

CONTRIBUTION FROM POLAND TO THE NOTIFICATION ON DECISION X/16 ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND COOPERATION (2010-077)

In Poland, technology transfer as well as cooperation and capacity building with regard to biodiversity cut across several sectors including environment protection and management, education, R&D activities as well as private sector development. Capacity building and technology issues on biodiversity are related to implementation of the principles of sustainable development according to the Environmental Law of 27 April 2001, which assures creating and updating national environmental policy every four years. Environmental policy is a strategic document, which *inter alia* specifies the direction of development of the system of environmentally friendly solutions and incentives. Poland's position is that the main stress in environmental issues should be laid on activities that would be favourable both to the economy and the environment.

In the submission concerning "*information on national, regional and international activities which support, facilitate, regulate or promote technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation of relevance to the Convention, such as:*

- i. Support for technology needs assessments and regulations, including capacity-building for technology assessments;*
- ii. Pertinent capacity-building and training courses;*
- iii. Pertinent seminars and symposia;*
- iv. Information dissemination;*
- v. Other implementation activities including match-making and catalysing or facilitating the establishment of research-centre networks, alliances or consortia, joint ventures, twinning arrangements, or other proven mechanisms, on technologies of relevance to the Convention."* Poland would like to refer to the following examples of activities:

i. Support for technology needs assessments and regulations, including capacity-building for technology assessment

1) Poland is the associate of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Network (EPTA; <http://www.eptanetwork.org/> [*Poland site*]). The Bureau of Research (Biuro Analiz Sejmowych, BAS) works on a broad spectrum of areas including constitutional and legal matters, environmental, social and economic issues as well as technology assessment. The Bureau assists the Polish Parliament and its committees in organizing seminars and conferences as well as publishes research reports (e.g. periodical '*Studia BAS*') and other publications on the subjects related to the areas of its activities (<http://www.eptanetwork.org/> [*Poland site*]). At the present time, there is going to be launched a project concerning monitoring the effects of current and future trends in technology development ("*Infrastructure in Poland*", planned for realization from 1 June 2011 to 30 April 2012). The results obtained will provide an overview of current infrastructure developments in Poland with a special emphasis on environmental impacts of new technologies in the infrastructure of energy, transportation, water management, telecommunication and waste management.

2) The project "*Development of technology transfer methods in environment protection in the Mazovia region*" has been realized by the Centre for Technology Transfer at Warsaw University of Technology (1 January, 2010 -30 April, 2011; co-financed by the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism within Priority 9: "*Regional policy and cross-border activities*"). The project comprised analyses of the current status and identification of needs in the area of development, adaptation, modernization and

implementation of research results as well as determination of their potential of implementation in Poland's economy. There were assessed expectations of scientists as well as industry representatives for technology transfer in the protection of environment at a national level. Project participants were acquainted with best practices used in the Norwegian system of technology transfer. The results obtained can enable enhanced cooperation between Poland and Norway on technology transfer including dissemination of information on applied methods and processes (www.ctt.pw.edu.pl/en/index.php).

ii. Pertinent capacity-building and training courses

1) The mission of the Rural Development Foundation is "to support economic, social, cultural, educational and pro-environmental initiatives of rural and small town inhabitants, thus contributing to all-sided, sustainable development of rural Poland". The program e-Vita (2008) addressed improving effectiveness with which inhabitants of the countryside use information technologies played an important role in building technologically savvy rural society. Other fields of the Foundation's activities concerned for example the projects on supporting construction of small hydroelectric and wind power stations, development of pro-ecological rural tourism in Eastern Poland as well as restoring/preserving species and habitat diversity in rural areas

(<http://www.fvw.org.pl/english/raport%202008%20eng.pdf>).

2) The project: "Developing joint information platform and training system in Poland's National Parks" aims at exchanging experiences among Polish national parks' employees (launched in 2009, co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and European Union funds within the Programme Infrastructure and Environment). The project embraces:

- creating a website (parkinarodowe.edu.pl) with information on each Poland's national park aiming at sharing knowledge and experiences;
- conducting series of trainings,
- organizing workshops (annual meetings on: tourism, nature monitoring, education; the meetings include 3 sessions: presentation of current problems, discussion and finding solutions);
- publishing guidebooks for park staff;
- publishing materials from trainings and workshops;
- updating library collections in the parks.

3) The project: Model CTT was carried out (1 January, 2009 - 30 November, 2010) by the Centre for Technology Transfer at Warsaw University of Technology, Association for Innovation Eastern Poland and Centre for Innovation and Technology Transfer at University of Warmia and Mazury with the aim to improve cooperation between R&D departments and experts on development of the model Centre for Technology Transfer. The project included improvement of knowledge of R&D professionals on innovation support and technology transfer models in Poland (www.MODELOWE.ctt.pw.edu.pl).

iii. Pertinent seminars and symposia

1) Poland's Ministry of Science and Higher Education is responsible for co-ordination and stimulation of research on new technologies and support of international co-operation in this area. Representatives of Poland participate in domestic and international conferences, symposia, and seminars relevant to technology transfer and cooperation (most recent sample

examples: *International Symposium on Biodiversity Sciences Genome, Evolution and Environment*, held on 31 July - 3 August, 2010 in Japan; *XVIII International Exhibition "Green is Life"*, held on 27 August, 2010 in Poland; *7th International Conference on Phytotechnologies*, held on 26-29 September, 2010 in Italy; *First Congress of Agricultural Sciences "Science for Practice" "Future of the agri-food sector and rural areas"* held on 14-15 May, 2009 in Poland. Many results of research are presented on websites accessible to the general public (for example: Proceedings of the *1st International Conference and Workshop "Mission Biodiversity"*, held on 1-3 September 2009 in Poland).

2) Since 2005, the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland in cooperation with the European Patent Organization, the European Commission, Krakow University of Technology and Jagiellonian University in Krakow has organized annual symposiums "*Industrial property in innovative economy*". This is an important forum for exchanging experiences in the area of pro-innovative policies. Participants represent Polish and foreign universities, as well as local administration, regional and national patent offices and various technology transfer facilities (www.uprp.pl/English).

iv. Information dissemination

1) The Polish Network of Technology Transfer and Innovation Support for SMEs (STIM), the principle of which is to strengthen the potential of existing centres through hiring and training staff, developing and testing new services as well as creating a national network of technology transfer experts. Among other activities, STIM assists technology transfer centres to become successful members of the National Innovation Network (KSI) which comprises the institutions providing innovation-related advisory services (www.uott.uw.edu.pl).

2) The Polish Technology Platforms (PTPs) (<http://en.kpk.gov.pl>) aim to create effective public and private partnership for implementation of already prepared strategies. Technology Platforms are one of the milestones of the European Union 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development. Currently 28 technology platforms operate in Poland. The activities of PTPs are supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of National Defence and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. Among the participants of PTPs there are key industrial partners, enterprises, economy chambers and agencies as well as scientific institutions and universities. The objectives of PTPs include *inter alia*:

- integration of key actors around defined strategies and involvement of all stakeholders,
- establishment of strong links between research and industry,
- mobilization of public, private, national and European financial resources (especially from industry),
- dialogue with society
- promotion of R&D activities.

3) The Centres of Technology Transfer (CTTs) operate as parts of Polish universities of technology. The activities of CTTs concentrate on supporting implementation of research results and conducting workshops, consultations and initiating cooperation between science and industry. (<http://en.kpk.gov.pl>)

4) The initiative of the Forest Research Institute (Warsaw, Poland) and the Polish State Forests – “Winter Forest School” focuses on promotion of up to date knowledge on forests. The seminars which provide a platform for debates of forest scientists, practitioners and decision makers are organized annually. A broad scope of topics has been discussed during various thematic sessions, such as *inter alia*: technology for formation of multi-functional forests (e.g. inventive silvicultural practices), innovative approaches to nature conservation in managed forests as well as promotion of education and consumer information (<http://www.ibles.pl>).

5) Numerous foundations, associations and institutions in Poland disseminate information on scientific support for Polish agriculture, especially for the agri-food sector and rural areas. Various events, trainings, workshops, seminars, Internet websites provide information on the latest technological, technical and organizational solutions.

v. Other implementation activities including match-making and catalysing or facilitating the establishment of research-centre networks, alliances or consortia, joint ventures, twinning arrangements, or other proven mechanisms, on technologies of relevance to the Convention at a regional and national level.

1) INTERREG is the initiative of the European Union which aims to stimulate interregional cooperation in the European Union. The current programme is INTERREG IV concerns the period 2007–2013 and intends to promote cross-frontier, international and inter-regional cooperation. INTERREG consists of three components:

- component A – cross-frontier cooperation, the aim of which is to develop community centres on frontier areas (e.g. creating common cross-frontier environmental protection system, supporting initiatives of local communities);
- component B – international cooperation, the aim of which is sustainable and coordinated spatial development;
- component C – inter-regional cooperation, the aim of which is to develop a network of connectedness in regional policy areas and exchange of information on regional development.

2) The LIFE+ programme is another EU's funding instrument for the protection of environment. It aims at contributing to the implementation, updating and development of EU's environmental policy and legislation by co-financing pilot or demonstration projects with European added value (e.g. innovative or demonstration projects which contribute to the implementation of EU's policy of halting the loss of biodiversity).

3) Designation of Transboundary Protected Areas (TBAs) in Poland is a result of relevant agreements between Poland and its neighbours. TBAs require continuous cooperation and knowledge exchange towards developing technologies to manage protected regions in the best possible way. Poland is a member of the EUROPARC Federation which is “is the leading European organisation for protected areas bringing together dedicated professionals, government agencies, decision makers, and supporters to increase effectiveness in conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage on land and sea for the well-being and benefit of current and future generations” (<http://www.europarc.org>). One of the training courses conducted by EUROPARC Consulting was held in Poland (Pieniny Mts. National Park) in May, 2010.

4) Activities of the Polish Centres of Excellence (PCEs) (established in Poland in the frame of 5th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development of the European Union) focus *inter alia* on reinforcement of the national innovation system through creating strong research/implementation structures (<http://en.kpk.gov.pl>).