



# THE ROBERT SCHUMAN FOUNDATION OF POLAND



## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF 2010



*The Schuman Parade* - the largest event organised by the Robert Schuman Foundation of Poland

## Contacting the Foundation

The Robert Schuman Foundation of Poland

Al. Ujazdowskie 37/5; 00-540 Warsaw, Poland

Tel. +48 22 6212161, fax: +48 22 6297214 (we speak English and Polish)

[poczta@schuman.org.pl](mailto:poczta@schuman.org.pl) (we respond in English and Polish).

[www.schuman.org.pl](http://www.schuman.org.pl)

## General description of actions

The Robert Schuman Foundation of Poland was established in 1991. It was established by people connected with the changes in the political system in 1989-1990 including the former Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki. The name Robert Schuman was chosen by the Founders as a reference to the French-German politics of the 1950s, to the model of unification turned to in the future and to the goal of building a united Europe.

*The reopening of Europe to Poland and Poland to Europe will be a long and complicated process. In order to see it through, much combined and individual strength is needed. Basing our work on the symbolic figure of Robert Schuman - a man of great vision and great actions, a thinker and statesman, an economic activist and one of the Founding Fathers of a new Europe - we want to take part in this process. Robert Schuman deeply believed that the world, Europe, and human values cannot be divided and must return to unity. We share this belief and we hope that the Foundation named after him will contribute to building this unity - Tadeusz Mazowiecki, March 26th, 1991.*

The Robert Schumann Foundation of Poland is a non-governmental and partisan organisation. Its goal is to mobilise citizens to engage in the process of uniting Europe. The Foundation is developing programs which inform people about the advantage of the changes provided by membership in the EU and co-operates with many societies in the Union and outside of it in order to better understand and respect shared democratic values.

The Robert Schumann Foundation of Poland, within its statutory activity, carries out educational programs and in its work concentrates on three main issues.

- I. **European Program** The goal of this is to promote the idea of European integration and European education. Within this component, the Foundation organises conferences, seminars, workshops, discussions, events and celebrations on themes connected to

European integration. The result of these actions is the expansion of knowledge of the citizens of the countries of the European Union about European themes, including them in debates about the future of Europe, directly engaging in activities promoting European integration and active European citizenship.

- II. **Civic Program.** This focuses on societal motivation of citizens and promoting democratic and civic values. The goal of this component is to encourage active participation in civil society, inclusion in public life, in activities on behalf of the local community, volunteer work. The projects are mainly aimed at youth and teachers. The Foundation tries to give these activities a Europe-wide dimension by engaging volunteers not only from Poland, but also from other European countries as well as from beyond the European Union.
  
- III. **Eastern Program.** The goal of this program is to share experiences of the process of European integration as well as societal, political, and economic transformation of the countries of eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus that do not belong to the European Union.

## Summary of the most important activities of 2010.

At the beginning of last year (2009/2010) in all programs of the Foundation, approx. 20,000 people took part from all over Poland as well as from Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine. Many programs and events were carried out locally, outside of the larger urban centres - the Foundation's actions reached over 100 towns in Poland and several dozen in other European countries.

### **European Program**

#### **Polish European Meeting and Schuman Parade**

The Polish European Meeting (PEM) and Schuman Parade are the most well known events which are organised every year by the Robert Schuman Foundation of Poland for Europe Day. The goal of this project is to promote the idea of European integration and to mobilise Europeans to be active citizens as well as promoting the European Union in Poland and presenting our country as a country positively disposed to the unification of the continent. In the event, which ran from May 5- 8, 2010, approx. 10,000 people took part from all over Poland as well as the other EU countries.

The Schuman Parade takes the form of a colourful, joyful and open festival taking place in the old part of Warsaw. Participants gathered on Plac Zamkowy, where residents of the city could stroll among the waving flags of Poland, the EU and the individual member states and the young people dressed up as various European historical and literary figures. The high point of the Parade was the European Village in which guests could get information and news about the functions of the European Union and NGOs.

#### **European Debates and Seminars**

The Robert Schumann Foundation of Poland set itself the goal of initiating discussion on themes connected with European integration amongst non-governmental organisations, the media, politicians, experts and other opinion-forming circles. The Foundation organises recurring conferences and seminars on a wide variety of themes connected with the process of European integration and the situation in individual member states. For 2010, 45 academic seminars intended mainly for students as well as several conferences and over 20 informational meetings about the Lisbon Treaty were planned. A supplement to the debates is the publication of a reference guide about the changes brought about by the Treaty.

### **Promotion of active use of European funds**

The main element of activities is a cycle of urban games for youth. The project shows local communities that European funds are also available in their region and can contribute to the development of their immediate surroundings. The task of the game's participants is to *examine* what the most important problems are in the region as well as in what way using European funds can contribute to solving them. Participants split up into thematic groups and monitor specific areas such as transportation, recreation, social aid or education. Using various, dynamic forms of activities in the area, they diagnose the most important needs for development of the immediate surroundings. The closing of the urban games is a local event (in the form of a mini-festival or conference). Promotional inserts for local press are also made especially for the occasion.

### **Eurocampaign**

In autumn of 2009, the Foundation began to implement a several year long program whose goal is to prepare Polish society for bringing in the Euro currency. The initial phase of the program concentrated mainly on training promoters and experts who will in the future be able to lead local informational and educational campaigns about the shared currency. By the middle of 2010 in the framework of *Eurocampaign*, two events took place: the conference *Eurocampaign - European Experiences* and *Euroschool with Schuman*.

The conference *Eurocampaign - European Experiences* took place November 26th in Warsaw. The main theme of the meeting was presenting examples of informational-educational campaigns about the Euro in other countries where the shared currency has been introduced (or where there have been attempts at introducing it). Experts and practitioners from the following countries took part: Malta, Cyprus, Slovakia, Germany and Denmark. Alongside the foreign guests, there was a panel consisting of Polish experts representing various sectors who will be engaged in the process of joining Poland to the Euro zone. Within *Euroschool with Schuman*, a group of people (chosen on the basis of an open access recruitment process) received comprehensive training on a range of themes concerning the Euro (this task was led by experts from the Ministry of Finance). After enriching their knowledge at the next steps of training (2010), these people will be able to actively take part in the information campaign on this theme (e.g. through participating in debates, discussions).

### **Internet Games**

The Foundation makes use of modern and innovative methods for European education. Thanks to internet games run by the portal [www.treaty.pl](http://www.treaty.pl) (autumn 2010), every citizen of the

European Union can become a virtual Euro-deputy. This enables them to submit plans for legal acts, vote, participate in work of individual departments, make contact with residents of other countries and make friends. The whole game is based on new regulations binding in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty came into effect. Thanks to the game, every European can feel for themselves how the EU works.

### **Civil Program.**

#### **European Clubs**

European Clubs are informal groups (most often of youths) carrying out their own local initiatives promoting European values. European Clubs are one of the most effective examples of active European citizenship and engagement of citizens in European issues. In 2010, the Foundation led the following activities for European Clubs:

- Europe-wide meetings of European Clubs. Such meetings enable representatives of European Clubs in many EU countries to meet and undertake shared tasks.
- Database of European Clubs. The Foundation runs a database of European Clubs which facilitates contact between clubs and makes it possible to invite each other to various events by a third organisation. The database is updated on the basis of information sent by the Clubs and currently contains around 2,000 records.
- Training of young leaders - promoters. The Foundation runs training for volunteers and students on the theme of the Clubs' activities and supports their actions. Thanks to this, the trained people can support Clubs' local activities and European organisations in their own regions e.g. by volunteering.
- Visits of workers and volunteers of the Foundation to European Clubs and visits of the Clubs to the Foundation's headquarters. The Foundation regularly sends its volunteers and workers to meet with regional European Clubs. The possibility of these meetings is highly valuable for members of the clubs who in their hometown, in small towns, have limited possibilities to participate in this type of meeting and consultation. During the delegation, our representatives present and advise about the type of actions the European Club could undertake and also run European lessons for youth and teachers on selected themes connected with Europe. A significant part of the delegation has been foreign volunteers from the European Voluntary Service working at the Foundation. This allows for meeting and discussions about different traditions, history, and customs which promotes inter-cultural dialog in local settings. The

aforementioned European lessons are also conducted at the Foundation's headquarters if a European Club from another region is visiting Warsaw. In 2010, meetings are planned with around 3,000 Clubs.

### **Competition *How to reform my father's farm?***

The competition is intended for graduating students or those about to graduate secondary school, in particular, those from agricultural schools. The participants' main task in the competition is to prepare a comprehensive project of modernisation of a chosen farm. The prize for the winners is courses at 9 reputable Polish post-secondary schools. Another element of the program is for young farmers to meet in the context of using EU funds for agricultural modernisation.

### **Safe Mountains**

The main goal of this project is to encourage Poles (particularly youth) to take safe and cultural tourist trips to mountains; mainly to encourage active use of free time in the mountains with fewer accidents and limiting the negative influence of tourism on nature.

The most important element of the program is multimedia e-learning on the internet. Since the beginning of December 2009, there is free access to anyone interested. Registration to take part in the training can be done at the site [www.gopr.com.pl](http://www.gopr.com.pl). *Safe Mountains* e-learning is currently one of the most modern multimedia training programs available to everyone and the only such comprehensive tool available to everyone for preparing for safe mountain tourism. Many graphic elements, pictures and films are used in the production of the e-learning program. Thanks to this, it is characterised not only by a high level of content, but also an attractive form which encourages people to use it and attracts participants in the theme of mountain tourism in Poland. The preparation of content for e-learning was monitored and coordinated by rescue workers of the Volunteer Mountain Rescue Service. The e-learning training consists of two main parts - one about winter and one about summer. Each of the two parts contains 7 lessons. Together they consist of over 300 screens. The total duration of the training (without breaks) is approx. 4-5 hours. The training has the form of image-sound-film, i.e. it consists of pictures, graphics, films, the text of the training is read out loud by a narrator. E-learning has been supplemented with auxiliary projects: training with the aid of video transmission, meetings with students from mountaineering clubs, training for supervisors of youth excursions.

### **European Voluntary Service**

The Robert Schumann Foundation of Poland is one of the largest organisations in Poland coordinating direct projects with the European Voluntary Service. It also works to send Polish volunteers to EU

countries and partner countries as well as inviting their citizens to do volunteer work in various regions of Poland. All programs last from 6-12 months and are run by non-governmental or social organisations or educational or social societies. The volunteer service is not only support for a given organisation, it is above all an excellent occasion for a young person to get to know another EU country, its language, traditions and culture. Additionally, societies taking in volunteers can meet with experiences and traditions of another region of Europe. Direct, long term contact is not limited to occasional meetings, but requires cooperation during everyday work activities and spending free time together. Thanks to this, the project excellently contributes to the development of intercultural dialog and better acquaintanceship between Europeans and thanks to this, finding shared values and increasing tolerance for cultural differences.

In 2010, around 40 people from many European countries (both from within and outside of the EU) took part in volunteer programs coordinated by the Foundation.

### **Eastern Program.**

#### **Forum tri.net.pl**

The Polish-German-Ukrainian forum tri.net is a project for non-governmental organisations interested in undertaking trilateral cooperation. Taking into consideration external factors that make three-way exchange of experience difficult (e.g. changing socio-political situation, knowledge of foreign languages, visas, cost of travel) it is necessary to create conditions and tools which will make it easier to undertake cooperation and thus carry out international projects. The direct goal of the Tri.net networking organisation that we have proposed is to create these tools and conditions for them to meet each other, to present a possible atmosphere and conditions for cooperation, showing potential financial sources and possibilities to solve anticipated difficulties and effectively carry out joint projects.

#### **Projects in the Caucasus**

The Foundation carries out projects in cooperation with partners in Georgia and Armenia. These most often have the goal of supporting local social initiatives and the majority of activities are supported by volunteers from the countries of the European Union.

## Partner Foundations

The Robert Schumann Foundation of Poland has ongoing cooperation with many organisations of a similar nature working all over Europe.

The Foundation's activity is co-financed by the European Union within the program *Europe for Citizens* 2007-2013.



Telekomunikacja Polska (Polish Telecom) is a Strategic Partner of the Foundation.

Our most important partners also include:

