



The Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) is an independent, self-sufficient, non-profit making organisation established in 1991 with the aim of supporting the science sector in Poland. As an initial investment, FNP received 95mil zlotys allocated by the State Treasury from the remainder of the Central Fund for the Development of Science and Technology, liquidated in 1990. Under the Commercialisation and Privatisation Law adopted in 2000 and revoked two years later, two per cent of the proceeds from the privatisation initiated during the years 2000-2002 of companies in which the State Treasury was the sole shareholder, was subsequently brought as a contribution towards the assets of the Foundation. The amount received under the aforementioned law in 2003 and 2004 was 51.7mil zlotys.

The Foundation does not receive any subsidies from the central budget: its statutory activities are financed solely from revenues generated by reinvesting its assets in various financial instruments admitted for public trading such as Treasury bonds, stocks and shares. These proceeds are used to cover the cost of programmes, and to secure the value of the funds at FNP's disposal. Over 251.7mil zlotys generated in this way have been transferred to the science sector to date, the market value of FNP assets currently exceeding 377.3mil zlotys.

The statutory aims of the Foundation include:

- aiding recognised scholars and research teams whose projects are connected with areas of major importance for the technological, cultural and economic development of Poland, contributing to its international prestige;
- assisting the transfer of innovative technologies developed by Polish scientists to industry and commerce; and
- supporting investment projects facilitating the development of science in Poland.

All FNP grants, prizes and scholarships are awarded by competition and made available under annual programmes and schemes, in keeping with the Foundation's general principle 'supporting only the best so that they can become even better'.

In its grant-giving activities the Foundation seeks to make a clear distinction between its areas of interest and the areas which should be financed from the central budget.

In addition, the Foundation actively supports international co-operation in the field of science, and undertakes numerous initiatives aimed at facilitating the exchange of ideas within the world-wide scientific community.

Transparency being one of its objectives, the Foundation has published extensive Annual Reports presenting its current activities. Its financial statements are audited by highly respected auditing companies and published both in the Annual Reports and Monitor Polski B (Official Gazette B).

A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Since its inception fourteen years ago, the Foundation for Polish Science has ceaselessly carried on its mission of 'supporting only the best so that they can become even better'. Its role does not involve financing research activities as a whole, but assisting the process of building the high status and prestige of Polish science, and helping it gain renown both in Europe and world-wide.

The Foundation's mission statement quoted above is based on a conviction that importance and distinction in science depend on the outstanding achievements of individuals. Therefore, the limited funds at the Foundation's disposal can be put to use with maximum effectiveness, in terms of the interests of Polish science as a whole, only when the principle of 'selective elitism' has been applied.

In an era of globalisation of social and economic processes, in today's world where economy is based on knowledge and society is a society of knowledge, research is generally considered one of the main factors in the progress of civilisation. Science is regarded as being of primary relevance to social and economic development: this conviction is manifested in treating it as a strategic component in the process of increasing the competitiveness of the economy of the newly enlarged European Union.

Taking part in the building of the European Research Area that can handle the increased requirements posed by nations of a United Europe is a new challenge to Polish scholars and the various institutions operating in the science sector. We are well aware that contributions brought by Polish science to the European and international system, their relevance, quality and innovative character, will largely determine the status in the world of Poland, its society and economy; and the extent to which our aspirations will have been fulfilled.

Resulting from this awareness is a specific obligation: to develop such action programmes and to make available to Polish science such forms of assistance that will be appropriate to its needs, and at the same time facilitate the achievement of the most important aim: that of securing a secure and prominent status for Poland in the area of European research.

Since 1st September 2004, the Council of the Foundation for Polish Science has been reconstituted. Irrespective of these changes, however, its basic strategies and mission remain unaltered. On behalf of the new Council I would like to stress that during our term of office we shall adhere to the fundamental principles applied by our predecessors: that of objective evaluation of research projects and their significance in a global perspective being the sole criteria for awarding our prizes and grants. By our actions we would like to reinforce the conviction that the specific field of study or the type of a scientific institution involved are irrelevant to the process culminating in a remarkable achievement or a discovery that bring us closer to the truth and a better understanding of the world.

We believe that in the years to come the Foundation for Polish Science will pursue its mission accompanied by the approval, support and trust of the scientific community in Poland.

Janina Józwiak

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

While seeking to summarise the activities of the Foundation for Polish Science in 2004 and assessing their importance, the reflection is bound to arise that this was the first year of genuine stability following the ultimate conclusion of the dispute with the fiscal authorities, which overshadowed all our operations between 1998 and 2002. Although the impact of this dispute on the fulfilment of the Foundation's mission of supporting Polish science and the implementation of our annual programmes was only minimal owing to the policies adopted by FNP authorities, it did affect our financial status and future prospects.

The greater therefore is our satisfaction that the crisis has eventually been overcome, as indicated by our financial results for 2004. As the above statement may not be convincing if based only on the financial data without reference being made to past events, it seems reasonable to present our current financial standing against a wider historical background.

The starting point was 2 April 1991, when the 95mil zlotys remaining assets of the wound-up Central Fund for the Development of Science and Technology was transferred to the Foundation for Polish Science. That was the origin of our start-up fund.

Since the autumn of 1992, when the sole responsibility for the Foundation's operations was assumed by the Board chaired by the undersigned, FNP financial policy has been based on the principle of counterbalancing

expenditure by efficient and safe investment, thus generating revenue to be spent on statutory activities in the future. The best proof of the rightness of this policy is the fact that from its inception until the end of 2004, 251.7mil zlotys was allocated by the Foundation to its numerous programmes and schemes (Chart 1), and the value of FNP assets increased threefold, totalling 377.3mil zlotys as shown in the Balance Sheet for 2004. Of this amount, 51.7mil was acquired during the years 2000-2004 as proceeds from the privatisation of companies having the State Treasury as sole shareholder (Chart 2).

The issue of privatisation proceeds, albeit mentioned already in a number of previous annual reports, is worth attention: these monies, along with the start-up fund, have constituted a contribution by the State Treasury towards FNP assets.

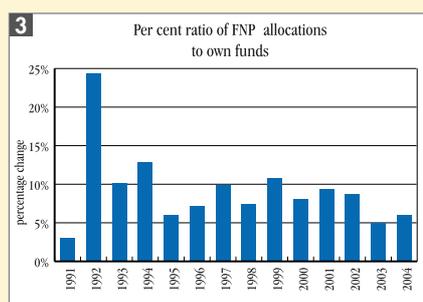
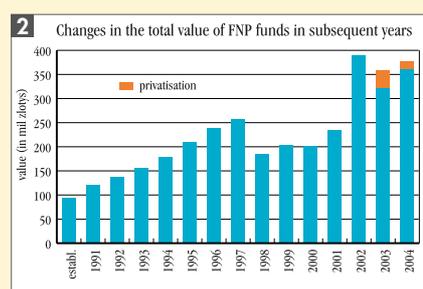
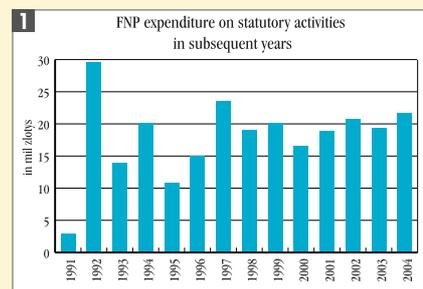
The idea of 2 per cent of shares in companies of which the State Treasury was sole shareholder to be allocated for purposes related to the development of science and technology in Poland originated at the beginning of February 2000, while the amended Law on the Commercialisation and Privatisation of State-Owned Enterprises was being prepared. FNP agreed to accept the said proceeds, on the condition however that it should be allowed to allocate freely any revenues generated therefrom, without being forced to spend them to satisfy day-to-day needs within the science and technology sectors. In fact, this freedom to act according to its own principles was the only means to achieve the Foundation's long-term structural goals.

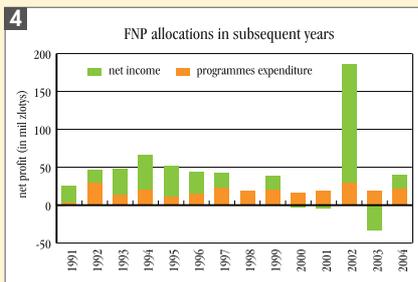
As a result, the amended Commercialisation and Privatisation Law adopted on 29 March 2000 provided that 2 per cent of shares in companies in which the State Treasury was sole shareholder should be allocated for purposes related to the development of science and technology by being brought as a contribution towards the capital fund of the Foundation for Polish Science. The amount to be received under the aforementioned law was estimated at nearly one billion zlotys.

This clause was received by FNP as a token of recognition and trust in its efficiency and reliability displayed in the pursuance of its statutory aims. However, a structural solution of this kind was bound to meet with sturdy and determined opposition. Immediately following the Parliamentary elections of 2001 and the setting up of a new government, steps were taken by those opposed to the new regulation to seek to change its provisions pertaining to the Foundation for Polish Science.

As a consequence, during the second reading of the draft law changing the organisation and operation procedures of national administration bodies, as well as amending a number of other laws, several alterations were introduced indicating a beneficiary of the privatisation proceeds other than FNP, namely the Ministry of Science and Information Society Technologies. In this manner the Foundation for Polish Science was entitled solely to proceeds from privatisations initiated within the two years between the coming into force of the law of 29 March 2000 and the new law being adopted on 1 March 2002.

Pursuant to the legal provisions indicated above, on 24 January 2003 the amount of 36,695,794.82 zlotys was transferred to FNP by the Minister of State Treasury as the first portion of the monies due to it. In March 2004, an official document was published by the Ministry of the State Treasury specifying that over 136mil zlotys had yet to be transferred to the Foundation, and that appropriate provisions had been made to this end by the Ministry. Throughout 2004, more money was received by FNP in several instalments, to a total of 15,010,690.51 zlotys. As it soon turned out, the Foundation did not obtain any more proceeds from privatisation: a subsequent amendment to the relevant regulations, effective from 1 January 2005, deprived FNP of its former rights in this respect. In addition, in April of the same year, the Minister of the State Treasury explained in his letter to FNP that the provisions made in order to enable the transfer of funds to the Foundation were liquidated.





Therefore, the total amount of privatisation proceeds received by FNP was 51,706,485.33 zlotys. We decided to use these monies to set up a separate fund solely for the purpose of financing one of our schemes: Domestic Grants for Young Scholars.

The facts presented above show the origin of the Foundation's assets constituting both its sole property and the basis for its operations. However, they are not sufficient to explain the strategies applied by FNP to generate revenues, which are essential for pursuing its statutory aims by awarding grants and prizes. The underlying mechanisms seem obscure to many. This is caused by the fact that, regrettably,

independent organisations with their own funds which do not receive any subsidies and whose resources depend solely on their activity in the financial market, are still a rarity in this country even amongst various non-profit making entities.

The performance of such organisations, including the Foundation for Polish Science, is assessed in different terms than that of commercial enterprises. The key element in evaluating their efficiency and effectiveness is not their profit, but the amount of allocations for their statutory activities, as reflected by the pay-off value, i.e. the ratio of the grants awarded to their own funds at the end of the previous financial year. In the case of FNP, this value has always been up to international standards and exceeded 5 per cent (Chart 3), the only exception being the first year of the Foundation's operation.

We have always tried hard to maintain a balance between our statutory expenditure and the accumulated profit, in order to level off the impact of asset depreciation due to inflation. Our success here however has depended largely on the overall circumstances: mainly the general market environment, the ever-changing tax regulations, and the capability of our beneficiaries to make use of the funds received. This has never been an easy task, taking into account the vast needs of the science sector in Poland, and the high rate of inflation, often exceeding 10 per cent. It was only recently that we have eventually reached this much-desired balance (Chart 3).

As shown below (Chart 4), the revenue generated by the Foundation is divided in two. The major part is spent on the Foundation's programmes, which are the primary objective of FNP activity. Paradoxically, although in keeping with the relevant accounting regulations, this expenditure is indicated as the **Operating Loss** in the Balance Sheet. The other part is Net Profit, i.e. funds not spent in a given financial year and accumulated to increase our capital fund to be allocated in the future (Chart 2).

Therefore, the criterion for the evaluation of the Foundation's performance and effectiveness in attaining its statutory aims is not the **Net Profit** (this would increase by diminishing our expenditure on statutory activities; which would be simply absurd), but **Net Revenue** defined as the total of expenditure for statutory activities and Net Profit taken together.

If we added administrative cost incurred in the course of the implementation of our programmes to the above figure, we would arrive at the Gross Profit, a value more adequate for assessing financial effectiveness. However, unlike many organisations of a similar character in Poland, the Foundation for Polish Science does not indicate labour costs as Programme Costs, but includes them in the Administrative Costs category.

Another important indicator is the net profitability ratio, calculated as the sum of net profit and the total value of own funds at the end of the previous financial year. This ratio changes from year to year, and depends directly on the general situation in the financial market characterised by such variables as decrease in interest rates, revaluations at the Warsaw Stock Exchange (as in the years 1998 and 2000), the crisis in the State bonds market (as in 2003), and other external factors. Taking these into account, it should always be assessed from a long-term perspective (Chart 5).

While assessing FNP's effectiveness in asset management, we should not forget the previously mentioned crisis situation, brought about by the unfavourable decision of the tax authorities in 1998, specifying that the funds allocated by FNP for the purchase of securities were subject to corporate income tax. Following that decision, FNP was bound to pay an amount equal to 1/3 of its funds in the allegedly due tax and penalty interest. Needless to say, this resulted in a serious reduction of FNP revenues, to an extent endangering its

future existence. In addition, it rendered pointless any further investment in securities including Treasury bonds, which had seemed a sound and stable basis for FNP operations. As a consequence, more than half of FNP assets had to be transferred into bank deposits, thus diminishing the return on the Foundation's portfolio to the point of its being unprofitable (Chart 6).

Taking into consideration the current needs of the science sector in Poland, the Council and Board of the Foundation decided to maintain its statutory expenditure at the previous level, although it was bound to result in a continuing depletion of assets. This issue was described in detail both in FNP annual reports and open letters addressed to the scientific community.

Fortunately, this unfavourable decision by the tax authorities was eventually repealed in a resolution of the Supreme Court: during 2002, the inappropriately collected tax was being returned to FNP along with penalty interest, not only making up for the losses sustained by the Foundation, but also enabling us to resume full-scale asset management. The crisis being overcome, we gradually regained financial stability. This can best be proved by our financial results in 2004, with net profitability (calculated without taking into account the privatisation proceeds) at

7.02%, gross profitability being 11.2%. It is worth pointing out that it was also in 2004 that we eventually managed to free ourselves from unfortunate investment projects initiated in the first half of 1992.

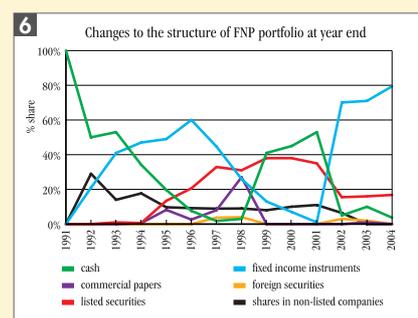
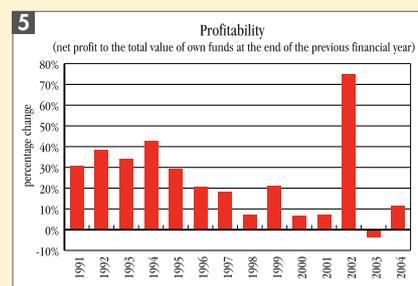
This financial stability regained in 2004 prompted the Board of the Foundation to formulate FNP strategy and programmes for the forthcoming years; an activity normally undertaken at the end of a Foundation's Council tenure for the use of the future Council. The first document of this type was prepared by the Board and submitted to the Council in office from 1994 to 1997; and another, up to the year 2000, adopted by the Council whose term of office began in 1998. After that, no strategy could be devised for FNP or more detailed plans made for its future activities. Towards the end of 1999, when the new Council was just about to begin its term of office, the fate of FNP was anything but certain and no long-term schedules could be drafted: anything had to be planned for the short-term. Even then however, detailed assessments of the Foundation's operations were prepared and thoroughly analysed.

FNP Strategy and Programmes during the Years 2004-2008 was presented in the autumn of 2004, to be discussed and eventually adopted by the newly appointed Council (in office since 1 September 2004). An abbreviated version of this document (only in Polish) can be found at our website.

FNP Strategy... contains, among other things, a detailed account of the Foundation's experiences in pursuing its mission. Also discussed are the major challenges that the FNP authorities may face in the near future in connection with the changes to the environment of the Foundation's operations occurring with ever-increasing speed and related to Poland's accession to the European Union. As we know, one of the consequences of the accession, of considerable relevance to the scientific community, is Poland's participation in the development of the European Research Area.

Also, *FNP Strategy...* brings an assessment of programmes and projects currently carried out by the Foundation, along with suggestions concerning necessary changes and possible actions aimed at supporting science and scientists in Poland. This document appears well balanced in its presentation of the Foundation's potential and mission. The experiences gained by FNP to date are thoroughly analysed and reasonable conclusions drawn therefrom, taking into account the majority of hints, proposals and remarks formulated by friends and opponents alike. Owing to this, *FNP Strategy...* will certainly serve as a useful reference and guide to the new Board, which assumed responsibility for the Foundation's future on 1 September 2005.

It is extremely fortunate therefore that the Foundation can enter this new era in the development of science in Poland enjoying restored order and financial stability and, hopefully, well-prepared to meet its new challenges and fulfil its new tasks.



Maciej W. Grabski

FNP PROGRAMMES IN 2004

The two largest of FNP schemes, the Annual Prizes and the Scholar Grants, were targeted at individual scientists from Poland; foreign contestants could compete for grants awarded under two of the nine grant-giving programmes operated by FNP. The remaining nine long-term programmes implemented throughout 2004 had various objectives such as upgrading research facilities, the partial funding of publications, and supporting the transfer of innovative technologies to industry and business. The expenditure for FNP programmes in the financial year 2004 totalled 21.6mil zlotys.



Annual Prizes, Grants and Fellowships

FNP ANNUAL PRIZES

In 2004, these were granted for the thirteenth time. They are awarded to Polish scientists for their remarkable achievements and research findings that constitute an important contribution to the development of science and technology, and the progress of civilisation in Poland and elsewhere in the world. Regarded as the most prestigious of their kind in this country, they are granted in the four main areas of study as indicated below. The amount awarded to each beneficiary in 2004 was 100,000 zlotys (before tax). The winners of the 2004 FNP Prizes were:

in the field of the humanities and social studies,

- **Professor Jadwiga Staniszkis** of the Warsaw University Institute of Sociology, for her research aimed at formulating the theory of and interpreting the transformation processes currently occurring in Poland and elsewhere in the world, as presented in her publications *Postkomunizm* (Postcommunism, 2001) and *Władza globalizacji* (The Power of Globalisation, 2003);

in the field of the life sciences and medicine,

- **Professor Janusz Limon** of the Gdańsk Medical Academy Department of Biology and Genetics, for his outstanding contribution to the development of cytogenetic methods applied in the diagnostics of malignant growths;

in the field of the exact sciences,

- **Professor Wojciech J. Stec** of the PAS Centre for Molecular and Macromolecular Research in Łódź, for having obtained new biologically active compounds with a high therapeutic potential using his own innovative method for the synthesis of thiophosphate DNA analogues; and

in the field of the technical sciences,

- **Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski** of the Carnegie Mellon University Faculty of Chemistry (USA) and the PAS Centre for Molecular and Macromolecular Research in Łódź, for developing new methods of controlled radical polymerisation, and their applications in industry.

SCHOLAR GRANTS

Substantial grants under this scheme are aimed at intensifying ongoing research or undertaking new research projects. To be disbursed over three years, they are awarded annually to fifteen eminent representatives of a designated field of study, chosen in a competition comprising several stages from amongst the short-listed candidates.

This programme seeks to support those scholars who have successfully combined their own research activity with teaching duties. Unlike other grant-giving schemes, it does not oblige the beneficiaries to carry out specific projects originally indicated by them: they are free to decide whether to continue their ongoing projects, or to initiate new ones.

In 2004, the Scholar Grants were awarded on the seventh occasion, this time to representatives of the natural sciences and medicine. Each beneficiary will receive 80,000 zlotys per year for three years.

DOMESTIC GRANTS FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS

These twelve-month grants are awarded annually to approximately a hundred most promising young research workers (up to 30 years of age) whose achievements in their fields of study have been documented by publication. From the year 2001 onwards all beneficiaries can apply for the grant to be extended for a further twelve months.

In 2004, grants under this scheme were awarded on the twelfth occasion; this time to 103 successful applicants selected from amongst 747 candidates, each of whom received 20,000 zlotys (tax exempt). In addition, 86 grants awarded in the previous year were extended.

DOMESTIC VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships in this category are available to young Ph.D. holders (up to 35 years of age). Awarded for research visits to leading research centres in Poland of up to three months duration, in well-justified cases they can be extended for up to a further three months. The aim of this scheme is to increase the mobility of young researchers, to facilitate the exchange of opinions and ideas between them, and to enhance co-operation between various research establishments in Poland. Following the evaluation of the 16 applications submitted, 9 fellowships were awarded, each of 3,500 zlotys per month.

FOREIGN FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG PH.D. RECIPIENTS

These are awarded to young Polish scholars (up to 35 years of age) with a doctoral degree for six- to twelve-month visits to leading research establishments world-wide. The amounts allocated to individual fellows are equivalent to postdoctoral grants available from the institutions of their choice.

From the year 2004 onwards, beneficiaries who are married are entitled to an extra 500 euros due as family allowance.

Also in 2004, another innovation was introduced. Following an agreement between the Foundation and the Polish-U.S. Joint Science and Technology Commission, one of the grants awarded under this scheme is to be financed using the otherwise unallocated assets of the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Joint Fund II. Available to a representative of the exact, natural or technical sciences, it will be given for a training and research visit to a leading research centre in the USA.

In 2004, foreign fellowships were awarded for the fifteenth time, to the following 16 successful beneficiaries selected from amongst 90 applicants:

- Dr **Małgorzata Graca** of the PAS Institute of Physical Chemistry, for a twelve-month research visit to the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA;
- Dr **Ewa Anita Jankowska** of the PAS Department of Anthropology and the Cardiology Section of the Military Hospital in Wrocław, for a twelve-month research visit to the National Heart & Lung Institute, Imperial College London, UK;
- Dr **Piotr Koprowski** of the PAS Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw, for a twelve-month research visit to the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley, USA;
- Dr **Marek Kornat** of the PAS Institute of History in Warsaw, for a six-month research visit to l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales CNRS, Paris, France;
- Dr **Zbigniew Małolepszy** of the University of Silesia Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec, for a six-month research visit to the Minnesota Geological Survey, University of Minnesota, USA;
- Dr **Magdalena Markowska** of the Warsaw University Faculty of Biology, for a twelve-month research visit to the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA;
- Dr **Natalia Marska** of the University of Szczecin Faculty of Economics and Management, for a twelve-month research visit to the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy;
- Dr **Tomasz Osiejuk** of the Adam Mickiewicz University Faculty of Biology, for a twelve-month research visit to Cornell University, New York City, USA, and to Université Paris Sud-Orsay, France;

- Dr **Borys Ośmiałowski** of the Academy of Agriculture and Technology in Bydgoszcz, Department of Chemical Technology and Engineering, for a twelve-month research visit to the Organisch-Chemisches Institut, Universität Zürich, Switzerland;
- Dr **Katarzyna Pernal** of the University of Szczecin Institute of Physics, for an eight-month research visit to the Department of Chemistry, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Holland;
- Dr **Rafał Stroiński** of the Warsaw University Faculty of Law and Administration, for a seven-month research visit to the Stanford Law School, USA;
- Dr **Małgorzata Szeroczyńska** of the Warsaw University Faculty of Law and Administration, for a twelve-month research visit to the Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Strafrecht, Freiburg, Germany;
- Dr **Katarzyna Śledziwska** of the Warsaw University Faculty of Economics, for a twelve-month research visit to the School of Economics, University of Nottingham, UK;
- Dr **Tomasz Zaleski** of the PAS Institute of Low Temperatures and Structural Testing in Wrocław, for an eight-month research visit to the Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA; and
- Dr **Anna Zawisza** of the University of Łódź Department of Organic and Applied Chemistry, for a twelve-month research visit to Université Claude-Bernard Lyon 1, France.

The fellowship financed by the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Joint Fund II was granted to Dr **Artur Czupryn** of the PAS Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw, for a twelve-month research visit to the Harvard Center of Nervous System Repair, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA.

In addition, following a motion submitted by the beneficiaries, the six-month fellowships awarded in the previous year to Dr **Adam Opalski** of the Warsaw University Faculty of Law and Administration and Dr **Piotr Tryjanowski** of the Adam Mickiewicz University Institute of Environmental Biology were both extended for a further six months.

SUBSIDIARY GRANTS

From 2001, beneficiaries of the Foreign Fellowship scheme can apply upon their return to Poland for subsidiary grants of up to 40,000 zlotys, to be allocated by the recipients for upgrading their research facilities. In 2004, grants in this category were awarded to 10 successful applicants.

GRANTS FOR LIBRARY AND/OR ARCHIVE SEARCH ABROAD

Grants under this scheme are made available to Polish scholars involved in innovative research projects, for library or archive search abroad (up to three months in duration) related to the applicants' undertakings. Awarded for the third time, in 2004 these grants were given to 22 beneficiaries.

CONFERENCE GRANTS

These are a contribution towards the cost of participation of Polish scholars (of up to 40 years of age) in conferences, seminars and congresses abroad. Financed in full by FNP, this programme is implemented by the Warsaw Scientific Society.

In 2004, 170 grants of this category were awarded on four occasions.

POLISH FELLOWSHIP AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Financed jointly by the British Foreign Office, the M. Grabowski Foundation and the Foundation for Polish Science, this grant was awarded annually to a Polish scholar for twelve-months research in the field of Polish studies at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. From the year 2005 onwards it will be discontinued in its current form, following Poland's accession to the European Union and the withdrawal of the Foreign Office as one of the sponsors, and made available instead under the FNP Foreign Fellowship scheme.

This fellowship for the academic year 2004/2005 was granted to Dr **Adam Śliwiński** of the Faculty of Management and the Fundamentals of Technology of the Technical University of Lublin.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT POLISH HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Fellowships for research in Poland available under this scheme are granted to distinguished German scholars irrespective of their field of study, nominated by Polish research centres or individual scientists, in token of appreciation of their achievements and contribution towards better co-operation between Poland and Germany. They are the equivalent of the Humboldt-Forschungspreise granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany to eminent scholars from various countries including Poland.

The grant, currently of 3,000 euros per month, is awarded for four to twelve months, and can be drawn by the beneficiary over a period of up to three years.

In 2004, these fellowships were awarded to the following beneficiaries:

- Professor **Wolfgang Hess** of Bonn University, for a four-month research visit to the Adam Mickiewicz University Institute of Linguistics in Poznań;
- Professor **Gerhard Dziuk** of the University of Freiburg, for a twelve-month research visit to the Warsaw University Centre for Mathematical and Computer Modelling; and
- Professor **Heinz Kneip** of the University of Ratisbon, for a six-month research visit to the School of International Studies in Łódź.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS FROM CEE COUNTRIES

This programme is targeted at foreign scientists and research workers primarily from CEE countries and Asia. Grants under this scheme are available for research visits to Poland of between four weeks and several months in duration. This project is a joint venture with FNP providing the finance, and the Józef Mianowski Fund in charge of the competition procedure.

As in the previous year, in 2004 allocations to a total of 50,000 zlotys were made specifically for beneficiaries from CEE countries wishing to conduct research at the Warsaw University Centre for the Study of Ancient Traditions (OBTA). The entries submitted in this category were subject to the general competition procedure.

161 applications were received by the Józef Mianowski Fund, and 65 fellowships awarded to representatives of various fields of study. In addition, 13 fellowships for research at OBTA were granted. All these fellowships will be available to the beneficiaries during 2005.

In 2004, 76 fellowships granted towards the end of 2003 were activated, including 14 for research at OBTA.

NESTOR PROGRAMME

This is a grant programme in which scholarships are awarded to eminent retired scientists and research workers who are willing to share their expertise and knowledge with students in various locations in Poland, mainly in educational establishments which have not yet made their mark. The beneficiaries receive funds (5,000 zlotys per month) to finance their visits to host institutions provided that a relevant invitation has been issued, and the aims and duration of the visitor's stay mutually agreed. The visitors conduct seminars and lectures, and provide consultations. In 2004, grants under this scheme were awarded on two occasions, to eight retired professors from Warsaw, Cracow, Lublin and Łódź.



Other Long-term Programmes

MILAB PROGRAMME

This initiative seeks to support the upgrading of research facilities in Poland: grants under this scheme are available to partially cover the cost of major investment projects at their final stage, including construction, modernisation and repair work to laboratories and buildings accommodating research establishments. Funds are also provided as contributions towards the cost of the removal and/or purchase of appliances and equipment for modernised premises. In the financial year 2004, over 5.6mil zlotys were awarded to 31 applicant institutions in Poland.

BIOS PROGRAMME

Initiated in 2004, this project is intended as a safeguard against the growing degradation of paleontological, zoological and botanical collections held by research institutions in Poland. Another aim is to provide access to these valuable items on conditions conforming with international standards. On the first occasion, 19 applications were received and 8 grants awarded following a competition procedure. The amount awarded for the successful projects exceeded 1.1mil zlotys.

TECHNE PROGRAMME

The aim of this scheme, a continuation of the INCOME and TECHNO programmes, is to support research carried out by various institutions in Poland, on the practical application of new products and technologies. Grants are provided for the launch of new appliances and field trials, for the construction of measuring positions and the purchase of the necessary components and/or sub-assemblies, as well as for assembly and installation.

In 2004, 7 grants in this category were awarded, to a total of 635,000 zlotys.

SUBIN PROGRAMME

Under this scheme, financial aid is provided to individual researchers and research institutions, mainly, although not exclusively, in emergency situations. Assistance is rendered to initiatives or investment projects of considerable significance to Polish science and its international prestige, for which no funds have been obtained from other sources, and which have not been included in other FNP grant-giving schemes.

In 2004, 38 grants were awarded, totalling 1.3mil zlotys.

MONOGRAPHS PROGRAMME

Launched in 1994 and held by FNP on a regular basis ever since, this competition for monographs in the areas of the humanities and the social sciences has resulted in the publication of 86 successful entries in the *FNP Monographs* series; of these, 11 have since been reissued.

In 2004, thirteen titles were published, including one re-issue; five more are forthcoming.

In the same year, some volumes of the *FNP Monographs* series received a number of awards. These included the second prize for the best author of a historical publication (the KLIO Award), which went to **Jan Doktor** for his *Początki chasydyzmu polskiego* (The Beginnings of Chasidism in Poland), and an award from the Minister of National Education and Sports for the best doctoral dissertation for **Maciej Gołąb** and his *Spór o granice poznania dzieła muzycznego* (In Cognition of a Musical Work: Limits and Limitations).

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME

Due to FNP assistance under this programme, a number of monumental multi-volume works edited by various research institutes documenting Poland's historical, cultural and technological heritage can be carried on without undesirable interruptions.

In 2004, the Foundation continued to cover the publication costs (i.e. the costs of editing and printing) of *Polski Słownik Biograficzny* (The Polish Biographical Dictionary); *Katalog Zabytków Sztuki w Polsce* (A Catalogue of Ancient Artworks in Poland); *Materiały do dziejów sztuki sakralnej na ziemiach wschodnich dawnej Rzeczypospolitej* (Sources for the History of Religious Art in the Eastern Territories of the Former Republic of Poland); and *Słownik polszczyzny XVI wieku* (A Dictionary of 16th Century Polish).

TRANSLATIONS PROGRAMME

The aim of this recent programme is to provide assistance in promoting world-wide the best representatives of the humanities in Poland. This is done through the partial covering of the cost of their works being translated into one of the so-called 'congress languages', provided that a renowned international publishing house has formally agreed to publish it. The basic criterion applied here is the high standard of the competition entry.

In 2004, grants for the translation of ten works by Polish scholars were awarded. These works, published in Poland between 2000 and 2004, will be translated into English (6), Italian (3) and German (1), and then published abroad.

FNP CONFERENCES

- **A Seminar for Beneficiaries of the TECHNO and TECHNE Programmes**

This seminar, aimed at summarising the outcome of the TECHNO and TECHNE programmes, was held at the end of September 2004 in Wrocław, and organised in collaboration with the Technical University there. Under both schemes assistance was provided to innovative projects during the years 2000-2002. The meeting was an opportunity for the participants to engage in a panel discussion concerned with various issues related to technology transfer, in particular the establishment of efficient collaboration between scientists and representatives of the business sector. It was attended by beneficiaries of various FNP programmes, whose experiences with the implementation of innovative technologies were mainly positive; by those in charge of technical schools in Poland; by scientists directly involved in fundamental research; and by businessmen and employees of various financial institutions. In the course of the debate, serious differences were manifested in the approach towards technology transfer adopted by the scientists and the representatives of the financial sector. Special attention was paid by participants in the debate to the presentation of the severe criteria defined by the business community which are sine qua non for any innovative project to win the interest of potential sponsors.

- **FNP Debates on Science: Conference *Science and Its Spatial Dimensions***

Originated a few years ago, these events are held annually, bringing together Polish scholars who meet to discuss various issues of major importance to the scientific community. From 2004 onwards they are being organised by FNP in collaboration with various institutions, associations and interest groups operating in the area of science. The first event in this category was a conference held in Wąsowo near Poznań in mid October 2004, organised by FNP and the Society of the Friends of Science in Poznań. As indicated in its title, it was an attempt at defining the relationships between science and space. The subjects discussed included spatial conditions determining the development of science (location of research centres, relationships between them, migration of scholars, etc.), and the impact of electronic network development on research methodology and the structure of the research area in the future. Also discussed was the influence of EU policies on the emergence and subsequent development of new research centres in Poland.

Conference materials are to be published in another brochure of the *FNP Debates on Science* series.

THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION EXPLORATORIUM PROGRAMME (EIE)

Launched in 2001, this project has been intended as a means of maintaining the Foundation's involvement in European integration issues following the discontinuation of Phare programmes. Financed by FNP, until the end of 2004 it was implemented in co-operation with the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Due to this initiative, the outcome of the SCI-TECH and SCI-TECH II Phare programmes carried out during the years 1993-2000 can be preserved and promoted. In addition, it provides a framework for various activities aimed at supporting the science and technology sector in Poland as regards its effective and efficient functioning on the homogenous European market after Poland has become a fully fledged member of the European Union. This is done by the EIE Programme in various ways, including the monitoring of Polish policies in the areas of science and technological development in view of their harmonisation with EU policies; the preparation of strategic studies in this area; and providing assistance (technological know-how and advisory services) to regional government institutions seeking to maximise the benefits of the relevant EU structural funds being transferred to the science and technology sector in Poland.

In 2004, a number of projects implemented under the EIE Programme as part of the Fifth Framework Programme of Research, Technological Development and EU Presentation were discontinued. In the

same year, new projects for the Sixth Framework Programme were being developed: of these, two are currently being negotiated with the European Commission.

In addition, as indicated in its mission statement, the European Integration Exploratorium Programme supports government agendas and institutions, for instance by preparing assessments requested by the Ministry of the Economy and Labour, and the Supreme Chamber of Control. It has participated in the activities of the Polish Forum of the Lisbon Strategy including its debates; also, a number of conferences have been organised under its auspices.

COLLABORATION WITH SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS

For several years now, the Foundation has been a supporting member of a number of leading scientific associations of a corporate nature in Poland: The Warsaw Scientific Society, The Toruń Scientific Society, The Society of the Friends of Science in Poznań, The Society for the Promotion and Support of Science, and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA).

As part of this co-operation, FNP provides funds for the annual Grzegorz Białkowski Award for the best doctoral dissertation in the field of the exact sciences, granted by The Society for the Promotion and Support of Science. In 2004, this award (of 14,000 zlotys) was given to **Dr Piotr Śniady** of the University of Wrocław Institute of Mathematics, for his dissertation *Random Matrices and Related Issues*, written under the supervision of Professor Marek Bożejko.

Note:

Listed on pp. 44 are those who had kindly agreed to co-operate with FNP in the peer-review procedures throughout the year 2004. Their assessments, opinions and comments were extremely useful to FNP authorities in making their decisions and in the selection of the beneficiaries of individual programmes.