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# COUNTRY PROFILE

## Poland

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### OVERVIEW

Poland's continued success as a free-market democracy and constructive regional player will have a major impact on American



### Warsaw

national interests and security in Europe. Poland is by far the world's largest and most significant example of successful transformation into a democratic market-oriented society. The success of U.S. foreign policy goals in NATO, Europe, and the nations emerging from communism is bound up with Poland's success. Poland joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in May 2004.

Between 1990 and 2000, USAID delivered more than \$1 billion to support Poland in its transformation from communism to a market-oriented democracy. Although the USAID Mission in Warsaw closed its doors in 2000, the legacy of USAID development assistance has endured.

### PROGRAM LEGACY

#### INVESTMENTS FURTHER DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The Polish American Freedom Foundation (PAFF), was established in 1999 as a legacy organization endowed by the Polish American Enterprise Fund to support the continued development of civil society, democracy and market economy in Poland and to support the transformation of neighboring countries. The Foundation's endowment fund is expected to eventually capitalize over \$230 million. PAFF domestic initiatives have included efforts to expand opportunities for education and social development by reducing unemployment, improving educational access via the Internet, increasing the use of classroom-based technology.

#### COLLABORATION CAPITALIZES ON TRANSITION EXPERIENCE

The Poland-America-Ukraine Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI), a grant-giving program, was established in 2005 as a trilateral initiative of Poland, Ukraine, and the United States to strengthen the emerging cooperative relationship between Ukraine and Poland and to capitalize on the acquired expertise and lessons learned in Poland's successful transition to a free market democracy. By helping to expand and deepen

#### POLAND SNAPSHOT

Capital: Warsaw  
Population: 38.518 million  
GDP per capita: \$14,400  
(purchasing power parity)

For more information,  
See [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Poland



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## COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

ties between Poland and Ukraine, PAUCI seeks not only to accelerate Ukraine's transition toward a robust market economy, but also to create a mechanism for both countries to benefit from shared experiences.

### **POST-PRESENCE RELATIONS**

#### **A SUSTAINING PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The United States is exploring new opportunities to collaborate with Poland, an emerging foreign assistance donor, to promote democracy and economic growth in the region and elsewhere in the world.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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