



Tomasz Perkowski

# Governance and ethics - learning by doing an example of the Foundation for Polish Science

*Giving more for research in Europe*

March 2006

**In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is.**

- Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut

# Topics

1. FNP - overview and introduction to the current activities
2. Setting standards of financial management
3. How to support the best
4. Public relations and public understanding of science

# 1. FNP - overview and introduction to the current activities

# History of the Foundation

Registered in 1991 according to the Polish Law on Foundations



- independent,
- self-financing,
- non-profit organisation

# Authorities of the Foundation

## Council of the Foundation

Supervision of the activities of FNP

(5-7 members, 4-years mandate, renewable once on a rotating system)

## Executive Board

Implementation of all current activities of the FNP

## Ministry of Education and Science and Ministry of Labour

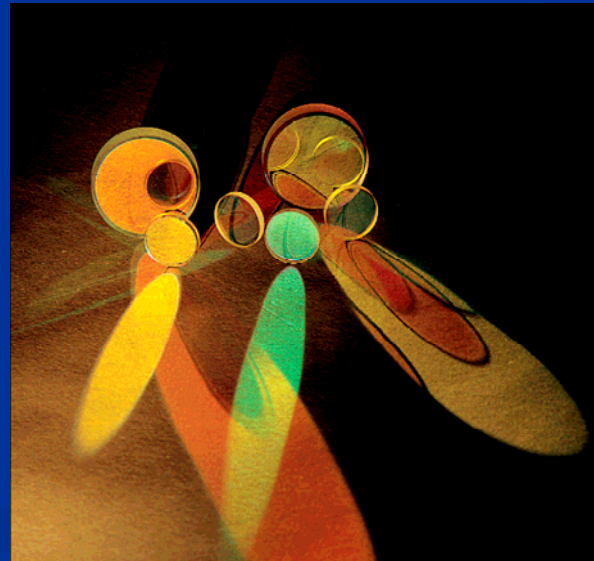
General supervision on the basis of the Polish Law on Foundations and Law on Public Benefit Organizations

# Mission

*'Supporting only the best  
so they can become even better'*

FNP supports Polish scientists in all fields:

- Exact sciences
- Life sciences
- Technical Sciences
- Humanities



# Finances

- Initial endowment 95 mln PLN
- By the end of 2005, total contributions to the science and technology sector in Poland exceed 270 mln PLN
- **Annual spending ca. 23 mln PLN**
- The market value of the current assets amounts 400 mln PLN (@ 120 mln USD)

# Activity

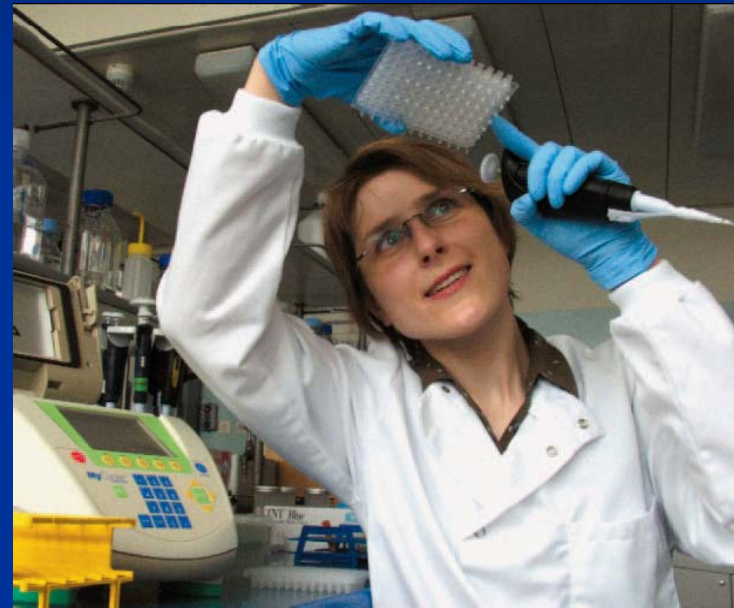
600 fellowships or prizes a year



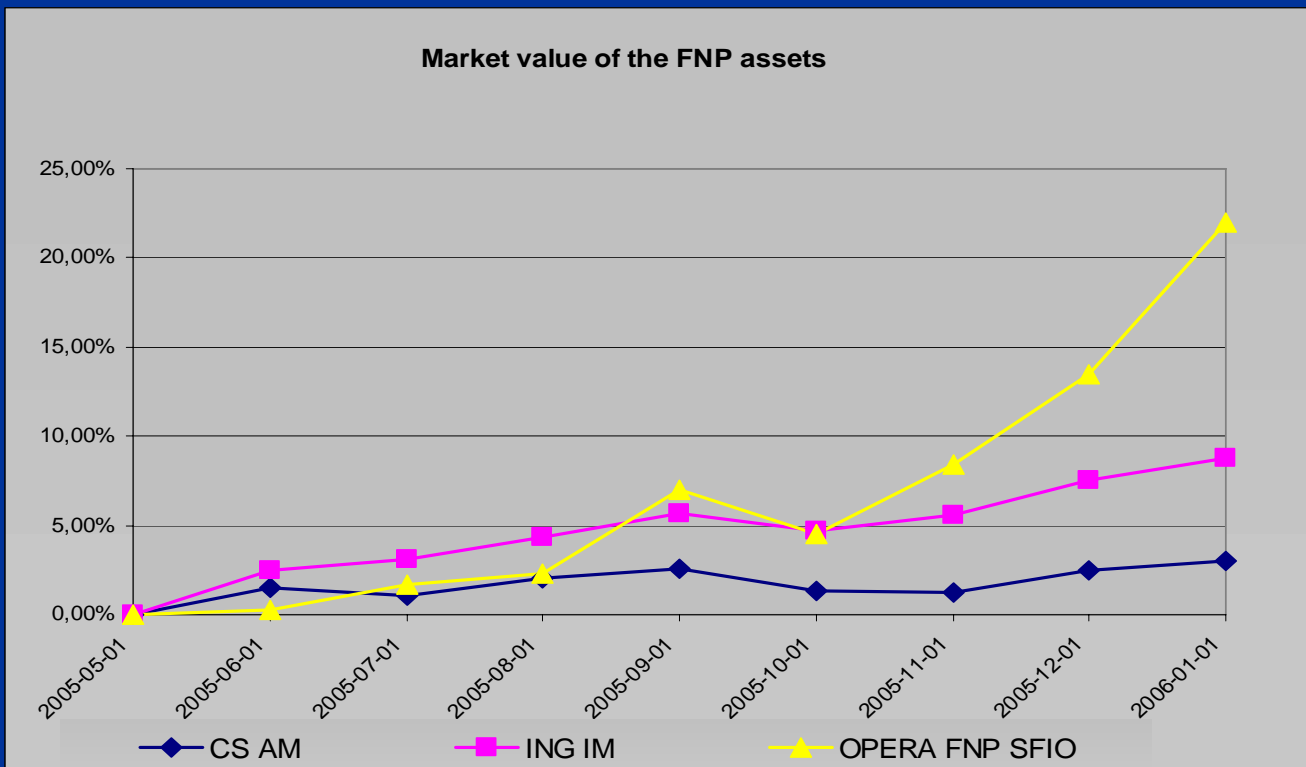
- support to individual scientists or research teams,
- investments,
- transfer of innovative technologies

# Current schemes

- *FNP prize*
- Stipends for young researchers
- *In-country mobility fellowship*
- Post-docs out-going fellowship
- *Establishing work groups – Focus*
- Reintegration grants - Homing
- *Innovative businesses - Innovator*
- Academic grants for professors
- *Mobility grants for professors emeritus*
- *Monographs*



## 2. Between research council and investment fund - financial management



# Financial management

1. Conditions set up by the Board, accepted by the Council – 60% of assets – safe instrument, 40% - participatory instruments
2. External managers – independent from the Foundation
3. Asset managers – ING A.M. and Credit Suisse A.M. – equities and treasury bill and bonds
4. Investment Fund – Opera TFI – dedicated fund – Opera FNP – equities, futures, currency, goods.
5. Common investment mechanism – II Investment Fund – Opera NGO – 18 different NGOs, strategy based on consensus.

# Financial management

1. Internal unit responsible for controlling and reporting.
2. Analysis for the Executive Board – once a month
3. Reports for the Council
4. Meetings with the asset managers – every 3 months

# 3. How to support the best



# Peer review

*...absolutely reliable  
method of quality control...*

*...guarantee of  
excellence...*

*...old boys' club...*

*...as effective as lottery...*

*„...the ‘peer review’ system  
stifles new ideas and  
scientific breakthroughs  
while carving up the  
research and educational pie  
in a monopoly game of  
grandiosity...”*

„Science between Evaluation and Innovation: a conference on Peer Review”, Max Planck Forum 6, DFG, April 2002.

# How to support the best - peer-review method

- Major university referees evaluate papers from major university significantly more favorable than papers from minor less prestigious university.
- Fate of a grant depends half on its merit half on „luck of reviewers selection“.
- Proposals from own specialty are evaluated more enthusiastically than from neighboring ones (problem of interdisciplinary, innovative, controversial and risky research).

# How to support the best - peer-review method

- A woman has to produce sixty four impact point more than male to be seen as equally „competent“.
- More grant money for senior researchers even when the young researchers were considered equally good
- The highest grant are given to retired male professors and the next largest sum is going to male professors above fifty years of age.

# How to support the best

1. Increase of the overall pool of the reviewers (including internationalization of the process):
  - increasing share of younger researchers, women and laureates of different FNP programs.
  - more dispersed geographical, institutional and disciplinary distribution of reviewers.
  - usage of experts – not only scientists (infrastructural projects)
2. Evaluation of the evaluators.

# How to support the best

3. Gender issues - no quotas, levelling the barriers

- Preferences for applicants taking maternity leave

4. International cooperation –

- Exchange of information and best practice
- Sharing the risk – „matching funds“

5. Meetings with the reviewers – explaining the mission of FNP, comparing dispersed scores, improving the project proposals forms.

6. Personal meetings with the potential beneficiaries (also negotiations)

7. Evaluation

# 4. Public relations



| O fundacji | Aktualności | Programy | Nasze publikacje | FNP w prasie | Kontakt

## AKTUALNOŚCI

1.03.2006.

### Roczne stypendia dla młodych uczonych

W czternastej edycji konkursu na stypendia dla najzdolniejszych młodych naukowców Fundacja przyznała **121 rocznych stypendiów** w wysokości 20 tys. zł...



9.02.2006.

### Nowe możliwości dla młodych naukowców

Fundacja na rzecz Nauki Polskiej oraz Stowarzyszenie Maxa Plancka (MPG) zorganizowały wspólnie konferencję, która odbyła się 3 lutego br. w Berlinie i była poświęcona możliwościom wspierania najlepszych polskich młodych uczonych...



13.02.2006.

### Opera NGO SFIO - start specjalistycznego funduszu inwestycyjnego dla organizacji pozarządowych

Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych Opera specjalizuje się w tworzeniu funduszy dedykowanych konkretnym klientom lub też funduszy powstających na potrzeby określonego celu. Od czerwca 2005 r. prowadzi ono fundusz aktywnego zarządzania środkami...



24.01.2006.

### UWAGA: informacje dla kandydatów ubiegających się o stypendium zagraniczne dla młodych doktorów

Aby usprawnić obsługę programów stypendialnych Fundacji, od ubiegłego roku sukcesywnie wprowadzamy elektroniczną rejestrację kandydatów ubiegających się o stypendia FNP. Obecnie taka procedura zastosowana została dla stypendiów zagranicznych dla młodych doktorów...



## CO OFERUJEMY NAUKOWCOM

- NAGRODY I STYPENDIA
- Wspieranie rozwoju WARSZTATÓW NAUKOWYCH
- Wspieranie TRANSFERU TECHNOLOGII
- POMOC INTERWENCYJNA
- Programy WSPÓLPRACY MIĘDZYNARODOWEJ
- PROGRAMY wydawnicze i inne

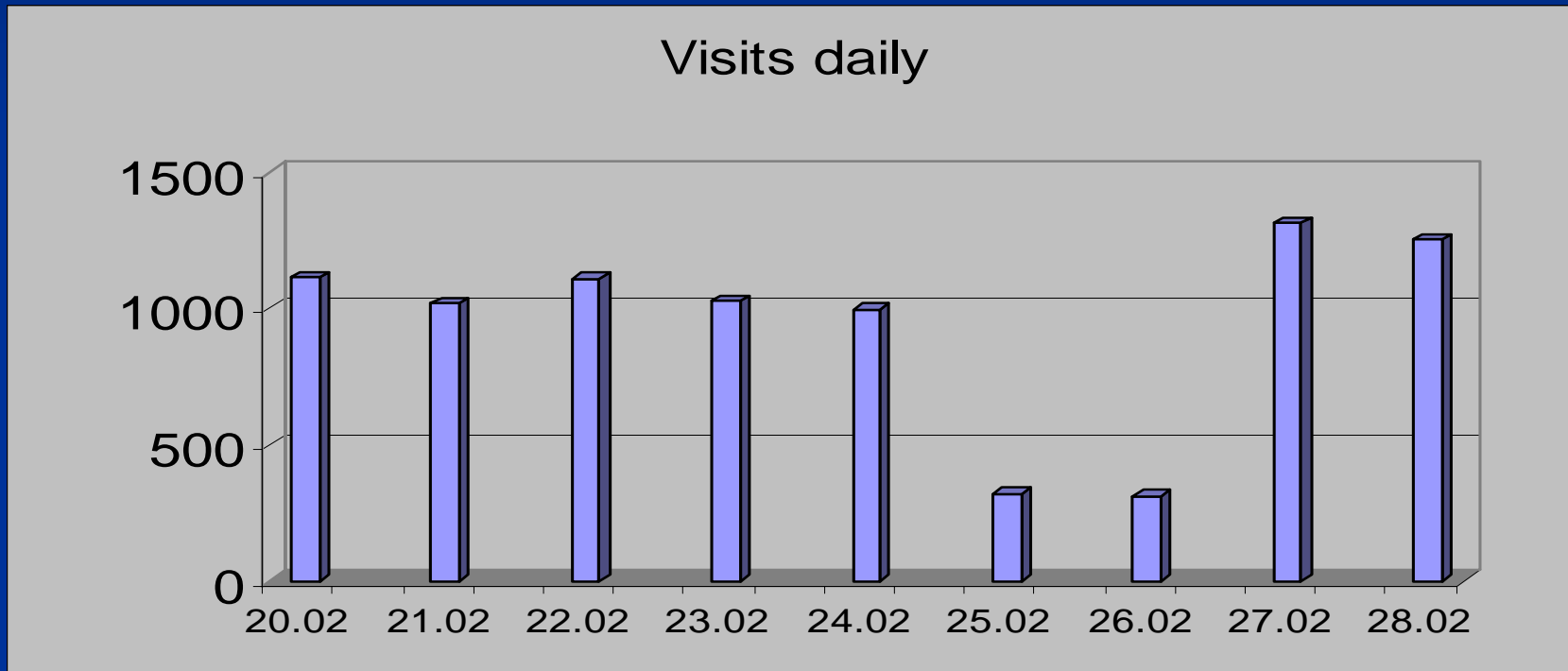
## NASZA SERIA WYDAWNICZA



Przemysław Gut  
Leibniz. Myśl  
filozoficzna w XVII wieku

# Public relations

Web site as the primary medium of communication



[www.fnp.org.pl](http://www.fnp.org.pl) [www.fnp.eu](http://www.fnp.eu)

# Summary

1. Scientific excellence – open competition versus priorities
2. Transparency – audit, financial reports
3. Effectiveness – high standards of management
4. Cooperation – being a part of the community (non-governmental and scientific)
5. Learning – evaluation and feedback
6. Responsibility – good practice in science
7. Openness to the scientific community and general public

# Thank you for your attention

## *Foundation for Polish Science*

Grazyny 11

02-548 Warszawa

POLAND

Tel. +48 22 845 95 21

Fax.:+48 22 845 95 05

[tomasz.perkowski@fnp.org.pl](mailto:tomasz.perkowski@fnp.org.pl)

[www.fnp.org.pl](http://www.fnp.org.pl)

