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**FINANCIAL PROGRESS  
OF INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS –  
A CASE STUDY  
OF KIELCE FUNCTIONAL AREA**

**POSTĘP FINANSOWY  
ZINTEGROWANYCH INWESTYCJI TERYTORIALNYCH  
NA PRZYKŁADZIE  
KIELECKIEGO OBSZARU FUNKCJONALNEGO**

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**ABSTRACT:** The level of spending of funds under the Integrated Territorial Investments of Kielce Functional Urban Area (KFA's ITIs) varies depending on the individual fund. The level of contracting of funds is higher under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), while in the case of their certification there is an advantage of the European Social Fund (ESF). The difference between the value of contracted and certified funds is evident. Financing projects from structural funds on the average exceeds 80% of the project value. The implementation of the instrument proceeds correctly from the point of view of spending the funds. The analysis of contracting of the funds in individual years indicates a delay in the implementation of programmes, which is not an exception in the entire Regional Operational Programme for Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship 2014-2020 (ROP SV 2014-2020). The author deals with the issue of financing the Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) in the EU perspective 2014-2020.

**KEY WORDS:** Integrated Territorial Investments, contracting, certification

**ABSTRAKT:** Poziom wydatkowania środków w ramach ZIT KOF jest zróżnicowany w zależności od funduszu. Poziom zakontraktowania środków jest wyższy w ramach EFRR, natomiast w przypadku ich certyfikacji występuje przewaga EFS. Widoczna jest różnica pomiędzy wartością środków zakontraktowanych i certyfikowanych. Finansowanie projektów z funduszy strukturalnych średnio przekracza 80% wartości projektu. Wdrażanie instrumentu przebiega prawidłowo z punktu widzenia wydatkowania środków. Analiza kontraktacji środków w poszczególnych latach wskazuje na opóźnienie względem rozpoczęcia realizacji programów, co nie jest wyjątkiem w skali całego RPO WŚ 2014-2020. Autor podejmuje problematykę finansowania ZIT w perspektywie unijnej 2014-2020.

**SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:** Zintegrowane Inwestycje Terytorialne, kontraktacja, certyfikacja

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## Introduction

Integrated Territorial Investments (ITIs) emerged as a new instrument of the European Union's regional policy in the financial perspective 2014-2020. The functioning of this instrument will be continued under the next financial perspective of the Community, which is indicated by comments made during the work on the new budget. In the situation where the concept of not allocating resources in the whole area of a given region is well suited to supporting its development, ITIs are a tool supporting the main urban centre in the region together with its functional area. This – in turn – will positively influence the entire region. Structural funds in the form of the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund make the main source of financing for the discussed instrument which is supplemented with funds from the state budget and own contribution.

The aim of this paper is to assess the level of spending funds under ITIs past the half-way point of the implementation of the financial perspective 2014-2020. The analysis covered two key financial indicators, namely the level of contracting of funds and the level of their certification. KFA's ITIs were accepted as a research area. The presented data illustrate the implementation status as of 31 December 2018.

## The concept of Integrated Territorial Investments

In line with the territorial cohesion objective introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, which recognizes the impossibility of achieving economic and social cohesion at European level without a stronger focus on the territorial impact of Community policies, the Common Provisions Regulation introduced new integration tools that could be used to implement territorial strategies in the field. ITIs are one of these tools linking thematic objectives defined in cooperation agreements and operational programs with territorial dimension (Cohesion Policy... 2014). ITIs belong to the instruments ensuring the substantive and territorial concentration of the intervention leading to its adaptation to the specificity of individual territories (Churski 2018). In accordance with the assumptions of the EU regional policy maintaining that cities and their networks are to become links in the socio-economic development of countries and regions, urban functional areas became the main recipients of ITIs (Szafranek 2017). Rise and further development of urban functional areas is related to the multifaceted interpenetration of the city and its surroundings (Dziekański... 2018). Poland is an example of the positive impact of territorial potentials on the course of social and economic development processes after accession to the European Union, despite the situation of growing interregional and regional differences (Szlachta 2018).

ITIs are of fundamental importance to the implementation of urban policy in Poland (Kuźnik 2015). They were focused on the functional areas of eighteen provincial cities, which forces a cooperation of territorial self-government units located in such areas both in the sphere of identification of joint projects and in the area of strategic develop-

ment programming (Szlachta 2018). The functioning of ITIs is based on a special allocation in each of the 16 Regional Operational Programs, and indirectly on the principle of complementarity of projects on the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Program (IE OP) (Serwis... 1a 2019) and the Eastern Poland Operational Program (EP OP) (Serwis... 1b 2019), which assumes the implementation of truly integrated projects financed from various sources (Zintegrowane... 2016). In practice, the level of support for a given Urban Functional Area (UFA) depends primarily on the number of its inhabitants (Kociuba 2018b).

The allocation for ITIs at the level of all ROPs in relation to the total allocation of individual funds for Poland is at least 5.2% of the allocation for the ERDF and 4% of that for the ESF 2.4%. ITIs are implemented obligatorily on the territory of voivodeship cities and areas related to them functionally (Programowanie... 2017). On the basis of decisions of voivodeship authorities, ITIs can also be implemented in regional and sub-regional centres (Kociuba 2018b). The objectives of the ITIs implementation in Poland are to promote a partnership model of cooperation between various administrative units in urban functional areas, increase the effectiveness of interventions through the implementation of integrated projects responding in a comprehensive manner to the needs and problems of cities and areas related to them functionally, and also to increase the impact of cities and related areas functionally in the form and manner of implementing activities supported on their territory under cohesion policy (Programowanie... 2017).

The launch of funds for the implementation of ITIs conditioned the need to establish an institutionalized form of partnership (establishment of the ITI Association) and prepare ITI Strategy. The establishment of the ITI unions was based mainly on two models of territorial management in ITIs implementation: the "in-term" model, usually in the form of an agreement and the "cooperation" model, usually in the form of an association. It is difficult to clearly determine which of the models is more effective. Considering the current contracting of ITIs under ROPs, the ITI unions functioning in the form of associations show better results (Kociuba 2018a).

ITI associations perform the function of a joint representation of city authorities and areas related to them functionally towards national and regional authorities. ITI Strategy is a basic document in the field of providing support from activities implemented in the ITIs concept under the ROP, defines integrated actions to solve economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social problems affecting urban areas (Kociuba 2017). The strategy is the basis for the participation of the ITI Association in the process of managing and implementing the ROP, to the extent agreed with the Managing Authority of the Regional Operational Program (MA ROP). It indicates the areas of intervention, under which it is planned to implement projects complementary to the activities provided for in the ITI concept, financed from other sources. The strategy prepared by the ITI Association also contains the principles for the selection of projects for the ITIs, verified with the objectives and principles of the program by the MA ROP. The

detailed scope of tasks performed by the ITI Association is concluded by an agreement between the ITI Association and the competent MA ROP (Programowanie... 2017).

Support for projects implemented under ITIs mainly includes (Zintegrowane... 2016):

- sustainable development, efficient transport linking the city and its functional area,
- restoring the socio-economic functions of degraded areas of the urban functional area,
- improvement of the natural environment in the functional area of the city,
- support for energy efficiency and promotion of low-carbon strategies,
- strengthening the development of symbolic functions building the international character and supra-regional importance of the urban functional area, and improving the accessibility and quality of public services in the entire functional area,
- strengthening research, technological development and innovation.

The final scope of thematic objectives and investment priorities for implementation with the use of ITIs may include a broader thematic catalogue, which is chosen by the ITI Association, deciding on at least two of the indicated directions of intervention (minimum two thematic objectives) (Programowanie... 2017). However, the analyses carried out in the scope of implementation of project types suggest the short-sightedness of ITI beneficiaries in terms of building a competitive advantage. This is manifested in the purchase of new buses and trams, covering public buildings in Styrofoam and purchase of new educational programs for pupils without investments in modern equipment and facilities in schools (Kociuba 2018a).

In the 2014-2020 programming perspective, the Integrated Territorial Investments in Poland are implemented in 24 functional areas, including 17 areas of voivodship cities and 7 functional areas of regional/sub-regional cities in four provinces (Zintegrowane... 2016).

## **Kielce Functional Area**

The designation of Kielce Functional Area (KFA) took place at two stages. The first consisted in the analysis of indicators accepted by the Ministry of Regional Development (MRD). At the second one, construction traffic in communes was analyzed in detail, taking into account in particular the extent of suburbanization (Kociuba 2017b). The basis for the development of KFA's ITI Strategy was the agreement signed by the Marshal of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship representing the MA of the ROP SV 2014-2020 and the Mayor of the City of Kielce representing IP ITI, finally specifying the number of units included in the ITI programme at the 12<sup>th</sup> Kielce Functional Area in connection with the above, they are formed by Kielce, the Town and Commune of Chęciny, the Town and Commune of Daleszyce, the Commune of Górno, the Commune of Masłów, the Commune of Miedziana Góra, the Town and Commune of Morawica, the Commune of Piekoszów, the Commune of Sitkówka-Nowiny, the Commune of Zagnańsk, the Commune of Strawczyn and the Town and Commune of Chmielnik.

The last two local government units were attached to KFA at the request of the City of Kielce and approved by a resolution of the Board of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (Porozumienie w... 2015).

KFA belongs to the smaller functional areas in the country. In order to present the synthetic characteristics of the area, commonly presented data on the population, labor market and environmental protection were presented. Taking into account the population according to the actual place of residence, the population in KFA in 2012-2018 was stable. In 2012, the number of KFA residents was 340 177, and in 2018 it slightly decreased reaching 339,377 inhabitants.<sup>1</sup> This result should be interpreted positively against the background of a high negative migration balance in Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship (in 2012-2018, the population dropped by 32 449 people), the Functional Area of Kielce maintains a stable population, but it fails to attract new non-KFA residents, which in the long term may pose a threat to this area. The average level of unemployment for the voivodeship amounted to 8.3% in 2018 (16.0% in 2012) and is at a level higher than the national average of 5.8% (13.4% in 2012). At the county (*powiat*) level, the unemployment rate was 5.4% (10.7% in 2012), which is relatively low and remains below the national average. However, in Kielce County, where other KFA communes lie, the unemployment rate is quite high, amounting to 10.9% (19.7% in 2012), which significantly exceeds the average level of unemployment in the voivodeship. When comparing the years 2012 and 2018, it can be concluded that the unemployment level has fallen, while the same proportions between the unemployment rate in the country, the region and KFA have not changed. The number of entities entered into the REGON register for 10,000 inhabitants on average in Poland in 2012 amounted to 1032, the average for Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship was 848. Within KFA, the entrepreneurship rate higher than the national average can be observed only in Kielce (1420), and higher than the average of the voivodeship in: Sitkówka-Nowiny, Masłów, Miedziana Góra and Morawica. Referring data for 2012 to those for 2018, it can be stated that the indicator has grown both on the national and provincial levels as well as on that of units composing KFA.<sup>2</sup> However, when analysing the relations between indicators, they have not changed in comparison with 2012. An exception here is the Commune of Daleszyce, which joined the group of communes whose index came above the provincial average in 2018. The entrepreneurship rate for KFA is low, which in connection with the high unemployment rate indicates significant problems of the economic development of the functional area. The situation of KFA municipalities in the scope of basic technical infrastructure is diversified. The situation is good in the area of the water supply network, where in 11 out of 12 communes, more than 94% (Poland – 92.1%, Świętokrzyskie – 91.4%) of the population use the water supply network, and in 3 communes, the index reached 99.9%. However, in relation to the

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<sup>1</sup> According to data from the Local Data Bank.

<sup>2</sup> According to data from the Local Data Bank.

level of sewerage, the differences between the KFA municipalities are already very clear and range from 31.4% to 89.8% of the population using the sewage network (Poland – 70.8%, Świętokrzyskie – 59.0%).<sup>3</sup> The availability of Kielce with the use of different means of transport is different for all communes of the functional area (Strategia Zintegrowanych... 2016).

The greatest strategic challenge for KFA is economic development and increased competitiveness, which is an important element in connection with the research conducted in this area (Pawlik... 2017).

## Areas of support and the state of using the KFA ITIs funds

The framework conditions covering the territorial shape of the area of cooperation should result from the diagnosis of real functional connections, and at the same time take into account the existing structures of cooperation (Janas... 2017). The main goal of ITIs is to improve the quality of life of residents and economic development of Kielce Functional Area. On the other hand, the following strategic objectives have been separated (Strategia Zintegrowanych... 2016):

- improving the conditions for the development of entrepreneurship and the creation of jobs,
- improving transport accessibility and road safety,
- developing health, social and educational offer, including improvement of teaching quality,
- increasing the tourist attractiveness of KFA,
- improving energy efficiency and investments in renewable energy sources.

As a result of signing a relevant agreement, the Intermediary Institution ITI was entrusted with the implementation of tasks related to ITIs, and included in the ROP 2014-2020, which covered the ERDF Priority Axis 6 and under the ESF, selected sub-Actions of Priority Axes 8, 9 and 10 (Porozumienie w... 2015). In each of the activities/sub-measures implemented under the ITIs, a national contribution is planned, its participation being diversified depending on the area of support (Regionalny Program... 2018).

Projects within the ROP SV 2014-2020 allocation for ITIs are implemented in competition mode (priority axes 8, 9, 10 and action 6.5) and non-competition mode (priority axis 6 except 6.5 action). The procedure for their selection has been specified in the Agreement and the ITI Strategy. The units participating in the appraisal and implementation process are Kielce Municipal Office acting as the Intermediate Institution on the part of ITIs and the departments of the Marshal's Office, involved in the implementation of the Program, and the Voivodeship Labour Office, acting as the Intermediate Institution for the 10 ROP axes.

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<sup>3</sup> Data for 2017 according to the Local Data Bank.

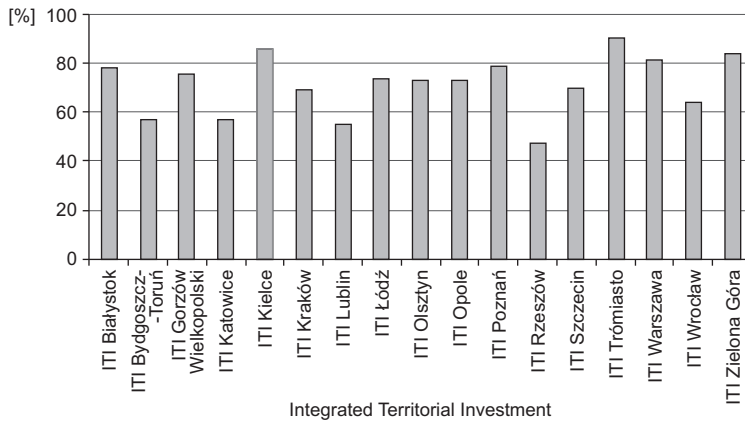


Fig. 1. Contract status of ITIs voivodeship capitals in Poland as of 27 November 2018

Source: own study based on data from the Ministry of Investment and Development.

The choice of contracting period presented in Figure 1 determined the possibility of obtaining data. The data presented in it make a reference to a detailed contracting and certification analysis covering KFA's ITIs. As can be seen in the diagram, the level of Functional Urban Areas of Voivodeship Capital (FUA VC) contracting in the country is diverse. At KFA's ITIs, this level is among the highest in the country.

According to the data presented in Table 1, the largest number of contracts were signed under measure 6.2; however, the highest value belongs to contracts signed under 6.4, which also have the highest value of over PLN 127 million of two contracts. A higher average value is shown by contracts implemented under the ERDF, which results from the type of investments characterized by high capital intensity. Analysing the above table, one can also indicate a different level of use of individual activities/sub-measures. The lowest level of utilization in the 08.05.04 operation is the result of a very small value of contracts signed under one of the already announced competitions, while the competition for 2019 is planned to be announced in the entire remaining allocation (Harmonogram naborów... 2019). In the case of two sub-measures, contracts were signed for a value exceeding the planned allocation.

Table 2 shows the certification of expenses under KFA ITIs. There is a large diversity between the various activities/sub-measures. It is the result of different time of implemented projects and the method of spending funds. In the case of the ERDF, 17.23% of the funds were certified, much less than in the case of the ESF – 50.62%. It results from the method of expenditure settlement, where, in the case of ERDF, usually investment projects of payments are made as a refund after completion and settlement of the investment or after completion of a specific stage of investment implementation. On the other hand, the ESF functions in the form of an advance payment with regular expenses, as a rule, on a quarterly basis.

Table 1

Number and value of EU funds in contracts concluded under KFA's ITIs as of 31 December 2018  
(in PLN thousand)

Action / Measure	Number of contracts	EU allocation*	EU co-financing in concluded contracts	% of use
06.01. Energy efficiency in the public sector	11	60 408.61	47 623.77	78.84
06.02. Promotion of low-emission strategies and sustainable urban mobility	18	49 017.61	44 917.87	91.64
06.03. Protection and use of valuable natural areas	8	43 151.90	24 100.70	55.85
06.04. Road infrastructure	2	111 471.81	108 286.53	97.14
06.06. Educational and training infrastructure	1	31 111.45	30 600.00	98.36
08.01.02 Increasing access to care for children under 3 years	3	2 115.04	1 779.88	84.15
08.02.03 Support for health prevention	3	9 466.16	4 898.42	51.75
08.03.06 Increase in the quality of general education	14	10 326.72	7 649.11	74.07
08.04.03 Improving the skills or qualifications of adults in the field of ICT and foreign languages through the implementation of bottom-up educational initiatives	12	6 454.20	5 767.37	89.36
08.05.04 Lifelong learning	4	6 454.20	1 719.08	26.64
09.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	4	4 173.72	1 666.37	39.93
10.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	9	10 757.00	12 709.36	118.15
10/04.02 Support for entrepreneurship development through the use of non-returnable instruments	3	11 617.56	14 176.02	122.02
<i>Total ERDF</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>295 161,38</i>	<i>255 528.87</i>	<i>86.57</i>
<i>Total ESF</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>61 364.60</i>	<i>50 365.60</i>	<i>82.08</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>356 525.98</b>	<b>305 894.46</b>	<b>85.80</b>

\* The Euro rate used to convert the allocation: 4.3028 of January 2019, based on InforEuro.

Source: own study based on data from the Marshal's Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

Analysing the spending of funds under ITIs, and hence the wider European resources, attention should be paid to two different categories, namely contracted and certified funds. We talk about contracted funds at the moment of signing the contract, while certified funds are already accounted for and transferred to the European Commission. Analysing the contracted means, we have a picture of funds that will be spent in the future, which gives us an idea of the funds available. Whereas certified expenses present completed and settled projects, also these expenses will be taken into account



Table 2

Value of certified expenses until 31 December 2018 (in EUR)

Action / Measure	UE allocation	EU certified expenditure	% of certification
06.01. Energy efficiency in the public sector	14 039 372	6 643 754	47.32
06.02. Promotion of low-emission strategies and sustainable urban mobility	11 392 027	2 398 322	21.05
06.03. Protection and use of valuable natural areas	10 028 794	1 227 380	12.24
06.04. Road infrastructure	25 906 807	1 527 981	5.90
06.06. Educational and training infrastructure	7 230 513	20 227	0.28
08.01.02 Increasing access to care for children under 3 years	491 550	63 135	12.84
08.02.03 Support for health prevention	2 200 000	644 971	29.32
08.03.06 Increase in the quality of general education	2 400 000	1 025 514	42.73
08.04.03 Improving the skills or qualifications of adults in the field of ICT and foreign languages through the implementation of bottom-up educational initiatives	1 500 000	48 513	3.23
08.05.04 Lifelong learning	1 500 000	47 664	3.18
09.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	970 000	209 179	21.56
10.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	2 500 000	2 249 184	89.97
10/04.02 Support for entrepreneurship development through the use of non-returnable instruments	2 700 000	2 930 840	108.55
<i>Total ERDF</i>	<i>68 597 513</i>	<i>11 817 664</i>	<i>17.23</i>
<i>Total ESF</i>	<i>14 261 550</i>	<i>7 219 001</i>	<i>50.62</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>82 859 063</b>	<b>19 036 664</b>	<b>22.97</b>

Source: own study based on data from the Marshal's Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

in the final settlement of the financial perspective 2014-2020. It can be estimated that the time between signing a contract and its final settlement is about 2 years for projects co-financed by the ESF, whereas for ERDF the duration of a given project will depend on its specificity. Therefore, comparing Table 1 and Table 2, we see large discrepancies. It should also be emphasized that the end of 2018 was a measure of the financial perspective, and therefore certification should increase, while the scale of signed contracts decreased. It is not without significance the postponing of the commencement of spending, which was dictated by the late date of signing the ROP 2014-2020 and, consequently, delays in announcing competitions.<sup>4</sup> This shift is clearly visible in Figure 2.

<sup>4</sup> First competitions were announced in July 2015.

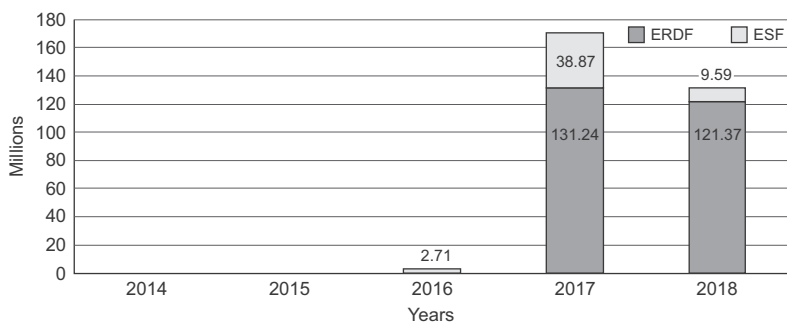


Fig. 2. Value of the EU funds in agreements signed under KFA's ITIs in the years 2014-2018 (in PLN million)

Source: own study based on data from the Marshal's Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

As part of the ERDF, contracts were signed in 2017 and 2018, and in most cases virtually all available allocation was contracted. In the case of the ESF, the situation is more diverse. In the case of the X axis, funds exceeding the planned allocation were contracted. The lowest level of contracting was achieved in Sub-measure 08.05.04. It should be noted that in 2019, it was planned to publish competitions as part of KFA's ITIs for a total amount of co-financing from the ESF over PLN 12.6 million.<sup>5</sup> The above chart also graphically presents the value of ERDF and ESF funds allocated to the ITIs, in the proportion of which a large ERDF allocation can be seen.

Table 3

Financing structure for projects signed as part of KFA's ITIs until 31 Dec. 2018

Action/measure	Value of contracts (in thousands of PLN)	% of participation		
		UE funds	State budget	Own contribution
06.01. Energy efficiency in the public sector	57 058.24	83.47	4.84	11.69
06.02. Promotion of low-emission strategies and sustainable urban mobility	53 153.65	84.51	0.00	15.49
06.03. Protection and use of valuable natural areas	29 133.04	82.73	0.00	17.27
06.04. Road infrastructure	127 395.92	85.00	0.00	15.00
06.06. Educational and training infrastructure	36 000.00	85.00	7.98	7.02
08.01.02 Increasing access to care for children under 3 years	2 191.81	81.21	0.00	18.79
08.02.03 Support for health prevention	5 762.84	85.00	4.74	10.26
08.03.06 Increase in the quality of general education	9 044.91	84.57	1.12	14.32

<sup>5</sup> The amount has been calculated on the basis of the Schedule for the call for proposals under the competition procedure for 2019 for ROP SV 2014-2020

Table 3 contd.

Action/measure	Value of contracts (in thousands of PLN)	% of participation		
		UE funds	State budget	Own con- tribution
08.04.03 Improving the skills or qualifications of adults in the field of ICT and foreign languages through the implementation of bottom-up educational initiatives	6 785.14	85.00	4.99	10.01
08.05.04 Lifelong learning	2 022.44	85.00	5.77	9.23
09.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	1 960.44	85.00	7.22	7.78
10.02.02 Support for professional activity of people over 29 years of age who are unemployed	15 869.02	80.09	7.42	12.49
10/04.02 Support for entrepreneurship development through the use of non-returnable instruments	16 677.67	85.00	12.16	2.84
<i>Total ERDF</i>	<i>302 740.85</i>	<i>84.41</i>	<i>1.86</i>	<i>13.73</i>
<i>Total ESF</i>	<i>60 314.27</i>	<i>83.51</i>	<i>6.92</i>	<i>9.57</i>
TOTAL	363 055.12	84.26	2.70	13.04

Source: own study based on data from the Marshal's Office of Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship.

Table 3 above presents the financing structure of concluded contracts. In all cases, the financing from the structural funds exceeds 80% of the project value, and in the case of 7 measures/sub-measures it is the maximum permissible amount of 85% (Pietrowski 2018). Despite the limited value of the co-financing projects from the state budget, it is worth paying attention to its higher value in projects co-financed under the ESF (almost 7%), with a value not exceeding 2% in ERDF projects.

Apart from ROP SV 2014-2020, as part of complementary investments for KFA ITIs, there were no projects under the Infrastructure and Environment Operational Program (IE OP), while projects implemented under the Eastern Poland Operational Program (EP OP) are presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Complementary projects for KFA's ITIs co-financed under the EP OP 2014-2020 (in PLN)

Beneficiary's name	Number of projects	The value of projects	ERDF co-financing
Kielce Commune	2	337 580 402.03	251 761 007.09
Kielce Commune / Kielce Technology Park	1	7 997 622.74	6 485 969.49
Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship	4	254 991 862.49	197 851 004.14
Total	7	600 569 887.26	456 097 980.72

Source: own study based on data from the [www.mapadotacji.gov.pl](http://www.mapadotacji.gov.pl)

As part of the complementary projects, 6 concerned transport in the field of road development or urban transport development. Only the project implemented by Kielce Technology Park concerned support for business ideas.

## Conclusions

The presented analysis shows that the financial progress of the instrument is good. Most of the funds have been contracted, the certification takes place with a time lag. Despite the postponement, there is no threat of not spending funds along with the year 2023 appearing on the horizon. The value of contracts signed until the end of 2018 and the allocation for contests planned to be announced in 2019 practically exhausted the established allocation. Possible measures remained from the savings created after the completion of projects. However, taking into account the author's professional experience, it can be said that they will be small and their distribution should not pose a problem.<sup>6</sup> One should also mention the influence of exchange rate fluctuations, which, according to the author, will have a small impact on the final settlement of available funds. This impact is the result of a broad period of time from the allocation planning to the competition, and the certification of expenditure from projects signed within this competition. Considering the contracting in other ITI VC, its level is high and classifies KEA's ITIs at the forefront of the country.

With the assessment presented, it should be added that the mere proper spending of the presented instrument is an element of its overall success. The result of incurring expenses are material effects that directly translate into economic development and improvement of the living conditions of a given area. Their progress is also subject to monitoring, while the timing of such monitoring should be relatively long due to the time shift of the effects of implemented projects (e.g. support for health prevention).

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