

Poland's EU membership creates **new opportunities** for investors planning to invest in the country:

- access to the single market of 490 million customers (EU including new member states, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein);
- the single largest beneficiary of EU aid among the acceding countries;
- Polish law will be further harmonised – the legal environment fully compatible with Western standards;
- EU membership guarantees stability and a dynamic development. The examples of Ireland and Spain show how membership contributes to a country's rapid economic development and bring about massive investment inflows.

Other reasons for investors to enter Poland are:

- costs (incl. labour costs and costs of living) and the possibility of decreasing them. Costs of conducting business in Poland are significantly lower than in Western Europe ;
- size of Polish market;
- human capital – availability of labour, qualified workforce;
- economic growth prospects: solid macroeconomic foundations and monetary policy set by an independent Central Bank;
- political and economic environment favourable to foreign investment, ongoing corporate restructuring, deregulation and further privatisation; beneficial tax rates – Corporate Income Tax rate of 19% of taxable base; low inflation and falling interest rates; strong orientation towards joining the Euro zone; mature financial system and stable banking sector.

Location of SEZs in Poland:

SEZ = Special Economic Zones are part of Polish territory set up for a specific period of time (most until 2017) where companies' operations are governed by specific rules set out in the SEZ Act and further defined in the relevant SEZ regulations.