

## Poland – general information – NGOs context

After the communist government fell, Poland has been managing the liberalization of the economy, and nowadays may serve as an example of successful transition from centrally planned economy to market-based economy. Poland's high-income economy is one of the healthiest of the post-Communist countries and one of the fastest growing within the EU. The domestic market is strong, private debt – low, currency – flexible, and export does not depend on a single sector. Poland has avoided the recession which troubled Europe in the recent years and has achieved relatively high GDP growth. The Polish GDP per capita (2011) is 20 334 USD.

Despite this satisfying economy background, the situation of NGOs in Poland is not that bright. The total number of NGOs is high but this does not imply effectiveness of the sector. The Central Office of Statistics defined the total number of registered NGOs in Poland on the level of 112,000. However, this number contains also those organizations which are not active (do not pursue any actions). The number of active foundations and associations reaches 60,000 which is the most numerous segment in the NGOs sector. Most of them focus their actions in the domain of “sport, tourism, recreation, hobby”. Only 5% of active foundations and associations focus on local development.

Focus of actions on:

- sport, tourism, recreation, hobby – 36%,
- education – 15%,
- art and culture – 14%,
- social care – 7%
- health care – 7%
- local development – 5%
- others – 2%<sup>1</sup>

The average budget of a NGO is 20,000 PLN (~4,750 EUR) per year, only 5% of them achieve 1 million PLN (~238,000 EUR) or more of yearly income. Half of the foundations and associations registered in rural areas have a budget of 8,000 PLN (~1,900 EUR) or lower.

The main law frames concerning NGOs' operations:

- The act on associations (1989)
- The act on foundations (1987)
- The act on public benefit organizations and volunteering – which regulates donation of 1% of the individual year tax (2003)

Moreover there are additional regulations that have influence on NGOs' operations:

- The Law of Succession // The law of trusts and estates // which strictly favors families over NGOs in terms of bequests;
- Limits on the donations – legal entities can donate up to 10% of their annual income, individuals can donate up to 6% of their annual income;
- Changes in the Act on Gambling which put limits on all fundraising action as well as on all charity lotteries.

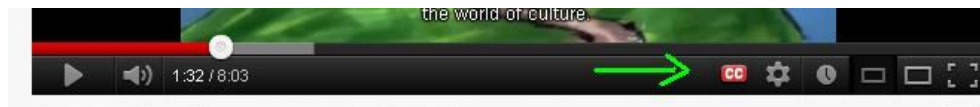
There are no specific regulations on Community Foundations nor on endowment.

Another important issue that influences the sector is a lack of philanthropic tradition, which was lost during the World War I and II and later, during decades of socialism. In order to

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<sup>1</sup> Source: „Polish non-governmental sector” by Marta Gumkowska, “Klon/Jawor” Association, [http://www.swiatproblemow.pl/2011\\_12\\_1.html](http://www.swiatproblemow.pl/2011_12_1.html)

reconstruct Polish history of philanthropy and to show its glorious examples, The Academy has prepared an animated movie – “The short history of philanthropy in Poland” - which you can watch here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zqs9GuakKU> For English subtitles press “cc”:



Polish society consists of mainly middle class and the number of millionaires is relatively small. This reflects in the poor commitment of the society into the philanthropic activities.

## Community foundations - Polish background

The CF movement in Poland was initiated by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland in 1998.

**The Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland** is an independent non-profit NGO active since 1998.

**Its activity is carried out in 5 strategy domains:**

- development of local communities (CF support, grants for small NGOs),
- youth activation (scholarship programs),
- activation of senior citizens,
- corporate community involvement (Benefactor of the Year, CSR activities),
- corporate and individual philanthropy (memorial funds, Charity Celebrities).

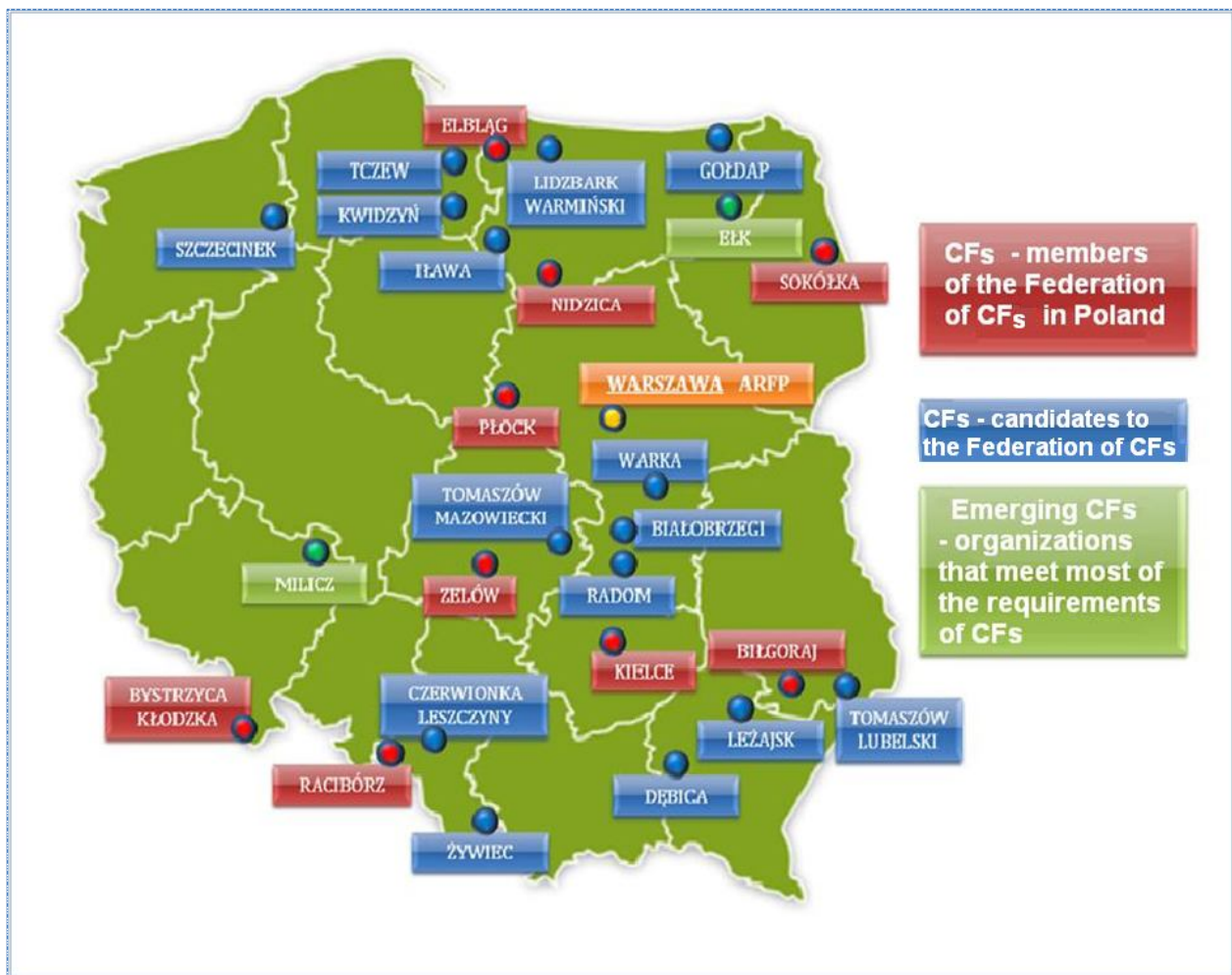
First of all, the Academy’s activity is addressed to NGOs, civil groups, and business circles. Our programs can also appeal to local governments, media, and public opinion. In our activities we give top priority to cooperation with community foundations and other NGOs active in small communities, as we want to primarily contribute to their self-sustainability and local development.

1998–2006 – The Academy supports the CF development in Poland. This results in establishing about 20 CFs.

2007 – the beginning of implementation of the V4 CF Maturity Program, where we support over 30 CF in the Visegrad region.

2008 – the set up of the Federation of CFs in Poland.

In Poland there are **26 CFs** at different stages of development. The first of them were established in 1997, some are just a few years old. Some are experienced with the endowment reaching 1 million PLN (~238,000 EUR), some are emerging CFs – these are organizations that meet most of the requirements of CFs. The total value of their endowments is over 6 million PLN (~1 425,000 EUR). The total value of the grants and scholarships awarded by those organizations every year is higher than 1,5 million PLN. All of them have the form of foundation (12 CFs) or association (14 organizations). In contrast to most associations, their actions are dedicated to support local communities, not members of the organization.



Source: [www.ffl.org.pl](http://www.ffl.org.pl)

**Most of CFs operate in small communities in rural areas where they have to face many challenges, such as:**

- poverty, high unemployment rate
- low level of education
- migration
- small number of active NGOs
- lack of giving tradition (individuals and corporations)

**What do CFs do to face this challenges?**

- They organize grant programs (supporting: youth, senior citizens, disabled people, local communities) in order to promote activity of local inhabitants;
- They run scholarship programs which allow youth to continue education;
- To reconstruct the pre-war philanthropy tradition, they promote individual and corporate donors by organizing *Benefactor of the Year* or *Philanthropist of the Year* Gala;
- They promote the idea of CFs and philanthropy by organizing Charity Balls and other charity events
- They raise public awareness by organizing campaigns and public collections

The Federation of CFs in Poland has established the CF standards which concern such aspects as: goals/field of interest, structure, partnership/donors, programs, beneficiaries, minimum endowment value, finance management and investment policy.

**Why do they need standards?**

- to distinguish CFs from other NGOs
- to raise credibility among the donors and partners
- to promote the CF concept
- to build the brand of CF
- to raise the quality of other NGOs (local grant-makers)

**Fundraising issues:**

CFs try to reach many sources to get financial support for their operation. To fulfill their mission CFs acquire funds from:

- Individuals (through: public collections, 1% of year tax campaigns, creating memorial funds);
- Local and national companies (through: donations, creating memorial funds, carrying out corporate grant programs);
- Local government (they support CFs' programs with open grants);
- Other NGOs (for example: the Academy, the Stefan Batory Foundation – supporting grant and scholarship programs);
- Government programs;
- EU funds.

Thanks to commitment and experience of CFs, the Academy together with CFs promotes regranting in local governments and in programs of the national government. Representatives of CFs (Irena Gadaj, Waja Jabłonowska) and the Academy are involved in the work of advisory groups of the Prime Minister's Office and the Presidential Office. The objective of the advisory group is to introduce changes in law related to NGOs.

We also promote the model of regranting at governmental level. The Civic Initiatives Fund, conducted by The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, has started its operations in 2005 and provide grant to Polish NGO (annual budget is 60 million PLN, ~14.2 million EUR). This grant program introduced the pilot project of regional granting centers this year. The venture was built on the experience of Polish CFs.

# SHORT INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOST ORGANIZATIONS

## GROUP 1

### The Nidzica Community Foundation

ul. Żeromskiego 10  
13-100 Nidzica  
e-mail: [funduszlokalny@funduszlokalny.nidzica.pl](mailto:funduszlokalny@funduszlokalny.nidzica.pl)  
[www.funduszlokalny.nidzica24.pl](http://www.funduszlokalny.nidzica24.pl)  
tel./fax. (+48 89) 625 20 68

Established: in 1999

Endowment : 750,000 PLN (~178,000 EUR)

Structure: Executive Board (3 pers.), Employees (3 pers.), Board of Trustees (18 pers.), Audit Committee (4 pers.)

Facts and figures:

The main aim of the CF is to support students and pupils through a variety of educational programs. Current activities are focused on four fields: scholarships for talented youth, financial and organizational support of local initiatives, educational programs (such as: Internet Youth Radio, Youth Entrepreneurship Club, Academy of Youth Animators) and charity events.

- 605 scholarships awarded - total value: 1 230,000 PLN (~292,000 EUR)
- 380 scholarship holders
- 26 projects implemented - total value: 1 756,941 PLN (~417,000 EUR)
- 130 grants awarded - total value: 386,000 PLN (~92,000 EUR)

This organization was the first CF in Poland which introduced payroll donation in local companies and institutions. Currently there are more than 400 donors. Another concept implemented by this CF in cooperation with local partners was a discount card.

In 2008 Barbara and Krzysztof Margol were awarded the Civic Leader of the Year Award (the Competition is organized by Newsweek Polska in cooperation with the Academy).

### The Sokółka Community Foundation

Pl. Kościuszki 9, 16-100 Sokółka  
tel.: (+48 85) 711 57 00  
fax: (+48 85) 711 09 11  
e-mail: [fundacjasfl@gmail.com](mailto:fundacjasfl@gmail.com)  
[www.sfl.org.pl](http://www.sfl.org.pl)

Established: in 2000

Endowment : 445,064.12 PLN (~106,000 EUR)

Structure: Board of Trustees (9 pers.), Granting Committee Act Locally (7 pers.), Scholarships Committee (5 pers.); Finance Committee (3 pers.)

Facts and figures:

This CF supports among others: students and pupils who are handicapped or suffer from addiction. Various scholarships are offered to them. The Sokółka CF carries out programs containing volunteering in social common rooms and on charity events, promoting street art (such as murals and artistic graffitis), supporting development of young community organizations; safety programs for schools, charity events (balls, charitable feasts). The Sokółka CF has to overcome various difficulties due to the fact that it operates in a very poor region, where the level of wealth is one of the lowest in Poland. Moreover, different ethnic and religious groups (Catholics, Orthodox and Tatar minorities) meet in this area.

- 219 grants – total value 663,014 PLN (~157,500 EUR)
- 661 scholarships – total value 903,300 PLN (~214,500 EUR)

### The Generations Foundation

ul. Kołłątaja 9  
83-110 Tczew  
Tel. (+48 58) 352 45 46  
Fax (+48 58) 352 45 52  
e-mail: [biuro@fundacjapokolenia.pl](mailto:biuro@fundacjapokolenia.pl)

Established: in 2009

Endowment : 41 999.86 PLN (~ 9,976 EUR)

Structure: Board of Trustees (9 pers.), Audit Committee, Employees (10 pers.)

Facts and figures:

The Generations Foundations was established in 2002, but it has been operating as a CF since 2009. The Foundations has implemented various projects from the V4 Program, it awarded many scholarships and grants for the total amount of money equaled 10,275.95 PLN (~2,440 EUR). The main goal of this organization is to support informal groups by helping them in terms of law advisory and sharing CF's technical resources. The Foundation serves as an information point for local NGOs and EU information centre. Many volunteers gather to cooperate with the Foundation in civic education courses and projects.

Thanks to V4 conference that was held in Katowice in 2011, the leader of this organization started a close cooperation with Eger CF (Hungary). This resulted in joint organization of the first in Pomorze region charity auction of Hungarian wines.

## GROUP 2

### The Biłgoraj Community Foundation

ul. T. Kościuszki 65,  
23 - 400 Biłgoraj  
e-mail: [flzb@lbl.pl](mailto:flzb@lbl.pl),  
[www.flzb.lbl.pl](http://www.flzb.lbl.pl)  
tel: (+ 48 84) 686 48 77, fax (+48 84) 686 53 93  
mobile: (+48) 606 925 977

Established: in 1999

Endowment : 971,600 (~230,800 EUR)

Structure: Executive Board (5 pers.), Employees (4 pers.), Board of Trustees (20 pers.)

Facts and figures:



The Biłgoraj CF collects and awards grants to the local community in order to improve their quality of life. Since its establishment The Foundation has donated 1 814,645.93 PLN (~432,000 EUR) to the local community. This amount of money has let to:

- financially help 758 pupils and students from Biłgoraj Powiat and Zwierzyniec Commune. The scholarships gave them chance to continue their education in high schools, or to make a decision about studying. Total value of scholarships: 996,280 PLN (~237,200 EUR)
- support the realization of 282 social projects which contributed to the solution of local problems and gathered people around essential issues, such as: culture, education, health, sport, tourism and environmental protection. Total value of donations: 137,365.93 PLN (~32,780 EUR) and grants: 681,000 PLN (~162,100 EUR)

Among other projects, The Biłgoraj CF has enabled the School Education Fund to buy sport outfits, Xerox machine, sound system equipment, and microphones. This CF has also provided English Library with necessary things; has utilized the territory of the Open Ecological Workshop; has bought the equipment for local hospital; has supported building the Karate Academy by the Karate and Japanese Culture Development Fund

The Biłgoraj CF has got 22 Affiliate Funds and 17 Funds during creation. This is the most Affiliate Fund of all CFs in Poland.

### The Czajnia Association

ul. Lwowska 52

22-600 Tomaszów Lubelski

e-mail: [czajnia@o2.pl](mailto:czajnia@o2.pl)

[www.czajnia.pl](http://www.czajnia.pl)

tel: (+48 84) 664 13 40

mobile: (+48) 606 925 977

Established: in 2008

Structure: Executive Board (5 pers.), Employees (1 pers.), Board of Trustees (26 pers.)

Facts and figures:

The main goal of this CF is the comprehensive development of local communities, especially young people from the area. The Czajnia Association has been acting as an association since 2004, while in 2008 it started to act as community foundation.

The Czajnia Association has gathered and donated to local community the sum of 861,744.91 PLN (~205,200 EUR).

The acquisition of these resources has allowed to:

- help financially 54 pupils and students, giving them an opportunity to continue their education and to develop their academic interests;
- support the realization of 42 social projects which contributed to the solution of local problems;
- create "Julek and Oscar" Found assisting ill children and youth under medical treatment and rehabilitation;
- organize cyclic festivals promoting multicultural heritage of the region as well As Christian traditions.

A few of initiatives born in The Czajnia Association will be soon transformed into separate

funds. It concerns: pre-medieval knights team "Algiz", boxing team "Czajnia", Citizens Information Bureau.

The beneficiaries of The Czajnia Association are local associations, informal groups of local activists, foundations, schools, community centers and other non-profit establishments acting to improve the quality of life, activating local communities or supporting cultural growth of our region.

### The Leżajsk Community Foundation

ul. Targowa 9  
37-300 Leżajsk  
e-mail: fundacja@lsr.pl  
www.fundacja.lsr.pl  
tel/fax.: (+48 17) 242 79 08

Established: in 2009

Endowment : 350,000 (~83,300 EUR)

Structure: Executive Board (4 pers.), Employees (1 pers.), Board of Trustees (3 pers.)

Facts and figures:

The Leżajsk Community Foundation (LCF) has been established in 2009 by a founder the Leżajsk Development Association (LDA) which started its operation years earlier (for 9 years CF has operated within LDA structure). Mission of the Leżajsk CF is meeting the needs of the regional inhabitants in different spheres of social life by procuring, gathering and efficient distribution of funds and making other initiatives according to the Foundation's aims. The LCF is open for cooperation, it shares knowledge with the local environment and other organizations functioning in the region, country and abroad.

At first the CF (in years 1999-2009) and later (since 2009) the Leżajsk Community Foundation have gathered and have transferred the amount of 1 013,150 PLN (~241,200 EUR) to the local society, mainly in the form of grants and scholarships

Thanks to this amount of funds The Leżajsk CF was able to:

- financially help 517 talented and active pupils of elementary and secondary schools, as well as students of higher education. Total value of scholarships: 441,150 PLN (~105,000 EUR);
- support the realisation of 226 projects of social character to local non-governmental organizations and groups of inhabitants. Total value of grants: 482,000 PLN (~114,700 EUR);
- establish and develop the neolithic touristic settlement in Rakszawa;
- organize sport competitions (the Amateur Tournament in Basketball) for children during summer holidays.