

Development of the Social Economy in the Łodz Region in Poland

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Activities, oriented towards the support of vulnerable groups and local development existed in Poland before the WWII. They were limited during the communist period. With the transition to the market economy and the building of civil society, we observe a great deal of interest in the emergence of various forms of social economy entities. A number of strategic documents have been issued emphasising the promotion of the social economy in Poland. We may assume that with the development of civil society, the number of social economy start-ups in large and small towns as well as in rural areas have been increasing. A good example is the development of social enterprises (in the form of foundations, social cooperatives, non-profit companies and associations) in the Lodz region. The number of social economy entities operating in this form increased by 38.5% in one year (September 2023). Some of them offered help to the refugees from Ukraine. The aim of the presentation is to show the diversity of forms of activity of social enterprises, barriers to their development. For this purpose, the results of research conducted by the Regional Centre for Social Policy in Łódź will be used.