

OECD NATIONAL CONTACT POINT OF POLAND

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2018

INTRODUCTION

The OECD National Contact Point (OECD NCP) carries out two main tasks: (1) the promotion of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and (2) the conduct of proceedings in respect of compliance with the OECD Guidelines.

The OECD Guidelines set the standard for responsible business conduct (RBC). The rules outlined in the document relate to employee relations, environmental issues, respect for human rights, work safety, access to information, taxation, environmental protection and due diligence in the activities of multinational enterprises.

If a multinational enterprise is in violation of the OECD Guidelines, it is possible to submit a notification to the OECD NCP. After reviewing the case and accepting it for consideration, the OECD NCP may propose mediation or so-called good offices to help find a satisfactory solution for both parties.

The Polish OECD National Contact Point in 2018 was run by the CSR and Cooperation with NGOs Unit in the Minister's Office in the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development. This report is a summary of activities and information about the Polish OECD NCP for 2018.

OECD NCP IN THE MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, the OECD NCP, as part of its responsibilities, cooperated with the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, an auxiliary body of the Minister of Investment and Economic Development, created under Minister's Order in May 2018. The basic function of the Advisory Board is to create space for dialogue and exchange of experiences between the public administration, social partners, NGOs and the academic environment in the field of corporate social responsibility (CSR/RBC). In addition the Advisory Board also issues recommendations concerning implementation of the CSR/RBC policy, in particular taking into account the objectives of the Strategy for Responsible Development – a strategic national policy document.

Information on the current activities and planned projects of the Polish OECD NCP was presented at the meetings of the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility.

PROMOTION OF OECD GUIDELINES FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

- 1) OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and activities conducted by the OECD NCP were presented during debates on responsible business conduct organized by the newspaper Rzeczpospolita (**8th and 19th February, 2018**) and on **5th March, 2018** during a debate devoted to the issue of human rights in business.
- 2) On **29th June, 2018**, in order to promote due diligence in the operation of enterprises, a conference was organized in the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development: "Responsible business - responsible development. Due diligence in supply chains. Standards and practice."

During the conference issues related to due diligence in supply chains were discussed. An important part of the conference was the announcement of the Polish language version of ***the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector***. This document introduces a well-defined concept of due diligence, formulated in accordance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

During the conference, ***the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct***, announced on 20th June, 2018 was also presented.

The conference was attended by a representative of the Responsible Business Conduct Unit in the OECD Secretariat, **Ms. Dorothy Lovell**.

Moreover, *the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises* were presented, among others, during the following events:

- 1) Two meetings organized by students of the Warsaw School of Economics: CSR Days at the Warsaw School of Economics (14th March, 2018) and a conference *"The labour market in Europe: Perspectives, opportunities and threats"* (18th April, 2018).
- 2) A conference *"Social responsibility of public administration – a regional perspective"*, organised by the University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów and the Social Insurance Institution in Rzeszów (24th October, 2018).
- 3) The 15th meeting of the Development Cooperation Program Council on the 29th November, 2018.
- 4) Events accompanying the COP24 Climate Summit: *"Urban Summit. Cities for the climate"* (5th December, 2018).

PROMOTION OF OECD SECTORAL GUIDANCES

- 1) *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector*



In 2017, on the initiative of the former Ministry of Economic Development, a partnership was established for the translation into Polish of the Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains in the Garment and Footwear Sector. Among the parties were involved representatives of the business sector, industry organizations and non-governmental organisations.

In February 2018, a meeting of partnership members was held at the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development, while in the following months the work on the revision of the translation of the Guidelines into Polish was continued remotely.

The Polish version of the Guidelines was announced on the 29th June, 2018. The document available [on the OECD NCP website](#) is a practical tool explaining how to implement the principles of due diligence, taking into account risks related, among others, to child labour, forced labour, water use, hazardous waste, etc.

2) *OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas*

In 2018, the OECD NCP was actively involved in the promotion of OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. [The Polish Text of Guidelines](#) (translation of the European Commission) has been posted on the OECD NCP website. Moreover, representatives of the OECD NCP participated in the work initiated by the Ministry of Finance, aimed at developing a road map related to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17th May, 2017 laying down supply chain due diligence obligations for EU importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.



3) Sectoral OECD Guidelines were also disseminated during the annual Asia-Europe Environment Forum of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) entitled "Asia-Europe Pathways Towards Responsible Consumption and Production: from Linear to Circular Economy", which was held on 23-24 October, 2018, in the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development.

NOTIFICATIONS OF AN ALLEGED BREACH OF THE OECD GUIDELINES

In 2018, the OECD NCP considered two notifications of an alleged breach of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises:

- 1) The first notification was received on the 9th April, 2018 and the case was accepted for further consideration. [Initial assessment](#) in this case was adopted on 25th June, 2018 and published in Polish and English on the OECD NCP website.
- 2) The second notification was received on 6th August, 2018. For the good of the matter, the OECD NCP took the decision not to publicise the wording of the initial assessment concerning the abovementioned case. [Information](#) regarding the case was published in Polish and English on the OECD NCP website.

PARTICIPATION IN PEER REVIEWS OF OECD NCPs OF OTHER COUNTRIES

On 17-18 January, 2018, a representative of the Polish OECD NCP participated in a technical workshop in Zagreb (Croatia). One of aims of the workshop was peer-learning on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises between the OECD NCPs from Poland and Latvia and representatives of the governmental administration of Croatia, which in 2018 was preparing to join the *OECD Declaration on international investment* (part of which are the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*).

PARTICIPATION OF OECD NCP REPRESENTATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

In 2018, representatives of the OECD NCP participated in the following events:

- 3) The annual meeting of the OECD NCP Network on **18-19 June, 2018** and an additional meeting of the OECD NCP Network on 5th **December, 2018**.
- 4) The OECD Roundtable on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector, 2018 on **30-31 January, 2018**.
- 5) The OECD conference devoted to the issue of gender equality in business: „*March on gender. The implementation Gap*” on **8th March, 2018**.
- 6) The 6th Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct on **20th June, 2018**.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF POLISH NCP

Information on the OECD NCP was published in 2018 on the official website of the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development. [The OECD NCP website](#) is maintained in two language versions, Polish and English, and some of the OECD NCP documents are also available in Ukrainian and Russian.



The OECD NCP website includes the following tabs:

- OECD Guidelines**
(a detailed description of each chapter of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises)
- OECD NCP Activities**
(description of current events and activities)
- Documents**
(including the summary of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the most frequently asked questions regarding the submission of a notification in the event of non-observance of the OECD Guidelines, conduct procedures in specific instances related to an alleged breach of OECD Guidances, documents referring to selected sectors: garment and footwear, agriculture, finance, mining and minerals extraction from conflict-affected areas)
- OECD NCP Network**
(links to the OECD NCPs in other countries)
- Notifications**
(information about conduct procedures in specific instances related to an alleged breach of OECD Guidelines, notification form and information about current OECD NCP proceedings)
- Archives 2001-2016**
(reports on NCP activities for the period 2001-2016)

CONTACT DETAILS OF OECD NCP:

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

tel.: +48 22 273 84 99

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/TERMS USED:

OECD – Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OECD NCP – OECD National Contact Point

CSR – corporate social responsibility

RBC – responsible business conduct

Peer-learning – exchange of experiences between the OECD NCPs