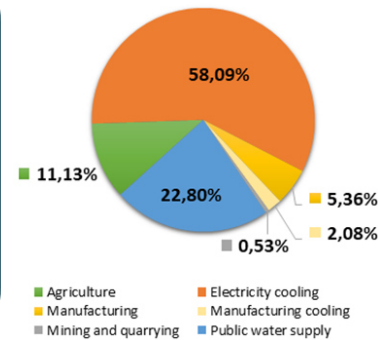
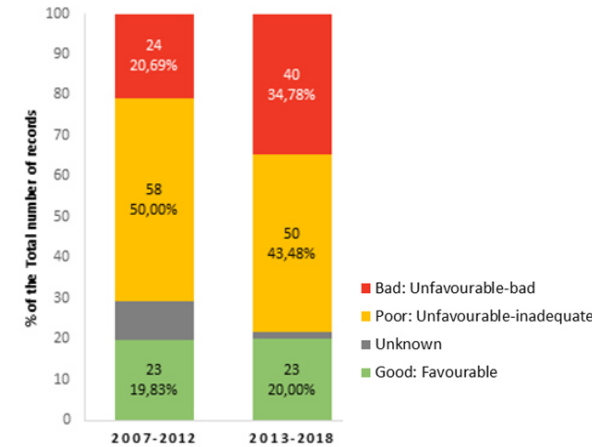


# of inhabitants **37.7 million**  
Surface area **307 236 km<sup>2</sup>**  
GDP per capita **79 pps [1]**  
Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Oder; Vistula**  
Polity **unitary state with local government (samorząd terytorialny) organised at three tiers**  
Layers of government **central government; 16 regions ; 314 counties; 2 478 municipalities**  
Legislative powers at the sub-national level **No**  
Decentralisation index Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **1.9 (8 out of 27) [2]**  
**6.87% (2017) [3]**



Water abstraction per sector in Poland - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Poland - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Poland - Source: EEA (2021)

## Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

### NEXUS PILLARS

### POLICY MAKING

### POLICY EXECUTION

#### Water

Ministry of Environment

State Water Holding Polish Waters;  
National Water Management Authority;  
National Water Agency; Regional Water Management Boards; local authorities

#### Energy

Ministry of Climate; Ministry of Development;  
Ministry of State Assets; Ministry of Finance

Polish National Energy Conservation Agency; Energy Regulatory Office;  
National Atomic Energy Agency;  
regional and local authorities

#### Food

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

National Center for Support to Agriculture; Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture and its regional and local offices

#### Ecosystems

Ministry of Environment

Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection; Institute of Environmental Protection; regional, county and local authorities



More information on  
WEFE nexus  
governance in the EU

[1] EU purchasing power standard

[2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>

[3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%

[4] <https://www.kampinoskiebagna.pl/en/home-kampinos-wetlands-1/> & <https://www.kampinoskiebagna.pl/en/home-kampinos-wetlands-2/>

## WEFE NEXUS PERSPECTIVE

### CHALLENGES

- Invest in wastewater treatment infrastructure
- Address eutrophication issues caused by agriculture for both inland and marine waters
- Improve the implementation of the Natura 2000 legislation
- Improve knowledge about the Natura 2000 network to promote societal acceptance
- Address threats to the Natura 2000 network, such as urban sprawl, road infrastructure, and intensive forestry and agriculture

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Poland focuses especially on SDG 6 (increasing available water resources)
- Poland has drafted a list of solutions to overcome water shortages and to cope with drought, both in cities and in rural areas
- The Kampinos Wetlands (2013-2019) and the Kampinos WetLIFE (2020-2026) projects aim to protect and restore wetlands at the 'Puszcza Kampinoska' Natura 2000 site[4]
- Poland will receive major contributions from the cohesion policy funds in 2021-2027 to close implementation gaps of EU legislation
- Poland's Recovery and Resilience Plan focuses inter alia on measures to improve water management in rural areas

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