

**EVALUATION OF THE SUPPORT
IMPACT IN AXIS I
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
IN ROP LV 2014-2020**



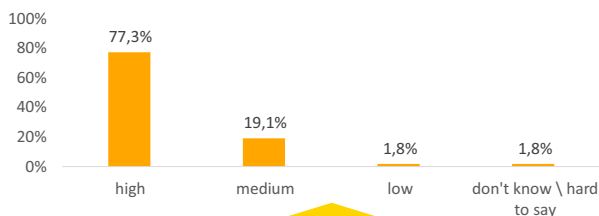
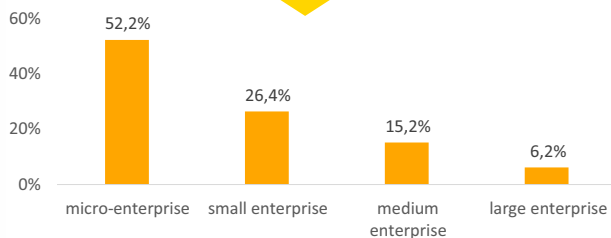
Material co-financed by the European Social Fund

DESCRIPTION AND ADEQUACY OF THE SUPPORT

	Projects number	Amount of funding		Projects number	Amount of funding
Measure 1.1 Regional R&D infrastructure	2	10,2m PLN	Measure 1.4 Transfer of technology and commercialization of research	2	1,2m PLN
Measure 1.2 Targeted research	79	123,0m PLN	Measure 1.5 Voucher for innovations	22	3,0m PLN
Measure 1.3 R&D infrastructure in enterprises	78	92,8m PLN	TOTAL	183	230,1m PLN

The comprehensiveness of the support available under PA I of the ROP LV 2014-2020, which is of key importance for the overall support of research and innovation activities in the region, should be evaluated positively.

In the case of the enterprise sector, support for the small and medium-sized enterprises is predominant, especially for micro-enterprises, which are located in Lublin and the districts surrounding the provincial capital.



The vast majority (77.3%) of beneficiaries of Measures 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 assessed highly the degree to which the support received matched their needs.



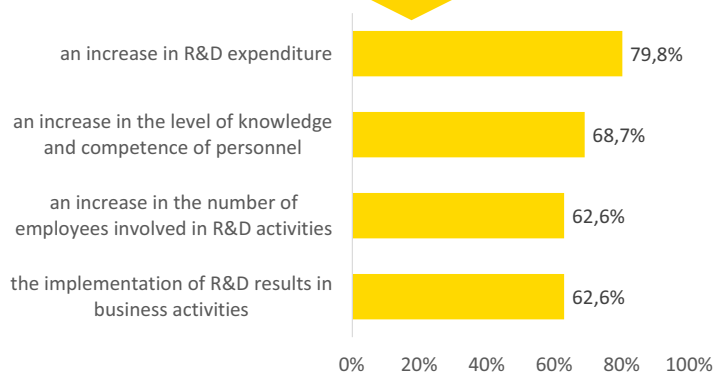
The established types of projects, categories of beneficiaries and target groups are well adapted to the objectives of the intervention.



The support has been directed at solving the actual problems in the region related to the development of R&D and innovation activities.

EFFECTIVENESS AND USEFULNESS OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED

The most common effects obtained in Measure 1.2 and 1.3 projects were: an increase in R&D expenditure, an increase in the level of knowledge and competence of personnel, an increase in the number of employees involved in R&D activities and the implementation of R&D results in business activities.



Most common effects in other Measures

Measure 1.1



development of the existing research and development infrastructure



increasing the research offer addressed to companies

Measure 1.4



building the substantive potential and preparing the institution to provide services to enterprises

Measure 1.5



increasing the level of knowledge and competence of employees



establishing cooperation with R&D units







implementation of the results of R&D works into business activity

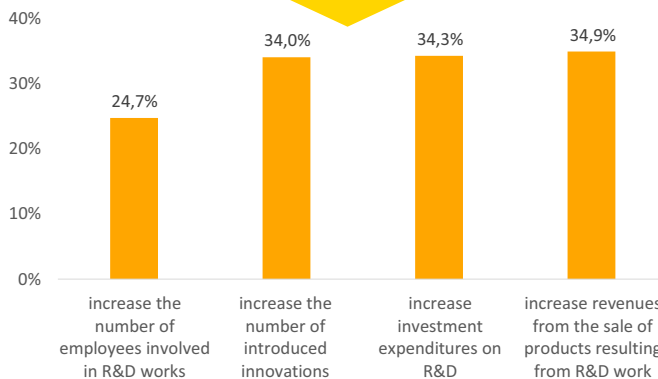


Lubelskie Province in terms of innovativeness and R&D activity of the business sector, Lubelskie region presents itself as the one in which there has been an improvement in several dimensions in recent years, or at least the situation has not deteriorated. Compared to the country as a whole, the research, development and innovation potential of the province is average.

EFFECTIVENESS AND USEFULNESS OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED

Counterfactual analysis (comparing the situation of companies benefiting from support under PA I of the ROP LV 2014-2020 and ineffective applicants) confirmed the occurrence of the following effects:

-  increase the number of employees involved in R&D works,
-  increase the number of introduced innovations,
-  increase investment expenditures on R&D,
-  increase revenues from the sale of products resulting from R&D work.



Considering the level of innovativeness of solutions introduced within the implemented projects, it is relatively high, especially in Measure 1.2, where in all undertakings for which the beneficiaries, it proved to be of supra-regional nature (national, European or global).



We are dealing with the correct implementation of intervention objectives, which is confirmed by the fact that in the case of all material and financial progress indicators, the estimated degree of implementation exceeds 100%.



The efficiency analysis performed confirmed that the ratio of the achieved effects to incurred expenditures in the projects is generally more favourable than assumed in the Programme.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUPPORT AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS



POSITIVE FACTORS



substantive capacity of the beneficiary



relations with various categories of stakeholders (with the project supervisor / persons responsible for providing support)



NEGATIVE FACTORS



COVID-19 pandemic and pandemic crisis



war in Ukraine



increase in prices



exchange rate fluctuations



formalities / formal requirements at the stage of project implementation and settlement

It should be emphasised that the strong current factors negatively affecting R&D and innovation activity may also disrupt the implementation of the support offered by the European Funds for Lubelskie 2021-2027 Programme analogous to PA I of the ROP LV 2014-2020 (at least in the initial period of Programme implementation).

EVALUATION OF SELECTED ELEMENTS OF THE SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION

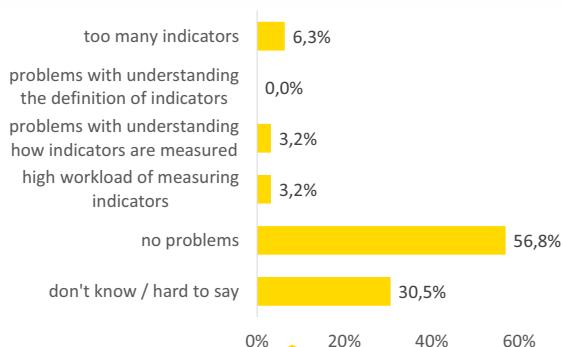
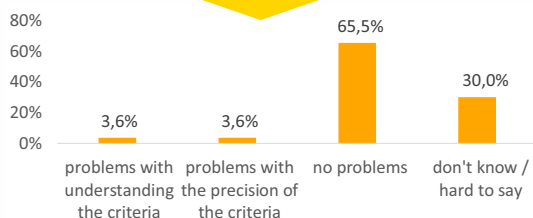


The project selection criteria are adequate and sufficient for the selection of projects ensuring the implementation of intervention objectives.



The applied criteria are reasonable in terms of possible administrative burdens.

The majority of beneficiaries and consultancy representatives did not confirm the existence of problems with the clarity or precision of the project selection criteria they had to meet.



The majority of beneficiaries do not perceive challenges related to the appropriateness of indicators in relation to the nature of the intervention and possible difficulties at the stage of monitoring effects in projects (such as too many indicators, difficulties in understanding, labour-intensive way of measuring).

Among the indicators relating to PA I of the ROP LV 2014-2020, there are indicators selected rarely or not at all. Nevertheless, this should not be seen as a dysfunction of the indicator system, but rather as a necessary consequence of an approach that provides beneficiaries with as complete an instrument as possible for measuring the effects of interventions.

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SUPPORT PROVIDED



No significant difficulties were identified in maintaining the required sustainability period by the beneficiaries.



Surveyed beneficiaries of Measures: 1.2, 1.3 and 1.5 most often (total: 36.4%) anticipate that the effects of the projects will be perceived in their companies between one and four years. By contrast, they predict, slightly less frequently (31.8%), that they will experience effects within 5-10 years of their implementation.



Due to the specific nature of R&D and innovation development activities, support in this area should not be expected to be sustainable for very long.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS



Providing the widest possible range of aid instruments to support research and development activities.



Increasing the absorption capacity of the small and medium-sized enterprises sector.



Assurance of an optimal degree of relevance of support, primarily to the requirements of key target groups.



Introduce solutions to discount the innovative potential of the beneficiaries and ensure the highest possible level of innovative results achieved by the projects.



Increase the impact of key positive factors on the implementation of support and its effectiveness and offset the impact of key negative factors.



Simplification of the evaluation process and enhancement of the support targeting function implemented by the project selection criteria.

The aim of the study was to assess the impact of projects of Priority Axis I Research and innovation on increasing the marketization of research and development activities.

The following set of research techniques was used:

- **Desk research:** in-depth analysis of existing data, including, among others: program, competition and reporting documentation, strategic documents, data from the SL2014 system and statistical data.
- **CAWI/CATI Interviews:** with beneficiaries of Priority Axis I (n=110).
- **Difference in difference method (DiD):** counterfactual method covering beneficiaries and unsuccessful applicants from Priority Axis I (n=68) .
- **Individual interviews IDI:** with representatives of: MA and II of ROP LV 2014-2020, Department of Economy and Support for Entrepreneurship, MOLV, NCR&D and beneficiaries implementing projects under Measures: 1.1 and 1.4 (n=11).
- **Expert interviews:** with representatives of organizations operating for the enterprise sector, university units responsible for technology transfer and consulting companies (n=11).
- **Focus group interview:** with beneficiaries of Priority Axis I (n=1).
- **Case studies:** of projects implemented under Priority Axis I (n=4).
- **Implementation workshop:** with representatives of the Ordering Party and Research contractor (n=1).

Research contractor:



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