

Education, awareness, communication



National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management
Warsaw, 2010

Education, awareness, communication

The primary goal of the National Fund in education for sustainable development is to assure broad access to knowledge on the environment and civilisational threats. The goal of environmental education financed by the National Fund consists in raising social awareness and promotion of environment-friendly behaviour. The strategy of the National Fund for 2009-2012 specifies that *“the mission of the National Fund is to financially support undertakings active in environment protection and respecting its value, on the basis of the principle of sustainable development (...)”*.



There is no other institution in Poland that could boast such impressive level of co-financing provided to a wide group of entities for programmes and undertakings in the field of education and promotion with broad coverage and measurable effects. From the beginning of the 20-year history of the National Fund, this specific field of operation is given exceptional importance. Without a properly conducted environmental education, many investments in the protection of environment would not have gained sufficient social support. There would be no success in many difficult fields of economic development.



Priority programmes

Domestic funds for environmental education are distributed in accordance with the principles described in detail in priority programmes of the National Fund. Currently there are two programmes operating in this field:

- “Environmental education” with two priorities: “Support for education for sustainable development, including water management” and “Support for preventive treatment measures for children and teenagers in areas in which violations of environmental quality standards take place”;
- “Support for environmental non-governmental organisations”.



The selection of applications for co-financing will take place under competition procedure. Detailed information on competition dates, the procedure and eligible costs available for measure co-financing can be found on the following website: www.nfosigw.gov.pl/srodki-krajowe/programy-priorytetowe/

The system of projects financing in the field of environmental protection by the National Fund, including environmental education, is unique on the European scale. New financing possibilities after the accession to the European Union have not decreased the interest in domestic funds. The National Fund assures the domestic contribution to large projects implemented with the support of the European Union, also in the field of environmental education (Financial Instrument LIFE+ and Priority V of the Infrastructure and Environment Programme).



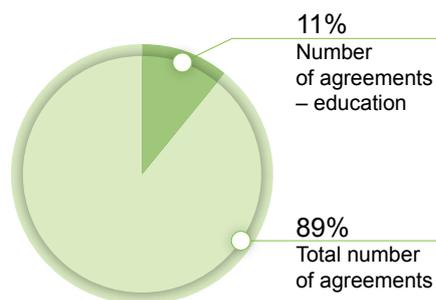
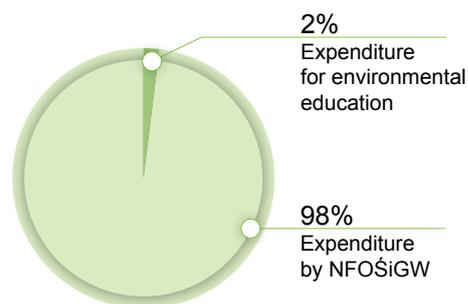
Record-breaking period of 2009-2010

The National Fund has concluded nearly 3000 agreements in the period of twenty years between 1989 and 2008 and has allocated over PLN 330 million for subsidies. The value of implemented projects exceeds PLN 770 million while the contribution by the National Fund to the financing thereof amounted to approximately 43%. 2009 was a record-breaking year: we have concluded over 180 contracts on environmental education for nearly PLN 44 million. The budget of the National Fund for environmental education for 2010-2011 is almost twice as big as the budget in the previous years.

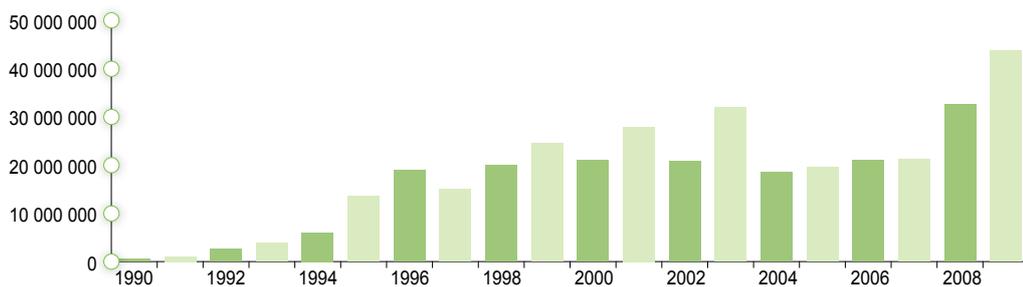
NFOŚiGW has co-financed, among others:

- 70 centres of environmental education
- 100 educational programmes and campaigns
- 90 films
- 80 cyclic TV and radio programmes
- 80 teaching aids
- 130 magazines and hundreds of articles
- 1000 publications
- 1000 brochures, maps, bulletins, posters
- 700 conferences and seminars
- 300 competitions
- 200 environmental events

Education in the context of NFOŚiGW – expenditure in 2009



The value of subsidy agreements concluded in 1989-2009 by NFOŚiGW in the field of environmental education (PLN)



Our beneficiaries – our partners

Co-financing by the NFOŚiGW funds can be applied for by all entities undertaking the implementation of projects or tasks defined in the Law on Environmental Protection (irrespective of their legal form). Our beneficiaries include non-profit organisations, *non-governmental* organisations (foundations, associations), scientific and research institutes, budgetary units, special-purpose associations of gminas, organisational units of the State Treasury, self-governments, and universities, as well as commercial companies – publishing companies, media and natural persons operating a business.





How and what do we finance?

Projects in the field of environmental education are co-financed mainly in the form of subsidies amounting even to 90% of eligible costs of a project. The intensity and maximum level of co-financing are defined annually in Priority Programmes. Diversity of priority tasks enables to finance undertakings that are very complex, inter alia the operation of centres of environmental education (e.g. in national parks and landscape parks, promotional forests), campaigns and programmes of active environmental education (with the use of the internet as well), nation-wide conferences, training programmes, environmental programmes, environmental events, competitions and olympiads. Preventive treatment of children from regions where permanent breach of environmental quality standards takes place is covered by financial support by NFOŚiGW. We also provide support for the production of teaching aids and publications, organisation of training, production of films and TV programmes, radio broadcasts and press publications.



Priority themes

Priority programmes of the National Fund, also in the field of environmental education, are adjusted to the requirements defined in the directives of the European Union and they result from the implementation of the National Environmental Policy. Since 2002 the National Fund defines the priority themes for a given year in the project selection and co-financing criteria in the field of environmental education. The list of themes includes among others: comprehensive and selective waste management and disposal, prevention of climate change, protection of biological diversity, rational energy management and promotion of renewable energy sources and of pro-environmental behaviour among manufacturers and consumers, efficient water management, protection of environment (e.g. Natura 2000). We flexibly adjust to the current environmental problems, we respond to the needs of recipients and we are open to new ideas.



Support for environmental non-governmental organisations

In response to the expectations of social organisations, the National Fund has been conducting the programme of support for the operation of environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs) since 2004. So far nearly 130 agreements with 80 environmental non-governmental organisations have been concluded for nearly PLN 6 million. By supporting the operation of organisations, we reinforce them as institutions, we contribute to their development and professionalisation, we co-finance their practical activities, including the following: "green tariffs" and consultation points, environmental libraries, websites, training, conduct of field interventions, acquisition of funds from other sources (e.g. European funds). We support environmental organisations in the field of public relations.



Education means people

We are open to changes and we welcome non-standard ideas. We have clear, recognisable criteria, open competitions, we are involved in constant cooperation with the applicant and the beneficiary. A committed team is our value. We organise consultations and training. Examples of projects implemented with the involvement of NFOŚiGW's funds are published on our website: www.nfosigw.gov.pl

We invite you to cooperate with us



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