



Program operator:



Press release, 2015-06-16

*(translation from original press release in Polish)*

## **30 companies will receive support for green Innovation**

**30 Polish enterprises will receive funding from Norway Grants under Green Industry Innovation Programme for the total amount of PLN 80 million.**

Thanks to grant support small and medium-sized enterprises will be able to develop green products and services, environmentally friendly technologies, manufacturing processes, and create "green" jobs. An important element of the Programme is to raise environmental awareness among employees. Numerous projects will be implemented in partnership with companies, research institutions and clusters from Norway.

30 projects carried out by companies from production as well as service sectors from 13 regions in Poland were selected out of 83 applications submitted. The size of investments ranges from 1 million to over 27 million PLN, the grant amount ranges from 700,000 to 6 million PLN. The average level of funding within the Programme is 45%.

The grants awarded to the companies will mainly be allocated to the purchase of modern, environmentally friendly technologies that reduce harmful emissions and energy consumption. Several large projects are related to investments in improving the efficiency of waste management and recycling. Among the beneficiaries, there are also companies implementing their own innovative solutions enhancing innovation of the Polish economy.

Implementation of projects supported by grants will not only bring economic effect of increasing competitiveness and improving the financial performance of companies. It will also reduce or avoid emissions of almost 100 000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Investments also contribute to the creation of 80 "green" jobs, mostly in areas outside major urban centers.

*"This program is good for business and good for the environment. It enables Polish and Norwegian companies to cooperate and thus to increase their competitiveness on the EU*

*market using the immense potential of the green technologies sector in Europe"* said the Ambassador of Norway in Poland, Karsten Klepsvik.

*"We expect good results in selected projects that will have an impact both on the development of the SME sector, as well as environmental protection. Implementation of innovative, pro-environmental investments in Poland is very important. At the same time the ability to use the knowledge and experience of partners in Norway is certainly an added value in projects implemented."*- Said the deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Development Marcelli Niezgoda.

Innovation Norway is the operator of the program. It is a state owned organisation governed by the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and the County Municipalities in Norway.

More information is available on the programme's website:

**<http://www.norwaygrants-greeninnovation.no/>**

Norway Grants are non-repayable financial assistance for new members of the European Union. The financing comes from three countries: Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland. Poland is the largest beneficiary of Norway Grants. Since 2004 it has received over PLN 4.4 billion to support projects in areas such as environmental protection, scientific research, cultural exchange and protection of Europe's cultural heritage, support to civil society, combating violence, support justice and health care. Norway Grants contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in Europe and strengthening of bilateral cooperation.

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