

POLISH NATIONAL OECD CONTACT POINT – 2021 ACTIVITY REPORT

The OECD National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (OECD NCP) performs the following tasks:

- (1) promotes the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* (OECD MNEs Guidelines) and other OECD responsible business standards;
- (2) conducts proceedings in cases arising from notifications received by the OECD NCP, pertaining to potential breaches of the OECD MNEs Guidelines.

The OECD MNEs Guidelines set the standard for responsible business conduct (RBC). The recommendations contained therein concern employee relations, work safety, respect for human rights, as well as environmental issues, access to information, protection of consumer interests, and tax settlements. They also indicate due diligence principles for the activities of multinational enterprises.

Where the activities of a multinational enterprise breach the OECD MNEs Guidelines, it is possible to submit a notification to the OECD NCP. After examining the case and accepting it for processing, the OECD NCP may propose its good offices to the parties or mediation proceedings.

In 2021, the Polish OECD NCP was functioning in the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy (MDFRP), within the structure of the Minister's Office responsible for direct support of the high-level management of the Ministry, as well as disseminating trends and standards of responsible business among enterprises and other organizations.

Until September 2021, the Polish OECD NCP consisted of three employees of the Minister's Office, MDFRP, including: the Head of the Unit for CSR and Cooperation with NGOs, the Counsellor of the Minister from that Unit, and the Head of the Unit for Coordination of the Government Legislative Process.

Due to changes in the structure of the MDFRP, from September 13, 2021, the Polish OECD NCP operates as part of the works of the Unit for Coordination of the Government Legislative Process and CSR, and it consists of two people: the Counsellor and the Head of the Unit for Coordination of the Government Legislative Process and CSR.

This report summarizes the activities carried out by the OECD NCP in 2021, including:

- 1) promotion of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises;
- 2) promotional activities of the Polish OECD NCP in 2021;
- 3) OECD NCP for the financial sector;
- 4) participation of OECD NCP representatives in other events;
- 5) OECD NCP at meetings of the Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Advisory Board;
- 6) notifications.

PROMOTION OF THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

The main channel for disseminating the responsible business standards developed by the OECD is the [OECD NCP website](#) operated on the official website of the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy.

The OECD NCP website is available in two language versions: [Polish](#) and [English](#).

Some of the OECD NCP documents are also available in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#).

The tabs on the OECD NCP website:

[OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises](#)

Describes the OECD MNEs Guidelines and provides links to download the document

[Due Diligence Guidance](#)

Describes the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct and provides links to download the document.

[Sectoral Guidances](#)

Provides a description and links to download OECD documents for the following sectors:

- extractive sector,
- conflict minerals sector,
- textile, clothing and footwear sector,
- agriculture sector,
- financial sector.

[Activities of the OECD NCP](#)

Contains a description of webinars, conferences, and meetings organized by the OECD NCP, and international events in which the Polish OECD NCP participated. At the bottom of this page, there is a "Materiały" section, allowing to download, among others, the annual reports on the activities of the Polish OECD NCP.

[OECD NCP network](#)

Contains a description of the OECD National Contact Points Network and a link to the OECD website, leading to individual OECD NCPs operating in 50 countries in 2021.

[Conduct procedure before the NCP](#)

Contains links to download the documents of the Polish OECD NCP:

[Conduct procedure before the NCP](#)

[Chart of conduct procedure before Poland's NCP](#)

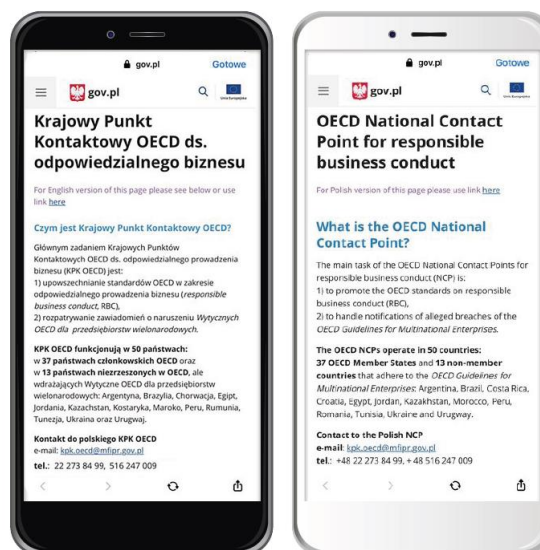
[Template for notification concerning a potential breach of the OECD MNEs Guidelines](#)

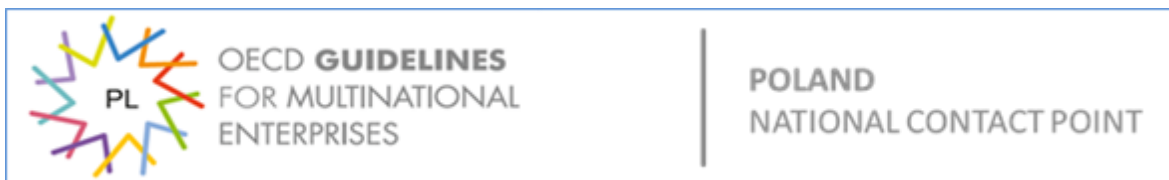
[Notifications](#)

Contains links for downloading documents related to proceedings conducted by the Polish OECD NCP (Initial Assessments, Final Assessments, Monitoring Memos, etc.)

[Archive 2001-2015](#)

Contains [links](#) for downloading the annual reports on the activities of OECD NCP in years 2001-2015





The OECD NCP website also features a brochure describing the OECD standards for responsible business and the tasks of the OECD NCP – available in [Polish](#) and in [English](#).



PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE POLISH OECD NCP IN 2021

In 2021, the Polish KPK OCED paid great attention to the promotion of the principles of responsible business in the context of the planned new legal requirements in the EU in the field of non-financial reporting in ESG areas related to sustainable development, i.e. in the area of environmental (E), social (S) and corporate (G) governance.

On March 10, 2021, the Polish OECD NCP participated in a consultation meeting organized by the Responsible Business Forum in connection with the [ESG reporting Guidelines. Guide for issuers](#), drawn up by the Warsaw Stock Exchange and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for companies listed on the WSE.

The topics described in Chapter III of The OECD MNEs Guidelines, pertaining to disclosure of information, were presented by the representative of the OECD NCP during the **October 29, 2021** webinar, entitled [EU directive draft regarding corporate reporting on sustainable development](#). The webinar was organized by the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Ministry of Finance, as part of the activity of the Working Group for the Development of Non-financial Reporting of the Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Advisory Board.

Aspects of environmental responsibility in the context of the OECD MNEs Guidelines and information on the activities of OECD NCPs were also disseminated during two webinars organized by the Working Group for Social Responsibility of Universities of the Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Advisory Board: **November 8, 2021**: [Disseminating knowledge about climate change and sustainable development](#), and **December 14, 2021**: [Zero waste - best practices of Polish universities in the field of environmental protection](#).

OECD NCP FOR THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

A specific activity of the Polish OECD NCP is dissemination of RBC standards among Polish entrepreneurs, including by publishing Polish language versions of documents developed by the OECD. In 2021, the OECD NCP focused in particular on financial sector enterprises and institutions, which have a great potential to influence the market practices of other entities by means of the conditions of access to financial products, which increasingly involve aspects of sustainable development.

In July 2021, the Polish OECD NCP published the Polish language version of the OECD Guidance for banks: [Due Diligence for Responsible Corporate Lending and Securities Underwriting](#).

The paper version of the document, together with a letter from the Minister of Finance, Development Funds and Regional Policy, was sent to all commercial banks operating in Poland, as well as to selected cooperative banks and other financial institutions.



In addition, representatives of the OECD NCPs presented the RBC principles, OECD MNEs Guidelines and guidances for the financial sector during events organized for institutions and enterprises of the financial sector: **October 7, 2021** – 16th Congress of Electronic Economy: “On the way to Economy 4.0 security, accessibility, green transformation”, organized by the Polish Bank Association; **November 26, 2021** – meeting of the Council of the Polish Bank Association for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs.

PARTICIPATION OF THE POLISH OECD NCP IN OTHER EVENTS

In 2021, representatives of the OECD NCP participated, *inter alia*, in the following events:

Global Forum on RBC, June 15-17, 2021. The keynote topic of the Forum was: [Responsible Business Conduct, the new normal for a sustainable future](#). The forum gathered numerous representatives of public administration, business, industry organizations, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and academia.

The Polish OECD NCP was invited to participate, on **June 15, 2021**, in the session on access to remedy in the technology sector: [Access to remedy in the tech sector: The role of NCPs in providing access](#)

[to remedy for technology-related human rights abuses](#). The session was attended by a representative of the Polish OECD NCP and representatives of the parties to the OLX case, who presented lessons learned from the process of examining the case before the Polish OECD NCP.

The Polish OECD NCP also presented its experiences with the functioning of the OECD NCP during the session entitled “NCPs to support RBC”, organized as part of the Global Forum on RBC, as a special session on the OECD NCP Network, on **June 15, 2021**.

In addition, representatives of the OECD NCPs participated in two meetings of the OECD National Contact Points Network for Responsible Business Conduct, organized by the OECD in an online format: on **June 22-23, 2021** and **November 25, 2021**.

OECD NCP AT THE MEETINGS OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ADVISORY BOARD

The main task of the Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility Advisory Board, which is an auxiliary body to the Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy, is to create a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences in the field of developing corporate responsibility practices (CSR/RBC) on the Polish market.

The tasks of the Advisory Board include forming recommendations for the integration of CSR/RBC standards into public policies in accordance with the priorities of socio-economic development, specified in the medium-term national development strategy – the Strategy for Responsible Development.

In 2021, two meetings of the Advisory Board were held – on **March 31, 2021** and **June 24, 2021**, during which information on the current activities of the Polish OECD NCP was presented.

Between the meetings, members of the Advisory Board were informed about the activities of the Polish OECD NCP and encouraged to actively participate in events organized by the OECD, such as the OECD Global Forum on RBC.

Advisory Board members were also encouraged to actively participate in public consultations conducted by the OECD – from **June 15, 2021** to **September 14, 2021** – on the consistence of the OECD MNEs Guidelines with the current CSR/RBC and sustainable development trends. The consultations were open to all stakeholders, including public administration, business representatives, industry organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions, and academia.

NOTIFICATIONS ON POTENTIAL BREACHES OF THE OECD MNEs GUIDELINES

- 1) In 2021, the OECD NCP did not receive any new notifications of a potential breach by any enterprises of the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*.

- 2) In February 2021, the OECD NCP completed the monitoring of the case concerning the PZU S.A. Capital Group, in which the notification to the OECD NCP was submitted by the "Development Yes – Open-pit Mines No" Foundation. Based on the information received from the parties to the proceedings, the OECD NCP prepared a [Monitoring Note](#), published on the website of the OECD NCP in 2021, in Polish and English.
- 3) In relation to the matters related to the notifications of potential breaches of the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* received by the OECD NCP in 2020, the OECD NCP published the following documents:
 - a) On January 18, 2021, the [Initial Assessment](#) was published, pertaining to the case concerning Polish company Valeo Autosystemy Sp. z o.o., located in Skawina. The notification on this matter was submitted to the OECD NCP on February 9, 2020.
 - b) On March 4, 2021, information was published concerning the case in which the OECD NCP received a notification on June 29, 2020. The case was accepted for processing by the OECD NCP on January 18, 2021. A preliminary assessment on the case was prepared, agreed between the parties to the proceedings; however, for reasons relating to the case, the OECD NCP decided not to publish the content of the Preliminary Assessment and leave it in the case file, making it available to the parties to the proceedings.

In 2021, in cases referred to above in 3a) and 3b), the OECD NCP conducted its good offices, with the aim to find a solution satisfactory to both parties to the proceedings.