



Media Program

The year 2001 was the final one of the nine across which the Media Program operated. This Program had the objective of fostering the growth of independent, responsible media in Poland. Its activities were directed first and foremost at journalists working at the regional and local levels; we offered to them participation in seminars and competitions. As in previous years, we also made a number of grants towards training organized by institutions working in support of the local media.

In 2001, we concluded our two-year series of workshops dealing with legal issues, designed to familiarize journalists with what are frequently complex legal questions and to teach them to write about them in a straightforward way so as to produce articles which the public at large can comprehend. Working together with the *Iustitia* Polish Judges' Association and with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, we also embarked on another series of workshops for journalists, this one addressed to reporters covering court proceedings. These sessions rely on moots in which the roles of judge, district attorney, and defense counsel are played by journalists, and those of journalists – by real-life legal practitioners; in this way, each group got a fresh perspective on their jobs and on their mutual relations, gaining a better understanding of the fine points of each profession.

The year 2001 also saw the third edition of our competition for articles on legal issues by editors and journalists from the local media. The underlying idea was to encourage the staff of local newspapers to come to grips with questions relating to the law, thus increasing the legal knowledge and awareness of their readers. In response, we received 108 articles carried by local weeklies and bi-weeklies across the period of April 15 to September 15, 2001; the competition board awarded six prizes for editorial teams and a further six for authors of texts or illustrations.

Competition for the Local Press

Tygodnik Siedlecki	First prize for the series of articles by Bożena Luczewska-Matejek and Mariola Zaczynska about the daily problems faced by residents of Siedlce	12 000 PLN
Gazeta Jarocińska	Second prize for the series of articles by Beata Frąckowiak, <i>You've Got the Right</i>	8 000 PLN
Nowe Wiadomości Wąbrzyskie	Third prize for the series of articles by Justyna Pilchowicz, <i>A Turn to the Right</i>	5 000 PLN
Gazeta Giżycka	Third prize for the series of articles by Renata Szczepanik, <i>About-Right</i>	5 000 PLN
Dziennik Zachodni, Lubliniec	Third prize for the series of articles by Anna Kiser, <i>Faces of the Statute Books</i>	5 000 PLN



Tygodnik Ziemi Chrzanowskiej Przełom	Additional prize for the series <i>Taming the Statutes</i> by Katarzyna Białas and Kinga Sukacz	5 000 PLN
Bożena Luczewska-Matejek i Mariola Zaczyńska from <i>Tygodnik Siedlecki</i>	Individual prizes for interesting, wide-ranging choice of subjects and for approachable language readily comprehensible to the average reader	5 000 PLN
Bartosz Bytniewski from <i>Gazeta Stargardzka</i>	Individual prize for the interesting journalistic format of the series entitled <i>Crumbs from the Court Schedule</i>	2 500 PLN
Renata Szczepanik from <i>Gazeta Giżycka</i>	Individual prize for the article entitled <i>Across the Plank for Some Fish</i>	700 PLN
Janusz Mazurek from <i>Tygodnik Siedlecki</i>	Individual prize for photographs illustrating the series of articles on legal issues	1 500 PLN
Janusz Olejarcz from <i>Tygodnik Ziemi Chrzanowskiej Przełom</i>	Individual prize for drawings illustrating the series entitled <i>Taming the Statutes</i>	1 500 PLN
Joanna Biernacka from <i>Gazeta Giżycka</i>	Individual prize for the banner to the <i>About-Right</i> series	700 PLN
	Sets of law textbooks for the participating editorial teams	2 508,64 PLN

Grants

Regional Cultural Center Olsztyn	Organization of the second edition of the <i>Citizen-Reporter</i> competition for journalists addressing social issues	20 000 PLN
Local Press Association Leszno	Organization of workshops for local press publishers and journalists	11 000 PLN
Center for Education and Cultural Initiatives Olsztyn	Organization of workshops for journalists entitled <i>Citizen Reporter – Good News</i>	9 371,44 PLN
Association of Polish Independent Local Press Publishers , Warszawa	Organization of a series of training events for trainers working with the independent local press (5 850 PLN provided by the Bank of Social and Economic Initiatives)	70 850 PLN
Tania Zdravkova Sofia	Reporting internship at Polish Public Radio – grant covering some of the expenses associated with Ms Zdravkova's Warsaw sojourn	1 800 PLN

Seminars

Seminars on legal issues organized in cooperation with the Legal Program, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, and with the <i>Iustitia</i> Polish Judges' Association, Łódź and Poznań branches (Falenica, February 28-March 2; Falenica, May 30-June 1; Dobieszków, June 22-23; Puszczkowo, December 7-8)	The first seminar in the year 2001 marked the conclusion of the training series dealing with general knowledge of the law. The participating journalists took part in sessions on constitutional law, debated the legislative act regarding protection of personal data with lawyers, and learned about the work of the state prosecution service and of NGOs providing legal aid to persons faced with dire circumstances.	
	Three meetings from a new training series directed at reporters covering court proceedings and at judges based on the swapping of roles within a moot trial. Work on the program, the preparation of documents for the moot case, and chairing of the moot were entrusted to Łukasz Bojarski of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and to Judge Anna Wesołowska of <i>Iustitia's</i> Łódź branch. The meetings brought together almost 50 journalists and 35 judges from the Łódź and Poznań areas, providing the two groups with new insights concerning their work.	48 349,16 PLN

Grants:	167 430,08 PLN
Seminars:	48 349,16 PLN
Operational costs:	49 581,54 PLN
TOTAL:	265 360,78 PLN