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The Pomorskie regional government has set a high priority for improving competitiveness of the region by supporting cluster development.

The starting point for the pro-cluster policy is the provisions in the Regional Strategy developed in July 2005 which highlights the need to establish "organizational, administrative, legal and financial conditions for creating groups of co-operating companies, including sector groups and clusters". Additionally, the regional government in its cluster support activities may refer to the priorities and measures defined in the Regional Innovation Strategy (Priority 1 - Increasing companies capacity to implement innovations and Priority 2 - Increasing use and potential of R&D).

In order to strengthen the weight and significance of the cluster support policy the Regional Board in Pomorskie adopted the Regional Cluster Support Programme for 2009-2015 in June 2009.

The programme is also a reflection of recommendations for the cluster supporting policy in Pomorskie developed under the project "Stimulating innovations in the Pomorskie economy by supporting cluster development - policy concept and pilot measures". Pursued by the regional government and the Gdańsk Institute for Market Economics in the years 2005-2008. The project was co-financed from the European Social Fund and from the national budget within the Integrated Regional Operational Programme. The cluster stimulation policy expressed in the programme assumes support for three types of cluster: key clusters, sub-regional (local) clusters and embryonic (technological networks) clusters. The support goes to projects designed to co-ordinate cluster development - soft measures such as networking, knowledge and innovation transfer, advice and consulting, technical monitoring, strategic planning, etc. - done by cluster co-ordinators.

One of the priorities in the programme is concentration of support on the most promising projects - key clusters with a significant role in the regional economy, high dynamics or good growth potential and international competitiveness, i.e. clusters which may become strong drivers of regional development. A cluster may fall into the category of a key cluster after a competition organized by the Regional Board.

The programme intends to select not more than 6 key cluster by 2015. The selected clusters receive the status of key clusters for the current EU programming period and will receive financing under Structural Funds by 2013. The key cluster status does not provide any direct guarantee for financing from the regional government for the selected key clusters.

The key cluster status enables certain preferential treatment during evaluation of cluster development projects applying for funding from the Regional Operational Fund and from the Human Capital Operational Fund (the regional component). After the first competition in 2009 the key cluster status was granted to two cluster, the Pomeranian ICT Cluster and the Baltic Eco-energy Cluster, while in the second competition of 2010 status was granted to the Gdańsk Construction Cluster.

Additional support for cluster development in the region is provided by way of information, promotional as well as consulting and training activities delivered by a specialized Cluster Contact Point located in the Economic Development Department of the Pomorskie Marshall Office.

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Cluster Initiatives in Pomorskie Region

The Baltic Eco-energy Cluster

www.bkee.pl

main areas of activity: biomass, sun cells and PCV, wind energy, hydro-energy, poly-generation, fuel from waste, passive housing, hydrogen energy, heat pumps

The Pomeranian BioEcoChemical Cluster

www.bioecochem.pl

main areas of activity: biotechnology, chemistry, pharmaceuticals, cosmetic product, environment protection

The Gdańsk Amber Delta

www.bursztyngdanski.pl

main areas of activity: production and sale of jewellery

The Gdańsk Construction Cluster

www.gkb.com.pl

main areas: industrial construction, infrastructural construction, low-energy construction

Pomeranian ICT Cluster

www.pomorski-klaster-ict.pl

main areas of activity: electronics (production of electronic product and components), IT services (production of software, databases and tools for their processing), telecommunication services

Pomeranian Sea and Vistula Basin Cluster

Main areas of activity: transport and logistics, sea shipping, shipyard industry, inland shipping, Baltic - Adriatic transport corridor

Vistula Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Cluster

www.klasteroze.pl

main areas of activity: renewable energy, energy-saving buildings, ventilation and air-conditioning