



Latvian Presidency  
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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



# EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

## Rural and Agricultural Advisory Systems: Best Practices and Experience in the Eastern Partnership



Riga, 15 – 16 April 2015



Ltd "Latvian Rural Advisory and Training Centre"



Latvian Rural Network



# Arrangement of the Agricultural Advisory System in Poland

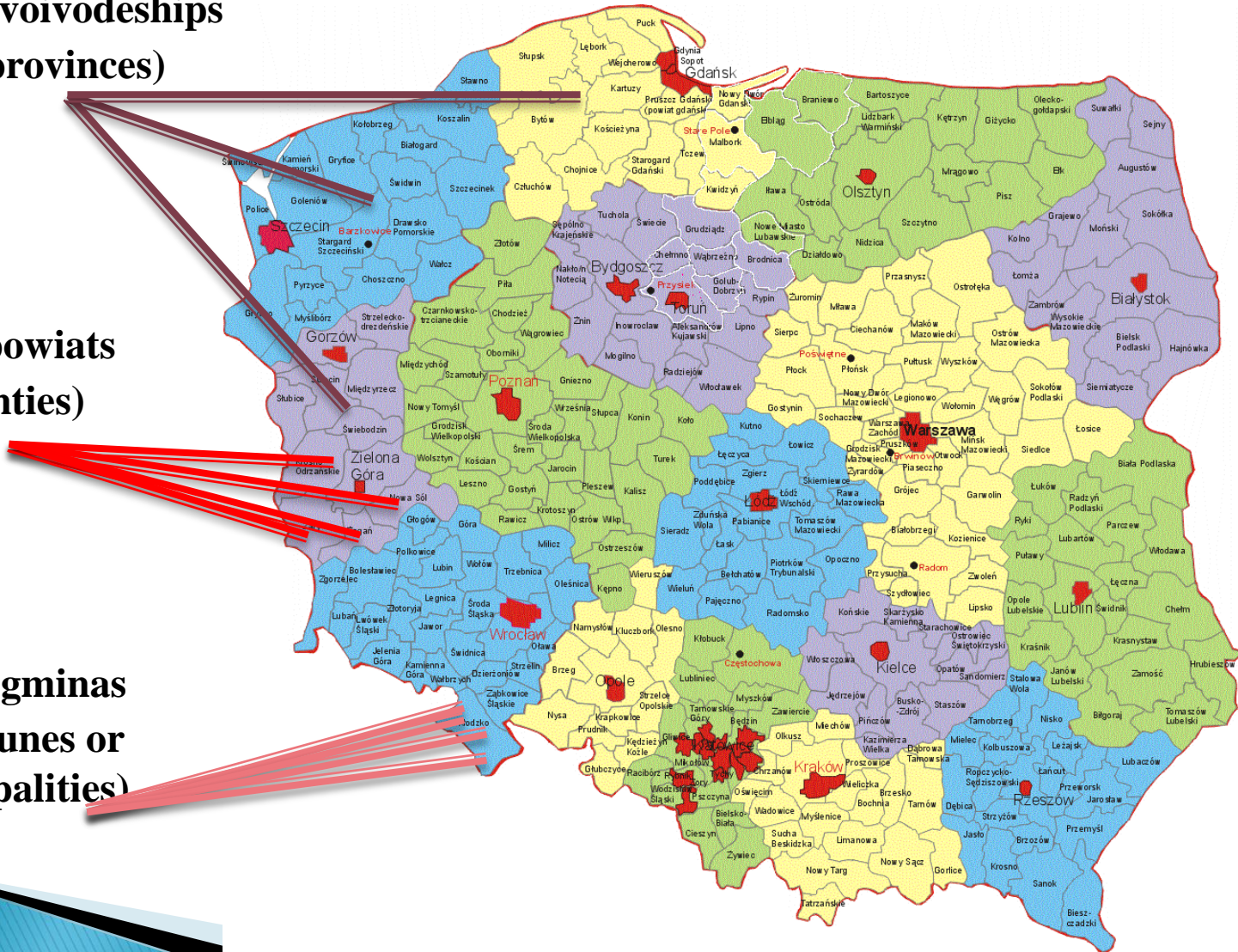
Barbara Odrobińska  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural  
Development, Poland

# Poland – general information

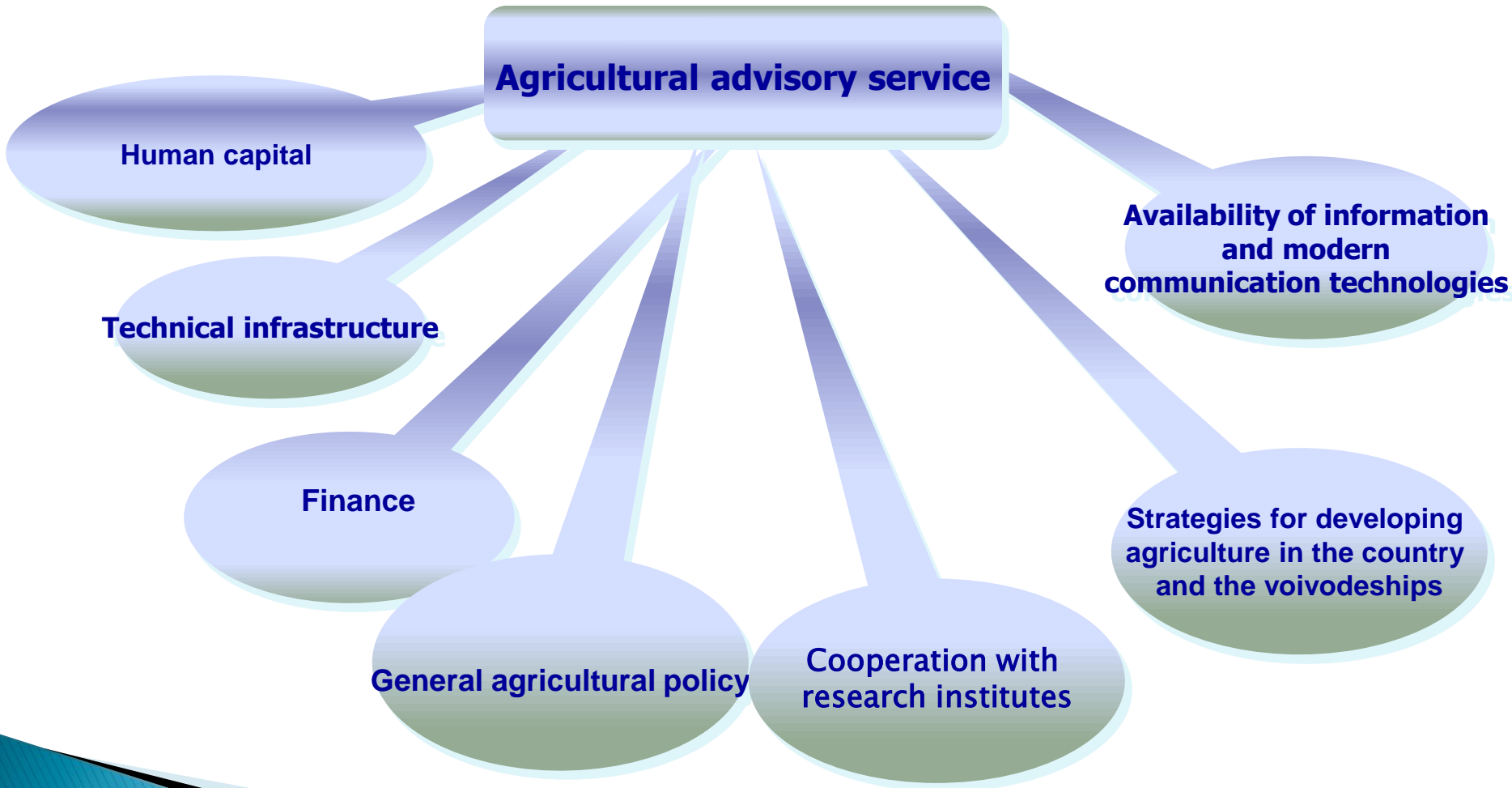
16 voivodeships  
(provinces)

313 powiats  
(counties)

2489 gminas  
(communes or municipalities)



# Factors shaping the agricultural advisory service



# Management of the Polish advisory system - duties

## MARD (Ministry of the Agriculture and Rural Development)

- Statutory acts (laws)
- Coordination and supervision
- Accreditation
- Annual priorities for the advisory programme

## Social Council

- Suggestions with regard to existing advisory services
- Evaluation of the operating plan and annual report of the Advisory Groups

## AAC (Agricultural Advisory Centre)

- Trainings
- Information
- Educational materials
- Supervision of the accredited advisory bodies
- Quality control of advisory services
- Certification of advisors



## Marshal administration

- Coordination and supervision over the annual priorities for providing the advisory programme



## Voivodeship advisory centres

- Trainings
- Consulting
- Information
- Educational materials

**Farmers**



# Agricultural advisory in Poland

Pursuant to the 2008 decree of the Ministry of Agriculture on accreditation of entities providing advisory services

Private accredited entities of agricultural advisory

Pursuant to the 2004 Law on Subdivisions of Agricultural Advisory

16 agricultural advisory units in voivodeships

Pursuant to the 14 December 1995 Law on Agricultural Chambers

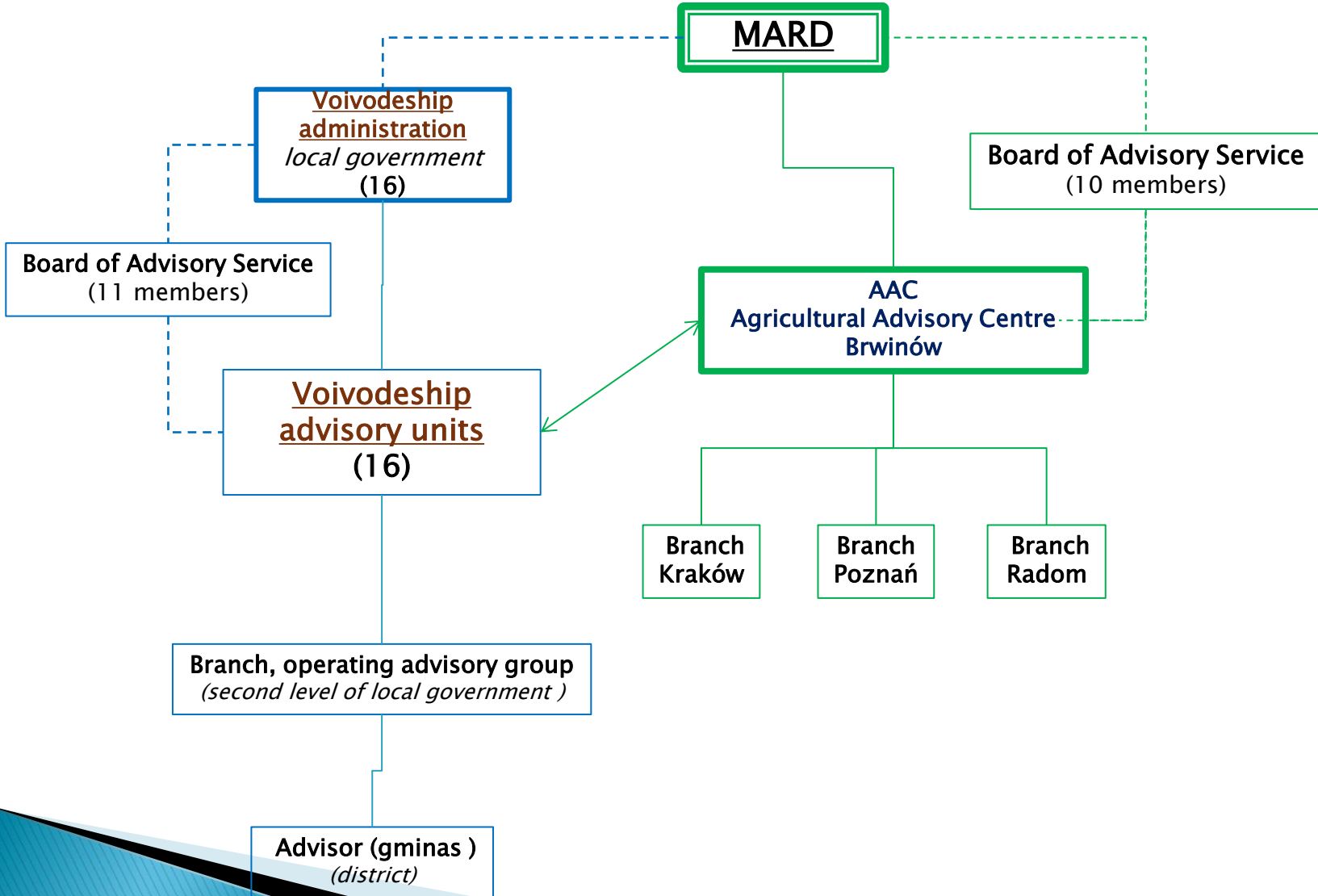
Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów

16 agricultural chambers

# Agricultural advisory system in Poland

- ▶ 1. Mixed system: public–private, it consists of:
  - ▶ – public agricultural advisory centres
  - ▶ – private accredited advisory entities
  - ▶ – 16 agricultural chambers

# Organisation chart of advisory service



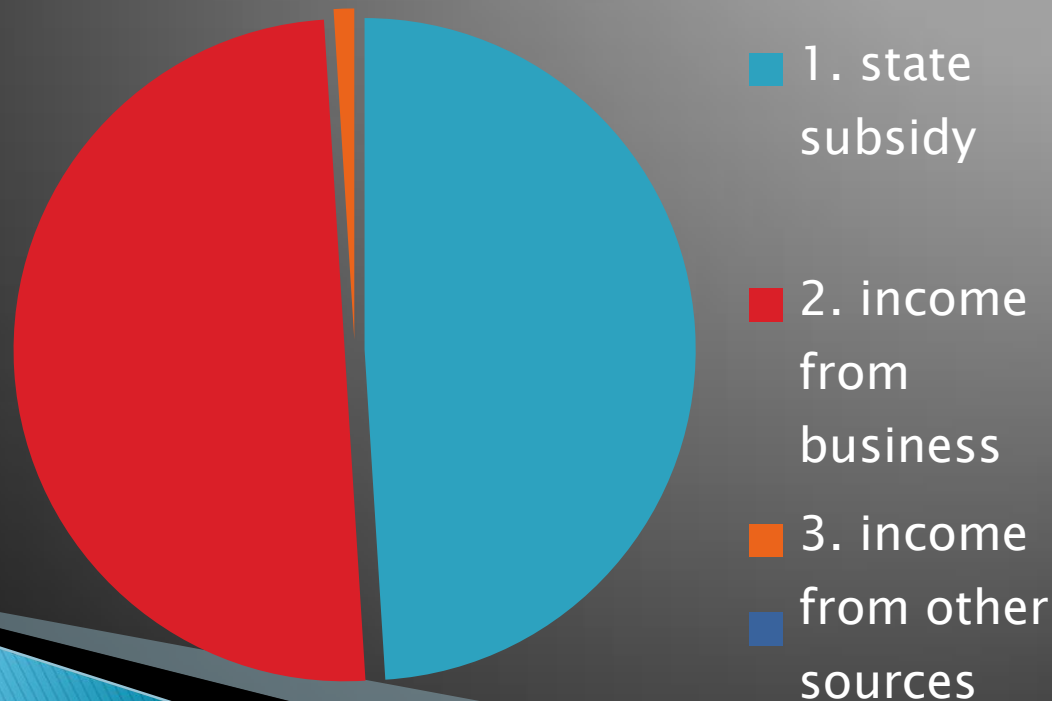


# Financial management of advisory services

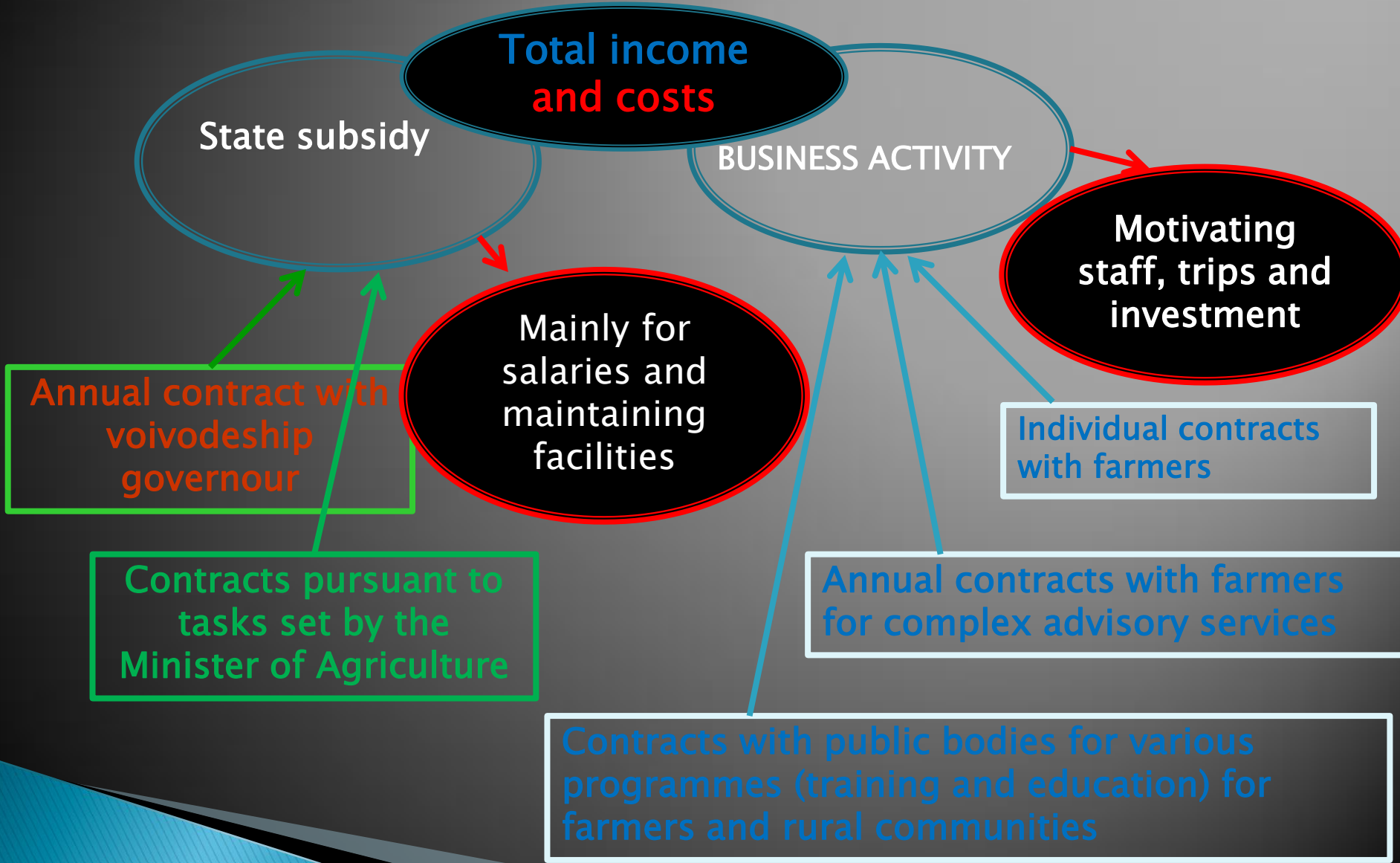
## Finance of the agricultural advisory institutions

1. State subsidy
2. Income from business
3. Income from other sources: charity, inheritance, donations, external resources and bank deposit interests

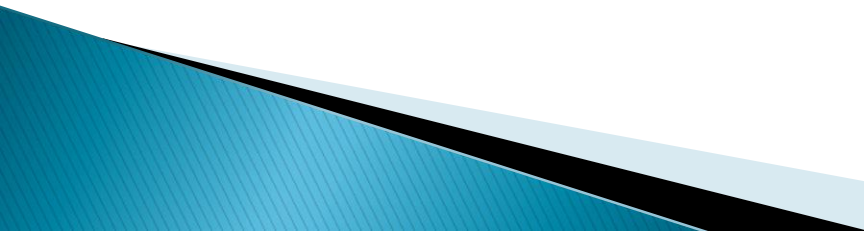
Budget (on average)



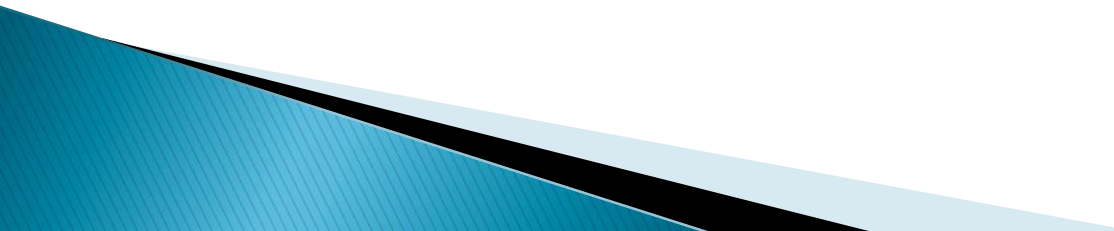
# Financial management of advisory services



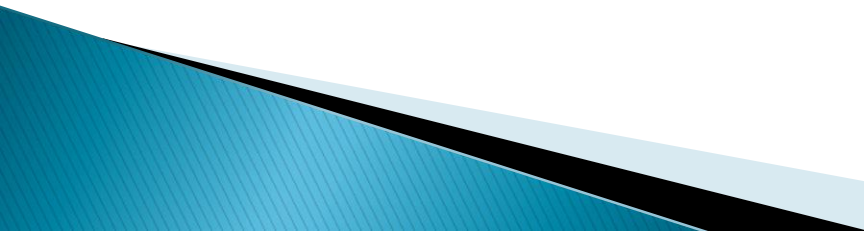
# Role of the Ministry of the Agriculture and Rural Development

- ▶ 1. Drafting legislation (laws and other statutory acts)
  - ▶ 2. Supervision of the agricultural advisory system
  - ▶ 3. Supervision of the Agricultural Advisory Centre in Brwinów
  - ▶ 4. Financing the activity of the Agricultural Advisory Centre and voivodeship agricultural advisory units
  - ▶ 5. Accreditation of private agricultural advisory units
- 

# Conditions for obtaining accreditation

- ▶ 1. Registered activity
  - ▶ 2. Hiring qualified advisors listed in rosters compiled by the Agricultural Advisory Centre
  - ▶ 3. Adequate office facilities and equipment
  - ▶ 4. Ban on competitive activity, e.g., sales of fertilisers, agricultural equipment
- 

# Role of voivodeship local governments

- ▶ 1. Supervising agricultural advisory units in voivodeships
  - ▶ 2. Appointing director of the relevant subordinate agricultural advisory unit
  - ▶ 3. Approving operating plans and financial plans of subordinate agricultural advisory units
  - ▶ 4. Outsourcing tasks linked to the non-agricultural rural development
- 

# Employment in the agricultural advisory system

- ▶ Employment in the agricultural advisory subdivisions
- ▶ Agricultural Advisory Centre – 198 people
- ▶ Agricultural advisory units in voivodeships – 4,688 people
- ▶ Employment in private advisory entities
- ▶ Currently the agricultural advisory system accounts for 187 accredited private advisory entities that employ a total of 436 advisors, meanwhile the forestry advisory system accounts for 273 accredited entities (namely, 271 – subdivisions of State Forests, and 2 – private persons) that employ a total of 353 advisors

# Tasks of the Agricultural Advisory Centre

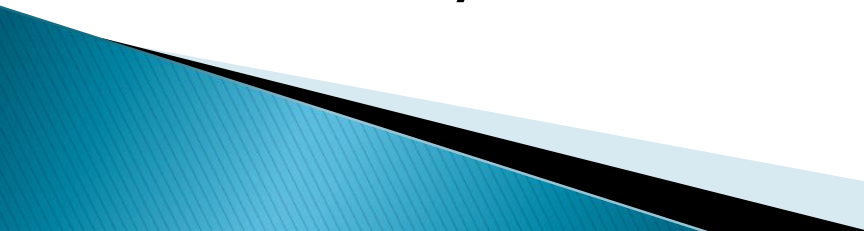
- ▶ Structure: central office in Brwinów and 3 branches: in Kraków, Poznań and Radom
- ▶ Tasks:
  - ▶ 1) refresher training of agricultural advisors (both private and public ones)
  - ▶ 2) coordinating tasks in organic farming
  - ▶ 3) preparatory work on processing at farms
  - ▶ 4) dissemination of principles of sustainable rural development, including consulting local initiative groups, supporting development of entrepreneurship

# Tasks of the Agricultural Advisory Centre in the framework of the Rural Development Programme for 2014–2020

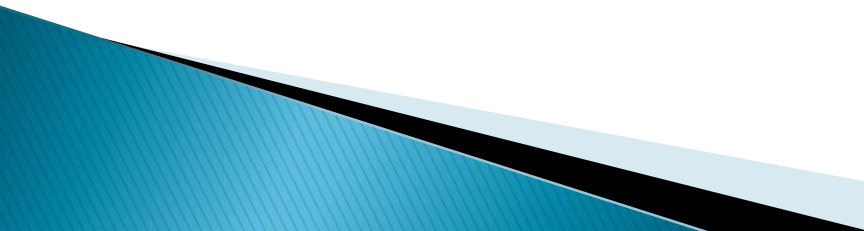
- ▶ 1. Training, testing agricultural advisors licensed for providing advisory services in the framework of the Rural Development Programme, and maintaining their rosters:
  - ▶ – agricultural advisors
  - ▶ – agri–environmental advisors
  - ▶ – nature experts
- ▶ 2. Coordinating the functioning of the Agricultural Innovation Network by managing a data base containing research results and examples of good practice; facilitating creation of contact networks, management of a web portal and means for exchanging information and arrangement of partner discussions on the Internet; holding events on promoting innovation in agriculture, food industry and rural development; cooperating with agricultural advisory units.



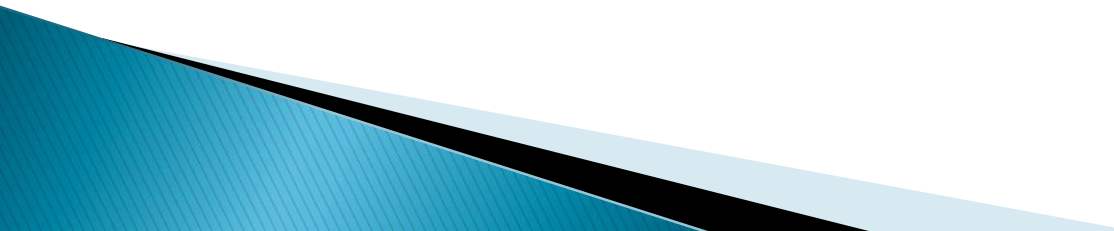
# Tasks of the agricultural advisory units

- ▶ Structure: central office, branches, offices in powiats and gminas; or central office, offices in powiats and gminas
  - ▶ Tasks:
    - ▶ 1) organising study programmes, exhibitions, fairs, contests, conferences for farmers and rural people
    - ▶ 2) providing advisory services to farmers, usually on the individual basis
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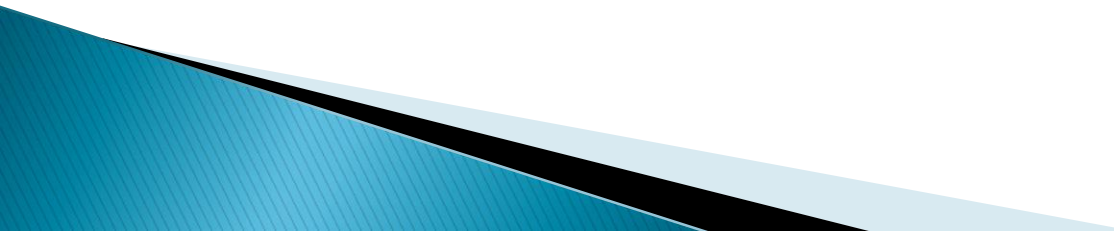
# Tasks of the agricultural advisory units in the framework of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014–2020

- ▶ Solving tasks of the regional units of the Agricultural Innovation Network by pointing out partners able to promote innovation in agriculture, food production and rural development in the voivodeship, inter alia by holding activation events on the regional level, providing brokerage, finding network partners in SIR and cooperating with the Agricultural Advisory Centre
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# Advantages of the private advisory system

- ▶ 1. Mobility, namely, active search for prospective customers
  - ▶ 2. Aim of gaining profit, resulting in service provision to large farms
  - ▶ 3. Quick reaction to the need of providing new kinds of services
- 

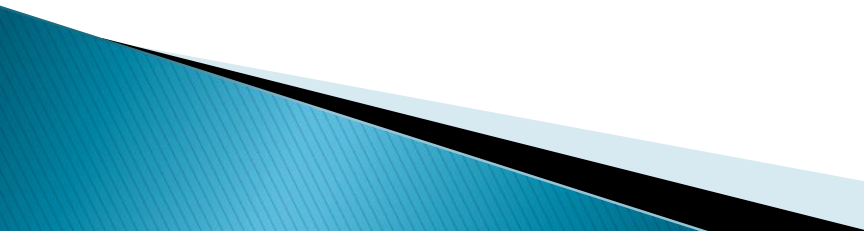
# Private advisory entities

- ▶ Up to 2015 they had an obligation to obtain accreditation of the Ministry of Agriculture in order to provide services financed by the budget resources of the RDP 2007–2013
  - ▶ In the framework of the RDP 2014–2020 they can take part in competitions, as well as agricultural advisory units do, for providing services to farmers, only if they have advisors listed in the official roster.
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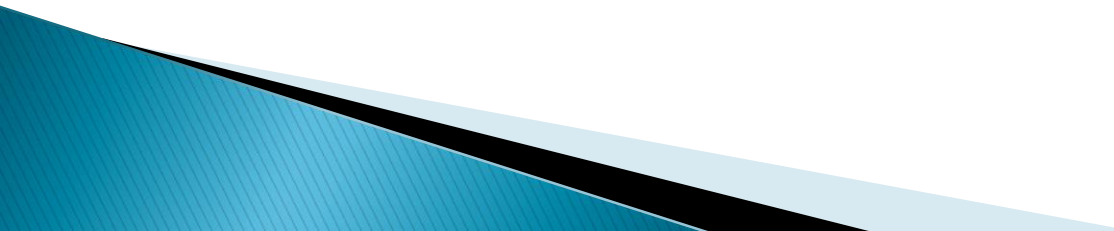
# Quality of advisory services

- ▶ Supervising accomplishment of tasks in the framework of the RDP 2014–2020 is carried out by the institution implementing activities related to the provision of advisory services (this applies to private entities or advisory units if they win the competition)
- ▶ Supervising all the other activities of the agricultural advisory units
- ▶ Voivodeship administration (Marshal administration)
- ▶ Supervising the Agricultural Advisory Centre
- ▶ – Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development

# Advantages of the public advisory system

- ▶ 1. Uniform quality of services in accordance with single standards
  - ▶ 2. Its own facilities: offices, conference rooms, hotel and restaurant, demonstration plots
  - ▶ 3. Organisational structure – a shared advisor in almost each gmina, specialists in the central office
  - ▶ 4. Broad availability of services, also in organising large-scale events
- 

# Advantages of the private advisory system

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- 

# Rosters of advisors

- ▶ 1. Total of agricultural advisors: 3,692
- ▶ 2. Total of agri–environmental advisors: 2,224
- ▶ 3. Total of nature experts: 658
  
- ▶ The right to provide advisory services and be listed in the roster is linked to the obligation to participate in main and additional study programmes and trainings for knowledge refreshing and to pass tests at the end of each programme.





# MAZOWIECKI OŚRODEK DORADZTWA ROLNICZEGO



mgr inż. Agata Sosińska  
Zastępca Dyrektora

# Education and vocational training of farmers – main task of agricultural advisory units

## Types and methods of work:

1. Trainings on the spot and external trainings (also in the framework of implemented projects of the EU and national programmes)
2. Displays
3. Demonstrations
4. Courses (use of chemicals, agritourism, for operators of cereal harvesters)
5. Contests and competitions
6. Exhibitions
7. Work with manufacturer groups
8. Experience in demonstration
9. Publications

# Institutions cooperating with the Agricultural Advisory Centre and advisory facilities

Cooperation with:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Marshal administration and agencies, namely, the Agency of Agricultural Restructuring and Modernisation and the Agency of Agricultural Markets.
2. Gmina and powiat self governments, unions in the area of implementing the strategy of development of gminas and powiats, evaluating calamity damages, assessing agricultural development, organising contests, competitions, external trainings etc.
3. Higher education institutions, foundations, agencies and institutions active in the area of exchange in scientific data; implementation of projects; organising polls, trainings, implementations etc.
4. Polish and foreign institutions and companies involved in promotion of new varieties, plant protection products, feed and feed additives, new technologies in the field of mechanization.
5. Media – national, local and agricultural press







# Jesienny Jarmark „od pola do stołu”



# Imprezy



Mazowieckie Dni Rolnictwa w „Poświętnem”



Mazowieckie Targi Agroturystyczne w Warszawie



Międzynarodowe Dni  
z Doradztwem Rolniczym  
w Siedlcach

Mazowieckie Targi  
Rolne i Przedsiębiorczości  
w Sochaczewie (O/Bielice)

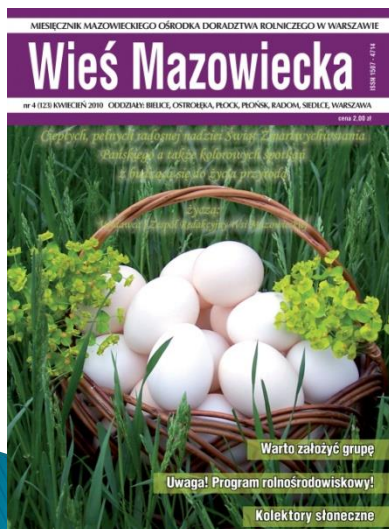
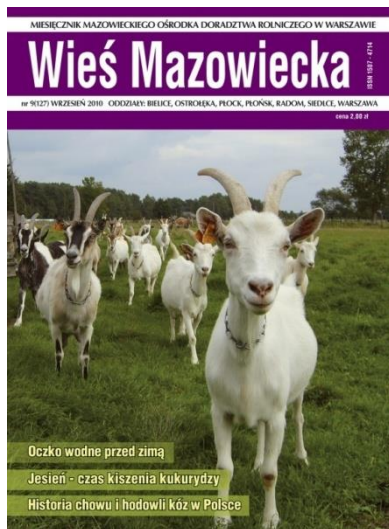




# Działalność wydawnicza

## Wydawnictwa periodyczne

- Miesięcznik „Wieś Mazowiecka” z dodatkiem „Agrobiznes” – nakład 64 830 egz.
- Gazeta Targowa – 3000 egz.



# Advisors' education

In Poland, the institution responsible for preparing agri-advisors is the Agricultural Advisory Centre (CDR) in Brwinów.

CDR is tasked with certifying advisors and registering them in the data base.

Improvement of knowledge and skills is provided by:

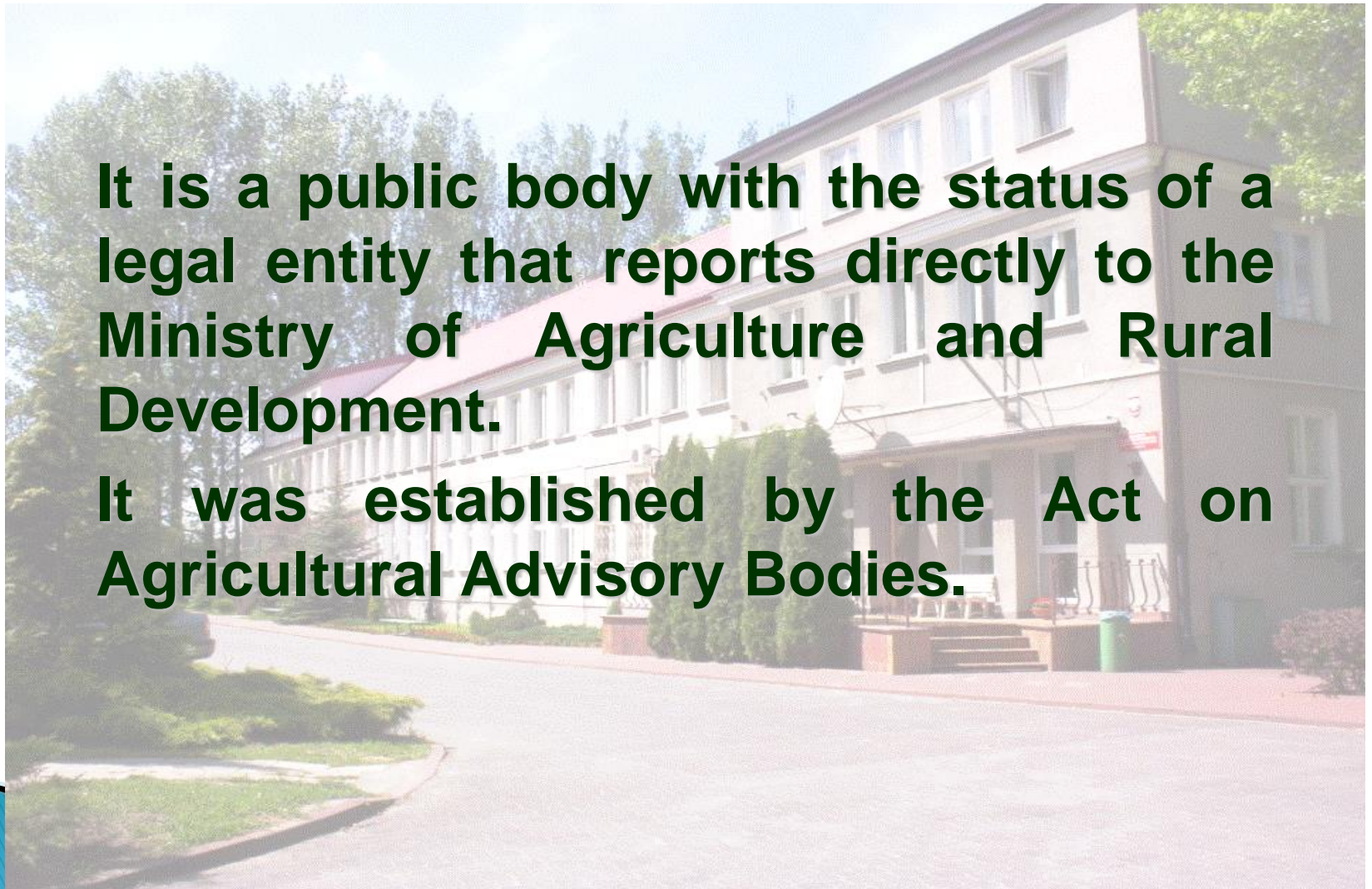
- ❖ seminars
- ❖ trainings
- ❖ courses
- ❖ e-learning course
- ❖ workshops on demonstration plots and farm



# THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY CENTRE in Brwinów

**It is a public body with the status of a legal entity that reports directly to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.**

**It was established by the Act on Agricultural Advisory Bodies.**



# Education cont.

## *Workshops on the farm*



# Center for Practical Training "Processing at the farm level"

In the Center for Practical Training for small processing we educate:

- ❖ advisors
- ❖ teachers
- ❖ students from agricultural colleges
- ❖ farmers



Small processing means the processing of agricultural commodities produced on farms into products with high added value in these holdings

We have demonstration production lines for processing of

- cereals
- fruit and vegetables
- milk and
- meat



# Organic Demonstration Farm in Chwałowice







# Summary

- ▶ **Agricultural advisory service in Poland is oriented towards market economy**
- ▶ **Scope of advisory services is closely linked to the expectations of farmers. Through the Board of Social Advisory, farmers also significantly influence the scope and quality of advisory services, as well as their prices**
- ▶ **The planning system, finance management, as well as controlling and monitoring have a positive impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of broadening the scope of work**
- ▶ **Educational management of advisors sets a high benchmark for the quality of advisory services and uniform standards**