

OECD NATIONAL CONTACT POINT OF POLAND ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2016

INTRODUCTION

The aim of the National Contact Point, hereafter the OECD NCP, is the promotion and conduction of proceedings in the range of *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* adherence. These Guidelines set the international standard for responsible business conduct. The principles outlined in the document concern labour relations, environmental issues, respect for human rights, as well as workplace safety, access to information, taxation, environmental protection, and maintaining due diligence in the activities of multinational enterprises. OECD NCPs currently operate in 47 countries adhering to the Guidelines (in 35 OECD member states and 12 non-OECD countries).

In situations where a multinational enterprise breaches the Guidelines through its business activities, it is possible to submit a notification to the OECD NCP, which is obligated to assist in the settlement of disputes. Upon familiarizing itself and accepting the given case for further consideration, the OECD NCP may offer the disputed parties a mediation procedure. The objective of the mediation is for both parties to reach a joint solution to the given case.

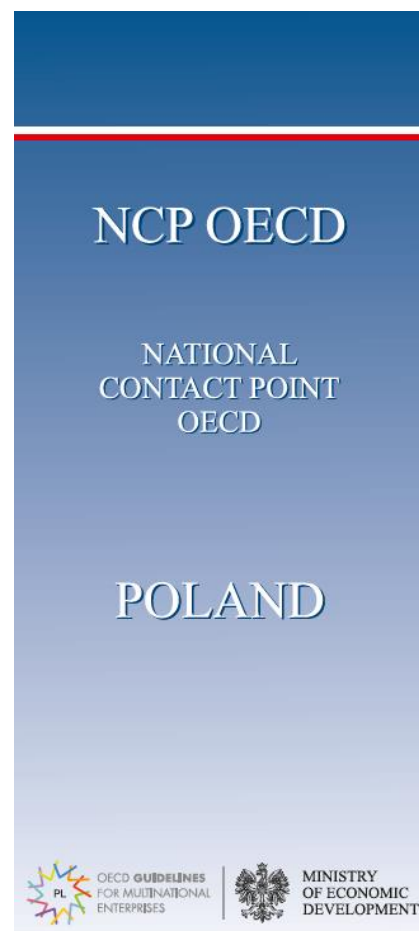
Poland's OECD NCP is conducted by the Unit of CSR and Stakeholders' Affairs in the Minister's Office of the Ministry of Economic Development. The following report constitutes a summation of activities and information on Poland's OECD NCP for the year 2016.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OECD NCP AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

As a result of the structural changes in the Polish government administration, it was decided to move the OECD NCP from the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency (currently the Polish Investment and Trade Agency) to the Ministry of Economic Development. The decision was formalized on June 1st, 2016.

Consequently in September of 2016 the Minister of Economic Development and Finance called into being the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, an advisory body to the Minister. One of the main tasks of the Board is the creation of a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences between governmental administrative ministries, social partners, non-governmental organizations, and academia within the range of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC). Other tasks of the Board include creating recommendations concerning the implementation of CSR/RBC policy as well as taking into consideration the Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Plan for Sustainable Development – two national strategic documents in Poland.

During each Advisory Board meeting are discussed issues concerning ongoing activities of Poland's OECD NCP and the Unit of CSR and Stakeholders' Affairs.



OFFICIAL WEBPAGE OF POLAND'S OECD NCP

Where to find us online? Starting from the main page of the Ministry of Economic Development website click on the following links:

- Czym się zajmujemy
 - Wsparcie przedsiębiorczości
 - Społeczna odpowiedzialność przedsiębiorstw (CSR)
 - Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy OECD / OECD National Contact Point

Within the scope of Poland's OECD NCP was created a webpage falling under the official website of the Ministry of Economic Development. The webpage exists in two language versions: Polish and English. The webpages contain the following documents in both languages:

- *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*
- Summary of the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*
- Submitting a notification of an alleged breach of OECD Guidelines - FAQ
- Conduct procedure in specific instances related to an alleged breach of OECD Guidelines

Moreover, the Polish language OECD NCP webpage contains a notification of an alleged breach of OECD Guidelines form. These documents are also to be made available in Russian and Ukrainian language versions.

PROMOTION OF THE OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

- **Conference on Nonfinancial Reporting in Poland (28 June, 2016)**

The conference was organized in the aim of promoting the Polish version of the nonfinancial reporting GRI G4 standard. Given that the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* are the primary reference point of the GRI G4, their role was discussed during the conference.

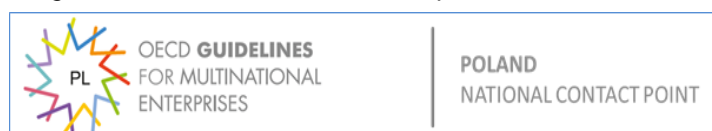
- **International Conference "Responsible Development – Responsible Business. 40 years of the OECD Guidelines. 20 years of Poland in the OECD" (6 October, 2016)**

The main aim of the conference was the promotion of the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* among representatives of Polish government, business, higher education, NGOs, and trade unions.

- **CSR/RBC training for civil servants (2 December, 2016)**

The primary aim of the training session was to educate civil servants employed at the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance on issues relating to CSR and the concept of RBC outlined by the OECD. Training participants also developed practical skills in the reading of social reports.

Within the scope of Responsible Business Conduct promotion, the sectoral *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement in the Extractive Sector* has been translated into Polish. Under the initiative of the Ministry of Economic Development, a partnership for the translation of the *OECD Due Diligence Guidance* with the Responsible Business Forum and the Polskie



Górnictwo Naftowe i Gazownictwo SA was formed. The Polish language version of the Guidance has been circulated among Polish extraction firms and their stakeholders. The *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* are also promoted during the working group meetings of the Advisory Board, an auxiliary body to the Minister of Economic Development and Finance.

TRAINING FOR WORKERS OF POLAND'S OECD NCP

Given that one of the objectives of the OECD NCP is the assessment of notifications of an alleged breach of OECD Guidelines, it is indispensable for NCP workers to possess skills in conducting mediation procedures. Specific training for the workers of Poland's OECD NCP was considered within the scope of the trainings plan for 2016. The training sessions were conducted in the first quartile of 2017, covering mediation in civil and economic disputes.

INTER-OECD NCP PEER-LEARNING

On the 6th and 7th of October, 2016, civil servants of the Ministry of Economic Development responsible for conducting the work of Poland's OECD NCP organized a peer learning workshop for members of OECD NCPs from nine different states within the range of cooperation with trade unions, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development took part in a similar event in Budapest on November 18th, 2016. The Workshop on RBC and the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* was organized by the Hungarian Ministry of National Economy. The activity procedures of OECD NCPs were discussed during the meeting. Moreover, there took place an exchange of views on the role of OECD NCPs in the range of employing remedial devices and cooperation with governmental experts on Responsible Business Conduct in small and medium enterprises.

CONTACT INFORMATION OF POLAND'S OECD NCP:

e-mail: kpk.oecd@mr.gov.pl

tel.: +48 22 273 84 99 or +48 22 273 71 16

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/TERMS

OECD – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OECD NCP – OECD National Contact Point

CSR – Corporate Social Responsibility

RBC – Responsible Business Conduct