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# Regional Information and Support Centre for NGOs

**Regionalne Centrum Informacji i Wspierania  
Organizacji Pozarządowych**

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Regional Information and Support Centre for NGOs was established in Gdańsk in 1993.

We are independent non-profit organization.

On a national level we are a member of SPLOT – the Net for the Support of the NGO's.

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Our motto:  
*„Mobilize but do not organize”*

We are independent civic organization acting for the public benefit.

We support NGO's and social leaders in building the civic society.

We inform, advise, train as well initiate partnerships in solving social problems through which we support the local development.

## Our main activities

- Collecting, updating and disseminating information necessary for efficient functioning of independent civic organizations, using the modern technologies (computers, internet).
- Cooperation with regional and national organizations in this field.
- Providing free of charge consulting services for NGOs: legal guidance on establishing and running the organization, book keeping, finances, team building, organization work plans, sources of financing as well as cooperation with partners.

- Arranging and conducting trainings for NGOs and building strong coaching team.
- Promoting and building the cooperation between the NGOs and the public sector, on different levels and in different fields.
- Facilitating and developing international cooperation of the NGOs.
- Supporting the NGOs by providing free of charge access to the conference rooms as well as technical equipment owned.
- Facilitating the NGO to start international cooperation in the framing of the Partner Bureau services

## *Our achievements*

- We are the first organization to support the non-governmental sector in the northern Poland
- Being one of the first in the country, we have created the association The Voluntary Center
- We have organize the first in Poland Fora of the Non-governmental Initiatives (FIP) that ranged both regionally and nationally
- The rules of partnership cooperation between the NGOs and the local authorities elaborated by us has become local law in several dozen communes

## *Our achievements*

- We are the laureate of the „**Pro Publico Bono**” award as well as twice the „**Amber Sword Award**” (1995 and 1999) awarded by the Governor and the Marshal of the Pomorskie Region
- We are the national coordinator (**Focal Point**) in the Baltic Net of NGO
- In the year 2005 we organized the **V<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea NGO Forum** in Gdynia
- Via the international project Baltica 2000 we started the **Partners Bureau** which aim is to help the NGOs to undertake the international cooperation

## *Our achievements*

- In the framing of the Country Animator of Cooperation we created the net of the poviat points of information and consulting (**PAW**) for the organizations operating in the region
- In the 2004 we created the **Gdańsk House of NGOs** with a vision of integration of the sector in the Pomorskie Region
- We were granted the status of the **European Social Fund Regional Training Center (ROSzEFS)**
- We realize the EURO-NGO program to prepare NGOs for raising the EU funds

# Baltic Sea NGO Network

- The Baltic Sea NGO Network is a network for NGOs from 11 countries - members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- Network offers an opportunity for dialogue between NGOs and governments, public authorities on future perspectives of co-operation in order to become a strong and relevant partner to the CBSS,
- The Network is committed to the promotion of civil society and NGO cooperation in the region,
- All work done within the Baltic Sea NGO Network is done on a voluntary basis by each Focal Point and their partner organisations.

## **The Baltic Sea NGO Network operates through:**

- The annual Baltic Sea NGO Forum
- Work of the Baltic Sea NGO Coordinating Committee
- Work of Baltic Sea NGO Thematic Working Groups
- Work of the National Focal Points

## **The Baltic Sea NGO Coordinating Committee (CC):**

- The CC function as a *steering group* and consists of one representative from each National Focal Point;
- Each National Focal Point has one vote in the CC,
- The CC is aiming at reaching its decisions by consensus, either by all Focal Points being present or per capsulam,
- Decisions concerning financial matters, in which one or more parties take a financial risk, are taken by those who are involved, after informing the CC,
- The CC is making its decisions after consulting the National Platforms or other relevant national NGO networks,
- The CC has the right to set up an executive body or a Secretariat.

## **The Baltic Sea NGO Thematic Working Groups (WG):**

- The Working Groups are an integral part of the Baltic Sea NGO Network, they are open and transparent structures operating in cooperation with the Coordinating Committee,
- Each Working Group decide its own modus operandi and choose a Head of the Working Group among its members,
- The Head of the Working Group is organising the work of the WG in close cooperation with its members,
- The Working Group keep the CC informed about its activities,
- The Working Groups can cooperate with existing networks and initiate new ones.

## **Focal Points:**

- National Coordinators, called Focal Points, interacts closely with NGOs on national level, which are interested in cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Each Focal Point decides how to build up and organize the interaction with NGO in each country. It can vary according to resources available and the national context

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# Contact

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Thank you