

# Anti-Corruption Program



The Anti-Corruption Program has the objective of building trust in public institutions, fostering civic awareness, and of making public opinion more sensitive to the various manifestations of corruption in the life of the country. We pursue these objectives by initiating and supporting civic movement towards increased transparency of public life, information and education activity devised to influence public attitudes towards the phenomenon of corruption in daily life, and by proposing legislative changes which promote social participation in decision making, guarantee the transparency of decision making processes, and institute control mechanisms which prevent corruption.

The Program is a joint undertaking of the Stefan Batory Foundation and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; its operation across the years of 2000-2001 relied largely on a donation received from the Ford Foundation.

## **Monitoring Administrative Activities, Transparency in Public Life**

### **Anti-Corruption Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations**

Working together with the Polish branch of Transparency International, the Social Communication Foundation, and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, we have embarked on a four-year program for monitoring electoral promises. In the spring of 2001, the four participating organizations established an Anti-Corruption Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations which carried out, on May 27, a day-long collection of signatures on a petition about combating corruption addressed to the country's political class. With the help of approximately 150 non-governmental organizations and private individuals, we gathered in excess of 43 000 signatures which we then submitted to the Speaker of Poland's Parliament. Prior to the parliamentary elections of September 2001, we gathered from the electoral committees of most parties their proposals for counteracting corruption, as set out in their campaign platforms; these we published in a brochure entitled *Campaign Promises 2001* which we promptly sent out to NGOs and to the electoral committees concerned and, already after the elections, to the newly elected deputies and senators. During its annual conference, the coalition will notify the public of the parties' record in living up to these promises in the space of the preceding year.

### **Local civic groups**

The civic groups benefiting from our support engage in monitoring of the authorities and in activities promoting greater transparency in public life at the local level. By April of 2001, we had taken twelve civic group leaders through the training program devised by Dr. Cezary Trutkowski of the Institute of Sociology at Warsaw University, dealing with the principles governing establishment of such groups and their management, negotiating skills, conflict resolution, and the legal and social consequences of corruption. In December, we extended invitations for cooperation to another 21 people who will found new local groups.

The individual civic groups engage in activity such as establishment of advice desks for citizens who encounter difficulty in their dealings with administrative offices, checking the availability of public information at local units of the state's administrative apparatus, organizing workshops about transparency of government activity and about counteracting corruption, carrying on of information campaigns, or cooperation with the local media. In order to facilitate the work of these groups, we have drawn up the model of the *Transparent Community*, demonstrating the operation of a self-governed local community in keeping with the standards of transparency in public life. Activities pursued by the local groups in 2001 benefited from financial assistance by the British Embassy; the Program has also received a grant from the American Embassy.



### Legal assistance

Insofar as we are able, we endeavor to assist individuals who approach us with specific corruption-related problems encountered by them in their daily lives. We provide them with information about the possible means of regress and/or apply to the appropriate supervisory/control institutions for investigation of the case. Across the year of 2001, we handled more than 90 such cases; many of them dealt with improprieties in the operation of local self-government, especially conflicts of interest engendered by rampant violation of article 18 of the legislative Act regarding self-government personnel, forbidding self-government staff from combining their official capacity with independent business activity in areas falling within the ambit of their official duties. On several occasions, we intervened in specific cases; we are nonetheless aware that the measures needed here are of a more comprehensive sort, amendment of the Act included. Accordingly, we have applied to the Minister of the Interior and Administration with an entreaty to urgently address this problem.

### Civic Education

#### Education at schools

Together with the Civil Education Center, we drew up six scenarios for high school lessons during which the students will be taught about concepts of responsible government, the significance of transparency in public life, and about the risks entailed in corruption. The Center has completed training for 54 teachers, preparing them to implement this anti-corruption module in the curricula of their schools; in September and October, the majority of them delivered these lessons to their students. Upon the effecting of some modifications, the lessons scenarios will be assembled in a publication and dispatched to all high schools in Poland.

#### Education at institutions of higher learning

Motivated by a desire to encourage academic circles to address corruption issues during their didactic work, we have organized a competition for the best elaborations by students presenting the problem of corruption in its legal, social, ethical, or economic aspect. The competition board (comprising Alina Hussein of the Supreme Chamber of Control, Dr. Joanna Śmigieliska of Warsaw University's Department of Applied Social Sciences and Resocialization, and Dr. Piotr Girdwoyń of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the same University) awarded:

- Two prizes of 600 PLN in the seminar piece category to: Marta Ślezak, a student of the Economics Department of Gdańsk University, for the piece entitled *Student Opinions on Corruption at Universities Based on Studies Executed at the Technical University of Gdańsk and at Gdańsk University*, written under the tutelage of Prof. M. Turek, and to Grzegorz Stocki, student of the Faculty of Law and Administration of Wrocław University, for the piece entitled *Corruption in Public Life*, written under the tutelage of Adam Biaś;
- One prize of 800 PLN in the bachelor's thesis category to: Arkadiusz Frączak, graduate of the Vocational Course in Territorial Self-Government and Local Development of Warsaw University, for the piece entitled *Theoretical and Practical Problems of Corruption in Local Government Administration*, written under the tutelage of Dr. Elżbieta Łojko;
- One prize of 1 000 PLN in the master's thesis category to: Lidia Mańka, graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, for the piece entitled *Corruption Among Public Figures (the Criminal Aspect)*, written under the tutelage of Prof. Hubert Kolečki.

In November, we assisted members of the AEGEE-Warsaw European Students' Forum in the organization of a series of anti-corruption happenings at five Warsaw universities.

#### The Only Fish Don't Take Bait? competition

The second edition of the competition for the best piece of journalism on corruption-related issues received 48 submissions from 21 press and radio entities. The jury elected not to award a first prize; three equiponderous second prizes and three honorable mentions were awarded as follows: Prizes of 9 000 PLN each to:

- Grażyna Starzak of *Dziennik Polski* for the series of articles entitled *The Invisible Man*;
- Filip Mecner and Marcin Rybak of *Gazeta Dolnośląska* (a local supplement to the national edition of *Gazeta Wyborcza*) for the article entitled *The Village Elder's Field*;
- Dariusz Bartoszewicz of *Gazeta Wyborcza* for the series of articles comprising *They Slipped Themselves a Squeeze*, *The Dream of Arcadia*, and *To Whom the Friendly City*.

Distinctions of 4 000 PLN each to:

- Tomasz Wojtata of the *Życie Pleszewa* weekly for the series of articles comprising *Gas Tap With Bribes*, *District Attorney Faster than the Councilman*, *What the Chairman Did*, *After the Investigation was Dropped*, and *Insufficient Evidence*;
- Tomasz Pator and Marcin Stelmasiak of *Gazeta Wyborcza* for the article entitled *Lord of the Fund*;
- Hanna Bogoryja-Zakrzewska and Ernest Zozuń of the Report and Document Studio of Polish Radio's Channel 3 for the program entitled *Starring Article 228*.

The 4 000 PLN prize for the best material about corruption in rural areas instituted by the Foundation for the Support of Rural Areas was awarded to Robert Lisowski of *Nasze Sprawy*, a publication for the communities of Iwanowice and Michatowice, for the series of articles entitled *The Community is Breaking the Law*.



#### Investigative journalism – cooperation with journalists

The Anti-Corruption Program joined with the Reports Studio of Polish Radio in the production of a series of intervention pieces on corruption issues; the broadcast of these programs was accompanied by a telephone hotline and by on-line chat sessions.

#### Ethical problems in the health care service

The Program established a working group for addressing ethical problems in the public health care system. This group formulated the idea for the seminar *Ethical Problems in the Health Care System*, held in October of 2001; it was led by Olga Krzyżanowska, with presentations given by Prof. Stanisława Golinowska, Prof. Zbigniew Szawarski, Dr. Cezary Włodarczyk, and Dr. Piotr Mierzewski. We again focused on these issues in December, organizing a conference following the publication of two reports, *Patients and Physicians vis a vis Corruption in Public Health Care* (results of the study commissioned by us with CBOS) and *Institutional Aspects of Informal Gratuities in Polish Health Care* (a report on research carried out by the World Bank in 2000, written by Helen Shahriari, Paolo Belli, and Maureen Lewis).

### Reports, Expert Studies, Advice Manuals, Books

#### Reports on public opinion research

Together with the Institute for Public Affairs, we published the report by Dr. Anna Kubiak of the Institute of Sociology at Łódź University, *Corruption in Daily Life*. The substantive basis for this report was provided in the public opinion survey carried out by CBOS whose results indicate that Poles hold the state health care system to be the most corruption-prone area of public life in Poland. The issue of corruption in health care was also taken up in our subsequent reports. In the fall of 2001, CBOS carried out two further surveys commissioned by our Program – one of a representative group of 1 000 members of the general public, the other – among a group of 203 physicians. The report written by Dr. Anna Kubiak on the basis of their findings, *Patients and Physicians on Corruption in Public Health Care*, elicited a lively response by the media, making headlines in the newspapers and discussed at length on television and radio. The *Corruption in Daily Life* report was partly financed out of a World Bank grant.

#### Expert studies

We have prepared the following legal and sociological assessments dealing with the problem of corruption:

- Four appraisals of the draft legislative Act regarding limitations on business activity by persons serving in public office; these were presented during the conference entitled *Conflict of Interest – Proposals for Legislative Solutions*, organized by the Institute of Public Affairs in March of 2001 (with financial support provided by the British Embassy);
- *Analysis of Selected Legal Provisions Conducive to Corruption (A Review of Commercial, Self-Government, and Administrative Law)* by Maria Jasińska and Katarzyna Kurpisz;
- *Corruption and Mechanisms for its Counteraction* by Daniel Palacz, Andrzej Wojtkowski, and Dariusz Woźnicki, all police officers.

These last two pieces received a public presentation in the course of a seminar organized by us in April of 2001.

#### Advice manuals

We have prepared a series of advice publications entitled *Notes on Democracy – Civic Anti-Corruption Manual*; the first two titles, *Before You Begin to Act* and *Complaints and Suggestions*, are already in print. It is hoped that the advice set out in these publications will assist members of the public in conducting their affairs with administrative institutions. The author, Maciej Wnuk, is affiliated with the Polish branch of Transparency International and has extensive experience in issues relating to self-government.

#### Books

In the context of the launch of the Polish edition of *Corruption and Government* by Prof. Rose-Ackerman, published by the Stefan Batory Foundation's Publishing Program and the *Sic!* Publishing House, we organized two discussion meetings with the author – on the possibilities for utilizing other countries' experiences in curtailing corruption here in Poland and the *Corruption and Democracy* event broadcast from the studios of Polish Radio's Channel 3.

Activities pursued by the Anti-Corruption Program in 2001 benefited from the financial support of the Ford Foundation (542 334,59 PLN), the British Embassy (41 357,24 PLN), the American Embassy (22 453,43 PLN), and the World Bank (15 536,80 PLN).

Competition prizes:	42 000 PLN
Projects:	692 458,99 PLN
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>734 458,99 PLN</b>