

Legal Program



The objective of the Legal Program is to initiate and support the increase of public awareness and promote information on legal issues; to develop a law-abiding culture in Poland; and to assist citizens in gaining access to legal knowledge, identification and application of the legal protection tools available to them.

During 2001, we facilitated the application of legal instruments protecting individual interests, and supporting citizens in claiming and executing their rights. We prioritized projects of practical value that provided effective solutions to specific problems of everyday life and focused on initiatives that would help people find their way amongst rules and procedures often perceived by them as confusing, and develop their knowledge and skills that would enable them to use the legal provisions to their best advantage. It was important for us to ensure that the projects sponsored under the Legal Program were implemented in cooperation with local governments and non-governmental organizations, and had a long-term strategy in terms of further development and funding.

In 2001, our partners were mainly non-governmental organizations, since they played a crucial role in the application of, and adherence to, legal provisions by both individuals and public bodies in Poland. These included the Polish Association of Legal Education, the International Lawyers' Committee, the Alliance of Citizens' Advice Bureaus Association, the Friends of Integration Association, and the Hans Ch. Kofoed Association for Social Welfare, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration.

As part of our activities aimed at increasing access to legal knowledge and information, we continued to support University Legal Clinics and Citizens' Advice Bureaus. The main aim of these organizations is to provide free and impartial information on legal issues, as well as professional advice to individuals facing serious problems. In the case of the Citizens' Advice Bureaus, this task is carried out by experts who have undergone special training; in Legal Clinics the advisors are law students supervised by university teachers or representatives of the legal profession with appropriate experience. Our grants were awarded to existing or newly established Bureaus in Debrzno, Garwolin, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Konin, Lubaczów, Łomża, Mielec, Mikołajki, Olsztyn, Ostrołęka, Poznań, Przemyśl, Puławy, Suwałki, Wałbrzych, Warsaw, Wieruszów and Wrocław. We lent our assistance to measures geared at closer cooperation among the University Law Clinics and at the establishment of an organization assembling them.

In addition, we supported activities in the field of legal assistance and aid to people facing serious problems: the *Ithaca* Foundation that assists individuals affected by the loss of friends or relatives reported missing; Nationwide Forum for Crime Victims, or legal advice centers for the Roma community in Poland. Considerable attention was given to educational projects dealing with various legal issues and human rights as defined under Polish legal provisions and international regulations. We supported groups for which legal information was of primary importance, such as the disabled, victim of violence, former prisoners and youth. Some of our grants were channeled to organizations that use existing legal instruments to act

on behalf of individuals and represent them in courts or before administrative bodies, like *Island in a City* Association of Children and Teenagers that provides legal education and advice for crime victims or the *Gaius* Foundation that has developed a project of assistance to the parents of children-victims of road accidents.

Together with the Friends of Integration Association and the Polish Section of the International Lawyers' Committee, we continued our work within the Legal Information Center for Disabled People. As a result of these efforts, we published, in the year 2001, a *Report on the Situation of Disabled Persons*. Working together with the *Iustitia* Polish Judges Association, we embarked upon a project entitled *Citizen at Court*, involving the establishment of information desks at courthouses that offer user-friendly, straightforward information about basic legal issues. We were publishing consecutive *Your Rights in Court* booklets written by practicing judges; we also provided subsidies towards the publication of advice manuals prepared by non-governmental organizations, viz. the *Nobody's Children* Foundation and the Center for Innovations and Entrepreneurship.

Together with the Commission on Alcohol & Drug Education and the editors of *Tygodnik Powszechny*, we held a public debate about the present condition and future perspectives of the criminal law in Poland. We joined forces with the Media Program in organizing a series of meetings for judges and court reporters under the title *Journalist in Court*. Working in liaison with the NGO Program, we lent a hand in the resolution of legal problems faced by the third sector by drawing up expert studies and legal opinions or by commissioning them from third parties.

Citizens' Advice Bureaus

Regional Development Agency for Northeast Mazovia, Ostrołęka	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Ostrołęka and the neighboring communities	5 000 PLN
John Paul II Foundation, Lubaczów	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Lubaczów and the adjoining communities	15 000 PLN
International Centre of Education and Development Foundation, Mielec	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Mielec, operation of advice points in the neighboring communities	5 000 PLN
Foundation in Support of Local Democracy, Lower Silesian Center for Local Government Training, Wrocław	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Wrocław	45 000 PLN
International Association for the Social Growth, Suwałki	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Suwałki	8 000 PLN
Association for the Support of Local Initiatives, Mikołajki	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Mikołajki and the neighboring communities	15 000 PLN
Together - Forum of Organisations and Associations in Puławy, Puławy	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Puławy and the neighboring communities	18 600 PLN
Regional Agricultural and Industrial Chamber of Wielkopolska, Poznań	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Poznań	20 000 PLN
Social Action Association, Gdańsk	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of the Trójmiasto metropolitan area (comprising Gdańsk, Sopot, and Gdynia)	15 000 PLN
Association of Originators of Cultural Initiatives in Rural Areas, Olsztyn	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Olsztyn	18 000 PLN
Social Information Center Association, Przemyśl	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Przemyśl	30 000 PLN
Social Information Center Association, Warsaw	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Warsaw	45 000 PLN

Awans Women Association, Wałbrzych	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Wałbrzych	23 000 PLN
Association for the Development of the Town and Community of Debrzno	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Debrzno and of the neighboring communities	15 000 PLN
Association for Aid to Children, Garwolin	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Garwolin, operation of advice points in the neighboring communities	30 000 PLN
Law-Citizen-Democracy Association, Wieruszów	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Wieruszów and of the neighboring communities	34 988,90 PLN
Together Association, Gdynia	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of the Trójmiasto metropolitan region	5 000 PLN
Wielkopolska of Citizens Association, Konin	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Konin, operation of advice points in the neighboring communities	25 000 PLN
Association of Citizens' Advice Bureau's Support, Łomża	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Łomża, operation of advice points in the neighboring communities	30 000 PLN
Society of the Friends of Children, Morąg	Maintenance of a Citizens' Advice Bureau for the inhabitants of Morąg and the neighboring communities	10 000 PLN
Union of Citizens' Advice Bureaus Associations, Warsaw	Specialized training program for counselors staffing the Citizens' Advice bureaus	75 000 PLN

Education and Legal Advice

Elbląg Association of Social Welfare Organizers, Elbląg	Free counseling for persons faced with dire circumstances	5 000 PLN
Center for Innovations and Entrepreneurship, Koszalin	Publication of a brochure entitled <i>How to File Complaints Before the European Human Rights Tribunal</i>	4 000 PLN
Women's Rights Center, Warsaw	<i>Know Your Rights</i> project pursued in Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Cracow, and Łódź: legal aid for women (16 000 PLN from the donation by Ms Irene Mroz)	46 350 PLN
Nobody's Children Foundation, Warsaw	Publication of the <i>Child Protected by the Law</i> advice manual	6 000 PLN
Fuga Mundi Foundation, Lublin	Training on social and professional rehabilitation of disabled persons	10 000 PLN
Gaius Foundation, Łódź	Project concerning representation of child victims of traffic accidents	18 000 PLN
Ithaca Foundation, Warsaw	Legal aid program with regard to missing persons	30 000 PLN
Ius et Lex Foundation, Warsaw	International conference <i>Criminal Liability in Liberal Democratic Systems</i>	40 000 PLN
Foundation for Assistance to Victims of Crime, Warsaw	Research project concerning murder victims	45 640 PLN
CEE Center for the Economy of Social Action, Lublin	<i>Pact for Community and Civil Society - Legal Instruments</i> : legal assistance with regard to establishment and operation of civic organizations in the Lublin district	9 650 PLN
Take Care of the World Foundation, Warsaw	Seminar on issues relating to mediation and alternative dispute resolution	5 000 PLN
The Committee for the Protection of Children's Rights, Warsaw	Project concerning counseling and education in the area of children's rights	10 000 PLN

Municipal Public Library , Hajnówka	Advice clinic for persons faced with dire circumstances	5 000 PLN
Nationwide Forum for Crime Victims , Warsaw	Series of trainings for judges, public prosecutors, and police officers concerning the rights of victims	30 000 PLN
Nationwide Association of Persons of Pre-Retirement Age , Łódź	Advice clinic for persons faced with dire circumstances	6 000 PLN
Higher Vocational School , Legnica	<i>Consumer Advice Clinic</i> – a project comprising free-of-charge advice on issues of consumer rights	15 000 PLN
Polish Red Cross , Włocławek	Free legal advice for disabled persons	2 250 PLN
Polish Social Welfare Committee , Gostynin	Free legal advice in the area of civil rights	4 200 PLN
Polish Association of Legal Education , Warsaw	Training for teachers carrying on instruction on law-related subjects, preparation of educational materials for social workers	30 840 PLN
Polish Society for Combating Disabilities , Białystok	Free legal advice for disabled persons	13 500 PLN
Polish Society for Combating Disabilities , Szczecin	Free legal advice for disabled persons	20 000 PLN
Social Information Center Association, Citizens' Advice Bureau , Warsaw	Creation of a Mobile Advice and Information Point for Roma Community	27 400 PLN
Democracy and Development Association , Starachowice	Preparation of educational materials concerning students' rights (5 000 PLN of the grant provided by Commercial Union)	10 000 PLN
Dialog Association , Warsaw	Legal advice for non-governmental organizations	15 000 PLN
Chance Association for Children and Youth , Głogów	Advice and education concerning violence against children	17 000 PLN
Association of the Home for Men in Need of Care , Chrzanów	Advice clinic for persons faced with dire circumstances	6 000 PLN
Polish Consumer Federation , Warsaw	Publication of information materials concerning consumer rights in the context of fast-track legal proceedings	25 000 PLN
Association of Youth Governing Council , Gieraltowice	Series of training events for young people concerning civil rights and human rights	10 000 PLN
Patronage Penitentiary Association , Warsaw	Legal assistance for persons discharged from penitentiaries	4 290 PLN
Polish Mediation Center Association , Warsaw	Workshops for prospective mediators	22 200 PLN
Hans Ch. Kofoed Association for Social Welfare, Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration , Siedlce	The <i>Quotidian Law at the Kofoed School</i> project: legal education for women, young people, and for persons caring for the disabled	30 000 PLN
Association of the Roma People , Cracow	Law clinic servicing Roma community	15 000 PLN
Island in a City Association of Children and Teenagers , Zabrze	The <i>Use Your Rights</i> project – legal education and advice for crime victims and for persons helping them	36 000 PLN
Hope Local Association of Families and Friends of Mentally Ill Individuals , Suwałki	<i>Patient Rights Ombudsman</i> – free advice and representation for the emotionally disturbed	10 000 PLN

Local Committee for the Protection of Childrens' Rights, Częstochowa	Youth College of Civil Rights (6 000 PLN of the grant provided by Commercial Union)	12 000 PLN
Local Committee for the Protection of Childrens' Rights, Wałbrzych	Legal advice and counseling for crime victims	11 700 PLN
Common Knowledge Educational Association, Gdańsk	Legal education for students of vocational schools in rural areas	10 000 PLN
Nicholas Copernicus University, Homo Homini Human Rights Students' Circle, Toruń	Moot European Human Rights Tribunal trial	8 000 PLN
Warsaw University, Law Faculty, Warsaw	International conference concerning development of university law clinics	44 720 PLN
Wrocław Regional Council of the Disabled People, Wrocław	Legal advice for disabled persons	10 000 PLN
Wrocław Society for the Care of Prisoners, Wrocław	<i>Lower Silesian Mediation Center</i> – propagation of alternative methods of dispute resolution, assistance to prison inmates	34 500 PLN
Zabrze Association of Parents, Guardians, and Friends of Disabled Children, Zabrze	Legal advice relating to disabled children	3 000 PLN
Łukasz Bojarski, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Warsaw, Jan Sz wajca, Jagiellonian University, Cracow	Participation in seminar concerning the role of the law in striving for the public good – Montenegro	3 877,16 PLN
Joanna Radwanowicz, Law Faculty, Białystok University; Eleonora Zielińska, Karolina Kędziora, Law Faculty, Warsaw University; Michał Kłaczyński, Marek Porzycki, Maria Szewczyk, Włodzimierz Wróbel, Law Faculty, Jagiellonian University	Participation in conference about university law clinics - Riga, Latvia	13 927,95 PLN
Perspectives of the Polish Criminal Law Debate	Organization, together with the Commission for Alcohol & Drug Education and the editors of <i>Tygodnik Powszechny</i> , of a debate about the proposed amendments of Poland's criminal law	3 511,61 PLN
Publications and legal opinions	Preparation of expert studies and legal opinions concerning specific legal issues, including ones arising in the operation of NGOs	
	Consultations, expert studies, publications, and seminars concerning university law clinics and the Legal Information Center for Disabled People	
	Publication of consecutive brochures in the <i>Your Rights in Court</i> brochures written by judges affiliated with the <i>Iustitia</i> Polish Judges Association	
		46 865,06 PLN

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Debate and publications:	50 376,67 PLN
Operational costs:	180 450,62 PLN
TOTAL:	1 454 461,30 PLN