FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

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FNP
Foundation
for Polish Science

ANNUAL REPORT
2012

Supporting only the best, so that they can become even better

SUPPORTING ONLY THE BEST, SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME EVEN BETTER

The **Foundation for Polish Science** (FNP) has been active since 1991. It is a non-governmental, apolitical, non-profit organization with a mission to support science. It is the largest Polish non-governmental source of funding for research.

THE FOUNDATION CARRIES OUT ITS STATUTORY TASKS BY:

- supporting leading scientists and research teams,
- modernizing research facilities in all fields of science,
- assisting innovative projects and the commercialisation of scientific discoveries and inventions.

THE FOUNDATION OPERATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS GUIDING MOTTO: *SUPPORTING ONLY THE BEST, SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME EVEN BETTER* AS WELL AS THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- support is provided directly to scientists and research teams,
- all grants, prizes and stipends are awarded by way of a competition,
- the leading criterion in awarding support is scientific excellence,
- the achievements and output of FNP competition entrants is evaluated by scientists respected in their fields - both Polish and international (peer review method),
- support is provided according to the "hard money" principle (high selectivity when choosing recipients).

The Foundation's founding capital of 95 million zlotys originated from the Central Fund for the Development of Science and Technology, which was liquidated in 1990, whereupon the capital was directed to the FNP by a decision of the Polish parliament. For 20 years, these funds have been effectively increased by way of investment, for example in bonds, investment fund units and shares, allowing the Foundation to create a stable and secure financial base. Thanks to the funds raised from financial market operations, the Foundation had allocated a total of **more than 427 million zlotys** to science by the end of 2012. The value of the Foundation's funds is currently more than 341 million zlotys.

In 2003 and 2004, the Foundation received extra funding for supporting science on the basis of the privatisation law of 29 March 2000, "On amendments to the law on the privatisation of enterprises...". The law stated that 2% of the revenue obtained from privatising State Treasury companies was to be added to the Foundation's assets. The resulting amount of 51.7 million zlotys was used to form a separate fund earmarked solely for financing domestic stipends for young scientists (the START programme). The 1 March 2002 amendment to the above law changed the recipient of these funds - it was now the State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN). In 2007, the Foundation received supplementary funding for its POWROTY/HOMING programme from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism. In the same year, it launched programmes financed by the structural funds available under Measure 1.2 "Strengthening the human resources potential of science" of the Innovative Economy Operational Programme. As a beneficiary of the IE OP's key programmes, the FNP will receive 408 million zlotys (this funding is being spent in 2007-2015). In addition, thanks to funding from the Human Capital Operational Programme (Measure 4.2 "Development of R&D system staff qualifications and improving the awareness of the role of science in economic growth"), the Foundation launched the SKILLS project in 2011 and will receive 36 million zlotys for its implementation in 2011-2015.

By the end of 2012, the Foundation had spent **almost 239 million zlotys** on programmes supported by European funds (IE OP and HC OP).

Since 2005, the Foundation has held the status of a public benefit organization, which entitles it, among other things, to accept donations from private individuals of 1% of their personal income tax for its statutory activity. The funds obtained from such donations are directed towards supplementing the stipends for beneficiaries of the competitions for young scientists – from 2006 to 2009, these were stipends for scientists returning from abroad (the POWROTY/HOMING programme), and from 2010 – stipends for the most outstanding beneficiaries in the START programme's competition.

In order to ensure that its activities remain transparent, the Foundation publishes extensive information on its activity in the form of Annual Reports and hires renowned auditing companies to have its financial statements audited. The Annual Reports are available on the Foundation's website.

AUTHORITIES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FOUNDATION

President
Prof. Maciej Żylicz, PhD hab.

Deputy President
Prof. Włodzimierz Bolecki, PhD hab.

Deputy President
Tomasz S. Perkowski, PhD

The Foundation's Executive Board (from left): Prof. W.Bolecki, T.S Perkowski, PhD, Prof. M. Żylicz.

THE FOUNDATION'S COUNCIL

(term of office from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2016)

Chairman
Prof. Andrzej Jerzmanowski, PhD hab.

Deputy Chairman
Prof. Irena E. Kotowska, PhD hab.

Members:
Prof. Leon Gradoń, PhD hab. eng.
Prof. Henryk Koroniak, PhD hab.
Prof. Marek Z. Świtoński, PhD hab.
Prof. Wojciech Tygielski, PhD hab.
Prof. Karol I. Wysokiński, PhD hab.

Honorary Member
Prof. Maciej W. Grabski, PhD hab. eng.

The Foundation's Council (from left, top row): M.Z Świtoński, H.Koroniak, L. Gradoń, W.Tygielski, (below): A. Jerzmanowski, I.E.Kotowska, K.I. Wysokiński.

THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE STAFF

status on 31 December 2012

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Lidia Rachocka
Mirosław Serwaczyński (programmer)
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HR SECTION
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Deputy Director of Finance and Administration

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Monika Wolińska
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Anna Bergiel

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Dominika Wojtysiak-Łańska
Grażyna Żebrowska, PhD (contacts with U.S. institutions)

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Dominika Wojtysiak-Łańska


Monika Wolińska


Małgorzata Zawłocka


Adam Zieliński


Julia Zimmermann


Grażyna Żebrowska, PhD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUNDATION'S COUNCIL

Dear Readers,

The year 2012 saw a renewal of the Foundation Council stemming from the Statutes. The four of us who already worked together during the previous term in office were joined by three new members elected for the first time. They are professors Karol Wysokiński from Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin, Leon Gradoń from the Warsaw University of Technology, and Wojciech Tygielski from the University of Warsaw. At its first meeting the new Council entrusted me with the honourable position of Chairman as well as electing Prof. Irena Kotowska as the Vice-Chair. These changes, though normal and occurring every four years, provide me with an opportunity both to reflect back and to look forward. The Foundation has been operating in Poland for over 20 years, so one might say it is an established organization functioning on the basis of well-tested procedures. This is certainly the case, but the world around us is changing rapidly. Poland is changing and so is the European Union whose fully-fledged member we became in 2004. The Foundation must not remain motionless, as the rule of the Red Queen so vividly described by Lewis Carroll in *Through the Looking Glass* fully applies here: "A slow sort of country", said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

The Council enjoys a special position in the Foundation's structure. It is a fully independent body whose relations with the Foundation's Board can be summed up in three words: control, inspiration, cooperation. What is the essence of these relations, and how does the new Council view its role? Let me start with the opening balance. The Foundation is in good condition and the continued prestige and renown it enjoys in Polish science fully validates the relevance of the idea on which it was founded, namely to support the best. The Foundation's chief assets have always included clear and intelligible goals and criteria of operation, clarity and absolute transparency of all its competition procedures, efficient management, and – last but not least – independence from any kind of pressure as well as complete autonomy. For the Council, these are elements of fundamental importance which together build the *conditio sine qua non* of the Foundation's existence in its current shape. They also form the basis and define the framework of the Council's daily cooperation with the Board. I feel special satisfaction that this cooperation proceeds in a model way. However, compatible views on the principles behind the Foundation's operations are not enough to ensure ideal conditions and neutralize all potential dangers. In 2012 the Council observed the Foundation's financial condition with great concern and attention. As mentioned earlier, that condition is good, but the effort needed to keep it that way has grown immeasurably compared to 10 or 15 years ago. This is related to the natural changes and increasing complexity of the situation on financial markets and in the economy, both in Poland and globally, and requires some tough decisions. These decisions and the resultant changes are essential and cannot be put off for too long. The Council has supported the Board while also encouraging and inspiring it to seek new solutions. Contrary to large government institutions, the Foundation is characterized by small inertia and therefore is able to react quickly and flexibly. Initiated earlier and continued in 2012, the programme to restructure and give better focus to the Foundation's stipend programmes, which has the Council's full support, is a good illustration of the measures necessary to adjust the Foundation's profile to the existing situation. These measures also included the Council's support in 2012 for the Board's efforts to ensure that the Foundation continued managing stipend programmes and grants financed from EU funds.

> ***The Foundation is in good condition and the continued prestige and renown it enjoys in Polish science fully validates the relevance of the idea on which it was founded, namely to support the best.***

The annual FNP Prize is a special interest and concern of the Foundation Council. It is no exaggeration to call it our flagship initiative and the most readily recognizable of all of the Foundation's activities. In 2012 we again performed a detailed analysis of the procedures and means of evaluating candidates for this prize, focusing on whether they were fully compatible with the importance and renown of what is Poland's biggest scientific award.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to inform everyone that in 2012 the Council elected Professor Maciej Grabski as its honorary member. This is not just an expression of our appreciation for the Professor's service to the Foundation, which is impossible to overestimate, but also our wish that we may continue to take full advantage of his huge experience and practical wisdom.

Andrzej Jerzmanowski

Warsaw, April 2013

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Readers,

In 2012 the Foundation for Polish Science continued its mission of supporting the best scientists, helping them fulfil their ambitious research plans and thus stimulating breakthrough scientific discoveries. We organized 26 competitions within 12 programmes offering support to researchers at key stages of their scientific careers. We provided our beneficiaries (the group grew by almost 290 people in 2012) with more than 110 million zlotys. It was yet another year when, thanks to the structural funds it managed, the Foundation's total programme spending was many times greater than the spending we would have been able to incur from our own funds (structural fund spending totalled more than 90 million zlotys, spending from our own funds – almost 20 million zlotys).

We ended 2012 with a positive financial balance sheet. Despite substantial fluctuations on financial markets during the year, the Foundation managed to achieve a rate of return of almost 10.5% on its capital investments. This is our best result since the start of the financial crisis. Using our own funds increased thanks to investments on financial markets in 2012, we financed the FNP Prize, the MISTRZ, START, IDEAS FOR POLAND, FNP MONOGRAPHS programmes as well as the COPERNICUS Award for achievements in Polish-German scientific cooperation and Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowships for German scientists. We also continued a few programmes begun in previous years, despite not having any calls for applications in 2012, by financing on-going projects and extending financial support for beneficiaries (e.g. in the FOCUS, HOMING, and publishing programmes).

The last calls for applications took place in 2012 for the Foundation's two long-standing programmes: KOLUMB (postdoctoral outgoing fellowships) and KWERENDA (grants for archive searches abroad). We are very pleased with the effects of these programmes (you can learn more about them from the articles in the supplement to this Report, p. 75 and 79), and they have also been very well received in the scientific community. Nevertheless, we have decided to conclude them. These programmes, launched many years ago, have lost their unique character over time, and also their justification as a separate activity of the Foundation. Our strategy of operation is based on a constant search for areas of support that are not being handled by other institutions which finance science. In the current situation, when postdoctoral fellowships abroad are available within a diverse range of programmes offered by Polish and foreign institutions financing research, and short visits – from funds obtained by research project managers (financed, for example, by the National Science Centre and the National Centre for Research and Development), the Foundation's priorities are shifting to new regions. Staying with the issue of mobility, we are currently focusing on a different direction – programmes encouraging and supporting the return of young researchers to work at Polish scientific institutions, whether following a stay abroad (HOMING PLUS programme) or leave taken to bring up children (PARENT-BRIDGE programme). It is our belief that these proposals respond well to the challenges of the science sector's current labour market, as faced by young researchers who have reached a relatively advanced stage in their careers but have yet to achieve scientific independence. The moment of returning to Poland from an outgoing postdoctoral fellowship or to intensive research work after regular or extended maternity leave is often tough and frustrating. At the same time, it is the moment when young researchers potentially have the greatest capabilities. This means the right conditions are needed to utilize this potential. These two programmes aim to increase the attractiveness of research conducted in Poland for the most talented young people who have already achieved something, are familiar with international research standards, and have great prospects before them. We want such people to want to work in Poland as scientists and not in another country or in other jobs.

We are slowly approaching 2015, the dividing line in all the programmes we run which are financed from the structural funds of the EU perspective for 2007-2013. All the funding obtained in these programmes has to be spent by that time. Even though we have closed the calls for applications for several of these programmes, we have planned two calls for the HOMING PLUS and PARENT-BRIDGE programmes in 2013 and – if the budget of these programmes allows – we will conclude the final competition in early 2014.

Meanwhile, in 2012 we closed the calls for applications in the TEAM programme which enabled the best research teams involving young scientists to carry out their projects. The beneficiaries selected in 2012 will be able to work on their projects for at least three years (until the year 2015 mentioned earlier). Thanks to financial support from the TEAM programme, 73 research teams have been established or have expanded their activity. One might venture the opinion that this is one of the most highly valued of our current programmes among the scientific community. I encourage you to read the summary of the programme's results of five years in the supplement to this Report (p. 70).

In all the FNP programmes financed from structural funds, we were able to back 83 research teams, create new jobs for over 270 young PhDs, support the research of 710 PhD students and more than 770 students preparing their master's theses.

In addition, in the SKILLS project financed from the Human Capital Operational Programme we provided over 400 people with training in research project management, enterprise, interdisciplinary collaboration, and presentation of research results to different audiences. Moreover, more than 200 of our beneficiaries and grant holders took part in scientific meetings and discussions held thanks to the Skills programme.

The success of Polish science lies in its international recognition and respect. There is still a great deal to be done. The Foundation conducts all kinds of activity aimed at research in Poland being perceived as attractive for foreign scientists as well. We are doing our best to ensure that our programmes, regardless of how they are financed, are open to all researchers – including those from other countries – who want to complete a research project in Poland. Today thanks to the Foundation's programmes there are 4 professors, 33 PhDs, 104 PhD students, and 11 graduate students working in Poland who hold other than Polish passports.

Irrespective of the evolving programme policy and the changing goals supported by the Foundation, one thing remains unchanged: the sole criterion for selecting beneficiaries has to be the quality and originality of their scientific achievements and of the research project submitted for consideration. For example, it is not important to us whether the people receiving funding to set up their first research team have a postdoctoral degree or what employment contract they have. The high standard of a person's research is, in our view, a good enough ticket to independence. Academic degrees and titles cannot be the goal of a researcher's work but only a confirmation of the originality of that person's scientific quest.

Irrespective of the evolving programme policy and the changing goals supported by the Foundation, one thing remains unchanged: the sole criterion for selecting beneficiaries has to be the quality and originality of their scientific achievements and of the research project submitted for consideration.

Albert Einstein said: "An academic career in which a person is forced to produce scientific writings in great amounts creates a danger of intellectual superficiality". This is the message we are trying to instil particularly in the youngest researchers who are just starting their (I hope) adventure with science. Looking at the applications for the START grants, I am sometimes saddened to see that young people, adjusting to Poland's defective system for pursuing academic careers, pay insufficient attention to the quality of their research and often strive solely to increase the number of published papers and have the highest possible "Total Impact Factor" as indicators of their achievements. We try to convince them that at this stage of a scientific career success can be assured by even just one very good publication or patent application instead of dozens of imitative papers contributing nothing to world science.

As I mentioned earlier, the European Union's financial perspective for 2007-2013, whose funds we are using at present, is drawing to a close. The Foundation sees the need to become involved in the distribution of European funds in the next financial perspective, in the belief that the effects of its work so far guarantee that the funds will be used to benefit the development of Polish science. That is why the Foundation is applying again for the role of an operator of part of the structural funds assigned to Poland for purposes involving science.

Therefore in 2012 we began conceptual work on our proposal for the scientific community within the perspective

for 2014-2020. We are concentrating mainly on three areas of support:

1. funding for scientists returning from abroad to conduct research in Poland and for young foreign scientists' visits to Poland;
2. setting up new research teams – in a formula that will continue and expand our earlier programmes: FOCUS and partly TEAM;
3. consolidation of the research community – by supporting cooperation between research teams as well as between the academic community and industry (continuation and expansion of the TEAM, WELCOME, International PhD Projects/MPD programmes).

We will do our best to ensure that the new programmes financed from structural funds can be used, among other things, to hire new research staff through international competitions, support the work of PhD and graduate students through stipend systems, and support the building of interdisciplinary research teams run by a consortium of several research leaders. We would also like to assist those research teams which have used our support to make discoveries that can be used in economic practice. We are very concerned to make sure that the new programmes have no restrictions as to age, nationality, or discipline. The only thing we believe should count and be rewarded with substantial funding for further development is – in accordance with our always relevant central principle – the quality of research and the originality of submitted projects.

Next to fulfilling our statutory goals regarding finances (distributing funding among scientists), the Foundation also participates in various initiatives serving the development of science in Poland. In 2012 we joined in the community's discussion on the possibility of setting up International Research Institutions in Poland, and we are taking part in developing the guidelines. These new research structures would take fuller advantage of investments in research infrastructure made thanks to the now concluding and also the next EU financial perspective, and would be a place where the best scientists from all over the world could carry out their original research.

We believe that one of the main principles of operation of these agencies should be that each of them has a strong foreign partner (or partners) overseeing the quality of the research and promoting it among the international scientific community. Experience, also from Poland, shows that sometimes the involvement of a strong foreign partner enables the local partner to avoid a given country's organizational, administrative and legal barriers that hamper the development of an institution whose sole purpose should be to practise science of the highest standard.

We are convinced that building these new research structures will enable us, on the one hand, to take part in resolving the challenges faced by global science, and to support the development of a culture of excellence in our country on the other. We are very pleased that another EU programme, HORIZON 2020, provides for an instrument to finance "Teaming of Excellence", which creates possibilities to provide additional funding to projects such as the International Agencies. The originators of this initiative include the Max Planck Society, the CNRS in France, the Pasteur Institute as well as renowned universities such as the University of Cambridge, University College of London, Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, and many others.

Under this proposal, new institutions established within the "Teaming" initiative should be exempt from having to follow non-competitive administrative practices in force in a given country, and the criterion of "scientific excellence" should be the supreme value for them. We are convinced that combining structural funds with Horizon 2020 funds is a huge development opportunity for Poland and one which we should certainly take advantage of.

In conclusion, I would like to thank any and all of you who transferred 1% of their income tax to our Foundation in 2012. We received almost 43,000 zlotys. This money increases the stipend amount for the best beneficiaries of the START programme chosen in successive competitions. Thank you for deciding that among so many socially important purposes it is worth investing in science. This is a very encouraging and motivating declaration for us.

Maciej Żylicz

Warsaw, April 2013

Programmes of the Foundation for Polish Science

PROGRAMMES OF THE FOUNDATION

In 2012 the Foundation implemented 14 programmes, including 11 financed from the FNP's own funds (two of these were also supported with European Union structural funds – the Foundation's resources were used for sciences from outside the *bio, info, techno* areas). There were also 3 programmes financed exclusively from the European Union's IE OP and HC OP structural funds. Detailed information about the calls for applications and competition results in the individual programmes is presented further on in the Report.

Spending on the programmes in 2012 totalled **110.4 million zlotys**.

PRIZES AND STIPENDS

FNP PRIZE

Every year the Foundation for Polish Science awards individual prizes to leading scholars for scientific achievements and discoveries that shift the boundaries of cognition, open up new research perspectives, contribute significantly to the advancement of civilization and culture in Poland, and ensure our country a prominent place in world science.
The FNP Prize has been awarded since 1992. In 2012 the prizes were presented for the 21st time. The prize money is **200,000 zlotys**.

THE WINNERS OF THE FNP PRIZE IN 2012 ARE:

IN THE FIELD OF LIFE SCIENCES

Prof. Krzysztof Palczewski
from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland (USA)
for characterizing crystal structures of native and activated G protein-coupled receptor, rhodopsin, involved in eyesight

IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS SCIENCES

Prof. Mieczysław Mąkosza
from the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences
for discovery and introduction of vicarious nucleophilic substitution into the canon of organic chemistry

IN THE FIELD OF MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Prof. Maciej Wojtkowski
from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
for developing and introducing Fourier domain optical coherence tomography into clinical ophthalmology

IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Prof. Ewa Wipszycka
from the University of Warsaw
for her wide-reaching reconstruction of the functioning of monastic communities in Egypt during the late antiquity

MISTRZ PROGRAMME

ACADEMIC GRANTS FOR PROFESSORS

The aim of the MISTRZ programme established in 1998 is to support outstanding scholars by awarding them subsidies composed of a research grant and an individual stipend. These subsidies can be spent on new research or on intensification of on-going research. The subsidies are awarded in a closed competition, each year in one of four areas: life and earth sciences, chemical and materials sciences, mathematical, physical and engineering sciences, and social sciences and the humanities.

There were 27 candidates in the competition ending in 2012, ultimately the Foundation awarded 10 three-year subsidies of **300,000 zlotys** (100,000 zlotys per year).

Polish President Bronisław Komorowski congratulates the prize-winners.

(from left): Prof. Michał Kleiber, President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN); Prof. Maciej Żylicz, President of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP); Bronisław Komorowski, President of Poland; Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, Minister of Science and Higher Education; Olgierd Dziekoński, Secretary of State at the Polish President's Office.

THE OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF THE FNP PRIZES

took place on 6 December 2012, at the Royal Castle in Warsaw as usual. The honourable guests represented the highest state authorities; they were Bronisław Komorowski, the President of Poland, and Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, the Minister of Science and Higher Education. The ceremony was also attended by many invited guests from the scientific community, the media as well as the prize-winners' families, friends, and colleagues.

Sławomir Zagórski hosted the ceremony.

Prof. Krzysztof Palczewski receiving his prize.

The Grand Hall of the Royal Castle.

Prof. Maciej Wojtkowski's speech after receiving his prize.

Professors Maciej Żylicz and Andrzej Jerzmanowski present the prize to Prof. Maciej Wojtkowski.

Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, Minister of Science and Higher Education, delivers a speech.

Winners of the FNP Prizes for 2012.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE MISTRZ PROGRAMME COMPETITION ENDING IN 2012 (mathematical, physical and engineering sciences)

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	INSTITUTION
Prof. Andrzej Bartoszewicz, PhD hab. eng.	*Optimal sliding mode control of dynamic objects*	Łódź University of Technology
Krzysztof Belczyński, PhD hab.	*Studying dense objects: SNIa, ULX and GR sources*	University of Warsaw
Prof. Bożena Czerny, PhD hab.	*Quasars as indicators of dark energy distribution*	Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw
Prof. Teodor Paweł Gotszalk, PhD hab. eng.	*Nanometrology applying advanced methods of scanning probe microscopy (NanoMetSPM)*	Wrocław University of Technology
Prof. Lech Tadeusz Januszkiewicz, PhD hab.	*Geometric group theory*	Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw
Prof. Piotr Kossacki, PhD hab.	*Spin manipulation in semiconductor nanostructures*	University of Warsaw
Prof. Mieczysław Mastyło, PhD hab.	*Interpolation methods in operator and Banach space theory*	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Prof. Robert Moszyński, PhD hab.	*Theoretical modelling of fundamental molecular processes in low-temperature regimes using advanced electron structure theory methods*	University of Warsaw
Prof. Maciej Ogorzałek, PhD hab. eng.	*New computational methods for designing next-generation microelectronic systems*	Jagiellonian University
Prof. Arkadiusz Wójs, PhD hab. eng.	*Magneto-optics of semiconductor nanostructures with 3/2 spin carriers (with a view to application in quantum information processing)*	Wrocław University of Technology

2012 also saw the start of the competition procedure in the field of chemical and materials sciences. The results are planned to be announced in autumn 2013.

SABBATICAL LEAVE FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE MISTRZ PROGRAMME

In 2012 the Foundation launched a new competition for beneficiaries of the MISTRZ programme. After completing their project financed from the academic grant for professors, they may apply for an outgoing research fellowship (sabbatical leave). Up to three such fellowships may be granted each year. A given person may receive the fellowship only once.

In 2012 there were five responses to the call for applications, one each from beneficiaries from 1998, 2002, 2006, 2007, and 2008.

The results will be announced in the first quarter of 2013.

TEAM PROGRAMME

FINANCING OF PROJECTS INVOLVING YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND CARRIED OUT BY THE BEST RESEARCH TEAMS

The aim of the programme is to increase the involvement of young scientists – graduate and PhD students and young PhDs – in research work from the *Bio, Info, Techno* areas conducted by the best teams at the best scientific laboratories in Poland. The final call for applications in the TEAM programme took place in 2012.

Two competitions in the TEAM programme ended in 2012: one begun in 2011 (8/2011) and one held and completed in 2012 (9/2012). These were the last competitions in the programme.

COMPETITION 8/2011

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected nine projects which received support in the total amount of **16,479,000 zlotys**. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between February and June 2012.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 8/2011)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	RESEARCH FIELD	PROJECT	AWARDED SUPPORT IN ZLOTYS
Prof. Iwona Fijałkowska, PhD hab.	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	molecular biology	*New players involved in the maintenance of genomic stability*	1,862,000
Prof. Tadeusz Holak, PhD hab.	Jagiellonian University	biochemistry	*Targeting the ubiquitin-proteasome system and ubiquitin-like protein conjugation pathways for non-genotoxic therapy of cancer*	2,252,000
Prof. Leszek Kaczmarek, PhD hab.	Institute of Experimental Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	neurobiology	*MMP-9 driven extrasynaptic proteolysis in physiological and pathological synaptic plasticity*	2,135,000
Prof. Andrzej Maziewski, PhD hab.	University of Białystok	solid-state physics	*Statics and dynamics of magnonic and magnetophotonic crystals - SYMPHONY*	1,608,000
Mikołaj Olejniczak, PhD hab.	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	molecular biology	*Molecular Mechanisms of Translation Regulation by Small RNAs of Pathogenic Bacteria*	1,540,000
Prof. Adam Proń, PhD hab.	Warsaw University of Technology	materials science	*New solution processable organic and hybrid organic/inorganic functional materials for electronics, optoelectronics and spintronics*	1,314,000
Ryszard Smoleński, PhD hab.	Medical University of Gdańsk	cardiology	*Nucleotides in pathology, diagnosis and therapy of heart disease*	1,868,000
Maciej Wojtkowski, PhD hab.	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	applied physics	*Novel optical techniques for enhanced structural, functional and dynamical imaging of anterior and posterior segments of the eye*	1,900,000
Prof. Marek Żukowski, PhD hab.	University of Gdańsk	quantum physics	*Technologies for information transfer and processing based on phenomena of a strictly quantum nature*	2,000,000
Total				**16,479,000**

COMPETITION 9/2012

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected six projects which received support in the total amount of **7,920,000 zlotys.** Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between August and October 2012.

PROF. JAROSŁAW REGUŁA (TOP ROW, CENTRE), A BENEFICIARY OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME, WITH HIS TEAM.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 9/2012)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	RESEARCH FIELD	PROJECT	AWARDED SUPPORT IN ZLOTYS
Ryszard Buczyński, PhD hab.	Institute of Electronic Materials Technology in Warsaw	optical engineering	*Novel light sources based on photonic crystal fibers with nanostructured cores*	1,370,000
Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong, PhD hab.	Medical University of Warsaw	cardiology/ genetics	*Search for genetic variants, novel genes and biological pathways influencing cardiac hypertrophy - an integrative genomics approach*	1,542,000
Teodor Gotszalk, PhD hab.	Wrocław University of Technology	metrology	*High resolution force and mass change metrology using MEMS and NEMS devices - FoMaMet*	910,000
Wojciech Macyk, PhD hab.	Jagiellonian University	inorganic chemistry	*Activation of small molecules in photocatalytic systems*	1,346,000
Prof. Jarosław Reguła, PhD hab.	Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education in Warsaw	medicine/ oncology	*Experimental population based platform to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of screening colonoscopy a population based comparative effectiveness study. PCSP, Polish Colonoscopy Screening Platform*	1,699,000
Ewa Zuba-Surma, PhD hab.	Jagiellonian University	stem cells/ cardiology	*Bioactive stem cell- derived microvesicles as a novel tool for tissue regeneration*	1,053,000
Total				**7,920,000**

IDEAS FOR POLAND PROGRAMME

SUBSIDIES FOR ERC STARTING GRANTS RECIPIENTS

The programme aims to encourage Polish and foreign recipients of the prestigious Starting Grants, awarded by the European Research Council (ERC), to carry out the research projects under their ERC grant at a Polish scientific institution. In this programme beneficiaries receive an individual stipend and a research subsidy.

In 2012 the Foundation received one application for a subsidy in the Ideas for Poland programme. The Foundation Board made its decision, based on the opinions of reviewers, in the first quarter of 2013.

HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME

SUBSIDIES FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS ENCOURAGING THEM TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH IN POLAND

THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME FOR THE *BIO, INFO, TECHNO* CATEGORIES IS CO-FUNDED FROM STRUCTURAL FUNDS UNDER MEASURE 1.2 "STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN RESOURCES POTENTIAL OF SCIENCE" AS PART OF THE IE OP 2007-2013. PROJECTS IN OTHER CATEGORIES ARE FINANCED FROM THE FOUNDATION'S OWN FUNDS.

The aim of the programme is to encourage young Polish scientists staying abroad to return and continue their research in Poland, and also to encourage foreign scientists to complete postdoctoral fellowships in Poland. Projects carried out in the programme may last from one to two years. Beneficiaries receive a research subsidy of up to 80,000 zlotys per year and a personal stipend of 5,000 zlotys per month. A beneficiary may also award personal stipends (of 1,000 zlotys per month) to students preparing their master's degree under his/her supervision.

Two competitions ended in the programme in 2012: one begun in 2011 (4/2010) and the first of two held in 2012 (5/2012). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2012 (6/2012).

COMPETITION 4/2011

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected 14 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **4,075,000 zlotys**, and seven projects from other fields, which received support in the amount of **1,707,000 zlotys**. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between March and October 2012.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME
(competition 4/2011 – *Bio, Info, Techno* projects)

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	RESEARCH FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Anna Ajduk, PhD	Wellcome Trust, Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute, Cambridge (United Kingdom)	University of Warsaw	biology	290,000
Jarosław Buczyński, PhD	Institut Fourier, Grenoble (France)	Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	mathematics, computer science	316,000
Jacek Czub, PhD	Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Goettingen (Germany)	Gdańsk University of Technology	chemistry, physics	300,000
Krzysztof Dembczyński, PhD	Knowledge Engineering Bioinformatics KEBI Lab at Philipps Universitaet Marburg (Germany)	Poznań University of Technology	computer science	296,000
Łukasz Dobrzycki, PhD	University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)	University of Warsaw	physical chemistry	316,000
Konrad Dziatkowski, PhD	University of Texas at Austin (USA)	University of Warsaw	solid-state physics	306,000
Filip Granek, PhD	Fraunhofer-Institut fuer Solare Energiesysteme ISE (Germany)	EiT Sp. z o.o. Wrocław Research Centre	physics, nanoengineering	324,000
Marcin Kamiński, PhD	Universite Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium)	University of Warsaw	mathematics, computer science	298,000

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	RESEARCH FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Zbigniew Piotrowski, PhD	National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder (USA)	Institute of Meteorology and Water Management – National Research Institute in Warsaw	meteorology, computer science	296,000
Tomasz Rygiel, PhD	Department of Immunology, UMC Utrecht (Netherlands)	Medical University of Warsaw	medical biology	320,000
Krzysztof Sadlej, PhD	Department of Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering, Princeton University (USA)	Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	biomedical engineering	269,000
Joanna Sułkowska, PhD	Center for Theoretical Biological Physics, University of California, San Diego (USA)	University of Warsaw	biophysics	253,000
Marcin Szwed, PhD	Laboratoire de Psychologie Cognitive, CNRS, Marseille (France)	Jagiellonian University	neurobiology	322,000
Marcin Wieśniak, PhD	University of Vienna (Austria)	University of Gdańsk	quantum physics	169,000
TOTAL				**4,075,000**

BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME
(competition 4/2011– projects from fields other than *Bio, Info, Techno*)

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	INSTITUTION	RESEARCH FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Grzegorz Brona, PhD	CERN, Geneva (Switzerland)	University of Warsaw	physics	278,000
Eryk Czerwiński, PhD	Frascati National Laboratories of National Institute of Nuclear Physics (Italy)	Jagiellonian University	physics	277,000
Andrzej Jakubowski, PhD	European University Institute, Florence (Italy)	Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	law	229,000
Katarzyna Jażdżewska, PhD	Ohio State University (USA)	Cardinal Wyszyński University in Warsaw	philology	172,000
Piotr Nowak, PhD	Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, Berkeley (USA)	University of Warsaw	mathematics	247,000
Piotr Przytycki, PhD	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)	Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	mathematics	222,000
Teodozja Rzeuska, PhD	Freie Universitaet, Berlin (Germany)	Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	archaeology	282,000
TOTAL				**1,707,000**

EWA ZUBA-SURMA, PhD HAB., A BENEFICIARY OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME.

COMPETITION 5/2012

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected 14 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **3,999,000 zlotys**. None of the applications submitted in other fields obtained funding. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between August and December 2012.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME
(competition 5/2012 – *Bio, Info, Techno* projects)

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	RESEARCH FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Alessandro Facchini, PhD	University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)	University of Warsaw	logic, computer science	295,000
Lidia Jasińska-Walc, PhD	Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands)	Gdańsk University of Technology	chemistry	164,000
Łukasz Kiliański, PhD	Aalto University, Helsinki (Finland)	Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	physics	285,000
Mikołaj Korzyński, PhD	University of Vienna (Austria)	Centre for Theoretical Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	physics	236,000
Wojciech Kotłowski, PhD	Centrum Wiskunde& Informatica, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)	Poznań University of Technology	computer science	256,000
Ewa Liszewska, PhD	Max-Planck-Institute of Immunobiology and Epigenetics, Freiburg (Germany)	International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	neurobiology	300,000
Piotr Masłowski, PhD	JILA Joint laboratory of University of Colorado and NIST, Boulder (USA)	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	physics, chemistry	301,000
Łukasz Michalczyk, PhD	University of East Anglia, Norwich (United Kingdom)	Jagiellonian University	evolutionary biology, zoology	328,000
Beata Nowakowska, PhD	Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)	National Research Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw	molecular genetics	280,000
Krystyna Oracz, PhD	University of Freiburg (Germany)	Warsaw University of Life Sciences	developmental biology	314,000
Karolina Siwicka, PhD	Nagoya University (Japan)	Medical University of Gdańsk	medicine, biology	304,000
Magdalena Stobińska, PhD	University of Erlangen-Nuremberg/Max-Planck-Institute for the Science of Light (Germany)	Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	physics	300,000
Marcin Śmiglak, PhD	IoLiTec Ionic Liquids Technologies GmbH, Heilbronn (Germany)	Poznań Science and Technology Park of the Adam Mickiewicz University Foundation in Poznań	chemistry	310,000
Jędrzej Walkowiak, PhD	RWTH Aachen University (Germany)	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	chemistry	326,000
TOTAL				**3,999,000**

The first stage of the merit evaluation of applications in competition 6/2012 continued until the end of 2012. The support was awarded in March 2013.

KOLUMB PROGRAMME

POSTDOCTORAL OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships in the KOLUMB programme are awarded to the best young scholars with PhDs for research visits (from 6 to 12 months) to the world's leading scientific centres.
The programme has been implemented since 1995. Since that time there have been 25 competitions in which a total of **231 fellowships** have been awarded.

The final call for applications in the KOLUMB programme took place in 2012.

Two competitions ended in 2012: one begun in 2011 (2/2011) and the competition held in 2012.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME (competition 2/2011)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	FELLOWSHIP DURATION AND LOCATION
Grzegorz Cema, PhD	Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice	six-month fellowship at the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover (Germany)
Paweł Migasiewicz, PhD	PhD at the University of Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the Ècole Pratique des Hautes Ètudes, Paris (France)
Marcin Sabok, PhD	Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	six-month fellowship at the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, Toronto (Canada)
Tomasz Tiuryn, PhD	University of Warsaw	ten-month fellowship at the University of Oxford (United Kingdom)
Robert Zaleśny, PhD	Wrocław University of Technology	one-year fellowship at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm (Sweden)

BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME (competition 2012)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	FELLOWSHIP DURATION AND LOCATION
Anna Baranowska-Rataj, PhD	Warsaw School of Economics	one-year fellowship at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna Institute of Demography (Austria)
Olga Białostocka, PhD	collaboration with the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology in Warsaw	six-month fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Department of Egyptian Art, New York (USA)
Sławomir Boncel, PhD	Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice	one-year fellowship at the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom)
Monika Kowalczyk, PhD	The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA	one-year fellowship at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge (USA)
Krzysztof Krawczyk, PhD	University of Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands)
Paweł Parys, PhD	University of Warsaw	nine-month fellowship at the CNRS Laboratoire d'Informatique Algorithmique: Fondements et Applications, Paris (France)
Tomasz Sowiński, PhD	Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	nine-month fellowship at the Institute of Photonic Sciences, Castelldefels, Barcelona (Spain)
Łukasz Szyrwiel, PhD	University of Wrocław	nine-month fellowship at the CNRS Laboratoire de Chimie Analytique Bio-inorganique et Environnement (France)
Łukasz Świech, PhD	The Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, Cambridge, USA.	one-year fellowship at the Broad Institute of MIT and the Harvard/McGovern Institute for Brain Research at MIT, Cambridge (USA)
Wojciech Wystrychowski, PhD	Medical University of Silesia in Katowice	six-month fellowship at the Stanford University School of Medicine and at Cytograft Tissue Engineering (USA)

BEATA NOWAKOWSKA, PhD, A BENEFICIARY OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME.

SUPPORT GRANTS FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME

Upon completing their fellowships and returning to Poland, beneficiaries of the KOLUMB programme (up to and including the 2009 edition) may apply for support grants. These grants are designed to help beneficiaries use the knowledge and skills acquired during their stay at the world's best scientific centres by supporting them in setting up or modernizing research facilities and enabling them to continue their cooperation with the scientific centres where they stayed.

In 2002-2012 support grants were awarded to 104 beneficiaries.

The grant amount is **40,000 zlotys** (in the case of grants for beneficiaries of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship awarded in 2004-2007 - 60,000 zlotys).

In 2012 the Foundation awarded two support grants in the total amount of **72,500 zlotys.**

THE RECIPIENTS OF SUPPORT GRANTS IN 2012 WERE:
Piotr Przytycki, PhD, from the Institute of Mathematics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw,
Anna Ajduk, PhD, from the University of Warsaw.

PARENT-BRIDGE PROGRAMME

GRANTS FOR PARENTS TO FACILITATE THEIR RETURN TO RESEARCH AND GRANTS SUPPORTING FEMALE RESEARCHERS DURING PREGNANCY

THE PARENT-BRIDGE PROGRAMME WITHIN THE *BIO, INFO, TECHNO* CATEGORIES IS CO-FINANCED FROM STRUCTURAL FUNDS UNDER MEASURE 1.2. "STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN RESOURCES POTENTIAL IN SCIENCE" AS PART OF THE IE OP 2007-2013. PROJECTS IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC FIELDS ARE FINANCED FROM THE FOUNDATION'S OWN FUNDS.

The programme aims to enable the best scientists bringing up small children to return to research work, and to assist pregnant women in the continuation of their research projects. The programme offers two types of support:

- **Grants for returnees –** financing of projects carried out by researchers returning to work after a period spent taking care of a small child

Projects in this programme may last from one to three years. Beneficiaries receive a research subsidy of up to 140,000 zlotys per year and may offer personal stipends to three graduate students (in the amount of 1,000 zlotys) or PhD students (in the amount of 3,000 zlotys) being under their supervision.

- **Support for women carrying out research projects while pregnant –** in the case of tasks that could constitute a hazard during pregnancy

The aim of this support is to make sure that being pregnant does not become an obstacle in the development of women researchers' careers; the funding can be used to cover the costs of a replacement who will perform harmful or dangerous technical jobs for the beneficiary.

Implementation of the grants for pregnant female researchers is described in the subchapter: ONGOING PROGRAMMES WITHOUT NEW CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS.

JOLANTA KOWALEWSKA, PhD, A BENEFICIARY OF THE PARENT-BRIDGE PROGRAMME.

PARENT-BRIDGE (GRANTS FOR RETURNEES)

Two competitions in the programme ended in 2012: one begun in 2011 (4/2010) and the first of two held in 2012 (5/2012). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2012 (6/2012).

COMPETITION 4/2011

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected 12 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **4,849,000 zlotys**. None of the applications submitted in other fields obtained funding. Contracts with 11 beneficiaries were signed between April and July 2012, one beneficiary withdrew from the grant.

COMPETITION 5/2012

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected 11 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **3,901,000 zlotys**, and two projects from other fields, which received support in the total amount of **485,000 zlotys**. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between August and November 2012.

The first stage of the merit evaluation of applications in competition 6/2012 continued until the end of 2012. The support was awarded in March 2013.

START PROGRAMME

STIPENDS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

The Foundation awards the START stipends to young scientists at the start of their career who can already boast achievements in their respective fields. The stipends are a token of recognition for the beneficiaries' achievements so far and provide encouragement for further development. The first stipends in the START programme were awarded in 1993. The stipend amount is **28,000 zlotys**.

Under the programme's extra option, it is possible to obtain funding for short study visits to foreign research institutes for the purpose of establishing cooperation and learning about the methods of work at such centres, and for seeking out the best place for a postdoctoral fellowship.

The Foundation awarded **117 stipends** in 2012, in the total amount (including study visits) of **3,363,000 zlotys**. The group of beneficiaries of all 20 editions of the competition currently numbers **2,212**.

One special stipend for the beneficiary with the highest result in the competition was awarded in 2012 - an extra amount equal to the money the Foundation received from donations of 1% of income tax. The stipend of 36,000 zlotys went to **Paweł Kurzyński, PhD**, from the Faculty of Physics of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

Pursuant to the agreement of 2006 between the Foundation for Polish Science and the Council for the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings (Germany), each year beneficiaries of the START programme selected by the Foundation may participate in these prestigious annual meetings between young scientists from all over the world and Nobel Prize winners. The costs of participation are covered by the organizers and the Foundation. A new partner agreement was signed in 2011, under which the FNP nominates a few young scientists from among the START programme's beneficiaries to take part in the meeting each year. In 2012, six people from among those suggested by the Foundation took part in the meeting of representatives of physical sciences.

In 2012 the Foundation also launched the competition procedure for a new personal stipend in the START programme, namely the **Barbara Skarga Stipend**. Eligible candidates are beneficiaries of the START programme whose research boldly oversteps the boundaries of different fields of science, opens up new research prospects, and creates new value in science. The interdisciplinary applications submitted for the START 2013 programme will be given to experts for additional review, according to the rules for choosing beneficiaries of the Barbara Skarga Stipend. The Foundation may award one such stipend per year.

VENTURES PROGRAMME

SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE PROJECTS REALIZED BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS

The aim of the programme is to stimulate pro-business and pro-innovation attitudes among young scientists, get them interested in research work, and increase the attractiveness of a career in science in Poland. It is targeted at students, graduates and PhD students as well as research units conducting research leading up to master's or doctoral dissertations, and at scientific institutions employing university graduates holding master's degrees in research-teaching or research-technical positions.

Two competitions in the VENTURES programme ended in 2012: one begun in 2011 (8/2011) and the first of two held in 2012 (9/2012). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second competition of 2012 (10/2012).

COMPETITION 8/2011

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected eight projects from among the PhD student applications, which received support in the total amount of **1,276,000 zlotys**, and one project from among the graduate student applications, which received support of **79,000 zlotys**. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed between March and June 2012.

COMPETITION 9/2012

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected six projects from among the PhD student applications, which received support in the total amount of **826,000 zlotys**, and three projects from among the graduate student applications, which received support in the total amount of **192,000 zlotys**. Contracts with all the beneficiaries were signed in August and September 2012.

The first stage of the merit evaluation of applications in competition 10/2012 continued until the end of 2012. The beneficiaries were chosen in February 2013.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE START PROGRAMME IN 2012.

KWERENDA PROGRAMME

GRANTS FOR ARCHIVE SEARCHES ABROAD

The programme offers grants for conducting specialist archive searches abroad for the purpose of seeking out and studying sources from the humanities and social sciences which are unavailable in Poland but essential for the completion of research. The programme also includes searches in Polish libraries and archives by foreign scholars researching topics related to Poland. The grant amount depends on the place and time of the search, on average 2,500 euros per month (or the equivalent in another currency).

In 2012 the Foundation awarded 13 such grants, in the total amount of **235,000 zlotys**.

This was the final competition in the KWERENDA programme.

ONGOING PROGRAMMES – WITHOUT NEW CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

FOCUS PROGRAMME

ESTABLISHING NEW RESEARCH GROUPS

Calls for applications in the FOCUS programme were made in 2006-2010.

Before the end of three years of receiving the subsidy, beneficiaries of the FOCUS programme may apply to have it extended for another two years (amount: 100,000 zlotys per year). The condition for extending the subsidy is that the beneficiary must obtain additional funding from external sources.
In 2012 the possibility of applying for an extension was available to beneficiaries of the programme from 2008 (subject: molecular and biochemical cancer research). Four beneficiaries of the FOCUS programme from 2008 received a two-year extension of their subsidy.

WELCOME PROGRAMME

SUPPORT FOR PROJECTS CARRIED OUT BY OUTSTANDING SCIENTISTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHO SET UP RESEARCH TEAMS AT POLISH RESEARCH UNITS

Applications were no longer accepted for the WELCOME programme in 2012. Funding is still being provided to 11 projects selected in 2008-2011.

INTERNATIONAL PHD PROJECTS (MPD)

Applications were no longer accepted for the International PhD Projects programme in 2012. Funding was provided to 22 projects selected in 2008-2010 in which 368 beneficiaries had taken part by the end of 2012. The first three doctoral degrees pursued in this programme were completed in 2012.

MARIA MACIEJEWSKA, A BENEFICIARY OF THE VENTURES PROGRAMME.

PARENT-BRIDGE PROGRAMME – SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT RESEARCHERS

Applications were no longer accepted in 2012. The first half of the year saw the completion of the last six replacements supported under this programme.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

POLISH-GERMAN COPERNICUS SCIENTIFIC AWARD

The COPERNICUS Award is a joint project of the FNP and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). The award aims to distinguish the most active participants of Polish-German scientific cooperation, who can demonstrate outstanding research achievements of such cooperation and who successfully promote young researchers.
The award is conferred every two years. The award money is **100,000 euros** (50,000 euros for each recipient).

The fourth competition for the COPERNICUS Award ended in 2012.
THE RECIPIENTS WERE:
Professor Jacek Błażewicz from the Poznań University of Technology and
Professor Erwin Pesch from the University of Siegen.

The official presentation took place on 17 September 2012 at the Palace on the Island in Warsaw's Royal Łazienki Park.

The award was conferred by a jury comprising:
Prof. Bärbel Friedrich (Humboldt Universität in Berlin)
Prof. Rudolf Kawalla (Berg-Universität in Freiburg)
Prof. Klaus Ziemer (University of Trier and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw)
Prof. Karol Wysokiński (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin)
Prof. January Weiner (Jagiellonian University) – Jury Chairman
Prof. Mieczysław Mąkosza (Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw)

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT POLISH HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The research fellowships are awarded to German scholars irrespective of their specialist field, in recognition of their research output to date and their contribution to the development of Polish-German scientific cooperation, with the aim of its further growth. The fellowships are awarded under an agreement that the FNP signed with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 1995, and are the equivalent of the Humboldt-Forschungspreise, a prestigious award which the Humboldt Foundation presents to foreign scholars.

In 2012 the Foundation's call for applications yielded two applications. The decision on awarding the fellowships was made in March 2013.

RADOSŁAW KITEL, A BENEFICIARY OF THE VENTURES PROGRAMME.

RECIPIENTS OF THE COPERNICUS AWARD FOR 2012 (HOLDING FLOWERS, FROM LEFT): PROF. JACEK BŁAŻEWICZ AND PROF. ERWIN PESCH WITH THE PRESIDENTS OF THE ORGANIZATIONS GRANTING THE AWARD: PROF. MATTHIAS KLEINER, DFG (LEFT) AND PROF. MACIEJ ŻYLICZ, FNP (RIGHT).

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS PROGRAMME

In the MONOGRAPHS programme, the Foundation finances the publication of original and as yet unpublished works from the humanities and social sciences, chosen in a competition. An average 10-12 new publications are released every year; approximately 10% of candidates receive financing for their books to be published. In this programme, applicants can also receive **funding for translations** of works previously published in the FNP Monographs series into one of the congress languages.

In 2012 the Foundation organized five competitions for works to be published in the FNP Monographs series. As a result, **13 works** were accepted for publication in the series, and **11 new titles** appeared in print. By the end of 2012 the FNP Monographs series comprised **160 titles**.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE FNP MONOGRAPHS PROGRAMME IN 2012
(works selected for publication)

BENEFICIARY	RESEARCH FIELD	INSTITUTION	BOOK TITLE
Kamila Baraniecka-Olszewska, PhD	anthropology	Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences	*Ukrzyżowani. Współczesne misteria męki Pańskiej w Polsce* [Crucified. Contemporary Passion Mystery Plays in Poland]
Agata Dziuban, PhD	sociology	Jagiellonian University	*Gry z tożsamością. Tatuowanie ciała w indywidualizującym się społeczeństwie polskim* [Games with Identity. Body Tattooing in Individualizing Polish Society]
Iwona Krupecka, PhD	philosophy	University of Gdańsk	*Filozoficzny kichotyzm Pokolenia '98. O idei podmiotu w myśli hiszpańskiej przełomu XIX i XX wieku* [Philosophical Quixotism of the '98 Generation. The Idea of the Subject in Spanish Thought at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries]
Filip Lipiński, PhD	art history	A. Mickiewicz University	*Hopper wirtualny. Obrazy w pamiętającym spojrzeniu* [Virtual Hopper. Paintings in a Remembering Look]
Marcin Moskalewicz, PhD	philosophy	K. Marcinkowski Medical University in Poznań	*Totalitaryzm – Narracja – Tożsamość. Filozofia historii Hannah Arendt* [Totalitarianism – Narration – Identity. Hannah Arendt's Philosophy of History]
Wojciech Musiał, PhD	political science	Jagiellonian University	*Polska transformacja w świetle teorii modernizacyjnych* [The Polish Transformation in the Light of Modernization Theories]
Łukasz Niesiołowski-Spanò, PhD	ancient history	University of Warsaw	*Dziedzictwo Goliata. Filistyni i Hebrajczycy: studium wzajemnych wpływów, trwałości kulturowej oraz relacji międzykulturowych* [Goliath's Legacy. The Philistines and the Hebrews: A Study of Mutual Influences, Cultural Stability, and Intercultural Relations]

BENEFICIARY	RESEARCH FIELD	INSTITUTION	BOOK TITLE
Grzegorz Pac, PhD	history	University of Warsaw	*Rola społeczna żon i córek w dynastii piastowskiej do połowy XII wieku. Studium porównawcze* [The Social Role of Wives and Daughters in the Piast Dynasty up to the Mid-12th Century. A Comparative Study]
Gabriela Świtek, PhD	art history	University of Warsaw	*Gry sztuki z architekturą* [Games between Art and Architecture]
Prof. Przemysław Urbańczyk	archaeology	Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences	*Mieszko Pierwszy Tajemniczy* [Mieszko the First the Mysterious]
Krzysztof Wójtowicz, PhD hab.	philosophy	University of Warsaw	*Argumentacja, dowód, prawda w matematyce* [Argumentation, Proof, Truth in Mathematics]
Łukasz Wróbel, PhD	literary studies	University of Warsaw	*Hyle i noesis. Trzy międzywojenne koncepcje literatury stosowanej* [Hyle and Noesis. Three Inter-war Concepts of Applied Literature]
Renata Ziemińska, PhD hab.	philosophy	University of Szczecin	*Historia sceptycyzmu. W poszukiwaniu spójności* [The History of Scepticism. Searching for Coherence]

FUNDING FOR TRANSLATIONS OF BOOKS AWARDED IN 2012

BENEFICIARY	RESEARCH FIELD	INSTITUTION	PUBLISHER	BOOK TITLE
Prof. Juliusz Domański	history of ideas	University of Warsaw	L'Harmattan, Paris	*Tekst jako uobecnienie. Szkic z dziejów myśli o piśmie i książce* [Text as Manifestation. A Sketch from the History of Thought on Writing and Books]
Piotr Filipkowski, PhD	sociology	Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences	Imre Kertes Kolleg, Jena	*Historia mówiona i wojna. Doświadczenie obozowe w perspektywie narracji biograficznych* [Oral History and War. Camp Experiences in the Perspective of Biographical Narratives]
Paweł Gancarczyk, PhD hab.	musicology	Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences	Edition Symétrie, Lyon	*Muzyka wobec rewolucji druku. Przemiany w kulturze muzycznej XVI w.* [Music and the Printing Revolution. Changes in 16th-century Musical Culture]
Janusz Grygieńć, PhD	philosophy	Koszalin University of Technology	Imprint Academic, UK	*„Wola powszechna" w brytyjskiej myśli politycznej* ["General Will" in British Political Thought]
Prof. Roman Murawski	philosophy	Adam Mickiewicz University	Springer/ Birkhauser, Switzeland	*Filozofia matematyki i logiki w Polsce międzywojennej* [Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic in Inter-war Poland]
Marek Węcowski, PhD	ancient history	University of Warsaw	Oxford University Press, UK	*Sympozjon, czyli wspólne picie. Początki greckiej biesiady arystokratycznej (IX-VII wiek p.n.e.)* [The Symposion, or Communal Drinking. The Beginnings of Greek Aristocratic Banquets (9th to 7th Century BC)]
Bernadetta Wójtowicz-Huber, PhD hab.	history	University of Warsaw	Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden	*„Ojcowie narodu". Duchowieństwo grecko-katolickie w ruchu narodowym Rusinów galicyjskich 1867-1918* ["The Fathers of the Nation". Greek Catholic Clergy in the National Movement of the Galician Ruthenians, 1867-1918]

PUBLISHING PROJECTS

The aim of the programme is to support long-term publication series that scientifically document Poland's heritage of history and civilization. 2012 saw the continuation of projects that had received subsidies in previous years.

Publications supported in 2012 (selected for the programme in 2008):

- Eleonora Bergman, PhD, *Archiwum Ringelbluma – konspiracyjne archiwum getta warszawskiego* [The Ringelblum Archives - the Clandestine Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto], publisher: Jewish Historical Institute

Four volumes were published in 2012:

- vol. 6: *Generalne Gubernatorstwo. Relacje i dokumenty* [The General Government. Accounts and Documents], ed. Aleksandra Bańkowska
- vol. 7: *Spuścizny* [Legacies], ed. Katarzyna Person
- vol. 8: *Tereny wcielone do Rzeszy: Okręg Rzeszy Gdańsk-Prusy Zachodnie, rejencja ciechanowska, Górny Śląsk* [Lands Incorporated into the Reich: The District of Gdańsk-West Prussia, Ciechanów Region, Upper Silesia], ed. Magdalena Siek
- vol. 9: *Tereny wcielone do Rzeszy: Kraj Warty* [Lands Incorporated into the Reich: The Warta Land], ed. Magdalena Siek

The programme also supports the **ORIGINES POLONORUM series** (a series of monographic archaeological works written as part of the research programme *Ziemie polskie na przełomie tysiącleci* [Poland at the Turn of the Millennia]).

Three new volumes were sent for publication in 2012:

- vol. 6: *Wolin wczesnośredniowieczny – część 1* [Early Mediaeval Wolin – Part 1], edited by Błażej Stanisławski and Władysław Filipowiak (planned publication date: March 2013)
- vol. 7: *Wolin wczesnośredniowieczny – część 2* [Early Mediaeval Wolin – Part 2], edited by Błażej Stanisławski and Władysław Filipowiak (planned publication date: September 2013)
- vol. 8: *Gród i zamek w Międzyrzeczu w wiekach IX-XIV* [The Town and Castle of Międzyrzecz in the 9th-14th Centuries], edited by Stanisław Kurnatowski (planned publication date: November 2013)

OTHER INITIATIVES

EXTERIUS PROGRAMME

SUPPORT FOR UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVES

The aim of the programme is to provide support to the best scientists and research teams, scientific units and nongovernmental organizations working in the field of science, for the implementation of various unusual, interesting, inventive and innovative projects that serve the development of science in Poland.

Applications in the EXTERIUS programme are accepted on a continual basis, until the funding assigned for the programme in a given year is exhausted. The Foundation awarded **10 subsidies in the total amount of 355,000 zlotys.**
In 2012 the Foundation held the final competition in this programme.

SKILLS PROJECT

DEVELOPING THE SKILLS OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR'S EMPLOYEES AND PHD STUDENTS IN COMMUNICATION, INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATION, AND RESEARCH PROJECT MANAGEMENT

THE SKILLS PROJECT IS SUPPORTED WITH EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (MEASURE 4.2 OF THE HUMAN CAPITAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME: "DEVELOPMENT OF R&D SYSTEM STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND IMPROVING THE AWARENESS OF THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH").

The programme is targeted mainly at beneficiaries of the FNP's programmes. Among other things, it is implemented in the form of training courses and workshops, a mentoring programme, conferences and discussion panels, and also study visits. Its main objective is to improve project participants' competence in project and research team management, and also in managing their scientific careers and disseminating research results.

IN 2012 THE SKILLS PROJECT INVOLVED:

SKILLS/TRAINING COURSES

In 2012 the Foundation organized **23 training courses** involving a total of **404 participants**. The topics included: self-presentation and the art of public speaking, presenting scientific problems to different audiences, negotiations, commercialisation of research results (off-site course in Cambridge, UK), project management for researchers, research team management, interdisciplinary cooperation.

Łukasz Nowak during the final presentation in the INTER competition.

SKILLS/MEETINGS INITIATED BY THE PROJECT'S PARTICIPANTS

The aim of the meetings initiated by the SKILLS project's participants is to present the latest research trends, exchange ideas and experiences as well as integrating the research groups financed by the FNP.

Seven meetings were held in 2012, involving a total of approx. 200 participants.

The meetings discussed the following issues:
- interdisciplinary cooperation,
- scientific communication,
- financing scientific research and developing a scientific career,
- mentoring in science,
- research project management,
- the grant application evaluation process.

SKILLS/INTER PROGRAMME – POPULARIZATION COMPETITION

The aim of the INTER programme is to promote interdisciplinary research and develop science popularization skills. The programme's participants have the opportunity to take part in training courses on interdisciplinary cooperation and the popularization of science, and in a competition in which they present an original interdisciplinary scientific project.

The winners in this competition receive a prize of **100,000 zlotys** (including 20,000 zlotys of individual support and a subsidy of 80,000 zlotys to carry out the winning research project).

In 2012 the Foundation held the first INTER competition. There were 65 entrants who took part in two one-day training courses in the first stage of the competition. In the second (final) stage, which took place on 18 October 2012 at the University Library in Warsaw, the 19 finalists presented their projects to the public and to the competition jury. The competition finals yielded 10 winners. The total prize money was **1 million zlotys**.

SKILLS/PROGRAMME OFFICERS ACADEMY

The aim of the Academy is to improve grant and stipend programme management skills and to achieve closer cooperation among science managers in Poland. The programme is targeted at employees of the National Centre for Research and Development and the National Science Centre who are directly involved in handling grant and/or stipend programmes.

The following is offered as part of the Academy:
- training courses, seminars and workshops taught by leading experts from Poland and other countries
- international study visits and traineeships at leading institutions that finance scientific research abroad

Four calls for applications were made in 2012, as a result of which 60 people qualified for POA projects. The Academy participants took part in training courses, study visits, and traineeships. The training courses covered the following issues: self-presentation and chairing meetings and expert panels, peer review, strategic management, public speaking and working with the media, financing of science and higher education in Poland and selected other countries.

STUDY VISITS
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany - 5 participants
- Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Research Council of Sweden, Sweden - 1 participant
- The National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, AAAS, Office of Naval Research, and National Academies of Sciences, USA - 12 participants

FOREIGN TRAINEESHIP
- Wissenschaftsfonds (FWF), Austria – 1 participant

SKILLS/FNP MENTORING

The aim of this programme is to enable young scientists working in Poland to establish contacts and a mentoring collaboration with experienced scholars respected in their fields – from Poland or a foreign country. The programme supports one-to-one mentoring. Applications for the programme are accepted on a continual basis, with new participants being qualified every quarter. Together, the mentoring pairs develop and then carry out programmes lasting from one to two years and having specific goals important for the mentored person's professional career.

In 2012 the MENTORING programme had 29 participants.

All of the above activities in the SKILLS project will be continued in 2013.

THE FOUNDATION'S EVALUATION ACTIVITY

In 2012 the Foundation completed the analysis of its procedures checking their compliance with the guidelines of the ***European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers***. The analysis looked at the FNP's statutes and codes of ethics; the regulations of the different programmes; the applicant evaluation procedures and criteria; agreements signed with the beneficiaries, and the Foundation's practices. An anonymous questionnaire survey was also conducted among the FNP's beneficiaries representing diverse fields of science and different stages of a research career. An analysis showed that most of the principles set down in the *Charter* and the *Code* are applied by the FNP. At the same time, some areas emerged where the Foundation's activity diverges from the provisions of the *Charter* and the *Code* to some extent. The analysis was an in-house one; next, a report containing the results and a plan of action to better fulfil the provisions of the *Charter* was given a positive review by the European Commission. Thus, **the Foundation became the first organization in Poland to be recognized as an institution implementing the *European Charter for Researchers***.

The analysis report is available on the FNP website: http://www.fnp.org.pl/assets/Europejska_Karta-Naukowca_062012.pdf

As of 2010, the Foundation has been involved in the **work of the European Science Foundation member organization forum on evaluation**. Among other things, the aim of the forum has been to develop adequate indicators of internationalization in order to facilitate evaluation of this aspect of the operations of research organizations and those supporting science. Participation in the work of the forum and discussions on essential and measurable indicators of internationalization led to an analysis of this aspect of the FNP's activities. The analysis included the Foundation's programme policy, the application evaluation system, and the degree of openness of FNP programmes to citizens of other countries.

The report from this study is available on the FNP website: http://www.fnp.org.pl/assets/Internacjonalizacja_OK.indd_.pdf

The attractiveness of a research career to talented young scientists was the subject of a questionnaire survey conducted in 2012 among **beneficiaries of the START programme from the years 2008-2012**. The main questions in the survey concerned the beneficiaries continuing their research work, their current financial situation and work conditions, further aspirations and fears, and also their perception of their environment and the conditions of success in science. The survey was anonymous. Thanks to the FNP having conducted a similar survey in 2002, the results of the new survey could be compared with the situation and opinions of beneficiaries from 10 years earlier. The analysis report will be available on the FNP website.

THE FNP'S REVIEWERS AND EXPERTS IN 2012 (POLISH AND INTERNATIONAL)

Benjamin Abecassis, Andrea Abele-Brehm, Janina Abramowska, Krzysztof Marek Abramski, Pedro Abreu, Marek Adamczak, Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Erwin Adams, Jerzy Adamski, Philip Adey, Alexander Agadjanian, Carlos Agelet de Saracibar, Hans-Erik Akerlund, Dmitry Aldakov, Leigh Aldous, Ryszard Amarowicz, Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, Tejraj M. Aminabhavi, Marie-Laure Ancelin, Joao Paulo André, Pedro Andres, Robert Antoni Andrzejczuk, Jadwiga Andrzejewska, Leon Andrzejewski, Dominik Antonowicz, Jędrzej Antosiewicz, Andrzej Antoszewski, Ricardo Aroca, Jerome Artus, Katsura Asano, André-Jean Attias, Maurizio Avella, Francisco Ayuga, Angelo Azzi, Alan Baddeley, Stephen Badylak, Kwang-Hyun Baek, Joan Bagaria i Pigrau, Bogusław Bakuła, Wojciech Bal, Piotr Balcerowicz, Edward Balcerzan, Edward Balog, Aleksander Balter, Guido Baltes, Piotr S. Bała, Jerzy Bałdyga, Maciej Banach, Zbigniew Banaszak, Konrad Banaszek, Jacek Banaszkiewicz, Teresa Bandosz, Bogdan Banecki, Krzysztof Bankiewicz, Jerzy Bańbura, Zhenan Bao, Adrian Baranchuk, Waldemar Baraniewski, Krzysztof Barański, Andrea Barbieri, Andrzej Bargiela, Józef Barnaś, Grzegorz Bartosz, Grzegorz Bartoszewski, Peter Bartsch, Zsuzsanna Bata-Csorgo, Michel Baudry, Josep Maria Bayona, Tomasz Bączek, Andrzej Bednarek, Jeroen Beeckman, Dorothy Bennett, Leónie Bentsink, Frances Berdan, Anthony J. Berdis, Andrzej Beręsewicz, Claire Berger, Jonas Bergquist, Janet E. Berrington, Andrzej Betlej, Piotr Białasiewicz, Krzysztof Piotr Bielawski, Marian Bielecki, Ann Biersteker, Janusz Bieżyński, Piotr Biler, Wiesław Binienda, Fabio Biscarini, Rainer Bischoff, Brian Bix, Giovanni Blandino, Juliette Blevins, Claudia Blindauer, Katarzyna Blinowska, Loic Blum, Tomasz Bocheński, Andreas Boecker, Christian Boehmer, Mikołaj Bojańczyk, Piotr Bojarski, Filippo Bonchi, Eileen Boris, Franciszek Borowiec, Andrzej Borowski, Julian Bradfield, Jan Bradley, Katarzyna Braszczyńska-Malik, Mark R. Brawley, Zoe Bray, Mieczysław Brdyś, Georg Breier, Mirosław Brewczyk, Grzegorz H. Brębworowicz, Andrzej Bronk, Witold Brostow, David A. Brown, Jason Brownlee, Magdalena Bryś, Tomasz Brzeziński, Tomasz Brzozowski, Franciszek Brzóska, Zbigniew Brzózka, Andrzej Buchacz, Mirosława Buchholtz, Maciej Bugajski, Janusz Marek Bujnicki, Dorota Bukowska, Ewa Bulska, Tadeusz Burczyński, Kvetoslava Burda, Aleksandra Burgiel, Guido Burkard, Edmund Burke, Sandeep Burma, Carolyn Burns, Wojciech Bursztа, Hans-Jürgen Buschmann, Richard Butterwick, Krzysztof Byczuk, Stanisław Bylka, Jarosław Byrka, Peter Cahusac, Kenneth Cain, Neil R. Cameron, Darren Candow, Eugenia Carvalho, Stanisław Cebrat, Witold Robert Cecot, Jiri Cejka, Wojciech Cellary, Czesław Cempel, Jan Chabrowski, Agnieszka Chacińska, Jerry Chan, Frédéric Chandezon, Adam Chapnick, Mark C. Chappell, Matthew Charette, Jiaping Paul Chen, T.C.E. [Tai Chiu Edwin] Cheng, Phil Chilibeck, Andrzej Chochowski, Juliusz Chojnacki, Andrzej Chojnowski , Mahesh Choolani, Marek Chrobak, Piotr Chrzan, Wojciech Chudziak, Dorota Chwieduk, Lech Chyczewski, Barbara Chyrowicz, Tomasz Ciach, Andrzej Cichocki, Mariusz Cichoń, Jolanta Cichowska, Maria Anna Ciemerych-Litwinienko, Marek Cieplak, Dorota Cieślak, Alejandro Cifuentes, Joanne Ciulla, Andrew Clayton, Aled Clayton, Anthony J. Comerota , Jean-Francois Constant, William A. Corrigall, Sabine Costagliola, Antonio Costanzo , Nicholas Courtois, Joao A.P. Coutinho, Elizabeth Cowper, Krzysztof Cpałka, Martin Crespi, Randy Cron, Muriel Cuendet, Steven T. Cundiff, Michał Cyrański, Roman Czaja, Danuta Czarnecka, Stanisław Czerniak, Agnieszka Czerw, Artur Czumaj, Jarosław Czyż, Andrzej Czyżewski, Marek Ćwintal, Ewa Dahlig-Turek, Antonio d'Alessandro, Janusz Danecki, Ming Dao, Kazimierz Darowicki, Anibh Das, Jarosław Dastych, Donald J. Davidson, John K. Davies. Anthony P.Davis, Piotr Dawidowicz, Johannes F. de Boer, Bart De Bruyn, Maurice de Gosson, Walter de Heer, Miguel de la Guardia, Richard De La Rue, Jose M.De Teresa Nogueras, William deJong-Lambert, Mirela Delibegovic, Asterios Deligiannis, Krzysztof Dembczyński, Roman Dembinski, Grzegorz Deptuch, Marta Derek, Theodoor D'haen, Tomasz Dietl, Benjamin Dietzek, Ryszard Dindorf, David A. Dixon, David Djurado, Bogdan Z. Długogórski, Jacek Dobaczewski, Wawrzyniec Lawrence Dobrucki, Agnieszka Dobrzyń, Paul Dodson, Jan Dorosz, Jolanta Dorszewska, Józef Drabowicz, Bogdan Dragnea, Marcin Drąg, Arnold Dreyblatt, Judith Driscoll, Marija Drndić, Marek Dróżdzik, Marek Drużdżel, Adam Dubin, Marian Dubowski, Artur Dubrawski, Włodzisław Duch, Wolfgang Duer, Józef Dulak, Magdalena Durlik, Albert Duschl, Paweł Dybel, Adam Dziadek, Leszek Dziawgo, Andrzej Dziembowski, Piotr Dzięgiel, Marek Dziubiński, Julian Eaton-Rye, Konstantin B. Efetov, Artur Ekert, Matti Eklund, Murray Elder, Esam El-Fakahany, Naomi Ellemers, Isabella Ellinger, Jonathan Engel, Andries P.Engelbrecht, Arzum Erdem, Oliver Ernst, Vladimir A. Erokhin, Alexander Etkind, Ireneusz Ewiak, Faustino Fabbianelli, Danilo Facca, Jerzy Falandysz, Piotr Faliszewski, Amir Fam, Ferric C. Fang, Isabella Faraoni, Rui Fausto, John K. Fellman, Katja Fennel, Brock Fenton, Luis Fernández, Marcia Ferreira, Alexandrina Ferreira Mendes, Marcin Fiałkowski, Wiesław Fiebig, Leszek Fiedor, Marek Figlerowicz, Mirosław Filiciak, Sławomir Filipek, Susan Fiske, Jerzy M. Floryan, Erwin Flueckiger, John S. Foord, Iwona Foryś, Zygmunt Frajzyngier, Piotr Franaszek, Alison Frank, Philipp Franken, Elżbieta Frąckowiak, Bärbel Friedrich, Gerhard Fritz, Barbara Fryzeł, Naomi Kay Fukagawa, David C. Funder, Markus Gabriel, Bogdan Gabrys, Wojciech Gadomski, Charles Gale, Paola Galletti, William Gallus, Virginia Garcia Canas, Piotr Garstecki, Nicholas Gathergood, Wojciech Gawlik, Lidia Gawlik, Jacek Gawroński, Grzegorz Gazda, Leszek Gąsieniec, Zafer Gedik, Mai Gehrke, Michael Geller, Cicek Gercel-Taylor, Kris Gevaert, Piotr Gębczyński, Joe Giacalone, Krzysztof Giannopoulos, Tomasz Giaro, Miłosz Giersz, Maria Giller, Jerzy Ginalski, Giuseppina C. Gini, Victor Giurgiutiu, Tomasz Gizbert-Studnicki, Piotr Gliński, Ewa Głodek, Agnieszka Gniazdowska-Piekarska, Andrzej Gniazdowski, Wiesław Godzic, Adam Godzik, Paweł Golik, Jacek Gołaszewski, Jakub Gołąb, Carlos J. Gomez – Garcia, Diego Gonzalez Halphen, Keith Gordon, Ashraf S. Gorgey, Giuliana Gorrasi, Teodor Paweł Gotszalk, Charles Gould, Ewa Górecka, Anna Górecka-Drzazga, Joanna Górnicka-Kalinowska, Sławomir Grabowski, Corinne Grangette, Tom Gregorkiewicz, Karol Grela, Jarosław Grobelny, Adam Grobler, Wojciech Grochala, Maciej Grochowski, Susanne Grossman-Clarke, Wojciech Henryk Grudziński, Dietwald Gruehn, Łukasz Gruszczyński, Stanisław Gruszczyński, Wiesław Ignacy Gruszecki, Dorota Gryko, Anna Grzybek, Oguz

Gülseren, Thorfinnur (Thorri) Gunnlaugsson, Shanchun Guo, Vsevolod V. Gurevich, Maciej S. Gutowski, Tomasz Guzik, Przemysław Guzik, Yoshiki Habu, Ann E. Hagerman, Haley Hagg Lobland, Michael R. Hamblin, Min Han, Teresa Harrison, Laurence Harwood, Robert Hasterok, Paweł Hawrylak, Steven Heard, Greg Hearn, Ashok Hegde, Friedrich Hehl, Roman Hejft, Beata Hejmanowska, Marek Jarosław Henczka, Keith Henry, Javier Hernandez Borges, Jan Hertrich-Woleński, Callum Hill, Wolfram Hinzen, Otfried Höffe, Morley Donald Hollenberg, Jan Holnicki-Szulc, Jacek Hołówka, Robert Hołyst, Maryla Hopfinger-Amsterdamska, Konstantin Hossmann, Henryk Hudzik, Tim Hunt, Maik Huttemann, Paweł Idziak, Adam Idzik, Ewa Ignatowicz, Ahmed Iraqi, Hisao Ishibuchi, Tommy Ive, Elżbieta Jabłońska, Lidia Jackowska-Strumiłło, Stefan Jackowski, Roland Jacobs, Jacek Jaczyński, Aleksandra Jadach-Sepioło, Luc Jaeger, Peter Jahns, Artur J. Jakimiuk, Dagmara Jakimowicz, Jernej Jakse, Małgorzata Jadwiga Jakubowska, Hieronim Jakubowski, Karl J. Jalkanen, Bohdan Jałowiecki, Janusz R. Janeczek, Stanisław Janeczko, Tomasz Jankowski, Tomasz Janowski, Rene Janssen, Paweł Janus, Andrzej Januszewicz, Leszek Jarecki, Artur Michał Jarmołowski, Leszek R. Jaroszewicz, Piotr Jasiński, Włodzimierz Jaskólski, Zdzisław Jaworski, Krystian Jażdżewski, Mikael Jensen, Peter Uhd Jepsen, Katarina Jewgenow, Elżbieta Jędrych, Dylan Jones, Michał Jóźwik, Janina Jóźwiak, Krzysztof Jóźwiak, Janusz Jurczak, Joanna Jurewicz, Bernard Juskowiak, Przemysław Juszczyński, Piotr Juszkiewicz, Leszek Kaczmarek, Łukasz Kaczmarek, Paweł Kafarski, Renata Kalicka, Leszek Kalinowski, Paweł Kaliński, Roman Kaliszan, Yuri Petrovich Kalmykov, Grzegorz Kamieniarz, Bogumił Kamiński, Yibin Kang, Flavio Kapczinski, Tomasz Kapitaniak, Halina Karaś, Grzegorz Karch, Anna Karewicz, Sigbritt Karlsson, Wojciech Karłowski, Stanisław Karpiński, Savely Karshenboim, Ewa Karwowska, Janusz Kasperczyk, Ryszard Kasperowicz, Jacek Kasperski, Magdalena Kasprowicz, Jan Kassubek, Paweł Kaszycki, Andrzej Katrusiak, Jeffrey Katz, Esko Kauppinen, Rudolf Kawalla, Zofia Kawczyńska-Butrym, Elżbieta Kawecka-Wyrzykowska, Marian P. Kaźmierkowski, Kaja Kaźmierska, Julien Keller, Adrian Kells, Nicholas Kendall, Padraic Kenney, Karen V. Kheruntsyan, Iam Choon Khoo, Piotr Kiełbasiński, Eunkyoung Kim, Marek Kimmel, Alexander Kirschner, Andrzej Kisielewicz, Tomasz Kizwalter, Barbara Klajnert, Ziemer Klaus, Berndt Klecker, Juhani Klemola, Marian Klinger, Jacek Klinowski, Evelyn Klocke, Jakub Kloc-Konkołowicz, Andrzej Kloczkowski, Włodzimierz Klonowski, Krzysztof Kłosiński, Stanisław Kłosowski, Ewelina Knapska, Hannes Kniffka, Jacek Kochanowicz, Andrzej Kochański, Mirosław Kociński, Hanna Kocka-Krenz, Leszek Koczanowicz, Rolf Koenenkamp, Jeanette Kohl, Piotr Kokoszka, Bożena Natalia Kolarz, Zygmunt Szymon Kolenda, Ilona Kołodziejska, Wacław Kołodziejski, Magda Konarska, Izabela Konczak, Krystyna Konieczny, Dominik Konkolewicz, Andrzej Kiejstut Kononowicz, Maciej Konopiński, Jerzy Konorski, Paweł Koperski, Mladen Korbelik, Marek Korczynski, Tomasz Kordula, Józef Korecki, Carmi Korine, Jacek Koronacki, Michał Korostyński, Maria Korytowska, Jacek Kossut, Krzysztof Kostro, Jozsef Kota, Jacek Kotus, Rafał Kotyński, Tomasz Kowalkowski, Wioletta Małgorzata Kowalska, Michał Kozakiewicz, Sławomir Kozieł, Marek Koziński, Marek Koziorowski, Roman Kozłowski, Wiktor Koźmiński, Marek Krajewski, Andrzej Krasiński, Wacław Krasucki, Zbigniew Krawczyk, Zdzisław Krawczyk, William Kretzschmar Jr., Artur Krężel, Wiesław Królikowski, Jerzy Krysiński, Piotr Krzywiec, Włodzimierz Krzyżosiak, Jacek Kubiak, Jan Kubik, Magdalena Kucia, Andrzej Kudelski, Zbigniew Kuderowicz, Robrt Kudrawiec , Christina Kuehn, Joanna Kufel, Małgorzata Kujawińska, Wojciech Kujawski, Krzysztof Kukiełka, Sylwia Kulczyk, Jerzy W. Kupiec-Węgliński, Marek Edward Kuryłowicz, Monika Agnieszka Kusiak, Andrew Kusiak, Marek Kuś, Włodzimierz Kutner, Mirosław Kutyłowski, Michelle Kutzler, Erazm Kuźma, Jacek Kuźnicki, David Kwiatkowski, Jan Kwiatowski, Joao A. Labrincha, Mirosław Andrzej Lachowicz, Hermann Lage, Mariusz Lamentowicz, Gilles Lancien, Gregory Landini, Jerzy Langer, Ewa Laskowska-Kusztal, Ryszard Laskowski, Stanisław Lasocki, Sławomir Lasota, Krisztina Laszlo, Małgorzata Latałowa, Dariusz Latowski, Tadeusz Laudański, Jörn Lausen, Renata Lebecka, Roman Jan Lechowski, Laura M. Lechuga, Hyoung Gon Lee, Jean-Marie Lehn, Hannes Leitgeb, Antonio Leone, Jerzy Leszczyński, Andrzej Leś, Marta Leśniakowska, Natalia Letki (Garner), Krzysztof Lewalski, Małgorzata Lewandowska-Szumieł, Marek Lewandowski, Krzysztof Lewandowski, Kazimierz Lewartowski, Maciej Lewenstein, Anna Lewicka-Strzałecka, Janusz Lewiński, Renhao Li, Krzysztof Liberek, Paweł Liberski, Tong Lin, Christos Lionis, Tomasz Lipniacki, Grzegorz Lissowski, Grzegorz Litwinienko, Xinyu Liu, Alexander Loewer, Karl Löfgren, Stepan Lomov Vladimirovitch, Iwona Lorenc, Teresa Lubińska, Marco Lucarini, Peter Lund, Carsten Lutz, Justyna Łacny, Marek Łagosz, Marek Walenty Łaniecki, Mieczysław Łapkowski, Maciej Łazarczyk, Joanna Łojewska, Tomasz Łojewski, Ewa Łojkowska, Anna Łuczak, Maria Łuczkiewicz, Barbara Łukomska, Wojciech Łukowski, Paweł Łuków, Allan H. MacDonald, Jamie Hugo MacDonald, Paweł Machnikowski, Peter Ian Mackenzie, Sebastian Maćkowski, Emilia Madarasz, Artur Magnuszewski, Anna K. 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Michel, Roman Micnas, Krzysztof Migoń, Ewa Mijowska, Ewa Miklaszewska, Antoni Tadeusz Miler, Sławomir Milewski, Karol Miller, Agata Mirek, Bogdan Miśkowiak, Paul Mizen, Jacek Młynarski, Wojciech Młynarski, Piotr Młynarz, Anders Pape Moller, Guillermo Montoya, Henning Morawietz, Lech Morawski, Wojciech Morawski, Antoni Morawski, Rory Morty, Paweł Moskal, Bożena Moskwa, Jan Mostowski, Jerzy Mozrzymas, Michał Mrozowski, Rafał Mrówka, Piotr Marcin Mucha, Karin Müller-Decker, Maurizio Muraca, Zbysław Muszyński, Zbigniew Naliwajek, Krzysztof Narkiewicz, Adajapalam Natarajan, Edward Nawarecki, Jacek Nawrocki, Bibhu Prasad Nayak, Witold Nazarewicz, Ei-ichi Negishi, William R. Nethercut, Gera Neufeld, Ky-Anh Nguyen, Józef Marian Nicpoń, Antoni Niederliński, Tomasz Niedzielski, Ignacy Niedziółka, Maciej Niedźwiecki, Anna Niedźwiedź, Bogusław Nierenberg, Grażyna Niewiadomska, Małgorzata Nita, Wojciech Niżański, Józef Niżnik, Alanna Nobbs, Agnieszka Nogal, Michael North, Adam Nowaczyk, Andrzej Józef Nowak, Ewa Nowak, Alojzy Nowak, Wiesław Nowak, Justyna Nowakowska, Marek Nowakowski, Anna Nowak-Węgrzyn, Dominika Nowis, Ryoji Noyori, Jean-Michel Nunzi, Ryszard Nycz, Marcin Nyk, Renata Ochocka, Haluk Ogmen, Zbigniew Ogonowski, Marek Okólski, Jan Olchowik, Krzysztof Olechnicki, Mikołaj Olejniczak, Wielisław K. Olejniczak, Jacek Oleksyn, Wiesław Oleszek, Andrzej Michał Oleś, Rafał Olszanecki, Piotr Orleański, Peter Osborne, Wiesław Ostachowicz, Artur Osyczka, Jacek Józef Otlewski, Cees Oudejans, Krzysztof Ożóg, Karel Pacak, Fernando Pacheco Torgal, Anna Pajdzińska, Kishore Paknikar, Emilio Palomares, Marian Paluch, Jan Pałyga, Tassos Papacostas, Vassilios Papadopoulos, Andrzej Parczewski, Mark Partridge, Paweł Parzuchowski, Maciej Paszyński, Dorota Anna Pawlak, Halina Pawlak-Kruczek, Jerzy Pelc, Ling Peng, Aleksandra Peplińska, Juliusz Pernak, Lara Perrin, Maciej Petko, Stephane Petoud, John Petros, Janusz Pędziwiatr,

Philip Phillips, Wojciech Piątkiewicz, Andrzej Piegat, Jerzy Piekalski , Katarzyna Piekarska, Paweł Pieniążek, Marek Pieniążek, Andrzej Pieńkos, Adam Andrzej Pietraszko, Marek Pietraś, K. Michał Pietrusiewicz, Joanna Elżbieta Pijanowska, Jerzy Paweł Pikies, Andrzej Pilc, Małgorzata Pilot, Krzysztof Piotrzkowski, Ryszard Piramidowicz, Krzysztof Pluta, Adam Grzegorz Polak, Jacek Poleski, Krzysztof Pomian, Piotr Popik, Remigiusz Pośpiech, Jan Potempa, David Poyner, Jarosław Poznański, Krzysztof Pożniak, Marek Pronobis, Adam Proń, John D. Protasiewicz, Maria Prussak, Geoff Pryde, Barbara Przewłocka, Barbara Przybyszewska-Jarmińska, Tadeusz Przylibski, J. 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Weeks, January Weiner, Daniel Weiss, Mark Weiss, Jerzy Wełna, Marzenna Weresa, Marian Andrzej Wesoły, Joanna Wesoły, Grzegorz Węgrzyn, Mark Wheatley, Wiesław Wiczk, Justyna Widera, Piotr Wieczorek, Grażyna Wieczorkowska-Wierzbińska, Paweł Wielgosz, Heinz Wiendl, Karolina Wierczyńska, Jerzy Wierzbiński, Uffe Kock Wiil, Jacek R. Wilczyński, Jerzy Wilkin, James W. Wilson, Jeffrey Wilusz, Andrzej Wiśniewski, Ryszard Wiśniewski, Piotr Witkowski, Bożena Witosz, Ursula Witte, Maciej Wiznerowicz, Alexander Włodawer, Edmund Wnuk-Lipiński, Cezary Wodziński, Krzysztof Tomasz Wojciechowski, Maciej Wojtkowski, Krzysztof Wojtyczek, Piotr Wolański, Adam Wolisz, Waldemar Wołczyński, Curtis Wood, Grzegorz Woszczek, Dorota Wójcicka-Migasiuk, Ryszard Wójcicki, Jacek Wójcik, Anna Wójtowicz, Christine Wrenzycki, Szymon Wróbel, Jerzy Wróbel, Marcin Wrzosek, Jie Wu, Gijs Wuite, Harald Wydra, Andrzej Wykrętowicz, Roman Wyrzykowski, Karol Wysokiński, Bartłomiej Wyżga, Małgorzata Wzorek, Marcelo Javier Yanovsky, Helen Yarwood, Neville Yeomans, Charles Yocum, Xiong Yu, Vincent Yzerbyt, Wojciech Zabołotny, Alexandre Zagoskin, Andrzej Zając, Jolanta Zakrzewska-Czerwińska, Jakub Zakrzewski, Ewa Zalewska, Maciej Zalewski, Wojciech Załuski, Zbigniew Zapałowicz, Neven Zarkovic, Tomasz Zarycki, Zenon Zduńczyk, Anna Magdalena Zeidler-Janiszewska, Hao Zeng, Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz, Louxin Zhang, Kwiryna Ziemba, Antoni Ziemba, Klaus Ziemer, Ireneusz Ziemiński, Paweł Zięba, Adam Zięcik, Marek Ziółkowski, Mari Zmierczak, Fryderyk Andrzej Zoll, Stefan Zorad, Enrique Zuazua, Marek T. Zubik, Janusz Zwiazek, Lech Zwierzchowski, Andrzej Zybertowicz, Tadeusz Waldemar Żerda, Jan Żeromski, Jerzy Żuk, Marek Żukowski, Maciej Żukowski, Aldona Żurek, Bogusław Żyłko

Abridged Financial Information and the Independent Registred Auditor's Opinion

The complete report on the Foundation's activity in 2012, drawn up in accordance with the Minister of Justice's ordinance of 8 May 2001 on the general scope of reports on the activity of foundations (*Journal of Laws* No. 50 of 2001, item 529), has been submitted to the Minister of Science and Higher Education.

Fulfilling the provisions of the 6 April 1984 Act on Foundations (*JoL* No. 21 of 1984, item 97, as amended) and the 24 April 2003 Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work (*JoL* No. 96 of 2003, item 873, as amended), the Foundation enables anyone interested to access the complete report on the Foundation's activity in 2012, which is available at the Foundation's head office, ul. Grażyny 11.

The merit report and financial statements will be published in the database of public benefit organization reports on the website http://pozytek.gov.pl under KRS 0000109744.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TO THE BOARD OF THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

The accompanying abridged financial information, which comprise balance sheet as at 31 December 2012, income statement, statement of changes in own funds and cash flows statement for the year then ended and related note are derived from the audited financial statements of Foundation for Polish Science, ul. Grażyny 11, Warsaw (hereafter referred to as "Foundation") for the year ended 31 December 2012 prepared in accordance with the Accounting Act of 29 September 1994 ("the Accounting Act" – Journal of Laws of 2013, item 330) (hereafter referred to as "Financial statements of the Foundation").

We have audited the Financial statements of the Foundation, from which the abridged financial statements were derived, in accordance with national standards of auditing issued by the National Chamber of Registered Auditors in Poland. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated on 25 March 2013. Those financial statements, and the abridged financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The abridge financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by by the Accounting Act. Reading the abridged financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of the Foundation.

Management's responsibility for the abridged financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of abridged financial statements derived from the audited financial statements on the basis described in note to the abriged financial statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the abridged financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810, 'Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements'.

Opinion

In our opinion, the abridged financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Foundation for Polish Science for the year ended 31 December 2012 are consistent, in all material respects, with those financial statements on the basis described in note to the abridged financial statements.

Conducting the audit on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers Sp. z o.o. Registered Audit Company No. 144:

Wojciech Maj
Key Registered Auditor
No. 6128

Warsaw, 22 May 2013

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THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

This financial information contains the Foundation's for Polish Science balance sheet as at 31 December 2012, income statement, statement of changes in the statutory fund and cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2012 and has been prepared on the basis of the Foundation's audited annual financial statements prepared in accordance with the policies specified in the Accounting Act of 29 September 1994 (uniform text – Journal of Laws of 2013, item 330).

The abridged financial information does not contain all of the disclosures required by the Accounting Act for full annual financial statements and, therefore, in order to gain a full understanding of the Foundation's financial position and its results of operations as at and for the year ended 31 December 2012 the Foundation's full financial statements, as well as the independent registered auditor's opinion and report on the said financial statements should be read.

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS (in thousand PLN)	**31.12.2012**	**31.12.2011**
Non-current assets	**13 632**	**12 662**
Intangible assets	**3**	**7**
Other intangible assets	3	7
Tangible fixed assets	**13 629**	**12 655**
Fixed assets	742	814
Buildings, offices, apartments, civil and marine engineering facilities	473	602
Plant and machinery	214	150
Other fixed assets	55	62
Fixed assets under construction	12 887	11 841
Current assets	**363 458**	**328 338**
Inventories	**15**	**16**
Materials	15	16
Short-term receivables	**1 326**	**795**
Receivables from other entities	1 326	795
Trade receivables, due:	10	8
- within 12 months	10	8
Tax, subsidy, customs duty, social security and health insurance and other benefits receivable	9	669
Other receivables	1 307	118
Short-term investments	**362 085**	**327 500**
Short-term financial assets	362 085	327 500
In other entities	310 185	310 607
- shares	62 035	54 239
- other securities	248 150	256 368
Cash and cash equivalents	51 900	16 893
- cash in hand and at banks	15 313	2 619
- cash equivalents	36 587	14 274
Short-term prepayments and deferred costs	**32**	**27**
Total assets	**377 090**	**341 000**

BALANCE SHEET (cont.)

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (in thousand PLN)	**31.12.2012**	**31.12.2011**
Equity	**341 869**	**335 847**
Capital Fund	95 000	95 000
Statutory Fund	268 225	268 225
Reserve Fund	27 615	27 615
Accumulated losses	(54 993)	(21 862)
Net profit/loss for the year	6 022	(33 131)
Liabilities and provisions for liabilities	**35 221**	**5 153**
Provisions for liabilities	**1 572**	**1 411**
Provision for pensions and similar benefits	1 544	1 396
- long-term	679	490
- short-term	865	906
Other provisions	28	15
- short-term	28	15
Short-term liabilities	**20 044**	**1 944**
To other entities	20 040	1 943
Trade payables, due:	310	344
- within 12 months	310	344
Tax, customs duty, social security and other benefits payable	1 143	577
Wages and salaries payable	22	3
Other	18 565	1 019
Special Funds	4	1
Accruals and deferred income	**13 605**	**1 798**
Other accruals and deferred income	13 605	1 798
- short-term	13 605	1 798
Total liabilities	**377 090**	**341 000**

INCOME STATEMENT (COMPARATIVE FORMAT)

(in thousand PLN)	2012	2011
Revenue from statutory activities	**90 852**	**82 909**
Other contributions	90 852	82 909
Costs of statutory activities	**110 424**	**103 339**
Loss on statutory activities	**(19 572)**	**(20 430)**
Administrative expenses	**6 981**	**7 467**
Depreciation and amortization	286	277
Consumptions of materials and energy	158	141
External services	1 728	2 138
Taxes and charges	144	18
Wages and salaries	3 621	3 681
Social security and other benefits	707	654
Other costs by type	337	558
Loss on statutory and administrative activities	**(26 553)**	**(27 897)**
Other operating income	**15**	**10**
Gains on disposal of non-financial non-current assets	2	-
Other	13	10
Other operating expenses	**199**	**293**
Other	199	293
Operating loss	**(26 737)**	**(28 180)**
Financial income	**32 778**	**18 511**
Dividends and shares in profits	2 495	1 794
Interests income	8 417	11 148
Gains on disposal of investments	1 839	5 208
Revaluation of investments	19 365	-
Other	662	361
Financial expenses	**2**	**23 418**
Interest expense	1	-
Revaluation of investments	-	23 410
Other	1	8
Profit/(loss) before tax	**6 039**	**(33 087)**
Income tax expense	**17**	**44**
Net profit/(loss)	**6 022**	**(33 131)**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWN FUNDS

(in thousand PLN)	2012	2011
Equity as at the beginning of the period	**335 847**	**368 978**
Equity as at the beginning of the period, after adjustments	**335 847**	**368 978**
Capital Fund at the beginning of the period	95 000	95 000
Capital Fund at the end of the period	95 000	95 000
Statutory Fund at the beginning of the period	268 225	268 225
Statutory Fund at the end of the period	268 225	268 225
Other Reserve Fund at the beginning of the period	27 615	27 615
Other Reserve Fund at the end of the period	27 615	27 615
Accumulated losses at the beginning of the period	**(21 862)**	**(20 559)**
Accumulated losses at the beginning of the period	(21 862)	(20 559)
Increases (due to)	(33 131)	(1 303)
– accumulated losses brought forward to offset	(33 131)	(1 303)
Accumulated losses at the end of the period	**(54 993)**	**(21 862)**
Net profit or loss	**6 022**	**(33 131)**
- Net profit/(loss)	6 022	(33 131)
Equity as at the end of the period	**341 869**	**335 847**
Equity, taking into account the proposed profit gain/loss offset	**341 869**	**335 847**

CASH FLOW STATEMENT (INDIRECT METHOD)

(in thousand PLN)	2012	2011
Cash flows from operating activities	**(14 386)**	**(30 914)**
Net profit/(loss)	**6 022**	**(33 131)**
Total adjustments	**(20 408)**	**2 217**
Depreciation and amortization	286	277
Interest and shares in profits (dividends)	(10 910)	(12 942)
Losses on financing activities	(21 850)	17 873
Increase in provisions	161	205
Decrease in inventory	1	1
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	468	(414)
(Decrease)/increase in short-term liabilities, except for loans and credits	(363)	118
Increase/(decrease) in prepayments, accruals and deferred income	11 801	(2 904)
Other adjustments	(2)	3
Net cash flows from operating activities	**(14 386)**	**(30 914)**
Cash flows from investing activities	**49 393**	**8 824**
Cash inflows	**3 061 668**	**1 827 883**
From financial assets, including:	3 061 668	1 827 883
a) In other entities	3 061 668	1 827 883
- disposal of financial assets	3 050 758	1 814 941
- dividends and shares in profits	2 495	1 794
- interest received	8 415	11 148
Cash outflows	**(3 012 275)**	**(1 819 059)**
Acquisition of intangible assets and tangible fixed assets	(1 253)	(788)
On financial assets, including:	(3 011 022)	(1 818 271)
a) In other entities	(3 011 022)	(1 818 271)
- acquisition of financial assets	(3 011 022)	(1 818 271)
Net cash flows from investing activities	**49 393**	**8 824**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**35 007**	**(22 090)**
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet	**35 007**	**(22 090)**
Cash and cash equivalents as at the beginning of the period	**16 893**	**38 983**
Cash and cash equivalents as at the end of the period, including:	**51 900**	**16 893**
- of restricted cash and cash equivalents	**4**	**1**

Appendix

about our beneficiaries, initiatives, projects

***GAZETA WYBORCZA*, 6.12.2012**

Today at the Royal Castle in Warsaw the Foundation for Polish Science Prizes will be presented for the 21st time.

PROF. KRZYSZTOF PALCZEWSKI

He received the prize in the life and earth sciences for determining the crystalline structure of the rhodopsin protein and explaining the molecular mechanism of its role in the process of vision.

A living organism receives and analyses thousands of signals coming from its surroundings: visual, gustatory, olfactory. The organism also has to "know" what is going on inside it, and this is ensured by internal sensors which measure things like blood pressure, pain intensity, and even mood.

Our genome includes as many as 800 genes containing information needed to produce these cellular sensors. This is a large and important group of proteins that specialists call G protein-coupled receptors (GPCR for short). Let's add that even though the human sense of smell no longer plays the fundamental role that it does in many of our animal cousins, there are as many as 400 GPCR proteins working in our noses. Scientists think that practically every human physiological reaction involves a GPCR protein.

Rhodopsin is a protein in the retina that is involved in sight, a key sense for us. Professor Krzysztof Palczewski determined the detailed structure of this protein through its crystallization. This was the first GPCR protein whose three-dimensional structure was determined. The task was not an easy one – rhodopsin is a protein of the cell membrane, and is also impermanent.

On the one hand, determining the structure of rhodopsin has enabled us better to understand the molecular basis of vision, while on the other providing foundations for a search for medicines that could help in various sight disorders. Prof. Palczewski's laboratory conducts extensive research on disorders such as Leber's congenital amaurosis as well as age-related macular degeneration (AMD). This work has yielded a molecular model of AMD and will soon result in the first clinical tests of medications whose purpose is to stop the degeneration of vision. With Leber's congenital amaurosis the challenge is different: the issue is to restore sight to people who have been blind since birth. In this case, too, after a series of tests on mice and dogs the time is coming for the first clinical tests of a promising drug.

But that's not all. Prof. Palczewski's research is also a stimulus for work on other proteins from the large GPCR family. Rhodopsin, the most thoroughly known of them, has become a model protein.

PROF. MIECZYSŁAW MĄKOSZA

He received the prize in chemical and materials sciences for the development and introduction to the organic chemistry canon of a new reaction – vicarious nucleophilic substitution.

A nucleophile is a species that "loves" nuclei – the word comes from the Latin *nucleus* and the Greek *philein* (to love). Nucleophiles are electron rich and usually have a negative charge.
Prof. Mąkosza's work centred on the reaction of substitution, in which one substituent is replaced with another in aromatic compounds. This is a very large and important group of compounds built of distinctive rings that look like a honeycomb. Benzene is one example of such a compound. At the apexes of the ring are carbon atoms bonded to hydrogen atoms, with a cloud of free electrons enclosed within.

It is due to this cloud of electrons that benzene does not react readily with the electron-rich nucleophiles, but if we add an electron withdrawing group, e.g. a nitro group, such a reaction becomes possible. It was believed for many, many years that if we wanted to substitute a nucleophile onto a compound built of benzene with a nitro group and chlorine, for example, the nucleophile could only be substituted for the chlorine atom. This was a reaction described in textbooks and used in the production of many compounds. Prof. Mąkosza came to the conclusion and then proved experimentally that this was actually a secondary reaction, that in fact it was much easier to substitute the nucleophile for the hydrogen atom which had always been there than for the chlorine atom which first had to be introduced into the molecule. The professor called the newly discovered reaction vicarious nucleophilic substitution of hydrogen and described its course, conditions, and mechanism in detail. As a consequence, a major correction had to be made in organic chemistry textbooks.

The reaction also has substantial practical value, since it opens up new possibilities in organic synthesis. Because practically all the compounds we use in medicine, electronics, the production of pesticides or dyes contain the aforementioned aromatic rings, the reaction can find wide application in the relevant industries.

PROF. MACIEJ WOJTKOWSKI

He received the prize in the mathematical, physical and engineering sciences for the development of Fourier Domain Optical Coherence Tomography and its introduction to ophthalmic practice.

The human eye is such a marvellous organ that some people have argued it could not have developed through evolution but only through creation. Unfortunately this marvellous organ often causes problems and undergoes unfavourable changes with age. For years, the method used to detect them was the classic examination of the ocular fundus – ophthalmologists directed strong light at the fundus and used an ophthalmoscope to try to detect morbid changes. To draw any conclusions from such an examination, you needed to be very experienced. The image obtained by the doctor was indistinct, rather vague.

All this changed not so long ago, and a key role in this technological leap was played by a young, ambitious physicist from Poland – today's prize-winner. Just over ten years ago Maciej Wojtkowski did all kinds of tests on pig's eyes and discovered that he was able to record signals coming from the retina even when the lens was very cloudy.

This was the first step leading to the development of a new version of the optical tomograph, an apparatus that sweeps the interior of the eye with a beam of light and is able to distinguish its structures at different depths.

To some degree, this method originated from laser microscopy, but whereas you have to prepare adequately thin sections for observation through a microscope, in tomography the apparatus itself "makes" the sections – using optics – without damaging the sample. This means you can choose any layer to study and look at it for as long as you like without doing the patient any harm. An optical tomograph enables us to see the retina's structure in detail, to see whether it is peeling away, whether there are any fissures, whether the macula is undergoing any age-related changes. Thanks to this apparatus it is possible to diagnose glaucoma, but also kidney diseases and diabetes, because the eye is a veritable inspection opening showing what's going on inside the body.

The prototype of the optical tomograph was built eight years ago. Today there are thousands of these devices operating around the world, with just under 400 in Poland alone. Some countries are even introducing obligatory periodic check-ups using this apparatus.

PROF. EWA WIPSZYCKA

She received the prize in the humanities and social sciences for an interdisciplinary reconstruction of the functioning of monastic communities in late ancient Egypt.

At the outset of the academic career of today's prize-winner, Professor Iza Bieżuńska-Małowist told her student to study the history of Egypt under Greek rule. Ewa Wipszycka was not particularly happy about this, but her mentor insisted, aware what great opportunities were offered by research on this country in those times. Luckily Ewa Wipszycka gave in and this led her to many extraordinary achievements, including today's prize. The Foundation rewarded her for the monograph *Moines et communautes monastiques en Egypte, IVe-VIIIe siècles (Monks and Monastic Communities in Egypt, 4th-8th Centuries)* summarizing three decades of her research.

In the Christian world Egypt was the first country where monasticism appeared. This is where the rules of ascetic living were developed, and the unique monastic mentality which continued in the following centuries, from Ireland to the Caucasus. This precedence lends studies on monasticism special importance, and means that without learning about the history of Egyptian monks it is impossible to understand the development of Christianity. That's why Prof. Wipszycka's works have become part of the most important research on the history of the Church.

The professor spent many years studying the history of the monks, visiting the sites of the monasteries and hermitages described in the monograph, studying all kinds of sources, including numerous documents, letters, works of literature. Thanks to her research, we can learn about the lives of monks from different parts, find out that they came from all classes, that they could read and write, led a life of prayer and frequent and strict fasting, were efficient administrators of their estates, that they also noticed some of the charms of worldly life, as testified by the walls of their cells decorated with beautiful, colourful murals, and finally that their social authority was unparalleled.

According to Prof. Wipszycka, Western civilization owes to the Egyptian monks its in-depth reflection on the self and the interior of the human soul, delving deeper than ever happened in ancient civilization. In this sense, to some extent we are all their heirs, and thanks to the professor's meticulous research we can learn about the world of these people in more detail than ever before.

Sławomir Zagórski

Polish Scientists Track the Secrets of Nature

A quantum description of nature was like the inscription on the famous Rosetta Stone. The writing in abstract mathematical language said that from now on there was no deterministic relation between the past and the future. "This curious inscription had always fascinated me. I was convinced many 'verses' were still waiting to be read", says Prof. Ryszard Horodecki, one of three Polish scientists to receive research funding from the ERC Advanced Grants. This is money awarded for ground-breaking research projects carried out by outstanding scientists. There was good reason for it to be provided to the winner of the FNP Prize from 2008.
Support from the FNP was the start of the road to European grants for two young researchers whose work involves deciphering the secrets of nature and culture. Andrzej Dziembowski, PhD, decodes "verses" recorded in the genetic code. Justyna Olko, PhD, learned and now teaches the language of the Nahua Indians. In 2012 the European Research Council supported their research with the ERC Starting Grants of which there are just ten in Poland.

PHENOMENA OF NATURE IN THE SERVICE OF CRYPTOGRAPHY

The quantum, almost universal description of nature was discovered in the 1930s and annihilated the concept that allowed the motion of objects in the universe to be predicted with certainty. As **Prof. Ryszard Horodecki** explains, quantum inscription is an instruction – a set of rules defining the means of probabilistic prediction of the results of future measurements in laboratories. Since that time, for over 70 years scientists have been trying to decipher this inscription, just like Jean-François Champolion, the French linguist and archaeologist deciphered the text from the Rosetta Stone. The discovery of this relic of ancient Egyptian writing was a breakthrough on the way to decoding hieroglyphs.

It was discovered in the 1980s that inscription provides for the existence of quantum information which has an amazing property: it cannot be cloned. Meanwhile, our entire civilization starting from Gutenberg is based on copying (cloning) of information. Paradoxically, Charles H. Bennett and Gilles Brassard turned this "ban" on copying quantum information into a commercial success when they discovered the famous information encoding protocol that precluded eavesdropping and gave rise to quantum cryptography.

But quantum inscription provides for an even stranger phenomenon: the existence of entanglement, or correlations between very distant particles. Even if two entangled photons were to fly to different galaxies, they would always be correlated with each other. If someone caught such a photon in one galaxy and measured its polarization, while another observer measured the polarization in the other galaxy, each of them separately would observe complete chaos. However, if they met and showed each other their observations, the polarizations of the twin photons would turn out to be fully correlated. This means that if one partner has horizontal polarization (0), the other has the same polarization (0). It is the same for vertical polarization (1). The key issue is that the values are created in the measuring process and do not come from the source, as they would, for example, if a piece of paper was ripped in two and the pieces later fitted together. As a result of a series of successive measurements on entangled photons, the partners receive correlated random strings of zeroes and ones which no one else knows. This is nothing else than a secure cryptographic key based on entanglement discovered by Artur Ekert, as Prof. Horodecki points out.

> ***There would be no ERC grant in Gdańsk if it weren't for kind people, an excellent team, the FNP statuette and the obligation it implies, and my outstanding colleagues who encouraged me to submit an application.***

Thus, it turns out that on a deeper level, nature possesses exotic resources such as, for example, quantum information and quantum entanglement. They enable performance of tasks (in this case, cryptographic ones) which would be impossible to perform using standard resources.

The achievements of Prof. Horodecki and his team include discovering "entanglement witnesses" – an extremely economical method for detecting entanglement. Sometimes just a single measurement is enough for physicists to know whether they have managed to produce this valuable resource. This practical method, still being developed and improved, rapidly made its way to laboratories all over the world.

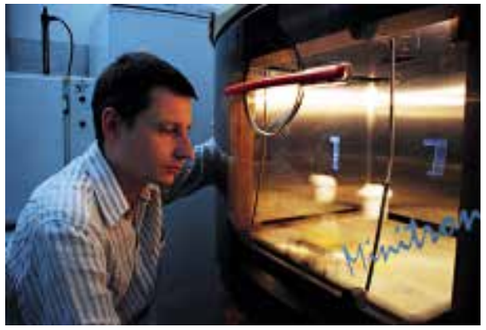
There is another discovery that amazed physicists. Quantum entanglement, like any resource such as iron ore for example, is not perfectly pure, in the sense that random strings obtained at laboratories that are far apart are not perfectly correlated. Nature introduces noise and errors occur. To overcome this problem, Charles H. Bennett and his associates came up with a kind of machine for distilling entanglement. The team from Gdańsk have shown that this machine is not universal. Researchers from Prof. Horodecki's team have proved that there exists a "bound entanglement" which cannot be distilled. It is always trapped in noise as if in a black hole.

"I was certain the secret wrested from quantum inscription in 1998 would be confirmed experimentally sooner or later", the winner of the FNP Prize says. "This left the issue of developing quantum technologies. It took a long time. Between 2010 and 2012, centres in Stockholm, Innsbruck, Waterloo (Canada), Dortmund, Hannover and Tokyo reported they had produced bound entanglement in the laboratory".

He also mentions an event that was widely commented in the Polish and international press. Quantum entanglement is likewise responsible for the phenomenon of negative information, in whose discovery the team from Gdańsk also played a part. It was proved for the first time that, paradoxically, negative information means additional impulses for quantum communication, so negativity implies excess and not deficit.

"These achievements were important for obtaining the ERC Advanced Grant", Horodecki says, "in which, next to strong centres from Poland, world-class experimental centres from Munich and Stockholm are taking part. Thanks to the grant, worth almost 2 million euros, we were able to put together an excellent team (including some unusually talented young enthusiasts) who now face some ambitious challenges, such as investigating the limits of the applicability of quantum inscription in information processing processes. There would be no ERC grant in Gdańsk if it weren't for kind people, an excellent team, the FNP statuette and the obligation it implies, and my outstanding colleagues who encouraged me to submit an application".

In the professor's case, the FNP Prize was a mark of recognition for the significance of the results of 15 years of hard but fascinating work. The ERC grant he later obtained also has a very different standing than grants which support young researchers only just starting their projects. Even at an early stage of research work, however, scientists mention teamwork as a key to success. PhDs Andrzej Dziembowski and Justyna Olko organized their teams thanks to stipends from the Foundation. Now they can tackle bold projects which obtain European funding.



Andrzej Dziembowski, PhD.

NEW LEVEL OF CELL PROTEIN SYNTHESIS REGULATION

Information about how the body functions is recorded in the genome built of DNA in the form of genes, which are mostly encoded by proteins. The genes present in the cell nucleus are transcribed onto information molecules called messenger RNA (mRNA) which is transported to the cytoplasm, where protein synthesis takes place on the mRNA matrix in the process of translation.

As **Andrzej Dziembowski, PhD**, explains, proper regulation of the production of individual proteins, or gene expression, is a key aspect of the functioning of cells. They can maintain an equilibrium between basic biological parameters, differentiation and adaptation to changing environmental conditions. Protein synthesis regulation takes place on many levels, but one of the most interesting is controlling mRNA transport, stability, and translation.

Messenger RNA can be modified chemically at its ends. Noncanonical poly(A) and poly(U) polymerases are enzymes which modify the ends of RNA molecules by adding on poly(A) or poly(U) nucleotide chains which are not coded in the genome. The latest research conducted by Dziembowski's team has shown that the human genome includes as many as 11 such enzymes. The research project aims to provide an understanding of their role in gene expression regulation.

"The project we are carrying out under the ERC grant has learning value above all", says the project's author. "One of the enzymes we are analysing is often mutated in patients with a blood cancer called multiple myeloma. Our research could contribute to understanding the basis of this as yet incurable cancer", he hopes.

Thanks to the ERC grant worth 1.5 million euros, Dziembowski will be able to hire five researchers and have enough funds to buy the costly reagents and laboratory equipment he needs.

JUSTYNA OLKO, PhD.

ANDRZEJ DZIEMBOWSKI: THE PATH TO AN ERC GRANT OFTEN STARTS WITH THE FNP

Many other teams all over the world conduct research on RNA metabolism that is similar to the work of Dziembowski. However, it was the Polish team who proposed some new research approaches to analysing noncanonical poly(A) and poly(U) polymerases.

“Among other things, we discovered a new family of poly(A) polymerases and are working on developing new methods for studying RNA molecule modifications”, says the recipient of the ERC Starting Grant.

The Foundation has been supporting Andrzej Dziembowski’s work for many years. As a PhD student he obtained a stipend in the START programme, then a stipend from the KOLUMB programme enabled him to go on a post-doctoral fellowship to France, a visit that was extremely important for his development as a scientist. After returning to Poland he obtained funding from the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) and the EU’s 6th Framework Programme as well as the FNP’s supporting grant for beneficiaries of the KOLUMB programme. He was able to strengthen his own research team thanks to money from the TEAM programme. Today Dziembowski’s group has more than 20 members and is developing new research topics.

Dziembowski says that thanks to funding from the FNP he was able to conduct research which led to significant discoveries which were published in leading scientific journals, which in turn made obtaining new grants easier. His recipe for success is to have the courage to take on new research problems and pose questions that do not follow directly from what has been done before.

“I think that without the TEAM grant it would have been difficult for me to get the ERC grant. Building a large enough research team enabled me to undertake innovative research that was further away from my original interests. The preliminary results became the basis for obtaining European funding”, he confirms. The grant will be implemented until the end of 2017 at the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

NAHUATL – A MEANS OF NURTURING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

The Nahuatl language, popularly referred to as Aztec, played an extremely important political and cultural role in pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica. To this day, it is one of the most important native languages of the Americas, with over 1 million people still using it. In Poland it is taught by **Justyna Olko, PhD**, the only Polish researcher to obtain an ERC Starting Grant in the humanities (though we also have a recipient of this grant in the social sciences: in 2009 another Polish researcher, Natalia Letki, PhD, from the University of Warsaw, was a beneficiary). Under her leadership, scientists from Poland, Spain, Mexico and the United States plan to investigate and reconstruct cultural transmission between Europe and America from the 16th century, through colonial times, to the present day. The main object of their quest will be changes occurring in the living language and culture of the Nahua Indians, but also in the Spanish language and Ibero-American culture developing in the New World.

> ***His recipe for success is to have the courage to take on new research problems and pose questions that do not follow directly from what has been done before.***

As Justyna Olko emphasizes, contemporary Indian cultures are a continuation of early cultures. However, this fact is widely negated in present-day Mexico and contemporary Nahua Indians feel no sense of connection with the past. The lack of a strongly rooted historical identity makes it harder for them to respect their own language and culture. This makes the Nahua an easy target of discrimination. For the past few decades the Mexican education system has punished students in many different ways for speaking their own language. This policy marked by racism makes parents speak Spanish to their children. There is no space for pride in one’s own identity, and education and language policies have applied forms of discrimination often similar to those suffered by Roma, Kashubian or Vilamovian communities after World War II.

“In studying the forms of contact and transmission between Europeans and the inhabitants of America and understanding the legacy that the Nahua have left, it is essential to combine disciplines: ethnohistory, contact linguistics, ethnolinguistics, anthropology, philology”, says Justyna Olko. “The key to understanding these processes also lies in a wider perspective, i.e. not restricting oneself to the past but using the knowledge on the culture which has survived. We collaborate not only with European scholars but also do our best to get native students involved in our work; we try to help them become independent researchers, though not by abandoning their own identity but by using the right research tools and perspectives”.

Due to its role and importance, the Nahuatl language can be compared to a “Latin of the New World”. Olko studies history from the point of view of the natives, based on a huge corpus of Indian sources written in Nahuatl between the 16th and 19th centuries. At the same time, the team she leads and their research partners in Mexico want to combine research with activities aimed at revitalizing the Nahuatl language and also – in collaboration with Polish researchers – endangered languages in

Poland. This has resulted in the idea to develop a model of revitalization together, which could then be used for the Vilamovian and Lemko languages, among others.

"In a global world we cannot all yield to homogenization and shift to English", she continues. "Defending and strengthening cultural diversity is extremely important for the integral development of culture and society, for coexistence, communication, overcoming barriers between different groups. This is not about everyone suddenly starting to learn dying languages, but about awakening respect for otherness and striving to preserve the diversity that comes from multiculturalism. It's worth realizing that research related to a specific culture and language can be important and very useful for the local community, for strengthening their identity, creativity, and for defending their culture in a global world. Taking this knowledge outside the university walls is very important", emphasizes Olko, who popularized her earlier research on the cultures of Mesoamerica in the book *Meksyk przed konkwistą* [Mexico before the Spanish Conquest].

The classes Olko has been teaching for over 12 years are attended by students from across the University of Warsaw, not just students of language studies, anthropology, history or American studies, but also students of science courses. At present the beginner group comprises as many as 35 people – probably the largest regular group learning Nahuatl in the world, including Mexico. The teacher herself says this interest proves there is a willingness to open up to cultural diversity. After all, it is curiosity and the desire to get to know non-European cultures that has determined the history and culture of Europe, as she reminds us.

JUSTYNA OLKO: WITHOUT THE FNP GRANT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO ERC GRANT

In 2009 the Foundation for Polish Science provided support to a project which overstepped disciplinary boundaries and offered a broader look at the process of intercultural contact. Its author is an archaeologist and historian by education, but she proposed a blend of ethnohistorical knowledge and cultural studies with linguistic studies. The project designed at the time was later expanded and improved. Thanks to this, two years later the ERC panel was also able to award support to research bordering on linguistics that was to be carried out by someone who was not a linguist and was attempting to set up an interdisciplinary team with different competences.

PROF. RYSZARD HORODECKI IN CLASS, NEXT TO HIM IS PhD STUDENT ŁUKASZ PANKOWSKI.

"In the humanities, grants in the traditional system of financing focus chiefly on individual research work", says Olko. "Even if archaeological or historical research is carried out by different people, this is often the original project of just one researcher. In 2009 the FNP made a call for applications in the FOCUS programme which supports the formation of teams in the humanities. I'm deeply convinced that there would have been no ERC grant if it hadn't been for the FOCUS programme. To me, this is a logical continuation".

> ***I would like my research not only to bring changes to scientific knowledge but also to stimulate the community and overcome barriers to scientific cooperation within that community.***

A budget of 100,000 zlotys per year for three years allowed her to set up a six-person team in Poland. The researchers included people she had educated herself, teaching them Nahuatl and methodology. The money couldn't be used to finance international collaborators, but it enabled the project to be presented at leading centres around the world and helped develop international cooperation. Olko received inquiries from researchers in the United States, Spain, Mexico – this enabled her to select the group that will now spread its wings thanks to the ERC's financial support.

What recipe does the Polish expert on Nahuatl have for obtaining European funding? As she says, preparing an application in itself helps formulate the vision of a project, and if this vision is very good, sooner or later it will become possible to fulfil. You need confidence, enthusiasm, passion, and a convincingly outlined vision of your research as well as a financial plan and experience in team and project management, because running a scientific project is a little like the work of a manager in a corporation.

"You have to devote quite a lot of time to organization and administration matters", Olko remarks. "If anyone thinks this isn't part of a scholar's job description, they could of course spend their entire professional life in the silence of their own study, presenting the results of individual work at conferences and in publications. However, I would like my research not only to bring changes to scientific knowledge but also to stimulate the community and overcome barriers to scientific cooperation within that community".

The FNP's support included an extra subsidy to set up a laboratory, helping build a base for many more years of research. A wing in the building of the University of Warsaw's Faculty of "Artes Liberales" was renovated, work stations were equipped with hardware and software for working with source materials and databases, and lots of publications were added to the library. The Meetings between the Old and the New Worlds Laboratory was connected with a seminar and lecture room.

The Foundation offers a very flexible model of financing which enables the money to be spent effectively, for example to cover stipends for young people. Olko's team received money not only for stipends but also for going on research trips, organizing meetings, conducting archival research in Mexico, the United States, and Spain. This enabled them to build the foundations of a European project. Analysing intercultural transmission from the Europeans' arrival in America to the present day, including systematic research on linguistic and cultural change in a few of the most important Nahua regions over several centuries, is an undertaking no one has tried before. The ERC grant, as a continuation of the research financed under the FOCUS programme, gives Olko 1.3 million euros to develop her project.

NO ESCAPE FROM STATISTICS

Should we complain that only three Poles have ERC grants for advanced research, and only 10 received grants for starting projects?

Prof. Ryszard Horodecki thinks that for a nation of 38 million, three "advanced" ERC grants compared to 344 in the UK, 201 in Germany, 178 in France, and a draw with Cyprus low on the list of 21 countries, is a very uncomfortable result for Polish science. It's hard not to correlate it with a graph showing the percentage of GDP spent on science in different countries, where we come almost last (0.39% in 2012). These statistics provoke deeper reflection on the condition of science which is a part of culture.

Does this figure result from the fact that Polish researchers don't receive good proposals, or do they have problems with the formalities perhaps? It's true that in Poland, preparing the formal part of the application for an ERC grant is the leader's responsibility. As Prof. Horodecki observes, in the West it is the task of a specialist unit which is constantly in touch with Brussels about administrative and financial issues related to projects. This allows the leader to concentrate on preparing the optimal version of the merit part of the application.

He does remark, though, that the problem is very complex, and adds that science and education have undergone reforms many times in Poland over the past 20 years. A cascade of sometimes contradictory regulations hinders the development of science; for example, the law on public procurement contradicts the criterion of economy and in addition slows down the completion of research tasks. In these conditions, how can you build a hard core of competitive Polish research professionals? How can you solve the dilemma of being required to combine high quality of research with high quality of teaching?

"My belief is that only long-term optimal system solutions can cut through this Gordian knot", says Horodecki. "This is nothing new in history. For example, seeing that the Sorbonne was absorbing the cream of young English intellectuals, King Edward II established Oxford – a rival university which has since been among the top 10 on the world ranking list without interruption. Despite arguing, plotting, political fighting, Edward II's successors consistently continued his policy. These were the conditions in which Cambridge's future genius loci developed – a breeding ground for Nobel Prize winners".

The physicist gives another example, this time from more recent history. In North Carolina in the 1950s, three universities united around one goal: to establish the Research Triangle Park that would attract business to science. This is a trend fashionable in Poland today as it follows the example of world leaders. However, 20 years passed from the inception of the RTP to the first successes... The temptation to apply simplification emerges: here we have a recipe for how to invigorate science. Nothing could be more wrong, Prof. Horodecki believes. Science is not an assembly line but the product of a free mind which "blows where it will" and, as history has proved, this is its strength. That's why next to initiatives similar to the RTP, we should be backing strong units working on fundamental research.

In his opinion, the formation of an autonomous institution – the Foundation for Polish Science – was an incredible event. It was proof of the extraordinary astuteness and far-sightedness of the initiators and founders. He also thinks the establishment of the National Science Centre (NCN) a few years ago was a step in the right direction. He cites the example of the Sonata Bis programme (the NCN's competition for research projects aiming to set up a new research team), which could be a good springboard to the ERC Ideas grants if the funding to build a team were increased. Even the best idea for a Nobel Prize cannot leave the mind without the support of a large and strong team.

"A long-term science policy would require consistent building of social capital, in particular the risk of investing in science, and most of all rebuilding confidence in the huge possibilities of the intellectual potential in Poland", says the professor. "It's worth remembering some always relevant Roman maxims: *primum non nocere* [first, do no harm] and *vivere, deinde philosophari* [live first, then philosophize], because in the end the present is history in new costumes", he sums up.

Karolina Olszewska
Polish Press Agency (PAP)

A Good Beginning

For its beneficiaries, the TEAM programme was like getting wings, or like a strong puff of wind in the wings of those who already had them. In the years 2008-2012, having defeated their numerous rivals, 73 people were given the opportunity to set up their own research teams.

TEAM opened the door to science chiefly to young researchers. They included those whose skills – e.g. research project design and planning as well as team management – were appreciated enough despite their young age for them to be given several million zlotys to set up a research group of their own (among the beneficiaries, as many as 24 were under forty when they received the subsidy). They also included PhD students and young PhDs – next to funding that could be spent on research apparatus, materials for research, literature or attending scientific conferences, the TEAM programme provided money for stipends and jobs. The salary was enough for an adequate standard of living – good enough to enable the young people to devote themselves exclusively to research without being forced to take on extra work, and also creating conditions for them to start and support a family.

This was a novelty in 2008 – a programme which financed strictly scientific work but also accepted the fact that good research was equally the result of very well equipped laboratories and international contacts as it was of having employees who were paid according to their qualifications.

"If a leader received 2.5 million zlotys on average for a project lasting a few years, half that sum was assigned for hiring people", points out Michał Pietras, director of the Foundation for Polish Science's programme division, who supervises the launch of programmes financed from EU funds (the TEAM programme takes advantage of funds from the European Regional Development Fund, provided under the Innovative Economy Operational Programme), and lists as follows: "The [monthly] stipend for a young PhD – 5,000 zlotys net, for a PhD student – 3,500 zlotys net, the team leader's salary – negotiated individually. These amounts were calculated in 2007-2008, so they would certainly have to be raised now, but in the reality of a few years ago, when universities were able to pay stipends of 1,000 zlotys, for example, or had no money at all for a stipend fund for young scientists, this proposal was more than attractive".

The team of Prof. Wiesław Gruszecki (first from right).

The money enabled the leaders to hold qualifying competitions for young scientists and then to choose the best people.

TOUGH CALL

Just as the young scientists had to cope with their numerous competition, their superiors had to prove that their project deserved special recognition. Each application was evaluated by at least three reviewers who were specialists from the given field; most of them were from foreign centres. The people whose applications passed this tough stage were invited to an interview with a group of scientists representing different scientific disciplines.

Beata Frączak, PhD, the TEAM programme's officer, took part in all the interviews: "Brilliant researchers spoke competently and passionately about the projects to which they planned to devote the next few years of their careers. For example, listening to Prof. Dorota A. Pawlak from the Institute of Electronic Materials Technology in Warsaw, who revealed the details of producing metamaterials with new electromagnetic properties that could find application in utilizing the cheap energy source that is sunlight, or Prof. Wojciech Młynarski from the Medical University of Łódź talking about the rarest form of diabetes, monogenic diabetes, and the national register of patients with this illness which would enable the optimal treatment to be chosen for them, I was convinced we were looking at scientists of the highest world standard".

Research result application was not all that the experts took into account before reaching their decision. Above all, they assessed a project's scientific value, its innovativeness. The experts also considered the candidates themselves very carefully, trying to judge whether their professional competence and personality would enable them to build an efficient research team that would obtain world-class results after a few years of working together. A multitude of questions were asked in order to help select those whose potential offered a chance of yielding good research. Who, then, are the people who set up their own teams in order to find answers to new questions? Let them speak on their own behalf.

CREATIVE YOUNG FERMENT

Prof. Wiesław Gruszecki, a biophysicist from Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, founder and head of a research team, can see just how big his team is during morning coffee every day and at "lab meetings". Every Friday afternoon the 18 people who make up the team (graduate students, PhD students, PhDs who recently obtained their degree) meet to discuss what they got done over the previous five days and to plan the coming week. Prof. Gruszecki listens and looks with a slight sense of disbelief that such things can happen: people share suggestions, show joy at someone else's results as if the achievement were their own, they seem to like one another...

The most important thing in science – and something the TEAM programme helps develop in people – is self–reliance: in thinking, asking questions, moving work forward.

Prof. Gruszecki: "I chose my associates very carefully, but the FNP's reputation also worked like the best possible magnet – I had many people to choose from. I treat my concern for my team like a task: I have to cement team ties, awaken – please excuse the old-fashioned notion – a sense of mission in these young people, because it would be a sin to waste such talent".

The team, set up thanks to a grant received in 2011 (project: *Molecular Spectroscopy for Biomedical Studies*), is still in the "swinging into action" stage, and even though they have some results to their credit, the team leader thinks the most important ones are still before them. Which doesn't mean there is nothing to speak about yet.

Prof. Gruszecki: "For example, we investigated the molecular organization of the polyene antibiotic amphotericin B, which is a life-saving drug used in treatment of acute systemic fungal infections. Among others, it is given to patients with acquired immune problems, such as AIDS patients or people after transplantation as part of their protective therapy. The drug's toxic side effects can be compared with the desirable pharmacological effects; they are serious enough to even cause a patient's death".

"That's why many laboratories around the world focus on developing a formula of the antibiotic with minimized side effects. To achieve this, you need to know the molecular mechanisms responsible for the antibiotic's undesirable toxicity. In our research using fluorescence spectroscopy, we discovered that in different media of biological significance amphotericin B molecules form very efficient dimers that spontaneously join to form tetrameric structures. In a lipid membrane medium this type of structure could play the role of transmembrane ionic channels disturbing physiological ion transport. At this point we are assuming that

the toxic effects of taking amphotericin B are related to this particular mechanism. What next? That depends on what I and my 18 associates manage to discover as the work continues".

The team leader has set a high standard. Observing the creative ferment in the group, however, he tentatively believes that this standard is probably within his young associates' capabilities.

*

Prof. Konrad Banaszek, a scientist from the Faculty of Physics of the University of Warsaw who has been implementing the project *Photonic Implementations of Quantum Enhanced Technologies*, emphasizes that he only participates directly in some of the work carried out by the three PhDs involved in his project (the whole team has nine members). What's more, he says he doesn't always understand all the details in the publications...

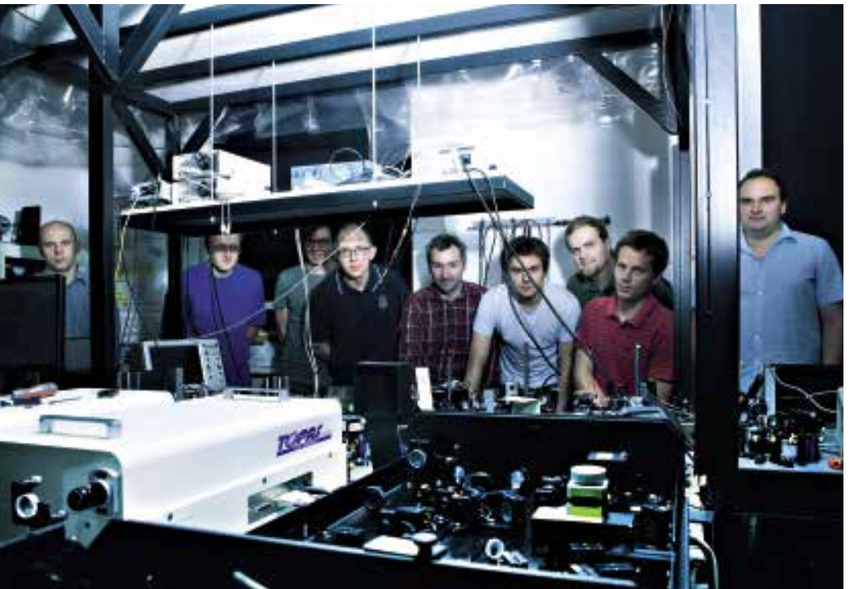
"That's how it should be", Prof. Banaszek insists. "I don't want to restrict their freedom, and that would happen if I tried to be involved in all the tasks and looked into every detail of the research problems that these young people are working on. That's no way to do things... The most important thing in science – and something the TEAM programme helps develop in people – is self-reliance: in thinking, asking questions, moving work forward. My task – especially in the case of PhDs who are meant to obtain their postdoctoral degree in the project – is to ensure the right conditions for achieving research independence".

At the core of the project lie quantum technologies, or using very subtle quantum phenomena for information gathering, processing and transmission in a broad sense. This implies the development of new research directions at the UW's Faculty of Physics: "Quantum optics has long been a speciality of our faculty, but this project enabled us to delve into new problems – ones that emerged in world science within the last few years. Right now there are two 'brightest spots' of the project".

"One of them is quantum metrology, or the question of how quantum phenomena can help us improve the precision of measuring length or time, which is of no small importance for the development of atomic clocks. Can improvement be achieved in realistic situations when we encounter noise and experimental imperfections? Seeking answers to these questions together with PhD students, Rafał Demkowicz-Dobrzański, one of the PhDs in the TEAM programme, obtained quite a few noteworthy results, yielding a series of interesting papers published in leading journals. The project has also resulted in a collaboration with Prof. Roman Schnabel from Hannover, who is involved in building a gravitational wave detector – it was Rafał who investigated whether and how far it was possible to improve this device's operation by using quantum technologies".

"The other bright spot of my project is the fact that my other postdoc, Wojciech Wasilewski, built a laboratory from scratch. Following a visit to the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, he focused on the engineering of quantum states in atomic gas vapour. This is a completely new direction in experimental research which could become a focus of interest for us thanks to the fact that my project received substantial support in the TEAM programme".

The first postdoctoral degree in the team is due to be completed in the coming months, a second one is already on the horizon. The maturing of the young generation is plain for all to see... Prof. Banaszek makes no secret of the fact that the TEAM programme is also helping him cope with much more mundane challenges: new apparatus has been purchased, attending conferences and pursuing international cooperation is no longer a problem, not to mention the decent stipend amount for young associates enabling them to concentrate their strength and talent solely on research. It's one of those small comforts: they can buy materials for the laboratory without nervously calculating in their



PROF. KONRAD BANASZEK (FOURTH FROM LEFT) WITH HIS TEAM.

heads whether they will then be able to take part in a conference where they could show the world what their laboratory work has enabled them to discover and understand.

WITH FEELING AND MATHEMATICAL PRECISION

The associates of the Medical University of Gdańsk's Prof. Krzysztof Narkiewicz who make up his team include four researchers from France and the United States. This is one of the conditions for receiving funding in the programme: recruiting people for their project, team leaders have to make sure to promote their competition internationally, thus opening the door to young researchers from other countries. This team also collaborates with one of the best centres in the field, based in Paris, and with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. What other way is there, besides personal contacts, to show – both to Polish scientists and to those who come from other countries to Polish research units – that good research can be conducted in any country, and that adequate funding and a properly equipped laboratory will not fulfil anybody's aspirations if it doesn't find its way to people whose ideas and skills will enable it to be fully utilized.

In Prof. Narkiewicz's case, five "official" stipend recipients – three of them at the start of their scientific career, two researchers already holding PhDs – are working together with a dozen or so people involved in the project who are at different stages of their careers. To the most experienced, the TEAM programme offers systematic development; for "debuting" researchers this is a formative period – carrying out their first independent research but also finding out what living with science is like. For three people in this project, which began in 2008 and whose topics include cardiovascular diseases and treatment of hypertension, taking part in the TEAM work was key for writing their postdoctoral dissertations, i.e. achieving research independence.

If science were only about the possibility of putting its achievements to use, Prof. Narkiewicz's team would have more than met this need – it is working on one of the most serious lifestyle diseases. "In the TEAM programme, we tested a group of patients in the acute stage of cerebral stroke and showed that the future outcome for them – getting better or worse – depended both on the stiffness of their blood vessels and on disorders of autonomic circulatory system regulation. In people struggling with arterial hypertension we documented a correlation between carotid artery flexibility and the level of sympathetic system activation. In a group of patients with obstructive sleep apnoea, on the other hand, we showed that treating breathing disorders serves to improve the function of both the heart and blood vessels. This research wouldn't have been possible without the advanced equipment for assessing blood vessel function which was purchased from funds received in the TEAM programme, enabling us to test patients at high cardiovascular risk".

"What we have achieved so far is quite a lot. Personally, I think these results are extremely important: learning about new mechanisms responsible for the development of circulatory diseases could contribute to better prevention and treatment in future. Is there anything more important than that?"

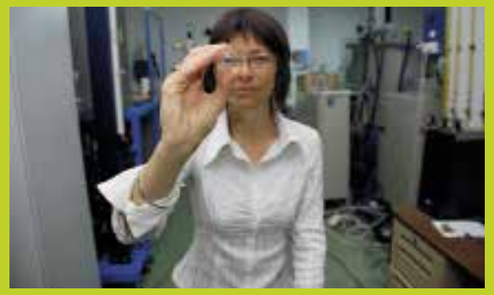
*

Just a year from the start of a project that received funding in the TEAM programme, Prof. Dorota A. Pawlak and her associates attended a small-scale conference on eutectic (or easily meltable) materials. Every member of her team spoke at this conference. The reports, presenting a new approach to materials, were instantly noticed. For example, in 2011 a NASA employee who had been to the conference, who later transferred to the U.S. Air Force Office for Scientific Research, announced the Multiuniversity Research Initiative competition for consortia of U.S. universities, the focus being the very topic that Prof. Pawlak's team had introduced into science.

THE TEAM OF PROF. KRZYSZTOF NARKIEWICZ (FIFTH FROM LEFT).

The FNP funding awarded in 2008 has been spent, but the team – with 10 members at present – still exists. Equally important is the fact that the team's composition changed over time but its work provided equally strong motivation to the unchanging core and to the people who joined the group for a specified time only.

Prof. Dorota A. Pawlak: "I was able to form a young, dynamic team eager to work. The effects were not long in coming".



Prof. Dorota A.Pawlak.

With mathematical precision, she lists some of them: the idea for and then the development of a technology for producing bulk nanoplasmonic materials (Nanoparticle Direct Doping) which enables materials with specific properties to be designed and made (thanks to added plasmonic nanoparticles of different chemical composition, specified shape, different sizes); demonstrating seven-fold photoluminescence enhancement for 1.5 micrometre wavelength – the wavelength utilized in fibre-optic cables; the first demonstration in the history of science of localized surface plasmon resonance in a eutectic material. Future research could well lead the scientists to results that will find application in industry...

The team's founder doesn't forget to mention the practical skills that her young associates had the opportunity to master: "Seminars often held in English, trips to foreign partners to carry out measurements, and presenting papers at conferences gave the young people international experience; it also allowed them to see how other people work".

She also highlights an issue that will probably be just as educational for the young scientists she has had in her care, namely taking part in strictly scientific work: "They have been given the opportunity to discover that a researcher isn't someone who works from eight till four, because science treated seriously is a passion that won't let you leave the laboratory after eight hours; that obtaining an exciting result or a material with unknown properties is a much greater pleasure than even the most sophisticated entertainment".

A TICKET TO SCIENCE

The 73 people who were guaranteed the right conditions for setting up their own research team might seem a narrow group of the select chosen – too small to achieve a qualitative change in Polish science. And, it needs adding, though the TEAM programme didn't restrict the leaders in terms of seeking funding from other sources (domestic as well as international grants) to extend the team's period of work, it didn't envisage any beneficiaries from the humanities and social sciences. The Innovative Economy Operational Programme financed from EU funds was designed exclusively as support for fields from the *bio, info, techno* category, i.e. experimental ones.

On the other hand, each of the supported projects had a sizable group of young people working on it, their "to be or not to be" in science depending on whether they received a stipend. Taking part in the TEAM programme was their ticket to science. It's only when you look at the entire undertaking from this perspective that you can see that 73 people being given the opportunity to build a research team is not insignificant at all.

Anna Mateja

Explorers of Unknown Lands

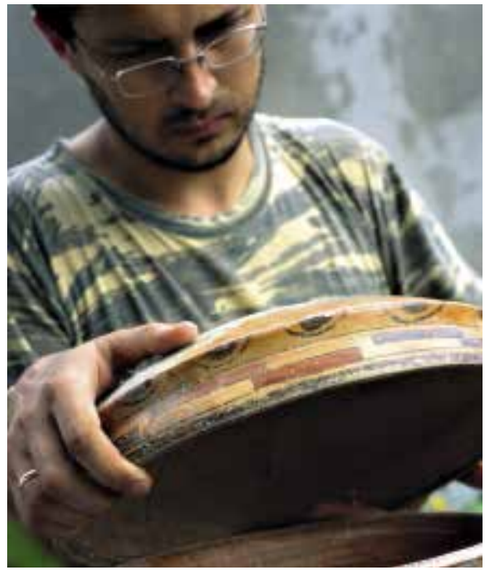
The postdoctoral outgoing fellowships programme, later given the name KOLUMB, was first offered by the Foundation for Polish Science in 1995. However, the first ideas for such a programme had been suggested earlier. Prof. Maciej Władysław Grabski, the FNP's president in 1992-2005, remarks that a similar programme was considered back in 1993. If we realize that the first FNP Prize was awarded in 1992 and the first domestic stipends (currently START) were distributed in 1993, the idea for KOLUMB was among the FNP's earliest plans. The programme continued to be offered by the Foundation for a very long time, all the way until 2012, for 18 years. Prof. Grabski emphasizes that back then, in the early 1990s, Poland had no outgoing fellowship programme and there was no way of obtaining such a stipend from domestic funds. At the time, the only means of financing a research visit abroad, for both young and mature scientists, was to obtain a foreign grant. "We quickly began looking into such possibilities in Poland and what they might involve. It took two years, and in the end we saw that there was no such thing, no one in Poland awarded stipends for foreign trips, particularly postdoctoral fellowships which are so popular around the world", says Prof. Grabski.

THE FIRST BRAVE ONES

The programme was ready in 1995. "And it turned out there weren't too many candidates", says Prof. Grabski. For two years, young scientists were barely aware of the programme. In the first year the Foundation managed to award just one fellowship. The beneficiary was Robert Owczarek, PhD, from the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Thanks to the FNP's stipend he could go on a one-year fellowship to the National Laboratory in Los Alamos in the United States to conduct research on the geometric quantization of topologically nontrivial vortices in superfluids and superconductors. He also became a Senior Fulbright Fellow in 1997. After his postdoctoral fellowship, which extended until 2000, he remained in Los Alamos.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

Why did you need to be "brave" to apply for a fellowship in those days? Prof. Grabski explains the atmosphere in Polish science at the time. The people who responded to the call for applications – acting upon the advice of their degree supervisors – indicated second-rate research centres as the locations of their fellowship. The only reason was that this was where their "patrons" had contacts. Few people were brave enough to list the best foreign research units, whereas this was exactly the Foundation's aim – to send young people to leading research centres in order to give them the best possible experience they would then bring back to Poland. And what about good applications that listed average research units? "We tried to persuade the applicants to change the location, guided by the idea that a visit to the best centres would give them the strongest chance to learn how to conduct research the modern way, in well-organized teams", Prof. Grabski explains. Unfortunately sometimes the applicants' ambitions got the better of them. Once an applicant "thrown in at the deep end" returned from his fellowship after two months. He couldn't take the pressure. It must have been stressful for everyone – for the Foundation because the project failed, but also for the beneficiary, who had been given excellent terms: a stipend in an amount corresponding to stipends at his place of stay, the option to take his family with him (there was a special allowance for this), the opportunity to make contact with the world's best scientists. Today young Polish PhDs



Jarosław Żrałka, PhD, with vessels discovered in one of the tombs in Nakum.

Prof. Piotr Tryjanowski.

work in completely different circumstances, much more similar to the West, and a situation like the above has not happened for many years.

FAMILY HISTORY

One person very happy about the possibility of taking his family with him on his postdoc fellowship in the KOLUMB programme was Prof. Piotr Tryjanowski from Poznań. He spent his first two months in the UK alone. "After that I came back to Poland for a moment and taking our car, packed to the roof, I set off for the UK with my wife and daughters. We lived in a house we rented, paying just the running costs, from a colleague from the institute who had gone away to do research in Sierra Leone. The kids went to school – they still reminisce about the tasteful uniforms – and my wife worked as a volunteer at the same school. The fellowship money was more than enough to live a normal life", he recalls.

Jarosław Źrałka, PhD, an archaeologist from Jagiellonian University, also greatly appreciates the fact that he could take his family with him. "The fellowship instalments were paid on time and enabled me to satisfy all our needs related to living abroad", he says.

Marcin Binkowski, PhD.

GATEWAY TO THE WORLD OF SCIENCE

Prof. Tryjanowski went to the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology in Cambridgeshire after his postdoctoral degree. "In this sense, the postdoc fellowship didn't have any great significance for my scientific career. It did, however, have huge significance for my development as a researcher", he says. He worked at a laboratory run by Prof. Timothy H. Sparks and consulted some of his purely ornithological research with Prof. Ian Newton. Both belong to the world's ecological elite. "Scientifically this was the most productive time in my life. The main object of the research was birds, and the process I studied was their response to climate change. I studied phenology, long-term seasonal changes, but I was also interested in things like the consequences of beginning reproduction too soon or too late. We tried to find out if and how we could combine field observations with theoretical analyses. It was most likely thanks to the large dose of theoretical issues that the work performed during the KOLUMB programme was so well received internationally", says Prof. Tryjanowski, who today is one of the most frequently cited Polish environmental biologists. His publications from the postdoc fellowship period are those which other researchers cite the most often. But this isn't what he considers the most important effect of his stay in Cambridge. "The most important thing was acquiring soft competencies: the spirit of cooperation in diverse teams, language skills, friendships that continue to this day. It's not without significance that my CV lists 'Monks Wood – Cambridge' [the research station in the Monks Wood nature reserve], which opens many doors in the science world. Then there's the still continuing collaboration with Tim Sparks", says the professor, who today is the director of the Institute of Zoology at the Poznań University of Life Sciences and a member of the Council of the National Centre of Research and Development.

DANCING TO KOLUMB

It was a completely different situation with Marcin Binkowski, PhD, from the Department of Biomedical Computer Systems at the University of Silesia, before he went on his KOLUMB fellowship. His START stipend had ended. "And I hadn't really completed it according to the Foundation's intention – I hadn't written a publication", he says. He could no longer stay on as an assistant lecturer. "I could see no prospects before me. KOLUMB was my last chance," Binkowski continues. He was persuaded to apply by the programme's officer, Krystyna Frąk. "I submitted my application without hoping I might get the grant. I wrote it as best as I knew how, because I knew exactly what I wanted to do. It was a direct consequence of what I hadn't done during the START programme", he says.

He was about to leave for a holiday in the United States. He was having lunch at a restaurant at Okęcie Airport before boarding the plane when his phone rang. He heard Krystyna Frąk's voice: "You've got your KOLUMB!" "I jumped up and started dancing around the table," he recalls. His life changed completely in an instant. At the time, Poland had no microtomography equipment for the quantitative tests Binkowski wanted to carry out. He found the right place in London – at the Institute of Orthopaedics & Musculoskeletal Science of the University College London. When he got there, however, it turned out no one was expecting him; the equipment was taken, no samples were available for studying. Someone suggested that there were many such devices in the area, he should make some calls. He grabbed the phone and was soon in touch with Graham Davis, the inventor of computer microtomography, and Allen Goodship, a leading specialist who used this technology for bone analysis. He was invited to elite workshops where world microtomography leaders debated on the future of their field. He felt right at home. But it was the same thing over again: he had no publications. However, the experience he gained during his one-year KOLUMB fellowship became the basis for writing a research project for which he obtained a grant from the Ministry of Science. "I was standing in the university car park when I learned I'd been given a grant for a microtomography scanner. I started dancing," he recalls. Today he has his own laboratory where nine PhD students work. He also has his dream microtomography scanner that is good for commercial applications. During his stay in the UK he thought over his ideas on interpreting the grey scale appearing on microtomography images and created a standard for its quantitative interpretation. The technology has been patented. This served as the basis for setting up a spin-off company whose profits will help maintain the research laboratory. He is also close to completing his postdoctoral dissertation.

MAYAN GRAFFITI

Jarosław Źrałka, PhD, from the Institute of Archaeology of Jagiellonian University, has been the leader of a dig in the ruins of an ancient Mayan city, Nakum in Guatemala, since 2006. Polish archaeologists working under his supervision have studied several sites and made some spectacular discoveries, including intact royal tombs, jade treasure, a stucco-decorated water conduit. The KOLUMB stipend enabled Źrałka to go to the United States. He stayed at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, working on pre-Columbian Mayan graffiti, a direct consequence of his research in Guatemala. "I had access to all the library resources I needed. In Poland we still have huge problems with access to publications about New World archaeology", he says. This year saw the publication of his book on Mayan graffiti. "Another extremely important thing I managed to do during the fellowship was preparing or completing a number of scientific papers which were published in high impact peer-reviewed journals", Źrałka says. Thanks to these publications, Jagiellonian University's archaeologist obtained a stipend from the Iuventus Plus programme of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education to continue his archaeological research in Guatemala.

Dorota Dworakowska, MD.

TREATMENTS HELPED BY KOLUMB

Dorota Dworakowska, MD, from the Department of Endocrinology and Internal Diseases of the Medical University of Gdańsk, was the FNP's beneficiary several times. In 2003 she received a stipend in the Domestic Cooperation programme. In 2006, now holding a postdoctoral degree, she obtained a KOLUMB outgoing fellowship. She chose Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry in London as the location due to the institution's prestige and the number of publications produced there. During her stay in the UK she studied disorders of cell cycle regulation and cancer cell apoptosis at early stages of oncogenesis. Her work focused on endocrine tumours, especially those of the pituitary gland. The research was translational (making findings of fundamental research useful in clinical practice) and could be used in future to improve the effects of treatment in patients with pituitary gland tumours. "I managed to make my life's dream of becoming a specialist in oncological endocrinology come true", Dworakowska says. She thinks it was thanks to KOLUMB that her research acquired an international dimension.

The fellowship gave her the opportunity to conduct research of a good international standard and enabled her to feel an equal of her fellow scientists working at a major centre. In 2012, thanks to the FNP's PARENT-BRIDGE programme from which she received 420,000 zlotys to continue her research, Dorota Dworakowska made a successful return to research work after her maternity leave.

OUTGOING FELLOWSHIPS – DOMESTIC EFFECTS

The KOLUMB programme overcame barriers. Initially it caused protests among older researchers, including the reviewers of the applications, who couldn't bear to see young PhDs (younger than 35) getting stipends of 2,000-3,000 euros per month as well as an allowance for being separated from their family or money enabling their family to stay with them. This last decision of the Foundation undoubtedly resulted from a survey among the PhDs, who said that writing a doctoral dissertation was a serious burden on their family life.

A total of 216 outgoing fellowships were awarded during the KOLUMB programme's 18 years. They lasted from six months to a year, and in individual cases it was also possible to obtain an extension of the fellowship beyond the planned duration. The Foundation also decided to offer some extra support to KOLUMB beneficiaries. A programme of support grants (of up to 40,000 zlotys) was launched, the aim being to enable the beneficiaries to make good use of the experience they had gained abroad upon their return. In later years they could also apply for support in the HOMING programme for Polish researchers returning to Poland from longer-term research visits in other countries. "The added value in the programme is primarily the fact that the beneficiaries return to Poland", says Tomasz Poprawka, deputy director of the FNP's programme division. "This is where they conduct important research and set up their research teams with the help of instruments such as the FOCUS and TEAM programmes. Almost 90 people who went on a fellowship in the KOLUMB programme received additional FNP grants. There are also 'Masters' [beneficiaries of the MISTRZ programme of academic grants for professors] among them", he adds.

The KOLUMB programme's beneficiaries are unusually well organized. They meet regularly at conferences. They formed the FNP Outgoing Fellows' Club which was later turned into an association that brings together the beneficiaries of all the Foundation's programmes and provides a platform for discussions among them. They carry on joint research projects. This is how Prof. Tryjanowski comments: "I joined the Fellows' Club soon after I returned from the UK. They are absolutely fantastic people, the great majority hold similar views about practising science to my own". In the face of the tragic death of their colleague Artur Rojszczak, who received an outgoing fellowship in 1997, the club's members initiated and still continue a competition for the Artur Rojszczak Prize for young scientists who, besides outstanding scientific achievements, display a humanist attitude, broad horizons, an ability to overcome barriers and overstep the boundaries of narrow scientific fields.

MINIMAL BUREAUCRACY, MAXIMUM BENEFITS

"An excellent programme. Minimal bureaucracy and a clear idea behind the foreign trips", says Prof. Tryjanowski. "I'm convinced that if we compared the publication results of KOLUMB beneficiaries and their peers who were not in the programme ... I am strangely sure of the result".

Marcin Binkowski: "If we compare the year 2007 [before he went on the KOLUMB fellowship] and 2009, it's like night and day. In 2007 I had nothing, while in 2009 I already had prospects for my own laboratory. KOLUMB was the watershed".

Dorota Dworakowska, MD, has words of praise for the stipend amount, the programme's flexibility, ease of accounting, and excellent communication with FNP staff.

Today the KOLUMB programme is history. The conditions of practising science in Poland have changed. This is how Tomasz Poprawka explains the programme's closing: "Today there are quite a few programmes in which you can do what we did in KOLUMB. The Ministry of Science has launched its Mobility Plus programme. Young scientists have the opportunity to travel abroad thanks to large grants, such as our TEAM programme, and also as part of international research projects or large projects of the National Science Centre. This means that the tasks we set ourselves with KOLUMB have been taken over by other institutions, and we can now start looking for our own niches, areas that have not been identified or are in need of improvement".

However, no other similar fellowship programme in existence today enjoys the prestige that KOLUMB did; its beneficiaries compared it to ... the Fulbright programme. No programme offers such great terms with so little bureaucracy. None has integrated its community of beneficiaries to the same extent.

Piotr Kieraciński
Forum Akademickie

The Search Continues

A manuscript from the former Berlin library studied by Piotr Tylus, PhD: a unique fragment of a French translation of Historia regum Britanniae (The History of the Kings of Britain) *by Geoffrey of Monmouth.*

2012 was the final year of the KWERENDA programme. During 10 years the Foundation for Polish Science awarded 210 grants for preliminary research at foreign libraries and archives. There were fewer beneficiaries than grants, because the Foundation allowed beneficiaries to apply more than once, with the reservation that this was possible every two years. The beneficiaries included people who received a grant for preliminary archive and library research twice or even three times.

The KWERENDA programme, which the Foundation first offered in 2002, arose in quite a natural way from the KOLUMB outgoing fellowship programme. After a few years of implementing the latter (which was called the outgoing fellowships for young PhDs as of 1995), it emerged that many of the scholars who wanted to apply were not really interested in establishing cooperation with foreign research units but rather in gathering materials at libraries and archives for their research. It was a short way from this observation to setting up a special grant for this purpose.

NO RESTRICTIONS

KWERENDA was one of the FNP's most open programmes in terms of rules and regulations. The Foundation set down no age restrictions. The programme was also open to all disciplines of learning. There were no guidelines as to the stage of research the grants were meant to support. Even more interesting, the Foundation didn't require a formal report on publications resulting from the preliminary research, though it did expect to be informed of such publications in the report from the beneficiary's trip. Neither were beneficiaries required to donate the materials they had gathered to public institutions and libraries. This meant beneficiaries could use the FNP's funds – no small amount – simply to gather materials they needed for their research, or even to expand their own research base, or for their own scientific development. Going to a foreign library or archive didn't have to be linked to a specific project which would end with a publication. KWERENDA's target group were Polish research workers employed at Polish research institutions. "At first we understood preliminary research in the broadest possible sense, as seeking out research-related literature and sources unavailable

Giacomo Briano's design of the Jesuit church in Przemyśl, a subject of study for Andrzej Betlej, PhD.

in Poland at foreign libraries and archives", explains Prof. Włodzimierz Bolecki, the FNP's deputy president.

The programme was not promoted in any special way. It was listed among the FNP's programmes and posted on the Foundation's website. The beneficiaries confirm this. Dariusz Rogut, a historian from the Piotrków branch of Jan Kochanowski University, says, "I found information about the KWERENDA program on the Foundation's website". Dariusz Libionka, PhD, from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Piotr Tylus, PhD, from Jagiellonian University say the same thing. Most of the beneficiaries discovered the programme in this way.

MYSTERIES OF MEDIAEVAL MANUSCRIPTS

Candidates who passed through the qualifying round and had their applications accepted were in a really comfortable situation. Piotr Tylus, PhD, a Jagiellonian University professor, is a specialist in Romance studies. He was a beneficiary of the programme's first edition in 2002. He used the grant to go to Paris where he studied the manuscript tradition of mediaeval French texts found among the manuscripts of the former Prussian Library in Berlin (a collection of approx. 3,500 priceless manuscripts, including original music scores by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, which ended up at the Jagiellonian Library after World War II). Tylus compared reproductions of these manuscripts with manuscripts containing the same texts housed in the libraries of Paris. In this case, KWERENDA supplemented a project financed by the German Research Association. Over the next 10 years, the Fibula group that Piotr Tylus heads conducted systematic research on the former Berlin library's collection, discovering previously unidentified items dating from the 12th to the 20th centuries. Historians all over the world waited for the results of this research with anticipation.

Piotr Tylus was a KWERENDA beneficiary three times. In 2006 the FNP enabled him to travel to Montreal and Paris. Canada was home to some mediaeval manuscripts, poorly inventoried at the time, which showed signs of the bookplates having been removed. How did they end up in Canada? Why had someone erased traces of their origin? The Montreal collection still hides many secrets.

In 2008 Piotr Tylus went to Paris again. And again, KWERENDA supplemented another grant, this time one financed by the Ministry of Science. He studied a mysterious 15th-century manuscript written in French, partially eaten by a rodent, containing a compilation of various legends and stories about St. Dominic together with text added by the author. "Thanks to the KWERENDA grant, I wrote my postdoctoral dissertation and prepared a book which was the basis for my receiving a professorship at Jagiellonian University", Tylus says. His research is proving to be a major contribution to our knowledge about what is still an incompletely studied segment of European cultural heritage, i.e. mediaeval manuscripts in national Romance languages.

WHAT LIES HIDDEN IN RUSSIAN ARCHIVES?

Dariusz Rogut, a recipient of the FNP's domestic outgoing fellowship, was a beneficiary of KWERENDA twice, in the programme's first edition and then in 2005. The grant for preliminary research enabled him to visit Russian and Lithuanian archives to gather material on the history of Polish people in Soviet camps after 1945. "Many researchers have studied the fate of Polish prisoners of Soviet camps in 1939-1941. On the other hand, we know very little about our compatriots, many of them soldiers of the Home Army (AK), who were sent there after 1945", he says. Accounts of those who had survived the camps began appearing in Poland, but there was no knowledge from the other side – Soviet documentation. This historian from Piotrków Trybunalski decided to fill in the gap and confront these two sources. With his first FNP grant in 2002, he went to do some preliminary research in Moscow. "The greatest number of documents on the Soviet camps operating in this period are found in the State Archive of the Russian Federation and the Russian State Military Archive", Rogut says. "Based on materials brought from Russia, I published a number of original papers and prepared a few presentations for conferences, both national and international", he adds. He says that if it weren't for KWERENDA, he wouldn't have been able to carry on research in the field he is so interested in. The grant money enabled him to live comfortably in Moscow, copy documents (very expensive at Moscow archives, even 1 euro per page), and with a little frugality – take additional trips to provincial archives where he found materials about more camps. In Veliky Novgorod he gathered documentation about the Borovichi camp for AK soldiers, one of the toughest camps of all. Now, several years after returning from his latest FNP grant, he is using this material to write his postdoctoral dissertation.

PROFILED RESEARCH

As of 2006, the programme became more specialized. The focus shifted to supporting searches for research-related sources in places uniquely holding certain resources of major importance for significant research. Prof. Bolecki explains that this was due, among other

things, to the development of remote access to libraries and literature. Today you don't have to go to America to get a book. That's why it was worth placing the emphasis on archival materials that were not readily available.

Changes in the programme were also influenced by the remarks of application reviewers, who noticed that many applicants treated the grant as an opportunity to go on a foreign trip. On the other hand, the KWERENDA programme attracted a lot of interest from the beginning. For one thing, this was visible in the number of applications. Over 100 were submitted after each call for applications, e.g. 127 a few years into the programme, in 2007. The number of beneficiaries was a completely different matter. In 2002, 31 grants were awarded, the greatest number in the programme's history. After that, the number gradually dropped. In the final three years of KWERENDA, a dozen or so grants were distributed each year.

POLISH-JEWISH STORIES

Dariusz Libionka, PhD, from Lublin, who works at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, studies the history of Polish Jews and the Holocaust. Thanks to KWERENDA, he went to London in 2004. "I was interested in the official position of the Polish government-in-exile on the Holocaust, on what was going on in Poland. I wanted to find out how the materials sent to London from occupied Poland were assessed, classified, and how they influenced the Polish government's policy and the activity of Polish diplomats", he says. The documents providing an insight into that official position were housed at two institutions in London: the Polish Underground Movement Archive and the Sikorski Institute Archive.

The materials he found during this preliminary research changed Dariusz Libionka's views on the subject. "It turned out that the government-in-exile had been much better informed about the situation of Jews in Poland than was widely believed. For example, they knew about the deportations from the Warsaw Ghetto", he says. The next surprise came from an analysis of documents from the Polish embassy at the Vatican. "I thought the Polish diplomatic service had informed the Holy See about the Holocaust. Meanwhile, it turned out that the Vatican had had much faster, church-based sources of information. I also found out that Polish diplomats had strongly pressured Pius XII in the face of his silence on the issue, as if ignoring the fact of the pope's statements about the crimes being committed in Poland". The archival materials brought from London became the basis for Libionka's postdoctoral dissertation, and he is now largely basing his professorship dissertation on them. "Without the documents I found thanks to the preliminary research grant from the FNP, I would have been unable to conduct proper research on the Holocaust and the Poles' attitude to this problem", Libionka insists. His research has shed completely new light on Polish-Jewish relations during World War II, on the activity of the Polish government in London in this area, and the activity of the Polish diplomatic service at the Vatican.

UNKNOWN EXPATRIATE POLES

Helena Krasowska, PhD, from the Institute of Slavic Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences recently received *Przegląd Wschodni*'s award for 2012 in the History of Poles in the East category, for her book *Mniejszość polska na południowo-wschodniej Ukrainie* [The Polish Minority in South-eastern Ukraine]. "The first two chapters of the book were based on the materials I gathered during visits to Ukraine financed from the KWERENDA programme", the author of the award-winning publication says. She was a beneficiary of the programme twice, in 2007 and 2010. She visited the part of Bukovina that lies in Ukraine and the districts of Donetsk and Zaporozhe. "I investigated how Polish people came to be there, their identity dilemmas, their knowledge of Polish, their perception of Poland", Krasowska says. She emphasizes that these regions hadn't been studied in this way before. She was interested in the legal status of the Polish minority, who are actually quite numerous, and in their social organizations. Poles in eastern Ukraine were scattered so it was difficult for them to preserve continuity of identity. The people of Polish descent there are only now discovering their roots. A new kind of Polish identity is emerging, transferred in ready-made form from Poland. Krasowska points out that the sense of national identity among Polish people in south-eastern Ukraine is much weaker than in Carpathian Bukovina where there is a continuity of tradition, language, culture, and memory. Her pioneering research provides an insight into the Polish community in regions where their existence is not widely known to the Poles. "It was an excellent programme", Krasowska says of KWERENDA. "Thanks to funds from the Foundation, I could devote myself easily and completely to my research, to archival searches, without worrying how to support myself and pay for my travels".

POLISH ARCHITECTURE IS EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE

Andrzej Betlej, PhD, an art historian from Jagiellonian University, has had a connection to the Foundation for Polish Science at least since 1997, when he received a stipend for young researchers. He was a beneficiary of the KOLUMB programme in 2001 and received a KWERENDA

A fragment of the only existing copy of a religious and didactic compilation – a manuscript studied by P. Tylus, PhD.

grant in 2005. Thanks to this, he could gather materials in Italy (Rome and Modena) and Ukraine (Kiev), including iconographic material, related to Jesuit architecture and architecture founded by aristocratic families in Poland's former eastern borderlands. His special interest is monastic architecture. At the Jesuit archive in Rome, he sought materials on the activity of the Jesuit architect Giacomo Briano. Briano left behind not only a great number of historical sites, including several churches he designed in former Polish territory (Łuck/Lutsk, Ostróg/Ostroh, Lwów/Lviv), but also designs of other buildings, something very rare. In Kiev, Andrzej Betlej was also interested in archival materials about the collections of aristocrats from the eastern borderlands: the Zamojski, Potocki, Dzieduszycki families. The materials on Briano gathered during this preliminary research formed the basis for the professorship dissertation he is currently working on. His research has contributed greatly to our knowledge on Polish heritage in the former eastern borderlands, especially as regards church architecture and its connection to Western European architecture, something the art historian from Kraków strongly emphasizes. Andrzej Betlej is currently the director of Jagiellonian University's Institute of Art History.

SOURCES NEVER LOSE VALUE

The testimony of beneficiaries says the most about the effects of the KWERENDA programme. It proves that materials gathered during such preliminary research are used with great success for years to come. Searches that ended many years ago are still yielding studies, discoveries, papers, books, career promotions. Why, then, has the programme been closed? "Several factors came into play", says Prof. Bolecki. "In recent years the Foundation decided to reduce the number of programmes. We had about twenty of them already, which led to dispersal of the Foundation's funds and operations. Before, we tried to respond to researchers' individual needs. Now we want to run just a few very distinct and broad programmes. The next reason: three new institutions sponsoring science were established in recent years – the National Centre for Research and Development, the National Science Centre, and the National Programme for the Development of Humanities. The latter two respond to the needs of the group that KWERENDA targeted. Foreign visits are ceasing to be a separate task, they are becoming a part of research projects".

In KWERENDA's 10 editions, the FNP financed 210 visits to libraries and archives. The biggest group among the programme's beneficiaries were humanities scholars: historians, art historians, and philologists. The greatest number of beneficiaries came from universities. Among these, the University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University were the most prominent. During this time, many of the beneficiaries pursued academic careers, obtaining new degrees and higher professional status. The most important effect is probably that the materials gathered during preliminary research financed by the FNP is still bringing creative results to Polish research. And that's probably the best reason to say that despite the programme having ended, the effects of KWERENDA continue.

Piotr Kieraciński
Forum Akademickie

A sample of the research material studied by Dariusz Rogut, PhD: a document from the investigation file on Ludwik Świda aka "Błysk", a soldier of the Home Army (AK) 3rd Vilnius Brigade who was a prisoner of the camp in Stalinogorsk.

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