

Polish Fair Trade Coalition

2011 Annual Report



**Koalicja
Sprawiedliwego
Handlu**

I. Introduction

The Polish Fair Trade Coalition was set up by 9 non-governmental organisations on March 16th, 2009. Its activity in the 3rd year was based on completion of a number of joint initiatives. Most important among them are the commencement of work on formalization of the Coalition and setting up the „Polish Fair Trade Coalition“ Foundation. Description of the individual Coalition members' activities is not included in the report, albeit they were equally important.

II. Activities

1. Preparing criteria for the Fair Trade Towns/Schools campaign

At one of the Coalition's meeting in 2010 a decision was made to prepare criteria for the purpose of Fair Trade Towns/Schools campaign. Working groups that have started to elaborate the criteria were set up. In 2011 criteria were finally completed and officially approved at the Coalition's meeting in April.

In 2011 the city of Gdansk was the first one in Poland to commence the procedure of gaining the Fair Trade Town status. More information can be found on the campaign's website: miasta.fairtrade.org.pl.

2. Meeting with the Fairtrade International representatives

On October 19th the members of the Polish Fair Trade Coalition met the representatives of Fairtrade International (FLO). On the behalf of FLO the meeting was attended by Andrea Richert and Martin Hill. The purpose of the meeting, organised with an active help of the UNDP Project Office in Poland, was to discuss terms of cooperation between the Coalition and FLO in order to guarantee the representation and promotion of the Fairtrade system in Poland. The meeting helped to clarify a number of issues and establish a work schedule as a result of which the Coalition will, among other, act as marketing organisation for the Fairtrade system (Fairtrade Marketing Organisation).

3. Organising a Fairtrade seminar for enterprises

The Fairtrade system, rules for obtaining the certificate and license to use the mark, is relatively unknown among Polish entrepreneurs. Therefore the Coalition decided to take advantage of the presence of the FLO representatives in Warsaw and organize a seminar for the enterprises. Around 30 participants attended the seminar which took place in Gromada Hotel. They received a set of practical information and materials concerning Fairtrade certification. The organization of the seminar was made possible thanks to the financial support of the UNDP Project Office in Poland.

4. Working on the establishment of the Foundation

On April 27th 2011 at the Coalition's meeting the decision was made to transform the Coalition into a formal organisation that will be responsible for the promotion of Fair Trade in Poland. As a result, three working groups were created to prepare particular matters:

1. *Statute workgroup* — its task was the analysis of the best legal form for the Coalition and then the preparation of statutes in a form that would allow a remote discussion and acceptance of the statute.
2. *Strategy workgroup* — its task was to prepare the strategy of the new organisation and – depending on the progress of the first group and results of its work – to prepare the draft action plan and a provisional budget.
3. *Partnership workgroup* – most important task of this group was to examine and analyse all the issues related to signing of the marketing agreement with Fairtrade International.

All the groups have carried out their tasks, although adoption of the statute was delayed until 2012.

5. The „I support Fair Trade” campaign

Concerning the parliamentary elections in 2011, the Coalition supported by its volunteers has prepared Fair Trade information sheets, made contact lists of the Parliament candidates and sent them the Fair Trade statements of support, asking them to sign and return. We have received 14 statements of support.

6. Activity of the fairtrade.org.pl website

Secretary of the Polish Fair Trade Coalition administers the website fairtrade.org.pl and the Coalition's Facebook page, prepares the press information about the World Fair Trade Day and such.

7. Activity on the Coalition's mailing lists

Secretary of the Polish Fair Trade Coalition administers two mailing lists: <http://lists.most.org.pl/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/koalicja>, to which all the Coalition's members are subscribed and http://lists.most.org.pl/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/lista_fairtrade, grouping people interested in Fair Trade movement in Poland.

8. Cooperation with UNDP

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Europe and the CIS, Project Office Poland and the Coalition signed a *Declaration for the execution of activities within the established partnership in order to promote Fair Trade in Poland*.

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