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POLAND **15 years** **contributing for the** **economic prosperity** **of the European** **Union**

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II.

THE POLISH SUCCESS

In fifteen years ¹Poland's GDP per capita has approached (almost) **23%** of the **EU-15** average; **22%** of **EU-28**; and **14%** higher than the 2004 **enlargement** countries average.

Regarding **Portugal**? In 2004 Polish income per capita was only **62%**; today it is more than **92%** of the Portuguese.

This makes of Poland an excellent example of **success**.

Which **diagrams** synthesize it? What are the **causes**? And why is it so **important** to disclose it?

Here are the three sections of this short text, always using official statistics (Eurostat, Ameco, OECD, IMF, World Bank), or in their absence, independent sources (NGOs such as Transparency International, Heritage Foundation, etc.).

¹ Date of entry into the European Union.

2.1. Poland compared to four standards

The most appropriate way to evaluate Polish performance is to compare it with **similar countries** that have similar circumstances, since as **Ortega y Gasset** put it: *I am myself and my circumstances*.

That is, to compare Poland with the other **European countries**. And let's do it by **increasing level of demand**. First, comparing Poland with the other **enlargement** countries¹. Then with the **EU-28** (which includes those and also the richest). Then (maximum degree of demand) with **EU-15**, the core of the richest countries. And finally with **Portugal**, considered by many to be a success story in Europe and thus bring the dimension of Polish success to our own experience.

2.1.1. Comparing Poland with the enlargement countries

Figure one² illustrates the **convergence**, that is Poland's approach to the average (GDP per capita) of the other nine **enlargement** countries.

¹ The other nine countries that simultaneously with Poland joined the EU in 2004: Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Cyprus and Malta.

² In this and all subsequent diagrams, the value of the horizontal line of 100, does not, of course, mean that the value of the corresponding variable (in this case the GDP per capita of enlargement countries) is assumed to be constant. But only that each year this figure and taking into account its annual variation is set at the level of 100% for the sake of easier assessment of Poland's progress in percentage terms. This naturally applies to all subsequent charts.

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