



Ethics Assessment in Different Countries

Poland

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Ethical Assessment of Research and Innovation: A Comparative Analysis of Practices and Institutions in the EU and selected other countries

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1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to analyse the existing structures and agents for the ethical assessment of research and innovation in Poland, both for the public and private sector. It will be analysed how national and regional governments have put into place organisational structures, laws, policies and procedures for ethical assessment, how both publicly funded and private research and innovation systems address ethical issues in research and innovation, and how ethical assessment plays a role in the activities of professional groups and associations for research and innovation and of civil society organisations (CSOs).

We will begin with providing some basic information about Poland and the historical development of ethics assessment institutions in the country.

Poland is one of the largest countries in Europe and has a population of approximately 38,5 million people, as of 2014¹. The biggest cities in Poland are: Warsaw, which is the capital, Cracow and Łódź. Poland is divided into three categories of territorial units. The largest are voivodeships (*województwa*), which are divided into administrative districts (*powiaty*), which consist of communes (*gminy*). According to Article 163 of the Constitution local governments carry out tasks not reserved (either by the Constitution or laws) to other public authorities. The official language is Polish. However, according to the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional languages as the minority languages² Kashub is recognised as a regional language. The political system of Poland is parliamentary democracy and the currency is Polish złoty. In terms of UN's Human Development Index, Poland is considered to be highly developed country (ranked 35 in 2013)³.

The employment by economic sector is as follows: 57,7% services, 30,8% industry and 11,5% agriculture.⁴ The largest industrial sectors are: manufacture of food products, manufacture of products of wood and manufacture of metal products⁵. Leading Polish companies included in 2012: PKN Orlen (oil refiner), PGNiG (oil and natural gas company), PGE (power company), Grupa Lotos (oil company)⁶. In addition 7 Polish public companies are featured in the Forbes Global 2000 ranking, which is a list of 2000 world's biggest public companies. This includes: PKO Bank Polski (bank, ranked 623), PGE (power company, ranked 645), Grupa PZU (insurer, ranked 797), PGNiG (gas company, ranked 897), KGHM Polska Miedź (copper miner, ranked 1030), PKN Orlen (oil refiner and petrol retailer, ranked 1091), Tauron (power company, ranked 1781). The ranking is based on four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value.

¹ Central Statistical Office of Poland, Basic information on polish demographic development, 2015.

<http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/ludnosc/ludnosc/podstawowe-informacje-o-rozwoju-demograficznym-polski-do-2014-roku,12,5.html>

² the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and on the regional languages as the minority languages.

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20050170141>

³ For more information: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/table-1-human-development-index-and-its-components>

⁴ Central Statistical Office of Poland, Kwartałna informacja o aktywności ekonomicznej ludności, 2015.
<http://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/rynek-pracy/pracujacy-bezrobotni-bierni-zawodowo-wg-bael/kwartalna-informacja-o-aktywnosci-ekonomicznej-ludnosci-iv-kwartal-2014-r-2,19.html>

⁵ Central Statistical Office of Poland, Statistical Yearbook of Industry – Poland, 2014

<http://stat.gov.pl/en/topics/statistical-yearbooks/statistical-yearbooks/statistical-yearbook-of-industry-2014,5,8.html>

⁶ For more information: <http://www.msp.gov.pl/en/polish-economy/economic-news/3696,dok.html>

In 2011 Poland had a gross domestic product (GDP) of 850 085 million Dollars⁷, which made it the ninth biggest economy in the EU and the twenty-third biggest in the world⁸. In the same year the gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) was 6 395 million Dollars (0,75% of the GDP)⁹. Below are the tables showing percentage of the GERD with regard to different sectors.

Industry	Government	Other national sources	Sources abroad
28,12	55,80	2,69	13,39

Table 1 Percentage of the GERD by financing sector in 2011¹⁰

Business enterprise	Higher education	Government	Non-profit
30,13	35,10	34,53	0,23

Table 2 Percentage of the GERD by performing sector in 2011¹¹

Historical development of ethics assessment institutions

Institutionalised ethics assessment in Poland is performed by about 53 Regional Bioethics Committees¹² and the Appeal Bioethics Committee, who evaluate medical experiments involving human subjects, as well as several Local and one National Ethics Committees for Experiments on Animals who asses research involving animals. Both types of Committees issue legally required permissions for the kinds of research that they assess, and are established by laws. The law also establishes the Ethics in Science Commission at Polish Academy of Sciences, which provides opinions in cases of scientific misconduct. In Poland there is no National Ethics Committee. The Committee of Bioethics at the Polish Academy of Sciences performs, to some extent, the function of such a committee.¹³

Furthermore at some research institutions in Poland there are structures for ethics assessment in the form of internal research committees (e.g. at the institutes of social sciences), as well as scientific integrity counsellors and committees (the so-called “disciplinary committees”).

As far as the private sector is concerned the tendency is to focus on corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Medical research involving humans

The first guidelines that recommended the supervision of medical research were the Collection of Ethical and Deontological Rules for the Polish Doctor of 1977¹⁴. They were revised in 1984 and contained several rules on means of gaining new medical knowledge. Among others, the usage of new drugs and methods for scientific purposes should receive a prior favourable opinion of an

⁷ OECD MSTI database, 2011 figures

⁸ Please compare: <http://www.msp.gov.pl/en/polish-economy/macroeconomic-analysis/5975,Macroeconomic-Analysis-of-Polish-Economy.html>

⁹ OECD MSTI database, 2011 figures

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid

¹² <http://www.eurecnet.org/information/poland.html>

¹³ www.bioetyka.pan.pl/images/stories/Pliki/KOMITET_BIOETYKI_-_program.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.eurecnet.org/information/poland.html>

ethics committee. The first research ethics committee for research on humans was created in 1979 at the Medical University in Gdańsk. Central Commission was established by the Ministry of Health.

After 1989 a new Code of Medical Ethics was adopted. It contained rules on medical experiments. The current system of bioethics committees dates back to 1997.

Animal experiments

The National Ethics Committee on Animal Experimentation was established in 1999 on the basis of a law adopted two years earlier. The following year several local ethics committees were created.¹⁵

The shape of the law on animal experimentation that was in force since 2005 until January 2015 has been largely influenced by the political action of pro-animal activists. In 2004 the Ministry of Agriculture prepared a draft law that, according to some experts, would turn the ethical control of experiments into a façade. After the protests and lobbying by pro-animal organisations the law was vetoed by the President and the Parliament did not reject the presidential veto. Thanks to the political action the ethics committees gained considerable competences. The committee has become a de-facto administrative authority that issues administrative decisions. Moreover the law contained a broad definition of an experiment that covered the killing of an animal for the purpose of scientific research.¹⁶ A further reform of legal provisions has been adopted in January 2015. The committees still issue legally binding decisions, and the participation of CSO representatives has been guaranteed, however the new definition does not include the killing of an animal for the purpose of obtaining tissues or organs.

¹⁵ <http://www.lke.utp.edu.pl/>, <http://gazeta.us.edu.pl/node/192711>,
http://ekoimy.most.org.pl/02_01_09_2000_artkul.htm

¹⁶ Interview with prof. Andrzej Elżanowski, Board Member and Head of the Animal Welfare Section, Polish Ethics Society, 10 October 2014.

2. National and regional government institutions and policies

This chapter will provide a discussion of the Polish government institutions and policies related to research and innovation. In its sections, the following will be examined: the general institutional structure of Polish government and government-controlled institutions; governmental institutions with a role in ethics assessment; and national laws and policies for ethics assessment.

2.1 General institutional structure of government

In this section, the general institutional structure of the Polish government and government-controlled institutions, as it relates to research and innovation, will be laid out. The following topics will be included in the discussion: the form of government; the nature of and relations between the executive, the legislative and judicial branches; the major ministries and government organisations; and the role of government in research and innovation in the private sector.

General structure of government

Poland is a parliamentary representative democratic republic. The political system is defined by the Constitution. The system of government of the Republic of Poland is based on the principle of separation and balance between legislative, executive and judicial powers. The legislative power is vested in the *Sejm* and the *Senate*, executive power is vested in the President of the Republic of Poland and the Council of Ministers and the judicial power is vested in courts and tribunals.¹⁷ The upper parliamentary chamber is the Senate, with 100 senators; whereas in the lower chamber, the Sejm, there are 460 members. Parliament is chosen by a majority of the electorate for a four-year term.¹⁸

Government organisations relevant to research and innovation

Within the government, the responsibility for research and innovation is divided chiefly between two ministries: the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW) and the Ministry of Economy (MG). The Ministry of Defense is in charge of the military R&D projects.

- The Ministry of Science and Higher Education administers governmental activities in science and higher education and has a budget for scientific research provided by State funds. MNiSW is advised by a number of bodies, among them the Science and Higher Education Council (*Rada Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego*)¹⁹ and the Science Policy Committee (*Komitet Polityki Naukowej*).
- The Ministry of Economy is responsible for innovation policy in Poland.
- The Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PAED, *Polska Agencja Rozwoju Przedsiębiorczości, PARP*) is a governmental agency reporting to the Ministry of Economy. PAED has the objective to “support entrepreneurship through implementation

¹⁷ <http://www.president.pl/en/about-poland/polish-political-system/>

¹⁸ <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/english/sejm/sejm.htm> <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Europe/Poland-POLITICS-GOVERNMENT-AND-TAXATION.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.rgnisw.nauka.gov.pl/>

of actions aimed at using innovative solutions by entrepreneurs, development of human resources, expansion on international markets, regional development.”²⁰

- The Department of Military Science and Education (*Departament Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wojskowego*)²¹ coordinates research activities financed by the Ministry of Defense.

In addition to the abovementioned, other ministries, such as the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, act as managing authorities or agents in the implementation of European Funds allocated for the development of science and higher education sectors in Poland.

2.2 Governmental institutions for ethics assessment

The following is a list of national governmental and government-funded bodies that have a role in ethics assessment.

Advisory bodies to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education

- The Panel on Principles of Conducting Scientific Research in Biomedicine (*Zespół ds. zasad prowadzenia badań naukowych w biomedycynie*) – established in January 2013 for the period until June 2014.²²
- The Panel for Molecular Genetic Research and Biobanking (*Zespół ds. Molekularnych Badań Genetycznych i Biobankowania*) established in 2011, active until 2012, prepared a proposal for the law on genetic tests for medical purposes and published the report in 2012.
- The Convent of Disciplinary Officers (*Konwent Rzeczników Dyscyplinarnych*). The Convent is an advisory body, composed of disciplinary officers (*rzecznicy dyscyplinarni*) nominated by the Minister of Science and Higher Education. The Convent took over the work of the Panel of Good Scientific Practices (*Zespół ds. Dobrych Praktyk Akademickich*). The Convent is currently composed of 16 members.

National ethics committees

- Local ethics committees for animal experiments (*Lokalne komisje etyczne ds. doświadczeń na zwierzętach*);
- The National Ethics Committee for Animal Experiments (*Krajowa Komisja Etyczna ds. Doświadczeń na Zwierzętach*); listed also as an advisory body to the MNiSW;
- Regional bioethics committees (*Komisje bioetyczne*) at regional medical chambers, medical universities and medical research and development units;
- The Appeal Bioethical Committee (*Odwoławcza Komisja Bioetyczna*) at the Ministry of Health reviews appeals to the decisions of the regional bioethics committees.

²⁰ <http://en.parp.gov.pl/index/more/10843>

²¹ <http://www.dnisw.mon.gov.pl/pl/index.html>

²² http://www.nauka.gov.pl/g2/oryginal/2013_05/fd05d02056e0f8d45cf8732636abfe5e.pdf

Environmental Impact Assessment

- The General Director for Environmental Protection (*Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska*) and regional directors for environmental protection (*regionalny dyrektor ochrony środowiska*) – issue decisions concerning the environmental conditions for an undertaking;
- The Inspection of Environmental Protection (*Główny Inspektorat Ochrony Środowiska*) – the main tasks include controlling the compliance with environmental protection regulations, examining the state of the environment under the programme of the National Environmental Monitoring and preventing major accidents.

Watchdog agencies

- The Office of Competition and Consumer Protection (*Urząd Ochrony Konkurencji i Konsumenta*) – the Office has the power to carry out proceedings concerning practices infringing collective consumer interests, as well as product safety requirements, their task is also to ensure that only safe products are available on the market;
- The Inspector General for Personal Data Protection (*Generalny Inspektor Ochrony Danych Osobowych*) – is the independent data protection authority that issues opinions on bills and regulations with respect to the protection of personal data and participates in the work of international organisations and institutions involved in personal data protection.

Committees of the Academy of Sciences

- Ethics in Science Commission at Polish Academy of Sciences (*Komisja ds. etyki w nauce przy PAN*).

2.3 National laws and policies for ethics assessment

This section provides an overview of major Polish national laws, policies and regulations on ethics assessment and related activities. Both the legal framework and organisational policies—in the form of codes of conduct or protocols—will be discussed.

Legal provisions for ethics assessment

According to the Polish Constitution “[t]he freedom of artistic creation and scientific research as well as dissemination of the fruits thereof, the freedom to teach and to enjoy the products of culture, shall be ensured to everyone” (Article 73). The Polish Constitution prohibits conducting experiments without consent and states in Article 29 that “[n]o one shall be subjected to scientific experimentation, including medical experimentation, without his voluntary consent”.

Some types of research require permission or clearance, including: medical experiments (with specific rules relating to clinical trials), research performed on animals or on protected species, and the use of GMO.

In Poland, there is no single “research act” and the provisions on research can be found in different laws (acts) and executive acts. The most important include:

- As regards human beings: legal acts on clinical trials that implement EU provisions – the Pharmaceutical Law of 6 September 2001, The Act of 20 May 2010 on Medical Devices²³ and the Act of 5 December 1996 on Medical Profession accompanied by a number of executive acts of the Minister of Health;
- As regards animals: The Act of 21 August 1997 on the Protection of Animals, The Animal Research Act of 21 January 2005²⁴ (a new act is being discussed in the Parliament), accompanied by the executive acts.

Policy provisions for ethics assessment

In addition to legal frameworks, there are a number of guidelines and codes of conduct that impact the process of ethics assessment. Below, the most important examples will be discussed. The Ministerial Panel on Good Academic Practices (*Zespół ds. Dobrych Praktyk Akademickich*), recently replaced by the Convent of Disciplinary Officers, published two booklets. One discusses the issues concerning academic integrity and different types of academic misconduct²⁵. The other focuses on the issue of good practices in reviewing academic works.²⁶ Earlier in 2004 the predecessors of the panel issued a document entitled “A good practice of scientific research. Recommendations.”²⁷

Other sources of rules for research include the Ethical Code of a Researcher²⁸ established by the Ethics in Science Commission at the Polish Academy of Sciences.

In addition the Committee of Ethics in Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Committee of Bioethics at the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences publish their statements and opinions. The first edition of “Good Manners in Science” of the Committee on Ethics in Science at the Polish Academy of Sciences was published in 1994. It was updated twice²⁹. Another source of guidance is offered by the document established by the Conference of

²³ The Act of 20 May 2010 on Medical Devices (Ustawa z dnia 2010 r. o wyrobach medycznych), 20.05.2010. <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20101070679>

²⁴ The Animal Research Act of 21 January 2005 (Ustawa z dnia 21 stycznia 2005 r. o doświadczeniach na zwierzętach), 21.01.2005. <http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20050330289>

²⁵ Panel on Good Academic Practices (Zespół ds. Dobrych Praktyk Akademickich), Scientific Integrity and Respect for Intellectual Property (Rzetelność w badaniach naukowych oraz poszanowanie własności intelektualnej), 2012. www.nauka.gov.pl/g2/oryginal/2013_05/43d99d24cf04fbcae3f1352bd5e7a6b8.pdf

²⁶ Ministry of Science and Higher Education (Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego), Good Practices in Reviewing Procedures (Dobre Praktyki w Procedurach Recenzyjnych w Nauce), 2011. www.nauka.gov.pl/g2/oryginal/2013_05/4c384c6c6cb90b8ecd6303d2b27185d2.pdf

²⁷ <http://www.uwm.edu.pl/wnt/uploads/files/studenci/pliki/dobra-praktyka.pdf>

²⁸ Ethics in Science Commission at Polish Academy of Sciences (Komisja ds. Etyki w Nauce), The Ethical Code of a Researcher (Kodeks etyki pracownika naukowego), 2012. [www.instytucja.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki/Komisja_ds_Etyki_Nause/dokumenty/Kodeks_etyki_pracownika_naukowego_31.12._2012.pdf](http://www.instytucja.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki/Komisja_ds_Etyki_Nauce/dokumenty/Kodeks_etyki_pracownika_naukowego_31.12._2012.pdf)

²⁹ Committee on Ethics in Science (Komitet Etyki w Nauce), Good Manners in Science (Dobre obyczaje w nauce). <http://www.ken.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki/pdf/down.pdf>

Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (*Konferencja Rektorów Akademickich Szkół Polskich*) entitled “Good practices in academic schools” (“*Dobre praktyki w szkołach wyższych*”).³⁰

Moreover, several codes of conduct have been established by different professional groups. The most important include:

- The Code of Medical Ethics (Kodeks etyki lekarskiej)³¹
- The code of ethics established by the Polish Sociological Association (Kodeks etyki socjologa, Polskie Stowarzyszenie Socjologów)³²
- The professional code of ethics established by the Polish Psychological Association (Kodeks etyki psychologa, Polskie Stowarzyszenie Psychologów)³³
- Ethical codes of engineers, e.g. the code of ethics of the Consulting Engineers and Expert Association (Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów Doradców i Rzecoznawców).³⁴

3 Public research and innovation systems

This chapter will provide a discussion of ethics assessment of R&I in public research and innovation systems. In the sections below, the following will be discussed, respectively: the general structure and the role of government; the role of industry national research associations and standard-setting bodies; the role of research funding organisations; and, finally, the role of research performing institutions.

3.1 General structure and the role of government

This section provides an overview of the general structure of the publicly funded and controlled R&I and higher education system and the role of the government within this structure. A description of the different organisations and their interrelations will be provided, as well as an outline of the executive and regulatory powers of the government.

System of higher education and research institutes

The Minister of Science and Higher Education administers governmental activities in science and higher education as well as the budget for scientific research provided by the State funds. The Ministry cooperates with a number of advisory bodies, e.g. the General Council of Science and

³⁰ <http://www.frp.org.pl/pliki/kodeks.pdf>

³¹ Supreme Medical Council (Naczelną Izba Lekarska), Code of Medical Ethics (Kodeks etyki lekarskiej). www.nil.org.pl/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/4764/Kodeks-Etyki-Lekarskiej.pdf

³² Polish Sociological Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne), The Code of Ethics for the Sociologist (Kodeks etyki socjologa), 25.03.2012. www.pts.org.pl/public/upload/kodeks.pdf

³³ Polish Psychological Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Psychologiczne), The Code of Professional Ethics for the Psychologist (Kodeks etyczno-zawodowy psychologa). <http://ptp.org.pl/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=314>

³⁴ More on the ethical codes of engineers: Wajszczyk, Piotr, Professional Ethics in Relation to Selected Codes (Etyka zawodu inżyniera w świetle wybranych kodeków), Annales. Ethics in Economic Life, 2013, vol. 16, pp. 241-258, Łódź University Press, p. 5. http://www.annalesonline.uni.lodz.pl/archiwum/2013/2013_wajszczyk_241_258.pdf

Higher Education (*Rada Główna Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego*³⁵), elected body representing science and higher education, the Committee on Scientific Policy (*Komitet Polityki Naukowej*), which is a panel of experts, the Council of Young Scientists (*Rada Młodych Naukowców*), and the Committee for Evaluation of Scientific Institutions (*Komitet Ewaluacji Jednostek Naukowych*) that conducts the evaluation of scientific institutes by defining the levels of institutional funding. There are two funding agencies National Science Centre (*Narodowe Centrum Nauki*), and the National Centre for Research and Development (*Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju*).

The R&D sphere in Poland comprises³⁶:

- Research-active entities that either conduct or outsource R&D and have different legal forms, such as companies, associations, foundations, societies;
- Research institutes (ministerial) who function on the basis of the Research Institutes Act of 30 April 2010 and perform the following tasks:
 - Conducting research and experimental development
 - Adapting the results for the implementation in practice
 - Dissemination of the results of R&D activities;
- Scientific units of the Polish Academy of Sciences that are basic scientific unites of the Polish Academy of Sciences with legal personality and operate on the basis of the Polish Academy of Sciences Act of 20 April 2010;
- Other government section institutions, such as science support units (e.g. libraries, archives, museums) as well as those entities where research is a minor or experimental activity;
- Higher education institutions – cover entities which form a part of the Polish system of science and national education, they function on the basis of the Higher Education Act of 27 July 2005:
 - Public higher education institutes (universities, technical universities, medical universities, agricultural universities, universities of economic, pedagogical universities, etc.)
 - Private higher education institutions.

Role of the government in the Polish research and higher education system

Most research done in Poland is performed at institutions of higher education and financed from public (the national and the EU) sources.³⁷ In 2010, there was a general reform as a result of which public funds for research are currently administered by two state agencies. More funding is now appropriated in the course of contests, and less for the so-called statutory research (*badania*

³⁵ <http://www.rgnisw.nauka.gov.pl/>

³⁶ This section is based on the information „Nauka i technika w 2012 r./ Science and technology in 2012”, Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa 2013.

³⁷ Jerzy Wilkin, Finansowanie nauki i szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce. Wybrane problemy i postulowane kierunki reform, Studia BAS N 3(35) 2013, s. 51-70, [http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/\\$File/Strony%20odStudia_BAS_35_i-3.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/$File/Strony%20odStudia_BAS_35_i-3.pdf)

statutowe). Moreover, also in 2010 a national programme for the development of humanities (Narodowy program rozwoju humanistyki) was created.³⁸

3.2 National research associations and standard-setting bodies

This section aims at providing an overview of the research associations and standard-setting bodies in Poland as well as at analysing their role in ethics assessment. Firstly, we will discuss the Polish Academy of Sciences and some of its bodies. Secondly, we will discuss field specific organisations.

The Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS, *Polska Akademia Nauk, PAN*) is a state scientific institution. It was founded in 1952. It is a society of distinguished national and foreign scholars. The number of national members is set at no more than 350. As a research center PAS is comprised of 79 research establishments and auxiliary scientific units.³⁹ Research is financed mainly from the state budget. Within the Academy there are committees. They can be either scientific committees affiliated with divisions or problem committees affiliated with the Presidium.

As regards PAS's involvement in ethics, the following bodies should be mentioned:

- The Ethics in Science Commission (*komisja do spraw etyki w nauce*) established on the basis of Article 39 of the act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences.⁴⁰ It issues opinions on matters concerning breaches of ethical principles in science by employees of universities, scientific units of the Academy and research institutions. The opinions are binding. They are issued by the panels of three members of the Commission. The Commission can on its own initiative refer matters regarding such breaches to competent disciplinary committees. Its task was also to draw up The Ethical Code of a Researcher⁴¹ and to disseminate the standards of scientific integrity. The Commission consists of no more than nine members representing scientific and higher education community. The Executive Act of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 28 October 2010 on the procedure of selecting members of the Committee on Ethics in Science⁴² lays down rules on the mode of its operation and the manner in which the Commission's binding opinions shall be used as well as on how it is funded. Members of the Commission are chosen from the candidates proposed by:
 - The Committee on Scientific Policy (*Komitet Polityki Naukowej*);

³⁸ Jerzy Wilkin, Finansowanie nauki i szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce. Wybrane problemy i postulowane kierunki reform, *Studia BAS* N 3(35) 2013, s. 51-70,
[http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/\\$File/Strony%20odStudia_BAS_35i-3.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/$File/Strony%20odStudia_BAS_35i-3.pdf)

³⁹ http://www.english.pan.pl/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=57&Itemid=39

⁴⁰ Act of 30 April 2010 on the Polish Academy of Sciences (Ustawa z dnia 30 kwietnia 2010 r. o Polskiej Akademii Nauk), 30.04.2010.

<http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU20100960619>

⁴¹ see footnote 15.

⁴²

http://www.institucja.pan.pl/images/2013/Komisja_Etyki/rozporz%C4%85dzenie_Ministra_Nauki_i_Szkolnictwa.pdf

- The Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (*Konferencja Rektorów Akademickich Szkół Polskich*);
- The Conference of Rectors of Vocational Schools in Poland (*Konferencja Rektorów Zawodowych Szkół Polskich*);
- The Presidium of the Academy (*Prezydium Akademii*);
- The Main Council of the Research Institutes (*Rada Główna Instytutów Badawczych*);
- The General Council of Higher Education (*Rada Główna Szkolnictwa Wyższego*);
- Other institutions representing scientific and higher education community.

The Committee is to be selected by the General Assembly and its term is four years. According to Paragraph 15 of the executive act in the event that a member dies or resigns a new member shall be appointed to take his or her place. Pursuant to Paragraph 17 of the executive act the Committee is funded from the government budget.

- Committee of Bioethics at the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences (*Komitet Bioetyki przy Prezydium PAN*) is one of the problem committees affiliated with the Presidium of PAS. It was established in 2011. It is an advisory body. Its main task is to identify and analyse ethical problems resulting from the development of sciences, especially the biomedical sciences, and their impact on the social, political and legal spheres. The Committee puts particular emphasis on the consequences of scientific progress for the development of the country, as well as the cases of negligence in the practice of scientific and social life.⁴³ The Committee was planned as an advisory body for decision makers. However politicians do not seek the advice of the Committee. In practice the Committee acts on its own initiative – it reacts to practices it finds unsettling or picks up issues it finds particularly pressing. It functions as a system of “early warning”. The Committee focuses on ethical implications of technological progress in medicine and biology. It does not deal with environmental issues or the question of animal rights. It concentrates on ethical questions it finds to be most important in the present situation in Poland. For this reason the moral issues in medicine and health care policy are the main focus of the Committee. The Committee focuses on medicine and biology. It does not deal with environmental issues or the question of animal rights.
- Committee of Ethics in Science (CES, *Komitet Etyki w Nauce, KEN*) exists since 1993. Between 2011 and 2014 it functioned as a so-called problem committee. It is affiliated in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, that is, the Faculty I of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The diagnosis of ethical consciousness of the Polish scientific community and recommendations for its improvements are main tasks of CES.⁴⁴ CES usually meets twice a year. It does not have the resources to perform a comprehensive assessment of different topics and actively form proposals. Therefore its main task is to monitor the situation and react in cases that it finds most unsettling.⁴⁵

The Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (CRASP, *Konferencja Rektorów Akademickich Szkół Polskich, KRASP*) is a representative body of academic schools. It was

⁴³ <http://www.bioetyka.pan.pl/>

⁴⁴ Source: www.ken.pan.pl

⁴⁵ Interview with prof. Jan Woleński, the head of the Committee of the Ethics in Science, 30 January 2015.

founded on 7 June 1997 by rectors of higher education institutions. The CRASP has 107 members (including 11 non-public schools). 9 institutions have the status of an associated institution. The Role of the CRASP is to safeguard “traditional academic values, including the constitutional principle of higher education institutions autonomy which guarantees the right of these institutions to present their positions on all issues of interest to the academic community”.⁴⁶

Polish Academy of Arts and Science (*Polska Akademia Umiejętności, PAU*) is a scientific institution that has the status of an association. It brings together the elite of scholars and is based in Kraków.

Field specific research associations and standard-setting bodies

There are a number (more than 300) of regional or field-specific scientific societies (*towarzystwa naukowe*) in Poland that function on the basis of the Law on Association.⁴⁷ They do not, however, have any established role in ethics assessment.

3.3 Research funding organisations

Research funding organisations and government agencies

This section will provide a discussion of governmental research funding agencies, as well as one non-governmental organisation funding science, and how they include ethics assessment in determining how to spend their funding. Furthermore, it will be examined whether the attention to ethical issues is a condition for basic funding of Polish public research institutions. The law regulates the work of two governmental research funding agencies.

The National Science Centre (NSC, *Narodowe Centrum Nauki, NCN*) is a government executive agency set up to fund basic research. Each year the NSC appropriates ca. 850-900 million Polish złotys (ca. 210-220 million Euros) for basic research.⁴⁸ The NSC has in its structure an ethics committee. It was established by the Chair of the NSC Council, who appointed its members and the head.⁴⁹ The ethics committee does not assess individual proposals.

Applicants have to declare if their research requires additional opinions or permissions of external ethics bodies. Such additional documents are required in four types of cases:

- medical experiments (*eksperyment medyczny*), an opinion of the regional bioethics committee (REC) is required;
- research on animals necessitates permission of the local ethics commission on experiments with animals;

⁴⁶ www.krasp.org.pl/en/crasp/about_crasp

⁴⁷ http://www.rtn.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki/Monografia/Towarzystwa_tom_1_-_druk.pdf
http://www.rtn.pan.pl/images/stories/pliki/Monografia/Towarzystwa_tom_2_-_druk.pdf

⁴⁸ <http://www.ncn.gov.pl/aktualnosci/2014-01-03-wykonanie-budzetu-ncn>

⁴⁹ https://www.ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/decyzje-przewodniczacego/decyzjaPrzewodn-03_2012.pdf

- research that involves protected species or is conducted in protected areas, the permission of the head of the national park or the Regional Inspector of Environmental Protection (*Regionalny Dyrektor Ochrony Środowiska*) is necessary;⁵⁰
- research on GMOs, the permission from the Minister of Environment is necessary.

The National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD, *Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju, NCBiR*) is one of the two implementing agencies of the Minister of Science and Higher Education. It finances applied research, development work and programmes of strategic importance for Poland. Yearly it appropriates ca. 2.5 billion złotys for applied research.⁵¹ The money comes from the state budget, but the NCRD also manages European funds. The NCRD established a code of ethics that contains principles and ethical values which should guide Centre's staff members.⁵² There seem to be no specific ethics assessment procedure of individual projects. The applicant is responsible for obtaining permissions or opinions if these are required by the law (this is the case in 4 types of situations referred to above).

The Foundation for Polish Science (FPS, *Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej, FNP*) was established in 1991. It is a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit institution. It is the largest source of science funding in Poland outside of the state budget. Through the end of 2011, the Foundation awarded over 408 million złotys (ca. 100 million Euros) to science out of the funds generated in this manner.

Ethics appear to play a prominent role in the activities of the Foundation. According to the programme premises:

(t)he Foundation is constantly perfecting its practices in terms of observing ethical standards, endeavouring at the same time to spread good models in this respect. These procedures apply to all persons participating in the process of awarding, transferring and benefiting from financial support (FNP employees, external reviewers and experts, beneficiaries).⁵³

The FPS was the first institution in Poland to receive from the European Commission HR Excellence in Research badge for implementing the resolutions contained in the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.

Moreover, the FPS established a “*Code of Ethics for Competition Winners and Beneficiaries of the Foundation for Polish Science*.⁵⁴ According to Paragraph 1 “research carried out by competition winners and beneficiaries of the Foundation should always serve the public good, aim to extend the boundaries of scientific knowledge, and contribute to the advancement and development of Poland”. According to Paragraph 16 “the Foundation does not finance research

⁵⁰ <http://www.pieninypn.pl/pl/1187/0/badania-naukowe.html>

⁵¹ Wilkin, J., *Finansowanie nauki i szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce. Wybrane problemy i postulowane kierunki reform*, Studia BAS Nr 3(35) 2013, p.51-70, available at:
[http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/\\$File/Strony%20odStudio_BAS_35i-3.pdf](http://orka.sejm.gov.pl/wydbas.nsf/0/47870802A7120FF9C1257BDC0029866B/$File/Strony%20odStudio_BAS_35i-3.pdf)

⁵² <http://www.ncbir.pl/en/about-the-centre/code-of-ethics/>

⁵³ <http://www.fnp.org.pl/assets/FNP-Programme-Premises-2013-2016.pdf>

⁵⁴ Available in English at <http://www.fnp.org.pl/assets/FNPs-Code-of-Ethics-competition-winners-and-beneficiaries.pdf>

on human embryos or research creating a demand for cell lines recently obtained from human embryos, that is lines obtained from after the Foundation's adoption of this point, i.e. later than December 2010.”

Conditions for basic funding of Polish research institutions

Additionally, it may be relevant to once again point out that research is conducted at institutions and universities who receive financial support from the budget for their statutory activities (*działalność statutowa*), which includes maintaining their research potential, and providing funds to individual researchers or teams of researchers. The appropriation of research funds depends on several criteria listed in the relevant laws and executive acts.⁵⁵ Ethical issues are not, however, listed among them.

3.4 Research performing organisations

According to the Polish law all medical experiments involving human beings, as well as animal experimentation, research that involves protected species or is conducted in protected areas and research on GMOs requires a permission of a relevant state authority (specific institutions that issues permits are listed above in the section devoted to research funding organisations).

There are no legally binding provisions that would necessitate the ethical review of human subject research (e.g. social research) other than medical experiments. There are, however, ethics committees at higher education institutions (schools, academies, universities etc.) that are tasked with ethically reviewing these types of research.⁵⁶ There are 134 public, 293 private and eight church higher education institutions in Poland.⁵⁷ There are 19 universities. As regards specific examples of prominent public institutions where scientific research is conducted, the following ethics bodies have been established:

- a) University of Warsaw (*Uniwersytet Warszawski*):⁵⁸

There is no separate, central research ethics commission. There is an ethics commission at the psychology department.⁵⁹ It assesses individual projects after receiving an application from a researcher.

- b) Jagiellonian University (*Uniwersytet Jagielloński*):

There is no separate, central research ethics commission that assesses all research. At the medical department there is a bioethics commission that assesses medical research and clinical trials. Moreover a commission on intellectual property and a local commission on research involving animals have been set up.

⁵⁵ <http://www.nauka.gov.pl/dzialalnosc-statutowa/>

⁵⁶ In the case of medical higher research and education institutions there is a requirement for a bioethics commission to be established. Local ethics commissions on research involving animals are also affiliated with education and research institutions.

⁵⁷ Source: <https://polon.nauka.gov.pl/>

⁵⁸ Medical University in Warsaw is a separate entity with its own bioethics commission that deals mostly with evaluating clinical trials and medical experiments.

⁵⁹ http://www.psych.uw.edu.pl/o_nas.php?id=1&sub_id=2.24

c) University of Łódź (*Uniwersytet Łódzki*)

Commission on bioethics of research functions at the University of Łódź⁶⁰ assesses research proposals that concern human biological material as well as research that interferes with the psyche of research subject.

d) Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (*Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu*):

There is an ethics committee on research involving human beings,⁶¹ as well as a bioethics commission for medical research and clinical trials.⁶² There is also an ethics committee at the psychology department.⁶³

e) Wrocław University of Technology (*Politechnika Wrocławska*)

There is an ethics committee,⁶⁴ whose main goal is to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics of the Academic University of Technology.⁶⁵

Some of the private higher education institutions have well-established ethics committees. For instance the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (*Szkoła Wyższa Psychologii Społecznej*) has in its structures an ethics commission for empirical research (*Komisja ds. Etyki Badań Empirycznych*).⁶⁶ The commission gives its opinion on both scientific research, as well as any business research financed from public funds for education in Poland (NSC, NCBiR,), programs of the European Commission and foundations, companies and private sponsors, as well as researcher's own resources. Moreover the psychology department has an ethics commission that assesses individual projects.⁶⁷

4. Private Research and Innovation systems

This chapter will provide a discussion of ethics assessment of R&I and *corporate social responsibility* (CSR) in private research and innovation systems. First, the general structure and role of government will be examined. Then, the role of industry associations and accreditation, certification and standard-setting organisations will be reviewed. Finally, the role of industry itself will be discussed.

4.1. General structure and the role of government

In this section, the following topics will be discussed: the Polish industry landscape; major Polish organisations that represent industry; Polish government policies and initiatives supporting ethics

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[http://www.uni.lodz.pl/ouni/komisja,komisja,Komisja%20do%20spraw%20bioetyki%20bada%C5%84%20naukowy ch](http://www.uni.lodz.pl/ouni/komisja,komisja,Komisja%20do%20spraw%20bioetyki%20bada%C5%84%20naukowych)

⁶¹ <http://amu.edu.pl/content/komisja-etyczna-uam-ds.-bada-naukowych-prowadzonych-z-udziaem-ludzi>

⁶² <http://www.bioetyka.amp.edu.pl/Gowna.html>

⁶³ <http://www.psychologia.amu.edu.pl/4365-2/o-ip-uam/komisja-etyki/>

⁶⁴ <http://www.portal.pwr.wroc.pl/70198,241.dhtml?s=344141>

⁶⁵ <http://www.portal.pwr.wroc.pl/etyka,241.dhtml>

⁶⁶ <http://www.swps.pl/warszawa/nauka-i-rozwoj/warszawa-badania-i-projekty-kebe>

⁶⁷ <http://www.swps.pl/warszawa/wydzial-psychologii-warszawa/komisja-ds-etyki>

assessment and CSR in private industry; and Polish initiatives for public-private partnerships with regard to ethics assessment and CSR.

Polish industry landscape

Polish industry is of great economic and social value to Poland. While private companies create 90 percent of Polish GDP, state-owned enterprises (SOEs) remain an important player with their contribution of 10 percent to GDP.⁶⁸ In 2014, Poland had an employed population of around 15,862,000 people, of which 23 percent, or 3,650,000 people, were employed in industry (excluding construction).⁶⁹ Major industries include machine building (including automotive industry), iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles.⁷⁰ An interesting development can be observed in the advanced business services sector. Poland is one of the world leaders in the business services sector, especially outsourcing and offshoring (O&O) with the pace of development of this sector three times faster than in India and the fastest in Central and Eastern Europe.⁷¹

Leading Polish companies include: PKN Orlen, Jeronimo Martins Polska, PGNiG, PGE, LOTOS Group SA, KGHM. Poland remains a leader in the Central Europe *Top 500 Ranking* by Deloitte with 161 companies (2014).⁷²

Organisations that represent industry

Important Polish organisations representing industry include:

- *Polish Confederation Lewiatan (Polska Konfederacja Pracodawców Prywatnych Lewiatan)* is the most influential Polish business organisation representing interests and supporting development of some 3,900 companies, which employ 835,000 workers.⁷³
- *National Chamber of Commerce (Krajowa Izba Gospodarcza, KIG)* is the largest independent business organisation in Poland representing the largest number of entrepreneurs, connecting more than 150 business organisations. National Chamber of Commerce promotes social business sensitivity and helps businesses implement ethical standards.⁷⁴
- *Business Centre Club (BCC)* is a multilevel organisation and the biggest private employer organisation in Poland. BCC affiliates over 2,500 entrepreneurs and companies (chiefly private-owned) employing 600,000 people, but also affiliates lawyers, journalists, scientists, publishers, physicians, members of the military and students. BCC has advocated more social commitment in the business world.⁷⁵

⁶⁸ Ministry of Economic Affairs, *Polska 2014 Raport o Stanie Gospodarki*, Warszawa 2014, [p. 233], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/8436/RoG14_20140821.pdf.

⁶⁹ OECD, <http://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=STLABOUR#>.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ McKinsey&Company, *Polska 2025 – Nowy motor wzrostu w Europie*, January 2015, [p. 6].

⁷² Deloitte, *Top 500 Central Europe 2014*, [p. 11], <http://www2.deloitte.com/rs/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/central-europe-top500-2014.html>.

⁷³ Polish Confederation Lewiatan, <http://konfederacjalewiatan.pl/en/about-us>.

⁷⁴ National Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.kig.pl/o-nas.html>.

⁷⁵ Business Centre Club, <http://www.bcc.org.pl/About-us-English.4389.0.html>.

- *Employers of Poland (Pracodawcy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej)* is the oldest, the largest and the most representative organisation of employers in Poland associating 10,000 companies of all sectors and businesses.⁷⁶

Other organisations that represent industry include: *Polish Organization for Disabled Persons' Employers (POPON)*;⁷⁷ *Foreign Investors Chamber of Industry and Commerce*;⁷⁸ *Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry*;⁷⁹ *Polish Association of Exploration Sector Employers*;⁸⁰ *Automotive Industry Employers' Association*;⁸¹ *Polish Federation of Food Industry Union of Employers (PFFI UE)*,⁸² *Polish Chamber of Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Industry (POLFARMED)*;⁸³ Employers' Union of Innovative Pharmaceutical Companies (INFARMA).⁸⁴

Furthermore, there is a wide number of regional and local organisations that represent industry.

Government policies and initiatives to support ethics assessment in private industry

Polish policies and initiatives to support ethics practices in private industry mostly concern *corporate social responsibility (CSR)*. In 2013, the Polish government adopted an action plan for implementation of CSR, particularly through training and capacity building; knowledge exchange; provision of information; and awards.⁸⁵ The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of the Environment, and the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection are the main government agency leading the promotion of CSR and sustainable development.

In 2011, the Polish Council of Ministers adopted the National Reform Programme implementing the EU economic strategy "Europe 2020"⁸⁶ focusing on three areas: infrastructure for sustainable growth; innovation for smart growth; and activity for inclusive growth. In July 2014, The Minister of Economy appointed the Group for Social Corporate Responsibility Issues (*Zespół do*

⁷⁶ Employers of Poland, <http://www.pracodawcyrp.pl/en/about-us/who-we-are/>.

⁷⁷ Polish Organization for Disabled Persons' Employers (*Polska Organizacja Pracodawców Osób Niepełnosprawnych*, POPON) (Polish only), <http://www.popon.pl/>.

⁷⁸ Foreign Investors Chamber of Industry and Commerce (*Izba Przemysłowo-Handlowa Inwestorów Zagranicznych*) (Polish only), <http://izbainwestorow.pl>.

⁷⁹ Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry (*Polska Izba Przemysłu Chemicznego*, PIPC), <http://www.pipe.org.pl/index.php?lang=en>.

⁸⁰ Polish Association of Exploration Sector Employers (*Polski Związek Pracodawców Przemysłu Wydobywczego*), http://konfederacjalewiatan.pl/o_nas/czlonkowie/zwiazki_branzowe/polski-zwiazek-pracodawcow-przemyslu-wydobywczego.

⁸¹ Automotive Industry Employers' Association (*Związek Pracodawców Motoryzacji i Artykułów Przemysłowych*), http://www.zpm.org.pl/e_index.php#01.

⁸² Polish Federation of Food Industry Union of Employers (PFFI UE), http://www.pfpz.pl/index/?lang_id=2.

⁸³ Polish Chamber of Pharmaceutical & Medical Device Industry (*Polska Izba Przemysłu Farmaceutycznego i Wyrobów*, POLFARMED), <http://www.polfarmed.com.pl/>.

⁸⁴ Employers' Union of Innovative Pharmaceutical Companies (*Związek Pracodawców Innowacyjnych Firm Farmaceutycznych*, INFARMA), <http://infarma.pl/?L=2>.

⁸⁵ European Commission, *Corporate Social Responsibility National Public Policies in the European Union Compendium 2014*, [p. 89], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/22133/EC_Compndium_CSR_2014.pdf.

⁸⁶ Ministry of Economy, Krajowy Program Reform na rzecz realizacji strategii "Europa 2020", <http://www.mg.gov.pl/Bezpieczenstwo+gospodarcze/Strategia+Europa+2020/Krajowy+Program+Reform>.

spraw Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Przedsiębiorstw)⁸⁷ to ensure consistency and coordination of initiatives undertaken to popularise CSR at national level.⁸⁸ Furthermore, in 2007 the National Centre for Research and Development (*Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju*, NCRD)⁸⁹ was appointed as the implementing agency of the Minister of Science and Higher Education.⁹⁰ One of its tasks is strengthening cooperation between Polish business and scientists and promoting the commercialisation of the research's results.⁹¹

The Polish government emphasises the importance of bottom-up approach to CSR through supporting “business initiatives and a partnership dialogue for proper communicating of the actions enterprises undertake regarding CSR”.⁹² The Polish government encourages companies to take up CSR in the following ways:⁹³

- In 2012, the Council of Ministers developed “Long-term Development Strategy until 2030. The third wave of modernity”⁹⁴ recognizing the quality of life as the main goal of national development.⁹⁵
- In 2011, the “Governmental National Spatial Development Concept 2030” was issued recognizing the principle of sustainable development.⁹⁶
- The Ministry of Economy administers *the Register of Cleaner and Responsible Entrepreneurship* listing businesses that consume and reduce waste in a responsible way.⁹⁷ Enterprises belonging to the Association of the Polish Cleaner Production Movement are obliged to sign up to the Global Compact principles.⁹⁸

⁸⁷ Zarządzenie Ministra Gospodarki z dnia 9 lipca 2014 r. w sprawie powołania Zespołu do spraw Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Przedsiębiorstw, Dziennik Urzędowy Ministra Gospodarki Warszawa, dnia 21 lipca 2014 r. Poz. 13.; Note: The Group for Social Corporate Responsibility Issues worked with breaks: firstly between 8 May 2009 - 21 August 2013; secondly from 9 July 2014 – present.

⁸⁸ Ministry of Economy, *CSR Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland*, National Reform Programme, Europe 2020, [p. 3], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/10892/CSR_ENG.pdf.

⁸⁹ National Center for Research and Development, <http://www.ncbr.gov.pl/en/about-the-centre/>.

⁹⁰ National Center for Research and Development, *2013 Annual Report*, [p. 10],

http://www.ncbir.pl/gfx/ncbir/userfiles/_public/monitoring/publikacje/raporty/ncbr_raport_en_print_final_2.pdf.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ministry of Economy, *CSR Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland*, National Reform Programme, Europe 2020, [p. 9], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/10892/CSR_ENG.pdf.

⁹³ The list based on the Annex *CSR Practices in Member States* in the European Commission, *Corporate Social Responsibility National Public Policies in the European Union Compendium 2014*, [p. 89-90], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/22133/EC_CompPENDIUM_CSR_2014.pdf.

⁹⁴ The Council of Ministers, “National Development Strategy 2020. Active Society, Competitive Economy, Efficient State”, Warsaw, September 2012,

https://www.mir.gov.pl/english/Regional_Development/Development_Policy/NDS_2020/Documents/NDS%202020.pdf.

⁹⁵ Kozłowski J., “Responsible Research and Innovation in Poland: First Results”, July 2013, [p. 3], http://www.morri.res-agora.eu/uploads/15/RRI%20in%20Poland%201st%20Report_final.pdf.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Polski Rejestr Czystej Produkcji i Odpowiedzialnej Przedsiębiorczości, <http://www.prcpiop.pl/>.

⁹⁸ Ministry of Economy, *CSR Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland*, National Reform Programme, Europe 2020, [p. 9], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/10892/CSR_ENG.pdf.

- The government supports the integration of social and environmental sustainability requirements in public procurement, particularly through the adoption of actions plans on sustainable public procurement (since 2007).⁹⁹
- The government supported the adjustment of the ISO 26000 standard to the Polish context.
- In November 2009, the *Warsaw Stock Exchange* launched the Respect Index, Poland's first index (and one of Europe's few indices) of socially-responsible companies reflecting the essence of CSR, i.e. *Responsibility, Ecology, Sustainability, Participation, Environment, Community and Transparency*.¹⁰⁰
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy carries out the Operational Programme *Civic Initiatives Fund (OP CIF, Fundusz Inicjatyw Obywatelskich, FIO)* aiming to promote social entrepreneurship and corporate volunteering to also mainstream the combination of social and professional activities.¹⁰¹
- The Polish government has set up the OECD *National Contact Point* to promote and ensure adherence to OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.¹⁰²
- The government supports CSR particularly among SMEs.¹⁰³

Initiatives for public-private partnerships

With regard to CSR in the field of research and innovation, there exist a few important public-private partnerships. First, there is the *a Tri-partite Commission for Socio-Economic issues*¹⁰⁴ a tripartite body of self-governing bodies, professional self-governing bodies, trade unions, employers' organisations and other social organisations, and representations of professional and formative milieus.¹⁰⁵ The Commission is a social dialogue forum for reconciling interests of employees, employers and the public good.¹⁰⁶

Since 2009, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCDS) representing the business opinion on social and environmental influence has been represented in Poland by the Responsible Business Forum which cooperates with the Ministry of Economy. The process of the Vision 2050 development in 2010 by WBCSD was initiated also in Poland, at a country level. The project is led by PwC under the honourable auspices of the Ministry of Economy in

⁹⁹ Public Procurement Office, *National Action Plan on sustainable public procurement 2010-2012*, Warszawa 2010; Note: Furthermore, on 14 June 2010, the Council of Ministers adopted a three-year National Action Plan on sustainable public procurement for 2010-2012 setting out the objectives, timing and system of coordination and monitoring of actions concerning both green and socially responsible procurement.

¹⁰⁰ European Environmental Agency, *2011 Survey of resource efficiency policies in EEA member and cooperating countries, Country Profile: Poland*, May 2011, [p. 14], <http://www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency>.

¹⁰¹ Department of Public Benefits, *FIO*, http://www.pozytek.gov.pl/What_is_FIO_581.html.

¹⁰² Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency, *OECD National Contact Point*, http://www.paiz.gov.pl/OECD_National_Contact_Point.

¹⁰³ For instance: increasing the competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the implementation of CSR and development of targeted CSR strategies (The "Systemic project on Corporate Social Responsibility" and "Enhancement of regional competitiveness through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) measures" carried out by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP)); the implementation of the Sustainable Production through Innovation programme in SMEs in the Baltic Sea Region 2009 – 2012.

¹⁰⁴ Dialog Spoleczny, <http://www.dialog.gov.pl/en/>

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Dialog Spoleczny, <http://www.dialog.gov.pl/en/>

cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and the Forum for Responsible Business.¹⁰⁷ As the result of the project, a document *Vision 2050: The New Agenda for Business in Poland* has been published in May 2012. As a part of the project, companies may sign up the Polish Business Declaration on Sustainable Development.¹⁰⁸ So far, 102 Polish companies have signed the document.¹⁰⁹

Furthermore, the entrepreneurship support infrastructure in Poland includes also Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centers (*Ośrodki Innowacji i Przedsiębiorczości*, OiIP) bringing together public and private sector. There is a variety of types of the Centers, including: technology parks and incubators, business incubators, pre-incubators, technology transfer centres, training and advisory centres, loan funds, guarantee funds, seed funds etc.¹¹⁰ According to the report published by PARP in 2014, there are 180 such centres in Poland.¹¹¹

4.2 Industry associations and accreditation, certification and standard-setting organisations

This section will provide a discussion of the role of industry associations and networks, as well as the role of accreditation, certification, evaluation and standard-setting organisations for industry, in the setting and enforcement or promotion of standards and practices with regard to ethics assessment and CSR in industry. The extent to which industry makes use of independent, external ethics committees to evaluate their R&D will also be examined.

Industry associations

There is a focus within industry associations on ethics assessment and CSR, which also takes innovation issues into account.¹¹² One of the largest industry association, *Polish Confederation Lewiatan*, gives an impulse for the discussion on social responsibility among Polish business.¹¹³ The organisation recommends member companies to adopt Codes of Good Practices or Codes of Conduct that supplement *The Business Canon of Conduct*.¹¹⁴ Furthermore, the Polish Chamber of Commerce (PCC) initiated a project called “Partnership for ‘Fair Play Employment’. Promotion of Business Culture and Labour Market Ethics”. As part of the project, the PCC organises

¹⁰⁷ *Vision 2050: The New Agenda for Business in Poland; Executive Summary*, [p. 8], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/8383/MG_WIZJA_2050_Podsumowanie_Raportu_ENG.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ Ministry of Economy, Responsible Business Forum, Deloitte, *Deklaracja polskiego biznesu na rzecz zrównoważonego rozwoju*, http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/8383/Wizja%202050_Deklaracja_2015.pdf.

¹⁰⁹ Ministerstwo Gospodarki, News: *Już blisko 100 firm podpisało Deklarację Polskiego Biznesu na rzecz Zrównoważonego Rozwoju*, published April 2015, (only in Polish), <http://www.mg.gov.pl/node/23657>.

¹¹⁰ Bakowski A., Mazewska M., „Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centers in Poland. Report 2012”, Warsaw 2012, [p. 5], http://www.pi.gov.pl/PARPFiles/file/OIB/IOB_Raporty_po_angielsku/2012_BSI_in_Poland_Report.pdf.

¹¹¹ PARP, Ośrodki innowacji w Polsce (z uwzględnieniem inkubatorów przedsiębiorczości) Raport z badania 2014, Warsaw 2014, [p. 11], http://www.pi.gov.pl/PARPFiles/file/OIB/publikacje/20141204_PARP_osrodki_innowacyjnosci_w_polsce.pdf.

¹¹² Kozłowski J., “Responsible Research and Innovation in Poland: First Results”, July 2013, [p. 2], http://www.morri.res-agora.eu/uploads/15/RRI%20in%20Poland%201st%20Report_final.pdf.

¹¹³ United Nations Development Programme, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland. Baseline Study*, Warsaw 2007, [pp. 31-32], http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/public/files/UNDP_baseline_PL.pdf.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

conferences and workshops for businesses, mainly small and medium-sized, on ethics and responsibility in relationships with employees.¹¹⁵

The most visible areas of social responsibility in Poland are sectorial codes and other forms of self-regulation.¹¹⁶ There is over a hundred codes of conduct, codes of good practices, marketing codes, e.g. the “Code of Good Practices”¹¹⁷ for companies listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE).

Network organisations

One notable Polish network organisation is Responsible Business Forum (*Forum Odpowiedzialnego Biznesu*). Forum is a non-profit organisation working as a think-and-do-tank that provides in-depth focus on the concept of CSR and sets trends of responsible business and sustainable development in Poland.¹¹⁸ The organisation creates a forum where managers, the state administration and non-governmental organisations can exchange information on CSR.¹¹⁹ Forum cooperates with the Ministry of Economy and Energy Regulatory Office and has 47 strategic business partners and 11 supporting companies.¹²⁰

Academy for the Development of Philanthropy¹²¹ focuses its activity on six areas: development of local communities, activity of youth, activity of elderly people, social business involvement, social entrepreneurship and individual philanthropy.¹²² The Academy inspires actions in the field of strategic philanthropy and social involvement of business, especially among smaller companies.¹²³

Volunteer Centre Association, as part of its activity, builds local partnerships between the business community, NGOs and public institutions through active involvement of companies and their employees in the life of local communities (“Business Volunteer Work”).¹²⁴

CentrumCSR.PL¹²⁵ is a foundation working as a think-tank for dissemination and research of the CSR concept.

Certification, evaluation and standard-setting organisations

Certification, evaluation and standard-setting organisations for industry that support private sector organisations in conducting business in an ethical manner focus mostly on programmes

¹¹⁵ UNDP, op. cit, 2007.

¹¹⁶ UNDP, op. cit, 2007.

¹¹⁷ Warsaw Stock Exchange, *Relacje inwestorskie i zasady dobrych praktyk*, http://www.gpw.pl/RI_dobre_praktyki.

¹¹⁸ Responsible Business Forum, <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/english/>

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Responsible Business Forum, <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/english/>

¹²¹ Academy for the Development of Philanthropy, <http://www.filantropia.org.pl/en>.

¹²² United Nations Development Programme, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland. Baseline Study*, Warsaw 2007, [p. 28], http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/public/files/UNDP_baseline_PL.pdf

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ UNDP, op. cit, 2007

¹²⁵ CentrumCSR.PL, <http://www.centrumcsr.pl/kategoria/o-centrum/>,

devoted to communities and employees.¹²⁶ Regarding certified standards of environment protection, expectations and requirements are relatively low.¹²⁷

Polish Centre for Accreditation, the national accreditation body authorised to accreditation of conformity assessments bodies,¹²⁸ offers Polish version of ISO 14001 on management of the environment (PN-EN ISO 14001:200). While this standard is widely recognised and used by Polish companies, fulfilment of the requirements of “Eco-Management and Audit Scheme” (EMAS) remain a great challenge. Poland took part in creation of the international standard ISO 26000. The Polish Committee for Standardization (*Polski Komitet Normalizacyjny*, PKN) developed and in 2012 published the Polish Standard PN-ISO 26000:2012 “Guidelines for social responsibility”.¹²⁹ In 2009, PwC in cooperation with Responsible Business Forum has developed and published the Polish translation of guidelines for Global Reporting Initiative (GDI).¹³⁰

The EFQM standard and SA 8000 (Social Accountability 8000) are also growing in popularity.

External ethics committees

In Poland, the external assessment of corporate research and innovation practices focuses on medical R&D. By Polish law, all medical-scientific research involving human subjects (which undergoes procedures or follow rules of behaviour) requires an approval of the ethics committee proper for the coordinator of clinical examination and approval by the Minister of Health, granted on the basis of documentation of the project and the drug study in the Central Register of Clinical Trials (*Centralna Ewidencja Badan Medycznych*, CEBK) - an operating unit within the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products.¹³¹ In accordance with the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Law, the Minister of Health may refrain from issuing an approval. In Poland, all clinical trials are conducted in accordance with the Good Clinical Practice (GCP), which principles are indicated in the Regulation of the Minister of Health on Good Clinical Practice (2012). The document defines the duties of investigator and sponsor in the course of a clinical trial, the rules for creating the clinical study protocol, investigator brochures and agreements concerning the conduct of clinical trials.¹³²

The experiments on animals require an approval of the National Ethical Commission on Animal Experimentation or a local ethical commission.

¹²⁶ United Nations Development Programme, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland. Baseline Study*, Warsaw 2007, [pp. 48-49], http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/public/files/UNDP_baseline_PL.pdf.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Polish Centre for Accreditation, <https://www.pca.gov.pl/english/>.

¹²⁹ Polish Committee for Standardization (only in Polish), <http://www.pkn.pl/iso-26000>.

¹³⁰ Makuch L., *Normy i standardy społecznej odpowiedzialności biznesu (CSR)*, March 2011, [p. 32], <http://spolecznieodpowiedzialni.pl/files/file/vs6y70yawb8g8tthdifwzajn4jlxof.pdf>.

¹³¹ Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products, <http://en.urpl.gov.pl/en-information-about-the-office>.

¹³² INFARMA, <http://www.badaniaklinicznewpolsce.pl/o-badaniach-klinicznych/regulacje-prawne/jakim-regulacjom-i-kontroli-podlegaja-badania-kliniczne-w-polsce/>.

4.3 Industry

This section offers a discussion regarding the ways in which Polish industrial businesses engage in CSR and ethics assessment, to the extent that these relate to research and innovation. The focus of this section will primarily be on large Polish branches of multinational corporations and large fully Polish companies, as these generally have extensive and well-documented ethics evaluation systems in place. Nevertheless, Poland's economy is mostly based on small and medium size enterprises (SMEs), therefore this section will also present their engagement in social responsibility.

Small and medium-sized Polish enterprises

The SME sector is the largest employer in the Polish economy, providing jobs for more than 66% of the persons employed in Poland.¹³³ Smaller Polish industrial businesses generally do not seem to focus much on ethics assessment and CSR. In general, Polish SME's do not implement CSR as a part of their management system.¹³⁴ Some companies undertake socially responsible activities, nevertheless without knowing that it is a CSR strategy.¹³⁵ Their activity is therefore an *ad hoc* and often unconscious, not being part of a broader management strategy. The activities they undertake in this area are mostly restricted to improving relations with their business partners.¹³⁶ However, there are also cases of SMEs good practices, mostly engagement with local community. In the opinion of Polish SMEs, implementation of CSR is expensive, and therefore only large companies can afford it.¹³⁷ According to KMPG report from 2013, only 26 percent of smaller companies (employing up to 249 persons) undertake CSR activities.¹³⁸

It is worth mentioning that in 2008 the Ministry of Economy in cooperation with Det Norske Veritas and CentrumCSR.pl commissioned a CSR guide entitled "Sustainable business, a guide for small and medium-sized enterprises". The guidebook promotes principles of ISO26000.

Large Polish companies

A dynamic development of CSR in Poland has emerged as a result of influx of large multination corporations¹³⁹ and integration process with the EU. According to KMPG report on CSR in Poland from 2014, 96 percent of large and medium size companies in Poland believe that

¹³³ United Nations Development Programme, *Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland. Baseline Study*, Warsaw 2007, [p. 17], http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/public/files/UNDP_baseline_PL.pdf

¹³⁴ Ibid., [p. 55].

¹³⁵ Bauer, L., et al., "Promotion of CSR among Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises", Torun, July 2013, [p. 4], <http://www.coi.kujawsko-pomorskie.pl/zalaczniki/promotion-of-csr-among-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-english.pdf>.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Bauer, op. cit., 2013.

¹³⁸ KPMG, *Spoleczna odpowiedzialnosc biznesu: fakty a opinie. CSR oczami duzych i srednich firm w Polsce*, 2014, [p. 26], <https://www.kpmg.com/PL/pl/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/2014/Raport-Spo%C5%82eczna-odpowiedzialnosc-biznesu-fakty-a-opinie-KPMG-FOB-2014.pdf>.

¹³⁹ Ministry of Economy, *CSR Corporate Social Responsibility in Poland*, National Reform Programme, Europe 2020, [p. 2], http://www.mg.gov.pl/files/upload/10892/CSR_ENG.pdf.

business has a duty to respond to social and environmental challenges.¹⁴⁰ However, only 46 percent of large and medium size companies carry out social responsibility activities.¹⁴¹ The lead is taken by companies with a foreign capital, at the same time only 37 percent of fully Polish companies undertake CSR activities.¹⁴² Furthermore, even though three third of companies declare that non-financial reporting is necessary, only half of them in fact does that.¹⁴³

Polish companies usually equate CSR with activities for local communities, environment, and fair business practices which are expected to evoke positive perception of the company.¹⁴⁴ The human rights aspect of CSR is not considered as crucial for Polish socially responsible engagement.¹⁴⁵

Since 2007, the *Responsible Companies Ranking* is being published in Poland. The Ranking is a list of the largest companies in Poland assessed for quality management of CSR and is based on the answers provided by companies in a questionnaire. It is published by *Dziennik Gazeta Prawna* under the auspices of the Responsible Business Forum, and created by Boleslaw Roka from the Business Ethics Center at Kozminski University and verified by PwC.¹⁴⁶ The top 10 of 2015 edition lists the following companies: DB Schenker Logistics; Orange Polska; Polpharma; Coca-Cola HBC Polska sp. z o.o.; GlaxoSmithKline; Bank Handlowy w Warszawie SA; Bank Zachodni WBK; Danone Sp. z o.o.; Kompania Piwowarsk; Grupa Lotos SA, PKN Orlen.¹⁴⁷

The following is a brief example of a large Polish company's engagement with ethics, CSR and sustainability, ranked as top 8 in the Responsible Companies Ranking 2015:

*LOTOS Group SA*¹⁴⁸

LOTOS Group SA considers sustainability and responsibility for local communities and the environment as an integral part of its overall strategy. It is embedded in the organisation through its Code of Ethics and Misconduct Prevention Policy. LOTOS Group SA recognises its responsibilities in five areas: responsibility for the product; responsibility for employees; responsibility for the impact of decisions and actions on the environment, society, employees and business partners, as well as Poland's energy security (in business); the management system in the Group including responsible and ethical leadership; and the commitment to provide regular and systematic reports on CSR performance.¹⁴⁹ In 2009, LOTOS Group SA has joined the United

¹⁴⁰ KPMG, *Spoleczna odpowiedzialnosc biznesu: fakty a opinie. CSR oczami duzych i srednich firm w Polsce*, 2014, [p. 7], <https://www.kpmg.com/PL/pl/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/2014/Raport-Spo%C5%82eczna-odpowiedzialnosc-biznesu-fakty-a-opinie-KPMG-FOB-2014.pdf>.

¹⁴¹ KPMG, *Spoleczna odpowiedzialnosc biznesu: fakty a opinie. CSR oczami duzych i srednich firm w Polsce*, 2014, [p. 7], <https://www.kpmg.com/PL/pl/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/2014/Raport-Spo%C5%82eczna-odpowiedzialnosc-biznesu-fakty-a-opinie-KPMG-FOB-2014.pdf>.

¹⁴² Ibid, p. 26.

¹⁴³ KPMG, op. cit., 2014, p. 7

¹⁴⁴ KPMG, op. cit., 2014, p. 26.

¹⁴⁵ KPMG, op. cit., 2014.

¹⁴⁶ Responsible Business Forum, <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/ranking-odpowiedzialnych-firm/>.

¹⁴⁷ Dziennik Gazeta Prawna, "IX Ranking Odpowiedzialnych Firm 2015", [p. 4], <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Ranking-Odpowiedzialnych-Firm-2014.pdf>.

¹⁴⁸ LOTOS Group SA, <http://www.lotos.pl/en/>.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

Nations Global Compact and since 2008 is a strategic partner of polish CSR think-tank Responsible Business Forum. The company declares to support the approach presented in the PN-ISO 26000:2012 standard.¹⁵⁰

At the corporate level, in 2008 the Management Board adopted the comprehensive LOTOS Group Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy. In 2011, the document was reviewed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and as a result the Board has approved the Corporate Social Responsibility Strategy for 2012-2015. The bodies that are responsible for CSR activities in LOTOS Group SA are mainly: a Director for Communication and CSR, a CSR Group and 10 leaders of key CSR strategies, an ombudsman and Ethics Council.¹⁵¹

Furthermore, LOTOS Group SA publishes an integrated report with GRI status. The reports prepared by LOTOS Group SA are compliant with the third generation GRI guidelines, and cover the highest number of GRI standard disclosures (A+ Application Level).¹⁵²

5. Professional groups and associations in the R&I field

This chapter provides a discussion of the role in ethics assessment of R&I by professional associations in R&I or the ethics assessment thereof.

5.1 National associations for R&D professions

There are a number of Polish national associations for the various R&D professions, which vary in their level of involvement in ethics assessment of R&D. Some associations focus on enhancing their members' career opportunities within the profession; other, often larger, associations do much more, and engage their members on ethical issues within the profession by organizing lectures, facilitating discussions, and creating codes of conduct. Notable examples of such larger associations are the Consulting Engineers and Expert Association, the Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and Polish Sociological Association:

- Consulting Engineers and Expert Association (*Stowarzyszenie Inżynierów Doradców i Rzecoznawców*, SIDiR) brings together individuals and private companies engaged in independent engineering consultancy, such as feasibility studies, design, work supervision, management of project implementation.¹⁵³ According to the Association, “professional activities of independent consulting engineers are a prerequisite for sustainable development of society and its environment”.¹⁵⁴ The Association developed a code of ethics for its members, requiring independent consultants, engineers to have high ethical standards, excellent qualifications and knowledge of the work on international

¹⁵⁰ LOTOS Group SA., *Declarations*,

http://odpowiedzialny.lotos.pl/en/927/our_responsibility/in_business/declarations.

¹⁵¹ Jowita Twardowska, “Menadżer CSR Liderem Zmiany”, <http://www.csr.warsawpress.com/?p=888>.

¹⁵² LOTOS Group SA, *Reporting*,

http://odpowiedzialny.lotos.pl/en/924/our_responsibility/reporting/global_reporting_initiative.

¹⁵³ Consulting Engineers and Expert Association, <http://sidir.pl/o-nas/>.

¹⁵⁴ Ibid.

markets.¹⁵⁵ Furthermore, SIDiR Statute requires its members to comply with the rules of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC).¹⁵⁶

- The Chamber of Physicians and Dentists (*Naczelna Izba Lekarska*, NIL) together with the regional chambers of physicians and dentists constitute a self-government of physicians and dental practitioners.¹⁵⁷ Chambers of physicians and dentists deal with all aspects of medical practice in Poland, including the supervision of due performance of the medical profession. The Chamber functions since 1921 and developed the Medical Code of Ethics (1991). The Chamber initiated the Bioethics Center dealing with bioethical issues and propagating bioethical knowledge among practitioners. The Center offers workshops and courses on bioethics, e.g. ethics of research including human subjects.
- Polish Sociological Association (*Polskie Stowarzyszenie Socjologów*) is an organisation of Polish sociologists. The main objective of the Association is to support the development of sociology, propagating sociological knowledge within society, shape professional ethics among sociologists and represent interest of its members in the scope of their academic activity.¹⁵⁸ The Association developed a code of ethics for sociologists.

5.2 National associations for (ethics) assessors

There are a couple of Polish national associations for ethics assessment of research and development. One of them is the Polish Bioethics Society. These organisations generally contribute to ethics assessment practices by promoting, in a variety of ways, reflection and discussion on important contemporary ethics topics among members of the profession and society at large.

- Polish Bioethics Society (*Polskie Towarzystwo Bioetyczne*) works on integrating the Polish bioethical community, reaching a better understanding of ethical problems that arise as a result of developments in the biomedical sciences and finding responsible solutions for them, and addressing other problems in the philosophy of medicine and the philosophy of biology.¹⁵⁹ They conduct biomedical, legal, and socio-philosophical research, engage in educational activities, public communication, mediation and formation of public opinion, and provide advice and consultation in cooperation with state and local government institutions, as well as with non-governmental organisations.¹⁶⁰

Furthermore, at the local level there are organisations and institutes, for instance the Interdisciplinary Center for Ethics (*Interdyscyplinarne Centrum Etyki*) bringing together representatives of several university faculties.¹⁶¹ The Center was established in 2007 “to initiate, organize, and coordinate teaching and research activities in applied and professional ethics, particularly in the areas of bioethics and business ethics”. The Center is formally a part of the Philosophical Faculty, however it functions as an interdisciplinary enterprise.

¹⁵⁵ Consulting Engineers and Expert Association, <http://sidir.pl/o-nas/>

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ Chamber of Physicians and Dentists, <http://www.nil.org.pl/dzialalnosc/orodek-bioetyki>.

¹⁵⁸ Polish Sociological Association, <http://www.pts.org.pl/strona/en/165/the-polish-sociological-association>.

¹⁵⁹ Polish Bioethics Society, http://www.ptb.org.pl/cele_en.html.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ The Interdisciplinary Center for Ethics, <http://www.incert.uj.edu.pl/index.php?l=en&i=0&p=2>.

6 CSOs

This chapter discusses the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in ethics assessment of R&I. First, it discusses the CSO landscape, and then reviews the role of CSOs in ethics assessment.

6.1 The CSO landscape

This section will provide a review of the CSO landscape in Poland. An overview will be given of national legislation for CSOs, major CSOs and their societal roles, funding sources of CSOs, and the role of CSOs in research and innovation.

National legislation on CSOs

The national legislation relating specifically to CSOs in Poland includes the following:

- The act on public benefit activity and volunteerism of April 24, 2003. The law contains the legal definition of a non-governmental organisation, which states that non-governmental organisations are corporate and non-corporate entities, which according to separate legal provisions have capacity to perform acts in law, such as foundations and associations, but neither form part of the public finance sector as defined in the Act on Public Finance nor operate for profit;
- The act on foundations of 6 April 1984;
- The law on associations of 7 April 1989.

Funding sources of CSOs

The most common source of funds are membership fees. In most cases CSOs are also financed from various grants and subsidies from the local and central governments. Many CSOs also receive funding from foreign public sources, especially the EU funds. Some funding is provided by individuals in the form of tax deduction, as well as individual donors. Some CSOs fund their activities from market sources, i.e. economic activities.¹⁶²

Major CSOs and their societal roles

Religious organisations:

- The Roman Catholic Church (*Polski Kościół Katolicki*);
- Polish Orthodox Church (*Polski Autokefaliczny Kościół Prawosławny*);
- Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (*Kościół Ewangelicko-Augsburski w Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej*);
- The Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland (*Związek Gmin Wyznaniowych Żydowskich w RP*).

¹⁶² Central Statistical Office, “The third sector in Poland: associations, foundations, faith-based charities, professional and business associations, employers’ organizations in 2012”, Warszawa 2014.

Environmental organisations:

- WWF Poland¹⁶³ – a Polish branch of the international organisation dealing with protection and restoration of the environment;
- Greenpeace Poland¹⁶⁴ – a Polish branch of an organisation striving toward the protection of natural environment;
- The Polish Climate Coalition (*Koalicja Klimatyczna*)¹⁶⁵ – an association of 23 organisations dealing with climate protection.

Civil liberties/human rights organisations:

- Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (*Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka*)¹⁶⁶ – it promotes development of culture based on freedom and human rights both in Poland and abroad;
- Amnesty International¹⁶⁷ – a Polish branch of the international organisation aimed at preventing abuses of human rights;
- Panoptikon Foundation (*Fundacja Panoptikon*)¹⁶⁸ – a foundation aimed at protecting fundamental rights with regard to new technologies;
- Stefan Batory Foundation (*Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego*)¹⁶⁹ – it strives to improve the quality of Polish democracy and strengthening the role of civic institutions in public life;
- The Committee for Children Rights Protection (*Komitet Ochrony Praw Dziecka*)¹⁷⁰ – an organisation protecting the rights of children;
- Nobody's Children Foundation (*Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje*)¹⁷¹ – organisation working toward the goals of protecting children from abuse and providing help for abused children, their families, and their caregivers.

Consumer organisations:

- The Federation of Consumers (*Federacja Konsumentów*)¹⁷² – an organisation aimed at protecting the consumers and providing them with free legal aid;
- The Association of Polish Consumers (*Stowarzyszenie Konsumentów Polskich*)¹⁷³ – an organisation, whose goal is to provide consumers with a free legal aid and to raise their awareness in terms of consumer rights.

Humanitarian aid organisations:

¹⁶³ <http://www.wwf.pl/>

¹⁶⁴ <http://www.greenpeace.org/poland/pl/>

¹⁶⁵ <http://www.koalicjaklimatyczna.org/lang/ang/>

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.hfhr.pl/en/>

¹⁶⁷ <http://amnesty.org.pl/>

¹⁶⁸ <https://en.panoptikon.org/>

¹⁶⁹ <http://www.batory.org.pl/en>

¹⁷⁰ <http://kopd.pl/>

¹⁷¹ <http://fdn.pl/>

¹⁷² <http://www.federacja-konsumentow.org.pl/>

¹⁷³ <http://www.konsumenci.org/>

- Polish Humanitarian Action (*Polska Akcja Humanitarna*)¹⁷⁴ – an organisation promoting humanitarian values;
- Polish Red Cross (*Polski Czerwony Krzyż*)¹⁷⁵ – its mission is to provide humanitarian aid during armed conflicts.

Animal rights organisations:

- Polish Society for Animal Care (*Polskie Towarzystwo Opieki nad Zwierzętami*)¹⁷⁶ – an independent organisation aimed at protecting homeless and abused animals;
- Gaja Club (*Klub Gaja*)¹⁷⁷ – an organisation aimed at raising the awareness of the public with regard to protection of animals and the environment.

Disease charity and patient/disabled rights organisations:

- Polish Forum of People with Disabilities (*Polskie Forum Osób Niepełnosprawnych*)¹⁷⁸ – the association of Polish organisations dealing with the protection of rights of people with disabilities;
- Polish Society for the Visually Impaired (*Polski Związek Niewidomych*)¹⁷⁹ – an organisation protecting the rights of visually impaired people;
- Polish Society of Multiple Sclerosis (*Polskie Towarzystwo Stwardnienia Rozsianego*)¹⁸⁰ – an organisation striving toward improving the quality of life of people with multiple sclerosis.

Labour unions:

- The Independent and Self-Governing Trade Union Solidarność (*NSZZ Solidarność*)¹⁸¹ – its aim is to defend the rights and dignity of the employees.

Role of CSOs in research and innovation

In 2012, there were 83 500 organisations active in the non-governmental sector, i.e. third sector (69 500 associations, 8 500 foundations, 3 600 business and professional self-government organisations, 1 800 civil religious organisations). Nine percent of the organisations work in the field of “education, upbringing and scientific research”. Among these organisations the largest group is involved in providing continuous education, trainings as well as running primary schools and kindergartens.¹⁸² There is no statistical information how many organisations focus specifically on scientific research.

¹⁷⁴ http://www.pah.org.pl/?set_lang=en

¹⁷⁵ <http://www.pck.pl/index.html>

¹⁷⁶ http://www.toz.pl/?menu=o_nas

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.klubgaja.pl/aktualnosci>

¹⁷⁸ <http://www.pfon.org/>

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.pzn.org.pl/pl/o-nas.html>

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.ptsr.org.pl/pl/>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.solidarnosc.org.pl/en/>

¹⁸² Central Statistical Office, „The third sector in Poland: associations, foundations, faith-based charities, professional and business associations, employers’ organizations in 2012”, Warszawa 2014.

6.2 The role of CSO's in ethics assessment

This section will provide a discussion of the roles of CSOs as stakeholders in public discussions, as participants in ethics assessment panels and procedures, and as agents who engage in ethics assessment. CSOs' desires regarding their role in ethics assessment, and problems in bringing that role about, will also be examined.

CSO as stakeholders in public discussions

There are a number of active watchdog organisations in Poland who take part in societal debates. Some of them comment on the developments in science and technological innovation. One example of this type of organisations is the PANOPTYKON Foundation whose aim is to protect freedom and human rights in the surveillance society.

The Foundation works on the following topics: health surveillance, phone surveillance, law enforcement, urban surveillance, internet surveillance, and video surveillance.¹⁸³ In each of these fields technological innovation plays a significant role (e.g. medical databases, mobile phones and tracking techniques, CCTV cameras, Internet applications, GPS etc.).

CSO as participants in ethics assessment panels and procedures

CSOs are represented in the ethics committees on animal experimentation. The involvement of CSOs representatives is also included in the newly adopted Act of 15 January 2015 on Protection of Animals Used for Scientific and Educational Purposes, which implements the provisions of the Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. CSOs whose statutory aim is the protection of animals will be among members of both the central National Ethics Committee as well as local ethics committees. Moreover the inclusion of patient organisations has been guaranteed.

Representatives of CSOs have also been among members of the Panel on Corporate Social Responsibility (*Zespół ds. Społecznej Odpowiedzialności Przedsiębiorstw*), which is an auxiliary body for corporate social responsibility established by the Minister of Economy.¹⁸⁴

CSOs as agents who engage in ethics assessment themselves

CSOs do not have special units that deal with ethical issues. Few CSOs would term their activities "ethics assessment", however the element of assessing how the implementation of some technologies may affect the basic rights is an element of their activities. Moreover, ethical issues and concerns of scientific integrity lie at the heart of some CSOs.

Watchdog CSOs make use of different methods. With regard to gathering data – they use freedom of information requests, monitor the activities of the government, and participate in meetings with representatives of institutions and business.

¹⁸³ <https://en.panoptykon.org/topics>

¹⁸⁴ <http://www.mg.gov.pl/node/10892>

At the level of advocacy, CSOs prepare opinions on new provisions and take part in meetings with representatives of the government or the parliament. CSOs address issues both at the national and European levels.

7 Discussion

In Poland, ethics assessment is performed mainly by regional bioethics committees that oversee medical experiments and local ethics committees for animal experiments. Research funding organisations rely on approval obtained from those bodies by researchers. There is no top-down structure to oversee other types of research, e.g. in social sciences. Some universities have established their own ethics committees for the purpose of overseeing research conducted in other areas.

There are several bodies that are responsible for research integrity. They function either at the central level and advise the government, or within the structures of universities and conduct disciplinary proceedings in cases of scientific misconduct. Moreover the Ethics in Science Commission at Polish Academy of Sciences may issue opinions on its own initiative as well as in cases referred to it. The opinion is binding.

Ethical assessment of private R&I mostly concerns corporate social responsibility (CSR). CSR is a relatively new idea in Poland, existing in the public discourse since recently, mostly thanks to the influx of multinational corporations, integration within the EU, and therefore cooperation with trade partners and sectoral organisations in the EU Member States. At present, various organisations including companies, branch organisations, employers organisations as well as non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and government institutions engage in the development of CSR in Poland in various ways. The public administration engages in strengthening social responsibility in the Polish economy. Nevertheless, it seems that these activities have not been undertaken in a systematic manner being a part of a long-term strategy. The public authorities promote socially responsible entrepreneurship taking a bottom-up approach through supporting corporate and multi-stakeholders initiatives, such as competitions and public-private partnerships e.g. the Centers for Entrepreneurship and Development. The polish approach to CSR seems to be based on a variety of initiatives, mostly voluntary, soft-law instruments.

The lead in CSR engagement is taken by large companies, particularly companies with a foreign capital as part of their global sustainability or CSR strategy. SMEs play an important role in the Polish economy, nevertheless they do not structurally and methodically engage in CSR practices.

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