

## 40 Member States

Albania  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
Georgia  
Germany  
Greece  
Holy See  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Italy  
Latvia  
Liechtenstein  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Moldova  
Montenegro  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
San Marino  
Serbia  
Slovak Republic  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
"the former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia"  
Turkey

## The City of Szczecin and the CEB sign a loan agreement to finance social municipal infrastructure

**Szczecin, 22 October 2009:** The City of Szczecin, represented by the Mayor, Piotr Krzystek, and the CEB, represented by Imre Tarafás, Vice-Governor, today signed a loan worth 300 million Polish zlotys (PLN), aimed at financing municipal infrastructure in sectors involving health, education and improving living conditions in urban and rural areas.

The CEB funds will be used to implement public infrastructure projects contained in the City's long-term investment programme. They will make it possible to create conditions that foster sustainable economic development and to improve the quality of life for the nearly 410 000 inhabitants of Szczecin, the capital of Western Pomerania.

The City's development policy should enable Szczecin to upgrade to the level of a modern European centre and to strengthen its presence in the southern Baltic Sea, while developing awareness among the local population concerning the environmental implications of its situation as a port at the mouth of the Odra river.

The project comes with the CEB's strategy to support local and regional authorities in Poland in developing public infrastructure and to consolidate its commitment alongside municipalities and regions to help them better integrate and enhance their attractiveness on the European regional scene.

*"We are extremely pleased today to begin our cooperation with the City of Szczecin and to enable it to make use of the advantageous financing conditions proposed by the CEB. We are sure that the City will use these funds in the best possible conditions in order to develop its municipal infrastructure that will contribute to the social and cultural development effort wished for both by the authorities of the City of Szczecin and by those of the CEB"* declared Imre Tarafás, Vice-Governor of the CEB.

Since it joined the CEB in 1998, **31 projects** have been **approved in Poland** representing **an accumulated amount of 2.08 billion euros**, half of which has been in the form of direct financing to local authorities.

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Set up in 1956, the **CEB** (Council of Europe Development Bank) has **40 Member States**. As a major instrument of the policy of solidarity in Europe, the Bank finances social projects by making available to them resources raised in conditions reflecting the quality of its rating (**AAA** with Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's). It thus grants loans to its member states, to financial institutions and to local authorities for the financing of projects in the social sector, in accordance with its Articles of Agreement.