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The introduction of a free market economic system in Poland 25 years ago has resulted in spectacular development, while social development has lagged behind, leading to widening income disparities, persistently high levels of unemployment and the phenomenon of social exclusion. Poland has further opportunities for development in the economic and social spheres, as indicated by the progress made in the twenty-five-year period of transformation of the economic system, implementation and strengthening of the market economy. Poland belongs to the group of very highly developed countries, with a large market potential and ever-increasing domestic demand, but it is not free from serious threats to harmonious, sustainable social and economic development. Among these threats are the demographic situation, unemployment and the deficit in public finances. Dysfunctions in the development of scientific research, as well as its use in practice, are also a significant barrier to development, which is not conducive to the growth of national innovation.

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