



# Harnessing the wind for Poland's citizens

While demand for electricity in Poland is growing, the nation's power plants are ageing. This means that energy infrastructure must be improved. To do this, Poland is exploring various options. While almost 90% of its energy is still produced with coal and lignite – of which the country has abundant reserves, the country has committed to achieve a 15% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

To support a diversification of the energy mix in Poland, the EIB provided a PLN 178m (EUR 45m equivalent) loan for the construction and operation of the Margonin wind farm. It is one of the largest of its kind in

the country, with a total capacity of 120MW, and became fully operational in April 2010.

Located on two sites to the east and west of Margonin, a village north of Poznan, the complex of 60 wind turbines generates enough electricity to cover the demand of about 55 000 households. The facility accounts for around 5% of the total installed wind capacity in the country, and operational management is performed by EDPR, an experienced developer and operator of wind farms in Europe and the Americas.

Wind farms have clear environmental benefits. If it replaces existing electricity

generation, mainly from coal-fired power stations, the Margonin wind farm is estimated to avoid 260 000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year.

But the wind farm has also had economic benefits. With a final cost of PLN 751m (about EUR 180m), the project has created 300 person-years of temporary jobs during construction and commissioning and 10 permanent positions for the operation of the wind turbines. Margonin commune itself has enjoyed increased revenues from land leasing thanks to the project, while residents have also benefited from the improvements to the local



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Margonin windfarm



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road network, either through construction or rehabilitation.

Careful consideration was given to the well-being of the population around the wind farm. Comprehensive, mandatory environ-

mental impact studies were carried out and it was decided to mitigate potential noise impacts during night time through an adapted equipment of some turbines with noise reduction systems that can be switched on at night.

The success of the Margonin wind farm is a notable example of how energy production may be diversified, both for Poland and beyond.



Margonin windfarm

The European Investment Bank is the bank of the European Union. Our shareholders are the 28 Member States of the EU. We provide finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects. We are the world's largest multilateral lender by volume, with loans totalling EUR 52bn in 2012.

Climate action is a key priority for the EU. Between 2008 and 2012, the EIB invested almost EUR 80bn in climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. We support low-carbon and climate resilient growth in Europe as well as in emerging and developing countries outside Europe. Moreover, our funding acts as a catalyst to mobilise finance for climate action, encouraging others to match our long-term investment. We complement our innovative financing instruments with a range of technical assistance tools to provide rounded solutions for commercially promising climate initiatives.

### For general information:

#### Information Desk

Corporate Responsibility and  
Communication Department

☎ (+352) 43 79 - 22000

☎ (+352) 43 79 - 62000

✉ [info@eib.org](mailto:info@eib.org)

#### European Investment Bank

98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer  
L-2950 Luxembourg

☎ (+352) 43 79 - 1

☎ (+352) 43 77 04

[www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)