

Public projects and their major sources of financing in Poland after the accession into the European Union: the case of the Silesian Voivodship

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In the period of time following the EU's accession of Poland (1 May, 2004), investment processes in individual voivodships have revived considerably. Infrastructure has become the main direction for investments. Local government units have a variety of options available in order to acquire funds for financing of public projects. The key aim of the paper is to discuss such issues, i.e. the authors present the scale of investments in municipalities, communes, poviats and self-governing voivodships as well as the extent to which EU funds are engaged in financing of investment projects carried out by these entities, based on the example of the Silesian Voivodship. The paper is an attempt at evaluating the dynamics of changes which occurred in the years of 2004-2008, within the source of financing for investments which plays an increasingly important part in budgets of local government units i.e. EU funds. The article presents a theoretical and empirical approach to the issues.

Keywords: Public projects, Infrastructure, Local governments' projects, European funds, Financing of investments, European Union's funds, local government's budget, Silesian Voivodship, Poland