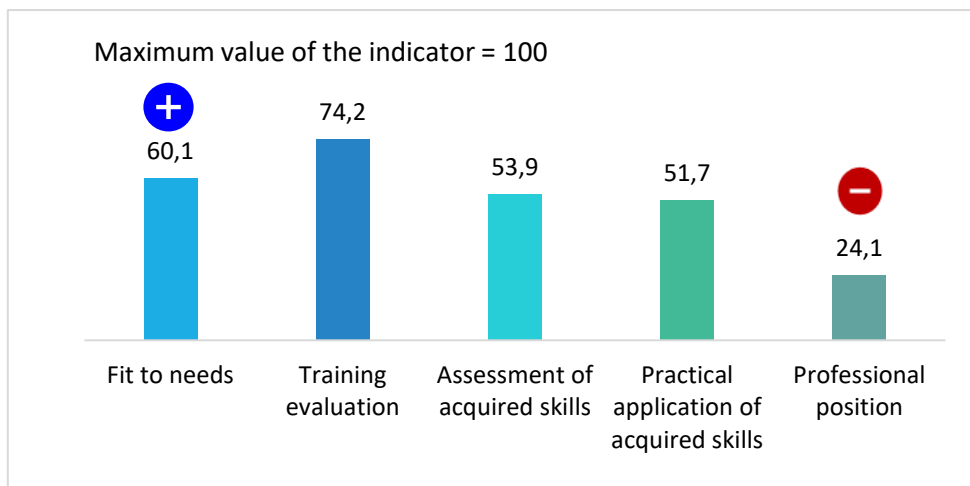
Key outcomes of the projects in the organizational dimension



Training effectiveness evaluation model (overall indicator and partial indicators)



Average values of the overall support evaluation indicator and its partial indicators



The **overall training evaluation** indicator for trainings implemented under projects co-financed by Measure 2.5 of the PO WER reached an average value of **74.2**, which should be considered a **high level**.

Improvements are primarily needed in the following areas:

- **professional position**, i.e., lack of translation of training into participants' employment situations
- practical application of **acquired skills**

Evaluation of Support – Activity 2.5

POWER

STRENGTHS OF THE SUPPORT

- ❖ Providing support that enhances the qualifications and competencies of a **large number of social assistance and integration institution employees**
- ❖ **High and very high training evaluations**
- ❖ **High level of achievement of project/action objectives**
- ❖ **High project accessibility** due to the provision of 100% of eligible costs in most types of funding
- ❖ **High sustainability of project results**
- ❖ **Clearly positive evaluations of the implementation of organizational improvements** in social welfare centers (OPS)
- ❖ **Broad, multidimensional scope of support**
- ❖ Provision of support that, **beyond Measure 2.5, would be difficult to obtain** due to limited availability

WEAKNESSES OF THE SUPPORT

- ❖ **Low utilization of the developed systemic tools**
- ❖ **Some concerns** regarding the user-friendliness of the IT tool for data aggregation, analysis, and monitoring
- ❖ Multiple indications of **weaknesses in the cooperation model** between social employment institutions and other entities providing social services
- ❖ Implementation of organizational improvements in social welfare units covered by support in **less than 10% of municipalities in Poland**

Conclusions and recommendations (1)

Conclusion: Respondents rated supervision very positively. At the same time, they pointed out the small number of certified supervisors, which poses a barrier to using their services and leads to relatively high fees for this type of service



Recommendation: It is advisable to take actions (within FERS and/or regional programs) aimed at increasing the number of certified social work supervisors

Conclusion: organizational changes in OPS were generally perceived positively; however, they were sometimes very difficult to implement in small centers with a limited number of social workers



Recommendation: in the future, any organizational changes in OPS should be designed in a way that takes into account the specific characteristics of work in both small and larger centers

Conclusion: under Measure 2.5, models and tools supporting the functioning of OPS were developed. However, access to the resulting products is currently sometimes limited. There is no well-organized knowledge repository containing the developed products, their documentation, and guidance on good practices



Recommendation: creation of an information platform where descriptions of the developed products would be available in an organized manner, easy to identify and use, along with summaries illustrating how they can be applied and presenting the benefits of their implementation

Conclusions and recommendations (2)

Conclusion: providing support that includes the creation of universal models and tools is a relevant and useful action. However, a matter worthy of attention is ensuring effective mechanisms for measuring the outcomes of such solutions.



Recommendation: proposals for the development of models/tools should include a mandatory evaluation stage. The evaluation should assess the effectiveness of implementation and identify factors that hinder implementation

Conclusion:
under Measure 2.5 of PO WER, a tool was developed to support the fulfillment of the statutory obligation of local government units (JST) regarding the preparation of OZPS. The study indicates a high assessment of its usefulness. Nevertheless, some respondents pointed out certain shortcomings of the tool



Recommendation: conduct a review and, based on it, make decisions regarding potential improvements, then implement the appropriate modifications – ultimately leading to the development and dissemination of a new version of the tool