



*Fundacja na rzecz  
Nauki Polskiej*

# **Funding opportunities for humanities and social sciences in Poland**

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Foundation for Polish Science

6th MWP – ACO Conference  
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## Foundation history

- registered in 1991 according to the law on foundations and own statute
- public benefit organization since 2005 (under law on public benefit activities)
- independent
- self – financing (endowment from the Central Fund for Science and Technology Development)
- not - for – profit
- operating on national and international level
- the biggest nongovernmental organization supporting science in Poland since 1991

## Finances

- initial endowment – ca 90 m USD (1991)
- till 2010 – total contribution to science in Poland exceeds ca 120 m euro
- current assets amount ca 120 m euro
- spendings planned for 2011 – ca 20 m euro
- less money for the coming years (new programmes to be announced in 2014)

# Foundation mission



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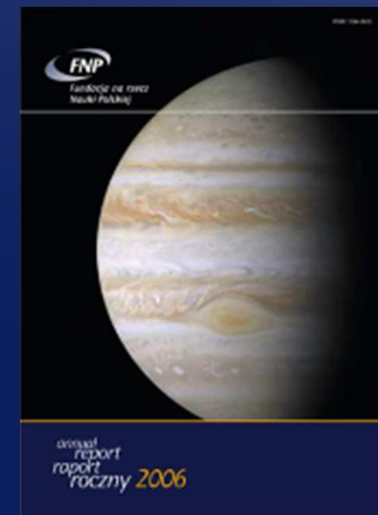


*Supporting only the best,  
so they can become  
even better*



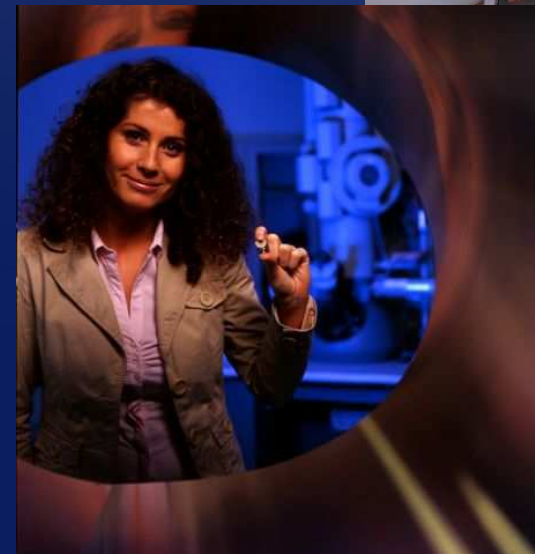
# Foundation principles

- **competitiveness** - open competition in all FNP programmes
- **peer review system** – as an essential and fundamental tool for evaluation of every submitted project proposal
- **transparency** - external financial **audit** & public annual financial and programme **reports**
- **Code of Ethics** – both for FNP authorities, staff and beneficiaries



# Foundation mission

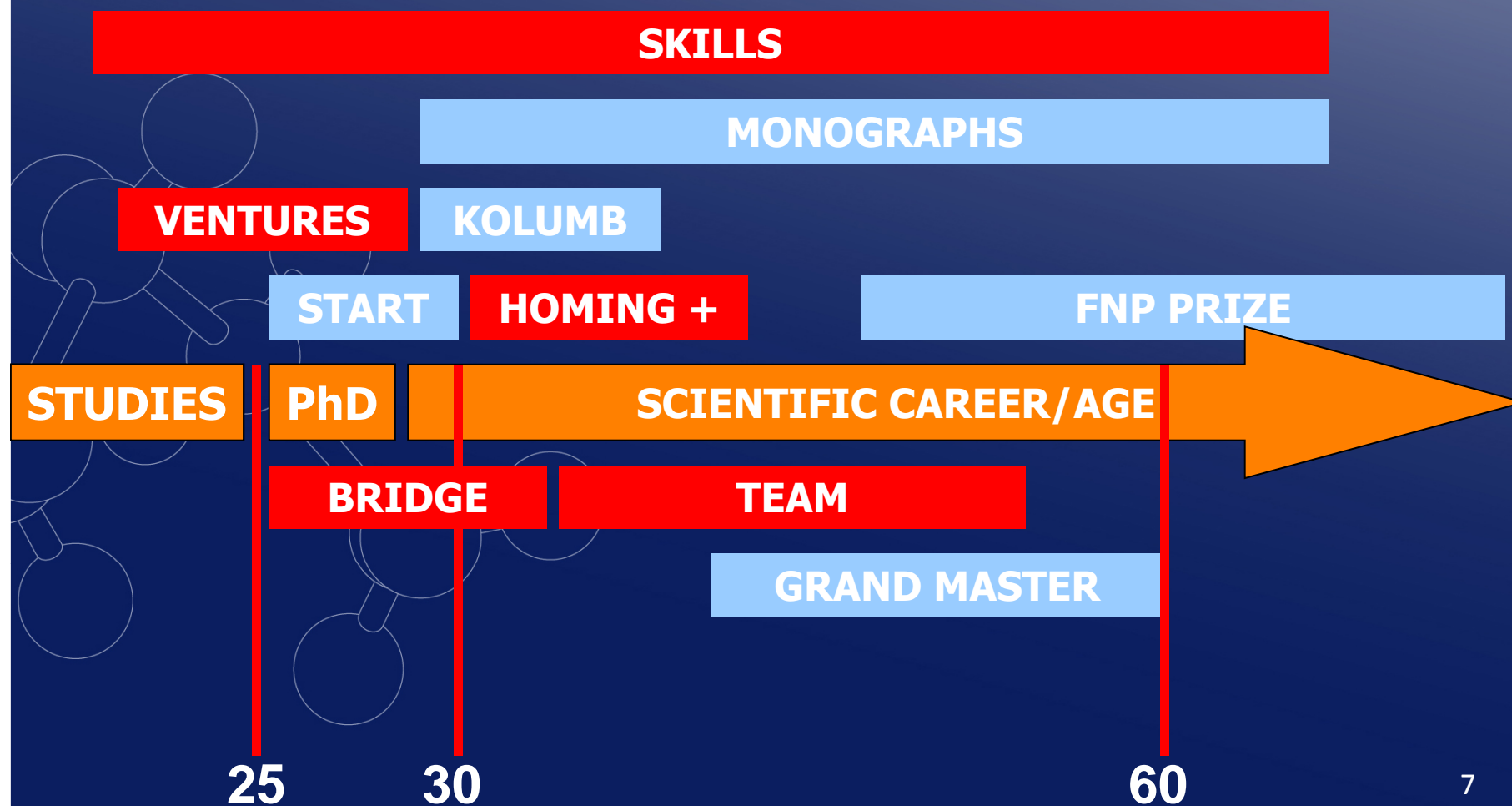
- focus on young scientists
- assistance at crucial stages of scientific career
  - PhD studies
  - post doctoral training
  - gaining independence
- embrace all fields of science  
(including humanities & social sciences)
- support for individuals & research teams



# Foundation policy



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## Foundation activities

- **FNP Prize** – the best known scheme, 4 prizes for the best Polish scientists (the most prestigious individual prize in Poland – 50 000 euro);
- **GRANDMASTER programme** – academic grants for professors (partly to support young scientists) – up to 3 years/100 000 euro (new scheme for sabbaticals);





# Foundation activities

- **VENTURES** – grants for graduate students & PhD candidates for innovative projects, also in humanities and social sciences
- **START programme** – in country scholarships for young researchers (over 150 a year) – 8 000 euro/year (short term visits abroad)
- **TEAM** – scholarships and grants for young researchers to participate in a research activities of the best teams
- *First TEAM – to be announced in 2013*



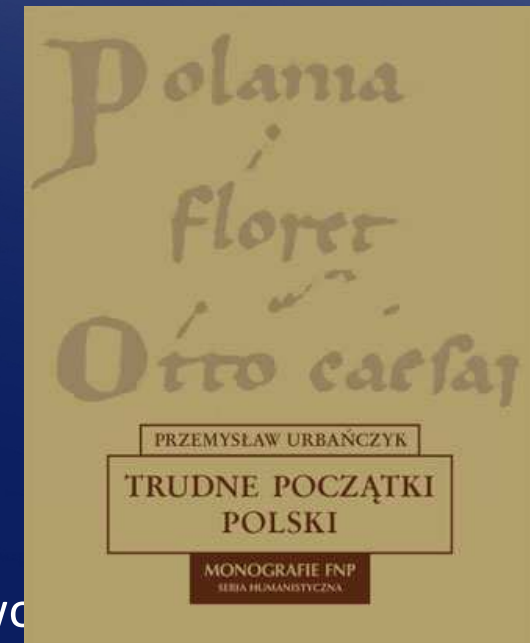
# Foundation activities

- **BRIDGE program** – assistance during pregnancy and maternity leave to support parents (women) keep up with scientific activities, all fields, up to 2 years research grant
- **HOMING + program** – encourage post docs to continue their career in Poland, extension of the previous Homing program, open to all nationalities, embrace all fields of science, up to 2 years



## Other activities

- **KOLUMB program** – post – docs outgoing international fellowships, two calls for proposals a year, up to 15 laureates each year
- **IDEAS for POLAND\*** – for recipients of ERC starting grants / incentive to conduct their projects in Poland / 3 000 euro per month for up to 6 years & 25 000 euro grant for specific research activities
- **Monographs** - regular competition for: Polish and foreign authors of previously unpublished monographs
- **Kwerenda program** - 25 – 30 stipends a year for research in libraries and archives around the world





## Other opportunities in Poland

Three major source of funding

- **Ministry for Science and Higher Education**
- **National Science Center (since 2010)**
- **National Center for Research and Development**
- ongoing reform of science funding system and higher education
- rapid increase in the level of funding (from 0,6% GDP to 0,81% GDP in 2010) – mostly due to EU structural funds spending on science and academia
- focus on young scientists, bigger grants, peer review,
- switch from institutional funding to grant funding in all disciplines (*statutory donation to universities and research plants to be limited*)



# Ministry for Science and Higher Education

- Operates through so called “minister programs”
- **National program for humanities** – ca. 30 m euro per year, different moduls - publishing, translations, young scientists, projects carried out in cooperation with foreign institution, mobility;
- **Iuventus Plus program** – research grants for young scientists, up to 35 years old, all fields of science (ca. 30 – 40 000 euro/per person)
- **Diamond grant program** – for graduate students involved in research projects, to skip MSc or MA and carry out PhD just after BA
- **Mobility Plus program** - post – docs outgoing international fellowships, one call per year

\* open for all nationalities

# National Science Center

- structured similar to European Research Council
- funded with state budget
- **General grants** - only research proposals involving **basic research** may be submitted, all for proposals for the funding of research projects, including financing the purchase or construction of research equipment needed to carry out these projects;
- **Pre – doctoral grants** - call for proposals for the funding of research projects carried out by pre-doctoral researchers starting a scientific career;
- **PhD holders grants** - call for proposals for the funding of research projects aiming to create a unique scientific workshop or the appointment of a new scientific team.
- **Non co-financed international grants**
- **Advanced researchers grants** - for advanced scientists for the funding of research projects aimed at carrying out pioneering research, including interdisciplinary research, which is important for the development of science beyond the current state of knowledge, and may result in scientific discoveries

# National Center for Research and Development

- funded with state budget

Mostly focus on applied science, but:

- **Leader program** – grants for young researchers at the stage of gaining independence, embrace all fields of science

[www.ncbir.gov.pl](http://www.ncbir.gov.pl)



## New program

- **SKILLS** – to be funded by the EU structural funds
    - trainings, workshops, networking for the Foundation beneficiaries in three major areas\*:
      - professional conduct for group leaders (communication, problem solving, recruitment, etc.)
      - communicating science (production of popular materials, reaching the young audience, etc.)
      - interdisciplinary cooperation (writing proposals, exchange of ideas, etc.)
  - announced in the beginning of 2011
  - total estimated costs – 10 m euro
  - in partnership with several international organisations (in ex. Cambridge University)
- \* *based on the experience of EMBO*





# Contact



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