

Title: **Programme Sapard -building the Sapard Road**

Country: **Poland**

Duration: **5'53"**

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Content:

Sapard, a program that was started yet before Poland became a member of a European Union has been the most beneficial to the region of Łódź. It was meant to help Polish agriculture which especially lags behind the European standards. Over 30 percent of the society is involved in it and it constitutes only several percent of the national income. Due to the financial help from that program (it amounted to over 335 million PLN which is about 80 million Euro) something could be improved in almost every district of the region of Łódź. They made good use of this money in 100%. Over 1300

Farmers took advantage of this help, among others Marcin Karpiński. He has bought a modern tractor thanks to the Union subsidies.

Text:

O-Ton: Marcin Karpiński

Almost 50% of the value of this tractor was covered by Sapard. It was in April when I bought this tractor. I submitted an application at the end of the year 2003 and in July 2004 the money from the fund appeared on my account.

Rep: How does it work?

Very well, it is really modern equipment and I hope I will make use of it for a long time from now on.

Local governments have realised about 300 investments. Due to Sapard the boroughs such as Rokiciny have realized investments that were planned for many years ahead and they had them finished within two years. As many as three investments were completed in Rokiciny borough. They were especially important both for the local development and for the comfort of those driving through this region. The roads, especially local ones, are still a Polish Achilles heel. Thanks to the Sapard subsidies, several kilometres of asphalt road surface have been built particularly on transit road connections. A sewage system was installed in the whole Rokiciny town as well, which is confirmed by this signboard.

O-Ton: Jan Klepacz Rokiciny borough leader

The construction of the fourth stage in the sewage system expansion was planned for three or even four years ahead. Thanks to the finances from Sapard the investment was completed very quickly. It was completed as early as last year and people already are making use of it and this is really valuable.

The condition of the roads in Dzierżazna and Sokolniki regions needed improvement too. There are summers and tourist resorts and the regions are visited also by tourists from abroad. There was the time when many German people had lived here. The region is now easily accessible. This roundabout among others has been subsidized from the European funds.

Yet more important investment has been completed in the Będków borough. It

is only in the phase of early development and the people count on the farm tourism to develop here. It is attractive because of undamaged farmlands as well as interesting wild animals inhabiting the region. In winter partridges can be met walking nearby people's houses. There are also two rivers, the condition of which was improved and they have been well protected for the years to come. That is why the borough leader has been applying for the funds for the construction of the sewage treatment plant.

O-Ton: Lesław Kołodziejczyk Będków borough leader

We submitted the motion for subsidy for our local investment. It was about the financial support of the construction of the sewage treatment plant. The motion was given a positive opinion and in 2003 we completed this investment.

It encouraged the borough government to apply for the helping funds once more. This time they wanted to improve communication. The region is attractive not only for the beautiful landscapes but also because of its historical past. But first of all one must get here somehow. It is the place where Władysław Stanisław Reymont created the well known novels at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. He lived in this house containing many mementoes of him. The big monumental linden tree has remained here until this day. He wrote the most famous novels underneath. Later on he was awarded a Nobel Prize for "The Peasants".

O-Ton: Lesław Kołodziejczyk the leader of the borough of Będków

This time we put forward a motion for the support of our road investment in Teodorów town. It is an outlet road from the borough, and we achieved the acceptance. We have not yet received the money on our account but we are awaiting them just now.

On the whole it is the road constructions which were the most popular types of investments in the whole region. The Union help amounted to almost 60 million PLN (15 million Euros). Over 200 kilometres of local roads have been built. Due to them the boroughs can look for investors. They perceive road demands and electrification as two crucial factors for the development and improvement of the Polish countryside.

O-Ton: Jolanta Najman, head of ARiMR in Łódź

The roads were the most popular among the investments. On the whole local governments have submitted as many as 400 motions. Not all of them could be realized simply because there weren't enough funds in the program.

The Sapard program has been a crucial experience for the agriculture and countryside in Poland. It taught Polish farmers how to fill in the Union application forms, how to apply for subsidies for some undertakings. They also learned where to look for help for the poorer and smaller societies than those in big cities. For the comparison: almost 20,000 farmers have already submitted applications for subsidies from the funds available after the Poland's accession. Almost 130 thousand farmers are applying for subsidies.