

The Stefan Batory Foundation was born with Polish democracy

Its goal is to build civil society, a society of individuals aware of their rights and duties, actively participating in public life and taking responsibility for themselves and their community.

The Foundation plays an important role in forming Poland's non-profit sector of public benefit organisations. It supports local civic initiatives, independent think-tanks and watchdogs. It is committed to improving the quality of Polish democracy, respect for human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law. It fights corruption. It opens public debates on issues where there is low public awareness. It assists young democracies in Eastern European countries and builds networks within the European Union.

The Foundation adapts its programs to social developments and responds to ever changing challenges. It helps solve crucial social problems and advocates sustainable systemic change.

The Stefan Batory Foundation is Poland's largest foundation supporting the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe. It allocates USD 5 million to furthering this cause every year.

History and Achievements

The Batory Foundation was founded in 1988 when the communist system in Eastern and Central Europe was disintegrating. It was established by an American philanthropist of Hungarian extraction, George Soros, and Polish democratic opposition leaders of the 1980s. The mission of the Foundation was to contribute to the preparation of Polish society in the transition from communism to democracy, civil society and a market economy.

For more than 15 years the Foundation has been acting in the fields of education, culture, public health and welfare. Our grants have helped the development of local non-governmental organisations that became catalysts of change in their communities and fostered democratic and market change in

Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. The role of the Stefan Batory Foundation has gone beyond grant making. It has served as a facilitator to promote open debates and discussions on important public issues, and acted as a liaison to advance knowledge and increase abilities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and universities. It has supported individuals through grants, fellowships, and conferences.

The Foundation has not limited itself to assisting democracy in Poland, but it has made support of democratic changes in the region one of its top priorities. It has gained a unique pool of expertise, combining a strong record of internationally implemented projects with extensive experience in grant making to a variety of Polish and foreign NGOs working on cross-border projects. As a result, the Foundation has become the largest NGO in Poland, promoting international cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States.

The programs organized in the past 15 years attracted thousands of influential leaders and opinion makers from Central and Eastern Europe, Baltic and Balkan countries, Caucasus and Central Asia.

Our grants have been instrumental in:

- implementing the reforms of local government, public administration, and social welfare policy,
- introducing new programs and teaching methods and improving the quality of teaching and management at universities,
- training journalists and managers for their new role in the independent media,
- training teachers for foreign language instruction,
- introducing business education and Internet access in schools,
- introducing new methods in treatment of alcohol addiction based on the AA movement,
- building the hospice movement and care for the terminally ill,

- stimulating and boosting cultural life in the Polish countryside,
- protecting women rights and counteracting violence against children,
- securing equal access to culture and education for young people from low income families and rural areas,
- integrating the disabled in educational, cultural and social life,
- creating and funding 17 local community foundations that raised 2 million USD to support local initiatives.

Since its establishment the Stefan Batory Foundation has distributed 10,000 grants and 5,500 scholarships, and funded thousands of projects and grant-making programs.

Our Awards:

- the first Prize for a Non-Governmental Organisation awarded by the Economic Forum in Krynica in 2003 for the promotion of civil society in Central Eastern European region
- Golden Paragraph 2001, a prize awarded by the Gazeta Prawna for courage and consistency in fighting corruption

Areas of activity

Supporting civic initiative in Poland

Civic involvement is an indispensable ingredient of every democratic process. The Foundation provides support to community involvement initiatives that facilitate local problem solving. We help independent non-governmental organisations that take up action in areas where the role or the capacity of the state is limited. We are the only grantmaker in Poland to support both individual projects and long term programs and capacity building: strategic planning, management enhancement and financial sustainability. We support

community initiatives that increase public participation and create equal opportunities for the most vulnerable or disadvantaged social groups.

Access to justice and public scrutiny

Democracy cannot function well without the knowledge of and respect for law among all citizens and without public oversight of the authorities. Therefore, we support initiatives that are designed to provide all citizens with access to information and justice. We assist legal and civic education programs. We disseminate legal expertise and methods of exercising oversight over public institutions. We undertake actions to curb corruption and protect individual rights against government abuse.

International assistance and cooperation

Poland's democracy is young. We still remember its tough beginnings - this is why we help our neighbors in the East to advance democracy, particularly in Belarus and Ukraine. We facilitate experience sharing in the areas of political and social transition. We implement projects aimed at building strong relations with the East and the West. We contribute to the dialogue on the future of common Europe. We advocate a greater role of community initiative in international relations and in the advancement of democratic principles and respect for human rights.

Our standards

Independence

In our actions we are independent of government authorities, business and political parties. We base our independence on diverse funding sources and endowment building which will warrant the Foundation's financial sustainability and independent choice in supporting community initiatives.

Cooperation

We are open for cooperation with various parties. We build coalitions with non-governmental organisations, government agencies, local governments and the business community. We work with industrial and corporate donors to offer them an opportunity to support community initiatives and implement joint projects.

Partnership

We build our partnerships on shared responsibility, honesty and integrity. We engage in a dialogue with civic organisations. We do not dictate their actions, but assist them in their own community projects.

Transparency

In our activity we are guided by the principles of transparency, openness and accountability. We apply clear and transparent decision and grantmaking procedures. We publish detailed annual reports on our activity. Every single dollar received from our donors is accounted for. Our financial statements are externally audited by highly regarded accounting firms.

Our methods

We award grants to organisations that work for public benefit. Alone or in partnership with other NGOs, we initiate and implement projects that are important for the social and political development of Poland. We host public debates on political, social and international issues. We produce publications, run social research and campaigns, organise conferences, seminars and workshops. Foundation encourages philanthropy by offering administration of named funds and corporate funds to support initiatives in the service of public interest.

Democracy in the making

Democracy rarely brings about full public participation, even in places where it is quite well established. The democratic system and free market economy on its own did not and could not possibly cause a quantum leap in living standards or economic performance in Poland. It did provide, however, an opportunity for civil society to develop incrementally on the condition that there was a certain level of public awareness, understanding and patience. Civil society is an essential and integral part of building an ever more efficient democratic order and it drives the quality and sustainability of our democracy.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki

Poland's first Prime Minister

after democratic transition in 1989

On Stefan Batory Foundation

By supporting organizations acting for human rights, women rights, ethnic minorities, by publishing numerous basic papers on freedom and democracy, the Stefan Batory Foundation has become one of the most important reasons behind the increasing involvement of the non government sector in the transformations occurring in our country. The Foundation's programs deal with issues that all of us encounter on an everyday basis. By educating teachers and local government employees, it stimulates local communities to organize and address social issues. The Stefan Batory Foundation's activity has had a major influence on Polish politicians, Polish institutions and on the shaping of civil society in Poland.

Aleksander Kwaśniewski

President of Poland

A letter from the Founder

I established the Warsaw-based Stefan Batory Foundation in 1988 with the cooperation of a group of Polish dissidents and intellectuals. Our mission was to promote the process of democratic transformation in Poland. Since then, the foundation has grown to become one of the largest philanthropies in Poland.

The organization's support for grassroots programs and innovative projects, its transparent grant-making policies, and its carefully considered governance structure have earned the Batory Foundation respect and recognition throughout Central and Eastern Europe and beyond. The foundation has attracted funding from both Polish and foreign donors, including many U.S. organizations. Indeed, for many, it serves as the model for grant-making in Central Europe.

For fourteen years the Foundation has actively supported the development of civil society, democracy, the rule of law, and the market economy in Poland and other countries in the region. Today, with the Poland's anticipated accession to the European Union, new challenges and responsibilities arise. To meet these challenges, the foundation is working to identify the areas where its activities can have the greatest impact. It must also seek new and diverse sources of funding, both to develop new programs and to build an endowment to secure its future.

As the founder and principle funder of the foundation, I strongly support its ambitious efforts to create a stable, independent and lasting resource for the people of Poland and Eastern Europe. For all who are committed to the ongoing process of transformation in the region, the Stefan Batory Foundation can serve as a reliable and honest partner. I urge you to support the foundation in its current efforts.

George Soros

Founder

Stefan Batory Foundation

Our donors

The Foundation is funded from institutional, corporate and private donations. It raises funds to fund its on-going programs and to contribute to its endowment, which will constitute an independent sustainable source of funding for community projects.

Our donors include:

AGF International, AGORA S.A., AmerBank, American Express Foundation, Amway, Arthur Andersen, Baltic-American Partnership Fund, Bank Handlowy, Bank BISE, BRE Bank, British Embassy in Warsaw, Royal Netherlands Embassy in Warsaw, Estonian Embassy in Warsaw, Lithuanian Embassy in Warsaw, Latvian Embassy in Warsaw, the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, World Bank, Bankers Trust, Bertelsmann Stiftung, British Know How Fund, Canadian International Development Agency - ODACE, CIECH S.A., Charities Aid Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Commercial Union Poland, Cormway Poland, Cooperation Fund, Deutsche Bank Poland, Eurasia Foundation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Cultural Foundation, European Foundation Centre, Exbud, Dwory S.A., Fondation de France, Fondation France-Pologne, Ford Foundation, Freedom House, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Leopold Kronenberg Foundation, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Gornoslaski Bank Gospodarczy, Warsaw Stock Exchange, Hewlett Packard, Ilawa Car Reperation Company, Incom S.A, Intercam, Interprego, Johns Hopkins University, Junior Achievement International, King Baudouin Foundation, Koerber Stiftung, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Kosciuszko Foundation, Levi Strauss Poland, National Endowment for Democracy, NOWA Publishing Office, Open Society Institute, PZU S.A., UPS Poland, Bank Pekao S.A., America-Ukraine Cooperation Initiative PAUCI, Polish Development Bank, Polish-American Freedom Foundation, PKO BP, Bank BPH, Pro Pharma, Council of Europe, Gdansk Refinery, Rhone Poulenc, Robert Bosch Stiftung, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, World Health Organisation, Elektrim S.A., Trust for Civil Society in Central

and Eastern Europe, Trustees of Boston University, US Agency for International Development, Bank Zachodni WBK S.A., Wrigley Poland, and over 2000 private donors from Poland and other countries.

Letter from the President

Vibrant and effective community of non-governmental organizations is one of the essential precondition of a modern and successful democratic system. An independent NGO sector provides opportunities for collective action both on local and national level, it helps to develop the spirit of citizenship and it assures an effective oversight over public authorities. The Stefan Batory Foundation has striven from the very beginning to develop an effective NGO sector in Poland and in that way to help ensure that democracy is transparent, effective and accountable. Our Foundation has become the leading NGO in Poland providing programs that are crucial to the political, economic and social transformation of Poland. We focus on providing resources through a variety of initiatives to enable citizens to voice their concerns and to act, to improve the quality of democracy.

Poland has long been an example to other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, both in its peaceful transformation from a communist system and in its efforts to embrace an open, democratic system of government. Given that the Stefan Batory Foundation has played an important role in this transformation. We have been able to share our experience and know-how with our neighbors in the region, especially in Ukraine and Belarus. These countries also need a strong NGO sector and we are pleased to assist them.

In order to promote our ambitious goals to serve Polish society and the whole region we develop a wide range of programs. We also work in partnership with other like-minded organizations and we help develop and fund other NGOs at a local and national level to address a variety of issues.

To be effective we must remain independent. This requires that we attract funding from many donors both in Poland and internationally. This has never

been more important than at the present time, when many of the largest grant giving foundations are leaving Central and Eastern Europe for other regions of the world. Your support is crucial for promoting further development of an open and democratic society in Poland and East Central Europe.

Aleksander Smolar

President of Stefan Batory Foundation

You can make a difference

The success of Poland's transition to a democratic and open society has been due in large part to the active involvement of its citizens. It has also depended upon the funding that was made available by concerned individuals, foundations and companies to enable organizations such as the Stefan Batory Foundation to create the programs that are essential to the development of any civil society and democratic nation. Without this funding, Poland's transition may have taken a different and far less successful course.

The future of Poland's democracy continues to depend upon its citizens and upon a vibrant, transparent and accountable NGO sector. The Stefan Batory Foundation is the leader among NGOs in Poland and is committed to building and protecting Poland's democratic society.

Many foundations and companies, as well as individuals have worked in partnership with the Stefan Batory Foundation over the past 15 years to help meet these goals. Your support of the Foundation and its programs will have a direct and vital impact in strengthening a democratic and open society for the long term.

We are asking for your help to support the Stefan Batory Foundation, and its programs, by making a financial contribution.

We offer donors

- attractive options to form partnerships with non-governmental sector representatives;
- a wide range of innovative community development programs, high standards of grant-giving and clear grant-giving procedures;
- advice on non-governmental organizations active in the areas of donors' interest.

We help donors

- save money, time and work in administering their charitable program activity;
- implement Corporate Social Responsibility strategy by managing corporate donors' budget;
- increase the quality and effectiveness of their contribution to the community.

Donors are assured that we

- thoroughly verify the status of the potential grantee to ensure that giving is tax-free and effective;
- monitor the way the money is spent and examine project and financial reports;
- provide the donors with interim reports on how their money is being invested in the community;
- help to promote the donors' social involvement through our publications and in the media.

Our donors have twice been awarded the Benefactor of the Year title, which is granted to corporate and private donors in recognition of their charitable work and community involvement: Commercial Union Poland in 1999 for the support

to our equal opportunities programs for the disabled and Levi Strauss & Co. in 2002 for the support to our Equal Opportunity - local scholarship program.

Types of Support

You can support the Stefan Batory Foundation by funding one of our programs or projects, establishing a donor advised fund, a named fund, a company or partner fund or a charitable trust.

General Support Grant

Donor supports the statutory activity of the Foundation without specifying the projects or program areas.

Annual giving program

The donor commits to contribute funds to a particular program area in a multi year perspective through an annual giving plan.

The Maxwell Fund - a named fund established by Mr and Mrs Maxwell to support on the annual basis the educational projects in the area of Siedlce county in Poland.

Named/Company Fund

We open a Named or Company Fund at the Foundation and an individual or corporate donor decides what sort of projects, programs or initiatives should be funded from this account. The donor may also decide to narrow the funding to a particular geographical area or to a target audience. The fund is named after the donor in memory of a family member or friend or in honor of someone the donor wants to commemorate. A minimum of USD 25 000 is needed to start a named fund.

The Beata Pawlak Fund - a named fund established out of moneys bequeathed by a journalist and writer who died in the terrorist attack in Bali. As requested by the donor, the fund awards an annual prize of USD 3,000 to an author of an article or publication on foreign cultures, religions and civilisations.

Partner Fund

The Foundation and the donor agree to co-fund projects of mutual interest [culture, education, social welfare, ethnic minorities, human rights, others]. The funds donated by the donor are matched by the Foundation thus increasing the size of the contribution to the community.

The Commercial Union Fund - Commercial Union Poland contributes on a yearly basis USD 50,000 to its charitable fund administered by the Foundation and used to support equal opportunities projects for disabled children and youth. The Company has donated a total of USD 0,5 million for charitable programs since 1996.

Endowment Funding/Charitable Trust

The donor donates a gift in cash, stocks, equities to contribute to the Foundation's endowment or to create an endowed Charitable Trust. The earnings on the principal fund the program activity or particular projects of the donor's interest. The trust can be named after the donor, in a memory of a family member or friend or in honor of someone the donor wants to commemorate.

The M Fund - an endowed fund of USD 200,000 established on the basis of a private donation used to support equal opportunities and health care projects.

Types of Gifts

Donors are invited to spread their support over a five year period. The Foundation has established tax-deductible status in the United States, therefore tax benefits apply to all gifts.

Types of gifts accepted by the Foundation include:

- Cash
- Securities
- Gifts-in-kind

- Wills and bequests

Contact details

If you would like to make a gift or to know more about planned giving opportunities at the Stefan Batory Foundation, including opportunities to purchase a gift annuity or if you would like to receive a confidential, personalized illustration of the tax and financial benefits of a life income gift such as a trust, please contact:

In the United States

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Alexandria, VA 22314
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In United Kingdom

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In Poland

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Domestic Programs

- Civil Society Program
- Third Sector Program
- Legal Education Program
- Anti-Corruption Program
- Equal Opportunities Program

Civil Society Program

Contact details: so@batory.org.pl, phone |48 22| 536 02 43

There are over 20,000 non-governmental organizations in Poland. Three million individuals work in these organizations to solve a variety of problems faced by their communities, on the local and national level. However, there has recently been a decline in civic activity and more organizations wind up than start up. One widely evident challenge is a trend away from public life. This is accompanied by an increasing level of mistrust towards the political class and representative democracy. Public scrutiny of public policy is failing and the activity that has gained the broadest acclaim is staging protests. It is essential that these trends be reversed, particularly today, when Polish society is facing a unique opportunity: European Union enlargement.

The aim of the program is to foster the advancement of the non-governmental movement which is working to increase public participation and a greater involvement in solving local community problems.

Watchdog Organizations

Nearly every day we witness the failure of taking into account public interest in decisions and actions taken by government administration, local and regional government and commercial institutions. This is largely caused by the lack of public scrutiny over public institutions and power centers. In established

democracies, public scrutiny of the various forms of public life is ensured, inter alia, by independent NGOs or watchdogs. In Poland, despite a great need for new mechanisms of public oversight and audit of public institutions there are few watchdogs in place.

We wish to support the existing watchdog organizations and help establish new ones to take up the task of monitoring transparency, ethical conduct and accountability in various areas of public life: from public scrutiny of the government and administration at various levels, of public finance institutions, non-profit and commercial institutions to defending the wide spectrum of consumer rights, the rights and liberties of citizens and improving environmental performance. We manage a grant program for projects that involve building systems for collecting and disseminating information on the performance of public institutions, education projects, projects aimed at removing some of the malpractice in public institutions and advocacy projects [campaigns, direct activities etc.].

Development Grants

NGOs usually receive funds to implement concrete projects but they do not have means to invest in development of their own organizations. The Foundation offers core support grants to organisations that play an important role either in a certain sphere of public life or in a particular region of Poland and cooperate with other organisations and institutions for the benefit of the public.

The development grants are aimed to help the organisations strengthen their strategic planning and management capabilities. The grants can be used for: developing long-term operational strategies, implementing new programs or forms of activities, establishing guidelines for strategic cooperation with other partners and effective management of resources. Grants may also include funding for financial and organisational audits, evaluation or enhancing organisational effectiveness in such areas as fundraising or applying for EU funds.

You Have a Say, You Have a Choice. Local Government is Yours!

Partners: Foundation for the Development of Local Democracy, SPLOT NGO Support Network

One of the reasons behind a marginal level of public participation is a lack of the sense of influence on administrative decisions, the belief that the ballot does not make a difference and that, realistically, policy is influenced only by strong pressure groups. In order to encourage citizens to participate in elections and the decision-making process that is relevant to them, and to take ownership of these decisions, we have conducted a four-year project that monitors the enforcement of election promises made by mayors of rural and urban communities during local elections in 2002. Every year we work with our partners to check more than 100 municipalities in terms of how their mayors have been putting in practice their election pledges. Findings are disseminated in a media campaign in regional and local press.

Liaison Officers - EU Funds Specialists

Project implemented jointly with the Representative Office of Polish NGOs in Brussels.

Upon EU accession, Poland has become eligible for structural funds. Non-governmental organizations should join the process of developing public policy and regional development strategies to have a say on the allocation of EU funds within Poland and to be able to participate in programs funded from this source. In order to assist the NGO sector in preparations for this task we launched a program in 2002 designed to create a network of EU funds liaisons/specialists. The liaisons maintain a constant working relationship with local authorities, ensure transparency of recruitment into regional steering and monitoring committees, review regional development plans and operational programs, monitor tendering procedures and practices of keeping NGOs informed of the available EU funds, inform NGOs about funding opportunities, assist in writing difficult project proposals and building project-related

coalitions. Liaison specialists take part in recruiting community representatives to steering and monitoring committees in 13 provinces.

Monitoring Accessibility of EU Funds to NGOs

Given the opportunities and concerns around EU funds distribution, we launched a project to monitor accessibility and utilization of EU financial aid. Initially, we focused on the accessibility of European funds to NGOs. To help develop and promote systems and mechanisms improving the accessibility of funds to NGOs, we wish to review existing aid programs, monitor practical implementation of programs funded from pre-accession and structural funds, consult with NGOs and create a dialogue with EU representatives and Polish government officials.

Third Sector Program

Program funded by the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

Contact details: so@batory.org.pl, phone |48 22| 536 02 49

The Third Sector, the popular name for non-governmental organizations or NGOs, is large and diverse. However, NGOs face numerous challenges such as unclear legislation, insufficient collaboration with the public and private sectors and lack of sustainable funding sources. International studies on the development of the Third Sector position Poland behind Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania. The non-governmental sector in Poland must be supported considerably, especially today, when traditional institutional donors are leaving the region. The indigenous philanthropy is still underdeveloped and rules concerning the availability of EU funds remain vague. In January 2003, the Batory Foundation launched a four-year Third Sector Program designed to support civil society in Poland. Similar programs are implemented in 6 other CEE countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary.

The Third Sector Program seeks to improve the quality of the non-governmental sector in Poland by helping to build an NGO-friendly legal and fiscal environment, strengthen partnership among NGOs and build partnerships with other sectors.

1. Third sector growth strategy

Partners: Institute of Public Affairs, KLON/JAWOR Association

The Foundation provides financial support to three-year programs managed by our partners. The programs involve:

- Research into the condition of NGOs and various aspects of their operations such as their relations with national and local government, use of volunteers and philanthropy. Findings are disseminated through publications and a web portal |www.ngo.pl|;
- Analytical studies that serve as a foundation for policy making in the Third Sector. Such studies are discussed in seminars and published in a specialist quarterly magazine;
- Monitoring of legislation regulating NGOs. Findings will form the basis of advocacy for a better legislative environment and improved administrative practice for NGOs.

2. Partnership for the third sector

Partners: Foundation for the Development of Local Democracy, SPLOT NGO Support Network

The Foundation supports two-year projects managed by our partners. The projects seek to:

- Develop partnership relations between the NGO sector and public administration at the local and regional level. Our partners have reviewed all existing arrangements between local governments and NGOs, developed and adopted in 75 communities replicable resolutions regulating the relations

between the third sector and local government under the public benefit and voluntary work legislation and developed 12 social services standards.

- Ensure NGO participation in structural funds programming and distribution by bringing NGO representatives into monitoring and steering committees in all Polish provinces. Practical information on making applications for EU funds will be delivered at 24 conferences for NGO activists and during workshops and training sessions devoted to applying for EU funds.

- Build NGO representation and advocacy for NGOs and their clients at the regional level. As a result of these activities 3 super-sectoral and 12 sectoral NGO federations will be established and 16 regional conferences will be held to advance the third sector agenda.

3. Funding local civic initiatives

Partners: Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland, Environmental Partnership Foundation

The Foundation provides financial support to three-year projects managed by our partners. The aim is to disseminate innovative philanthropy models. We support fund-raising and local coalition building methodologies that benefit from the collaborative network of NGOs, local government, business and private donors to form a sustainable funding source for initiatives that respond to local community needs.

Community Foundations

In late 1990 we have successfully adopted in Poland community foundation mechanism to identify and support the needs of the local community. Since then Polish community foundations raised over USD 2 million for grants and endowments, funded 1000 local initiatives and 1,700 scholarships for the amount of USD 0,7 million. The Community Foundations project offers training, advice and financial support to help with the establishment of 10 new community foundations and strengthen 12 existing ones.

Partnership Groups

The project aims to help create partnership groups, i.e. coalitions for the development of regions sharing a common tradition and a similar economic and social environment. The groups consist of NGOs, public institutions |local government, community centers, museums, landscape parks etc.| and local businesses. Over 3 years, the project will help 20 partnership groups achieve organizational sustainability to allow them to run their own programs at the local and regional level and raise USD 2,5 million to support their actions.

Corporate Citizenship

Two campaigns are conducted each year to advance corporate citizenship and philanthropy. The first one, organized around the Benefactor of the Year contest, promotes corporate philanthropy. The other campaign concentrates on promoting private philanthropy and encourages the use of the 1% tax break in lieu of making a donation to a public benefit organization.

4. Institutional development of NGOs

To meet our aim of contributing to institutional and financial sustainability of the third sector in Poland, we held an open grant contest in 2003 for established organizations whose operations are of key importance to social development and to the advancement of the third sector. Grants were awarded to organizations with a large client base, focusing on problem solving in areas not generally addressed by others and capable of being role models for other institutions or demonstrating an innovative, unique and non-stereotypical profile. 10 strategic and 6 endowment grants were awarded in a two-stage process.

Strategic grants

|with a maximum amount of USD 100,000| fund projects that offer skill and financial resource development |including the establishment of reserve funds|, help in changing focus or building financial sustainability.

Endowment grants

|from USD 150,000 to USD 400,000| are earmarked for the establishment of endowments, which prudently invested, will generate a steady income for organizations' activity. Capital gains from investing the endowments will constitute a stable and independent source of funding for community projects.

List of grantees:

[www. batory.org.pl/trzeci/rozwoj.htm](http://www.batory.org.pl/trzeci/rozwoj.htm) |

Legal Education Program

Contact details: prawny@batory.org.pl,

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The law in Poland changes frequently and more and more areas are regulated. Many people have difficulty understanding the law and do not know how to exercise their own rights or navigate in the tangle of complicated regulations. The world of courts and government offices is perceived as alien and unfriendly. Over half of Polish citizens do not think highly of the quality of their courts. Deprived of the basic legal information and knowledge, they are often vulnerable to unfavorable rulings by the authorities. This affects mostly the vulnerable social groups, especially those citizens who cannot afford professional legal assistance.

The Legal Education Program intends to contribute to increasing the efficiency of the judiciary system, improving citizens' access to legal assistance and educating them on how to exercise their rights.

1. Voluntary legal assistance

University Legal Clinics

We support University Legal Clinics established in Polish universities, where students, under tutorial supervision, provide free legal advice to individuals

who cannot afford professional legal services. We have helped establish a total of 14 University Legal Clinics throughout Poland. Some 700 college students provide more than 4,000 comprehensive legal consultations.

Citizens' Advice Bureaus

The Foundation provides grants to legal counseling services managed by NGOs affiliated in the Union of Citizens' Advice

Bureaus. Trained counselors provide free consultation on criminal, civil and labor law, as well as on the rights of refugees, consumer and patient rights. 100 staff and volunteers in 25 Citizens' Advice Bureaus in various Polish cities provide 30,000 individual consultations each year.

Legal Aid to Vulnerable Groups

We grant financial aid to organizations providing specialist legal aid to vulnerable citizens [people with disabilities, victims of crime, national minorities]. Each year, we help 10 organizations throughout the country provide approximately 4,500 free consultations. We also support organizations which undertake to represent citizens before courts, government administration and local government authorities.

2. Efficient judiciary

Citizen in Court

In Poland, the average person perceives courts as closed and hostile institutions, where information and assistance are hard to find. The sense of feeling lost in the courts is additionally aggravated by legalese. Therefore, we have established a working relationship with the Iustitia Association of Polish Judges to implement a project that would ensure that Polish courts distribute manuals which comprehensibly explain court procedures, the rights and obligations of witnesses, the rights of the affected party etc. Each year we support NGOs that publish such brochures and manuals. Domestic violence, participation of children in court proceedings or the rights of the father are

examples of some of the leading topics of manuals that can now be found in helpdesks in many of courts throughout the country.

Training for Judges

We fund training programs for judges to learn ways of improving court efficiency and accessibility to citizens. In year one of the project, 150 judges from 8 local and district courts received training. The program helped participating judges improve their knowledge of issues related to corruption, domestic violence or the rights of children in court proceedings. Certain courts developed relationships with NGOs specializing in human rights and assistance to victims of crime. Several courts opened helpdesks for citizens.

Journalist in Court

"There has never been a trial like this in Kielce before. The hotel conference room [...] turned into a court room. The representatives of Justice and media switched roles for several hours. " |Słowo Ludu, March 24, 2003| This is the opening paragraph of an article describing one of the workshops for judges and journalists from local media, conducted by the Foundation since 2002. The workshops are designed to help the two professional groups to come to know each other better and understand the nature of each other's job. During a staged court hearing journalists take the role of judges, prosecutors, defending counsels and judges write press articles and produce radio and television shows. Each year, the workshops attract 60 journalists and the same number of judges, including court presidents and spokespersons. These meetings help open the courts up to media, many court spokespersons change their style and cooperate with the journalists. In the effect media coverage of court issues is improved.

Anti-Corruption Program

Implemented jointly with the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation

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European Commission reports point towards Poland as the most corrupt of the accession countries. Studies of Transparency International show that in 2002 Poland occupied the 64th position out of 133 countries in the world in terms of corruption, after Cuba, Belarus, Bulgaria and Croatia. There is still a strong acceptance of corrupt behavior, especially in everyday matters. The study commissioned by the Foundation indicates that while 80% of Polish citizens consider giving bribes is immoral, as many as 42% claim it is justified under certain circumstances. Reports and studies leave no doubt whatsoever: Poland is not capable of combating corruption effectively.

The Anti-Corruption Program aims at reducing the scale of the corruption problem in Poland by fostering attitude shifts amongst citizens with respect to everyday corruption, advocating new legislation to ensure transparency of decision-making and organizing permanent community pressure on the government to enforce anti-corruption laws and regulations.

1. Fighting corruption in everyday life

Corruption Barometer

Each year the Foundation commissions a public opinion poll, on the basis of which an indicator called "corruption barometer" is established. By asking the same questions every year we verify how the attitude of society to the problem and scale of corruption changes. Together with the poll, each year, we conduct in-depth research on corruption problems in specific aspects of social life. On the basis of this research, 4 reports to date have been published: Corruption in the everyday life |2000|, Patients and doctors on corruption in the public

health service [2001], Public opinion and officials on corruption in local governments [2002], and Public opinion and businessmen on corruption [2003]. In 2004 our focus is on political corruption in the case of law-making processes. The reports from the research are presented at public seminars and are available at our website www.batory.org.pl/korupcja.pub.html.

Physicians Against Corruption

According to our surveys [the 2001 Corruption Barometer] physicians are the most corrupt professional group in Poland. The publication of a report on that and the media coverage of crime in healthcare have broken the conspiracy of silence around bribery in the medical community and have helped put the matter on the agenda of conferences and discussion sessions organized by medical associations. A Working Group of Physicians was formed by the Foundation to implement the Waiting in a Human Way project, designed to eradicate malpractice and improve access to medical services.

Only the Fish Don't Take the Bait: Competition for Investigative Journalists

The effectiveness of the media in discovering and condemning symptoms of corruption in public life will have an immense impact on public perception of corruption. Up until recent times investigative articles published in the Polish media had no impact. Today, however, they often trigger real investigations and create pressure for policy response.

We wish to motivate the independent media to make disclosures of corruption and government abuse cases by offering a contest for the best media coverage of corruption. We award prizes to journalists in national media and in local media, who find it particularly hard to deliver objective journalism under the pressure of their owners' ties with local politicians.

The awarded articles are available at: www.batory.org.pl/korupcja/pub.htm

Legal Counseling

The fight against corruption is most likely to be compromised by the sense of helplessness among citizens who find themselves exposed to it. The Foundation's experts consult more than 100 corruption-related cases a year. We approach regulators and audit institutions asking them to investigate specific cases and on occasion we take part in the capacity of observers in court hearings of corruption cases. Legal advice is also provided through Legal Counseling Centers and Legal Clinics at the Warsaw and Jagiellonian Universities.

Out of 284 cases people turned to us with in the years 2000-2003, in 44 we intervened in superior institutions, supervisory and controlling institutions, in 13 we appealed to the prosecutor's office, and in 3 we participated as court observers.

In August 2001, the Foundation was approached by a group of land surveyors from Pia County. For a long time, the land surveyors had been ineffectively protesting at the County Office against the existing practice among government land surveyors of running private land surveying business in their official area of government oversight. After the matter had been highlighted by local media we approached the Chairman of the County Council indicating that this practice violated fair competition laws and the law on local and regional government officials. One month later, the Head of the County in Pia issued a regulation which completely banned any business activity by officials if it conflicted with their official responsibilities in the area at hand. |

2. Public scrutiny of government at national level

Reports and Legal Reviews

We develop legal reviews and studies identifying gaps in legislation and conflict of interest cases which are conducive to corruption. We publish reports on civil service and the status of Poland's efforts to achieve compliance with two Council of Europe anti-corruption conventions and an OECD convention, which

were ratified by Poland. We have been proposing that new legislation be passed and existing legislation be amended where it fails. Our efforts have led to the promulgation of the law on access to public information, the development of a bill on lobbying and the amendment of anti-corruption provisions in the law on local and regional government officials.

Monitoring of Election Promises

In collaboration with the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation and the Social Communication Foundation we have been reviewing how political parties are fulfilling their pledge to fight corruption made during the parliamentary election campaign in 2001. We organize annual conferences attended by party representatives to evaluate the status of implementation of election promises. The effectiveness of this pressure technique is evidenced by a statement by Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of the Parliament, who said during our conference in September 2002: "I admit work on a number of documents has been accelerated because of this conference. "

Election promises kept between 2002 and 2003: Parliament adopted the amendment of the police law, giving police forces more powers to investigate corruption-related crime [controlled bribery]; the anti-corruption legislation was extended to cover a large number of public positions, the penal code received new provisions penalising election-related corruption and corruption in sport and business.

3. Public scrutiny of government at local level

Local Citizens' Groups

We train community leaders to monitor government policies and practices and advocate a greater transparency in local community life. We award grants to support their actions. These grants include creating helpdesk services for citizens encountering

difficulties in dealing with public offices, checking the availability of information in public offices, engaging in anti-corruption information campaigns and working with local media to organize public debates on corruption. We provide technical and financial assistance to the Local Citizens Groups Association.

Transparent Municipality

Project implemented in cooperation with the publisher of Gazeta Wyborcza, Agora S.A. and the Polish American Freedom Foundation

Transparency, predictability, accountability, professionalism, public participation and zero tolerance for corruption are the six principles to be implemented by 300 out of the total 2,478 municipalities in Poland through the Transparent Municipality project. Phase one of the project involves 16 municipalities representing all provinces. They will be implementing the Foundation's Transparent Municipality Model with the assistance of experts. In phase two, to be publicized by Gazeta Wyborcza, more municipalities will join if they commit themselves to implement at least several components of the Model.

Transparent Town Halls

We work with the Czech, Slovak and Hungarian offices of Transparency International with the aim of building a coalition of officials, councilors and NGO leaders that will implement transparency into local government offices in capital cities of the Visegrad countries. Representatives of each city develop and commit to implement at every annual meeting an anti-corruption action plan.

Warsaw: In accordance with the commitment made at the meeting in Prague in February 2003, the Warsaw City Executive Office has gradually introduced separate services desks in district offices. This way, citizens do not come into direct contact with officials, what limits the space for corruptible interactions. The City Office prepares an ethical code for employees, and the city councillors - ethical code for councillors, while NGOs elaborate model principles for awarding donations by the office of the city of Warsaw.

Equal Opportunities Program

Program funded from corporate and private sources

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1. Equal Opportunities: Local Scholarship Funds

Young people in large cities and small villages in Poland share the same dreams. They wish to learn, have a successful family life and a good job. While the dreams may be similar the opportunities to turn them into reality are light years apart. In 2002, 80% of young people in rural areas went on to full secondary education after attending pre-secondary gymnasiums. Nearly three quarters wish to go to college. Barriers to education emerge as early as in secondary school for students in smaller communities. Many suffer major financial hardships, they cannot afford to buy textbooks, a warm winter jacket or a bus or train fare to commute to school. As a result, 60% of young members of rural communities have basic vocation training at the most, and only 5 out of 100 have graduated from college or university. Apart from welfare scholarships for children from areas formerly managed by state farms, which are paid by the Agricultural Property Agency and scholarships for exceptionally able students, sponsored by the Prime Minister and the Minister for National Education and Sport, Poland has no public scholarship system for children and youth in education.

The goal of the Equal Opportunities: Local Scholarship Program is to enable youth from low-income families to continue learning in secondary schools. We encourage and promote creation of a scholarship assistance program based on local resources and managed by local non-governmental organizations in collaboration with local government and business.

The Foundation provides financial and technical support to local NGOs which establish local scholarship funds for children and youth in their area. We offer

the NGOs training in scholarship program establishment and management, fund-raising and investment and media relations. The concept of the program is simple: local scholarship funds that we help start up raise funds from local business, private donors and local government for scholarship grants for children and youth in the area. The various fund-raising techniques used such as festivals, auctions, lotteries, concerts and functions, organized with the participation and assistance of local media, key public and business leaders, help involve the local community and promote pro-active attitudes. Once a year, participating organizations receive matching grants of up to 100% of what they have raised locally for their scholarship programs from the Foundation.

Scholarship grants are awarded for one school year and may be extended for several years while the beneficiary stays in school. The amount is USD 15-70 per month and grantees spend the money on textbooks, learning tools, dormitory fees, additional courses, commuting etc. The award is dependent on good school performance, family income, involvement in the local community or other extra-curricular achievements of the student.

The project, which has been managed by us since 2000, currently works with 35 NGOs in 14 provinces. They raised over USD 250 000 in 2004. This amount was matched by the contribution of the Batory Foundation and of Levi Strauss & Co., and it supported education for 1,300 pupils and students. With this number of scholarship grantees our project ranks third after scholarship programs sponsored by the Agricultural Property Agency and by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Education and Sport.

Levi Strauss & Co. was awarded the Benefactor of the Year title in the education category for providing USD 500,000 in support of local scholarship programs in 2002.

List of local scholarship funds and their profiles:

www.batory.org.pl/szanse/org.htm

Our scholarship grantees

Basia is 17 and lives at Gniazdowo. She has seven siblings. She used to sell wild blueberries to buy herself notebooks for schools. This year it did not work. Basia decided to save some money and did not buy her bus ticket to travel to school. Instead, she marched or rather ran 10 kilometers to get there - Basia is a runner. She has won all long distance races in the area and she wants to continue running. USD 25, which she is going to receive monthly from the Family Foundation from Sławno, will buy her notebooks and possibly a book, and she will be able to pay the bus fare. She will run on the track rather than to school.

USD 250 a year is enough to enable Basia to continue education. A contribution of USD 2,500 translates into 10 scholarships for students in the community of Sławno (Western Pomerania).

Rafał, grantee of the program for talented students from Lower Silesia, won in 2003 the International Accordion Contest at Reinach, Switzerland, in junior category. This award is Rafał's another international success. In 2002 he had won the International Festival of Accordion Music in Przemyśl and the International Festival of Accordion Pop Music in Częstochowa, Poland.

Rafał is one of 142 from Lower Silesia to receive a scholarship in the program run by the International Education Foundation in Wrocław.

Ania. Ania has 5 siblings, her mother has worked for a sewing company since she turned 16 and her dad is a pensioner. They live in two rooms and have no running water facility. Ania proved exceptionally gifted as early as primary school. She came first in a number of Polish language contests and a language aptitude test confirmed her exceptional ability in this area. Thanks to the scholarship, Ania graduated from the First Private English-Speaking School in Poznań, which exempted her from tuition fees, with international general certificate of secondary education. She was accepted at University in Toruń where she has commenced European Studies.

Due to the Patronage Scholarship Program managed by the Echo of Pyzdry Culture Association, 20 students like Ania receive scholarships every year.

2. Rainbow Academy

One Pole out of seven is disabled and the numbers are growing steadily. Among them there is a group of some 260,000 children under 15. Only 5% of them attend kindergarten and more than half are not receiving any primary school education. Local governments have no budgets for the programs to improve the quality of life of the disabled. There is not enough money for education, rehabilitation or activity therapy programs. Disabled children are therefore discriminated against, having no access to professional care, adequate education and development opportunities. The discrimination applies to education and other areas of public life. This is especially true of small communities, where a disabled child is still considered something to be ashamed of, where there are no programs for disabled children and where parents have no one to turn to for help.

The goal of the Equal Opportunities: Rainbow Academy is to create equal opportunities in education, culture and personal development for disabled and neglected children and to counteract social exclusion. We want them to be able to learn, play and grow with their able-bodied peers.

We support non-governmental organizations which provide education and therapy opportunities for disabled children in small communities (up to 20,000 in population). We award grants for projects that assist disabled children in receiving education, getting involved in cultural and artistic undertakings and contributing to their community and peer group integration. We focus on projects that are part of long term therapy programs based on local networks, voluntary work and involvement of the families of disabled children.

In the Unblazed Trail Club disabled children from the Lublin province experienced an exciting adventure with their able-bodied peers, volunteers and therapists. They found themselves on... a Desert Island. The Desert Island is a 4-

day simulation game full of challenges for young adventurers. Equipped with just the basic items, they had to face difficult situations during 4 days. The game not only offered excitement but also turned into a fear management, mutual assistance and motivation course. The year long project of which the game was a part was implemented for just USD 2,500.

At Sieraków Sławieski, disabled children have no access to activity therapy centres. Thus, the Hobbiton Association decided to organize Ceramics and Sound Workshops. Mixed groups of disabled children and their parents, teachers, pupils and arts schools students are making real musical instruments of clay: bells, recorders, drums and even clay carillons. Instrument making is an excellent opportunity to help develop manual skills and to enjoy making music together. The orchestra will play at the 4th Hobbit Fair. And all of this is possible thanks to a grant of USD 2,500.

International Programs

- International Cooperation Program
- East-East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders
- Citizen in Action Program
- Twin Cities Program
- Regional Drug and Alcohol Program

International Cooperation Program

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The successful reforms in Central Europe have unveiled the widening gap between EU accession countries and their eastern neighbors such as Belarus, Ukraine and Russia. The visa regime introduced as a result of Poland's EU membership threatens to widen the gap even further and create a sense of exclusion in these societies. Meanwhile, the enlargement of the European Community improves the likelihood of the EU offering a proactive policy towards the new neighbors in the East, a policy of support of the democratic process, civil society and close ties with the united Europe, with a view to future membership.

The goal of the International Cooperation Program is to support EU policies towards our new neighbors in the East, strengthen civil society in Central and Eastern Europe and foster a good EU membership for Poland.

Partnership for European Integration: Polish NGO Office in Brussels

Partner: Association for the Forum of Non-Governmental Initiatives

The Foundation has proposed and supported the establishment of a Representative Office of Polish NGOs in Brussels, a project implemented jointly by 12 Polish NGOs. The purpose of the Office is to help NGOs take an active role

in European enlargement, to promote Poland's third sector among European institutions and European networks of non-profit organizations. The Office offers information on important European developments which are relevant for NGOs, acts as a matchmaker between Polish and European partner organizations, presents the position of Polish NGOs on issues which are discussed within the EU and takes action to facilitate access to EU funds.

Partnership for Foreign Policy: the Polish NGOs Abroad

The Polish NGOs Abroad is a coalition of 26 Polish NGOs active internationally, established by the Foundation in 2001. The group's aims include: exchange information between NGOs active outside Poland, work with public administration, participate in the formulation and implementation of the Polish international development policy, work with counterpart coalitions in other countries, disseminate information on Polish NGOs active outside of Poland and seek public support for their programs and projects.

Friendly Border: Monitoring New EU Borders

Partners: Helsinki Human Rights Foundation, Collegium Civitas, partner organizations from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

The partner organizations monitor the way foreigners are treated by border guard services on the new borders of the enlarged European Union and how Belarusians, Russians and Ukrainians are granted visas in Polish consulates. The project aims at improving the quality of service provided to foreigners at Poland's eastern borders, streamlining the Polish visa regime and raising public awareness of the need to implement friendly border control mechanisms for Poland's Eastern neighbors. The findings that result from the monitoring activities are published in reports and disseminated in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. They are also used to advocate the implementation of the government-announced policy of easy access and affordable entry visas for Eastern neighbors. The project involves a grant competition for coalitions of local government, business and non-governmental organizations from

neighboring countries for projects aiming at improving or opening ports of entry on Poland's eastern border.

New European Union and Ukraine

Project co-funded by the Polish American-Ukrainian-Cooperation Initiative (PAUCI) from funds granted by the US Agency for International Development

Partner: The Renaissance Foundation, Kyiv

The Foundation is active in the international debate pertaining to the issues surrounding Ukraine's potential integration into the European Union. The Foundation works with Ukrainian partners, as well as Polish and international institutions to develop a series of political, social and economic analyses which have been aggregated into a summary status report on Ukraine. The report contains recommendations on the new EU policy towards Ukraine, advice on further changes in Ukraine which are necessary for the advancement of European integration and recommendations for a new approach by Poland, Slovakia and Hungary to their eastern neighbor. Published in English, Ukrainian, and Polish, the report is presented at conferences in several European capitals: Warsaw, Kyiv, Bratislava, Budapest, Berlin, London and Paris and in a dozen or so cities in Poland (Cracow, Szczecin, Poznan, Gdansk, Lublin, Rzeszów) and Ukraine (Lviv, Uzhorod, Doneck and Dnepropetrovsk), and disseminated among several thousand stakeholders (politicians, government officials, experts, academics and journalists) in EU Member States and in Ukraine.

European Choice for Belarus

Belarus: Scenarios of Reform. European Choice for Belarus is the title of a publication in Belarusian, Russian and English, which resulted from the work by a panel of Belarusian experts working with experts from Poland and other CEE countries. The publication is the first step based around a project whose overall goal is to consolidate independent Belarusian pro-reform circles in an effort to build a development strategy and create a foundation for democracy in Belarus. The panel is also encouraging public debate on EU policies towards Belarus and

possible transition scenarios based on the findings and recommendations of the *Belarus: Scenarios of Reform* publication.

Displaced Cultural Heritage in Central and Eastern Europe

Partner: Forum for Dispersed Cultural Heritage of the Arts Historians Association

The goal of this program is to start public debate revolving around the issue of cultural heritage which found its way to foreign countries as a result of wars and border shifts and to assist stakeholders in developing a structured response which would be shared across Central and Eastern Europe. To accomplish this goal seminars and conferences will be held, devoted to cultural heritage issues pertaining to the looting during World War II, reprivatization and private property seized by the state. The ultimate aim is to publish a report on Polish and Ukrainian collaboration in the context of disputes over cultural heritage and an international conference on property reclaiming in Central Europe.

Regional Press Journalists' Club: Belarus, Poland, Ukraine

Neighborly relations between Belarus, Poland and Ukraine and their internal social and political situation receive little coverage in regional press. Rather, newspapers publish texts that are full of stereotypes or basic inaccuracies and errors. In order to address these media issues the Foundation offers regular workshops for journalists from regional and local media in Poland, Ukraine and Belarus. The workshops serve to enhance professional skills and exchange information on political, social and economic developments in each of the said countries. It is our goal to increase the amount and quality of coverage of country developments and to show everyday reality in order to contribute to the removal of prejudice and stereotypes between our societies.

Friendly Neighborhood Forum:

Lithuania, Kaliningrad District, Poland

Partners: Elbląg Association in Support of Non-governmental Initiatives

and Borussia Cultural Community Association

The aim of project is to foster collaboration between various stakeholder groups (local government, cultural and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and business associations) in Kaliningrad District, Poland and Lithuania. The project intends to publish a report summarizing existing collaboration networks with the District. The report will also contain recommendations on mechanisms to improve cooperation. Finally, an international conference will be arranged to be attended by Polish government officials and representatives of countries interested in developments in the Kaliningrad District. The conference will review past achievements and assess prospects for common initiatives of Poland and Lithuania with the Kaliningrad District.

Community Initiatives Partnership:

Germany, Kaliningrad District, Poland

Project co-funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation

We work closely with the Bosch Foundation managing a grant program for trilateral collaboration projects for NGOs from German, Poland and the Kaliningrad District. The grant program serves to develop local community initiatives in the District and to integrate these initiatives into transboundary networks that contribute to improved quality of life in the Kaliningrad District. The programs help to alleviate social problems that were inherited from the neglect of communism or caused by transition.

East-East Program: Partnership Beyond Borders

Program funded by the Open Society Institute

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Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia have been in transition for more than ten years already but public participation is still limited in a number of countries in the region. Democratic mechanisms are not always operational. However, the varying progress of reforms is conducive to exchange of experience and good practices across the region and to joint initiatives aimed at solving important problems in this part of the world. In the context of European Union enlargement, a friendly and open-minded neighbourhood is gaining new significance, particularly because of the developments amongst our Eastern neighbors after Poland became an EU Member State.

By coordinating the exchange of experience between NGOs and public institutions in Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries, by adapting tested mechanisms and implementing joint initiatives, we wish to make a contribution to the development of democracy and public participation in this region and to dissemination of innovative community problem solving systems.

International Cooperation Projects Implemented in Poland

The Foundation offers grants to Polish NGOs which implement projects in partnership with other organisations in the region. One prerequisite of such funding is support by another foundation in the Open Society Institute network. The winning cooperation projects focus on the various areas of social, economic and political life relevant for the participating countries. The objective is to develop good models of local and regional community interaction and problem solving. Each year we fund 30 long-term projects.

Cooperation Projects Implemented in Other Countries of the Region

The Foundation awards travel grants for Polish experts, consultants and NGO leaders invited to participate in projects managed by organisations and institutions from the countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe and Central Asia. Grants are provided upon demonstration of a confirmed invitation furnished by another foundation within the Open Society Institute network.

Citizen in Action Program

Program funded by the Ford Foundation

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The challenge of building civil society and developing democracy in the former Eastern bloc is largely related to citizens' attitudes and mentality. Many of them do not feel that they are fully empowered citizens of their own countries. Despite the failure of the communist welfare state they keep expecting the authorities to deliver prosperity and to take care of their future. Yet, public institutions are not perceived as citizen-friendly but rather as oppressive agents of government authority detached from the concerns and needs of an average person.

The aim of the program is to increase public participation in Ukraine and Belarus by fostering various forms of civic self-organization at the local, regional and national level. We wish to help build new civic initiatives, cross-sector cooperation programs and to engage in public policy advocacy.

In an open competition we have selected 29 NGOs from three districts in Belarus (Brest, Mogilev and Vitebsk) and seven districts in Ukraine (Tchernihov, Lugansk, Rovnensk, Vinnica, Zaporozhe, Zhitomer, and Donetsk) to serve as our program partners. They were offered technical assistance grants aimed to help them build local grant-making capability: enhance competencies, improve skills and strengthen the institutional capacity. The organizations were aided by

Polish consultants who assisted them with a needs analysis, helped determine strengths and weaknesses and provided custom training programs.

Selected organizations serve as our partners in supporting local initiatives on their territory in the areas of legal education and information for citizens, enforcement and protection of individuals rights, civic education for youth, setting up local civic activity centres, transparency of local government, and access to information.

In the long term, we will support projects relying on the collaboration between NGOs, administration and business, promoting civic values and a culture of cooperation. In addition, we will support advocacy for changes in the legislation and administrative practice that is likely to improve public participation.

Twin Cities Program

Program funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation

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Several hundred cities and municipalities in Poland and the Czech Republic signed official partnership agreements with twin cities and municipalities in Germany. While the agreements provide for a broad cooperation they are often empty declarations and the co-operation, if any, is limited to occasional mutual visits of officials. In the era of Europe coming together, doing away with stereotypes and cultural prejudice and bridging the gaps between countries by joint initiatives of citizens has gained a renewed importance. Cross-border co-operation projects are one of the possible vehicles.

The aim of the Twin Cities Program is to develop partnership agreements between cities and municipalities in Poland and Germany that focus on genuine civic initiatives that unite citizens on both sides of the border.

We encourage non-governmental organisations to take up social and cultural initiatives that involve citizens of neighboring countries and to mobilize local communities in partnering municipalities by running a grant program for Polish NGOs for projects implemented jointly with German NGOs. Projects may also involve NGOs from the Czech Republic or another country bordering Poland. Grants are awarded only to projects which address real needs of local communities, build on mutual experience and involve local government. Each year we fund 30 projects involving communities from 60 municipalities.

Regional Drug and Alcohol Program

Program funded by the Open Society Institute

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When Poland embarked on democratic changes in 1989 the perception of alcoholism as a medical condition was still quite rare. One of the most effective forms of helping addicted persons, Alcoholics Anonymous, was just starting to develop. Today, Poland boasts a number of effective addiction control systems. We have an extended network of treatment facilities for alcoholics and drug addicts, a large group of well trained prevention specialists and well educated therapists. There is no other place outside the US, besides Poland, where AA, NA and Al-Anon groups are as numerous or where the network of clubs and other organizations supporting individuals recovering from alcoholism is as extensive. Central and Eastern European and Central Asian countries are barely managing the enormous alcohol and drug abuse problem: they have few addiction treatment facilities and the budgets for treating addictions are constantly constrained.

The aim of the program is to transfer the Polish experience in fighting alcohol, drug and other addictions to Eastern European and Central Asian countries by

promoting innovative addiction prevention and treatment methodologies and ways of 'treating violence', based on the self-help group concept.

The Batory Foundation has been running the Commission on Alcohol and Drug Education Program since 1989. Its goal was to transfer to Poland some of the treatment methodologies where professional detox therapy is combined with the 12 Step process of fighting the addiction through self-help groups, particularly Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today, the Program provides training for physicians, psychologists and therapists from Central Eastern Europe and Central Asian countries specializing in treating addictions. The training is delivered in Poland or in participating countries. The Program cooperates with penitentiary authorities in a number of countries in the region (e.g. Kyrgistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Lithuania, Russia, Mongolia, Bulgaria), offering its experience in the treatment of alcohol and drug addiction in penitentiary institutions. Polish prisons, which run addiction treatment programs modeled after the US *Atlantis* program (relying on collaboration with Alcoholics Anonymous), offer internships, organize workshops and training for penitentiary personnel.