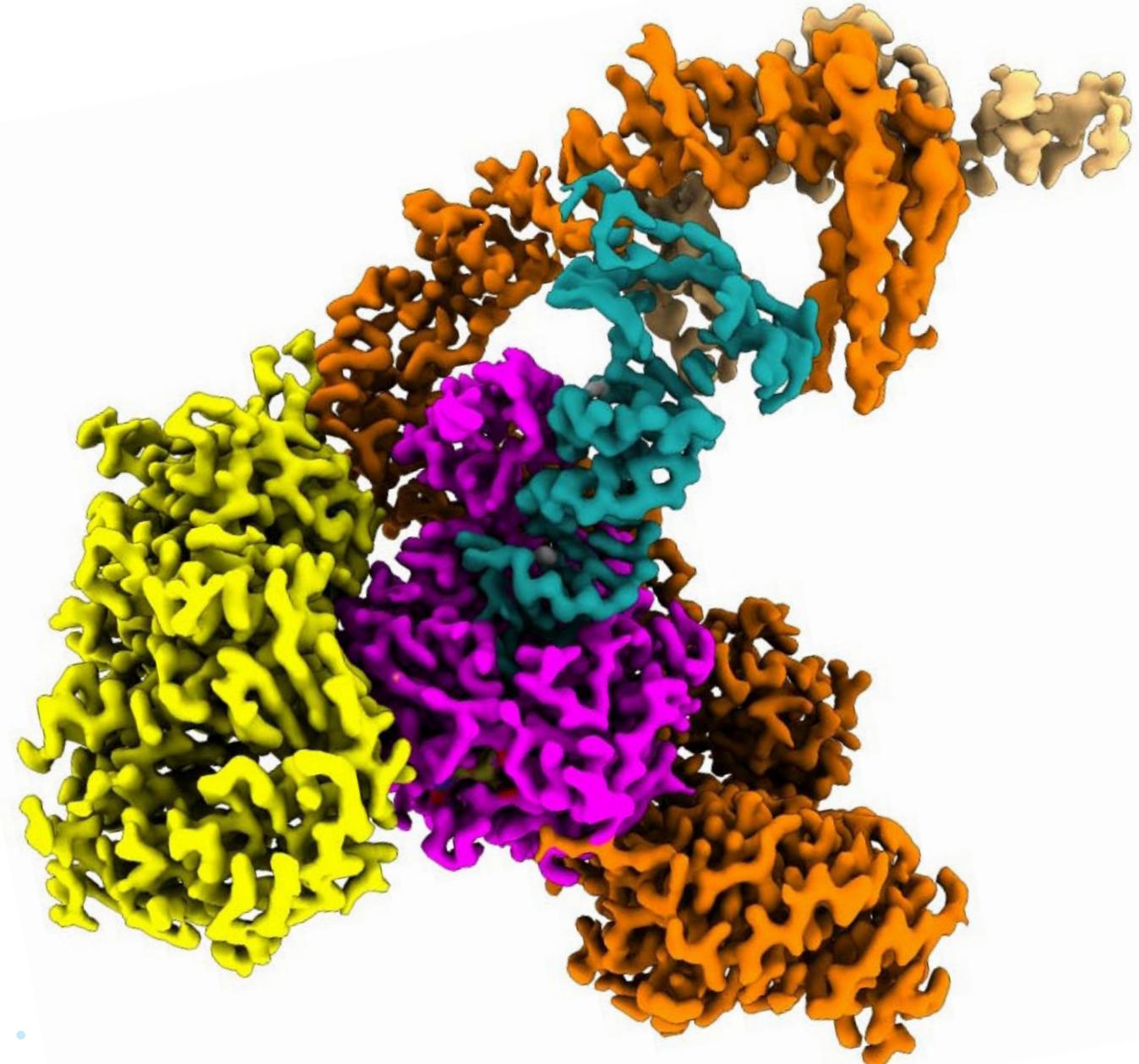




Foundation for
Polish Science

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



The Elongator complex is responsible for introducing 5-carboxymethyl at wobble uridine bases in eukaryotic tRNAs. The illustration shows a cryo-EM density map of the human ELP123 subcomplex bound to tRNA and acetyl-CoA at an overall resolution of 2.8 Å. (Abbassi, Jaciuk *et al.*, "Nature Communications", 2024; DOI: 10.1038/s41467-024-48251-y)

Research conducted by the team of prof. Sebastian Glatt, on the structure and function of the Elongator complex has been awarded the 2024 FNP Prize.



European Funds
for Smart Economy



Republic
of Poland

Co-funded by the
European Union



Foundation for
Polish Science

The 2.1 IRAP, 2.2 FIRST TEAM, 2.3 TEAM-NET, 2.6 PRIME, 2.7 Proof of Concept Measures are co-financed by the European Union from the funds of the European Funds for a Modern Economy Programme (FENG) 2021–2027.

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About the Foundation



THE FOUNDATION FOR POLISH SCIENCE

Since 1991, the Foundation has supported scientists and funded top-level research with the aim of improving the quality of science in Poland and promoting its development. The Foundation is a nongovernmental and nonpolitical organization.

The Foundation's motto is:
Supporting the best so that they can become even better.

Objectives of the activity:

- supporting outstanding scientists and research teams,
- supporting innovative projects and assisting in the commercialization of scientific discoveries and inventions.

WHAT WE DO

- We fund groundbreaking research conducted at scientific institutions and businesses.
- We support top scientists at successive stages of their scientific careers across all fields of specialization.
- We help early career researchers to get a good start in science.
- We help early career researchers achieve early scientific autonomy and establish their own research teams.
- We enable the creation of new jobs for undergraduates, doctoral students, and new doctorate graduates.
- We further cooperation between science and business and promote the transfer of scientific achievements to economic practice.
- We encourage Polish and foreign researchers to work in Poland.
- We advocate the internationalization of science in Poland.





OUR VALUES

Scientific Excellence

The quality of the research determines whether a project receives support.

The Foundation awards all its grants, prizes, and stipends on a competitive basis.

In its evaluation of funding applications, the Foundation uses the peer review method. The applicants' scientific achievements undergo evaluation on the basis of merit. Other scholars with recognized scientific achievements in the relevant field, which are either comparable or higher than those of the applicant, conduct such assessments.

The Foundation provides scientists with an environment conducive to making groundbreaking scientific discoveries and outstanding achievements in all areas of knowledge.

Credibility and Integrity

We organize our competitions based on procedures available to applicants, which relate to the process of selecting the recipients, spending the funds, and accounting for the financial support.

We oblige our beneficiaries to conduct research diligently and to document and report their findings.

We provide the public with detailed information about our activities.

We are committed to ethical professional practice.

We consistently and actively implement the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Social Responsibility

We speak out on issues relevant to science and science policy.

We engage in discussions of important topics, support the exchange of expertise, and inspire science-based discussions.

We disseminate proven knowledge on socially relevant scientific achievements, problems, and challenges.

We undertake activities to ensure that the research we support has the greatest possible impact on improving the quality of life and society's functioning.

We support the transfer of innovative projects to economic and social practice while facilitating the commercialization of discoveries and inventions.

We build public trust in science.

We make every effort to guarantee that the projects we support financially demonstrate environmental responsibility and comply with the principles of sustainable development.

Development

We are a learning organization.

We strive to develop and apply the best possible standards.

We continuously evaluate our programmes and learn from the conclusions drawn.

We undertake activities so that the scientists we support can take full advantage of their individual research skills and passions.

We assist researchers in applying best practices in recruitment, junior researcher mentorship, and research management.

Transparency

We are committed to transparent reporting of our activities.

We provide reliable information on our sources of funding.

We announce our competition procedures in advance, also providing information on the methods and criteria for selecting projects.

Each year, we publish an Annual Report on our activities, which comprises condensed financial statements and a list of reviewers and experts evaluating applications in the course of our competitions.

Every year, certified auditing companies audit our financial statements.



Openness and Diversity

We implement the principles of equal opportunities and nondiscrimination, which include ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities and enacting the principle of equal opportunities for both women and men.

We oppose all forms of discrimination.

We conduct activities for the benefit of a diverse scientific community.

We strive to support all areas of science.

In the process of project evaluation, we respect the specific nature of individual scientific disciplines and the diversity of professional backgrounds of our applicants.

Our competitions follow the bottom-up principle, where researchers propose project themes in accordance with their interests, skills, and research preferences.

- As a public benefit organization, FNP is entitled to receive assignments of 1,5% of individuals' personal income tax. The funds from this source are used to augment the stipends of the most outstanding winners of the START programme).
- Private donations.



PLN 279,9 million

Value of FNP's financial assets
(as of December 31, 2024)



PLN 562,8 million

Total funds from this source disbursed
for the support of science through the
end of 2024

European funds

- Innovative Economy Operational Programme (PO IG) 2007–2013, Measure 1.2 “Strengthening the human resources potential of science”: as a beneficiary of PO IG, FNP received PLN 421 million (funds disbursed in 2007–2015).
- Human Capital Operational Programme (PO KL) 2007–2013, Measure 4.2 “Development of R&D system staff qualifications and raising awareness of the role of science in economic growth”: FNP obtained funds from this source for implementation of the SKILLS project (devoting over PLN 35 million to this aim in 2010–2015).
- Smart Growth Operational Programme (PO IR) 2014–2020: Measure 4.4 “Increasing the human potential in the R&D sector” (budget: PLN 759,8 million) and Measure 4.3 “International Research Agendas” (budget: PLN 572,4 million) – funds disbursed in 2016–2023.
- The European Funds for a Modern Economy 2021–2027 programme: Measure 2.1 International Research Agendas; Measure 2.2. FIRST TEAM, Measure 2.3 TEAM NET, Measure 2.7 Proof of Concept; Measure 2.7 PRIME with a total budget of PLN 1,2 billion (these funds are to be spent between 2024 and 2029)

FINANCING OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

FNP's own funds

- The founding capital of PLN 95 million (part of the Central Fund for the Development of Science and Technology, liquidated in 1990) was directed to FNP by a decision of the Polish parliament in 1991. Since then, FNP has effectively grown these funds through investment in instruments such as bonds, investment fund units and shares.
- In 2003–2004 the Foundation received additional funds under the Act of 29 March 2000 Amending the Act on Commercialization of Enterprises, in the form of PLN 51,7 million in proceeds from the privatization of State Treasury companies.

Financial reporting

Every year FNP's financial statements are audited by renowned auditing companies and published in the Annual Report, available at the Foundation's office and on its website.

We are a member of:

PHILEA (fmr. European Foundation Centre)

A platform for the largest philanthropic organizations in Europe;

Science Europe

An association of European organizations whose mission is financing or conducting research of scientific excellence;

Donors Forum

An organization of independent and financially self-sufficient organizations awarding grants for socially beneficial purposes.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FOUNDATION'S COUNCIL

Dear Readers,

over a century and a half ago, formulating his theory of natural selection, Charles Darwin observed that the key to survival is the ability to adapt to changing conditions. This insight gained particular resonance in 2024 – a year marked by a dramatic acceleration in the field of artificial intelligence. While AI's rapid development has sparked great hopes, it has also raised serious concerns among both the public and the scientific community. We have seen the emergence of initial legal frameworks, yet it is already clear that even the best legislation cannot resolve the social challenges and ethical dilemmas posed by these technologies, which are challenges that individual researchers and science-supporting institutions alike must confront.

As we witness and participate in such swift transformations, this naturally raises the question of how a stable institution can adapt to new realities? In the world of science, which follows different laws than nature, dynamic change requires firm foundations. What becomes essential, then, is not just the ability to respond quickly, but also the capacity to ground that response in solid principles, particularly when the credibility of science and public trust in its findings are at stake. In this regard, the past year has shown that the Foundation for Polish Science continues to build its initiatives on lasting foundations, responding to emerging needs while remaining guided by its mission to support researchers whose work demonstrates scientific excellence. The body of this report will provide the full details, but I would like to highlight a few aspects that illustrate the balance between principled continuity and agile adaptation.

At the forefront stands one of the Foundation's oldest, and arguably most important, programmes: START, which for decades has supported what is most valuable

Prof. Grażyna Jurkowlaniec



in science: alert, courage, and integrity. As every year, the Foundation awarded 100 scholarships to outstanding young, early-career researchers, offering not just financial support but, above all, a clear signal that their work deserves recognition and trust. Responding to a growing need for deeper relationships with senior researchers, the Foundation also launched a pilot of a new initiative, i.e., FNP MENTORING, which was designed to foster intergenerational dialogue and strengthen a culture of collaboration.

A greater challenge than improving FNP's own programmes has been the development of initiatives funded through European resources, particularly in the transition from the concluded Smart Growth Operational Programme (POIR) to the new funding framework: European Funds for a Modern Economy (FENG). This transition, especially in the area of application evaluation, required adaptation to new external requirements, which made it more difficult to uphold the highest standards of expert review. Nevertheless, the evaluation of completed activities confirms their effectiveness in supporting top-tier research teams – ranging from early-stage initiatives developed under the FIRST TEAM programme to International Research Agendas led by experienced scientists of international standing.

Equally important are the initiatives focused on research commercialisation and knowledge and technology transfer, such as Proof of Concept, TEAM-NET, and PRIME. These initiatives reflect the Foundation's commitment to fostering public understanding of science and demonstrate its efforts to translate research results into economic development. The Foundation also advances this vital element of its mission, often in cooperation with other institutions, through public debates

and other initiatives. All these efforts aim to show that science is not only a story of laboratory discoveries captured in scholarly publications, but also a shared responsibility for the future.

Moreover, FNP's organizational culture also reflects the effort to maintain a balance between continuity and change. As stipulated in the Foundation's charter, a portion of the Foundation Council is rotated every four years. This fosters a productive balance between institutional memory and fresh perspectives brought by newly elected members, as was the case in 2024. A similar approach shaped the process of preparing for the upcoming transition in FNP's executive leadership, even though no legal requirement dictated such measures. In response to President Professor Maciej Źylicz's announcement of his retirement, the Foundation Council appointed Professor Krzysztof Pyrć as his successor in June 2024. He will formally assume the presidency in September 2025. In the meantime, he serves as an Advisor to the Executive Board, gaining a close understanding of the Foundation's programme operations and internal workings. This carefully planned succession gives us confidence that the next President will begin his term with a deep familiarity with the institution he is to lead.

As we approach this transition, on behalf of the entire Foundation Council, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the current Executive Board and to everyone who helps shape the Foundation – its staff, partners, experts and reviewers, as well as laureates and beneficiaries. Thanks to your dedication and trust, the Foundation continues to respond to a rapidly changing world while remaining a place where science grows with ambition, stability, and responsibility.

Professor Grażyna Jurkowianiec
Warsaw, May 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Readers,

in 2024, the Foundation for Polish Science awarded nearly PLN 50 million to the beneficiaries of its programmes. This amount included PLN 10,4 million to cover the costs of completed projects funded under the Smart Growth Operational Programme 2014–2020 (POIR), PLN 33,1 million for new grant competitions as part of the ongoing European Funds for a Modern Economy 2021–2027 (FENG) programme, and PLN 6,2 million for prizes and scholarships funded from the Foundation's own resources. Altogether, in 2024, we implemented 15 programmes supporting the development of outstanding researchers and the work of top-tier research teams – including 8 programmes financed from the Foundation's own resources, 5 within the FENG framework, and a research project on the valorization of scientific research in Poland, funded by the EEA and Norway Grants. Further information on the implementation of these programmes is provided later in this Report.

In 2024, the Foundation achieved a return of 7.56% on its capital investments. In addition, it secured external funding amounting to EUR 56 million (an increase in the allocation under FENG) and PLN 0,8 million from the EEA and Norway Grants for the implementation of the research project concerning the valorization of scientific research in Poland.

In 2024, we concluded the first calls for proposals under the current financial perspective of the structural funds (FENG), and the successful applicants launched their research projects under the MAB, FIRST TEAM, and Proof of Concept schemes. We also conducted the inaugural competition in the renewed edition of the TEAM-NET programme, which supports collaboration among consortia composed of two or three research teams from different institutions engaged in both scientific and implementation activities in the fields of Health, Environment, and Industry 4.0.

Prof. dr hab. Maciej Żylicz



We also received approval for funding a new initiative in our portfolio – the PRIME project – and signed an agreement with the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy for its implementation in 2024–2029, with a total budget of PLN 146 million. Consequently, in partnership with Oxentia – a UK-based consultancy specializing in knowledge and technology transfer – the Foundation is launching an acceleration programme designed to support the commercialization of scientific achievements developed within the academic environment.

In 2024, we signed grant agreements with beneficiaries for a total of PLN 343,5 million, which represents 150% of the contracting target set for the Foundation by the FENG Managing Authority (the Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy). Owing to this substantial overachievement, we obtained an additional EUR 56 million for the implementation of the MAB and FIRST TEAM programmes in 2025, which allowed us to support a greater number of research projects at Polish research institutions than initially planned.

In pursuit of its mission to support science in Poland, over the course of its 33 years of activity, the Foundation for Polish Science has awarded nearly PLN 600 million from its own resources to the research community. Since 2008, the Foundation has also participated in the distribution of structural funds allocated to Poland for the development of the research and development sector (through the operational programmes POIG, POIR, and FENG). To date, using this source of funding, the Foundation has supported research conducted in Poland with a total of PLN 1,77 billion. In all our activities, regardless of the source of funding, we remain guided by our motto: to support the best so that they may become even better. We actively seek the most valuable elements on the scientific map of Poland, that is, places where major scientific achievements are emerging or have the potential to emerge. Our priority is to invest the resources at our disposal in the most effective way – in the development of individuals conducting scientific research in Poland. This entails continuous effort to build and refine a multi-stage system for evaluating the quality of applicants' research achievements in our competitions, based on the criterion of scientific excellence.

Given these principles, the use of structural funds for financing science proves extremely challenging. As one anecdote has it, a senior official in Brussels, commenting on these difficulties, once remarked: "You are asking for a system at

the level of a fine-dining restaurant, while we can only offer something resembling fast food." At the Foundation, we also face numerous obstacles on the part of national institutions responsible for overseeing the distribution of EU funds in Poland. As a non-governmental organization with over three decades of experience in funding high-level scientific research, and with a well-established position both in Poland and within the international research community, we experience a lack of understanding on the part of the public administration managing structural funds, particularly regarding the specific character of activities addressed to researchers implementing scientific projects. Research grant competitions cannot be governed by the same rules as those applied, for instance, to the construction of motorways. We encounter a persistent atmosphere of mistrust from the institutions managing the distribution of structural funds in Poland, often in the form of excessive oversight of competition procedures, where every document forming part of a call must receive individual approval. This sometimes results in months-long delays in programme implementation, with the negative consequences felt most acutely by our applicants and beneficiaries. The rules of the game are changed even during the course of individual activities. In recent years, we have engaged in an ongoing struggle to restore the possibility of submitting applications to FNP competitions in both Polish and English (with English alone being the optimal solution). When launching the first calls under FENG, the Foundation was still allowed to operate in this way. Subsequently, without any change in the applicable higher-level regulations, a new interpretation was introduced, according to which applications may be submitted only in Polish – a restriction that contradicts the intended international profile of the Foundation's programmes. In my view, the root of all these difficulties lies in a fundamental difference in approach to the implementation of public tasks: the Foundation prioritizes the substantive quality of projects eligible for funding, whereas for public administration the overriding concern is the rapid and procedurally correct disbursement of funds. The research community – of which we are a part and on whose behalf we act – needs to be understood as the principal engine of modernization, and therefore deserves to receive systemic and legislative support from the state.

Similar conclusions emerged during discussions held in 2023 and 2024 with representatives of the academic community, which we organized in cooperation with the Polish Academy of Learning and the Stefan Batory Foundation. These meetings aimed to explore in a broader forum which changes in the system of research

funding and organization would actively promote the quality of research conducted in Poland, so that it better serves society and fosters innovation capable of gaining a competitive edge in the global market.

Science in Poland remains chronically underfunded. According to Eurostat data, in 2021, government expenditure on R&D in Poland amounted to only EUR 62 per capita – one of the lowest figures in the European Union (for comparison: Denmark – EUR 530, Germany – EUR 471, France – EUR 261, EU average – EUR 200). Meanwhile, an expert analysis commissioned by the five leading economic universities in Poland estimates that each złoty invested in science generates a return of between PLN 8 and PLN 13.

The first and necessary step toward changing this situation is to convince both the public and policymakers that increasing investment in science is a long-term commitment – one that is essential if Poland is to conduct research at a level competitive with global science and thereby join the group of the most advanced economies.

How can we persuade society that investing in science is worthwhile? To a greater extent than currently, researchers must present and explain the results of their work in ways that are understandable to non-specialists, highlighting their impact on the lives and functioning of society as a whole. As Edwin Bendyk, President of the Stefan Batory Foundation, has said, *we need to “socialize science,” namely, to treat it as a strategic issue, directly linked to the future of the state and to the quality of life in society.* In parallel with such efforts, reforms are needed in the education system at every level – including more engaging methods for teaching scientific content in primary and secondary schools using modern educational tools, as well as the development of university curricula that more effectively foster creativity and entrepreneurial attitudes among students. Only through such synergistic action will it be possible to achieve public consent for adequate funding of science in Poland – and that, in turn, may exert pressure on politicians to increase the national science budget.

An effective research funding system that supports modernization processes must be quality-driven, open and focused on supporting the best science. A policy of distributing small amounts to everyone will not enable Poland to reach the level of global competitiveness. Generous investment in basic research is essential, in

particular, through the agency established to support such research, the National Science Center (NCN). This is because one cannot predict where and when a breakthrough scientific discovery will occur, one that shifts paradigms. This should form the base of the research and innovation pyramid, with global companies at its apex, using innovations developed in Poland. Our science and innovation ecosystem is characterized by a high level of intellectual capital but low levels of innovation. How can Poland's innovativeness and competitiveness be improved? It is necessary to build an ecosystem that, on the one hand, stimulates the quality of science conducted in Poland and, on the other, facilitates the implementation of research findings, so that society can clearly see the public value of high-quality science. The Foundation has long promoted science with social consequences. Our latest initiative in this field is the newly launched PRIME acceleration programme, which supports the creation of start-ups around research centers in Poland. We aim to teach young researchers practical entrepreneurship, helping them develop and pursue the most appropriate path to commercialize the results of their research. This may not bring immediate financial success, but by supporting early-career scientists who are committed to developing the implementation potential of their work, we are creating an environment in which – when a major scientific breakthrough does emerge – we will not waste the opportunity to translate it into economic benefit.

It is important that, through changes to the system of educating students in entrepreneurship and through the development of companies around strong research centers, we convince young people that pursuing science is worthwhile, and that it can be an exciting and meaningful way of life. We need to reverse the current dangerous trend. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) report, only 3% of Poles are interested in starting their own business – down from 23% in the 1990s. The most effective way to influence the attitudes of young people is by showcasing positive examples. For many years now, the Foundation has promoted the success stories of companies built on the basis of scientific discoveries made with FNP's financial support. Thanks to the initiatives of our beneficiaries, dozens of prosperous companies have been established, some of which have gained competitive advantage not only in Poland but also internationally. A number of them have successfully gone public, while others have generated profits in the millions of dollars. Thus, success is possible. However, it is essential to remember that state intervention (e.g., through structural funds) should not replace the market, but rather serve to mitigate the inherent risks associated with conducting research, launching

new products, or developing new technologies. Across Europe, we also need to change our mindset toward creating new, innovative companies. During a discussion on the Draghi Report – a study on the future of European competitiveness which highlights that Europe's level of innovation is low and lagging behind countries such as China and the USA – I heard a remark that, unfortunately, seems accurate: *in the USA, companies are created to succeed; in Europe, they are created to tap into EU funds and avoid bankruptcy.*

The year 2024 also marked my final full year as President of the FNP Executive Board. In September 2025, I will be retiring. The Foundation's Council has selected my successor, Professor Krzysztof Pyrć, who has already spent several months working with us as a Board advisor, learning the workings of the organization he will soon lead the Foundation. A time of transition invites reflection and discussion about the Foundation's development over the past two decades. On one hand, FNP's engagement in the distribution of structural funds has allowed its programme spending to increase several-fold (for instance, in the final years of POIR implementation, annual expenditures reached around EUR 50 million). On the other hand, structural funds allocated to science are extremely difficult to manage – a fact well known to our beneficiaries. These funds enabled us to offer, through our programmes, more generous support than ever before – including competitive salaries and scientific equipment – but the reporting and settlement procedures for these funds were extraordinarily complex. This clearly stems from a lack of trust in the scientific community – a mistrust observable both at the EU level and among national officials. Within our means, we strive to minimize losses and fight bureaucracy. I apologize to everyone who has encountered difficulties while

implementing our programmes. The question of whether the scientific community has ultimately benefited from its interaction with structural funds will likely remain a topic of debate for some time. Noteworthy, outside of Poland, cohesion funds have very rarely been used to finance science – they usually serve to build highways, water parks, or bike paths. Regardless of the outcome of this discussion, I would like to thank our grantees for their cooperation, their trust in the Foundation, and the outstanding scientific achievements they have accomplished with our support.

As part of its fundraising activities, the Foundation for Polish Science raised PLN 478,000 in 2024. Of this amount, PLN 474,000 was allocated to co-finance START scholarships for the most talented early-career researchers (nearly PLN 336,000 came from 1.5% income tax contributions transferred to the Foundation, and PLN 138,000 from donations). An additional PLN 4,218 was raised to support the FOR UKRAINE programme.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all our donors, both individual supporters who contributed through one-time or recurring payments, and those who designated 1.5% of their income tax to the Foundation, as well as institutional donors and companies. Your decision to invest your money in the development of scientific talent – even while so many urgent needs surround us – is, in essence, a contribution to something far greater than direct aid to a single individual. Of course, your support does benefit specific young people and acts as a springboard for their future scientific achievements but it also helps to build a system in which recognized talent can grow and work toward the very goal that is inseparably tied to science – improving the quality of life for all of us.

Professor Maciej Żylicz
Warsaw, May 2025



THE FNP AUTHORITIES

The Executive Board of the Foundation

President

Prof. Maciej Żylicz

Deputy President

Dr Tomasz S. Perkowski

Deputy President

Dr Marta Łazarowicz-Kowalik

Expert/Board Advisor

Prof. Krzysztof Pyrć

The Foundation's Council

Term of office from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2024

Chair

Prof. Tomasz Guzik

Deputy Chair

Prof. Grażyna Jurkowianiec

Members

Prof. Piotr Garstecki

Prof. Jan Kotwica

Prof. Tomasz Łuczak

Prof. Aleksandra Łuszczyska

Prof. Maria Nowakowska

From left: M. Żylicz, M. Łazarowicz-Kowalik, T. Perkowski



THE FNP STAFF

Status as of 31 December 2024

PROGRAMME DIVISION

Michał Pietras

director of the programme division

Programme Coordination Section

Dr Maria Mosor

head of section

Dr Katarzyna Dobrowolska-Dziarnik

Dr Małwina Hyjek-Składanowska

Dr Ewa Nawrocka

Małgorzata Świtalska-Bury

Aleksandra Warda

Dr Anna Wajler

International Research Agendas Section

Kinga Stomińska

deputy director of the programme division

Dr Anna Skarżyńska

Dr Kasper Marchlewicz

Dr Judyta Węgrzyn

Dr Wiktoria Wojtyra

Research Evaluation Support and Commercialization Section

Dr inż. Radostaw Kwapiszewski

deputy director of the programme division

From left: prof. Z. Szwejkowska-Kulińska, prof. P. Ostaszewski, prof. G. Jurkowlaniec, prof. J. Jassem, prof. J. Jemielity, prof. P. Garstecki, prof. T. Łuczak

Term of office from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2028

Chair

Prof. Grażyna Jurkowlaniec

Deputy Chair

Prof. Jacek Jemielity

Members

Prof. dr hab. Piotr Garstecki

Prof. dr hab. Jacek Jassem

Prof. dr hab. Tomasz Łuczak

Prof. dr hab. Paweł Ostaszewski

Prof. dr hab. Zofia Szwejkowska-Kulińska

Dr Paula Roszczenko-Jasińska
Paulina Wiejak
Joanna Wincukiewicz

Academic Entrepreneurship Section

Dr Marcelina Firkowska
head of section

Justyna Kunicka-Wielgosz
Dorota Potępa
Dorota Sierak

FINANCIAL COORDINATION DIVISION

Aneta Antolak
director of financial coordination division

External Audit Section

Katarzyna Lechicka
Ewa Łatkowska
Marcin Marcinków

Financial Coordination Section

Paweł Kulesza
head of section

Agata Frontczak
Magdalena Sordyl

Project Financial Support Section

Ewa Janota
deputy director of financial coordination division

Dariusz Chmiel
head of section



Foundation Team

Karolina Jędrzejewska
Agnieszka Syryczyńska
Katarzyna Tekieli
Elżbieta Tenderenda

Database Section
Miroslaw Serwaczyński

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Dorota Komosa
chief accountant

Monika Wolińska
director of finance and accounting

Accounting and Tax Section

Iwona Pachnowska
Małgorzata Pieńkowska
Jakub Rytka
Katarzyna Siemieńczuk
Małgorzata Zawłocka

Dr Aleksandra Czerniawska

Joanna Jachimczuk-Lora
Dr Anna Jamka

Communication, Promotion and Fundraising Section

Dominika Wojtysiak-Łańska
head of section

Urszula Hajn
Agnieszka Kossakowska
Elżbieta Marczuk
Katarzyna Pronobis
Renata Sieroń

ORGANIZATION AND HR DIVISION

Joanna Antas
director of HR and organization

HR Section

Katarzyna Antoniak
Anna Lechowicz

Foundation Office

Marta Kozłowska
Kaja Lemlich

Administration and IT Section

Piotr Urbaniak
head of section

Jarosław Jurczyk
Wojciech Stępień

Programme Evaluation and Analysis

Dr Dorota Juszczuk

Legal and Public Procurement Section

Andrzej Czajka
head of section

Katarzyna Kaniecka

Awards, Fellowships and International Cooperation Section

Justyna Motrenko
head of section

Dr Sofiia Azotseva
Dr Monika Biłas-Henne

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS

Ethics and Good Practices

The Foundation for Polish Science seeks to actively shape best practices in research ethics among scientists conducting research in Poland and to contribute to the development of ethical standards and practices in Polish research institutions. The Foundation defines these values and principles in the form of codes that apply not only to its staff, but also to programme beneficiaries, applicants, and reviewers participating in its calls for proposals.

The following documents:

- *Code of Ethics of the Foundation for Polish Science*,
- *Code of Ethics for Beneficiaries and Candidates in Programmes of the Foundation for Polish Science*

define the principles and values that apply to FNP staff, laureates, beneficiaries and applicants in FNP calls for proposals, as well as to external reviewers evaluating submitted proposals.

To enable verification of any suspected breaches of the *Code of Ethics for Beneficiaries and Candidates*, the Foundation applies the following internal regulation:

- *Rules of Procedure at the Foundation for Polish Science in the Event of a Possible Violation of Ethical Rules or Failure to Apply Good Practice in Science*.

[See all referenced documents](#)

The Foundation is supported by the Commission of Ethics and Good Practices, which provides opinions in cases involving suspected ethical breaches or non-compliance with FNP's internal ethical standards.

FNP Commission of Ethics and Good Practices (2023–2025 term)

- **Prof. Renata Bilewicz** – Chair (Faculty of Chemistry, University of Warsaw),
- **Prof. Wojciech Gawlik** (Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science, Jagiellonian University),
- **Prof. Leon Gradoń** Eng. (Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering, Warsaw University of Technology),
- **Prof. Elżbieta Jung** (Institute of Philosophy, University of Łódź),
- **Prof. Ewa Łojkowska** (Intercollegiate Faculty of Biotechnology UG & MUG) – joining as of October 2024,
- **Prof. Kazimierz Stępień** – Vice Chair (Astronomical Observatory, University of Warsaw),
- **Prof. Zofia Szweykowska-Kulińska** (Faculty of Biology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) – serving until September 2024, following appointment to the FNP Council,
- **Prof. Wojciech Tygielski** (Institute of Art History, University of Warsaw),
- **Prof. Magdalena Zielińska** (M. Mossakowski Medical Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences).

Any individual involved in reviewing FNP project proposals or evaluating funded projects should report any suspected ethical breaches or non-compliance with good research practices. Such reports may also be submitted by persons not involved in the evaluation process. The Commission reviews each case with a team of at least three members designated by the Chair, who always participates in the deliberations.

In 2024, the Commission reviewed one case of a suspected ethical breach or violation of good practices. The FNP Management Board endorsed the Commission's opinion, which found no violation of the Foundation's ethical standards.

The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers are sets of recommendations published by the European Commission to increase the attractiveness of the European research labor market. These documents outline the responsibilities of researchers, research institutions, and funding organizations with respect to ethical standards, recruitment, and evaluation, working conditions, and the training and development of researchers.

FNP was the first institution in Poland to be awarded the HR Excellence in Research distinction in 2012, recognizing its adherence to the Charter and Code principles.

At FNP, the implementation of these principles is reflected in both the evaluation process and the implementation of funded projects. The Foundation ensures that its evaluation procedures comply with both the FNP Code of Ethics and the Charter and Code. This includes assessment mechanisms and criteria, the selection of reviewers, impartiality and conflict-of-interest policies, and equal treatment of candidates. FNP places particular emphasis on the quality of how candidates' scientific achievements are assessed.

Although the Foundation does not directly employ researchers, it expects all research teams it funds to follow the highest recruitment and management standards. Programme-specific documentation outlines detailed rules, which are subject to evaluation.

Implementation of the Charter and Code is a continuous process. FNP's efforts are subject to regular review by European Commission experts, which allows the Foundation to retain the HR Excellence in Research distinction.

Improving Research Assessment

The Foundation bases its funding decisions on a qualitative evaluation of candidates' scientific achievements, which constitutes a principle central to its operations. FNP continually improves its proposal review process.

Since 2023, FNP has been a member of the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) and is a signatory to the Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.

CoARA was established in 2022 to coordinate joint actions aimed at transforming research assessment systems. The agreement signed by FNP outlines a shared vision for assessment reform. Over 350 organizations from more than 40 countries participated in drafting the agreement, coordinated by a team including representatives from Science Europe, the European University Association, and independent researchers.

The agreement identifies 10 key commitments for research assessment:

1. Recognize the diversity of research contributions and career paths in accordance with the nature and objectives of the research;
2. Base assessment primarily on qualitative peer review, with responsible use of quantitative indicators;
3. Stop using inappropriate metrics such as Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and H-index;
4. Avoid using institutional rankings in research assessment;
5. Ensure appropriate resources for implementing reform as needed;
6. Review and develop assessment criteria, tools, and processes;
7. Promote transparency and provide guidance, training, and communication on reforms;
8. Exchange knowledge and practices within and beyond the Coalition;
9. Report progress in implementing the assessment reform commitments;
10. Evaluate practices, tools, and criteria using reliable data and current research and share findings.

Open Access

The Foundation for Polish Science supports the open access (OA) model for scientific publications and research results to maximize the societal, scientific, and economic impact of publicly funded research. Universal, free access to research findings accelerates knowledge sharing, supports scientific progress, and drives innovation. It also enhances scholarly exchange, broadens research perspectives, and reduces the risk of duplicating efforts.

FNP aims to contribute responsibly to the development of an effective and trustworthy open access ecosystem – including robust repositories – by participating in international bodies (e.g., Science Europe), engaging in discussions and initiatives, promoting best practices, and encouraging researchers to carefully document and deposit their results, including negative results. The Foundation also advocates for thoughtful research data management and greater accessibility of scientific publications.

EVALUATION ACTIVITIES OF THE FOUNDATION

Given the scale of the Foundation's operations and its importance for the science system in Poland, FNP systematically evaluates its programme activities. Evaluation supports the analysis of the relevance, quality, and outcomes of implemented programmes and plays a key role in developing the Foundation's programme strategy. In 2024, FNP conducted the following evaluation studies:

Evaluations under the European Funds for a Modern Economy (FENG) Programme

The Managing Authority (MA) developed the evaluation plan for the FENG 2021–2027 Programme in cooperation with the Intermediate Bodies (IBs). The plan outlines in detail the assumptions for the evaluation process scheduled for the years 2023–2031. It includes the purpose and thematic scope of the evaluation, research questions, and methodological approach. Most of the evaluations in this financial perspective are being or will be conducted by two FENG Intermediate Bodies: the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP), as defined in the signed Partnership Agreement. FNP has scheduled three evaluation studies in this perspective, to be conducted between 2026 and 2030:

1. Evaluation of the impact of FENG on the internationalization of Polish research institutions;
2. Evaluation of the results in terms of establishing centers of scientific excellence in Poland;
3. Evaluation of the usefulness of research results obtained under FNP–implemented programmes.

An FNP representative participates in the Task Force of the FENG Evaluation Steering Committee. In 2024, the Task Force focused mainly on reviewing documents related to the evaluation process. These included: The impact of support for R&D activities under the 2014–2020 Cohesion Policy on the competitiveness and innovativeness of the economy – Phase II: ex-post evaluation – final report; Evaluation of support



mechanisms for startups and the development of the startup ecosystem in Poland – detailed description of the contract subject; Evaluation of the FENG project selection system (including criteria), Round I – final report; Assessment of the adequacy of actions planned under FENG in relation to national and international strategic documents – methodological report. FNP is also represented in the FENG Monitoring Committee. The Committee's main task is to support the Managing Authority in the monitoring and evaluation of FENG.

In 2024, the evaluation study *Evaluation of the FENG project selection system (including criteria), Round I* was carried out. It included calls for proposals already launched by FNP under FENG, specifically:

- FENG.02.01-IP.05-001/23 (MAB),
- FENG.02.01-IP.05-002/23 (MAB),
- FENG.02.02-IP.05-001/23 (FIRST TEAM),
- FENG.02.07-IP.05-001/23 (Proof of Concept).

The Foundation's calls for proposals received highly positive evaluations. To improve future calls, the Foundation received three recommendations: increase the selectivity

of project selection criteria at the initial assessment stage to better filter out low-quality or questionable proposals; promote and present practical and effective solutions for sustainable development in research and development activities; support collaboration with external experts in the project review process.

The third recommendation addressed challenges in engaging top-tier experts to review funding applications. The report also indicated other difficulties in expert recruitment that fall outside FNP's remit. It concluded with two additional suggestions: restore bilingualism in submitted proposals (to allow international experts to participate), and adjust conflict-of-interest declarations for experts evaluating R&D projects carried out by research organizations.

Evaluation of the START Programme

As in previous years, in 2024 FNP conducted an evaluation of the outcomes of the START programme (fellowships for young, talented researchers at the outset of their career). The Foundation conducted the study in the form of an online survey sent to all START fellows from the 2023 edition. Of the 100 fellows invited, 73 completed the survey.

The vast majority of respondents gave positive ratings to key aspects of the programme: information on the competition on the FNP website (95.9% rated it very good or rather good), communication with FNP during fellowship implementation (91.8%), attractiveness of financial terms (89.1%), clarity of competition rules (87.7%), ease of preparing and submitting the application (87.6%), attractiveness of non-financial benefits (86.3%), contact with FNP during the application stage (80.8%). Respondents also positively assessed the effects of receiving the fellowship: 95.9% stated that the fellowship boosted their self-confidence and professional ambition, 91.7% said it increased their motivation to pursue academic work, 87.7% experienced a significant improvement in their financial situation, 80.9% believed it greatly enhanced their research development opportunities, 75.3% said it helped them focus on research, 70% experienced

increased career stability, 73.9% noted a positive impact on their professional standing and visibility in the academic community, 65.7% said it improved their working conditions, 63% reported an increased sense of purpose in conducting research in Poland. Fewer respondents indicated that the fellowship contributed to opportunities for international mobility (35.6%) or career advancement/employment (36.9%).

Survey participants rated the START programme highly compared to other funding schemes for young researchers: 94.4% considered START fellowships prestigious, 94.5% rated its terms and amount of funding as superior, 84.9% highlighted the quality of funding, 83.5% positively assessed the selection process. Promotion of fellows received the lowest score (65.8%), although a large portion of respondents (28.8%) selected "don't know/difficult to say" for this question.

Most survey participants are continuing their scientific careers (95.9%), and the majority plan to remain in academia (85.7%), with almost half (47.1%) intending to pursue research full time. Of the 70 individuals currently conducting research, only one plans to leave academia entirely.

Respondents made several suggestions to enhance the START fellowship's appeal, including: introducing a mentoring scheme and networking meetings, offering training in research project management, increasing the fellowship amount, providing more detailed feedback in cases of rejected applications. Noteworthy, many participants emphasized that the programme functions very well in its current form and requires no major changes.

The evaluation findings confirm that the START programme plays a significant role in supporting early-career researchers. The fellowship not only provides financial support but also increases recipients' motivation, confidence, and sense of recognition as young scientists. It remains a prestigious distinction that encourages fellows to continue their research careers.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

In 2024, the Foundation's fundraising efforts focused primarily on raising funds for the START and FOR UKRAINE programmes.

During the first four months of the year, FNP ran a campaign encouraging individual taxpayers to allocate 1.5% of their personal income tax to support young scientists, fellows of the START programme. The campaign ran under the slogan "Science helps, help science." One of its key components was a social media initiative featuring 21 START laureates representing various academic fields and boasting a large social media reach. These young researchers actively promoted the slogan and, by showcasing their achievements and the real-world impact of their research, helped reinforce the campaign message.

As a result of the campaign, FNP received PLN 335,959.90 from the 1.5% tax allocation, which is the equivalent of nearly 11 START scholarships.

In 2024, the Zdrowie-Rozum-Serce Foundation (Health-Mind-Heart) remained among the institutional donors supporting the START programme. FNP also received PLN 2,895.86 from the NGSchool Association in support of the FOR UKRAINE programme.

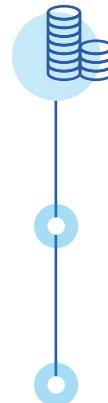
The Foundation continued its partnership with the Zygmunt Zaleski Stichting, which co-finances prizes awarded to the winners of three consecutive editions of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Pierre Curie Polish-French Scientific Award.

In addition, individual donors supported both the START and FOR UKRAINE programmes through one-time and recurring contributions. These included a notable

donation of PLN 100,000 from an anonymous individual donor. START donations were collected via <https://www.fnp.org.pl/en/support-young-scientists>, while FOR UKRAINE donations were accepted through <https://www.fnp.org.pl/en/support-scientists-from-ukraine>. Both websites enable convenient online contributions via payment cards and PayPal.

As part of a newly established collaboration with Myriad USA, a foundation that supports international non-profit organisations in securing donations from US-based donors, FNP explored options for launching a US fundraising campaign with their support.

Moreover, FNP continued its involvement in the Write Your Will national awareness campaign, run in partnership with leading foundations in Poland. Through this campaign, the Foundation promotes legacy giving by educating the public on including charitable organisations in their wills.



PLN 478,319

In total, FNP raised from external sources for its programme activities in 2024, including:

PLN 474,100

for the START programme (PLN 138,140.38 from donations and PLN 335,959.90 from the 1.5% tax allocation)

PLN 4,218

for the FOR UKRAINE programme

FNP IN NUMBERS: 2024

Nearly PLN 50 million

Funds awarded to laureates and beneficiaries



15

Programmes implemented



13

Calls for proposals concluded



7.56%

Return on capital investments



Over PLN 478,000

Raised from external sources



PLN 36,3 million

Largest grant awarded
(under the MAB activity)



626

Highest number of applicants in a single call
(START)



Nearly 1,600

External reviewers and experts collaborating
with FNP



2,500

Mentions of FNP in online,
print and broadcast media



127,000

Website users



FOUNDATION'S REVIEWERS AND EXPERTS IN 2024

Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska, Jordi Arbiol Cobos, Gershon Bacon, Maciej Bernatt, Tomasz Besta, Zbigniew Białas, Michał Bilewicz, Barbara Bilińska, Kent J. Bradford, Anna Branach-Kallas, Anna Brytek-Matera, Tamara Brzostowska-Tereszkiewicz, Elwira Joanna Buszewicz, Andres Castellanos Gomez, Annie Castonguay, Valentina Cauda, Anna Cetera-Włodarczyk, Maria Anna Ciemerych-Litwinienko, Gari Clifford, Joshua Cohen, Levi Cooper, Olivier Da Ines, Magdalena Danielewicz, Marcin Drąg, Martin Dressel, Włodzisław Duch, Paula Duque, Markus Eberharter, Vladimir Falko, Peter Faller, Piotr Jakub Fereński, Krzysztof Fic, Maciej Forycki, Leszek Gąsieniec, Adam Gendźwiłł, Leon Gradoń, Wojciech Grochala, Jakub Growiec, Łukasz Gruszczyński, Wiesław Ignacy Gruszecki, Zygmunt Gryczyński, Danuta Gutowska-Owsiaik, Igor Hałagida, Michał Harciarek, Beata Hasiów-Jaroszewska, Andreas Hemmerich, Tomasz Herzog, Elżbieta Horszczaruk, Jernej Jakse, Agnieszka Jakuboszczak, Artur Michał Jarmołowski, Maciej Jónca, Alicja Józkowicz, Przemysław Juszczynski, Michał Kaczmarczyk, Paweł Kaczorowski, Stefanie Kaiser, Julia Kapelańska-Pręgowska, Robert Karaszewski, Michał Karoński, Zbigniew Karpiński, Agata Karska, Fabian Kindermann, Jerzy Kochanowski, Jerzy Konorski, Alberto Kornblihtt, Arje Josef Krawczyk, Jakub Kronenberg, Grzegorz Króliczak, Małgorzata Kujawińska, Marta Kurkowska-Budzan, Monika Agnieszka Kusiak, Rafał Latała, Alfred Leitenstorfer, Karl Leo, Hartmut Leppin, Marta Leśniakowska, Paul Lindahl, Yi Liu, Bartosz Liżewski, Zbigniew Lonc, Polly Low, Maria Łanczont, Sławomir Łodziński, Tomasz Wojciech Majewski, Katarzyna Metelska Szaniawska, Dorota Michaluk, Agnieszka Michota-Kamińska, Samuel Mohun Himmelweit, Jędrzej Morawiecki, Per Mouritsen, Kimberly L. Mowry, Attila Gergely Mráz, Jacek Mucha, Paul Mulvaney, Anna Musiała, Sushma Naithani, Gerda Neyer, Maciej Niedźwiecki, Agnieszka Nogal, Piotr Nowak, Ewa Nowak, Piotr Oleś, Pablo Ordejon, Piotr Orleański, Dan Oron, Tomasz Pańczyk, Theodoros Papadopoulos, Aleksandra Parteka, Marcin Pawłowski, Barak Pearlmutter, Francisco Pérez-Alfocea, Katarzyna Pernal, Marcin Pilipczuk, Wojciech Igor Pisula, Paweł Pławiak, Robert Poczobut, Antony Polonsky, Krzysztof Postajko, Stephan Rachel, Jacek Radwan, Jan Reedijk, Gunter Reiss, Antonios Rengakos, Sylwia Roszkowska, Iwona Rusek, Anna Rytel-Warzocha, Ulrich Schmid, James P. Sickinger, Tomasz Sikora, Arkadiusz Sitek, Tomasz Smiatacz, Jerzy Adam Smolik, Mikołaj Sokołowski, Didier Stainier, Piotr Stalmaszczuk, Agata Starosta, Katarzyna Starowicz-

-Bubak, Marcin Stępień, Helena Štorchová, Mateusz Strzelecki, Andrei Stupakevich, Zhipei Sun, Adam Sutcliffe, Beata Lucyna Szluz, Jolanta Sztachelska, Natasza Szutta, Michał Roman Szymański, Anna Śrębowa, Grzegorz Świątek, Szymon Świeżewski, Tim Hugo Taminiau, Iwona Taranowicz, Maciej Tomaszewski, Krzysztof Trybuś, Georg von Freymann, Przemysław Wachulak, Lianzhou Wang, Andrzej Waśkiewicz, Albert Weale, Maxime Wery, Marek Węcowski, Agnieszka Wierzbicka, Agata Wierzbowska-Miazga, Szymon Wróbel, Anna Wysocka, Radosław Zagoźdżon, Urszula Kinga Zawadzka-Pąk, Nikolay Zheludev, Ewa Zuba-Surma, Jerzy Marek Żaba, Krzysztof Kamil Żur

The individuals listed have consented to the publication of their names in the FNP Annual Report.

Applications submitted under the European Funds for a Modern Economy 2021–2027 (FENG) programme were also evaluated by experts from [the FENG List of Experts at the FNP](#).

Recruitment of experts

As part of its activities financed from EU structural funds (FENG), the Foundation ensures a transparent system for recruiting candidates for expert roles. The recruitment procedures apply to:

- evaluating project proposals,
- handling appeals,
- monitoring project implementation, including interim evaluations, assessing proposed changes, final project reviews, and verifying long-term sustainability.

In 2024, FNP conducted 14 rounds of expert recruitment following its internal “Expert Recruitment and Selection” procedure. FNP approved a total of 264 applications.

By the end of 2024, the FENG List of Experts at the FNP included nearly 1,600 individuals.

The Foundation's Programme Activities



PROGRAMME EXPENDITURES

In 2024, the Foundation for Polish Science implemented 15 programmes, of which eight received financing from the Foundation's own resources, five from structural funds under the European Funds for a Modern Economy programme, as well as a research project on the valorization of scientific research in Poland, financed from the Norwegian Funds.

In the further parts, this Report provides detailed information about the programmes and the results of individual competitions.

The following table presents the costs of implementing individual tasks as set out in the Foundation's programme of activities for 2024.

PROGRAMME	IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (PLN '000)
Costs of statutory non-profit activities:[*]	
FNP Prize	1,501
COPERNICUS Polish-German Research Award	520
Polish-U.S. Scientific Award	19
Marie Skłodowska and Pierre Curie Polish-French Scientific Award	262
Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Programme	955
Start Programme – stipends for young scientists	3,955
Alexander von Humboldt Polish Honorary Research Fellowship	143
Leszek Kotakowski Honorary Scholarship	33
MONOGRAPHIES Programme	672
Programmes Financed from FENG	6,731
Project on the valorization of scientific research in Poland	747
Mentoring	13
External cooperation	155

Other programme expenditure	3,493
TOTAL – statutory non-profit activities	19,199

Breakdown of costs of individual tasks as of 31 December 2024.

* FNP does not conduct any statutory activities for remuneration.

Costs of Statutory Activities Financed from FENG Funds under Measures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, and 4.1

Regarding the implementation by FNP of measure 4.1 FENG Technical Assistance, in 2024, the Foundation utilized funds amounting to PLN 5,670 for the preparation and conduct of calls for proposals, monitoring and control within FENG, as well as the final settlement of programmes implemented with POIR funds.

Within the Technical Assistance project funds under FENG, in 2024 the Foundation used resources to support the implementation of measures: 2.1 International Research Agendas (IRA), 2.2 FIRST TEAM, 2.3 TEAM-NET, 2.7 Proof of Concept, and carried out the final settlements of projects financed from POIR funds.

Under FENG, the contracting of projects implemented by the Foundation amounted to PLN 343,5 million. Meanwhile, the certified (approved) expenditure totalled PLN 7 million. In 2024, the Foundation executed payment orders via the BGK Zlecenia portal for beneficiaries of measure 4.4 POIR directly from the Ministry of Finance's account, amounting to over PLN 10,641, and for measures under the European Funds for the Modern Economy (FENG) programme for a total of PLN 33,179. These amounts are not recorded in the Foundation's profit and loss account or balance sheet, but constitute so-called off-balance sheet operations covered by auxiliary records. Under measure 2.6 FENG, the Foundation, acting as a Beneficiary, implemented the PRIME project, with project costs amounting to PLN 1,061 in 2024.

For the implementation of all activities financed from FENG funds, the Foundation additionally incurred costs from its own resources, totaling PLN 2,422.

PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FNP Prize

The Foundation for Polish Science annually awards outstanding scholars with individual prizes for scientific achievements and discoveries that, by pushing the boundaries of knowledge, open new research perspectives, make an outstanding contribution to the civilizational and cultural progress of our country, and secure its significant position in the global scientific community.

The Foundation's Prize has been granted since 1992. In 2024, the FNP Prize was presented for the 33rd time. The group of laureates currently numbers 121 individuals. The amount of the individual award was increased in 2024 from PLN 200,000 to PLN 250,000.

FNP Prize winners in 2024



In the field of Life Sciences:

● **Prof. Sebastian Glatt** from the Małopolska Center of Biotechnology of the Jagiellonian University for the determination of the structure and function of the Elongator complex, which affects the accuracy of protein biosynthesis



In the field of Chemical and Materials Sciences:

● **Prof. Janusz Lewiński** from the Faculty of Chemistry of the Warsaw University of Technology and the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences for the development of mechanochemical methods for the synthesis of perovskites, improving their photovoltaic properties



In the field of Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences:

● **Prof. Krzysztof Sacha** from the Institute of Theoretical Physics of the Jagiellonian University for the formulation of the theory of time crystals



In the field of the Humanities and Social Sciences:

● **Prof. Marcin Wodziński** from the Tadeusz Taube Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław for an innovative study of Hasidism that explains the role of culture, politics, and geography in shaping religious identities and interethnic relations



Competition in 2024

Deadline for submission of nominations:

January 11, 2024

Number of candidates in the first stage of the competition:

73 candidates, 85 nominations

Number of candidates in the second stage of the competition:

14

Number of reviewers and experts:

56

Number of laureates:

4

Total value of awarded prizes:

PLN 1 million



The FNP presented the Prizes on December 4, 2024, at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The prizes were handed to the laureates by the Foundation's President, Prof. Maciej Żylicz, and the Chairwoman of the Foundation Council, Prof. Grażyna Jurkowianiec. In addition to the monetary prize, each laureate received a statuette designed and crafted by the sculptor Ryszard Kozłowski.

START Programme **Stipends for Young Researchers**

Since 1993, the Foundation has been awarding scholarships to young researchers who have demonstrated success and original achievements in their scientific fields. The scholarships serve as encouragement for their further development and are intended to enable them to fully devote themselves to research work. Between 1993 and 2024, 32 competitions have been held. The group of laureates from all editions of the competition now numbers 3,500 individuals.

The programme also finances travel scholarships for short scientific visits to foreign research institutes aimed at establishing collaborations, familiarizing with working methods at these centres, and seeking the best place for postdoctoral fellowships.

The amount of the individual scholarship in the START programme is PLN 30,000. START scholarships, based on a decision by the Minister of Science and Higher Education, are exempt from personal income tax. The total value of scholarships awarded in 2024 amounted to PLN 3,270,000, including PLN 214,000 allocated for travel scholarships (received by 14 laureates).

In 2024, the Foundation awarded 100 scholarships, including 7 distinguished scholarships amounting to PLN 38 thousand each: 4 scholarships for candidates whose scientific achievements were recognised in the competition as outstanding; the Prof. Barbara Skarga Scholarship (for boldly crossing boundaries between various scientific disciplines); the distinguished Prof. Adam Sobczewski Scholarship (for outstanding scientific achievements in mathematics, theoretical physics, or astronomy); and the distinguished Prof. Wacław Szybalski Scholarship (for outstanding research in biotechnology, genetics, or molecular biology).

Distinguished scholarships were awarded to:

- **Elżbieta Wątor** from the Małopolska Centre of Biotechnology, Jagiellonian University (Max Planck research group), Kraków,
- **Justyna Kocik-Król, PhD**, the Faculty of Chemistry, Jagiellonian University, Kraków,
- **Erwin Wojtczak, PhD**, from the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdańsk University of Technology,
- **Michał Nowakowski** from the Faculty of Humanities, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

The Prof. Barbara Skarga Scholarship were awarded to

- **Anna Dobrowolska, PhD**, from the Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw

The Prof. Adam Sobczewski Scholarship were awarded to

- **Piotr Ostropolski-Nalewaja** from the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Wrocław

The Prof. Wacław Szybalski Scholarship were awarded to

- **Piotr Włodzimierz** from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

The START scholarships in the 2024 competition were financed both from the Foundation's own funds and from resources provided by institutional and private donors as well as companies (more details in the Fundraising Activities chapter). The funds for the increased amounts of distinguished scholarships for outstanding scientific achievements partially came from 1.5% personal income tax donations to public benefit organizations.



A networking meeting for the laureates, held on June 7 at the Foundation's headquarters, preceded the ceremony. The program included a presentation of the FNP's programme offerings for young scientists, a motivational speech by the 2008 START programme laureate, Prof. Krzysztof Pyrć, and integration activities for the participants.

Laureates of the START programme in 2024

Laureate	Discipline	Institution
Agnieszka Adamczyk	psychology	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Jan Alfuth	materials engineering	Gdańsk University of Technology
Sylwia Baluta	biotechnology	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Dominika Benkowska-Biernacka	materials engineering	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Dąbrówka Biegańska	physics	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Jakub Brześkiewicz	chemistry	Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
Dominika Bury	materials engineering	Warsaw University of Technology
Oleksandr Cherniushok	materials engineering	AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków
Włodzimierz Czepa	chemistry	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Sindu Daniarta	machine construction and operation	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Anna Dobrowolska	history	University of Warsaw
Marlena Drapalska-Grochowicz	law	University of Silesia in Katowice
Krzysztof Drygalski	medical biology	Medical University of Gdańsk
Szymon Dudziak	materials engineering	Gdańsk University of Technology
Monika Flejszar	technological chemistry	Rzeszów University of Technology
Ewelina Gacka	electronics	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Agata Maria Gaweł	Preclinical medicine	Medical University of Warsaw
Justyna Gogola-Mruk	medical biology	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Elżbieta Górką	literary studies	University of Wrocław
Martyna Górska	geology	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Maciej Gręśkowiak	legal sciences	University of Warsaw
Katarzyna Haraźna	materials engineering	Łukasiewicz Research Network – Kraków Institute of Technology
Paweł Holewa	physics	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Patryk Iwanek	astronomy	University of Warsaw

Laureate	Discipline	Institution
Piotr Iwaniuk	agronomy	Institute of Plant Protection – National Research Institute
Joanna Jabłońska	chemical engineering	West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin
Marcin Jakubiec	pharmaceutical sciences	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Magdalena Jakubowska	history	University of Warsaw
Agata Jasiołek	architecture and urban planning	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Damian Jędrzejowski	chemistry	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Bartosz Kamecki	materials engineering	Gdańsk University of Technology
Daria Katla-Milewska	environmental engineering	Silesian University of Technology
Piotr Kicki	automatics and robotics	Poznań University of Technology
Karolina Kocemba	law	University of Wrocław
Justyna Kocik-Król	biochemistry	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Jakub Kopyciński	physics	Institute of Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Marta Kowal	psychology	University of Wrocław
Natalia Maria Kowalska	chemistry	University of Warsaw
Adam Kowalski	physical chemistry	Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
Albert Kozik	art history	University of Warsaw
Bartłomiej Kryszak	materials engineering	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Kamil Krzywiński	civil engineering	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Michał Kucewicz	mechanics	Military University of Technology in Warsaw
Patrycja Kurowska	animal science	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Mieszko Lachota	medical biology	Medical University of Warsaw
Krystian Lankauf	materials engineering	Gdańsk University of Technology
Beata Łatos	climatology and meteorology	Institute of Geophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Karolina Łempicka-Mirek	physics	University of Warsaw
Arkadiusz Michalak	clinical medicine	Medical University of Łódź
Anna Michalicha	health sciences	Medical University of Lublin

Laureate	Discipline	Institution
Karol Mierzejewski	molecular biology	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
Jakub Morze	health sciences	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
Maciej Moździerz	materials engineering	AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków
Mateusz Noszka	molecular biology	Ludwik Hirszfeld Institute of Immunology and Experimental Therapy, Polish Academy of Sciences
Michał Nowakowski	literary studies	John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
Zuzanna Nowicka	clinical medicine	Medical University of Łódź
Jakub Ochmann	environmental engineering	Silesian University of Technology
Hanna Orlikowska-Rzeźnik	biophysics	Poznań University of Technology
Szymon Osmola	legal sciences	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Piotr Ostropolski-Nalewaja	computer science	University of Wrocław
Michał Pieniak	psychology	University of Wrocław
Bartosz Pieterek	geology	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Ewelina Pijewska	physics	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
Szymon Popławski	archeology	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Fabian Przepióra	forestry	Hugo Kołłątaj University of Agriculture in Kraków
Adrian Radoń	materials engineering	Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Non-Ferrous Metals
Karolina Rassek	medical biology	Institute of Human Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Wiktor Rorot	philosophy	University of Warsaw
Krzysztof Rybak	literary studies	University of Warsaw
Karolina Rybka	geology	Institute of Geological Sciences, Polish Academy of Sciences
Radosław Rzepliński	preclinical medicine	Medical University of Warsaw
Marcelina Sobczak	biophysics	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Hanna Stachowiak-Dłużyńska	chemistry	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Piotr Stępnicki	pharmaceutical sciences	Medical University of Lublin
Łukasz Suprawicz	medical biology	Medical University of Białystok
Tomasz Szołdra	physics	Jagiellonian University in Kraków

Laureate	Discipline	Institution
Weronika Szukała	molecular biology	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Jerzy Szuniewicz	physics	University of Warsaw
Martyna Świerk	history	University of Warsaw
Maciej Tarnowski	philosophy	University of Warsaw
Dominik Taterra	preclinical medicine	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Paweł Tomczyk	environmental shaping	Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences
Igor Turkiewicz	food technology and nutrition	Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences
Bartosz Uniejewski	management and social communication	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Elżbieta Wątor	molecular biology	Jagiellonian University in Kraków
Adrianna Wielgopolan	psychology	University of Warsaw
Jakub Więckowski	computer science	West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin
Wojciech Wilczyński	environmental biology	University of Warsaw
Piotr Włodzimierz	genetics	Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences
Sebastian Wodyk	electrical engineering	Warsaw University of Technology
Erwin Wojtczak	civil engineering	Gdańsk University of Technology
Maciej Wołczyk	computer science	IDEAS National Centre for Research and Development Ltd.
Marcin Wroński	economy	Warsaw School of Economics
Yizhi Xu	chemistry	University of Warsaw
Izabela Zaborniak	chemistry	Rzeszów University of Technology
Michalina Zaborowska-Mazurkiewicz	chemistry	University of Warsaw
Arkadiusz Zakrzewski	food technology and nutrition	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
Ewelina Zdanowicz	materials engineering	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Yang Zhang	mechanics	Robert Szewalski Institute of Fluid Flow Machinery, Polish Academy of Sciences
Mikołaj Żak	electronics	Institute of High Pressure Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences



The award ceremony for the START 2024 competition laureates took place on June 8, 2024, at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. The event gathered the laureates of the 2023 competition, who received their diplomas from Prof. Tomasz Guzik, Chair of the FNP Council, and Prof. Maciej Żylicz, President of the FNP.





Programme in 2024

Call for applications:	20 September–November 3, 2023
Number applications:	641 (626 formally correct)
Number of candidates in the first stage of the competition:	626
Number of candidates in the second stage of the competition:	192
Number of reviewers and experts:	88
Number of laureates:	100
Total value of awarded prizes:	PLN 3,270,000

Alexander von Humboldt Polish Honorary Research Fellowship

Based on an agreement signed in 1995 with the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, the Foundation for Polish Science grants German researchers in all specializations honorary fellowships in recognition of their previous academic achievements and their contribution to the development of scientific cooperation between the two countries. This fellowship is analogous to the Humboldt-Forschungspreis, the prestigious award granted to eminent foreign scholars by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. The fellowship aims to honor the scientific achievements of the winners and stimulate long-term cooperation between Polish and German researchers.

The last competition under the program was held in 2022. The winners will realize the fellowship projects at least until the end of 2025.

Polish–German COPERNICUS Research Award

Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). It aims to honor the most active participants in Polish–German scientific collaboration who have demonstrated outstanding research achievements resulting from this cooperation. Each laureate receives a prize of €100,000. The awards are equally financed by FNP and DFG. The competition is held every two years, with the award ceremony alternating between Warsaw and Berlin.

In 2024, the 10th COPERNICUS Award competition was decided. The award went to two researchers collaborating for over twenty years:

- **Prof. Andrzej Udalski** from the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Warsaw, and
- **Prof. Dr. Joachim Wambsganss** from the University of Heidelberg

for their joint achievements in advancing exoplanet research and improving the understanding of extrasolar planetary systems.

The jury of the competition was:

- Prof. Ewa Dąbrowska – Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg,
- Prof. Immo Fritsche – Wilhelm Wundt Institute for Psychology, Leipzig University,
- Prof. Agnieszka Halemba – Centre for Ethnology and Contemporary Anthropology, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences,
- Prof. Paweł Idziak – Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Jagiellonian University in Kraków,
- Prof. Dominika Nowis – Laboratory of Experimental Medicine, Medical University of Warsaw,
- Prof. Marek Samoć – Faculty of Chemistry, Wrocław University of Science and Technology,
- Prof. Justyna Wolińska – Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin,
- Prof. Ursula Wurstbauer – Institute of Physics, University of Münster.



The award ceremony for the 10th edition of the COPERNICUS Award took place on October 24, 2024, in Berlin. The event gathered a large group of representatives from the Polish and German scientific communities, collaborators, and families of the laureates, as well as previous award winners, commemorating the award's 10th anniversary. Heide Ahrens, PhD, Secretary General of DFG, and Prof. Maciej Żylicz, President of FNP opened the ceremony. Prof. Dr. Günther Hasinger, founding director of the German Center for Astrophysics (DZA), delivered the laudation. Jan Tombiński, chargé d'affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Germany, honored the event with his presence.

On the following day, October 25, a jubilee symposium was held to accompany the COPERNICUS Award ceremony. Laureates of the COPERNICUS Award from 2006 to 2024, distinguished representatives of the German and Polish academic communities, as well as researchers and university staff engaged in bilateral scientific research, discussed past achievements and future prospects for Polish-German scientific collaboration.



Competition in 2024

Deadline for nominations:	July 12, 2023
Number of applications in the first stage:	21
Number of applications in the second stage:	6
Number of reviewers and experts:	19
Total prize value:	EUR 200,000

Leszek Kołakowski Honorary Scholarship

The Leszek Kołakowski Honorary Scholarship is designed to recognize young scholars with distinguished achievements in the history of medieval and modern philosophy up to 1939. Persons holding a doctorate are eligible for the competition. The prize is a personal research stipend in the amount of **PLN 100,000**. The funds for the fellowship come from the Prof. Leszek Kołakowski Fund (50%) and from other FNP's funds (50%). The competition is biennial.

The Chapter of the Leszek Kołakowski Scholarship includes:

- **Dr. Dmitri Levitin**, All Souls College, Oxford,
- **Prof. Steven Nadler**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA,
- **Prof. Dominik Perler**, Humboldt Universität,
- **Prof. Bogdan Szlachta**, Jagiellonian University,
- **Dr. Caterina Tarlazzi**, University of Venice,
- **Prof. Catherine Wilson**, City University of New York.

Polish-French Maria Skłodowska-Curie and Pierre Curie Scientific Award

The Polish-French Maria Skłodowska-Curie and Pierre Curie Scientific Award is a joint initiative of the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) and the French Academy of Sciences (Académie des Sciences). The aim of the Award is to recognize outstanding scientific achievements resulting from Polish-French cooperation. The jury composed of distinguished scholars from France and Poland, appointed by the FNP and the French Academy of Sciences, chooses the laureates. The Award is presented every 2 years. Each laureate from the Polish-French pair receives a prize of EUR 15,000. The awards are presented alternately in Warsaw and Paris.

The Award was established in 2019, which was declared the Polish-French Year of Science. The next three editions of the competition were possible thanks to the co-financing of this initiative by the FNP and the Zygmunt Zaleski Foundation, which has supported the development of Polish culture in both Poland and France for over 30 years.

In 2024, the organizations concluded the third edition of the Polish-French Scientific Award competition.

The laureates were:

- **Prof. Denis Jacquemin** (Université de Nantes and Institut Universitaire de France), and
- **Prof. Daniel Gryko** (Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences).

The jury recognized them for developing high-performance fluorescent dyes.



Competition in 2024

Deadline for submitting nominations:

January 31, 2024

Number of nominations submitted:

28

Number of nominations in the second stage:

8

Number of reviewers and experts:

17

Total prize value:

EUR 30,000

wska-Curie rie n Science Award 2024



The award ceremony took place on October 10, 2024, in the Column Hall of the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw. The laureates' contributions to Polish-French scientific cooperation were also honored during events organized in Paris by the French Academy of Sciences on June 11, 2024, when they presented the results of their joint research during a ceremonial conference for international award laureates of the French Academy of Sciences, and on October 15, 2024, during the annual formal "La Coupole" ceremony attended by Academy members and laureates of awards granted by the French Academy that year.

FOR UKRAINE Programme

In March 2022, as an expression of solidarity with Ukraine affected by war, the Foundation launched a new initiative: **the FOR UKRAINE Programme, aimed at supporting Ukrainian researchers cooperating with Polish scientists**. The Programme aims to provide direct support to Ukrainian scholars in the social sciences and humanities and to facilitate the implementation of joint research projects with Polish researchers on issues related to the development of civil society, democracy, European integration, or security. The Programme is addressed to researchers of any nationality holding at least a doctoral degree who, at the time of the aggression against Ukraine, were employed at research institutions in Ukraine, including those located in temporarily occupied territories, as well as to researchers employed at research institutions in Poland.

The budget for a single project for 12 months amounts to PLN 268,800 and covers both the remuneration of the laureates and research-related expenses. Subject to the availability of funds from donations or other sources, project financing may be increased to include additional support for the salaries of young researchers for a total period of up to 6 months. In implementing the FOR UKRAINE Programme, FNP has concluded an agreement with the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU), under which NRFU promotes the Programme and its laureates and appoints an observer representing the Ukrainian scientific community.

In 2024, the Foundation announced and concluded one call for proposals (4/2024) under the FOR UKRAINE Programme. The international jury consisted of experts in the social sciences and humanities conducting research outside Poland and Ukraine. The expert panel also included observers representing both the Ukrainian and Polish sides.

Laureates of the FOR UKRAINE Programme (Call 4/2024)

Project's title	Applicant from Poland	Applicant from Ukraine	Polish institution	Duration	Financing
<i>Activating Change: Empowering Youth Civic Engagement among Forced Migrants and Internally Displaced Populations in Poland and Ukraine</i>	Anzhela Popyk, PhD SWPS University	Maryna Marko, PhD Transcarpathian Institute of Postgraduate Pedagogical Education	SWPS University	12 month 6 months (PhD student from Ukraine)	PLN 268,800 PLN 21,000
<i>"I survived the Nazis, I will survive the Rashists." The Second World War and the Holocaust in the Current Ukrainian Discourse on the Ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War</i>	Paweł Dobrosielski, PhD University of Warsaw	Yevhen Zakharchenko, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University	University of Warsaw	12 months 6 months (PhD student from Ukraine)	PLN 268,800 PLN 21,000



Competition 4/2024

Application deadline:

June 3, 2024

Number of applications submitted:

26

Number of funded projects:

2

Total funding amount:

PLN 579,600

ACTIVITIES FUNDED UNDER THE EUROPEAN FUNDS FOR THE MODERN ECONOMY PROGRAMME (FENG)

International Research Agendas Programme (IRAP) FENG

The goal of the IRAP measure is to support the creation or development of specialized, world-leading research teams and organizations capable of achieving scientific excellence and international competitiveness. The support aims to facilitate the implementation in Poland of the best global practices in the areas of:

- conducting research at the highest level,
- identifying research programs and topics,
- personnel policy,
- managing R&D activities and commercializing R&D results.

Under this measure and according to the rules set out in the competition regulations, complementary support may also be provided for projects selected under the Horizon Europe Widening participation, Teaming for Excellence (ToE) calls, as well as selected projects awarded the Seal of Excellence in the ToE programme.

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, the Foundation concluded the calls announced in 2023:

- Call 1/2023 (intended for units that received funding or a Seal of Excellence certificate in the Teaming for Excellence competition), and
- Call 2/2023 (open to all applicants).

IRAP FENG Beneficiaries (Teaming 1/2023 call)

Applicant	Project	Financing granted [PLN]
International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw	RNA and Cell Biology Platform for Research and Innovation in Medicine (RACE-PRIME)	36,293,600.00
Warsaw University of Technology	CENTERA2 Terahertz Research and Applications Center	30,000,000.00
Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences	International Centre for Eye Research	30,000,000.00

Call 1/2023 (IRAP Teaming)

Date of call announcement:	May 19, 2023
Application submission deadline:	June 30, 2023
Amount allocated for the call:	PLN 106,000,000
Number of applications submitted:	3
Number of formally correct app. forwarded to the second stage:	3
Number of applications forwarded to the third evaluation stage:	3
Number of engaged experts and reviewers:	18
Number of funded projects:	3
Total funding value:	PLN 96,293,600



The meeting inaugurating the realization of projects selected by the FNP in the first competitions under the IRAP FENG Measure, took place at the FNP headquarters on May 15. It was an opportunity to present the goals and planned effects of the research conducted by IRAP centers of excellence.

The event was attended by the leaders of the seven winning projects, together with representatives of the respective IRAP centers, representatives of the Foundation, and invited guests, including Prof. Maria Mrówczyńska, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Beneficiaries IRAP FENG (2/2023 open call)

Applicant	Project	Financing granted [PLN]
University of Gdańsk	International Center for Quantum Technology Theory 2.0: R&D Industrial-Experimental Phase	30,000,000.00
University of Warsaw	Optical Quantum Technologies	30,000,000.00
Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences	International Center for Magnetism Coupling and Superconductivity with Topological Matter – MagTop	29,995,000.00
University of Gdańsk	Science for Social Good, Innovation, and Effective Therapies (SWIFT)	30,000,000.00

Open call 2/2023

Date of call announcement:	May 19, 2023
Application submission deadline:	June 30, 2023
Amount allocated for the call:	PLN 133,000,000
Number of applications submitted:	16
Number of formally correct app. forwarded to the second ev. stage:	14
Number of applications forwarded to the third evaluation stage:	8
Number of engaged experts and reviewers:	46
Number of funded projects:	4
Total funding value:	PLN 119,995,000

In 2024, the Foundation announced two additional calls:

- **Call 1/2024**, open to all research units. The Foundation received a total of 17 applications and qualified 15 for substantive evaluation. The Foundation will announce the call results in March 2025.
- **Call 2/2024**, dedicated to units that received funding or the Seal of Excellence certificate in the Teaming for Excellence competition. FNP received 2 applications. The evaluation was completed in January 2025.

The FENG Measure 2.1 International Research Agendas is part of European Funds for a Modern Economy programme (FENG) 2021–2027.

FIRST TEAM FENG

The FIRST TEAM measure aims to enable innovative research with application potential in Poland by newly established research teams led by individuals who have held a doctoral degree for no longer than 12 years. Under the programme, FNP provides support to teams conducting research in Polish research organizations, in cooperation with at least one foreign scientific partner and one domestic business partner.

The project implementation aims to help achieve scientific independence through leading a research team and developing international scientific collaboration as well as cooperation with business entities operating in Poland. The thematic scope of projects is not limited to specific scientific fields but relates to the priorities listed in the National Smart Specializations (Krajowe Inteligentne Specjalizacje, KIS) catalogue.

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, following the 1/2023 call, the Foundation concluded the first competition under the FIRST TEAM FENG.

Beneficiary FIRST TEAM FENG (1/2023 call)

Beneficiary	Principal investigator	Project	Financing Granted [PLN]
Warsaw University of Technology	Marcin Słoma, Dr. Hab. Eng.	3D printed Free-Energy Reclaiming nonreciprocal Composites (3D-FreeERC)	3,893,750.00
High Pressure Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences	Grzegorz Muzioł, PhD Eng.	Monolithic integration of multicolor micro – and nano-LED arrays	3,991,975.00
Włodzimierz Trzebiatowski Institute of Low Temperature and Structural Research, Polish Academy of Sciences	Łukasz Marciniak, Prof. Dr. Hab.	Smart luminescent paints sensitive to temperature and pressure changes for advanced applications	4,000,000.00
Łukasiewicz Research Network – Kraków Institute of Technology	Barbara Pucełek, PhD	Innovative (nano)hormone chemotherapy: New drug delivery strategies for hormone-dependent breast cancer therapy	3,999,920.00
Jagiellonian University	Bartosz Zieliński, Dr. Hab.	Interpretable and interactive multimodal search in drug discovery	3,900,600.00
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań	Jagoda Dominika Litowczenko Cybulska, PhD	Development of a two-component hybrid bioink for 3D bioprinting of vascularized constructs	3,413,910.20
Institute of Organic Chemistry in Warsaw	Marcin Lindner, PhD	Light in the (chiral) tunnel: a new holistic approach to achieving efficient and stable CP-OLED devices	2,935,177.00
Jagiellonian University	Sylwia Bobis Wozowicz, MD, PhD	Innovative cystic fibrosis treatment strategy	3,912,680.00
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Maciej Kowalczyk, PhD	Ultrastable pulsed lasers covering the spectral range from near to far infrared	4,000,000.00
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Łukasz Sadowski, Prof. Dr. Hab. Eng.	Intelligent concrete manufacturing technologies based on waste copper slag enriched with CO ₂ captured from industrial production for zero-emission construction (SPHERE)	3,956,495.96
Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences	Jan Kołodyński, PhD	Novel applications of signal processing methods to improve quantum sensor performance	3,850,479.42
Institute of Organic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences	Katarzyna Rybicka-Jasińska, PhD	Photoelectrochemical biomass conversion – a step toward sustainable chemical synthesis	3,554,450.00
Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences	Tomasz Wypych, PhD Eng	New probiotic supplementation strategies in asthma prevention and treatment	3,965,776.00
Jagiellonian University	Przemysław Spurek, Prof. Dr. Hab.	Efficient rendering of 3D objects represented by NeRF in augmented reality environments	3,129,800.00
National Centre for Nuclear Research	Wojciech Krzemień, PhD	IMPET – Multiphoton positron emission tomography for industrial imaging	3,923,769.09
University of Warsaw	Katarzyna Bandyra, PhD	Structural basis of RNA delivery to mitochondria for gene therapy purposes	3,985,320.00

Beneficiary	Principal investigator	Project	Financing Granted [PLN]
Jagiellonian University	Michał SilarSKI, PhD	Non-invasive sensor for detecting hazardous materials in aquatic environments	2,635,558.00
Institute of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, Polish Academy of Sciences	Robert Chulist, Dr. Hab. Eng.	Nickel-based superalloys as materials for hydrogen-powered gas turbines	3,848,509.00
Jagiellonian University	Przemysław Grudnik, Dr. Hab.	Inducing molecular proximity to modulate polyamine cellular metabolism	3,967,720.00
University of Warsaw	Radosław Łapkiewicz, PhD	Spatiotemporal shaping of light and photon-counting cameras for microscopy	3,999,537.88
Karol Marcinkowski Medical University in Poznań	Daniel Ziental PhD	Development of biocompatible porphyrinoid derivatives as light-activated plant protection agents	2,971,073.00
University of Warsaw	Wiktor Lewandowski, Dr. Hab.	Bi-chiral circularly polarized light sources (BCP-LED)	3,979,780.00
Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences	Katarzyna Kaczmarek-Majer, PhD	ExplainMe: Explainable Artificial Intelligence for Monitoring Acoustic Features extracted from Speech	3,734,000.00
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Tomasz Kajdanowicz, Dr. Hab. Eng.	AITAX (AI Tax Advisor) – innovative AI system for tax support	3,824,910.75
Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń	Marta Pokrwyčyńska, Prof.	ANFIBIOM – anti-inflammatory, anti-fibrotic biological medicinal product modulating wound healing	3,986,450.40
University of Gdańsk	Danuta Gutowska-Owsiaik, Prof.	Role of skin-derived small secretory vesicles in the progression of the allergic march and a novel vesicle-based prevention strategy	3,999,968.00
Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences	Mikołaj Zaborowski, PhD	Algorithm for personalized ovarian cancer treatment based on spatial single-cell resolution tumor transcriptomic modeling	3,999,442.00
Jerzy Maj Pharmacology Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences in Kraków	Sabina Podlewska, Dr. Hab.	GenProSyn – innovative software based on generative algorithms for obtaining easily synthesizable ligands with optimized properties	3,802,600.00
National Centre for Nuclear Research	Silvia Bonfanti, PhD	Design of Enhanced Metallic Glasses	4,000,000.00
Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Demis Pandelidis, Dr. Hab.	Dew Point Distillation (DPD)	3,985,047.14

Call 1/2023

Call announcement date:	August 1, 2023
Start date for submission of applications:	September 18, 2023
Deadline for submission of applications:	October 18, 2023
(4:00 PM) Number of applications submitted:	202
Number of applications sent for substantive evaluation:	197
Number of funded projects:	30
Number of experts involved:	93
Total amount of funding awarded:	PLN 113,148,698.84

In 2024, FNP also announced a second call for funding applications under the FIRST TEAM FENG (call 1/2024). In this call, FNP received 174 funding applications, of which 172 qualified for the first stage of substantive evaluation. The call results were decided in the second quarter of 2025.

Call no 1/2024

Call announcement date:	July 5, 2024
Start date for submitting applications:	September 23, 2024
Application deadline:	October 23, 2024 (4:00 PM)

Call no 1/2024

Allocation amount for the call:	PLN 64,000,000
Number of applications submitted:	174
Number of app. qualified for the first stage of substantive evaluation:	172

The FENG Measure 2.2 FIRST TEAM is part of European Funds for a Modern Economy programme (FENG) 2021–2027, in which the FNP acts as Intermediate Body.

Proof of Concept (PoC) FENG

The goal of the PoC is to help verify research hypotheses and the implementation potential of research results obtained in Polish research organizations, focusing on their practical application, effective knowledge transfer, or the establishment of a technology company. It aims at researchers at every stage of their scientific career, including those who have not yet obtained a doctoral degree, working within Polish research institutions.

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, FNP concluded the first call for funding applications under the Proof of Concept measure (call 1/2023). The Foundation evaluated a total of 204 project funding applications within this call.

PoC FENG Beneficiaries (call 1/2023)

Project	Principal investigator	Financing granted [PLN]	Applicant
3D printed systems for harvesting waste energy from electromagnetic smog	Marcin Słoma	700,000.00	Warsaw University of Technology
First-in-class innovative small-molecule DK-AT390HCl exhibiting antitumor activity in a colorectal cancer animal model	Damian Kułaga	591,752.91	Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology
DeepEcoHAB – Machine learning-based high-throughput behavioral phenotyping system for social groups of laboratory animals in basic and preclinical research	Marcin Lipiec	697,200.00	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences
Development of technology for stabilizing lactoferrin with iron ions in high-efficiency spray drying process	Oleksandra Pryschepa	699,720.00	Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
High-pressure Alkaline Electrolyzer 200 bar	Korneliusz Sierpowski	700,000.00	Mining Institute KOMAG
New 5-HT6 receptor ligands as an innovative therapy for glioma treatment	Przemysław Zaręba	698,880.00	Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology
New capillary and method for determining melanin radical for preclinical studies of potential melanoma drugs on Danio rerio embryo model	Katerina Makarova	608,160.00	Medical University of Warsaw
Innovative system for testing chemical compounds (especially drugs) on human and animal cells based on microfluidics	Sebastian Student	576,800.00	Silesian University of Technology
Smart sepsis fight – innovative use of artificial intelligence in rapid microbiological sepsis diagnostics	Monika Brzychczy-Włoch	643,440.00	Jagiellonian University – Collegium Medicum
Innovative iodine-based photoinitiators for curing prepreg composite materials via frontal photoinduced polymerization	Filip Petko	690,681.60	Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology
Preparation for industrial implementation of eco-friendly mineral-asphalt mixtures using foamed asphalt technology	Agnieszka Woszuk	698,577.60	Lublin University of Technology
Development of Cell-IN technology for applications using microplates and flow cytometry	Aneta Magiera	613,200.00	Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
Distributed fiber optic measurements of hydrostatic pressure and temperature	Gabriela Statkiewicz-Barabach	662,531.84	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
EEG and Machine Learning: Automated diagnosis of psychiatric disorders	Jan Kacper Kamiński	691,152.00	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Project	Principal investigator	Financing granted [PLN]	Applicant
Film market in times of digital, green, and social transformation – models of change	Marta Materska-Samek	693,617.40	Jagiellonian University
Nanostructured electrode for electrochemical hydrogen synthesis from water based on 2D iron nitride islands on copper	Mikołaj Lewandowski	688,800.00	Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Use of carbonizate from lignocellulosic waste biomass as a substitute for non-renewable raw materials for producing innovative bio-carbon lubricants	Jarosław Molenda	655,872.00	Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute for Sustainable Technologies
Retinal display based on two-photon vision for augmented reality applications	Katarzyna Komar	698,880.00	Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
New tunable fiber optic light source synchronously pumped by pulses with constant central wavelength	Katarzyna Krupa	626,640.00	Institute of Physical Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences
Application of 3D printing technology for prototyping a 2D camera equipped with a temperature drift compensation model	Marcin Adamczyk	601,650.00	Warsaw University of Technology
Cleaning and bioactivation of 3D-printed titanium for biomedical applications	Jacek Grabarczyk	691,349.40	Łódź University of Technology
DEFENDER – active coating for vascular sutures	Adam Sikora	697,200.00	Medesto Ltd.
Innovative concept of design and modification of slow-speed centrifugal pump impellers with above-average efficiency and lift height	Janusz Skrzypacz	620,997.56	Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Application of innovative nanocatalyst synthesis in developing ultra-sensitive and multi-channel lateral flow assays	Wiktor Lewandowski	696,780.00	University of Warsaw
Functional and safe natural cosmetics for hygiene produced from waste material (pomace) from Polish vineyards	Zofia Hordyjewicz-Baran	696,158.40	Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Heavy Organic Synthesis "Blachownia"
New polymer-based sensor systems of the Pressure Sensitive Paints type for aerodynamic testing aimed at accurate forecasting of building design impact on adverse weather phenomena and pedestrian wind comfort in urban areas	Maciej Pilch	688,128.00	Tadeusz Kościuszko Cracow University of Technology
From polymer network structure to in vivo applications – use of novel hydrogel carriers for poorly water-soluble drugs in cervical cancer therapy	Monika Gosecka	698,124.00	Centre of Molecular and Macromolecular Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences
Smart data processing technology of hydrographic data acquired using small autonomous surface vehicles (ASV) equipped with sonar and single-beam echosounder	Witold Kazimierski	700,000.00	InnoPM Ltd.

Call 1/2023

Date of call announcement:	June 20, 2023
Start date of call:	August 3, 2023
End date of call:	September 7, 2023
Amount allocated for the competition:	PLN 13 million
Number of submitted applications:	236
Number of applications sent for substantive evaluation:	204
Number of involved experts and reviewers:	62
Number of projects selected for funding:	28
Number of funding agreements signed:	27
Total amount of funding granted:	PLN 18,726,292.71

The FENG 2.7 Proof of Concept Measure is implemented within the framework of the European Funds for a Modern Economy (EFME) 2021–2027 programme, in which FNP acts as Intermediate Body.

TEAM NET FENG

The TEAM NET initiative aims to support collaboration among top research teams that, as consortia, conduct scientific activities in the fields of Health, Environment, and Industry 4.0, as well as to promote effective knowledge and technology transfer (through licensing, establishing spin-offs, or selling intellectual property).

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, the Foundation announced the first call for funding applications under the TEAM NET programme (call 1/2024). The foundation received a total of 74 applications. During 2024, the formal evaluation stage was completed, qualifying 72 applications for the first stage of substantive evaluation. The first stage of

substantive evaluation was also completed, qualifying 11 applications for the second stage. The call was concluded in the first quarter of 2025.

The FENG 2.3 TEAM NET is implemented within the framework of the European Funds for a Modern Economy (EFME) 2021–2027 programme, in which FNP acts as Intermediate Body.

PRIME

The PRIME project aims to support the effective commercialization of R&D results developed in Polish research organizations. Within the project, teams led by an innovator-researcher receive small grants for a period not exceeding 18 months. Their task is to select the most advantageous commercialization path for the invention, which may include: establishing and developing a company, licensing the invention, or selling the rights to the invention. For teams intending to establish and grow companies, additional financial and non-financial support is provided for the first 12 months of the young company's operation, in the form of a de minimis public aid grant, aimed at increasing the company's investment, product, and sales readiness.

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, the Foundation completed the evaluation process of the PRIME Project funding application, which had been submitted in December of the previous year. After its approval, the Foundation signed an agreement with the Managing Authority to implement the Project during 2022–2029, with funding totaling 146 million PLN. Following the Project's approval, it became possible to sign a partnership agreement with the British consulting firm Oxentia, selected as the PRIME Project's substantive partner. The FNP launched the call for proposals and began collecting applications. Teams from the Foundation and Oxentia conducted a series of informational online meetings, on-site presentations, and discussions with potential applicants and researchers interested in participating in the Project. They also conducted a broad awareness campaign on topics related to commercialization and the socio-economic impact of science.

The FENG 2.6 PRIME MEASURE is implemented within the framework of the European Funds for a Modern Economy (FENG) 2021–2027 programme.

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS Programme

Within the MONOGRAPHS programme, the Foundation funds the publication of original and previously unpublished works in the humanities and social sciences, selected through a competition. The monographs chosen for publication are characterized not only by a high scientific standard and the originality and significance of their findings but also by an innovative approach to the topic, making them appealing to a broad readership.

The competition has been ongoing continuously since 1994. Each year, several new titles are published, and approximately 5% of applicants receive funding for their book's publication. Since 2011, the series has been published by the Nicolaus Copernicus University Press in Toruń.

The jury for the competition is the Publishing Council, which consists of:

- Prof. Mirosława Grabowska,
- Prof. Edmund Kizik,
- Prof. Joanna Odrowąż-Sypniewska,
- Prof. Andrzej Pieńkos – Chairperson,
- Prof. Paweł Zajas.

In 2024, there were nine new titles published (bringing the total number of books in the series to 254 by the end of 2024).



Laureates of the MONOGRAPHS Programme in 2024

Laureate	Discipline	Institution	Book title
PhD Marta Baron-Milian	literary studies, Polish studies	University of Silesia	<i>Neofuturists and Futurists. Crypto-histories of the Polish Avant-Garde</i>
PhD Marta Michalska	history	Faculty of History, University of Warsaw	<i>Sounds, People, and Listening to the City</i>
PhD Piotr Urbańczyk	philosophy	Copernicus Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Jagiellonian University	<i>Selected Elements of Warsaw's Phonosphere at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Century</i>
PhD Anna Żymetka-Pietrzak	philosophy, literary studies	Institute of German Philology, Jagiellonian University	<i>Paradoxes of Apophaticism</i>
Assoc. Prof. Tomasz Jeż, Habilitated	musicology	Institute of Musicology, University of Warsaw	<i>Atopies of Johann Georg Hamann</i>
PhD Przemysław Górecki	literary studies	Center for American Studies, University of Warsaw	<i>Silesian Republic of Music</i>
PhD Monika Pasiecznik	musicology, cultural studies	Institute of Musicology, University of Warsaw	<i>Musical Imaginaries of the Odra Humanists</i>
PhD Piotr Urbanowicz	cultural studies	Faculty of Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University	<i>Fragility Is Beautiful</i>
PhD Justyna Koszarska-Szulc	literary studies, cultural studies	Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences	<i>Masculinities in Polish Emancipatory Prose after 1989</i>



Competition in 2024

Number of competitions:	4
Number of candidates in the competition:	89
Works qualified for publication in the series:	2
Funded translations into foreign languages:	2
Number of reviewers and experts:	41
Total amount of funding awarded in 2024	PLN 439,275
Including:	
Applications reviewed in the 2023 edition:	PLN 244,578
Applications reviewed in the 2024 edition (publications and translations):	PLN 194,697

By June 2024, under the MONOGRAPHS Programme, it was also possible to obtain funding for the translation of a work previously published in the FNP Monographs series into one of the official UN languages (TRANSLATIONS competition). The condition for applying for the grant was documented interest from a foreign publisher in publishing and distributing the work.

In 2024, FNP awarded two grants under the TRANSLATIONS competition for translations of:

- Łukasz Moll's book *Nomadyczna Europa. Poststrukturalistyczne granice europejskiego uniwersalizmu* (FNP Monographs series, 2022, transl. Mikołaj Golubiewski), and
- Jaśmina Korczak-Siedlecka's book *Przemoc i honor w życiu społecznym wsi na Mierzei Wiślanej w XVI–XVII wieku* (FNP Monographs series, 2021, transl. Jasper Tilbury).



The ADIUSTATIONS competition also awards grants to finance language editing of scholarly monographs in the humanities and social sciences written in one of the official UN languages. In 2024, there were no applications submitted to the ADIUSTATIONS programme.

Meetings with Authors Organized by FNP

- December 11, 2024 Discussion around the book *Wierny własnemu rozdariu* by **Justyna Koszarska-Szulc**, organized in partnership with the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews as part of the “Czytelnia POLIN” (POLIN Reading Room) series; chaired by Prof. Jacek Leociak

Meetings with Authors Organized by UMK Publishing House

- December 4, 2024, Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace, University of Warsaw – discussion around the book by **Monika Pasiecznik** *Od prezentowania dzieł do tworzenia krytycznej wiedzy. Eksperymenty kuratorskie w publicznym koncercie pierwszych dekad XXI wieku*. Participants: Prof. Iwona Lindstedt, Katarzyna Naliwajek, PhD, Monika Pasiecznik, PhD

Promotion of the FNP Monographs Series at Book Fairs

- Warsaw Historical Book Fair, November 28 – December 1, 2024
- Warsaw International Book Fair, May 23–26, 2024

Meeting with Author: Justyna Koszarska-Szulc at the POLIN Museum

ACTIVITY FINANCED FROM THE BILATERAL COOPERATION FUND (BCF), THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA 2014–2021, AND THE NORWEGIAN FINANCIAL MECHANISM 2014–2021

“Barriers to Research Valorization: Lessons learnt from EEA and Norway grants and Recommendations for action”

In 2024, in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway (RCN), the Foundation implemented the project titled “Barriers to research valorisation in Poland. Lessons learned from EEA and Norway grants and recommendations,” funded under the Bilateral Cooperation Fund (BCF), the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014–2021, and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021.

The project aimed to investigate barriers related to the valorisation of research results in Poland, understood as the process of creating social and economic value from knowledge by connecting various fields and sectors and transforming data, know-how, and research findings into sustainable products, services, solutions, and policies that benefit society.

Another goal of the project was to establish a bilateral Polish-Norwegian platform for analysis and dialogue, and to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Norwegian Funds, both in developing bilateral relations and academic entrepreneurship in Poland.

The Foundation invited seven independent international experts to participate in the project: Lisa Cowey, PhD (UK), Huw Edwards, PhD (UK), Katarina Chowrę (Sweden), Prof. Karla Klingsheim (Norway), Prof. Lauritz Holm Nielsen (Denmark), Prof. Rune Fitjar (Norway), and Randi Taxt, PhD (Norway). The experts’ activities included reviewing the latest solutions (described in reports) operating in Poland within the scope studied, conducting a series of interviews with grant beneficiaries (from both domestic and foreign sources), as well as with representatives of the Polish innovation system, including Technology Transfer Centers (TTCs), business incubators, and other research funding agencies in Poland, such as the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) and the National Science Centre (NCN). The experts sought to compare the experiences of beneficiaries of the Norwegian and EEA Funds with those of beneficiaries of EFSI and national grants in Poland.

On November 13, 2024, FNP held a conference at the Foundation’s headquarters to summarize the project implementation and present the study’s findings, which were then the topic of the discussion. Besides the experts and beneficiaries involved in interviews, attendees included representatives of institutions such as the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Funds and Regional Policy, National Science Centre, National Centre for Research and Development, The Latvian Council of Science, The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, the Embassy of Iceland in Poland, and the Embassy of Switzerland in Poland.

[See: Research Report](#)

The project was carried out from February to December 2024 within the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Fund (BCF), the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014–2021, and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021.

APPEALS PROCEDURE FOR ACTIVITIES FUNDED UNDER THE FENG PROGRAMME

Every applicant participating in the call for proposals for actions funded under the FENG programme and implemented by the Foundation has the right to file a protest in the event of a negative evaluation of their competitively selected project. The protest aims to request a re-examination of the submitted funding application in terms of meeting the project selection criteria. The Foundation, acting as the Intermediate Body within the FENG 2021–2027 program, is responsible for handling such protests.

Implementation in 2024

In 2024, the Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) reviewed or left unconsidered a total of 47 protests, including:

- 4 protests submitted under Measure 2.1 International Research Agendas (IRA), of which 1 protest was left unconsidered;
- 24 protests submitted under Measure 2.2 FIRST TEAM, of which 1 protest was left unconsidered;
- 19 protests submitted under Measure 2.7 Proof of Concept (PoC), of which 3 protests were left unconsidered.

The reasons for leaving protests unconsidered were: submission after the deadline or failure to complete the protest documentation within the deadline. As a result of the protest review by the Intermediate Body, the Foundation directed 3 projects under Measure 2.2 FIRST TEAM for funding.

AUDITS OF PROJECTS FINANCED FROM EUROPEAN UNION FUNDS

Fulfilling its duties as the Implementing Institution, the FNP External Audit Team conducted a total of 22 durability audits in 2024 of projects funded from European funds under Measure 4.4 POIR: FIRST TEAM, HOMING, TEAM, TEAM-TECH, and TEAM-NET. The team conducted the audits in accordance with the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Annual Audit Plans, approved by the FNP Management Board as well as the Intermediate and Managing Authorities of POIR.

The durability audits covered 2 projects in the FIRST TEAM and HOMING programs each, 1 project in the HOMING program, 7 projects in the TEAM program, 9 projects in the TEAM-TECH program, and 1 project in the TEAM-NET program. In 2024, all audits were conducted as on-site inspections.

The first audits of projects under the European Funds for the Modern Economy programme are planned for the second half of 2025.



The report of the independent auditor and the summary financial statement

Fulfilling the provisions of the Foundations Act of 6 April 1984 and the Act on Public Benefit and Volunteer Work of 24 April 2003, the Foundation enables anyone interested to access the complete report on the Foundation's activity in 2024, which is available at the Foundation's offices at Krasickiego 20/22 St., Warsaw.

The financial statements and merits report from the activity of this public benefit organization in 2023 are published in the website <https://sprawozdaniaopp.niw.gov.pl> under KRS 0000109744.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Board of Foundation for Polish Science

Our opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements of Foundation for Polish Science (the „Foundation”) for the year ended 31 December 2024 are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements of Foundation, in accordance with the note to the summary financial statements.

The summary financial statements

The Foundation's summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 comprise:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024;
- the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the summary statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Accounting Act dated 29 September 1994 (“the Accounting Act”). Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statement.

The audited financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 28 March 2024.

Management's responsibility for the summary financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the note to the summary financial statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statement

Preparer of this report and auditor of Foundation's financial statements on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers Polska spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością Audyt sp.k., a company entered on the list of Registered Audit Companies with the reference number 144:

[Translation only]
Paweł Wesołowski
Key Registered Auditor
No. 12150
Warsaw, 27 June 2025

PricewaterhouseCoopers Polska Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością Audyt sp. k., Polna 11 str., 00-633 Warsaw, Poland; T: +48 (22) 746 4000, F: +48 (22) 742 4040, www.pwc.com

PricewaterhouseCoopers Polska Spółka z ograniczoną odpowiedzialnością Audyt sp. k. is entered into the National Court Register maintained by the District Court for the Capital City of Warsaw, under KRS number 0000750050, NIP 526-021-02-28. The seat of the Company is in Warsaw at Polna 11 str.

THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

This summary financial statement contains the Foundation's for Polish Science balance sheet as at 31 December 2024, income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 and has been prepared on the basis of the Foundation's audited annual financial statements prepared on 28 March 2025 in accordance with

the policies specified in the Accounting Act of 29 September 1994 (uniform text – Journal of Laws of 2023, item 120).

The summary financial statement does not contain all of the disclosures required by the Accounting Act for full annual financial statements and, therefore, in order to gain a full understanding of the Foundation's financial position and its results of operations as at and for the year ended 31 December 2024 the Foundation's full financial statements of 28 March 2025, available at the Foundation's headquarters, Ignacego Krasickiego St. 20/22, 02-611 Warsaw as well as the independent registered auditor's and report of 31 March 2025 on the said financial statements should be read.

Balance sheet

ASSETS (in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	27 840	129 997
Intangible assets	0	51
Other intangible assets	0	51
Tangible fixed assets	15 856	16 717
Fixed assets	15 837	16 717
Land (including right to perpetual usufruct)	2 270	2 511
Buildings, offices, apartments, civil and marine	13 340	13 780
Plant and machinery	197	396
Vehicles	0	0
Other fixed assets	30	30
Fixed assets under construction	19	0
Long-term receivables	0	0
Long-term investments	11 984	113 229
Long-term financial assets	11 984	113 229
In related entities	11 984	14 061
– shares	1 060	1 060
– loans granted	10 924	13 001
In other entities	0	99 168
– other securities	0	99 168

Balance sheet (cont.)

ASSETS (in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
CURRENT ASSETS	259 813	163 568
Inventories	51	47
Materials	12	12
Goods	39	35
Short-term receivables	2 634	1 121
Receivables from other entities	2 634	1 121
Trade receivables, due:	5	4
– within 12 months	5	4
Tax, subsidy, customs duty, social security and health insurance and other benefits receivable	2 419	20
Other receivables	210	1 097
Short-term investments	257 034	162 322
Short-term financial assets	257 034	162 322
In other entities	242 700	152 944
– shares	27 801	28 122
– other securities	214 899	124 822
Cash and cash equivalents	9 676	7 485
– cash in hand and at banks	9 676	7 485
Short-term prepayments and deferred costs	94	78
TOTAL ASSETS	287 653	293 565
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Equity	279 970	284 763
Statutory Fund	363 225	363 225
Capital Fund	95 000	95 000
Statutory Fund	268 225	268 225
Reserve Fund	27 615	27 615
Accumulated losses	(106 078)	(126 712)
Net profit /(net loss)	(4 792)	20 635

Balance sheet (cont.)

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Liabilities and provisions for liabilities	7 683	8 802
Provisions for liabilities	3 624	3 590
Provision for adjustment of VAT	0	217
– long-term	0	0
– short-term	0	217
Provision for pensions and similar benefits	3 624	3 373
– long-term	1 253	1 533
– short-term	2 371	1 840
Other provisions	0	0
Long-term liabilities	0	0
Short-term liabilities	1 865	5 212
To other entities	1 813	5 171
Trade payables, due:	454	2 884
– within 12 months	454	2 884
Tax, customs duty, social security and other benefits payable	1 328	2 278
Wages and salaries payable	23	7
Other	8	2
Special Funds	52	41
Accruals and deferred income	2 194	0
Other accruals and deferred income	2 194	0
– short-term	2 194	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	287 653	293 565

Income statement

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Revenue from statutory activities, including:	10 090	183 109
Non chargeable statutory activities	9 633	182 700
Chargeable statutory activities	0	0
Other revenues determined statutes	457	409
Costs of statutory activities	19 199	191 633
Costs of non-chargeable statutory activities	19 199	191 633
Costs of chargeable statutory activities	0	0
Profit/(loss) on statutory activities	(9 109)	(8 524)
Administrative expenses	8 406	10 806
Depreciation and amortization	1 010	1 389
Consumptions of materials and energy	378	458
External services	2 373	4 654
Taxes and charges	19	15
Wages and salaries	3 626	3 295
Social security and other benefits	846	854
Other costs by type	154	141
Profit/(loss) on statutory and administrative activities	(17 515)	(19 330)
Other operating income	533	247
Gain on disposal of non-financial fixed assets	0	0
Other	533	247
Other operating expenses	709	766
Loss on disposal of non-financial fixed assets	0	0
Revaluation of non-financial fixed assets	0	0
Other	709	766
Financial income	32 568	40 519

Income statement (cont.)

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Dividends and shares in profits	2 015	1 125
Interests income	3 678	5 929
Gains on disposal of investments	25 590	11 678
Revaluation of investments	0	21 255
Other	1 285	532
Financial expenses	19 632	2
Interest expense	0	0
Loss on disposal of investments	0	0
Revaluation of investments	19 019	0
Other	613	2
Profit /(loss) before tax	(4 755)	20 668
Income tax expense	37	33
Net profit / net loss	(4 792)	20 635

Statement of changes in equity

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Equity as at the beginning of the period	284 762	264 128
Capital Fund at the beginning of the period	95 000	95 000
Capital Fund at the end of the period	95 000	95 000
Statutory Fund at the beginning of the period	268 225	268 225
Statutory Fund at the end of the period	268 225	268 225
Other Reserve Fund at the beginning of the period	27 615	27 615
Other Reserve Fund at the end of the period	27 615	27 615

Statement of changes in equity (cont.)

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Accumulated losses at the beginning of the period	(126 712)	(105 840)
Increases/ decreases (due to)	20 634	(20 872)
— accumulated profit/(losses) brought forward to offset	20 634	(20 872)
Accumulated losses at the end of the period	(106 078)	(126 712)
Net profit /(net loss)	(4 792)	20 635
Net profit /(net loss)	(4 792)	20 635
Equity as at the end of the period	279 970	284 762
Equity, as adjusted for the proposed offset of loss	279 970	284 762

Cash flow statement

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Net profit/(net loss)	(4 792)	20 635
Total adjustments	(13 695)	(61 655)
Depreciation and amortization	1 010	1 389
Interest and shares in profits (dividends)	(4 805)	(5 930)
Loss/Profit on financing activities	(7 248)	(33 462)
Changes in provisions	34	295
Changes in inventory	(4)	1
Changes in receivables	(1513)	(18)
Changes in short-term liabilities, except for loans and credits	(3 347)	4 430
Changes in prepayments, accruals and deferred income	2 178	(28 367)
Other adjustments	0	6
Net cash flows from operating activities	(18 487)	(41 020)
Cash inflows	251 475	234 024
Disposal of intangible and tangible fixed assets	0	0
From financial assets, including:	251 475	234 024
In other entities	251 475	234 024
— disposal of financial assets	246 146	227 594
— dividends and shares in profits	2 015	1 125
— interest received	2 789	4 805
— other inflows from financial assets	525	500
Other inflows from investment activities	0	0
Cash outflows	(230 797)	(218 239)
Acquisition of intangible assets and tangible fixed assets	(98)	(253)
On financial assets, including:	(230 699)	(217 986)
Related entities	(1 213)	(1 861)

Cash flow statement (cont.)

(in thousand PLN)	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
— loans granted	(1 213)	(1 861)
— shares	0	0
In other entities	(228 878)	(216 125)
— acquisition of financial assets	(228 878)	(216 125)
Other outflows from investment activities	(608)	0
Net cash flows from investing activities	20 679	15 785
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2 191	(25 235)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the balance sheet	2 191	(25 235)
Cash and cash equivalents as at the beginning of the period	7 485	32 720
Cash and cash equivalents as at the end of the period, including:	9 676	7 485
— of restricted cash and cash equivalents	57	44

Editor

Foundation for Polish Science
ul. I. Krasickiego 20/22
02-611 Warszawa
tel.: 22 845 95 01
e-mail: fnp@fnp.org.pl
www.fnp.org.pl

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Elżbieta Marczuk

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