

STRATEGY FOR EUROPE

– Europe that is competitive, globally strong,
business and employee friendly



Business priorities for the next EU institutional cycle
and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union



European Funds
for Social Development



Republic
of Poland

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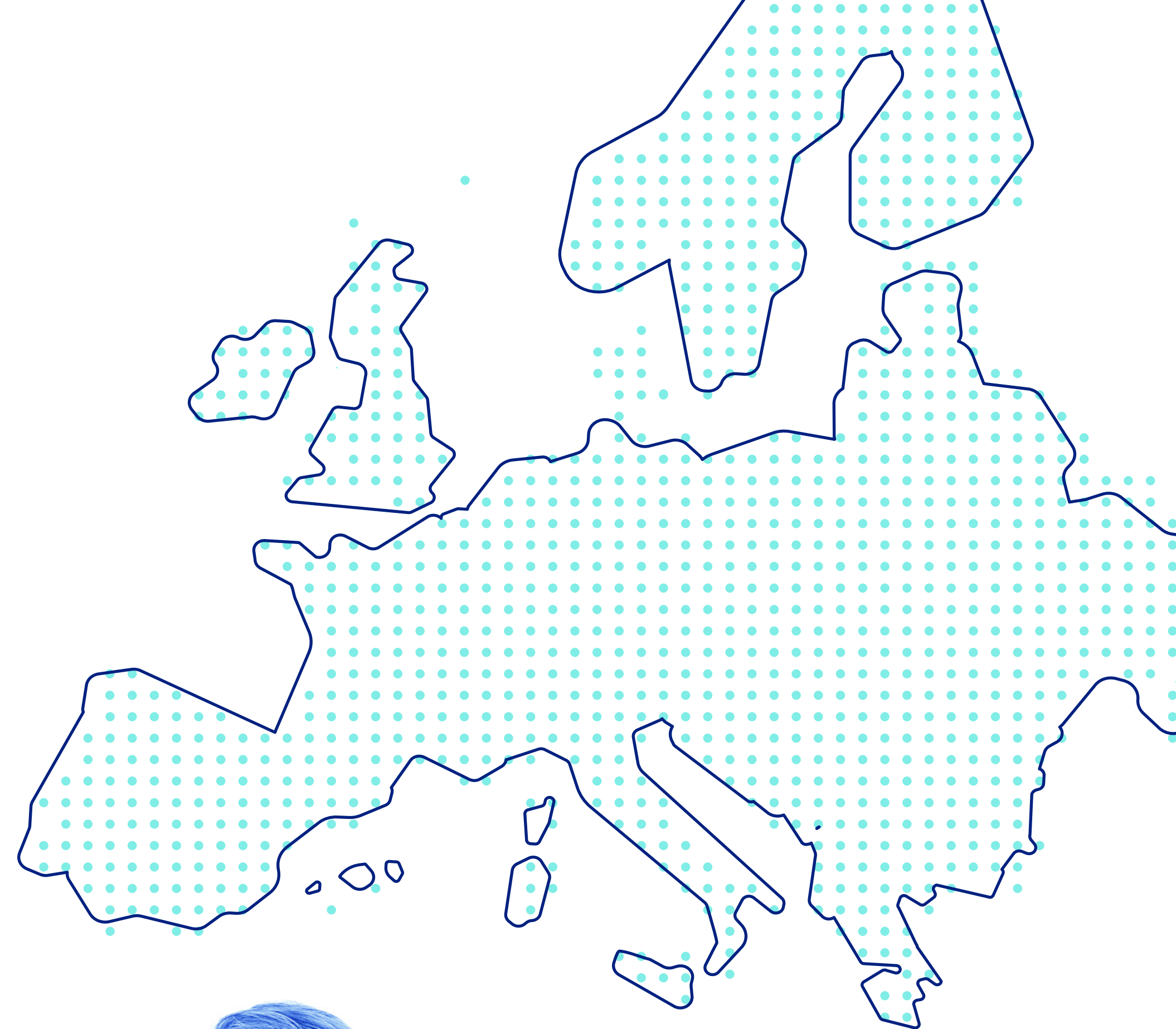


This is not an easy moment for Europe. The Covid-19 pandemic, Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the never-ending conflict in the Middle East, the increasingly difficult geopolitical situation, the challenges of the green transition and the digital transformation that is proceeding at a dizzying pace. High energy prices, an unstable regulatory environment, over-regulation, as well as a shortage of manpower and skills, create unfavourable conditions for European businesses, hindering investment and stifling growth. We need a smart strategy for Europe to ensure growth, to improve the (long-deteriorating) competitiveness of European companies and the prosperity of citizens.

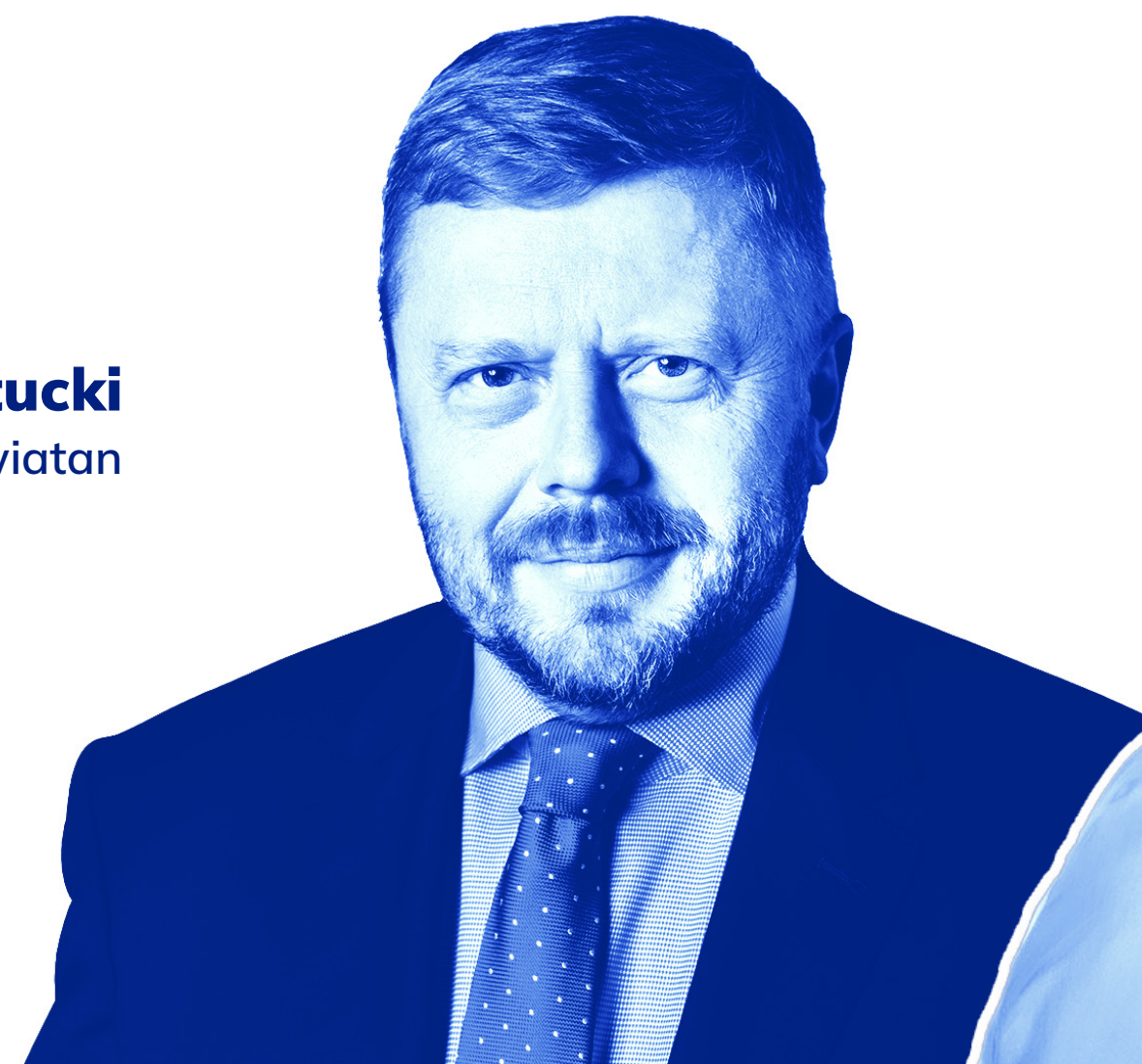
On 1st January 2025, Poland will assume the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months. This will be the first presidency of a new legislative cycle, with a new European Parliament and European Commission. This provides Poland with a unique opportunity to influence the shape of the strategic documents and programmes of the EU institutions, which will determine the direction of the Community's development in the coming years.

Polish Confederation Lewiatan declares its willingness to support the government administration in the preparation and implementation of the Polish Presidency. We also declare our willingness to support cooperation with European business, within the framework of our activities in BusinessEurope and the European Economic and Social Committee.

Twenty years have passed since Poland's accession to the EU. It has been a time of development and modernisation for our country. At this decisive time for Europe, when there is a war going on beyond the Union's eastern border, we should share our experience and become strongly involved in supporting the new EU candidate countries, especially Ukraine.



Maciej Witucki
President of Polish Confederation Lewiatan



dr Henryka Bochniarz
Chair of the General Council
of Polish Confederation Lewiatan



1.

Competitive and business- and citizen-friendly Europe

- Simplification of EU rules and reduction of burdens on business, realising the full potential of the Better Regulation agenda framework, robust impact assessments and digitalisation.
- Strengthening of the EU single market through further integration, regulatory harmonisation and ensuring the effective implementation and enforcement of EU law
- Introduction of innovation-friendly solutions to foster their development, including the creation of a stable regulatory environment and incentives for companies.



2. Globally active Europe building its defence capabilities

- Increasing trade and technology partnerships to support the implementation of trade facilitation, standardisation, technological development and value chain resilience
- Promoting closer transatlantic cooperation, which is vital for security and prosperity
- Strengthening the European defence policy and increasing defence spending, as well as developing a competitive and innovative defence industry in Europe.

3. Europe supporting the accession of new members

- Active support for EU enlargement policy
- Supporting the accession of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to the European Union by offering capacity-building programmes and promoting reforms
- Strengthening economic ties through trade agreements, investment support and market access to boost economic development in these countries.



4.

Energy-independent and energy-resilient Europe

- The creation of the “EU Energy Strategy”, which will make Europe one of the world’s cheapest electricity suppliers: the supply of renewable energy and low-carbon hydrogen at competitive costs must be strengthened.
- Supporting and promoting an equitable energy transition in countries that, due to their historical circumstances, require dedicated tools and measures to decarbonise the energy system and important sectors of the economy.
- Promoting the development of renewable energy sources, the modernisation of distribution and transmission networks, support for the energy storage sector and the simplification of procedures that currently hinder the development of RES.



5. Europe that promotes green innovation

- The development of national strategies for industrial transformation, which will identify opportunities for the introduction of new, innovative solutions to reduce CO₂ emissions from industry
- The creation of a pan-European programme for industrial transformation analogous to national recovery and resilience plans, with similar funding mechanisms but far more transparent in terms of investor participation in the planning of national projects and reforms
- Providing support mechanisms for entrepreneurs in implementing the Green Deal, e.g. financial (EU funds, access to clear information on funding sources), expert (training, database of experts, consultancy firms tools)
- Increasing investment and funding opportunities for large-scale projects for the processing, production and recycling of critical industrial raw materials and resources.



6. Europe deepening the Health Union

- Developing a coherent set of policies, at both European and national levels, that will support improvements in the quality and accessibility of healthcare and the planning and design of policies for active and healthy ageing, while ensuring a good allocation of health resources.
- Raising citizens' awareness of preventive healthcare and taking charge of their own health.
- Including the role of pharmacies in EU public health programmes and supporting the development of pharmacy services in Member States.
- Preparing and implementing a dedicated European legislation containing financial and regulatory incentives to maintain and relocate production of APIs and finished medicines to Europe (API Act).

7. Europe supporting digital transformation and innovation

- Preparing a European strategy to strengthen the technology sector, which will enable European companies to develop and create innovative products and services, such as in the area of artificial intelligence or quantum technologies.
- Improving Europe's digital infrastructure and introducing investment and incentives for the adoption of digital technologies by European companies.
- Ensuring free movement of cloud services across Europe and a non-discriminatory approach based on strong transatlantic ties.
- Supporting the construction of reliable tools to back up and maintain critical data and national services regardless of disruption.
- Strengthening actions to address labour and digital skills shortages.
- Enforcing the new rules on digital platforms.
- Reviewing digital legislation with an objective to remove the above problems, simplifying the legal framework for the digital economy and making it more coherent.
- Properly preparing the regulatory environment in the field of artificial intelligence (implementation, enforcement, minimising the risk of violation of fundamental rights, interpretative guidance, dialogue with stakeholders) so as to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits of trusted technology without creating barriers to innovative development.
- Creating long-term cyber resilience for critical infrastructure by investing in quantum technologies, building quantum ecosystems, quantum security research, and encouraging private sector investment in the EU.



8.

Europe of talents

- Better matching of education and training to labour market realities in the face of labour shortages and skills gaps.
- Supporting at all levels the improvement of digital competences and qualifications, mainly through more flexible forms of learning and skills validation.
- Preparing effective and transparent procedures to enable the effective and rapid recruitment of skilled foreign workers.
- Strengthening the social dialogue and analysing what has been done so far, which will form the basis of the social partners' support from European funds.
- Supporting and encouraging companies to adapt their work organisation to the needs of the company and employees, while taking into account the impact on companies of new administrative, bureaucratic or cost burdens.
- Improving the rules governing the intra-EU mobility of workers under the freedom to provide services (posting of workers) by harmonising formal requirements and access to up-to-date information.



9.

Europe of equality

- Strengthening efforts to create an open and inclusive labour market, by breaking down stereotypes, supporting businesses to implement solutions that promote equality, inclusivity in the workplace, and involving all private and public sector stakeholders in creating a fair labour market, both at EU and national level.
- Strengthening measures for economic activation of people aged 50+, women, people with disabilities and people living in areas remote from urban centres.



10.

Europe of deepening capital markets

- Development of the Capital Markets Union.
- Adoption of the euro currency by Poland.
- Conducting regular analysis of the functioning of open banking regulation and addressing the problems and opportunities associated with it.
- Development of the EU's proposed Multilateral Investment Court so that it retains the elements of investment arbitration that promote speed of proceedings and includes a new compromise between transparency of proceedings and commercial confidentiality.





Polish Confederation Lewiatan, since May 2024, has been carrying out a project on **“Social dialogue: regional, national and EU conditions”**. The project is funded by the FERS 2021-2027 programme (European Funds).

Within the project, we will run research and analysis on the state of social dialogue in Poland and in the European Union.

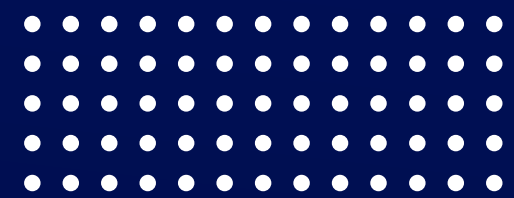
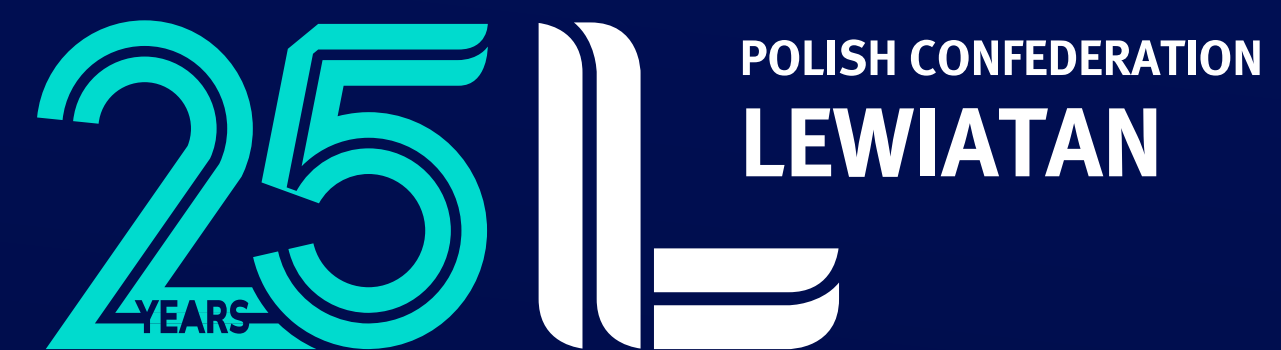
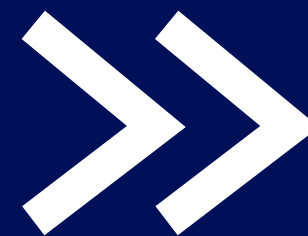
We will strengthen our activity at European level, including through:

- workshops and study visits of our representatives to EU institutions,
- active participation in the Polish Presidency of the EU Council,
- representation of the priorities of Polish employers in the EU institutions.

We have also envisaged support for regional organisations affiliated to Polish Confederation Lewiatan, training for representatives of the social partners and a digital audit of the Confederation, which will be the first step towards strengthening our digital competences.

We will also build an online platform where we will post the research results of the analysis, expertise and important information on social dialogue developed in the project.

The project will result in the strengthening of the Confederation’s expert and institutional capacities in social dialogue and the enhancement of the competences of our representatives participating in social dialogue at European, national and regional levels.



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