FNP
Foundation
for Polish Science








ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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












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The programmes WELCOME, International PhD Projects (MPD), TEAM, VENTURES, PARENT-BRIDGE, and HOMING PLUS are co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund within the Innovative Economy Operational Programme.

INNOVATIVE ECONOMY
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY

FNP Foundation for Polish Science

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The SKILLS project is co-financed from the European Social Fund within the Human Capital Operational Programme.

HUMAN CAPITAL
NATIONAL COHESION STRATEGY

FNP Foundation for Polish Science

EUROPEAN UNION
EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

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 **408 million zlotys** to science by the end of 2011. The value of the Foundation's funds is currently more than 335 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 millions 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 2011, the Foundation had spent almost **148 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

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(Term of office from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2012)

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Prof. Andrzej Członkowski, PhD hab.
(medical sciences)

Deputy Chairman
Prof. Tomasz Jasiński, PhD hab.
(humanities)

Members:
Prof. Maciej W. Grabski, PhD hab. eng.
(technical sciences)
Prof. Andrzej Jerzmanowski, PhD hab.
(natural sciences)
Prof. Henryk Koroniak, PhD hab.
(exact sciences)
Prof. Irena E. Kotowska, PhD hab.
(social, economic, and legal sciences)
Prof. Marek Z. Świtoński, PhD hab.
(agricultural, environmental, and food sciences)

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

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FOUNDATION

President
Prof. Maciej Żylicz, PhD hab.

Deputy President
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Deputy President
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The Foundation's Council (from left): Professors T. Jasiński, I.E. Kotowska, H. Koroniak, A. Członkowski, M.W. Grabski, A. Jerzmanowski, M.Z. Świtoński.

THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE STAFF

status on 31 December 2011

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MAGDALENA ZUBEREK-WĄSIŃSKA
Deputy Director – Programme Division

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Małgorzata Świtalska-Bury

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Director – Division Implementing Programmes Financed from Structural Funds

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

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOUNDATION'S COUNCIL

Dear Readers,

Last year was very special. On the one hand the Foundation celebrated its 20th jubilee, and on the other it continued its regular activity, including the launch of new programmes. It was our special concern to make sure the global economic crisis did not significantly affect the FNP's financial condition, since funding for statutory activity is obtained largely from operations on the financial market. We diversified our investments by entering the corporate bond market as well as the global stock market. However, the high level of uncertainty regarding the development of the political and economic situation in some European countries makes the search for a "safe haven" extremely difficult and gives no guarantee of success. Therefore the Foundation faces the challenge of adjusting to a situation of substantial market fluctuation and lower rates of return than in the past.

I AM GLAD THAT THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITY, ITS STANDARDS AND SUCCESSFUL IDEAS FOR ITS PROGRAMMES, INSPIRES OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FINANCING SCIENCE AS WELL AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS TO FOLLOW IN ITS FOOTSTEPS.

This letter is very special to me. It is the last time I am writing to you as chairman of the FNP's Council. Therefore I would like to remind you of the major changes that will occur in the authorities of the Foundation in 2012. The present Council's term in office ends on 31 August 2012. In accordance with the Foundation's statute, members may sit on the Council for no more than two four-year terms. This means that three of the Council's current members are ending their work for the Foundation. To ensure the stability and continuity of the Council's work, we have worked out a system of membership changes that involves appointing the deputies of departing members to the Council as well as persons who have some experience from their first term.

The end of August marks the end of the second term on the Council of Prof. Maciej W. Grabski, the Foundation's long-time president whose contribution to making this organization what it is today certainly exceeds the modest framework of the present letter. The second term in office is also expiring for Prof. Tomasz Jasiński, the Council's deputy chairman, and for its chairman – myself. I am sure we will be replaced with excellent, experienced, new (though well-known) colleagues. The FNP's success is based first and foremost on people who are committed to working for the organization and collaborating harmoniously for its benefit and its development.

I would like to thank everyone to whom I owe the fact that these past eight years have been incomparable to anything else in my life; it was also an important part of the FNP's 20-year history. I consider it a special honour that I could work with Prof. Maciej W. Grabski. I would also like to extend my warmest thanks to the Foundation's Council in the composition that began its term in office on 1 September 2004, of which I was also a member: Professors Janina Jóźwiak (chair), Kazimierz Stępień (deputy chair), and Włodzimierz Bolecki, Jan Gawęcki, Władysław Torbicz, Maciej Żylicz as well as the Foundation's Executive Board of the time, in the persons of Prof. Maciej W. Grabski and deputy presidents Prof. Marian Grynberg and Tomasz Perkowski.

I am no less grateful to the colleagues with whom I had the honour and genuine pleasure of working during this passing term. I am glad that most of them will continue their work on the Council. I also wish to congratulate Prof. Maciej Żylicz on the effects of his seven-year work; he has been a worthy successor to Prof. Grabski in the office of president. I would like to thank everyone to whom the Foundation owes its successes: its founders, collaborators at all levels, reviewers, experts, and beneficiaries.

Ending my mission at the Foundation, I would like to share something with you: every year it has been a source of great joy for me to have the opportunity to read the scientific achievements and CVs of the START programme's beneficiaries – young scientists only just beginning their research careers but already boasting outstanding achievements. I think this is one of the Foundation's most important programmes, showing that we have successors we can be proud of, and that they have teachers and masters who wanted and knew how to help them.

I am glad that the Foundation's activity, its standards and successful ideas for its programmes, inspires other organizations financing science as well as private individuals to follow in its footsteps. For me personally, the possibility of working for the FNP has been and is a special honour.

With my best wishes to the Foundation for Polish Science, its Staff, Collaborators, and Friends,

Andrzej Członkowski

Warsaw, May 2012

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Readers,

The year 2011 was yet another year of stability in the Foundation for Polish Science's programme offer – after a period of change in 2006-2009, when we launched new programmes, first and foremost those financed from structural funds. Thus, this year we have continued the programmes from previous years, expanding the group of our beneficiaries by almost 550 people (you will find a list of their names included in the present Report).

One important event among our programme activities in 2011 was the launch of the SKILLS training project. The Foundation signed an agreement with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (the project is financed from the Human Capital Operational Programme) for its implementation in 2011-2015.

SKILLS, in its character, is a new kind of initiative for the Foundation, and the scope of its support supplements the already existing programme offer of the FNP with new proposals that complement the financial support we provide. This programme is addressed mainly to the Foundation's beneficiaries, the aim being to improve their competence in project and research team management, dissemination and popularisation of research results, and taking charge of their own scientific careers. I remember that in the times when I was setting up my first research team, I learned how to be a boss by trial and error, unfortunately sometimes at the expense of my associates. Today, issues such as managing a research team, solving conflicts, motivating people to work are not some secret knowledge and it is possible, with the help of specialists, to improve these skills. The first training course for young scientists that we held in 2011 confirms that this is a necessary initiative.

The year 2011 was also a dividing line in the implementation of two long-term programmes financed by the Foundation and organized by two other organizations: the stipend programme for foreign scientists willing to conduct their research in Poland (implemented by the Józef Mianowski Fund – Foundation for the Promotion of Science) and the programme of conference grants (implemented by the Warsaw Scientific Society). Both these projects ended in 2011. This was also the last year in which the Foundation financed serial publications as part of its publication projects (among other things, the collaboration with the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences on the publication of the Polish Biographical Dictionary has concluded; the dictionary is currently being financed under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education's National Programme for the Development of the Humanities). These actions are a consequence of the decision of the Board of the Foundation to systematically reduce the number of programmes until 2015, with the aim of consolidating the strategic support goals –cumulating spending to support a smaller number of programmes while expanding the offered range of stipends and grants within them, to make the support fuller and more effective. This strategy is compatible with the recommendations of experts obtained after an international evaluation of the FNP's activity in 2010 (the report from this evaluation is available on our website).

As regards other programmes, a few modifications have been made, including an additional competition for the beneficiaries of the START programme for the Barbara Skarga Stipend, through which we wish to honour her memory as the Foundation's donor, its friend, and also a great humanities scholar. Changes were also introduced in the FNP MONOGRAPHS and EXTERIUS programme regulations.

The year 2011 was exceptional mainly due to the Foundation's 20th Jubilee. On this occasion we heard many words in appreciation of the effects of our activity so far, and also wishes for the next 20 years to be just as successful for the Foundation. At this point I would like to thank, first of all, all those who remember about the Foundation and who work with us. The fact is, the Foundation does not exist without people. In a legal sense, it constitutes capital with legal personality. However, it is not defined by money but by its people – both those who work at the Foundation and those who collaborate with it by evaluating applications in our competitions, preparing opinions, taking part in review panels. Finally and most importantly,

the Foundation is defined by our beneficiaries from all the programmes that the FNP has implemented during those 20 years and is still implementing. Special words of thanks go to current and past members of the Foundation's Council and previous executive boards. Exceptional and special thanks for those 20 years and the Foundation's position in the scientific community are due to Prof. Maciej W. Grabski, my predecessor as President of the Board, and Prof. Marian Grynberg, his deputy until 2005. I would like to thank everyone in Poland and abroad who has supported us through these years with their knowledge, authority, and friendship.

I would like to emphasize one particularly important aspect of our activity. During those 20 years the Foundation was always guided by the principle of supporting the best so that they could become even better. Alexander Fleming, who discovered penicillin, once said *It is not the marble halls which make for intellectual grandeur – it is the spirit and brain of the worker*. The same idea motivates the Foundation for Polish Science. We were and still are convinced that providing effective assistance towards scientific success by an organization such as ours, does not mean financing consecutive huge investments, for that is the role of the government and increasingly also entrepreneurs, but that our mission should be to finance the people who create science. They need to be allowed freedom in their activities and then, utilizing their potential, creativity, knowledge, and innovation that are so typical of people who are the best, they will be able to achieve the best scientific results.

THE YEAR 2011 WAS EXCEPTIONAL MAINLY DUE TO THE FOUNDATION'S 20TH JUBILEE.

Twenty years of operation is a serious anniversary and the perfect time to ask about the effects of our activity, understood, however, not as a summary of numbers, since they are the easiest to calculate and present, but in terms of the influence on Polish science. We ask ourselves every day whether our support brings a qualitative effect and what this involves. It is hard to "price" it, because the amount of funding awarded by the Foundation is only a small percentage of what the best Polish researchers can obtain from budgetary sources, previously from the State Committee for Scientific Research and today from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the National Science Centre, or the National Centre for Research and Development. However, there is an unquestionable way of verifying it – by tracing the careers of the young researchers who, years ago at the beginning of their scientific paths, received the Foundation's support. Their further scientific development and subsequent achievements very often brought on more support from the Foundation at later stages of their careers. Hence, we can celebrate the first beneficiaries of the START programme (stipends for the youngest researchers) to receive the FNP Prize, considered Poland's highest scientific award. They are Prof. Tomasz Łuczak, a mathematician from the Adam Mickiewicz University (also a beneficiary of the MISTRZ programme) and Prof. Tomasz Guzik, a research physician from Jagiellonian University (also a beneficiary of the WELCOME programme). Other impressive examples: Prof. Jakub Gołąb from the Medical University of Warsaw, a cancer immunology researcher, is a former beneficiary of first the START programme and then the KOLUMB, MISTRZ and TEAM programmes. A similar path (START, MISTRZ, TEAM) is behind Prof. Karol Grela, a leading chemist from the Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw. His former students have established a spin-off company in Wrocław, which is also partly supported by the Foundation within the INNOVATOR programme. Prof. Robert Hołyst, the current director of the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences, was also a beneficiary of our START, MISTRZ and TEAM programmes. His former student, Prof. Piotr Garstecki who works at the same institute, completed a foreign fellowship at Harvard thanks to a KOLUMB stipend, returned to Poland under the POWROTY/HOMING programme, and recently became a beneficiary of the TEAM programme. Prof. Maciej Wojtkowski, a medical physicist from the Nicolaus Copernicus University, began with the START programme, obtained a POWROTY/HOMING grant when he was returning to Poland from a visit to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, finally won a prestigious EURYI grant in an international competition (which the FNP coordinated and financed in Poland), and recently also became a beneficiary of the TEAM programme. Anna Brożek, PhD hab. – a philosopher and pianist from the University of Warsaw, has been a beneficiary of the START, KOLUMB and HOMING PLUS programmes. Andrzej Dziembowski, PhD hab. – a molecular biologist from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw, is yet another beneficiary of the START, KOLUMB and TEAM programmes. Another example is Maciej Wiznerowicz, MD, PhD, from the Medical University of Poznań, who was awarded a START stipend and then many years later received a several-million grant in the WELCOME programme. Undoubtedly, we can also speak of international careers in the case of recipients of the Starting Grants for young researchers awarded by the European Research Council (ERC), to whom the FNP offers additional support through its IDEAS FOR POLAND grants. Such grants have already been awarded to the aforementioned Prof. Piotr Garstecki, sociologist Natalia Letki, PhD who returned from Oxford to Poland a few years ago and received a POWROTY/HOMING grant, astrophysicist Prof. Maciej Konacki from the Polish Academy of Sciences'

Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre who set up his research team and purchased his first telescope in the FOCUS programme, Prof. Stefan Dziembowski, a computer scientist from the University of Warsaw who also received a WELCOME grant, Prof. Mikołaj Bojańczyk, a mathematician from the University of Warsaw who was previously a beneficiary of the START programme, Prof. Janusz Bujnicki from the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology who was also a beneficiary of the START and TEAM programmes. Recipients of IDEAS FOR POLAND grants also include Piotr Sankowski, PhD hab., another mathematician from the University of Warsaw, and Marcin Nowotny, PhD hab., from the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (the scientific achievements of a few beneficiaries of the IDEAS FOR POLAND programme are described in the Appendix, p. 60). Interestingly, almost all of the Foundation's beneficiaries listed above have something in common: they began their scientific careers with a START stipend. Statistical analyses show that the average age at which the START programme's beneficiaries obtain their postdoctoral degree is 10 years lower than the statistical age at which postdoctoral degrees are obtained in Poland.

The other grant awarded by the ERC (Advanced Grant), targeted at experienced scientists, so far has been given to just three researchers who work in Poland: professors Andrzej Udalski, Tomasz Dietl, and Ryszard Horodecki. All of them are recipients of the FNP Prize. One of the FNP Prize winners from 2011- Prof. Maciej Lewenstein, about whom you can read in the present Report, is also a recipient of an ERC Advanced Grant, however, he is conducting his research in Barcelona. It gives me great pleasure each year to see names of FNP Prize winners on the unofficial international listing of the Nobel Prize candidates.

I could mention many more similar examples. I think this is the best confirmation that the concept underlying the range of programmes offered by the Foundation is right. Outstanding scientists who develop their talent and are successful can receive the Foundation's support at any stage of their careers. On the other hand, the fact that someone was a beneficiary of one of the FNP's programmes certainly does not mean we make allowances for him or her – taking part in a new competition, every candidate has to convince the reviewers that he or she is better than the other entrants.

Regardless of the jubilee, 2011 was spent on continuous implementation of our statutory goal – supporting the best scientists. It was special for one more reason: the Foundation's annual budget earmarked for its programme activity was the highest in the FNP's history, thanks to programmes financed from EU structural funds. In 2011 the Foundation transferred almost 79 million zlotys to the beneficiaries of these programmes, and 20.5 million zlotys to the beneficiaries of programmes financed from the FNP's own funds.

As every year, I would like to use this letter as an opportunity to thank everyone who donated 1% of their tax to increase the amount of stipends for the most outstanding beneficiaries of the START programme. By deciding that among the large group of socially important purposes to which they could offer their 1%, it was science and young talent that deserved their support the most, they enabled us to collect more than 42,000 zlotys in 2011. Every donation from private individuals is very important to us and confirms your confidence in what we do.

The year 2011 brought us a great deal of satisfaction, but we are not resting on our laurels. Kind words and praise obligate us to work hard for the good of the next 20 years. The Foundation faces a decision as to how it will continue to support scientists and build its programme policy in the coming years. The time of utilizing funds from the current programming period of EU structural funding is drawing to a close, and the time to redefine our activity in a new environment is beginning. The National Science Centre and the National Centre for Research and Development are already working steadily and expanding their offer with each year, increasing the possibilities of finding support for science. The Foundation is keen to retain its status of an organization that develops important but as yet undeveloped areas and steps in where institutional aid from other sources is not available. Therefore, there are still many challenges before us, which we will take on with enthusiasm.

Maciej Żylicz

Warsaw, May 2012

PROGRAMMES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

PROGRAMMES OF THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

In 2011 the Foundation implemented 17 programmes. Among these, 14 were financed from the FNP's own funds (including two that also received funding from European Union structural funds – the Foundation's funds were used for sciences from outside the *bio, techno, info* areas). Another five programmes were financed exclusively from the EU's Innovative Economy Operational Programme and Human Capital Operational Programme structural funds.
Detailed information about the competitions and their results in the individual programmes is provided further on in the Report.

In 2011 the Foundation spent a total of **103.3 million zlotys** on its programme activities.

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, thus opening up new research perspectives, contributing significantly to the advancement of civilization and culture in Poland, and ensuring our country a prominent place in world science.

The Foundation's Prize has been awarded since 1992. In 2011 the FNP Prizes were presented for the 20th time. The Prize money is **200,000 zlotys**.

Including the recipients from 2011, there are now 72 winners of the prize.

THE FNP PRIZE WINNERS FOR 2011:

IN THE FIELD OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Prof. **Tomasz Giaro**, PhD hab. from the Faculty of Law and Administration University of Warsaw *for an interdisciplinary analysis of the category of truth in the legal doctrines from antiquity to the present – opening new prospects for understanding of law as one of the foundations of European civilization*

IN THE FIELD OF LIFE SCIENCES

Prof. **Jan Potempa**, PhD hab. from the Biochemistry, Biophysics and Biotechnology Faculty Jagiellonian University and the Department of Oral Health and Rehabilitation at the University of Louisville Dental School (USA) *for the characterization of a new family of bacterial proteases and for demonstration of their role in the development of periodontal disease*

IN THE FIELD OF MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Prof. **Maciej Lewenstein**, PhD hab. from the Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (ICFO) and Institució Catalana de Recerca and Estudis Avançats in Barcelona *for achievements in the area of quantum optics and the physics of ultra-cold gases*

IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL AND MATERIAL SCIENCES

Prof. **Elżbieta Frąckowiak**, PhD hab. from the Faculty of Chemical Technology Poznan University of Technology *for research on new materials, carbon composites and their use for electrochemical energy storage and conversion*

01

02

FNP PRIZE AWARD CEREMONY

03

04

The official presentation of the FNP Prizes took place on 7 December 2011 at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The guests included representatives of the academic community, public and scientific institutions, and the media. Also present were representatives of the state authorities: Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz and Minister of Science and Higher Education Prof. Barbara Kudrycka who congratulated the winners.

05

01 The ceremony was hosted by journalist Sławomir Zagórski.
02 Prof. Jan Potempa receives his prize from Prof. Andrzej Członkowski, chairman of the FNP Council.
03 (from left) Bogdan Borusewicz, Speaker of the Polish Senate; Prof. Barbara Kudrycka, Minister of Science and Higher Education; Prof. Krzysztof Kurzydłowski, Director of the National Centre for Research and Development.
04 Concert by Krystyna Wiśniewska, holder of a scholarship from the Polish Children's Fund
05 Winners of the FNP Prize 2011.
06 Prof. Elżbieta Frąckowiak receives her prize.
07 Prof. Maciej Lewenstein with his family.
08 (from left) Prof. Maciej Żylicz, Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska (MP), Prof. Maciej W. Grabski.

06

07

08

The competition in 2011 was the first to be conducted according to the new procedure adopted in 2010 by the Foundation's Council which serves as the FNP Prize committee. Among other things, the scientific areas in which the prize is awarded have been redefined, and changes have been made to ensure greater confidentiality of the Foundation's work.

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 ongoing research. The subsidies are awarded in a closed competition, each year in one of four areas: life sciences, chemical and materials sciences, mathematical, physical and engineering sciences, and social sciences and the humanities.
There were 36 candidates in the competition ending in 2011, ultimately the Foundation awarded nine three-year subsidies of **300,000 zlotys** (100,000 zlotys per year).

BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPETITION ENDING IN 2011 (social sciences and the humanities)

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	INSTITUTION
Prof. **Ewa Domańska**, PhD hab.	*Rescue history*	Adam Mickiewicz University
Prof. **Leszek Koczanowicz**, PhD hab.	*Non-consensus democracy: dialogue and critical communion*	University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw
Prof. **Aleksandra Łuszczyńska**, PhD hab.	*Health behaviours in the life cycle*	University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw
Prof. **Andrzej Nowak**, PhD hab.	*Histories and memories of empires in Eastern Europe: comparative studies*	Jagiellonian University
JU Prof. **Tomasz Placek**, PhD hab.	*Modalities, probability, and Bell's theorems: a formal perspective*	Jagiellonian University

Prof. Bogdan Wojciszke, a beneficiary of the MISTRZ programme.

BENEFICIARY	PROJECT	INSTITUTION
Prof. **Eugenia Prokop-Janiec**, PhD hab.	*Polish-Jewish cultural and literary contacts. History and the present day*	Jagiellonian University
Prof. **Grzegorz Sędek**, PhD hab.	*Developing innovative training to maintain a high level of cognitive function throughout adulthood*	University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw
US Prof. **Tadeusz Szubka**, PhD hab.	*Analytical philosophy: history and latest challenges*	University of Szczecin
Prof. **Bogdan Wojciszke**, PhD hab.	*The impact of self-interest on moral judgments*	University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Sopot Branch)

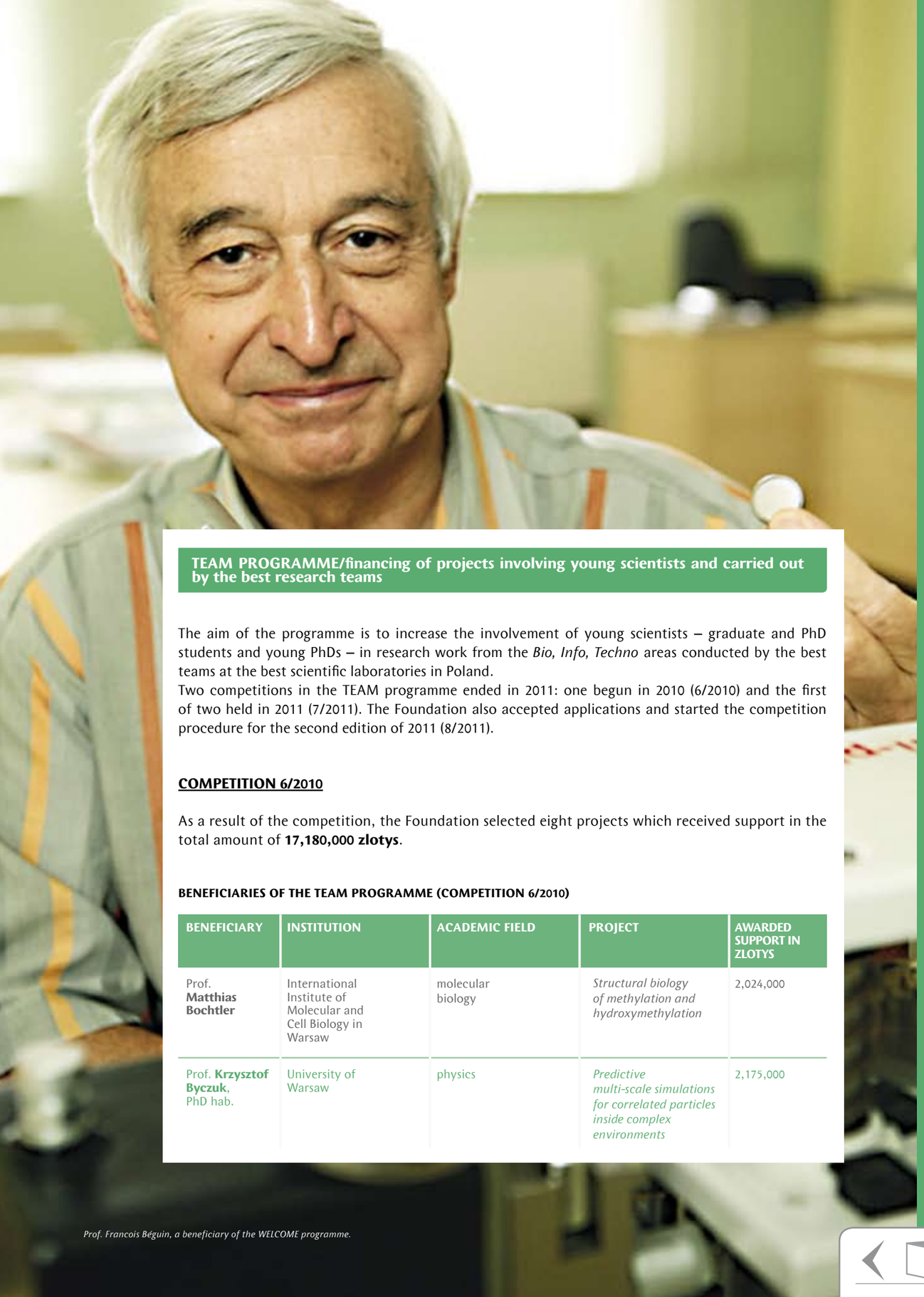
2011 also saw the start of the competition procedure in the field of **mathematical, physical and engineering sciences**. The results are planned to be announced in autumn 2012.

WELCOME PROGRAMME/support for projects carried out by outstanding scientists from other countries who set up research teams at Polish research units

The aim of the programme is to involve leading foreign scientists in establishing research teams in Poland and to intensify the international cooperation of Polish research units. The programme is addressed to foreign scientists and to Polish scientists returning from abroad.
The fourth and final competition in this programme ended in 2011. It produced three beneficiaries, who received support for projects carried out at Polish units worth a total of **16,858,000 zlotys**.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE WELCOME PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 4/2011)

BENEFICIARY	BENEFICIARY'S INSTITUTION ABROAD	POLISH CENTRE WHERE THE PROJECT WILL BE CARRIED OUT	ACADEMIC FIELD	PROJECT	AWARDED SUPPORT IN ZLOTYS
prof. **François Béguin**	Research Centre on Divided Matter, University&CNRS, Orléans, France	Poznań University of Technology	materials sciences	*Development of high performance and ecologically friendly supercapacitors for energy management – ECOLCAP*	6,395,000
Stefan Dziembowski, PhD	La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy	University of Warsaw	computer science	*Cryptographic Protocols Provably – Secure Against Physical Attacks*	3,238,000
Leslie Kozak, PhD	Pennington Biomedical Research Center, United States	Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Olsztyn	health sciences	*Nutrition and ambient temperature during early development can reduce susceptibility to obesity*	7,225,000
TOTAL:					**16,858,000**



Prof. Francois Béguin, a beneficiary of the WELCOME programme.

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.
Two competitions in the TEAM programme ended in 2011: one begun in 2010 (6/2010) and the first of two held in 2011 (7/2011). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2011 (8/2011).

COMPETITION 6/2010

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected eight projects which received support in the total amount of **17,180,000 zlotys**.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 6/2010)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	ACADEMIC FIELD	PROJECT	AWARDED SUPPORT IN ZLOTYS
Prof. **Matthias Bochtler**	International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	molecular biology	*Structural biology of methylation and hydroxymethylation*	2,024,000
Prof. **Krzysztof Byczuk**, PhD hab.	University of Warsaw	physics	*Predictive multi-scale simulations for correlated particles inside complex environments*	2,175,000
Roman Ciuryło, PhD hab.	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	physics	*Precise optical control and metrology of quantum systems*	3,358,000
Marcin Fiałkowski, PhD hab.	Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	nanoengineering	*Self-assembled two- and three-dimensional nanocomposites*	1,673,000
Krzysztof Ginalski, PhD hab.	University of Warsaw	molecular biology	*Application of systems biology to study important processes in Saccharomyces cerevisiae*	2,652,000
Paweł Golik, PhD hab.	University of Warsaw	genetics	*Yeasts – an evolutionary laboratory for studying nucleo-mitochondrial interactions*	2,044,000
Prof. **Józef Spałek**, PhD hab.	Jagiellonian University	theoretical physics	*Correlations and coherence in quantum materials and structures (CCQM) – unique properties on macro and nano scales*	1,497,000
Prof. **Cezary Szczylik**, MD hab.	Military Institute of Medicine in Warsaw	oncology	*Gene expression profiling of renal cancer stem cells in microenvironmental model of carcinogenesis*	1,757,000
TOTAL:				**17,180,000**

COMPETITION 7/2011

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected 10 projects which received support in the total amount of **23,533,000 zlotys**.

LBENEFICIARIES OF THE TEAM PROGRAMME (7/2011)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	ACADEMIC FIELD	PROJECT	AWARDED SUPPORT IN ZLOTYS
Prof. **Michał Dadlez**, PhD hab.	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	biophysics	*Proteomics in characterisation of selected protein assemblies*	2,818,000
Prof. **Wiesław I. Gruszecki**, PhD hab.	Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin	biophysics	*Molecular Spectroscopy for BioMedical Studies*	3,272,000
Krystian Jażdżewski, MD hab.	Medical University of Warsaw	oncology	*In search of new pathways of tumorigenesis – genome-wide functional analysis of microRNAs deregulated in human cancers*	2,637,000
Przemysław Juszczyński, MD hab.	Institute of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine	oncology	*Tumor suppressor function of FOXO1 in diffuse large B-cell lymphomas: mechanisms of regulation and personalized rational targeting strategies*	2,415,000
Prof. **Leszek Kalinowski**, MD hab.	Medical University of Gdańsk	cardiology	*Diagnostic markers for investigation of formation and progression of atherosclerotic plaques*	1,637,000
Prof. **Andrzej Koliński**, PhD hab.	University of Warsaw	bioinformatics	*Development and integration of new multiscale modeling tools for molecular biology: structure, dynamics and thermodynamics*	2,249,000
Prof. **Małgorzata Kujawińska**, PhD hab.	Warsaw University of Technology	optical engineering	*Phase microscopy and tomography – new approach to 3D measurements of biological and technological structures (3DPHASE)*	2,299,000
Prof. **Janusz Lewiński**, PhD hab.	Warsaw University of Technology	inorganic chemistry	*From well-defined organometallic precursors to functional materials*	1,869,000
Daniel Mege, PhD hab.	Institute of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	palaeontology	*Mars: another planet to approach geoscience issues*	2,057,000
Krzysztof Sobczak, PhD hab.	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	biochemistry	*Molecular Pathomechanism and RNA Interference-Based Therapy of Myotonic Dystrophy*	2,280,000
TOTAL:				**23,533,000**

December 2011 marked the end of the first stage of the merit evaluation in competition 8/2011; stage two and the end of the competition took place in 2012.

IDEAS FOR POLAND PROGRAMME/subsidies for ERC Starting Grants winners

The programme aims to encourage Polish and foreign winners 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 institution. In this programme beneficiaries receive an individual stipend and a research subsidy.

Two competitions ended in 2011, following which the Foundation awarded subsidies comprising a five-year stipend of **9,000 zlotys** per month and a research subsidy of **100,000 zlotys** for each beneficiary.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE IDEAS FOR POLAND PROGRAMME

BENEFICIARY	ERC GRANT RECEIVED (YEAR)	RESEARCH PROJECT LOCATION	PROJECT
Prof. **Janusz Bujnicki**, PhD hab.	2010	International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	*Breaking the code of RNA sequence-structure-function relationships: New strategies and tools for modeling and engineering of RNA and RNA-protein complexes*
Stefan Dziembowski, PhD	2007	University of Warsaw	*Cryptography on Non-Trusted Machines*
Prof. **Maciej Konacki**, PhD hab.	2010	Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Toruń	*Eclipsing binary stars as cutting edge laboratories for astrophysics of stellar structure, stellar evolution and planet formation*
Piotr Sankowski, PhD hab.	2010	University of Warsaw	*Practical Approximation Algorithms*
Piotr Garstecki, PhD hab.	2011	Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	*Microfluidic Combinatorial On Demand Systems: a Platform for High-Throughput Screening in Chemistry and Biotechnology*
Marcin Nowotny, PhD	2011	International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	*Structural studies of Nucleotide Excision Repair complexes*

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 2011: one begun in 2010 (2/2010) and the first of two held in 2011 (3/2011). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2011 (4/2011).

COMPETITION 2/2010

As a result of the competition, the Foundation selected 16 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **4,824,000 zlotys**. None of the applications submitted in other fields obtained funding.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 2/2010 – *Bio, Info, Techno* projects)

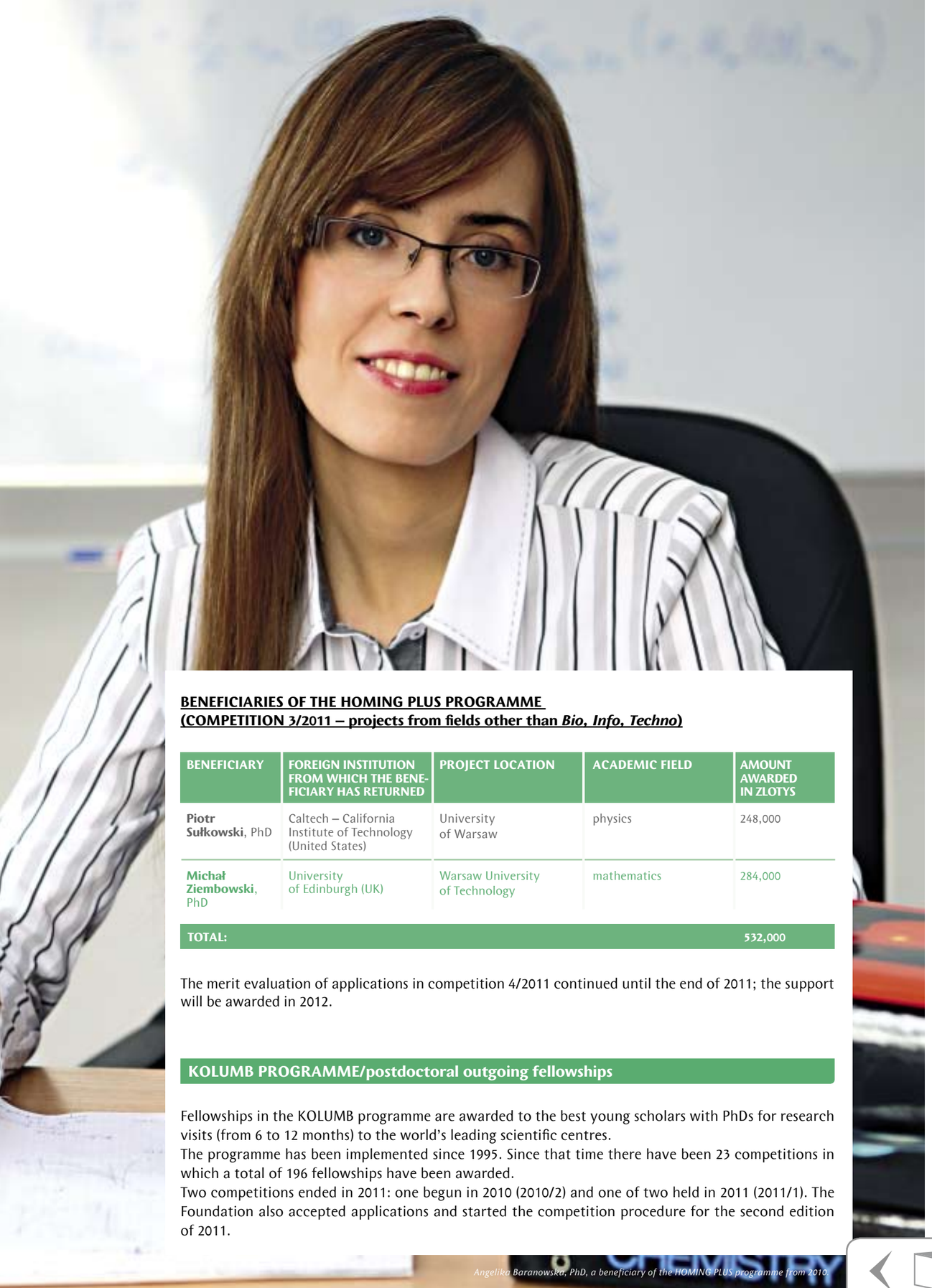
BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	ACADEMIC FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Agnieszka Błachnio-Zabielska, PhD	Mayo Clinic, Rochester (United States)	Medical University of Białystok	medicine	328,000
Jakub Drożak, PhD	Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium)	University of Warsaw	biochemistry	298,000
Krzysztof Hinc, PhD	Federico II University of Naples (Italy)	Medical University of Gdańsk	biotechnology	318,000
Konrad Iwanicki, PhD	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands)	University of Warsaw	computer science	328,000
Artur Kalinowski, PhD	École Polytechnique, Palaiseau (France)	University of Warsaw	physics	209,000
Krzysztof Kutak, PhD	Universiteit Antwerpen (Netherlands)	Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków	physics	316,000
Marzena Anna Lewandowska, PhD	Northwestern University, Chicago (United States)	Oncology Centre -Prof. F. Łukaszczyk Memorial Hospital in Bydgoszcz	molecular biology	320,000
Antonina Joanna Mazur, PhD	Ruhr University Bochum (Germany)	University of Wrocław	molecular biology	301,000
Michał Olszacki, PhD	Laboratoire d'Analyse et d'Architecture des Systemes – LAAS-CNRS (France)	Andrzej Sołtan Institute for Nuclear Studies in Otwock-Świerk	technical sciences	288,000
Pawel Rodziewicz, PhD	Friedrich-Alexander-Universitaet Erlangen-Nuernberg (Germany)	University of Białystok	chemistry	290,000
Katarzyna Rutkowska, PhD	University of Quebec (Canada)	Warsaw University of Technology	technical sciences	318,000
Rafał Ryguła, PhD	University of Cambridge (UK)	Institute of Pharmacology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków	neurology	304,000
Krzysztof Rządca, PhD	Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)	University of Warsaw	computer science	304,000
Rafał Sądej, PhD	University of Birmingham (UK)	Medical University of Gdańsk	molecular biology	299,000
Jakub Siednienko, PhD	National University of Ireland, Maynooth, (Ireland)	Institute of Immunology and Experimental Therapy of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Wrocław	molecular biology	279,000
Bartosz Wilczyński, PhD	European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg (Germany)	University of Warsaw	bioinformatics	324,000
TOTAL:				**4,824,000**

COMPETITION 3/2011

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 **4,277,000 zlotys**, and two applications from other fields, which received support in the total amount of **532,000 zlotys**.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 3/2011 – *Bio, Info, Techno* projects)

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	ACADEMIC FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Dominik Domański, PhD	University of Victoria (Canada)	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	biotechnology and bioengineering	304,000
Jan Guzowski, PhD	Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart (Germany)	Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	new materials and technologies	198,000
Agnieszka Jaźwa, PhD	University of Madrid (Spain)	Jagiellonian University	biotechnology and bioengineering	324,000
Michał Komorowski, PhD	Imperial College London (UK)	Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	computational sciences	323,000
Katarzyna Koroniak, PhD	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)	Adam Mickiewicz University	biotechnology and bioengineering	303,000
Jarosław Kowalski, PhD	University of Warwick (UK)	Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	new materials and technologies	304,000
Marta Maleszewska, PhD	L'Hôpital Saint Louis, Paris (France)	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	biotechnology and bioengineering	326,000
Tomasz Niedzielski, PhD	University of Aberdeen (UK)	University of Wrocław	information and telecommunications technologies	319,000
Tomasz Stefański, PhD	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich)/ Foundation for Research on Information Technologies in Society (Switzerland)	Gdańsk University of Technology	information and telecommunications technologies	320,000
Mateusz Śmietana, PhD	Université du Québec en Outaouais–UQO (Canada)	Warsaw University of Technology	optoelectronics	317,000
Maciej Tarnowski, PhD	University of Louisville, Kentucky (United States)	Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin	biotechnology and bioengineering	315,000
Piotr Wasilewski, PhD	University of Manitoba (Canada)	University of Warsaw	information and telecommunications technologies	325,000
Maciej Zgirski, PhD	Le Centre CEA de Saclay (France)	Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	new materials and technologies	328,000
Piotr Szymon Żuchowski, PhD	University of Nottingham (UK)	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	new materials and technologies	271,000
TOTAL:				**4,277,000**



BENEFICIARIES OF THE HOMING PLUS PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 3/2011 – projects from fields other than *Bio, Info, Techno*)

BENEFICIARY	FOREIGN INSTITUTION FROM WHICH THE BENEFICIARY HAS RETURNED	PROJECT LOCATION	ACADEMIC FIELD	AMOUNT AWARDED IN ZLOTYS
Piotr Sułkowski, PhD	Caltech – California Institute of Technology (United States)	University of Warsaw	physics	248,000
Michał Ziembowski, PhD	University of Edinburgh (UK)	Warsaw University of Technology	mathematics	284,000
TOTAL:				532,000

The merit evaluation of applications in competition 4/2011 continued until the end of 2011; the support will be awarded in 2012.

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 23 competitions in which a total of 196 fellowships have been awarded.
Two competitions ended in 2011: one begun in 2010 (2010/2) and one of two held in 2011 (2011/1). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2011.

Angelika Baranowska, PhD, a beneficiary of the HOMING PLUS programme from 2010.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 2010/2)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	FELLOWSHIP DURATION AND LOCATION
Wojciech Chaładaj, PhD	Institute of Organic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley (United States)
Krzysztof Cichy, PhD	Faculty of Physics, Adam Mickiewicz University	one-year fellowship at DESY – Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (Germany)
Mikołaj Czajkowski, PhD	Faculty of Economics, University of Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the University of California, San Diego (United States)
Mirosław Janowski, MD	Mossakowski Medical Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (United States)
Przemysław Małkiewicz, PhD	Andrzej Sołtan Institute for Nuclear Studies in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at Pennsylvania State University (United States)
Piotr Michaluk, PhD	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the University College of London (UK)
Beata Nowakowska, PhD	Institute of Mother and Child in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium)
Teodozja Rzeuska, PhD	Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the Freie Universitaet Berlin (Germany)

BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME (COMPETITION 2011/1)

BENEFICIARY	INSTITUTION	FELLOWSHIP DURATION AND LOCATION
Wojciech Bury, PhD	Faculty of Chemistry, Warsaw University of Technology	one-year fellowship at Northwestern University (United States)
Paweł Kudela, PhD	Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Gdańsk	one-year fellowship at Stanford University (United States)
Anna Lasek, PhD	Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University	six-month fellowship at the Freie Universitaet Berlin (Germany)
Artur Andrzej Obłuski, PhD	PhD at the University of Warsaw	one-year fellowship at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (USA)
Szymon Pustelny, PhD	Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science, Jagiellonian University	one-year fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley (United States)
Paulina Suchanek, PhD	Faculty of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wrocław	one-year fellowship at DESY – Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (Germany)

The procedure of competition 2011/2 continued until the end of 2011; the support was awarded in 2012.

Izabela Krejtz, PhD, a beneficiary of the PARENT-BRIDGE programme, with her sons.

SUPPORT GRANTS FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE KOLUMB PROGRAMME

Upon completing their fellowships and returning to Poland, beneficiaries of the KOLUMB programme (up to 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 2002-2011 support grants were awarded to 102 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 2011 the Foundation awarded six support grants in the total amount of **260,000 zlotys**.

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 through the Foundation's own funds.

The programme aims to enable the best scientists raising 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 3,000/3,500 zlotys) being under their supervision.

- **Support for women conducting 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.

PARENT-BRIDGE/grants for returnees

Two competitions in the programme ended in 2011: one begun in 2010 (2/2010) and the first of two held in 2011 (3/2011). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second edition of 2011 (4/2011).

COMPETITION 2/2010
After holding the competition, the Foundation selected 12 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **6,231,000 zlotys**, and two applications from other fields, which received support in the total amount of **760,000 zlotys**.

COMPETITION 3/2011
After holding the competition, the Foundation selected 13 projects from the *Bio, Info, Techno* categories, which received support in the total amount of **5,382,000 zlotys**, and two applications from other fields, which received support in the total amount of **891,000 zlotys**.

The first stage of the merit evaluation of applications in competition 4/2011 continued until the end of 2011; the support was awarded in 2012.

PARENT-BRIDGE/support for female researchers during pregnancy

Applications for support for pregnant researchers were accepted on a continuous basis. In 2011 the Foundation awarded support in the total amount of **195,000 zlotys** (including 11,000 zlotys from the Foundation's own funds) to 26 female researchers. Because the PARENT-BRIDGE programme's funding earmarked for support for female researchers conducting research projects while pregnant ran out, applications were not accepted after 30 June 2011.

START PROGRAMME/stipends for young researchers

These are personal stipends that the Foundation awards 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.

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.
A total of **128 stipends** were awarded in 2011. The group of beneficiaries of all 19 editions of the competition currently numbers **2,095**.

The stipend amount is **28,000 zlotys**. One special stipend for the beneficiary with the highest result in the competition was awarded in 2011 – 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 Michał Kamiński, MD, from the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology in Warsaw.

Beneficiaries of START 2011 at the Royal Castle in Warsaw, after receiving their certificates.

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, according to which the FNP will nominate a few young scientists from among the START programme's beneficiaries to take part in the meeting each year. In 2011, four people from among those suggested by the Foundation took part in the meeting of representatives of physiology/medicine.

Presentation of certificates to beneficiaries of the START programme in 2011.

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 2011: one begun in 2010 (6/2010) and the first of two held in 2011 (7/2011). The Foundation also accepted applications and started the competition procedure for the second competition of 2011 (8/2011).

COMPETITION 6/2010

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected seven projects from among the PhD student applications, which received support in the total amount of **1,015,000 zlotys**, and one project from among the graduate student applications, which received support of **66,000 zlotys**.

COMPETITION 7/2011

After holding the competition, the Foundation selected eight projects from among the PhD student applications, which received support in the total amount of **955,000 zlotys**, and one project from among the graduate student applications, which received support of **66,000 zlotys**.

The first stage of the merit evaluation of applications in competition 8/2011 continued until the end of 2011; the beneficiaries were selected 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 2011, grants for archive searches were awarded to 16 out of 65 candidates taking part in the competition.

CONFERENCE GRANTS

The programme offers grants to support the participation of Polish scientists in international scientific congresses, symposia, and conferences in Poland and abroad. The grants are financed by the FNP, whereas the competition is run by the Warsaw Scientific Society. Three conference grant competitions were held in 2011, with a total of 547 candidates taking part. The Foundation financed 143 grants in the total amount of 345,000 zlotys.

2011 was the last year in which the Foundation financed this programme.

Weronika Dębowska, a beneficiary of the VENTURES programme.

Ongoing programmes – without new calls for applications

HOMING PROGRAMME – extension of subsidies

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED IN 2006-2009

Beneficiaries of the POWROTY/HOMING programme could apply, through a competition, to have their subsidy extended by one year. In 2011 the Foundation ended the final competition for a one-year extension of the subsidy, held for the beneficiaries of the 2009 edition. Ten researchers received an extension of their subsidies, in the total amount of **820,000 zlotys**.

The HOMING programme received support from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism.

FOCUS PROGRAMME – extension of subsidies

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED 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, in the amount of 100,000 zlotys per year. In 2011 the possibility of applying for an extension was available to beneficiaries of the programme from 2007 (subject: astrophysics and space research). The Foundation extended the subsidy for the three beneficiaries who applied.

In 2011 the Foundation also adjudicated the competition for extra funding (grants) to establish new laboratories and improve research facilities: for beneficiaries of the programme from 2009 (subject: the linguistic categorization of the world) and for beneficiaries from 2010 (subject: nano- and micro-technologies in medicine). Grants in the FOCUS programme were awarded to six beneficiaries from 2009 (in the total amount of **1,194,000 zlotys**) and four beneficiaries from 2010 (in the total amount of **1,557,000 zlotys**).

INTERNATIONAL PHD PROJECTS (MPD)

Funding in this programme is provided to a total of 23 projects chosen in competitions held by the Foundation in 2008-2010 and will continue until 2015.
By the end of 2011, 353 beneficiaries had taken part in projects within the MPD 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 prize is conferred every two years.
Applications in the fourth competition started being accepted in May 2011. Candidates could be nominated until 31 July; 19 applications were received. They were evaluated by 24 reviewers: six from Germany, six from Poland, and 12 international experts, i.e. there were four evaluations per application. The winners of the latest COPERNICUS Award were chosen by the competition jury in 2012, and the official presentation will be held in autumn 2012 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 January 2011 the Foundation announced the results of the competition for candidates who applied in 2010, awarding fellowships to four people. The competition for candidates from 2011 ended in December 2011 – one person received the fellowship.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT POLISH HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2010 COMPETITION)

BENEFICIARY	BENEFICIARY'S HOME INSTITUTION	HOST INSTITUTION
Prof. **Roland Boese**	University of Duisburg-Essen, Faculty of Inorganic Chemistry	Faculty of Chemistry, University of Warsaw
Prof. **Ingrid Brigitte Mann**	Belgian Institute for Space Aeronomy, Brussels	Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw
Prof. **Anja-Verena Mudring**	Ruhr University Bochum, Faculty of Chemistry	Faculty of Chemistry, University of Wrocław
Prof. **Inge Stephan**	Humboldt University, (Professor emeritus)	Faculty of Humanities, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz

BENEFICIARY OF THE ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT POLISH HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (2011 COMPETITION)

BENEFICIARY	BENEFICIARY'S HOME INSTITUTION	HOST INSTITUTION
Prof. **Michael Giersig**	Freie University Berlin, Institute of Experimental Physics	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Wielkopolska Centre for Advanced Technologies in Poznań

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR FOREIGN SCIENTISTS TO WORK IN POLAND

Under an agreement between the Foundation for Polish Science and the Józef Mianowski Fund – Foundation for the Promotion of Science, a joint fellowship programme was implemented in 1994-2011 for foreign scientists, chiefly from Central-Eastern European countries, interested in conducting research at Polish scientific institutes. The amount of the fellowship, which is awarded for a period from **one to 12 months**, is equivalent to the average salary in a given position in Poland.

In 2011 the Foundation financed **55 fellowships**, allocating **465,000 zlotys** to the programme.

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. The role of the competition jury is played by the FNP Publishing Council. 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 the translation of a work previously published in the FNP Monographs series into one of the congress languages.
By the end of 2011 the series, which has been published continuously since 1994, comprised 149 titles. As of 2011, following a competition, publishing of the series was entrusted to the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University (WN UMK) in Toruń, which publishes the monographs as paper publications as well as e-books.

WORKS SELECTED FOR PUBLICATION IN THE FNP MONOGRAPHS SERIES IN 2011:

1. **Prof. Roman Murawski** (Adam Mickiewicz University), *Filozofia matematyki i logiki w Polsce międzywojennej* [Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic in Inter-war Poland] (philosophy),
2. **Paweł Gancarczyk, PhD** (Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences), *Muzyka wobec rewolucji druku. Przemiany w kulturze muzycznej XVI wieku* [Music and the Printing Revolution. Changes in 16th-century Musical Culture] (musicology),
3. **Bartosz Kuźniarz, PhD** (University of Białystok), *Goodbye Mr. Postmodermism. Teorie społeczne myślicieli późnej lewicy* [Goodbye, Mr. Postmodernism. The Social Theories of Late Left Thinkers] (sociology),
4. **Tamara Brzostowska-Tereszkiewicz, PhD** (Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences), *Ewolucje teorii. Biologizm w modernistycznym literaturoznawstwie rosyjskim* [Evolutions of Theories. Biologism in Russian Modernist Literary Studies] (literary studies),
5. **Anna Engelking, PhD** (Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences), *Kołchoźnicy. Antropologiczne studium tożsamości wsi białoruskiej przełomu XX i XXI wieku* [Kolkhoz Members. An Anthropological Study of the Identity of Rural Belarus at the Turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries] (ethnology),
6. **Prof. Anna Markowska** (University of Wrocław), *Dwa przełomy. Sztuka polska po 1955 i 1989 roku* [Two Watersheds. Polish Arts after 1955 and 1989] (art history),
7. **Michał Łuczewski, PhD** (University of Warsaw), *Wieczny naród. Tożsamość polsko-katolicka w Żmiącej od czasów najdawniejszych. Wprowadzenie do integralnej teorii narodu* [Eternal Nation. The Polish-Catholic Identity in Żmiąca from the Earliest Times. Introduction to the Integral Theory of Nation] (sociology),
8. **Paweł Załęski, PhD** (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences), *Od społeczeństwa cywilnego do społeczeństwa obywatelskiego. Historia neoliberalnego projektu wyobcowania społeczeństwa politycznego* [From Civil Society to Civic Society. A History of the Neo-liberal Project of the Alienation of Political Society] (sociology),

9. **Magdalena Rembowska-Płuciennik, PhD** (Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences), *Poetyka intersubiektywności. Kognitywistyczna teoria narracji a proza XX wieku* [The Poetics of Intersubjectivity. The Cognitivist Theory of Narration vs. 20th-century Prose] (literary studies),
10. **Prof. Tadeusz Szubka** (University of Szczecin), *Neopragmatyzm* [Neopragmatism] (philosophy),
11. **Łukasz Afeltowicz, PhD** (Nicolaus Copernicus University), *Laboratoria, instrumenty i kolektywy badawcze: praktyka naukowa w perspektywie usytuowanego i rozproszonego poznania* [Research Laboratories, Instruments, and Teams. Scientific Practice in the Perspective of Situated and Dispersed Cognition] (sociology),
12. **Janusz Grygieńć, PhD** (Nicolaus Copernicus University), *„Wola powszechna" w brytyjskiej myśli politycznej* ["General Will" in British Political Thought] (political science).

SUBSIDIES FOR TRANSLATIONS OF BOOKS (MONOGRAPHS/TRANSLATIONS) AWARDED IN 2011

AUTHOR	INSTITUTION	LANGUAGE OF TRANSLATION	PUBLISHER	TITLE
Joanna Kulesza, PhD	University of Łódź	English	Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, UK	*Międzynarodowe prawo Internetu* [International Internet Law]
Prof. **Gabriela Matuszek**	Jagiellonian University	German	Igel Verlag, Hamburg	*Stanisław Przybyszewski – pisarz nowoczesny. Eseje i proza – próba monografii* [Stanisław Przybyszewski – Modern Writer. Essays and Prose – an Attempted Monograph]
Prof. **Cezary Wodziński**	Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences	French	Editions de la Difference, Paris	*Św. Idiota. Projekt antropologii apofatycznej* [The Holy Fool. An Apophatic Anthropology Project]
Prof. **Jan Szemiński** Prof. **Mariusz Ziółkowski**	University of Warsaw	French	Editions L.Harmattan, Paris	*Mity, rytuały i polityka Inków* [Inca Myths, Rituals, and Politics]
Maciej Münnich, PhD	Catholic University of Lublin	English	Mohr Siebeck, Tubingen	*Reszef – bóg starożytnego Orientu* [Reshef – a God of the Ancient Orient]
Przemysław Tyszka, PhD	Maria Curie-Skłodowska University	English	The Edwin Mellen Press, Ceredigion	*Prawa barbarzyńskie o czynach przeciw ciału i cielesności człowieka (od końca V do początku IX wieku). 'Corpus hominis' jako kategoria kulturowa* [Barbarian Laws on Deeds Against the Human Body and Corporality (from the Late 5th to the Early 9th Century). ‚Corpus hominis' as a Cultural Category]
Prof. **Magdalena Zowczak**	University of Warsaw	English	Walter de Gruyter/ Versita, Berlin/ Warszawa	*Biblia ludowa. Interpretacja wątków biblijnych w kulturze ludowej* [The Folk Bible. Interpretation of Biblical Themes in Folk Culture]
Prof. **Stanisław Mossakowski**	Institute of Art, Polish Academy of Sciences	English	Wydawnictwo IRSA, Kraków	*Kaplica Zygmuntowska (1515–1533). Problematyka artystyczna i ideowa mauzoleum Zygmunta I* [The Sigismund Chapel (1515-1533). Artistic and Ideological Issues Surrounding the Mausoleum of Sigismund I]
Prof. **Andrzej Paczkowski**	Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences	English	University of Rochester Press – Boydell & Brewer, Rochester	*Wojna polsko-jaruzelska. Stan wojenny w Polsce 13 XII 1981 – 22 VII 1983* [The Poland-Jaruzelski War. Martial Law in Poland: 13 December 1981 – 22 July 1983]

PUBLISHING PROJECTS

The aim of the programme is to support long-term publication series that scientifically document Poland's heritage of history and civilization. 2011 saw the continuation of projects that had received subsidies in previous years. The Foundation will not hold more competitions in this programme.

Publications receiving support in 2011 (qualified 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)

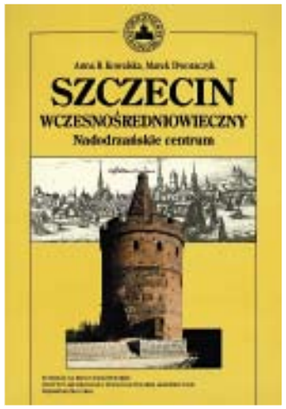
Two volumes were published in 2011:
vol. 4: *Życie i twórczość Geli Seksztajn* [The Life and Work of Gela Seksztajn], ed. Magdalena Tarnowska
vol. 5: *Getto warszawskie. Życie codzienne* [The Warsaw Ghetto. Everyday Life], ed. Katarzyna Person

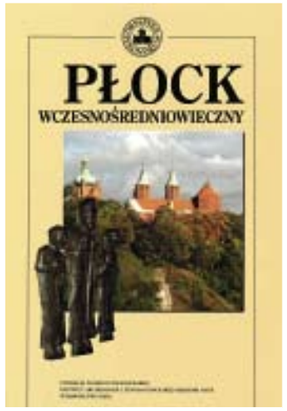
Patrycja Potoniec, PhD, *Słownik polszczyzny XVI w.* [Dictionary of 16th-century Polish], vol. 35 (publisher: Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences)

Prof. **Tomasz Jurek**, PhD hab., *Słownik historyczno-geograficzny ziem polskich w średniowieczu* [Historical and Geographical Dictionary of Mediaeval Poland] (publisher: Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences)

THE PROGRAMME ALSO SUPPORTS PERIODICALS FINANCED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR SEVERAL YEARS:

- **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]





Volumes published in 2011:
vol. 4: *Płock wczesnośredniowieczny* [Early Mediaeval Płock], scientific editor Andrzej Gołembnik
vol. 5: *Szczecin wczesnośredniowieczny. Nadodrzańskie centrum* [Early Mediaeval Szczecin. Hub on the River Oder], by Anna B. Kowalska and Marek Dworaczyk

- **Polski Słownik Biograficzny** [Polish Biographical Dictionary] (publisher: Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences)
Volumes 195-197 were published in 2011

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 for the benefit of science, for the implementation of various unusual, interesting, inventive and innovative projects that serve the development of science in Poland.
The Foundation awarded 10 subsidies in the total amount of 508,000 zlotys in the EXTERIUS programme in 2011.

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 programme is targeted mainly at beneficiaries of the Foundation's programmes. Among other things, it is implemented in the form of training courses and workshops, a mentoring programme, conferences and discussion panels, 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 2011 the SKILLS programme included:

TRAINING COURSES

In 2011 the Foundation organized 17 training courses involving a total of 231 participants. The topics included: self-presentation and public speaking, commercialisation of research results (off-site course in Cambridge), writing scientific papers, presenting research results, entrepreneurship (off-site course in Bedfordshire), and research project management (off-site course in Oxford).

CONFERENCES

In 2011 the Foundation organized two conferences: **The European Charter for Researchers** (outlining the European Charter for Researchers, a code defining the responsibilities and entitlements of researchers, their employers, and institutions that finance research), and **Mentoring in Science** (an exchange of science mentorship experiences between Polish and foreign scientists).

MEETINGS INITIATED BY THE PROJECT'S PARTICIPANTS

Six meetings initiated by the SKILLS project's participants were held in 2011, involving a total of approx. 300 participants. The meetings centred on issues such as interdisciplinary cooperation, financing of scientific research in Poland, mentoring in science, and research project management.

All the above activities will be continued in 2012. Furthermore, the guidelines of the Programme Managers' Academy, INTER, and FNP Mentoring programmes were drawn up in 2011, and implementation began in 2012.

EVALUATION OF THE FNP'S PROGRAMMES

For several years now, the Foundation has been conducting systematic evaluations of its programmes. The aim is to analyse the usefulness, quality and effects of the programmes, thus supporting the process of building the FNP's programme strategy. In 2011 the Foundation carried out a periodic evaluation of a number of its programmes, among them the **FNP MONOGRAPHS** programme. This evaluation analysed opinions on the Monographs series held by scholars representing the humanities and social sciences at leading Polish universities and institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Other evaluations analysed the **career development of the START programme's beneficiaries from 2000 and 2001**, and the **published output of the HOMING programme's beneficiaries after their return to Poland**.

Next to these programme evaluations, a questionnaire study was also conducted in 2011 to check the level of interest shown by scientists working abroad in undertaking research in Poland. This issue is directly linked to the Foundation's activity and its programmes aiming to increase the attractiveness of research work in Poland and encourage international researchers to work in our country. The questionnaire was directed both to Polish scientists currently staying abroad and to foreigners. The report **Zainteresowanie pracą badawczą w Polsce wśród naukowców pracujących za granicą** [Interest in research in Poland among scientists working in other countries] is available on the FNP website.

Upon signing the **European Charter for Researchers** and the **Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers**, the FNP conducted an in-house analysis of its activity to check its compatibility with these documents. The analysis looked at the programme documents, the FNP's codes of ethics, instructions for reviewers, sample agreements that the FNP signs with its beneficiaries and the institutions employing them. The analysis proved that the FNP's activity complied with the principles set down in the Charter and the Code.

Training course for PhD students in writing scientific texts, taught by Prof. Edward Potworowski.

THE FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

IN 2011 THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE CELEBRATED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ACTIVITY. THE JUBILEE WAS A FESTIVE TIME NOT ONLY FOR THE FOUNDATION BUT ALSO FOR THE POLISH ACADEMIC COMMUNITY, TO WHICH THE FNP PROVIDED IN EXCESS OF 450 MILLION ZLOTYS THROUGH DIFFERENT FORMS OF SUPPORT IN 1991-2010.

To mark the jubilee, materials summarizing the Foundation's achievements during those 20 years were prepared, while the central event was the celebration that took place at the Kubicki Arcades in Warsaw on 24 September.

THE FNP FACTS&FIGURES 1991-2011

More than **450 million zlotys** provided in support of science

70 completed programmes

approx. **7,500** individual prizes, stipends and grants awarded to scientists of all fields, at all stages of their research careers

almost **1800** institutional beneficiaries of the Foundation's various programmes

68 FNP Prizes for outstanding scientific achievements – Poland's most important award in science

2,705 stipends in the total amount of **54.8 million zlotys** awarded in the START programme – the biggest and longest-lasting Polish stipend programme providing support to the youngest researchers

more than **80 new teams** employing young researchers and carrying out projects with FNP funding

over **85 million zlotys** provided to almost **3,000 beneficiaries** of programmes supporting the mobility of scientists and international exchange (outgoing and homing fellowships for Polish and international researchers)

almost **177 million zlotys** provided for the development of research facilities and for improving the infrastructure and technical base of research units all over Poland (purchases of equipment, modernization of laboratories, buildings and premises used to conduct research)

approx. **35.5 million zlotys** spent within programmes supporting libraries and archives

almost **14 million zlotys** provided in support of different publishing programmes

more than **130 titles** published in the FNP Monographs series

more than **3,500 Polish and international reviewers** assessing applications in the Foundation's competitions

THE FOUNDATION'S BIRTHDAY

THE KUBICKI ARCADES, 24 SEPTEMBER 2011

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Guests invited to the event at the Kubicki Arcades included beneficiaries of the Foundation's programmes, representatives of the government and state administration, representatives of national and international institutions that collaborate with the FNP, members of the current and previous councils and boards, the Foundation's employees, and the media. The Foundation's birthday was celebrated by more than 450 guests. Official congratulations and best wishes to the Foundation were offered by: on behalf of the Polish President – **Maciej Klimczak**, undersecretary of state in the President's Office; **Prof. Maria Orłowska**, secretary of state at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (who presented Prof. Żylicz with a certificate modelled after Maria Skłodowska-Curie's first Nobel Prize, as a mark of recognition for the FNP and an expression of hope for a Polish Nobel Prize in science in the near future); **Dr. Wilhelm Krull**, secretary general of the Volkswagen Foundation, and **Prof. Pavel Exner**, vice-chairman of the European Research Council.

The jubilee was also an opportunity to present FNP Honorary Distinctions. The new recipients were **Jan K. Frąckowiak**, PhD, president of the FNP in 1991-1992, and **Krzysztof Michalski**, a science journalist and well-known populariser of science.

The music for the event was provided by the Zenon Brzewski Warsaw String Orchestra conducted by Prof. Andrzej Gębski, composed of students of the Brzewski Music School. After the official part of the celebration all the guests met together.

01 Jan K. Frąckowiak, PhD (who could not attend) received an FNP Honorary Distinction.
02 Concert by the Zenon Brzewski Warsaw String Orchestra.
03 Speech by W. Krull, PhD.
04 Prof. Orłowska presents Prof. Żylicz with a certificate for the Foundation.
05 (from left) Professors Marian Grynberg, Maciej W. Grabski, Maciej Żylicz, Maria Orłowska.
06 At the banquet.
07 Speech by Prof. P. Exner.
08 Krzysztof Michalski after receiving the FNP Honorary Distinction.
09 Guests at the ceremony; greeting each other are Prof. Klaus Hahlbrock, former vice-president of the Max Planck Society, and Prof. Michał Kleiber, president of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

MEETINGS OF FNP PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES

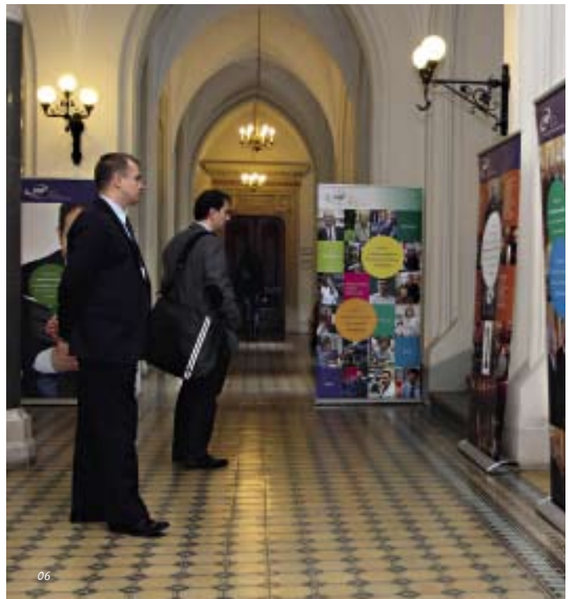
WITH VIEWING OF AN EXHIBITION PRESENTING THE FNP's 20 YEARS

Another prominent element of the Foundation's jubilee celebration are meetings with the FNP's beneficiaries held at leading universities. The aim is to promote the FNP's achievements by enabling the beneficiaries to take part in meetings and discussions within different academic communities and initiating the beneficiaries' integration with local communities.

The first of this series of meetings took place in November 2011 at Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The participants included more than 250 leading scientists – the Foundation's beneficiaries from Kraków's research institutions as well as members of those institutions' governing bodies, municipal authorities, the Foundation's Board, and the media. The meeting included a panel discussion on the careers of young scientists in Poland and the master-pupil relationship. The event was accompanied by an exhibition of photos of FNP beneficiaries and information summarizing 20 years of the Foundation's activity, presented in the Collegium Novum lobby.

Further meetings are planned for 2012 and will be held in Toruń, Poznań, Gdańsk, Wrocław, and Lublin.

01 The meeting's participants were greeted by Prof. Karol Musioł, rector of Jagiellonian University.
02 Guests at the meeting received a gift: the book Wspierać najlepszych [Supporting the Best] published to mark the jubilee.
03 Prof. Andrzej Jajszczyk, Director of the National Science Centre, takes the floor.
04 Participants in the panel discussion: Prof. Tomasz Guzik (standing), Prof. Włodzimierz Bolecki, Prof. Maciej Żylicz, Prof. Maria Nowakowska, Joanna Rutkowska PhD.
05 & 07 The Collegium Novum lecture theatre at Jagiellonian University was filled with the meeting's guests.
06 The meeting of beneficiaries was accompanied by an exhibition on display boards.



Films

Two films were made to mark the Foundation's jubilee, presenting the history of the FNP's inception and 20 years of its activity and programmes:

Powstanie i misja FNP [The Beginning and the Mission of the Foundation for Polish Science] – a film showing how the Foundation was created and then developed as an institution, including appearances by Professors Henryk Samsonowicz, Maciej W. Grabski, Marian Grynberg, Janina Jóźwiak and Maciej Żylicz, and Dr.Tomasz Perkowski.



Działalność programowa FNP w latach 1991-2011 [How the FNP Contributes to Polish Science (1991-2011)] – a film presenting the Foundation's diverse range of programmes, including appearances by a dozen or so beneficiaries of closed and still ongoing programmes.



BOTH FILMS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE FOUNDATION'S CHANNEL ON YOUTUBE.

Book: Wspierać najlepszych. 20 lat Fundacji na rzecz Nauki Polskiej [Supporting the Best. 20 Years of the Foundation for Polish Science]

Released by the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University (WN UMK), the book describes what the FNP has achieved in its 20 years of existence and how it has affected science in Poland. Magdalena Bajer, Anna Mateja and Sławomir Zagórski – journalists specializing in science – were invited to contribute. Richly illustrated with photos, the book contains interviews with the people who established and ran the Foundation through the years as well as profiles of the Foundation's beneficiaries.
The publication also includes a calendar of major events, numerical data summarizing the achievements of the Foundation's programmes, a list of all the programmes, and a list of the FNP's governing bodies.

AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE WWW.FNP.ORG.PL WHILE THE PRINTED VERSION IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOUNDATION'S OFFICE.

ABRIDGED FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND THE INDEPENDENT REGISTERED AUDITOR'S OPINION

The complete report on the Foundation's activity in 2011, 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 2011, which is available at the Foundation's head office, ul. Grażyny 11.

The Foundation's abridged merit report and financial statements for 2011 together with the opinion of an independent registered auditor, in accordance with Article 70 of the Accounting Act, has been published on the website http://bopp.pozytek.gov.pl under KRS 0000109744.

INDEPENDENT REGISTERED AUDITOR'S OPINION ON THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TO THE BOARD OF FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

The accompanying abridged financial information of the Foundation for Polish Science with its registered Office in Warsaw, ul. Grażyny 11 (hereinafter referred to as "the Foundation"), which contains the balance sheet as at 31 December 2011, the income statement, the statement of changes in statutory fund, the cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2011 and a note on the policies for preparing this information, has been prepared on the basis of the Foundation's audited annual financial statements as at and for the year ended 31 December 2011. On 22 March 2012, we issued an unqualified opinion on the Foundation's annual financial statements prepared in accordance with the Accounting Act of 29 September 1994 (consolidated text – Journal of Laws of 2009, No. 152, item 1223, as amended, hereinafter referred to as "the Accounting Act"). The abridged financial information and the financial statements on the basis of which it has been prepared do not cover any events which occurred after the date of the audit opinion on the Foundation's annual financial statements being issued.

The abridged financial information does not contain all of the disclosures required by the Accounting Act of 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 2011 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.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board of the Foundation is responsible for preparing the abridged financial information in accordance with the policies specified by the Foundation in the note accompanying the abridged financial information.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REGISTERED AUDITOR

Our responsibility was to express an opinion on the accompanying abridged financial information on the basis of the procedures carried out in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard No. 810 "Engagements to report on summary financial statements".

OPINION

In our opinion the accompanying abridged financial information prepared on the asis of the audited financial statements of the Foundation for Polish Science as at and for the year ended 31 December 2011 is in compliance with the said financial statements in all material respects.
Person conducting the audit on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers Sp. z o.o., registered audit company no. 144:

Adrian Karaś
Key Registered Auditor
No. 12194
Warsaw, 25 May 2012

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS SP. Z O.O.,
AL. ARMII LUDOWEJ 14, 00-638 WARSAW, POLAND
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THE ABRIDGED FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

This financial information contains the Foundation's balance sheet as at 31 December 2011, income statement, statement of changes in the statutory fund and cash flow statement for the year ended 31 December 2011 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 (consolidated text – Journal of Laws of 2009, No. 152, item 1223, as amended).

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 2011 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)	31.12.2011	31.12.2010
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**12 662**	**12 155**
INTANGIBLE ASSETS	**7**	**33**
Other intangible assets	7	30
Prepayments for intangible assets	–	3
TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	**12 655**	**12 122**
Fixed assets	814	944
Buildings,offices, apartments, civil and marine engineering facilities	602	730
Plant and machinery	150	154
Other fixed assets	62	60
Fixed assets under construction	11 841	11 178
CURRENT ASSETS	**328 338**	**364 561**
INVENTORIES	**16**	**17**
Materials	16	17
SHORT-TERM RECEIVABLES	**795**	**381**
Receivables from other entities	795	381
Trade receivables, due:	8	8
– within 12 months	*8*	*8*
Tax, subsidy, customs duty, social security and health insurance and other benefits receivable	669	298
Other receivables	118	75
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	**327 500**	**364 132**
Short-term financial assets	327 500	364 132
In other entities	*310 607*	*325 149*
– shares	*54 239*	*71 975*
– other securities	*256 368*	*253 174*
Cash and cash equivalents	16 893	38 983
– cash in hand and at banks	*2 619*	*7 112*
– cash equivalents	*14 274*	*31 871*
SHORT-TERM PREPAYMENTS AND DEFERRED COSTS	**27**	**31**
TOTAL ASSETS	**341 000**	**376 716**

BALANCE SHEET (CONT.)

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (IN THOUSAND PLN)	31.12.2011	31.12.2010
EQUITY	**335 847**	**368 978**
Capital Fund	95 000	95 000
Statutory Fund	268 225	268 225
Revaluation Fund	–	–
Reserve Fund	27 615	27 615
Accumulated losses	(21 862)	(20 559)
Net loss for the year	(33 131)	(1 303)
LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	**5 153**	**7 738**
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	**1 411**	**1 206**
Provision for pensions and similar benefits	1 396	1 186
– long–term	*490*	*388*
– short–term	*906*	*798*
Other provisions	15	20
– long–term	–	–
– short–term	*15*	*20*
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES	**1 944**	**1 826**
To other entities	1 943	1 826
Trade payables, due:	344	127
– within 12 months	*344*	*127*
Tax, customs duty, social security and other benefits payable	577	1 040
Wages and salaries payable	3	188
Other	1 019	470
Special Funds	1	1
ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME	**1 798**	**4 706**
Other accruals and deferred income	1 798	4 706
– short–term	*1 798*	*4 706*
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**341 000**	**376 716**

INCOME STATEMENT

(IN THOUSAND PLN)	2011	2010
REVENUE FROM STATUTORY ACTIVITIES	82 909	44 081
Other contributions	82 909	44 081
COSTS OF STATUTORY ACTIVITIES	103 339	67 345
LOSS ON STATUTORY ACTIVITIES	(20 430)	(23 264)
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	7 467	6 529
Depreciation and amortization	277	289
Consumtion of materials and energy	141	127
External services	2 138	1 720
Taxes and charges	18	28
Wages and salaries	3 681	3 417
Social security and other benefits	654	605
Other costs by type	558	343
LOSS ON STATUTORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES	(27 897)	(29 793)
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	10	4
Gains on disposal of non-financial non-current assets	–	–
Other	10	4
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	293	237
Loss on disposal of non-financial non-current assets	–	–
Other	293	237
OPERATING LOSS	(28 180)	(30 026)
FINANCIAL INCOME	18 511	28 977
Dividends and shares in profits	1 794	1 392
Interests income	11 148	7 393
Gains on disposal of investments	5 208	11 372
Revaluation of investments	–	8 789
Other	361	31
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	23 418	212
Interest expense	–	17
Revaluation of investments	23 410	–
Other	8	195
LOSS ON OVERALL ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAX	(33 087)	(1 261)
LOSS BEFORE TAX	(33 087)	(1 261)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	44	42
NET LOSS	(33 131)	(1 303)

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN OWN FUNDS

(IN THOUSAND PLN)	2011	2010
EQUITY AS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	368 978	370 281
EQUITY AS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD, AFTER ADJUSTMENTS	368 978	370 281
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
RETAINED EARNINGS/ (ACCUMULATED LOSSES) AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	(20 559)	(18 568)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the period	–	–
Retained earnings at the beginning of the period, after adjustments	–	–
Decrease (due to)	–	–
– Loss offset	–	–
Accumulated losses at the beginning of the period	(20 559)	(18 568)
Accumulated losses at the beginning of the period, after adjustments	(20 559)	(18 568)
Increase (due to)	(1 303)	(1 991)
– accumulated losses brought forward to offset	(1 303)	(1 991)
Accumulated losses at the end of the period	(21 862)	(20 559)
ACCUMULATED PROFITS/LOSSES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	(21 862)	(20 559)
NET PROFIT OR LOSS	(33 131)	(1 303)
Net loss	(33 131)	(1 303)
EQUITY AS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	335 847	368 978
EQUITY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSED LOSS OFFSET	335 847	368 978

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(IN THOUSAND PLN)	2011	2010
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(30 914)	(28 121)
NET LOSS	(33 131)	(1 303)
Total adjustments	**2 217**	**(26 818)**
Depreciation and amortization	277	289
Interest and shares in profits (dividends)	(12 942)	(8 764)
Losses on financing activities	17 873	(19 996)
Increase in provisions	205	211
Decrease in inventory	1	1
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(414)	112
(Decrease)/increase in short-term liabilities, except for loans and credits	118	(3 367)
Increase/(decrease) in prepayments, accruals and deffered income	(2 904)	4 696
Other adjustments	3	–
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	(30 914)	(28 121)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	8 824	53 563
CASH INFLOWS	**1 827 883**	**2 051 619**
From financial assets, including:	1 827 883	2 051 619
In other entities	1 827 883	2 051 619
– disposal of financial assets	*1 814 941*	*2 042 854*
– dividends and shares in profits	*1 794*	*1 389*
– interest received	*11 148*	*7 376*
CASH OUTFLOWS	(1 819 059)	(1 998 056)
Acquisition of intangible assets and tangible fixed assets	(788)	(480)
On financial assets, including:	(1 818 271)	(1 997 576)
In other entities	(1 818 271)	(1 997 576)
– acquisition of financial assets	*(1 818 271)*	*(1 997 576)*
NET CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	8 824	53 563
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(22 090)	25 442
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE BALANCE SHEET	(22 090)	25 442
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	38 983	13 541
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD, INCLUDING:	16 893	38 983
– of restricted cash and cash equivalents	*1*	*1*

APPENDIX
ABOUT OUR BENEFICIARIES, INITIATIVES, PROJECTS

“Gazeta Wyborcza”, 8.12.2011

The highest Polish scientific awards were presented [recently] at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The recipients are Prof. Tomasz Giaro, Prof. Jan Potempa, Prof. Maciej Lewenstein, and Prof. Elżbieta Frąckowiak.

CHEMICAL AND MATERIALS SCIENCES

Professor Elżbieta Frąckowiak

Prof. Frąckowiak’s scientific interests include supercapacitors. A capacitor is a short-term energy storage device. It is composed of two conductors, called plates, separated by a nonconductive dielectric. Traditional capacitors have a very low electrical capacity counted in the pico-, micro- or at best millifarads, whereas the capacity of supercapacitors is gigantic – of the order of farads. But what can you build such a supercapacitor from? Scientists concluded long ago that carbon materials should be used. One form of carbon that the professor uses as a material for building capacitors are carbon nanotubes. She has proved that they are an excellent addition to electrodes because they are superb electrical conductors as well as coiling up like springs. The research carried out by her team has shown that the best results are achieved by using a traditional material (activated carbon) or carbon composites enriched with nitrogen, oxygen, iodine, or conductive polymers or oxides, and adding approx. 10 per cent of carbon nanotubes. What can we use supercapacitors for? First of all, as power supplies for advanced hybrid or electric vehicles. Secondly, as devices protecting against shutdowns in case of a sudden voltage drop in the power grid. Finally, wherever portable devices requiring a power supply are used. Supercapacitors are already in existence and in operation. For example, there are buses in Shanghai that are powered by supercapacitors alone. This kind of bus drives from stop to stop and then takes just 20 seconds to charge its power system, the time it takes the passengers to get off and on. Thanks to Prof. Frąckowiak’s achievements, such devices and examples of application will continue to grow in number.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Professor Tomasz Giaro

The professor received the prize for his monograph *Rzymskie prawdy prawnicze. Eksperyment myślowy* [Roman Legal Truths. A Thought Experiment] (2007). The monograph is the effect of the author’s many years of study and its subject is the criterion of truth as a tool for developing legal norms. Arguments of truth (*verum est*) or falsehood (*falsum est*) were part of legal discourse from ancient Rome to the modern German doctrine. However, the extensive codification conducted in the 19th century shifted the burden of law-making from science to legislation. Since legislators “command but do not discuss”, the criterion of legal truth became questionable. Prof. Giaro studied the issue through a broad analysis of ancient sources and subsequent European legal tradition, using the thought experiment method. Though experiments in a literal sense are inadmissible in the legal sciences, an analysis of historical materials does provide answers to the question of whether applying the truth criterion facilitates or hinders legal discourse. The professor shows that seeking the truth as understood in empirical sciences is futile in contemporary legal doctrine. On the other hand, he notices that jurisprudence, as a science with a different cognitive status, would become pointless without its demand to search for the truth.

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND ENGINEERING

Professor Maciej Lewenstein

Prof. Lewenstein works in the segment of quantum physics that studies and tries to describe the microscopic world using methods from the field of optics. However, this is not the classical optics we remember from school but quantum optics, which studies the interaction of single light photons with matter. In order to understand many intriguing issues related to the structure of matter, such as superfluidity (i.e. complete lack of viscosity) and superconductivity (the flow of electricity without any resistance), physicists cool down matter to unbelievably low temperatures. Imagine cooling a sizable portion of atoms down to as little as 170-billionth parts of a degree above absolute zero. A layperson would say they had frozen, while a physicist will say they are all in exactly the same quantum state. Such ultracold matter (called a Bose-Einstein condensate) has completely different properties. It behaves like a droplet of superfluid quantum liquid. Whereas we could compare an ordinary liquid to a chaotically moving crowd of atoms, a Bose-Einstein condensate is like an army goose-stepping in even ranks. This kind of liquid, as Prof. Lewenstein says, is good for playing with; for example, you can try to place it inside something that is rather like cardboard egg cartons one on top of the other, with one egg – one atom – in each well. Such stacks of containers simulate models that are used today in solid-state physics or even elementary particle physics research. There are still many models that scientists don’t understand. Today’s computers, even the fastest ones, are unable to figure them out. There is hope, however, that the “egg carton stacks” will make this possible. Physicists are working hard to develop a quantum computer which would have such computing power as to enable it to figure out the aforementioned superconductivity and superfluidity as well as many other mysteries of nature. No such universal computer exists as yet, but thanks to the professor’s research, among others, more and more “quantum simulators” are being developed, which are special-task quantum computers operating in idealized conditions. Prof. Lewenstein, as he himself emphasizes, is a theoretician. He only designs quantum simulators, while their operation is studied by experimental physicists.

LIFE SCIENCES

Professor Jan Potempa

The professor’s field of interest is periodontitis, a chronic disease that afflicts almost one-third of Polish adults. In its advanced stage it causes the gums to recede, after which even perfectly healthy teeth become loose and ultimately fall out. Many people still think losing your teeth, like losing your hair, is a normal sign of ageing, but this isn’t true. The bad news is that periodontitis is a disease that not only means trouble for the teeth but also increases the risk of other diseases such as atherosclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis. We know today that periodontitis results from many years of action of bacteria, the most harmful of them – or the greatest “rogue”, as Prof. Potempa calls it – being *Porphyromonas gingivalis*. These bacteria are extremely resistant to any attacks from our immune system. They have some highly specialized ammunition: special protein-degrading enzymes called gingipains. Thanks to them, *Porphyromonas gingivalis* bacteria run rife around our teeth with impunity, doing more and more damage. Moreover, the immune system is cheated by gingipains and, instead of destroying the dangerous bacteria, it turns against the body’s own tissue. The professor together with his associates decided to take a closer look at the enemy. He isolated and described in detail the bacteria’s entire arsenal – as many as seven enzymes that they produce, including gingipains. As a result, for the very first time a real chance has emerged that effective medications could be developed to combat periodontitis. Depriving the bacteria of their weapons could mean our bodies will be able to cope with the “rogue”.

The prizes, in the gross amount of 200,000 zlotys each, were awarded for the 20th time by the Foundation for Polish Science. Our warmest congratulations to the winners.

Sławomir Zagórski / Reprinted with the kind permission of the editors of *Gazeta Wyborcza*.

IDEAS FOR POLAND

Staying ahead of hackers, preventing attacks that haven't been invented yet. Winning against tumours by studying the mechanism of genetic code damage recognition. Keeping ahead of the sun by building a network of telescopes enabling the sky to be observed 24 hours a day. Young Polish scientists believed all this was possible, and they won the European Research Council over as well.

It's not easy to get funding from the ERC. However, it is worth submitting your idea and achievements to the reviewers for assessment and competing for a grant because this gives you precious independence and enables you to translate dreams into a work schedule to make them come true. Researchers are becoming valued on the labour market and are beginning to call the shots. If they decide to conduct their research in Poland, they stand a chance of receiving even more financial support – a stipend in the Ideas for Poland programme which is available from the Foundation for Polish Science upon obtaining an ERC grant, during its implementation, and also for a year after it ends. It turns out that this stipend fills an important gap in European funding. What kind of gap – this will be explained by three recipients of ERC Starting Grants: Maciej Konacki, Stefan Dziembowski, and Marcin Nowotny.

CRYPTOGRAPHY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, ASTRONOMY

ERC grants are awarded for fundamental, also known as curiosity-driven, research, says Stefan Dziembowski, PhD hab., who brought his grant to Poland from Italy. *Such research is based on questions like 'Is something at all possible?' If we prove it is, we can then start looking for practical applications of our conclusions. The problems we are working on today might not even find mass-scale application until 20 years from now. Our aim isn't to produce patents but new ideas*, he adds.

This recipient of an ERC grant from 2007 is conducting research in cryptography at the Faculty of Mathematics of the University of Warsaw. Among other things, this field of knowledge helps create coding systems for wireless devices such as charge cards or car remote controls. In practice it's hard to create a device that doesn't emit any information, for example through electromagnetic radiation or information about power intake. Therefore, when building cryptographic systems you need to assume that your opponent could acquire partial information about the key to the code, that this is never completely secret. Dziembowski intends to develop systems that resist attacks which haven't been invented yet or which are not known to specialists.

Cryptography is supported by computer science and algorithmics. It is thanks to computer science that we have the concept of "efficient computation". What does it mean when we say something can be cracked efficiently? Dziembowski explains this by clarifying what an inefficient attack is. Most known codes can be cracked by looking through all the possible keys. In reality this is an inefficient attack because it takes too much time. His project financed from the ERC grant focuses on extending the notion of efficient computation and the related notion of security to cryptography and information "leaks".

Marcin Nowotny, PhD hab., is investigating DNA repair mechanisms at the Laboratory of Protein Structure of the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw. A disturbance in this process in humans can cause tumours, among other things.

The recipe for every living organism is recorded in DNA molecules, explains the ERC Starting Grant recipient from 2011. *They are awfully long and contain lots of 'letters' that code all the information about an organism. DNA is a chemical compound that can suffer various kinds of damage. Some of this is spontaneous and happens over time, other kinds are linked to external factors. Every organism has a sophisticated system of mechanisms to repair such damage, because the plan of the organism has to remain untouched. We are studying these systems, or genetic material repair pathways, in our project*, he adds.

All DNA repair pathways are based on proteins that are the "cogs" in the repair mechanism. Crystallography – in the method being developed by Nowotny – makes it possible to determine with great accuracy how the atoms in protein molecules are arranged, and consequently to determine how the "cogs" work with great precision.

A tumour develops mainly when a cell's genetic material, the text of our "plan", is disturbed. Mutations, or changes in the genetic code, occur. They upset various processes in cells and lead to their uncontrolled growth.

Nowotny believes there is a close connection between DNA repair processes and the development of tumours, and also the effectiveness of anticancer therapy. Very often cancer cells are unable to repair DNA. It's a paradox that many cancer drugs damage DNA and when a cancer cell cannot cope with this, it dies. Understanding these processes is essential for the continuation of work on new drugs or therapies.

The Solaris project of Prof. Maciej Konacki, PhD hab., involves searching for planets that circle binary stars. You can imagine such planetary systems by recalling our solar system, only with two stars in place of the sun, or the vision presented in the famous book by Stanisław Lem. The study of binary stars with great precision will make it possible to test theories of stellar structure and evolution. To check these theories you need extremely accurate measurements of basic properties like mass, dimensions, chemical composition. Such measurements will be made possible by observations carried out by a network of four telescopes on three continents.

Two of them are already working in South Africa, two more will be set up by the end of the year in Australia and Argentina, explains the grant recipient, who is conducting his research at the Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences. *Thanks to such positioning we will be able to conduct our observations in the network 24 hours a day. The telescopes will be operated like robots. When night falls, the dome will be opened remotely. Once observations have been performed, the dome will close and the computers next to the telescopes will transfer the data to Toruń via the Internet. There will no longer be any need to travel to the observatory and sit at the telescope, which is inconvenient and expensive if you have a large number of telescopes*, he adds.

His project was chosen as one of the five most interesting research projects financed by the ERC. The scientist presented his achievements at the jubilee ERC conference in Brussels in February.

WHY RECIPIENTS OF PRESTIGIOUS GRANTS NEED MORE MONEY

Dziembowski says it can be a serious problem for universities that money from European funds comes with various stipulations which leave research teams with their hands tied. For example, ERC money can't be used to buy laptops because the regulations define them as office equipment. Therefore, funding from the FNP can be used to buy this kind of necessary hardware.

Stefan Dziembowski, PhD hab.

That's why, though the subsidy amount is small compared to the ERC grant, this extra funding is of great importance to us, admits the cipher specialist. *It enables us to fulfil additional needs. Apart from a financial dimension, it also has a human one: it's an extra 'bonus', proof that someone has noticed that we're bringing ERC grants to Poland.*

The ERC grant covers the cost of hiring staff and purchasing equipment. The subsidy from the Foundation for Polish Science's Ideas for Poland programme is a bonus composed of two parts. One is a stipend for the ERC grant recipient, the other

is a grant of 100,000 zlotys that can be spent on anything.

Nowotny agrees that the money from the FNP is easier to spend because account-settling is very flexible. *Of course I had to say what I would spend the money on, but the thing about science is that research can change rapidly and consequently our needs might change as well. If we obtain an exciting result that requires the purchase of extra reagents or extra equipment, it is extremely valuable to have additional funds to use for such an urgent need. This particular money can be used for reagents, smaller pieces of equipment*, the molecular biologist enumerates.

Marcin Nowotny, PhD hab.

He received 1.5 million for five years from the ERC for his project. The grant finances all the elements essential for the research process, from the salaries of all the people working on the project to equipment, from complicated, expensive and large devices to smaller ones used for more routine tasks, as well as materials for research, reagents and some analyses, such as DNA sequencing which is outsourced.

The importance of the [FNP's] extra support is also emphasized by Konacki. The budget of the Solaris project is particularly complicated. This is an undertaking on a global scale, containers with parts for the telescope dome are being transported to three different continents. Everything has to be coordinated; it's like running a busy company. *Fundamental spending is on equipment. We purchased the first telescope and the first camera to go with it for 450,000 [zlotys] from the FNP's Focus programme. It wasn't until later that we obtained the ERC grant which enabled us to finish outfitting the first telescope and add three more*, the astronomer says. *It turned out this still wasn't enough, because European grants are designed in such a way that non-eligible costs are covered by the given institution. For example, none of the VAT is covered by the EU; that's about 200,000-300,000 euros, not at all an insignificant amount in our institution's budget.*

The professor points to another accounting detail: equipment bought from the European grant cannot be accounted as a purchase, only its depreciation is accounted. The procedures involved in starting up the equipment mean that the scientists will not have managed to depreciate it before the end of the five-year grant; thus, the research institution will pay more than the EU actually reimburses them for.

This creates a huge gap in the budget because our unit's budget is approx. 8 million zlotys. The EU support is worth approx. 6 million zlotys, of which about 30 per cent is non-eligible costs. This means the project generates costs that are substantial for the budget of the unit as a whole. This is where the Ministry of Science and Higher Education has stepped in to help by giving us another 3 million zlotys, Konacki says.

In his view, the importance of the FNP subsidy from the Ideas for Poland programme is considerable because the project also generates equipment-related costs, to mention trips to set up the devices. Many months spent in distant locations generate huge expenditures. The money from the FNP will also enable smaller computer purchases to be made. With this money, the researcher wants to equip a special room at Toruń's Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences. *It's a control centre, a little like NASA supervision. There will be lots of monitors in the room for following the work of the telescopes. The status of a given telescope will be displayed on each monitor. We'll be able to show guests how the network operates*, promises the head of Solaris.

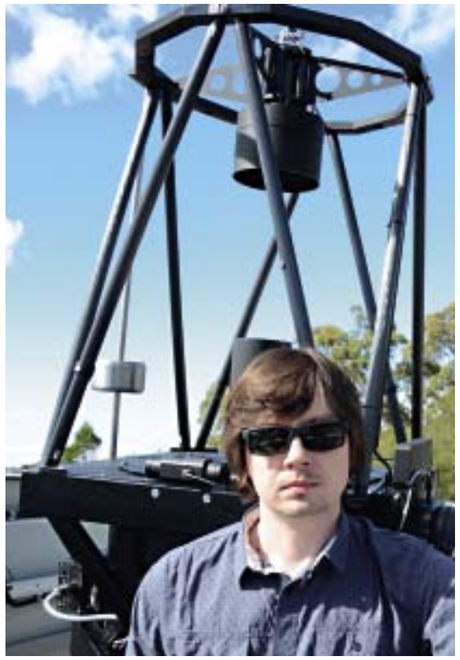
He adds that though every project has funding earmarked for salaries and fees, it is never enough. The FNP funding will make it possible to find extra money for young people who decide to join the teams. Thanks to the Ideas for Poland subsidy, money was found for extra pay – the team of astronomers in Toruń was joined by one more enthusiast of binary stars.

IMPLEMENT YOUR GRANT IN POLAND – IT WORKS!

When we consider the issue of rewarding scientists, a general question crops up: if someone has obtained a large grant, achieved something, should we give them more, or should we support those who have nothing? asks Dziembowski. *This is a conflict between promoting something we call excellence and the principles of social justice. For many years in European research we observed excessive 'leaning' towards social justice, while there was too little promotion of outstanding projects and the people behind them.*

He assures us that ERC grants enable recipients to set up their own teams, groups, schools, and that Poland is a very attractive place to implement this kind of grant. In the view of this scientist who spent five years working in Rome, where he applied for the grant, our country's huge potential lies in ambitious students with an enthusiastic attitude towards projects.

To a scientist it's important to leave a trace, to create something. The chances are greater in an excellent team. At the University of Warsaw's Faculty of Mathematics I have access to fantastic students, to me that's a great advantage. Actually, many things are much better in Poland than in other European countries where the administration or bureaucracy can be much worse, the cryptographer points out.



Prof. Maciej Konacki in front of one of the Solaris network's telescopes (Siding Spring Observatory, Australia).

For Nowotny, the idea to apply for funding from a European Research Council grant was rather obvious. These are probably the best grants currently available in Europe: large in financial terms and also prestigious because they are quite hard to obtain not just in Poland but across Europe. They are also very flexible and allow recipients to adjust spending to current needs.

The biologist highlights the fact that an ERC grant "follows the researcher", meaning that if the beneficiary decides to change the institution where he or she is working, the transfer to a new location is made together with the sizable money. That's why someone with this grant becomes attractive on the labour market and could receive proposals from other institutions willing to employ them. One of the concepts behind the Ideas for Poland programme is to keep ERC competition winners in Poland. And it works.

Konacki is of a similar opinion, explaining that the FNP's stipend for ERC grant recipients makes it possible to circumvent the salary scales functioning at many Polish institutions and universities. Even though scientists obtain European funding, institutes will not let them be paid higher salaries than are listed for their job position on the salary scale.

The foundation's programme has good principles and can help grant recipients decide to stay in Poland or return here from foreign centres, says the astronomer. *This isn't a key problem for me because I am already a professor, but ERC Starting Grants can be obtained by people working as assistant professors with a net salary of 2,000-3,000 zlotys. University regulations will not allow them to be paid more. The FNP's support from the Ideas for Poland programme changes their financial situation completely. Anyone who obtains this stipend is unlikely to think about locating their grant project at a foreign institution.*

WHO DOESN'T WANT EUROPEAN GRANTS?

A crowd of people in suits, many not used to wearing them and obviously uncomfortable; an atmosphere of uncertainty and a kind of community of rivals, all equally nervous, equally excited about their upcoming interview, the inevitably approaching quarter of an hour that will decide about everything – this is how Dziembowski remembers the day he presented his research plans to the ERC's panel of academics.

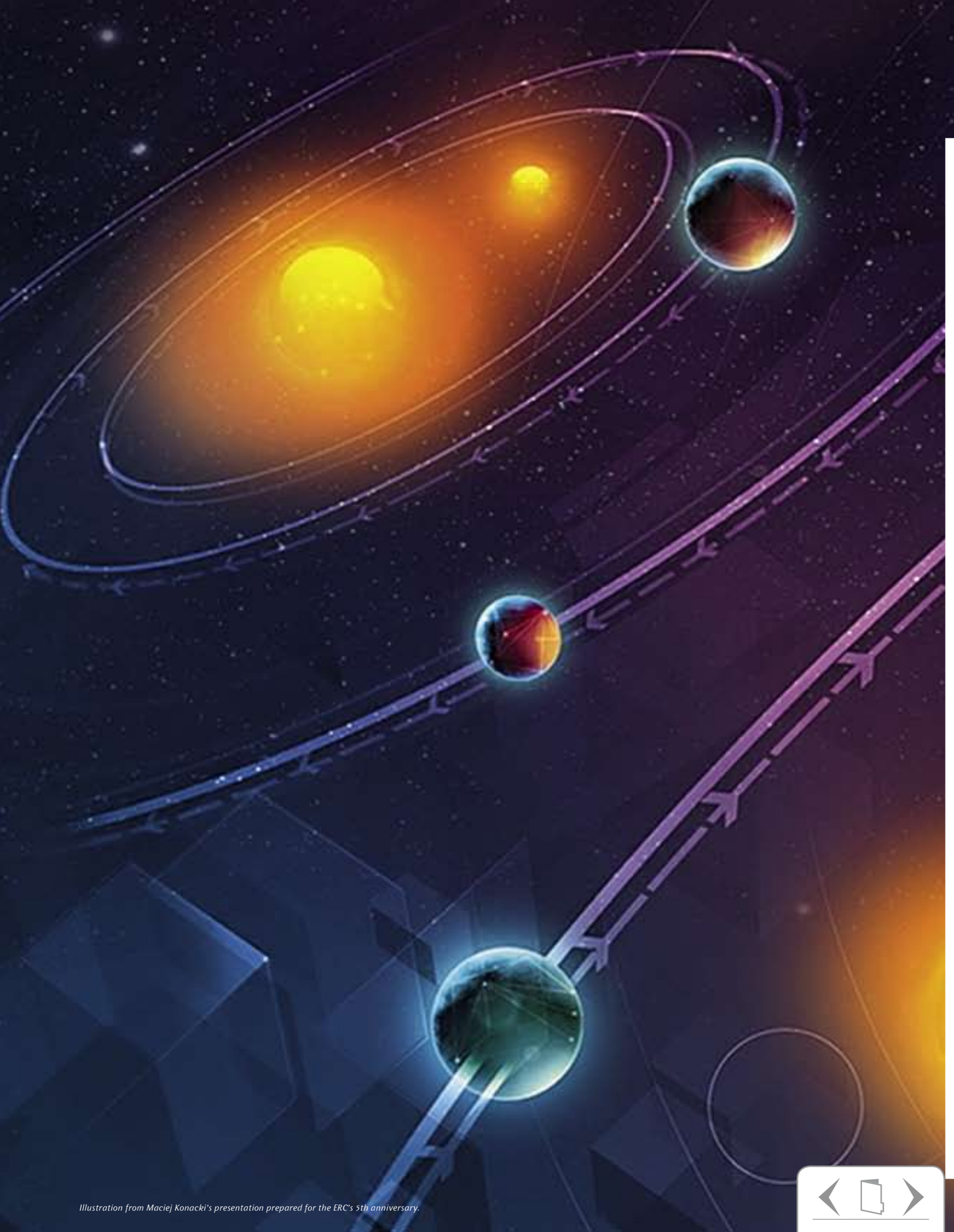


Illustration from Maciej Konacki's presentation prepared for the ERC's 5th anniversary.

Each applicant has 10 minutes to outline his or her project in a presentation, recounts Nowotny, *then there's 15 minutes for questions and answers. The questions are difficult and to the point. The panellists ask about the project's weaknesses, about problems pointed out by the reviewers. About a month and a half later you receive the final decision.*

I think the grant-holder selection process is good. It's the classic global way, with projects assessed by other scientists and not civil servants. Grant awarding procedures similar to those of the ERC are in place at the National Science Centre, Konacki compares.

ONE OF THE CONCEPTS BEHIND THE IDEAS FOR POLAND PROGRAMME IS TO KEEP ERC COMPETITION WINNERS IN POLAND. AND IT WORKS.

Everyone agrees it's very hard to obtain an ERC grant. At present this is a two-stage process. The selection is made on the basis of reviews written by five anonymous reviewers. Only approx. 30 per cent of applications make it through the first round. Only about 15 per cent of applications are successful after the interview with a group of some of Europe's top-ranking scientists.

Polish applicants don't do too well in these competitions. There could be two problems: with both the quality and quantity of applications. Few projects from Poland are submitted. *If we checked the success rate, it probably wouldn't be far from the European average*, Nowotny says. *However, last year British scientists received 150 such grants and Polish scientists just two! The ERC expects fundamental projects. These cannot be imitative studies, reproducing someone else's results and adding a detail to a system. At least potentially, a project should yield completely new information. Perhaps that's the weakness of some Polish projects*, he wonders.

Dziembowski admits to similar suspicions. He says the problems in Poland have been created largely by the point system for evaluating research units and scientists. Too much emphasis is placed on the number of publications and too little on their quality. He believes that writing a large number of mediocre and average publications is not a path to success in research, including in financial terms. It's true it gives you a longer CV and makes it possible to obtain a postdoctoral degree, but it won't get you an ERC grant.

I would propose we stop counting points and perform periodical evaluations of scientific research based on international panels instead, says Dziembowski. *If someone at the University of Warsaw is working on, say, databases, then once every five years an opinion about their research should be sought from someone working on databases at Princeton. People from Harvard could say what they thought of the achievements of a group of Polish psychologists, and so on. I'm convinced that a few people who see themselves as famous figures in Poland would not even get noticed in another country*, he chances a guess.

Konacki points out that though Poles have obtained 11 ERC grants, only three of these were Advanced Grants. The astronomer thinks it's no coincidence. Part of the academic community, especially from the older generation, doesn't really feel inclined to apply for the grants because the procedure requires applicants to subject themselves to the assessment of other people, reviewers from outside the Polish "mutual admiration societies". It's not all that pleasant to receive anonymous reviews from seven or eight panellists when these are only moderately positive. It's hard to tell your colleagues about it.

Then again, Nowotny suggests some deeper reasons for the problems young Poles have with obtaining European funding. He explains that the Starting Grants are available to people up to 12 years after obtaining their PhD, at the start of building an independent career and running their own lab. Meanwhile, Polish institutions do not promote the idea of young people setting up their own research teams. A young person is expected to "distinguish" himself or herself first, obtain a postdoctoral degree, work under the boss's wings for many years, and only then will he or she be given a chance for independence – very often when the person is no longer motivated strongly enough to conduct risky research even if it could potentially contribute significantly to science.

I think even if someone published one good paper every two years, that's better than if they wrote five mediocre ones every year, says Dziembowski. *Unfortunately the system makes it more worthwhile for people to adopt the latter strategy because then they know they'll obtain their postdoctoral degree, ministry grants... This is exactly what the FNP is trying to change. I remember a conversation with Prof. Żylicz when he said young researchers often asked how many publications they needed to get a Start stipend. He assured me his reply was: one is enough, as long as it's good*, he quotes.

One final issue is preparing an application in formal and merit terms, says Nowotny. *Writing these applications requires some assistance. Our institute*

has a phenomenal grant section which helps us enormously with the formal aspects. This is of key importance for success with this kind of application, he says.

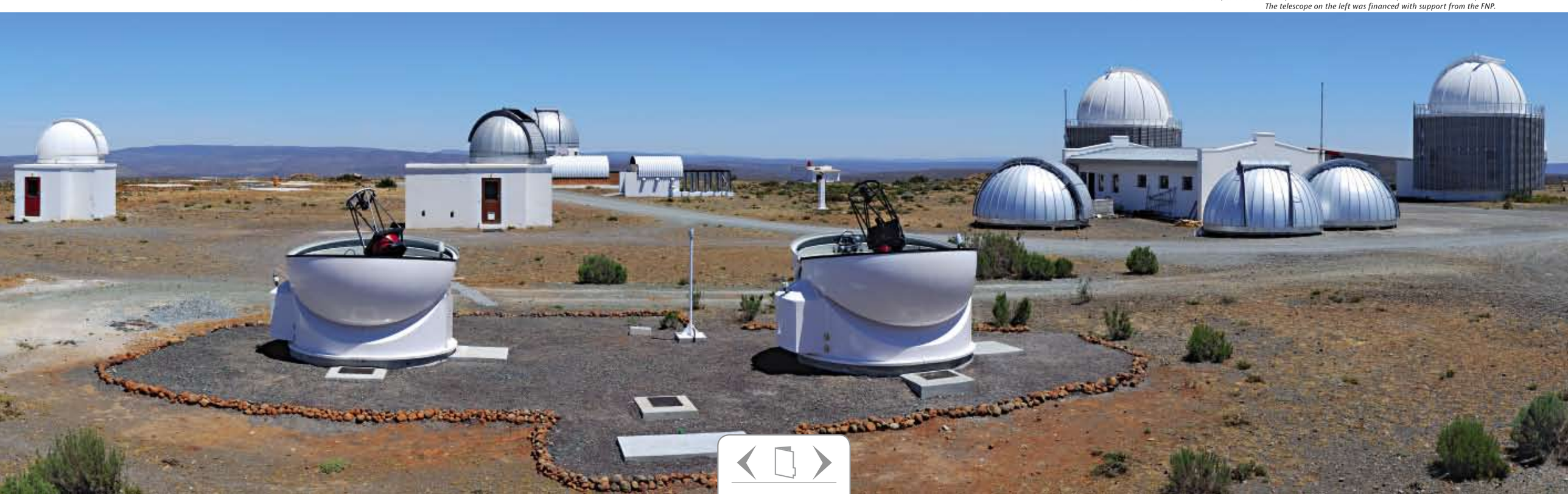
Dziembowski had no help from the Italians when he was filling out the documents, he did it all by himself. He thinks these things are much better organized in Poland, the faculty supports academics applying for grants, relieving them of the formal aspects. Despite this, the widespread opinion is that everything works better in the West than here. That, according to the creator of cryptographic algorithms, is a frequent excuse offered by Polish scientists, who insist they are not doing too well because they are blocked by "the horrific administration".

Konacki, too, thinks Polish scientists use the necessity of dealing with formalities as an excuse. It's true that applying for structural funds involves unbelievable bureaucracy, because applications are a few hundred pages long and they need to be given to specialist firms to fill in. However, he explains that though it gets its money from the EU, the ERC is autonomous and awards the funding according to its own regulations. The astronomer finds this very similar to typical research applications where you have to write 15 pages of text and attach your CV and a few essential documents. The bureaucracy is not excessive.

I was at the recent FNP meeting in Toruń, among a group of eminent and respected professors. Someone explained they wouldn't apply for ERC grants because they had no intention of filling out innumerable documents and going through procedures invented by 'those bureaucrats in Brussels'. This is an attitude I don't understand, says the planet-seeking scientist. *I worked in the United States for many years and applied – successfully, I might add – for NASA grants. The procedure is the same! You have to read 20-30 pages of instructions, fill in the application according to these rules, submit it, and that's it. This is a world standard now, it's no use complaining that you have to put in some effort*, he says.

Karolina Olszewska/Polish Press Agency (PAP)

The Solaris network's telescopes at the South African Astronomical Observatory (Sutherland, South Africa). The telescope on the left was financed with support from the FNP.



FNP MONOGRAPHS: THE HUMANITIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The FNP Monographs series of humanities publications, published since 1994, already includes 150 books (not counting reissues). Eight of them have been translated into congress languages and published abroad. Each year about 10 titles are published in the series. Though the general guidelines for the series have remained unchanged for 17 years, the Foundation is making some modifications in order to design the best possible proposal for the books' authors and, first and foremost, to adjust it to today's academic book market. Many such modifications were introduced in 2011.

From the very beginning the aim of the Monographs series was to publish the best works from various fields of the humanities and social sciences. Thanks to consistent implementation in its many years of existence, the series has gained prestige and respect. The Foundation backs monographic works: solid and exhaustive syntheses focusing on general problems and highlighting important issues presented in such a way as to make them accessible to a wider audience with a general interest in the humanities. Apart from their high academic standard the works submitted for the competition have to present an innovative premise, significant results, and an original and integrative approach to the topic.

The works are qualified for publication by the Publishing Council appointed for four-year terms by the Foundation's Board from among specialists who are recognized authorities in the academic community. During the application evaluation process the Council collaborates with reviewers who are leading scholars representing many disciplines from the social sciences and humanities, which guarantees that the competition is objective and the evaluations honest.

Prof. Lech Szczucki, chairman of the Publishing Council, notes that the books published in the series (most of them written by authors with doctoral or postdoctoral degrees, aged from 30 to 40-plus) *testify to deep ties to both new and traditional trends in the world humanities. These ties also enable us to gain a wider perception of Polish national culture which is the subject of the great majority of books published in the Monographs series*.

This doesn't mean that the published monographs reflect the complete spectrum of topics studied by Polish scholars. According to the competition guidelines, the aim is to reward and honour those authors who receive the highest marks in the competition procedure, not to select topics for a predefined map of the Polish humanities.

As Prof. Szczucki points out, *the FNP Monographs series includes just a small percentage of the published 'humanities output' in Poland. Moreover, the strict qualifying procedure adopted for the series and our meticulous editing practice is not to everybody's liking, especially since it prolongs the production cycle. This is most likely why full professors [appointed by the President of Poland] grace our series as authors less often, though at the same time many of them are among its internal reviewers*.

Most of the proposals submitted for the competition are doctoral dissertations, postdoctoral dissertations or professors' books, which are all subject to prior evaluation. This makes them good material (the number of submitted works hovers around 80-100 manuscripts per year) for a more general assessment of the Polish humanities. Members of the Publishing Council observe that more high-standard works have been submitted in recent years, making the selection process especially difficult because many good monographs from many different disciplines compete against one another. Applicants know about the multiple-stage evaluation, much stricter than in other publishing competitions, so many authors choose an easier way to get published.

The great majority of writers whose texts are published in the series are distinctive academic personalities, even if they are scholars of recent years who are just starting their academic careers. According to Prof. Henryk Samsonowicz who chaired the Publishing Council for many years, the series is an opportunity for those who are *'gaining their spurs' in the academic world* and being published in it *gives them a position that counts in the community and among a wider audience*. The smaller share of authors with an established academic reputation, says Prof. Janusz Sławiński, a long-time member of the Council, is not just due to the fact that young researchers have taken over but also to the older generation's fear of the review procedures: it has not been habitual in the Polish humanities to subject your achievements to the harsh judgment of reviewers; young people don't have such fears.

Through review procedures that are identical in all its programmes, the Foundation promotes the peer review system in Polish science. Thanks to this the success rate of books accepted for publication is very low – meaning great success for the authors whose works are chosen from among many others. It's not always easy to find a reviewer competent enough to evaluate a given book, especially given the broad range of disciplines the submitted works represent, but the Publishing Council has managed to create a "reviewer community" around the series, the best testimony of its competence and critical perception being the books which get published.

Books published in the Monographs series represent different humanities disciplines. The topics reflect the issues studied by Polish humanities scholars: philosophers, historians, art historians, philologists, sociologists, political scientists, cultural studies scholars, anthropologists, ethnologists, lawyers, and others. Works from the borderline of different disciplines are especially worth noting; they create an interdisciplinary discourse and use methodology typical of different fields of knowledge. The advantages of the series' interdisciplinary character are highlighted by Prof. Mirosław Strzyżewski, head of the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University, the series' current publisher: *It's worth remembering that the FNP Monographs include works from diverse fields of humanities knowledge, creating an extraordinary opportunity for the exchange of thoughts, opinions, and judgments. It's my dream to use this project as a foundation on which to build 'an interdisciplinary and inter-generational academy of the latest humanities thinking', which could integrate the Polish humanities to some extent, making our voice better heard in the public space. This seems very important in the face of the increasing atomisation of individual humanities disciplines and the overwhelming technocratic context or even technological dictate we see today. We need to demand a place for humankind in the new reality of the latest 'civilization revolution'. The Monographs series is, to all intents and purposes, Poland's only such vigorous and creative initiative that can be exploited for the common good*.

The Foundation provides the authors of works accepted for publication with professional layout and editing of the publication as well as a substantial fee. Since more and more of the works proposed for publication are postdoctoral or professors' dissertations, the time it takes to review works was shortened considerably in 2011 (on average from eight down to four months), as was the time within which accepted works are published (on average from 12 down to six months). The aim was to speed up the publication of works by those authors who were going through the procedure of obtaining their academic degrees/titles.

The Foundation conducts regular evaluations of all its programmes, and this includes the Monographs programme. A questionnaire survey the Foundation carried out in early 2011 among representatives of the humanities from different academic centres found out what Polish academics thought about the books published in the series so far, thus enabling the FNP to propose changes making the series more attractive to prospective authors

and readers alike. The several hundred people of various ages taking part in the survey represent different disciplines from the social sciences and humanities and work at academic institutions all over Poland.

One important question in this evaluation was: "How does getting a book published in the Monographs series affect the author's further academic career?" Although having their monograph published in the series may not be all that important for the careers of professors with extensive academic output, it is certainly very important for young people publishing their first book. The survey yielded opinions that *the series enables me to get out of my academic ghetto, to check whether what I do is also important to people from outside the narrow group of researchers in my specialist field*. Getting a doctoral dissertation published in the series is seen as an honour for beginner academics, while the series itself is considered to be *a forum for young researchers to present themselves – a chance for them and their readers that the book will be distinguishable from among dozens of others published at the same time*.

Only 15% of respondents considered the books published in the series to be strictly specialist ones. The great majority thought they were comprehensible to readers outside the given discipline, and one-quarter of respondents said the books were comprehensible to readers outside the academic community. Importantly, respondents highlighted the series' popularising role and noted that *it serves to promote new research methods and methodological [approaches] in the humanities*.

The survey yielded many valuable remarks which inspired the Foundation Board to introduce a few important changes in the Monographs programme in 2011.

The Foundation entrusted the publication of the series to a new publisher chosen in a competition: the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University (WN UMK). First of all, the Toruń-based publisher's advanced digital technologies have enabled a smooth entry into the electronic book market, until recently a novelty as far as academic works in the humanities were concerned. Prof. Strzyżewski admits that *due to the high academic standard and specialist nature of the topics, publishing this series is a great editing challenge for a publisher. Thanks to advanced technologies and experience in different forms of distribution, the books published in the series are getting increasingly attractive visually and are widely available in many scientific and university bookshops. The publishers are also happy to use the latest ways of reaching readers, such as internet forums and networking sites, cooperation with leading online bookshops, taking part in national trade fairs for academic books*.

With the new publisher, all of the monographs published as of the start of 2011 are released simultaneously in paper form and as e-books, with various options of accessing them (depending on readers' preferences and needs). One unquestionable attraction of the series is that it is the first academic series in the humanities accessible in both versions at once.

A new digital tool presenting the series in accessible and attractive form has been in place since 2010: www.fnp.org.pl/monografie. Apart from listing all the publications, it contains brief notes about the books, profiles of their authors, abstracts in English, interviews with the authors (from Polish Radio Programme 2's regular programme *Skarbiec Nauki Polskiej* [Treasury of Polish Learning]), and various additional visual materials.

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF WRITERS WHOSE TEXTS ARE PUBLISHED IN THE SERIES ARE DISTINCTIVE ACADEMIC PERSONALITIES, EVEN IF THEY ARE SCHOLARS OF RECENT YEARS WHO ARE JUST STARTING THEIR ACADEMIC CAREERS.

Next to the Monographs website, in 2011 the Foundation together with WN UMK decided to support the Open Access idea by placing the books of the series in the open access space. To this aim, books published in previous years are being digitised and will be posted on the www.fnp.org.pl/monografie website. Providing online access to publications that have been sold out and preparing new editions (often supplemented with new material and amended) not only responds to readers' needs but above all facilitates promotion as well as the creation of e-books available for download in several formats. Readers will be able to read the book of their choice online or buy the printed version. This means giving "a second lease of life" to books published years ago, worn out at libraries, and long unavailable on the market. Second editions of selected publications will be released in early 2012 in a new series called *Res humanae*.

The aforementioned initiatives are the effect of the Foundation being open to new digital technologies; whereas using advanced tools to disseminate scientific knowledge in the natural and exact sciences has been the norm in Poland for a long time, the humanities still seem to be wary of such solutions. There is no question, however, that digitisation is entering the world of humanities books as well. We are witnessing the transformation of traditional academic units (archives, libraries) into completely new institutions having advanced technologies at their disposal and fulfilling previously unknown roles. Changes in the market for academic publications in our country due to the application of electronic solutions is only a question of time.

The preparation of electronic versions of books published in the Monographs series is accompanied by a much bigger project called Academica, initiated by the Foundation and carried out by the National Library. Its aim is to digitise more than 200,000 books and periodicals that are no longer subject to copyright protection, and to create a digital lending library giving researchers wide access to the digital resources of scientific libraries via the Internet or intranet, without actually having to go to a given library. The National Library's director Tomasz Makowski, PhD, says: *the aim is to overcome the distance separating researchers from the materials they need and to give them electronic access to those publications that are difficult or even impossible to reach*.

The development of digital technology creates a new form of life for paper books. It also provides a new tool for practising the humanities, which can be applied to any activity of humanities scholars and which will certainly have an impact on writers, editors, publishers, and also readers. The global book market is moving towards diversification. Publishers prepare books on different carriers from the outset; this is the market the Monographs series is trying to keep up with. Furthermore, the Foundation wants to show the Polish humanities community that it is worth testing tools which are the standard in other countries or other academic fields and have become an intrinsic part of research work.

Implementing its programmes supporting researchers in Poland, the Foundation is also keen to promote their achievements abroad. In humanities publications, for the past few years this promotion has been well served by the Translations programme and its funding for translations of books published in Poland into a congress language. The idea underlying this programme was the belief that the situation of the humanities depends to a great extent on the national languages in which the works are originally written. Due to the substantial cost of translating academic literature and the lengthy publication procedure, most of

A meet-the-author session with Piotr Filipkowski, writer of Historia mówiona i wojna *[Oral History and War], a book published in the FNP Monographs series, January 2011.*

these books remain locked within their language. Works from exact, natural, empirical sciences are often originally published in English, which means the language of the publication is also a platform for exchanging information about researchers and their results. The Foundation is responding to this kind of need in the hope that supporting the translations of books will accelerate the process whereby Polish works in the humanities would become a part of international academic discourse.

At present the Translations programme is only available for books published in the Monographs series. This will be expanded as of the start of 2012: next to the Polish edition, excerpts from each monograph will be translated into English and posted on the Internet. If a foreign publisher shows an interest in releasing a given book, the authors can obtain funding to have the whole work translated into the congress language of their choice. In this way, knowing how demanding foreign publishers are and how difficult the procedure qualifying books for publication can be (especially in the case of the most renowned publishers), the Foundation wants to make it easier for its beneficiaries to reach international readers, and also to encourage publishers to popularise the achievements of Polish scholars.

Foreign publishing houses were mentioned by most respondents of the evaluation survey who had not applied to have their book published in the Monographs series; they used other, more prestigious publishing houses guaranteeing an international distribution network. It's hard to overlook that fact that some disciplines belonging to the humanities (e.g. psychology, archaeology, logic) are getting closer to the standards applied in the natural and exact sciences. Papers are often published in foreign languages straight away due to their specialist character and also because this means reaching the international researcher community quickly. The Foundation's several years of experience, for example gained through the Translations programme, shows that even the most prestigious foreign publishers offer young, often debuting authors the possibility of getting a book published. Sometimes that first publication is followed by proposals of collaboration, invitations to give guest lectures at foreign centres, or proposals to publish something more.

It is the Foundation's ambition for the Monographs series, already well-established on the map of the Polish humanities, to be a guarantee of modern promotion of the achievements of Polish humanities scholars both at home and on the international academic market.

The article was compiled by the FNP's programme division, using material from interviews conducted by Magdalena Bajer.

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