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Information Networks in the Field of European Integration in Poland

Information regarding the European integration – this is a very broad term indeed. The present article discusses information networks of the Communities and the European Union as well as those on the part of the government of Poland, operation of which aims at informing Polish people on the process of European integration.

1. Preface

In relation with Poland's intent to become a European Union Member State and to getting full membership therein on 1 May 2004, an enormous demand for information regarding European integration arose in our country. A provision obliging both parties to inform each other on the process of European integration appeared as early as in the Europe Agreement that established an association between Poland and the European Communities. The same provision obliged both the EC and the government of the Republic of Poland (RP) to inform Polish citizens on efforts they undertook.

*“The Parties shall take appropriate measures to stimulate an effective mutual exchange of information. Initial priority shall be given to programmes providing basic information about the Community for the general public, and specialised information for specific audiences in Poland; the latter shall include wherever possible access to Community computerised data bases”.*¹

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¹ The Europe Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, on the one part, and the Republic of Poland, on the other part. “The Official Journal of Law”, 1994, annex to No. 11, item 38.

Information in the field of European integration has mainly been generated by different Communities and the European Union institutions and bodies, such as: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, the Social and Economic Committee, the Committee for Regions of the First Instance Court. Moreover, such EU agencies as the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work or the European Aviation Safety Agency have also been important sources of information. Their operation gives rise to a large number of various materials that have been published and rendered accessible both to citizens of the European Union Member States and of third countries. The subject-matter scope of those materials reflects the scope of operation and powers of the EC.

However, individual EU Member States have also been sources of information regarding European integration. In this case both the scope of such information and information policy behind it does not have to be consistent with the EU policy. Finally, information about European Union may also come from third countries. It should also be noted that information regarding European integration has reached beyond just public sector. That sort of information has also been generated and disseminated by private sector and in particular by different non-governmental organisations.

There can be no doubt that legal documentation forms the most important group among materials originating from the European Communities institutions. Community law emerges in any field where a need arises to implement uniform solutions all over the European Union area, *i.e.* in the field of economic and monetary co-operation, foreign and security policy as well as justice and home affairs. Its scope is shaped by a degree of development of integration processes in Europe. This way, it has its specified and, at the same time, limited scope as it has covered just those areas that have been relevant in the context of mutual agreement, rather than spreading over all areas of life.

A sum of legal achievements of the European Communities have been referred as the *acquis communautaire*. This consists of: primary and secondary legislation, legal principles and jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice and of the First Instance Court. The source of primary legislation is in Treaties while secondary legislation comes from regulations, directives, decisions as well as recommendations and opinions. Beside that, legal documentation includes international agreements and materials documenting legislative process and decision-making process in the European Communities.

Apart from legal documentation, information from the EU contains different studies concerning particular areas of its activities, such as: economy, social affairs, statistics, *etc.*, or particular EU policies, such as agricultural policy, environment protection and regional policy, science and technology, and so on.

It has been the policy of the European Union to provide open access to information held by the Communities institutions. In order to apply that policy in practice the European Commission establishes different information networks and feeds them with EC-related information. Additionally, it places a lot of materials on the Internet, in particular on the EUROPA server (<http://europa.eu.int>). Activities of the European Communities in the area of information have long tradition and have been carried out using well-elaborated methods.

Information-related activities of Polish government, on the other hand, have started as late as in 1997, when the document entitled “The National Strategy for Integration” was published.² It was in its Chapter VII entitled “Information Activities” that the strategy for Polish activities in the area of information regarding European integration was defined.

2. Information networks of the European Communities and the European Union in Poland

The Communities and the European Union have used different forms of information sources, including printed materials, information sources on electronic media, audio-visual materials or a satellite TV programme. At present, however, documents recorded on electronic carriers prevail, with most of them being accessible on the EUROPA server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

All materials released by the European Communities institutions have been elaborated by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities - OPOEC, also known as EUR-OP having its seat in Luxembourg.³ At present, they are published in 20 official languages of the European Union.

In the EU Member States Community information has principally been available in **representations** of the **European Commission** and of the **European Parliament**. Those offices keep European information divisions known as European Union Information Points in which usually popular, mass brochures and information folders are accessible to render activities of the Community institutions more familiar. Also, most European Commission representations have offices employing lawyers, experts in the field of Community law, who provide citizens with legal advice on required subjects. In countries associated with the European Communities the **European Commission** has its **delegations** having a status of embassies.

² *The National Strategy for Integration*, “Monitor of European Integration”, Special edition, 1997.

³ Rue Mercier 2, L-2985 Luxembourg.

The European Commission delegation that operated in Warsaw in the pre-accession period transformed in to a Representation.⁴ Recently also the Information Office of the European Parliament was established, with its web site, for the time being, only within the official European Parliament site.

Beside representations and delegations, principal institutions dealing with collection and dissemination of the EC and EU information have included:

- European depository libraries,
- European Union documentation centres,
- Euro-info centres,
- Euro-info points,
- information centres for rural communities,
- information centres for urban communities,
- Euro-libraries.

Those institutions have been established on an according-to-need basis in the EU Member States, in the associated countries and in third countries world-wide. Most of them, in particular those operating in Member States and in associated countries are supplied with their materials free of charge. In the remaining ones recipients have to purchase them.

European Depository Libraries (DEP) have been situated in relevant countries with national libraries or designated central-level bodies. Usually each country has just one depository library although it happens as well that their number is larger, such as in Germany, United Kingdom or Australia. The libraries are provided with publicly accessible materials from European Communities institutions and render them available to general society. Depository libraries have been created, with approval of the European Commission, since 1963. In Poland a Depository Library⁵ has been located with the Office of the Committee for European Integration (UKIE) in Warsaw. Poland, as a large country, certainly has a right to have another depository library that could work, for example, with the National Library. However, no efforts have been undertaken to launch it.

European Documentation Centres (EDC)⁶ are created with high education establishments, mainly universities which have promoted European Union-related knowledge in their curricula or have offered separate European studies. They have been obliged to provide academic circles (students and academic teachers) but also other-than-academic community in their region with information on the European Union. In the European Union Member States there have been 324 such centres while their total number world-wide is 544.

⁴ <http://www.europa.delpol.pl>

⁵ <http://bdwe.ukie.gov.pl>

⁶ http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm

In Poland there have been 16 European documentation centres, situated at the following schools and institutions:

- Szkoła Główna Handlowa (Warsaw School of Economics), Warsaw,
- Polski Instytut Spraw Międzynarodowych (Polish Institute of International Affairs), Warsaw,⁷
- Kolegium Europejskie (College for Europe), Natolin, Warsaw,
- Instytut Koniunktur i Cen Handlu Zagranicznego (Economic Conditions and Foreign Trade Institute), Warsaw,
- Warsaw University, Warsaw,
- Academy of Economics, Poznań,
- Gdańsk University, Sopot,
- Łódź University, Łódź,
- Biblioteka Śląska (Silesian Library), Katowice,
- Wrocław University, Wrocław,
- Academy of Economics, Kraków,
- Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin,
- Mikołaj Kopernik University, Toruń,
- Szczecin University, Szczecin,
- Warmińsko-Mazurski University, Olsztyn,
- Opole University, Opole.

Polish European documentation centres have been actively involved in disseminating information in academic environment, are well-organised, have their discussion forums on the Internet and intend to join together in an association.

Euro Info Centres (EIC). Their mission is to serve business environment and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and craftsmanship circles. There are around 300 such centres in the European Union Member States. Other have operated in Norway, Iceland, Jordan, Morocco, Switzerland and Turkey. Their principal task is to provide specialised information services to entrepreneurs, including, in particular, the process of internationalisation of production and trade in the European Union. These establishments employ experts having deep and broad knowledge about the EU economy; peculiar to their work is big responsibility for information they provide. Services of these centres have often been rendered against payment. Due to the importance of

⁷ It should be explained that the above-mentioned Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw was the first centre in Poland to begin to receive Community-related materials. Probably just because of the fact that it had been receiving such materials even long before 1989, there was no appropriate form at hand to conclude an agreement between it and the European Commission. This situation has basically been preserved by now, so the Institute is mentioned among Polish EDC centres due to tradition reasons rather than to its actual status.

information they provide, Euro-Info centres have had full access to both printed and electronic materials of the European Union, they have been provided on a current basis in new materials and make use of electronic communication media in their work. In the EU-associated countries originally the so-called corresponding Euro-Info centres were established, later on they acquired full status and were transformed into proper Euro-Info centres. Poland already has five such centres situated in the following places:

- Co-operation Fund – Warsaw,
- Business Incubator – Kalisz,
- West-Pomeranian Association for Regional Development – Szczecin,
- Staropolska Chamber of Trade and Commerce – Kielce,
- Dolnośląska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego (Lower-Silesian Regional Development Agency) S.A. – Wałbrzych,
- Business Promotion Association – Rzeszów,
- Podlasie Regional Development Foundation – Białystok,
- Górnośląska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego (Upper-Silesian Regional Development Agency) S.A. – Katowice,
- Chamber of Trade and Commerce – Kraków,
- Toruń Regional Development Agency – Toruń,
- “Wolna Przedsiębiorczość” (“Free Entrepreneurship”) Society – Gdańsk,
- Lublin Foundation for Development – Lublin.

There have been two other types of centres co-operating with the Euro-Info network, also involved in supporting SMEs. These are: European Community Business and Innovation Centres (EC BICs) forming the European Business and Innovation Centres Network (EBN)⁸ and Innovation Relay Centres (IRC).⁹ The task of these networks is to build a bridge connecting small and medium-sized enterprises with R&D activities and the world of science. The EC BICs centres may be created at various institutions having the EC certificate. They are mostly established in underdeveloped regions of the European Union and it is their mission to support SMEs in their development. Their activity includes advising in the area of establishing small and medium-sized enterprises and streamlining their management, defining their scope of activity, restructuring according to changing market demand and implementing new technologies as well as coming into contact with the world of science and inventiveness in order to gain access to new technologies. Regarding the latter area, there have also been Innovation Relay Centres to assist SMEs – they provide them with information about new technologies and with advisory services in that field.

⁸ <http://www.ebn.be>

⁹ <http://irc.cordis.lu>

In Poland there is just one BIC so far, in Olsztyn. This is a so-called Business Incubator set with the Foundation for Business Support and Promotion in Warmia and Mazury region, having the “Associate Member” status, along with eight IRC in four regions of Poland laid out for that purpose: Eastern, Central, Western and Southern. The centres have been situated, respectively, at Warsaw University and at the Information Processing Centre (OPI), both in Warsaw, in the Center of Technology Transfer (CTT) in Gdańsk, at the Science and Technology Park in Poznań and in the Wrocław Centre for Technology Transfer, in the Technical University in Szczecin, International Programmes Office, in the Center of Technology Transfer at Kraków University of Technology and at the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency.

Info-Points Europe¹⁰ have been situated in places to which public has broad access, such as seats of local authorities or other public institutions, for example public libraries. They have been established since 1991 and by now their number in the European Union Member States has reached almost 140. In Poland, however, this network has not developed yet. The only such point, created at the European Commission Delegation in Warsaw, at present operates at the European Union Representation in the same city.

Information centres for rural communities (Carrefours)¹¹ began operating in 1988 when the European Commission began to deal with the problem of rural development. Carrefours have been situated with different organisations and institutions, such as farm chambers or seats of local authorities and of local government. There are 134 such points at present in the EU Member States. They provide information on the EC/EU agricultural policy (rural information) to general society in rural areas, that is to farmers’ organisations, co-operatives, individual farmers, schools and so on. They are also involved in educational and information disseminating activity. In Poland four such centres exist, however, due to a complex nature of European Communities agricultural policy issue they have been under tutelage from their foreign partners yet:

- Olsztyn – co-operates with Denmark (Bornholm);
- Świnoujście – co-operates with Sweden (Ystad);
- Lubań – co-operates with Germany (Sachsen);
- Leśnica – co-operates with Germany (Sachsen).¹²

Information centres for rural communities (Network of Urban Forum for Sustainable Development - NUFSD)¹³ – a network of information centres

¹⁰ http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm

¹¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm

¹² <http://www.tecis.be/carrefours.html>

¹³ <http://www.nufsd.net>

supporting urban development have usually been situated at non-governmental organisations. Their task is to support the so-called sustainable development process and urban development of towns, with the European Union recommendations taken into account. Those centres stimulate and support development of towns and co-operation among them. At present they operate in 21 European towns, for instance in Charleroi (Belgium), Aalborg (Denmark), Besançon (France), Venice (Italy) or Delft (Netherlands). This network has no established representation in Poland yet. Among the newly-integrated EU Member States Lithuania and Estonia have already joined the network, setting up centres in Vilnius and Tallinn, respectively.

Eurolibraries – they are public libraries that decided to include some European Union-related materials in their collections. They are provided with a certain basic set of EU materials and are given an opportunity to purchase more at reduced prices. This is not network a EU-operated network. Rather than that, Eurolibraries are managed by local authorities in respective countries. Networks of such libraries developed in particular in Spain, United Kingdom and Denmark. It is not present in Poland yet.

Finally, a network of consumer information centres and the so-called centres of information on Europe centres should be mentioned; however, neither one has been represented in our country.

European Consumer Centres (ECCs, also known as Euroguichets).¹⁴ Their mission is to inform the European Union citizens on their rights on huge European market. Demand for such information first emerged in trans-border regions and focused upon issues regarding individual import for consumer needs. There have been 15 such centres so far, in 13 European Union Member States (Denmark and Netherlands don't have one, Germany and Spain each have two). Protection of consumer rights in European market has been an object of particular care on the part of the European Commission which is expressed in specific Treaty provisions (Article 95 and 153 of the EC Treaty). The Office for Competition and Consumer Protection in Warsaw has recently undertaken efforts to set up a first consumer information centre in Poland.

Centres of information on Europe¹⁵ have so far operated only in Lisbon, Paris and Rome. It is their task to co-ordinate European Union information policy in a relevant country. In the future, as plans to decentralise European Union information networks are implemented, such centres will appear in all Member States to co-ordinate the whole EU information policy in their respective countries.

¹⁴ http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm

¹⁵ http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm

The above-mentioned information networks of the European Union are supplied with printed materials, provided with access to electronic sources and, first of all, assist in finding required information. Also deserving mention is the fact of setting up an international teachers group in the area of European integration, known as “Team Europe”. It is composed of more than 550 experts who have lectured extensively each year focusing on European Union problems, as guest lecturers in universities, during conferences, training sessions, *etc.* “Team Europe” groups are appointed by the European Commission representations and delegations in particular countries. Poland, although still in the EU-association period, has already got an active teacher group.¹⁶

Beside the above-mentioned information networks, a large number of different specialised networks has been created in both EU Member and associated States, to assist in implementation of various EC programmes. Their activities, apart from provision of information, also includes analytical and advisory services. Some of them have special funds to spend on development of particular areas of life. Such networks are being established in such areas as education, employment, situation of women, social matters, energy, research and development, co-operation, public security, rural development or media.

In Poland activities of the Education System Development Foundation in Warsaw that co-ordinates the whole SOCRATES¹⁷ programme and provides any information regarding that programme may be mentioned as an example of such network. The Foundation deals with such component programmes as EURYDICE (Education Information Network in the European Community), Minerva or Gryndtvig. Also NARIC (National Academic Recognition Information Centres) has its separate information office in Poland. These are networks providing information about recognition of university certificates and professional skills in the European Union Member States. In Poland this is done by the Bureau for Academic Recognition and International Exchange subject to the Ministry of National Education.¹⁸

More specific character have information offices set up for implementation of the EC aid programmes for ten EU-applicant countries including Poland, such as TEMPUS or SAPARD programmes. They have continued their activities after the applicant countries became EU Member States on 1 May 2004, however its scope has evolved. The Central Office for the TEMPUS Programme has still existed at the Education System Development Foundation in Warsaw, however, at present it has new EU-associated countries as well as certain thirds countries

¹⁶ “Team Europe”, Brussels 1992, p.193; “Team Europe” – Poland, Warsaw 1994, p.30, (http://europa.eu.int/comm/relays/ipe/index_en.htm).

¹⁷ <http://www.socrates.org.pl>

¹⁸ <http://www.buwiwm.edu.pl>

as the programme beneficiaries – *i.e.* partners that, in its turn, Poland can invite to co-operate (*e.g.* TEMPUS-TACIS, TEMPUS-MEDA or TEMPUS-CARDS). A present situation of the network of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture¹⁹ is similar: previously it supported implementation of the SAPARD (Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development) programme and now it provides information and assists in the process of direct payments to farmers.

European Employment Services Network (EURES)²⁰ dealing with co-operation among State labour agency offices and involved in development of free flow of workers has also already been represented in Poland. Activities of this network have been co-ordinated by the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy which has appointed district assistants for EURES to work in employment offices.

Information regarding Poland have also been accessible in the **European Observatory on the Social Situation, Demography and Family**,²¹ an information network dealing with situation of family in individual EU Member States. A study centre situated at the Austrian Institute of Family Studies has been composed of a group of independent experts who represent individual EU Member States.

Moreover, Poland participates in activities of an interactive network of scholar workers involved in studies in the area of European integration, known as an **Interactive Communication Network for Academics in the field of European Integration Studies – ECSA-NET**). Polish member organisation – PECSA – Polish European Community Studies Association was set up in 1989 and at present has *circa* 130 members.²²

Additionally, the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw²³ belongs to the EU statistical information network EUROSTAT²⁴.

3. Information activities of the Polish government in the area of European integration

Soon after the turn of 1989 in Poland and for several subsequent years support for the process of European integration was very high in Polish society (as much as 75-80% favouring the integration), so the government saw no need to undertake any planned information actions. The first document to include

¹⁹ <http://www.arimr.gov.pl/sapard.html>

²⁰ <http://europa.eu.int/eures/>

²¹ http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/eoss/index_en.html

²² <http://www.ecsanet.org>

²³ <http://www.stat.gov.pl>

²⁴ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/>

a chapter about activities in the area of information was the “National Strategy for Integration” adopted by the government in 1997²⁵ (Part VII: Information activities).²⁶ The main objective of the “Strategy” was to define tasks in the field of adaptation for the period directly precedent to acquiring, by Poland, of membership in the European Union. The principal aims of those activities included, among other things: getting Polish society familiar with issues regarding the European Union, making it conscious of the way the EU membership affected the area of the State sovereignty, its security, international position and economy, explanation of changes taking place in the field of citizens’ rights and obligations the membership was going to bring, and implementing the European integration problems to the system of national education. The need to keep social opinion under constant monitoring and to set up a working group responsible for information strategy at the Committee for European Integration were also mentioned. These tasks were entrusted to two Departments of the Office of the Committee for European Integration, established in 1996, namely the Information and Social Communication as well as European Education. In 1999 they were transformed into a single Department of Information and European Education. Later, on 21 November 2001 the Department of Social Communication and European Information was established, incorporating two sections: the Promotional Division and the Centre of European Information, located in Warsaw at 38/42, Krucza street.²⁷ The European Education Division became a separate department responsible for organisation and implementation of training systems in the field of European integration, targeted at different environments.

The following was included, among other things, as principal objectives of the Social Communication and European Information Department: carrying out the State information policy in the field of European integration and co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as monitoring of the level to which society was informed regarding that matter.

The Promotional Division was made responsible for undertaking long-term information-and promotional activities in order to win social support for the integration processes, through, among other things, setting up regional European information centres (RCIE) (which have reached the number of over thirty by

²⁵ *The National Strategy for Integration*, “Monitor of European Integration“, special issue, 1997.

²⁶ M.Grabowska, *Polityka informacyjna Rządu RP w zakresie integracji europejskiej (The Information Policy of the Government of the Republic of Poland in the field of European integration)* in: *Wybrane zagadnienia integracji europejskiej. Informator o Unii Europejskiej (Selected issues regarding the European integration. Communication on European Union)*, The Warsaw University Centre for Europe, Warsaw 2002, p.49-52, [typed copies].

²⁷ <http://www.cie.gov.pl>

now 30)²⁸. These centres were situated at different, usually independent organisations by a tender procedure. The regional European Information Centre have continued to carry on its information-educational-and-promotional activities.

On 4 May 1999 the “*The Program of Informing the Society*” (PIS) prepared by Polish government was adopted²⁹. This document defined goals and tasks for the government information policy for the pre-accession period, the period of referendum and that of early stage of Poland’s membership in the EU.

“*The Program of Informing the Society*” assumed a two-way information flow: an inner channel (transfer of information among governmental institutions) and an outer channel (transfer of information between executive and legislative authorities and the society). The Programme was addressed to politicians, civil services, uniform services, local governments, media, businessmen, farmers, teachers, students, churches and social organisations as well as associations. Furthermore, consultation councils were appointed, composed of representatives of various social and occupational groups to advice on proper information strategies to be applied to in different environments. The Programme had, as its partners, non-governmental organisations, local governments, media, European clubs at schools and networks of the EU information in Poland. The above-mentioned Social Communication and European Information Department working within the Office of the Committee for European Integration was obliged to co-operate as was the Department of European Documentation (the Library and the Publishing House) set up in September 2000 and the above-mentioned Centre for European Information (<http://www.cie.gov.pl>).

A separate mention should be made about the “*Framework Programme for Foreign Promotion of the Process of Accession of the Republic of Poland to the EU (2000, 2001, 2002)*” prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.³⁰ It was the aim of that programme to gain the EU Member States support for the process of the EU enlargement by adoption of Poland and for ratification of the Treaty on Accession. The promotion activities took place in such areas as economy, tourism, culture and politics. An important role in that process was played by groups responsible for promotion of membership of the Republic of Poland in the EU, operating in Polish embassies in the EU Member States.

²⁸ Full list ordered by provinces to be found at: <http://www.cie.gov.pl>

²⁹ *The Programme of Informing the Society. The Integration of Poland with the European Union*, Warsaw 1999.

³⁰ *Program ramowy promocji zagranicznej procesu akcesji RP do UE (2000, 2001, 2002)*, (*The Framework Programme for Foreign Promotion of the Process of Accession of the Republic of Poland to the EU (2000, 2001, 2002)*), The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Warsaw, June 2000 [typed copies].

From February 2001 the Office for European Integration was functioning at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland. On 11 December 2001, on the virtue of a regulation of the Council of Ministers a position of the Government Representative for European Information in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister was created.³¹ His tasks included: preparation of the system of European information dissemination and of programmes and time-schedules for education and promotion of the European integration in Poland, co-ordination of activities of governmental bodies in the field of information about European integration and its promotion, monitoring and analysing of activities in the field of information, education and promotion undertaken domestically for European integration as well as initiating and supporting of co-operation between governmental agencies and local government bodies and non governmental organisations in the field of European integration. Units dealing with promotion of European integration were set also up in province councils and with local government bodies.

In relation with the referendum on the accession a Minister-member of the Council of Ministers was appointed³² and the institution of the so-called communal EU consultants was created.³³

However, government's efforts in the area of information were generally undertaken quite late and were in fact just short-term, improvised character (targeted, for example, on the referendum on accession). They were implemented by institutions of public authorities and/or commissioned to independent institutions or organisations. The whole process failed to take, for instance, libraries into account. Another shortage of the activities was that information coming from the European Union and that from Polish government regarding European integration were not explicitly distinguished from each other and that the information activities weren't separated clearly enough from the referendum campaign.

On the other hand, a number of non-governmental organisations involved successfully in the process of informing the society on the European integration. The following bodies should be mentioned as most actively working in this area: the Polish Robert Schuman Foundation,³⁴ the Polish Council for European Movement³⁵ or the "Krzyżowa" Foundation for Mutual Understanding in

³¹ "Dziennik Ustaw", No. 144/2002, item 1618.

³² *Rozporządzenie Prezesa Rady Ministrów z dnia 7 stycznia 2003 r. (Regulation of the Prime Minister of 7 January 2003)*, "Dziennik Ustaw", No. 1/2003, item 6.

³³ Established as provided for in an agreement between the Minister of Economy and Minister L.Nikolski.

³⁴ <http://www.schuman.org.pl>

³⁵ <http://www.rucheuropejski.org>

Europe.³⁶ Those organisations have also played an important role in a particular process of informing Polish society on the European integration, namely in the referendum campaign. It has to be underlined that this was the first instance when, on the virtue of Polish legislation specially adopted for the purpose, public life entities other than political parties – that is non-governmental organisations – were given an opportunity to act.³⁷

³⁶ <http://www.krzyzowa.org.pl>

³⁷ M.Grabowska, *Polish National Referendum Act*, “Yearbook of Polish European Studies”, vol. 6/2002, p.181-206.