

Warsaw School of Economics



# REGIONAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS 2014

## Podlaskie Voivodship

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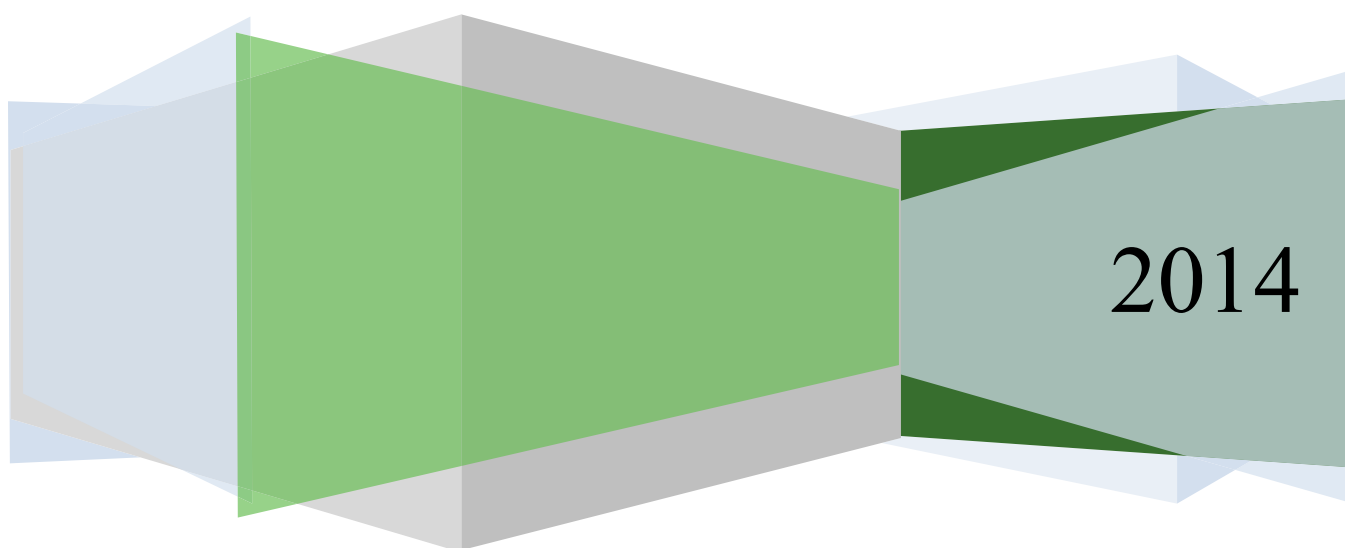
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**Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency (PAIIZ)** is a governmental institution and has been servicing investors since 1992. Its mission is to create a positive image of Poland in the world and increase the inflow of foreign direct investments by encouraging international companies to invest in Poland. PAIIZ is a useful partner for foreign entrepreneurs entering the Polish market. The Agency guides investors through all the essential administrative and legal procedures that involve a project. It also provides rapid access to complex information relating to legal and business matters regarding investments. Moreover, it helps in finding the appropriate partners and suppliers together with new locations.

**PAIIZ provides free of charge professional advisory services for investors, including:**

- investment site selection in Poland,
- tailor-made investors visits to Poland,
- information on legal and economic environment,
- information on available investment incentives,
- facilitating contacts with central and local authorities,
- identification of suppliers and contractors,
- care of existing investors (support of reinvestments in Poland).

Besides the **OECD National Contact Point**, PAIIZ also maintains an Information Point for companies which are interested in European Funds. All of the Agency's activities are supported by the **Regional Investor Assistance Centres**. Thanks to the training and ongoing support of the Agency, the Centres provide complex professional services for investors at voivodship level.

On the website **[www.paiz.gov.pl](http://www.paiz.gov.pl)** an investor can find all the necessary information concerning key facts about Poland, Polish economy, legal regulations in Poland and detailed information which could be useful for any company wanting to set up a business in Poland.

Since 2011 China – Poland Economic Cooperation Centre operates in PAIIZ as a "one-stop shop" providing comprehensive information on investment opportunities in Poland and offering support for Chinese companies during the investment process. The Centre is responsible for: promotion of Poland as a location for FDI, identifying sources of foreign direct investment, supporting the missions and delegations from China, preparing analysis & information, maintaining regular contact with Chinese companies operating in Poland, Go China Project. More information you can find on: **[www.gochina.gov.pl](http://www.gochina.gov.pl)**.

Also since 2013 PAIIZ is implementing the **“Go Africa”** program. Its aim is to encourage Polish entrepreneurs to enter the African markets and to promote Poland in Africa. Therefore PAIIZ is organizing: fact finding missions to African countries, participation of Polish entrepreneurs in fairs, conferences, seminars and workshops both in Poland and in Africa. Furthermore the Agency is preparing publications on African markets. More information you can find on: **[www.goafrica.gov.pl](http://www.goafrica.gov.pl)**.

## INTRODUCTION

The report has been prepared to order of the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and is the next edition of the regional investment attractiveness reports. The reports have been published since 2008. They are the result of scientific research conducted since 2002 under the supervision of H. Godlewska-Majkowska, Ph.D., university professor of the Warsaw School of Economics, in the Institute of Enterprise, Collegium of Business Administration of the Warsaw School of Economics. All the authors are the core members of a team that develops methodology of calculating regional investment attractiveness.

The report consists of a few parts. The first part includes the synthetic presentation of the voivodship's economy, including social-economic potential of the voivodship and the level of economic development as well as economy structure. The most important socio-economic data, including information on investment attractiveness, is presented in a table. The first part of the report also presents the position of the voivodship compared to other Polish and European Union regions, paying special attention to the most important industries and high potential sectors.

The second part of the report presents internal diversification of voivodship's investment attractiveness at the levels of counties (Polish: *county*) and communes (Polish: *gmina*). The results of the investment attractiveness calculations for the Podlaskie voivodship's territorial units can be compared to the other territorial units from all of the Polish regions as the calculations have been made for all of them.

In the third part of the report the main business environment institutions in the voivodship are presented, taking into consideration kinds of support which they offer to investors. This part also includes information on location of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the voivodship and information on the results of their activities. The third part of the report is completed by the presentation of the results of the 'A' Commune ranking. The ranking made it possible to point out such communes that are not only attractive for potential investors but also offer them well-prepared information on the Internet.

The report is completed with the Appendix including tables with comparisons of investment attractiveness indices for voivodship's counties and communes. There is also some more detailed information in the Appendix concerning effects of functioning of the Special Economic Zones in the region.

There are two approaches to the investment attractiveness presented in this work. One of them is **potential investment attractiveness**, defined as a set of regional location advantages that influence achieving investors' goals (such as costs of running a business, sales revenues, net return on investment and investment's competitiveness).

Another approach is **real investment attractiveness**, defined as region's ability to create investor's satisfaction and influence absorption of financial and physical capital in form of investments. They can be measured by effectiveness of capital spending.<sup>1</sup>

Potential investment attractiveness indices in their simplified version (PAI1) measure the location-specific advantages of regions. They are calculated for territorial units of various levels of statistical division of the country (communes – Polish: *gmina*, counties – Polish: *powiat*, subregions, voivodships/regions). These indices refer to the whole national economy and to the selected sections: C – manufacturing industry, G – trade and repair, I – tourism and catering, M – professional, scientific and technical services. These sections are the core of the national economy.

Besides, some indices are calculated only for the voidships, on the basis of characteristics available only on the regional or macroregional level which allows evaluating their investment attractiveness in a much broader context. These are PAI2 indices, which are calculated both from a general point of view and with reference to the above mentioned sections of the economy.

What is more, ranks of real investment attractiveness, which relates to the inflow of capital (in the form of investments) and the effects of investments considered from a point of view of productivity and returns on the outlays made, are used in this report. Real investment attractiveness can be calculated for voivodships, based on the statistical data available on the regional level.

The measurements in use are subject to annual review thanks to consulting them with foreign investor assistance institutions and direct contact to territorial self-government units as well as organizations of entrepreneurs. A description of methodological approach to measuring investment attractiveness of Polish regions, counties and communes can be found online on the website of the Institute of Enterprise at the Warsaw School of Economics (<http://kolegia.sgh.waw.pl/pl/KNoP/struktura/IP/struktura/ZOB/>), as well as in numerous scientific publications and expert opinions.

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1. More information on this topic can be found in: *Atrakcyjność inwestycyjna regionów Polski jako źródło przedsiębiorczych przewag konkurencyjnych*, H. Godlewska-Majkowska (ed.), Studia i Analizy Instytutu Przedsiębiorstwa, Oficyna Wydawnicza SGH, Warszawa 2012; H. Godlewska-Majkowska, *Polish regions and their investment attractiveness in the EU*, in: POLAND Competitiveness Report 2013. National and Regional Dimensions, M. Weresa (ed.), Oficyna Wydawnicza SGH, Warsaw 2013, pp 299-316.

## 1. THE PROFILE OF REGIONAL ECONOMY OF PODLASKIE VOIVODSHIP

Podlaskie voivodship is located in north-eastern Poland. It borders with Lithuania and Belarus. It is a mainly agricultural region, with a dynamically developing sector of the food, especially milk, meat, poultry and cereals, as well as the sectors: light, wood, construction and engineering.

### **Advantages of the Podlaskie voivodship include:**

- located in the geographical centre of Europe and the European Union, which plays a crucial role in the transport of both local and international transport,
- located in the province of many transit roads, the most important: Berlin - Warsaw - Grodno - St. Petersburg
- route Warsaw - Helsinki (part of the expressway - Via Baltica, which connects the Baltic countries of western Europe)
- a large area of grassland creates conditions for the breeding of cattle, mostly dairy, which was reflected in the leading position in the market of Podlasie province
- because of the good conditions for livestock development opportunities exist for renewable energy production,
- well-developed higher education:
  - University of Białystok - the main fields of study: computer science, biology, chemistry, economics, physics, mathematics, environmental protection, law, sociology, philology East Slavic,
  - Białystok Technical University - the main fields of study: architecture and urban planning, construction, electronics and telecommunications, electricity, engineering, computer science, environmental engineering, mechanical engineering, production management, Highly rated (category I) by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Institutions:
  - Medical University of Białystok; Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Faculty of Pharmacy and Laboratory Medicine,
  - University of Białystok; Faculty of Health Sciences and Department of Physics,
- low labour costs are accompanied by relatively high labour productivity,
- a relatively high level of innovation in comparison to the achieved level of economic development,

- in the region there are four national parks: Białowieża National Park (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Biebrza National Park, Narew National Park, National Park Wigierski.

The general characteristics of the Podlaskie voivodship are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. General characteristics of the economy of Podlaskie voivodship**

Feature		Podlaskie voivodship	Poland	Share [%]
<b>Market potential</b>				
GDP per capita 2012 (PLN/person)		29472,8	41439,1	-
Population (persons) on 31 December 2013		1194965	38495659	3,1%
<b>Human resources potential</b>				
Higher education institutions graduates (persons) in 2013		13971	454986	3,1%
Secondary schools graduates (persons) in 2013		10089	271333	3,7%
Number of employed persons in 2013		453	15568	2,9%
Structure of employed persons in 2013		agriculture 24,2%		12,0%
		industry 3,0%		30,5%
		services 52,8%		57,5%
<b>Investment outlays and capital of companies with foreign capital participation in the voivodship</b>				
Investment outlays (PLN m) in 2012		475,6	79942,6	0,6%
Capital of companies (PLN n) in 2012		686,5	206992,3	0,3%
<b>Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the voivodship*</b>				
— Suwałki				
— Tarnobrzeg				
<b>Counties and communes distinguished according to the Potential Attractiveness Index for the national economy (PAII_GN)</b>				
<b>Counties</b>	Class A	City of Białystok, city of Łomża		
	Class B	City of Suwałki		
<b>Communes</b>	Class A	Białystok (u), Wysokie Mazowieckie (u), Łomża (u), Hajnówka (u), Sejny (u), Suwałki (u), Brańsk (u)		
	Class B	Zambrów (u), Siemiatycze (u), Bielsk Podlaski (u), Grajewo (u), Augustów (u), Juchnowiec Kościelny (r), Wasilków (u-r), Supraśl (u-r), Łapy (u-r), Choroszcz (u-r)		

Additional information: (u) – urban commune, (r) – rural commune, (u-r) – urban-rural commune.

PAI – potential investment attractiveness, RAI – real investment attractiveness

\* For more information see Table 3 in the Appendix.

Source: Authors' own calculations.

The number of inhabitants of the voivodship amounts to 1 194 965 (as of 2013), which is 3.1% of the population of Poland. The age structure in the voivodship in 2013 was as follows: 17.9% of the population at pre-productive age, 63.6% at productive age and 18.5% at post-productive age (for Poland it was 18.2%, 63.4% and 18.4% respectively).

The main potential for human capital creation in the voivodship lies in 18 higher education institutions in which there are 42 057 students studying, which makes up 2.7 % of all students in Poland. Moreover, 2.2% of the secondary school students in the voivodship attend vocational schools and 3.5% attend technical schools.

The registered unemployment rate in the voivodship amounted to 13.3% in August 2014, compared to 11.7% in Poland. The average monthly gross wages and salaries in enterprises sector in the first half-year of 2014 amounted to PLN 3304.2, which is 87.6% of the average for Poland.

In 2012 Podlaskie voivodship made a contribution of 2.2% to the GDP of Poland. Calculated per capita, it amounted to PLN 29472.8 with the average for Poland PLN 41439.1. With this result the voivodship takes the 14th place in the country. The GDP growth rate in the voivodship in the years 2003-2012 amounted to 174.3% while the average for Poland amounted to 189.2%.

In comparison with the whole country the structure of employment in the voivodship is characterised by share of the service sector at the level of 52.8% whereas a share of the agricultural and industrial sectors are respectively 2.2% and 23.0% (Central Statistical Office, Local Data Bank 2014).

Important industry sector in the voivodship is food production. In 2013 food industry accounted for as much as 56% of the value of sold production of industry in the voivodship. Apart from food industry there are other important sectors such as: production of wood and cork, except furniture, with the production of articles of straw and plaiting materials (9%), manufacture of rubber and plastic products (6%) and manufacture of machinery and equipment (5%).

Podlaskie voivodship is an important manufacturer of wood and cork, except furniture (7% of the national value of production sold in 2013 and food (6%).

When it comes to most of the above-mentioned sectors, the voivodship improved or maintained its competitive position within the last three years (measured by its share in the country's sold production)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup>Calculations based on the Statistic Bulletin of the Podlaskie Voivodship from the 1st quarter of 2014 and Statistical Bulletin, I quarter of 2014, [www.stat.gov.pl](http://www.stat.gov.pl) (10 November 2014). A change of 0.25 percentage point was considered as maintaining competitive position.

**It applies to the following sectors:**

- manufacture of food products,
- manufacture of products of wood and cork, except furniture,
- printing and reproduction of recorded media.

The information on sectors that are found as strategic by the region's authorities can be important for the investors. The voivodship's strategic sectors mentioned in the strategy of regional development include above all: food industry, engineering, manufacture of timber and furniture, tourism.

For the entrepreneurs willing to invest in Podlaskie voivodship the list of the high potential sectors may be a good hint. The list was prepared by the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency in cooperation with the Podlaskie voivodship self-government, based on the observations on investments inflows to the voivodship.

**The high potential sectors on the list include:**

- food sector,
- machine industry,
- tourism sector.

Investments of this kind can be located on preferential conditions in the specially prepared places in the Special Economic Zone: **Suwałki, Tarnobrzeg, in the following subzones:**

- **SEZ Suwałki** subzones :Białystok (u), Grajewo (u), Suwałki (u), Suwałki (r),
- **SEZ Tarnobrzeg** subzones : Łapy (u-r).

In the all above-mentioned locations investors can benefit from tax allowances amounting to 50% - 70%, depending on the enterprise size – more information can be found on [http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment\\_support/investment\\_incentives\\_in\\_SEZ](http://www.paiz.gov.pl/investment_support/investment_incentives_in_SEZ).

## **2. REGION'S RANK IN TERMS OF INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS IN POLAND AND IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Podlaskie voivodship is attractive in terms of: industry food, especially based on the regional resource base. This applies especially to the dairy industry.

Based on the methodology prepared by the team of the Enterprise Institute while conducting statutory research in Collegium of Business Administration at the Warsaw School of Economics,



calculations of European regions' investment attractiveness have been made for two years. They are based on measurements of attractiveness of human resources, market and innovativeness.<sup>3</sup>

Based on the above-mentioned indices it can be stated that the voivodship is characterized by a low class of investment attractiveness (class E), compared to the EU regions, taking 233th place of 270 regions, for whom the indices were calculated. However, compared to the previous year, the voivodship increased its position by 18 places. Podlaskie voivodship has a competitive advantage, when it comes to human capital microclimate, ranked class A.

Due to different methodology of research and variables taken into account for regions in Poland only and regions in the EU, the results of research are incomparable. This is because not all data are available for all the regions, e.g. data on infrastructure.

**It is worth mentioning that the voivodship is more attractive than EU regions such as:**

- **in Bulgaria** Severoiztochen, Yugoiztochen, Severen tsentralen, Yuzhen tsentralen, Severozapaden;
- **in Greece:** Kentriki Makedonia, Kriti, Notio Aigaio, Thessalia, Ipeiros, Dytiki Ellada, Sterea Ellada, Ionia Nisia, Dytiki Makedonia, Voreio Aigaio, Peloponnisos, Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki;
- **in Spain:** Castilla-La Mancha, Región de Murcia, Extremadura;
- **in Portugal:** Norte, Alentejo, Região Autónoma dos Açores, Centro;
- **in Romania:** Vest, Nord-Vest, Centru, Sud-Est, Nord-Est, Sud-Vest Oltenia, Sud - Muntenia;
- **in Slovakia:** Východné Slovensko;
- **in Hungary:** Dél-Dunántúl, Észak-Magyarország, Dél-Alföld, Észak-Alföld;
- **in Italy:** Molise, Sardegna, Sicilia, Puglia, Calabria, Basilicata.

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<sup>3</sup> More on this topic: *Atrakcyjność inwestycyjna regionów Polski na tle Unii Europejskiej*, edited by H. Godlewska-Majkowska, Oficyna Wydawnicza SGH, Warsaw 2014 and <http://kolegia.sgh.waw.pl/pl/KNoP/struktura/IP/struktura/ZOB/>

### 3. INTERNAL DIVERSIFICATION OF REGIONAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS

**Investment attractiveness** of the particular administrative units in the voivodship is the result of how investors assess conditions of conducting business that are important for them. These conditions include labour market, technical infrastructure, market and natural conditions.

Labour market assessment gives investor the information on opportunities to recruit the right employees for their companies and labour surpluses or shortages, which indirectly influences costs of hiring workers.

**Technical infrastructure** assessment allows entrepreneurs to plan their investments that need preparing of investment plot equipped with the basic technical elements such as water, gas and electric installations and environment protection equipment such as sewage farms.

**Social infrastructure** is rated as equipment of a place where the investment is to be located with facilities influencing citizens' life quality and human resources development. These facilities provide the citizens with access to education, healthcare, sports and recreation facilities or information technologies such as Internet.

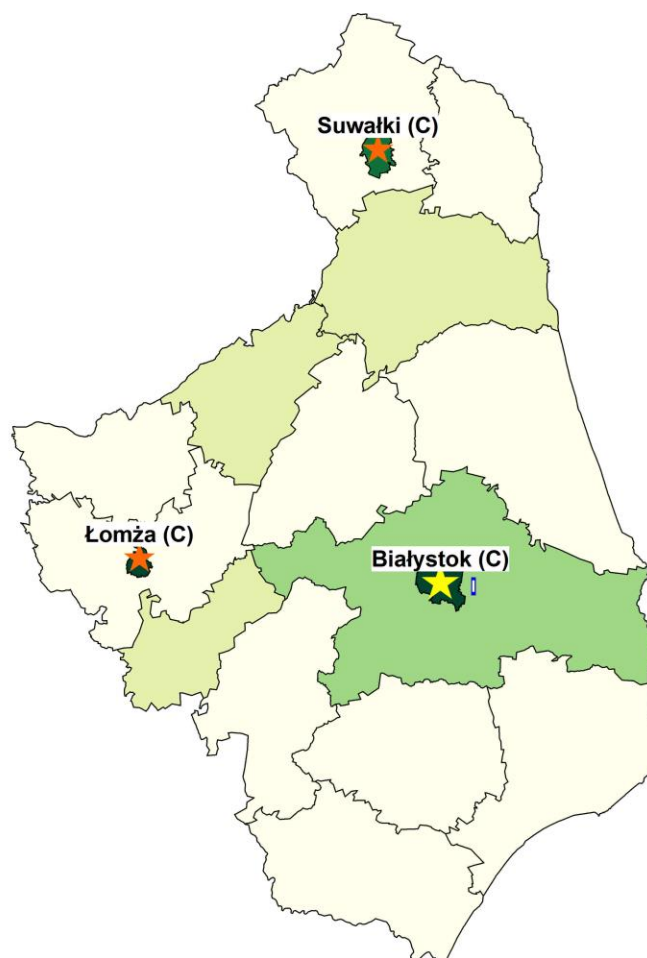
**Market conditions** informs on market absorptive power that means the number of potential customers and indirectly on their wealth that means ability to buy goods and services.

Environment conditions were rated as they are a basic factor influencing tourism development and citizens' life quality.

The composite assessment of all the above-mentioned elements in particular counties or communes shows spatial differentiation of investment attractiveness in the voivodship. What is more, calculations for particular sectors of economy are presented such as industry, trade and modern services connected with professional, scientific and technical activities are presented (Chart 3 and Chart 4). The distinguished locations presented on the map are marked with stars that indicate highest marks for the above-mentioned areas of conducting business.

An **orange star** means that a county or a commune was rated above average in all the sections analysed (national economy, industry, trade, tourism and professional services) and the **golden star** is the highest distinction and means that all the rated sections in a particular commune or county were ranked at the highest level.

**Chart 3. Potential investment attractiveness of counties of Podlaskie voivodship, considering the most attractive sections.**



POTENTIAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS  
of counties (poviats) for national economy in 2012

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F

★ The highest rank for  
all the sections according PKD  
(Polish Classification of Economic Activity):  
C, G, I and M

★ Ranks above the average  
for all the sections according PKD  
(Polish Classification of Economic Activity):  
C, G, I and M

Ranks above the average  
for C, G, I, M sections according  
to PKD (Polish Classification  
of Economic Activity)

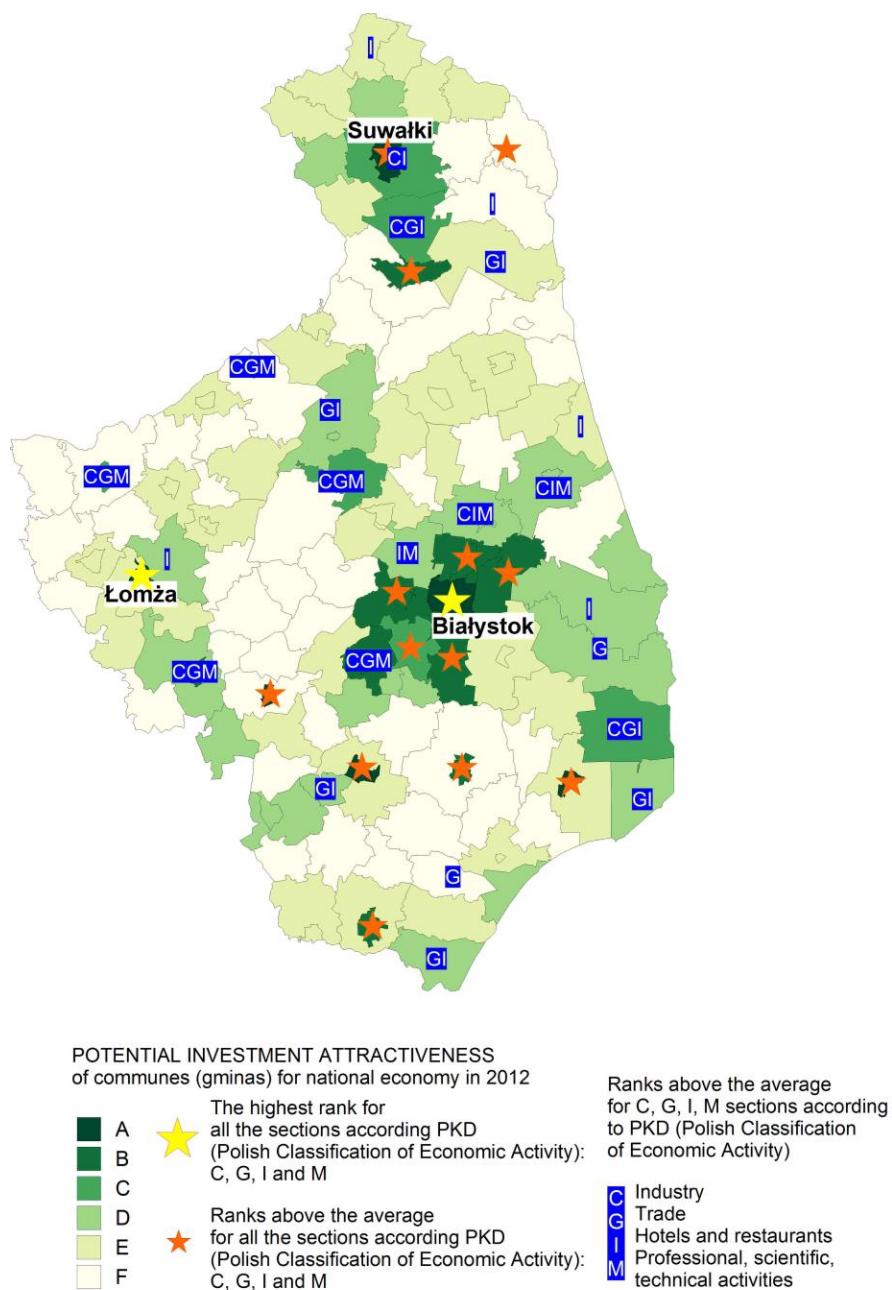
C Industry  
G Trade  
I Hotels and restaurants  
M Professional, scientific,  
technical activities

**Golden star county:**

Białystok

Source: Author's own work.

**Chart 4. Potential investment attractiveness of communes of Podlaskie voivodship, considering the most attractive sections**



**Golden star communes:**

Białystok (u), Łomża (u)

Source: Author's own work.

**When it comes to counties**, the highest ranked city county was Białystok (distinguished with a golden star), and distinguished with an orange star: and county Bydgoszcz and city counties: Bydgoszcz, Grudziądz and Włocławek.

**When it comes to urban communes**, the highest ranked of them were:

- **distinguished with a golden star:** Białystok (u), Łomża (u),
- **distinguished with an orange star::** Augustów (u), Bielsk Podlaski (u), Brańsk (u), Hajnówka (u), Sejny (u), Siemiatycze (u), Suwałki (u), Wysokie Mazowieckie (u).

**Among rural communes** the highest rank communes include:

- **distinguished with an orange star:** Juchnowiec Kościelny (r), Turośń Kościelna (r).

**Among urban-rural communes** the highest rank communes include:

- **distinguished with an orange star:** Choroszcz (u-r), Supraśl (u-r), Wasilków (u-r).

## 4. VOIVODSHIP'S INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

The development of business supporting institutions in a region is a vital component of its investment attractiveness. The institutions that support entrepreneurship, pro-investment solutions, research commercialization and enterprises' innovativeness are of special importance.

### 4.1. BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTIONS

Among business environment institutions (excluding R&D institutions) that influence region's economic development are: chambers of commerce, associations, business incubators, technology parks, technology transfer centres, consulting centres, financial institutions and development agencies.

For the investors especially important is a system of regional Investor Assistance Centres set up by the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency in consultation with voivodships' marshals to ensure complex services for investors in each voivodship.

**In Podlaskie voivodship such centre is:**

**Investor Assistance Centre operating within the structure  
The Marshal's Office of Podlasie**

<http://coi.wrotapodlasia.pl>



**Investor Assistance Centre in Podlasie** is a partner of the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency and a one stop shop: a source of regional information that are useful for investors, legal acts, investment offers and current data on region's economy. The personnel of the centre have qualifications to offer services for investors and are working according to the standards set by the Polish Information and Foreign Direct Investment Agency, which offers it substantive help and trainings.

An important tool supporting investors are the Special Economic Zones, which are described in the further part of this report.

Below some chosen business environment institutions are presented that operate for entrepreneurship development by supporting development of new technologies and cooperation of enterprises.

**These institutions are among others:**

***Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Białystok ([www.iph.bialystok.pl](http://www.iph.bialystok.pl))***

The Chamber is a regional organization of economic self-associating small, medium and large companies from Podlaskie voivodship. The main goal and a mission of the Chamber is to integrate business and acting on behalf of its members to the authorities of local, regional and central. The main tasks of the Chamber are: helping members of the Chamber conducting business, shaping economic policy of the region, supporting initiatives and creating conditions that support development of the region, promoting economic potential of the region in the country and abroad.

***Business Centre Club – Lodge in Białystok ([www.bcc.org.pl](http://www.bcc.org.pl))***

BCC is an organization of business and individual employers. Business Centre Club conducts active lobbying economic development of free market economy, the creation of law, protecting the interests of Polish entrepreneurs. BCC represents the interests of employers through participation in various committees, including the Trilateral Commission. Socio-Economic, Social Dialogue

Committees Provincial, regional and district Boards of Employment, Labour Protection Council, Guaranteed Social Fund and the Supreme Council of Employment. BCC is the initiator of the Forum for Dialogue (plane communicate different social groups) and the promoter of the idea of corporate social responsibility (CSR).

**Podlaski Business Club ([www.podlaskiklubbiznesu.pl](http://www.podlaskiklubbiznesu.pl))**

Podlaski club is a voluntary association of entrepreneurs. Goals of the club are : representing and protecting the economic interests of the members, networking, problem solving economic, organizational and legal co-operation with the authorities and the state administration in creating favourable conditions for business, build prestige and power, developing professional ethics, conduct training activities, culture, sport, tourism and social club members to further integration, promotion of the region on national and international scale, help in dispute resolution (Court of Arbitration).

**Regional Development Agency "ARES" in Suwałki ([www.ares.suwalki.pl](http://www.ares.suwalki.pl))**

The Agency's mission is inspiring and active participation in economic and social transformation of the region through its promotion, support for small business, the implementation of programs that encourage the creation of new jobs and economic organization of the education system and labour. The Agency supports regional development through a variety of activities: participation in the development of regional development programs, business support and export promotion of the region, helping star-ups (incubators). Agency offer also includes: training, counselling, financial (Loan Funds, Guarantee Fund),organizing trade missions, trade fairs and exhibitions.

**Centre for the Promotion of Innovation and Development ([www.cpir.org.pl](http://www.cpir.org.pl))**

The mission of the centre is to promote sustainable social and environmental development and to create and promote innovation as determinants of economic development of the North-eastern Polish and border areas. Goals of the Association are.: support the economic development, the promotion of collaboration between academia with industry (exchange of knowledge and technology) for sustainable development, promotion of national support instruments and the EU in the field of regional development, promotion of innovative solutions in the field of organization and functioning of the business, export development and promotion of the idea of clustering.

**Park of Science and Technology - Poland - East in Suwałki Sp. z o.o ([www.park.suwalki.pl](http://www.park.suwalki.pl))**

Park's mission is to enhance the socio - economic cohesion and economic development of the north-east Polish macro-region, including the Podlaskie region by supporting knowledge-based entrepreneurship-oriented use of advanced technologies and opportunities for international cooperation. Park offer includes: investment areas (offer is addressed particularly to innovative companies operating in the field of advanced technologies), rental of office space and hall space (production facilities, warehouses, and sanitary). In the Park there are: Conference Centre, Technology Incubator and R & D laboratories (Centre for Renewable Energy, multimedia platform, Chemical Product Research, Academic Creativity "Medical Centre").



**Białystok Science and Technology Park ([www.bpnt.bialystok.pl](http://www.bpnt.bialystok.pl))**

The aim of the park is to create infrastructure that increase innovation and encourage investors specialized in high-tech. Tasks of the Park are .: incubating start-ups (Technology Incubator), providing services to support innovative companies, activating cooperation between enterprises and scientific-research (Technology Centre), rental of office space and laboratory services for growing enterprises and research at preferential prices, management of the investment, attracting investors. Investment grounds will be sold at auction for entrepreneurs declaring innovative activities in the context of investments made on the purchased land.

**4.2. SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES IN THE VOIVODSHIP – EFFECTS**

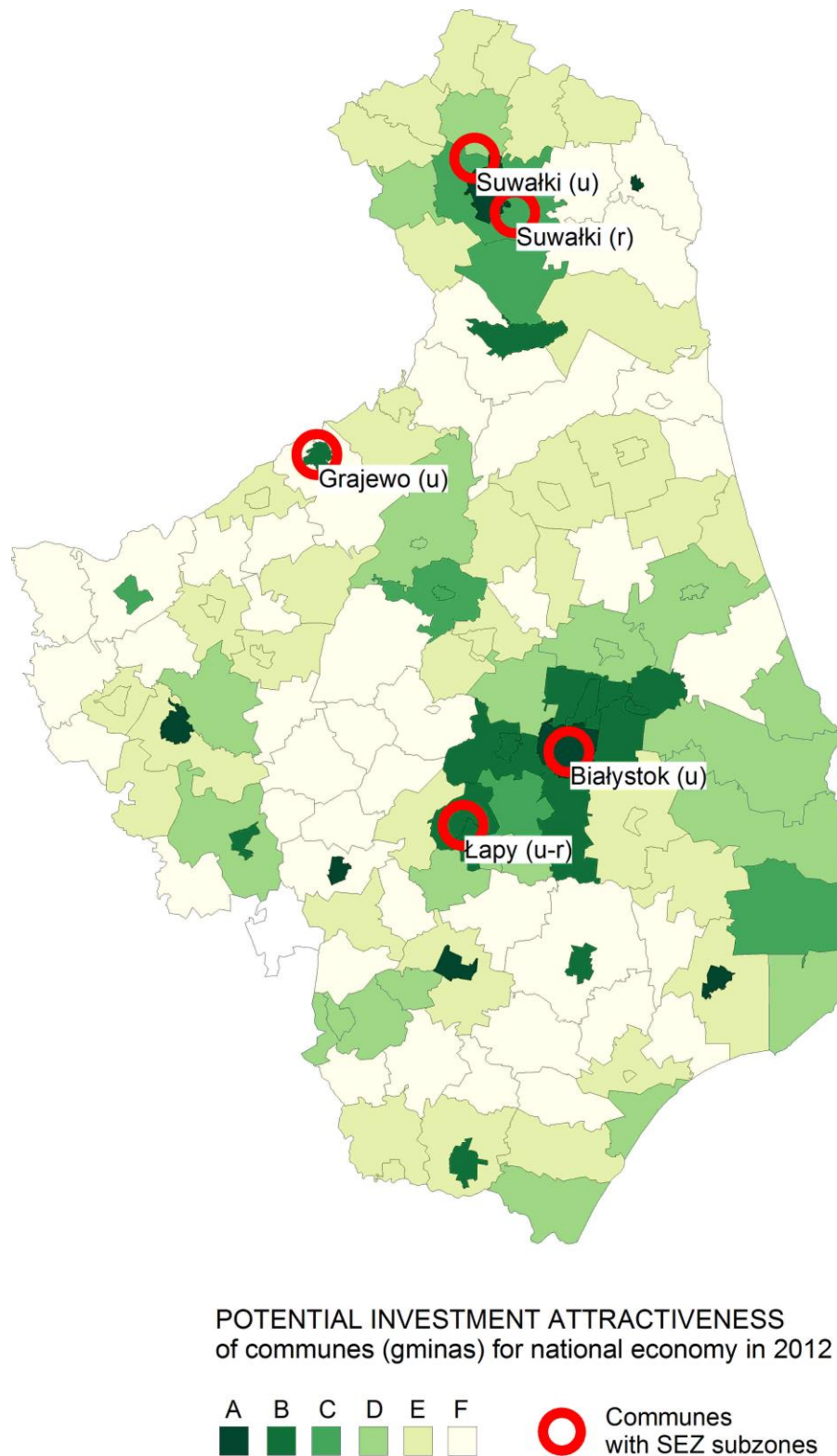
There are two SEZ operating in the voivodship: Suwałki and Tarnobrzeg. At the end of 2013 the areas of the SEZ were parts of 3 cities and 2 communes – see Chart 5.

Special Economic Zones in Podlaskie voivodship were created in 1996 (Suwałki) and 2005 (Tarnobrzeg). Till the end of 2013 the enterprises operating in the Pomeranian SEZ's subzones have invested PLN960 million in this area which is 1% of all investment outlays in the Polish SEZs. In the same time the enterprises created 2.9 thousand new jobs in the region, which was 1% of all new jobs created in the Polish economic zones - see Table 4 in the Appendix.

The highest value investment are: Pfleiderer Sp. z o.o (Germany, construction) and Suwałki: SIDO Sidorek, Wroblewski Sp. J. (Food), Gasstech Enterprise Manufacturing Company z o.o.(metal), Recman Sp. J. (clothing), VTS Plant Sp. z o. o. (Engineering), Aquael Sp. z o. o. (precision mechanics, aquarium).



**Chart 5. The location of SEZs in Podlaskie voivodship**



Source: Authors' own work.

According to the Pomeranian SEZ development plan, the voivodship intends to acquire the following kinds of investors: the agri-food industry, timber and construction, (Suwałki SEZ).

### 4.3. 'A' COMMUNE

Student Scientific Organisation for Entrepreneurship and Regional Analyses affiliated to the Institute of Enterprise of the Warsaw School of Economics, has again published the results of its research into the quality of investor assistance offered by the communal authorities. The subject of this qualitative research of investment attractiveness is evaluation of the websites and evaluation of e-mail contact with communal authorities in two languages: Polish and English (using *mystery client* method). The effect of this research is a ranking 'A' Commune, which is thought to distinguish best performing self-government territorial units in terms of the use of means of electronic communication to provide assistance to the customers. The research is carried out with the use of mystery client method. In this year's edition all communes belonging to Class A and B according to the PAI 2012 index were subject to evaluation.

As a result 59 communes were distinguished with 'A' commune title, of which 1 are situated in Podlaskie voivodship: Białystok (u).

Website of the city was rated as very good. Answer to potential investor letter was excellent. Białystok sent one of 6 messages that received the maximum number of points.

## APPENDIX

**Table 1. POTENTIAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS OF POLISH VOIVODSHIPS FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND ITS SELECTED SECTIONS**

Voivodship	PAI1_GN	PAI1_GN	PAI1_C	PAI1_G	PAI1_I	PAI1_M
	National economy	National economy	Industry	Trade	Hotels and restaurants	Professional, scientific and technical activities
<b>Voivodships</b>						
LOWER SILESIAN	0.39	A	A	A	B	A
KUYAVIAN-POMERANIAN	0.29	C	C	E	D	D
LUBLIN	0.17	F	F	F	F	F
LUBUSZ	0.23	E	E	D	C	D
ŁÓDŹ	0.29	C	C	D	E	D
LESEZR POLAND	0.32	C	C	B	B	C
MAZOVIAN	0.40	A	A	A	A	A
OPOLE	0.22	E	E	D	E	D
SUB-CARPATHIAN	0.23	E	E	E	E	D
PODLASKIE	0.20	F	F	F	E	E
POMERANIAN	0.34	B	C	B	A	B
SILESIAN	0.41	A	A	B	C	A
ŚWIĘTOKRZYSKIE	0.16	F	F	F	F	F
WARMIAN-MAZURIAN	0.24	E	E	C	C	E
GREATER POLAND	0.31	C	C	C	D	B
WESTERN POMERANIAN	0.34	B	B	B	A	B

Source: Authors on the basis of the results of statutory research carried out under the guidance of H. Godlewska-Majkowska.

**Table 2. POTENTIAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS OF COUNTIES OF PODLASKIE VOIVODSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SELECTED SECTIONS**

County	PAI1_GN	PAI1_GN	PAI1_C	PAI1_G	PAI1_I	PAI1_M
	National economy	National economy	Industry	Trade	Hotels and restaurants	Professional, scientific and technical activity
<b>Counties</b>						
City of Białystok	0.368	A	A	A	A	A
City of Łomża	0.295	A	B	A	A	A
City of Suwałki	0.287	B	B	A	B	A

Source: Authors on the basis of the results of statutory research carried out under the guidance of H. Godlewska-Majkowska.

**Table 3. POTENTIAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTIVENESS OF COMMUNES OF PODLASKIE VOIVODSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SELECTED SECTIONS**

Commune	PAI1_GN	PAI1_GN	PAI1_C	PAI1_G	PAI1_I	PAI1_M
	National economy	National economy	Industry	Trade	Hotels and restaurants	Professional, scientific and technical activity
<b>Urban communes</b>						
Białystok (u)	0.286	A	A	A	A	A
Wysokie Mazowieckie (u)	0.251	A	A	A	B	A
Łomża (u)	0.233	A	A	A	A	A
Hajnówka (u)	0.231	A	A	A	B	A
Sejny (u)	0.229	A	A	A	A	B
Suwałki (u)	0.225	A	A	A	B	A
Brańsk (u)	0.221	A	A	A	B	B
Zambrów (u)	0.213	B	B	B	E	A
Siemiatycze (u)	0.212	B	B	B	B	B
Bielsk Podlaski (u)	0.212	B	B	B	C	A
Grajewo (u)	0.210	B	B	B	E	B
Augustów (u)	0.207	B	B	B	B	B
Kolno (u)	0.195	C	C	C	D	B
<b>Rural communes</b>						
Juchnowiec Kościelny (r)	0.209	B	B	C	A	B
Nowinka (r)	0.192	C	C	C	B	D
Turośń Kościelna (r)	0.186	C	C	C	B	C
Narewka (r)	0.184	C	C	B	C	D
Suwałki (r)	0.182	C	C	D	C	D
<b>Urban-rural communes</b>						
Wasilków (u-r)	0.212	B	B	B	A	A
Supraśl (u-r)	0.209	B	B	B	B	B
Łapy (u-r)	0.207	B	B	B	D	B
Choroszcz (u-r)	0.205	B	B	B	A	C
Mońki (u-r)	0.192	C	C	C	D	C

Notice: (u) – urban commune, (r) – rural commune, (u-r) – urban-rural commune

Source: As for Table 1.

Note: All the indices in the report have been calculated on the basis on the most up-to-date data from the Local Data Bank (LDB), 2014.

**Table 4. EFFECTS OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES FUNCTIONING AT THE END OF 2013**

<b>SEZ</b>	<b>County, commune</b>	<b>Cumulated capital expenditure in million PLN (end of 2013)</b>	<b>New jobs number (end of 2013)</b>	<b>Leading industries (at least 20% share of revenue or employment)</b>
<b>Tarnobrzeg</b>	Białystok (u-r) Łapy	0.00		no leading industry
<b>Suwałki</b>	Suwałki (r) Suwałki	103.12	348	products of other non-metallic mineral products
<b>Suwałki</b>	City of Białystok (u) Białystok	121.96	395	printing services and reproduction of recorded media, rubber and plastic products, fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
<b>Suwałki</b>	City of Suwałki (u) Suwałki	344.80	2 016	wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture; articles of straw and materials of a kind used for weaving, fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
<b>Suwałki</b>	Grajewo (u) Grajewo	392.86	151	wood and products of wood and cork, except furniture; articles of straw and materials of a kind used for plaiting

Source: Authors' own calculations based on the Ministry of Economy data. Notice: (u) – city commune, (u-r) urban-rural commune, (r) rural commune.

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