



1

**Polish Rectors Foundation (PRF)
&
Institute of Knowledge Society (IKS)
(*non-governmental organisations [NGOs]*)**

- The idea of creation independent think-tank for HE research was connected with the experience of such institutions as
 - Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE)
 - Centrum für Hochschulrntwicklung (CHE)
 - Centre for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS)



Polish Rectors Foundation



3

- In 2001, eighty rectors of Polish universities established the Polish Rectors Foundation. Its mission is to act for the benefit of the system of education, science and culture in Poland, with special emphasis on higher education.
- In 2002 PRF started its program activity.



Polish Rectors Foundation and the Institute of Knowledge Society



4

- An intention of the group of 100 rectors – founders of the Foundation– acting as private persons - citizens, was to create independent institutions that act for the benefit of the society, realizing *pro publico bono* their objective of supporting the development of the knowledge - oriented society and knowledge-based economy.



Polish Rectors Foundation and the Institute of Knowledge Society



5

- In 2003, the Polish Rectors Foundation and the Consortium of Non-State Higher Education Institutions jointly set up the Institute of Knowledge Society. The mission of the Institute is to carry out analytical studies and research work on the system of higher education and scientific research, and on educational, scientific and innovation policy of the State.
- The Polish Rectors Foundation and the Institute of Knowledge Society, acting together basing on the institutional strategic partnership, are providing a leading think tank for research into higher education and scientific system in Poland.



The mission of the PRF & IKS includes:



6

- initiatives serving the development of education, research and culture in Poland, with special emphasis on higher education;
- support for State policies in research, education and culture, as well as for persons and institutions acting for the benefit and development of education, research and culture;
- promotion of high ethical standards in education and academic research;
- research and project support for national rectors conferences in Poland CRASP, CRVSP for HE system development



Regular Programs of PRF-IKS'2012



7

- Supporting legislative activities and implementation processes of new regulations in HE
- Cooperation with national rectors conferences, especially Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (representing university sector)
- Training activities for growth of the competences of executive – academic and managerial - personnel in HEIs
- Benchmarking in higher education
- Consulting and advisory activities for the benefit of HEIs
- Conferences and topic seminars concerning HE
- International cooperation and activities
- Supporting pro-innovative policy of the government
- Works by PRF Center for Analysis and Dialogue in HE
- Publishing (books, monographs, reports, papers etc. concerning HE and scientific policy).



Strategic partners of the Institute and the Foundation (2002-2012)



8

- Warsaw University of Technology (patron institution),
- the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland and The Conference of Rectors of Public Vocational Schools in Poland;
- Telekomunikacja Polska (telecom);
- PKN Orlen (oil corporation);
- the Polish Chamber of Commerce;
- Sygnity (IT corporation);
- the European Centre for Higher Education (UNESCO-CEPES).

Role of PRF&IKS in HE development

Polish Perspective

(some examples of ongoing projects and partners)

- Law on Higher Education – went into force in 2005, active role in the process of creation and assistance in implementation, (Government and President of the State),
- Seminars and Summer schools for training rectors and high level managers in HEIs (CRASP),
- Project *Benchmarking in Higher Education* (Polish Telecom),
- The Code *Good practices in cooperation between science and business* (Polish Chamber of Commerce),
- The national seminar for Ph.D. students *The role of higher education in creating the knowledge society* (PKN ORLEN)
- Strategy for Higher Education Development in Poland till 2020 (CRASP and CRVSP)

Role of PRF&IKS in HE development

European Perspective

(some examples of international projects and partners)

- International Conference on New Generations of Policy Documents and Laws for Higher Education: Their Thrust in the Context of the Bologna Process, November 2004, Poland (UNESCO-CEPES),
- Report Regulatory frameworks in higher education governance: Policies, rights and responsibilities. Poland – 2006. (EURYDICE),
- International Conference on Demography and Higher Education in Europe. An Institutional Perspective, October 2007, Romania (UNESCO-CEPES), Report: A study on current and prospective impact of demography on Higher Education in Poland (UNESCO-CEPES),
- The Code Good Practices in Universities, 2007 (CRASP) – introduced by CRASP, presented to EUA,

Role of PRF&IKS in HE development

European Perspective (some examples of international projects and partners)

- Support of Polish Cultural and Educational Center in Astana (Kazachstan) [established by the Polish Embassy]
- Exemplary papers presented by PRF representatives during main international events related to HE:
 - Role of student's organizations –Moscow, November, 2006 (EUA) [Conference of Council of Europe]
 - Higher Education Institutional Reforms in Poland - Dubrovnik, October, 2007 [Conference of EUA]
 - Benchmarking in the higher education system (HES) in Poland - vision and action - Brussels, 2007 [Conference of European Benchmarking Initiative]
 - Brain Drain as a challenge for Poland – Berlin, December, 2008 [Discussion Forum: Germany and Poland in Europe]
 - Higher Education Reforms in Poland – Prague, October, 2009 [OECD Conference]
 - 2010-20 Development Strategy for the Tertiary Education System, The Academic Community's proposal - Paris, August, 2010 [IMHE &OECD Conference]
 - Higher Education in Ukraine: Internationalization, Reform, Innovation" – Kyiv, April 2012 [Institute of International Education, Fulbright Program in Ukraine]

Conclusions: Essential conditions for success of think-tanks in HE

- Following fundamental principles:
 1. Political neutrality
 2. Impartiality
 3. Independence
 4. Concern for principles and values in public life
- Strategic partnership with national rectors conference.



PRF and IKS in numbers



13

- fully equipped permanent office with more than 300 square meters of floor space;
- 15 regular employees and collaborators;
- a team of cooperating student volunteers;
- 60 doctoral students involved in seminar „HES for the knowledge society”, organized by the Institute of Knowledge Society;
- 450 eminent experts collaborating on diverse projects in the 2002–2011 period;
- 70 completed projects;
- more than 2,000 persons attending conferences, projects and seminars;
- more than 75,000 visitors to the Foundation and Institute website; more than 500,000 website hits
- 23 books published;
- 20,000 copies of monographs distributed free of charge, also through electronic channels;
- more than 30 partner institutions and organizations.



PRF-IKS

The leading THINK-TANK in HE in Poland



14

We are ready to cooperate with
THINK-TANKs in HE from other countries

Thank you!