



*Foundation for
Polish Science*

Foundation for Polish Science (FNP)

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About the foundation



*Foundation for
Polish Science*

Registered in 1991

(transformed Central Fund for Development of Science and Technology)

Poland's biggest independent self-financing research funding agency:

- annual spending in 2008 ca. 31 M PLN (9 M euros)
- additional average annual spending (EU structural funds: 2009-2015) ca. 8,8 M euros

About the foundation



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**600 fellowships or prizes a year
22 funding schemes**

We support:

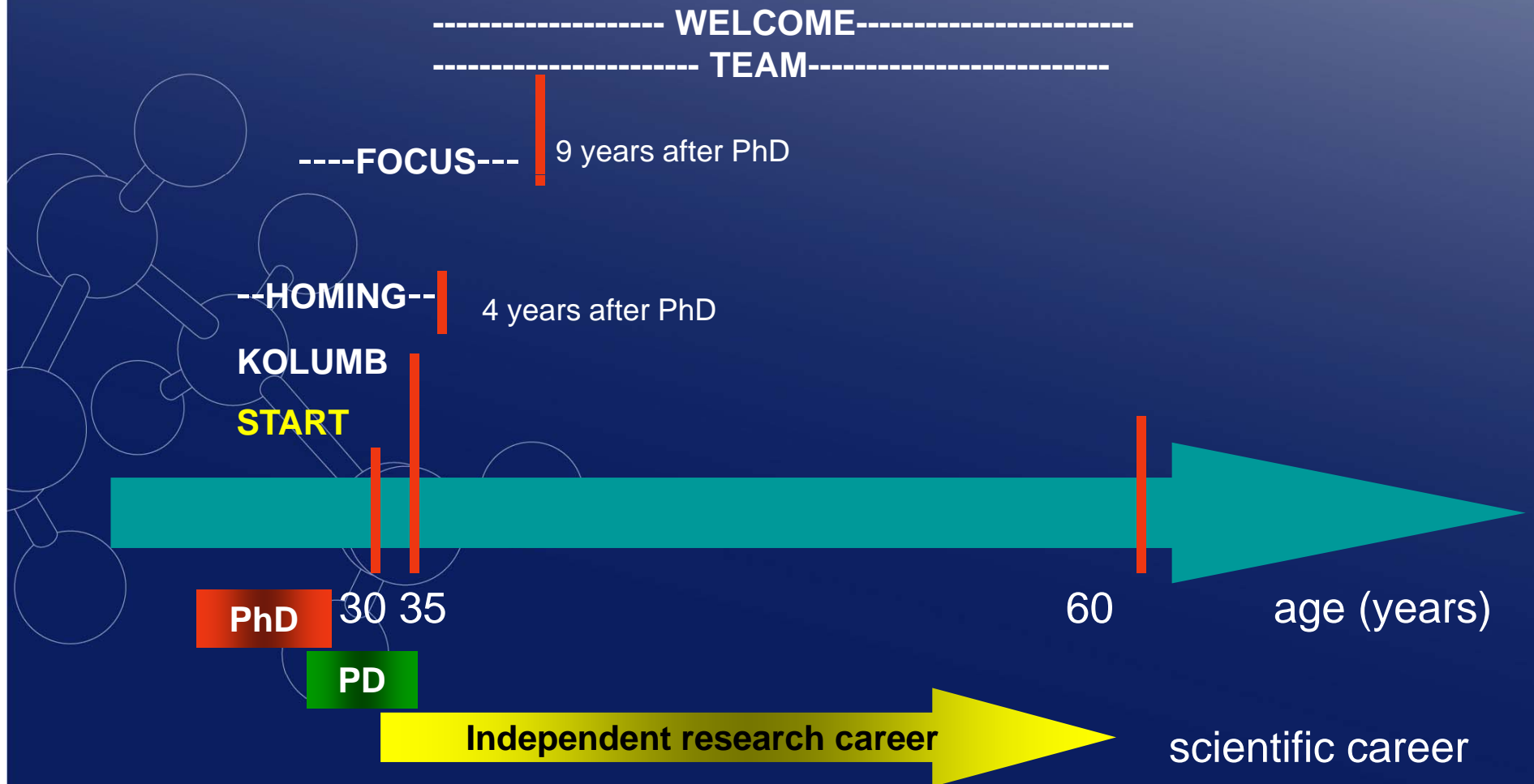
- **Poland's best scientists and research teams
(in all fields of science including humanities)**
- **transfer of technology**



Our coverage of research career



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Evaluation of START scholarship programme

Programme: 12-month stipends awarded since 1992 to the most promising young researchers (up to the age of 30). The number of beneficiaries each year exceeds 100

Evaluation prepared by the group of researchers from one of Warsaw universities:

Electronic survey, about 60 questions, sent to 600 public & private universities and scientific institutions

Three groups – our fellows, unsuccessful candidates, sample from the general population of young scholars

Response: 538 replies from the FNP grantees, 214 replies from the II group, 700 from the III group

Results: not fully satisfying (our beneficiaries are doing better than other groups)



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Main challenges:

- **Criteria: success of our laureates or our success**
- **Time –lap between the scholarship and its longterm impact**
- **Conclusions**
- **Benefits of the evaluation**





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Why do we need evaluation?

- **To improve our activity**
- **To prove our value**





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Current evaluation system at FNP:

- Regular monitoring of each programme (a report after each edition)
- Internal evaluation (each programme every 4 years)

to improve our activity

External evaluation

to prove ourselves?

What do we want to learn?

Who can do it for us?

(so we can learn something as well as increase our credibility)

How public should it be?
(criticism or PR)



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- Where do we need advice? (where our internal knowledge is not enough?)

- What issues are really important for „our clients” (scientific community) and general public?

- We have 22 programmes, we have to reduce that number and we don't feel prepared to deal with this (we need a new perspective)

- We want to invite the community to discussion about the needs we should be meeting

- Our public is not so much interested in details (procedures) but rather in funding opportunities we offer



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The new plan:

- To collect an international group of experts of different backgrounds (research institutions, research funding agencies, etc.)
- Provide them with information about our programmes (our whole offer)
- Ask them to identify the valuable activities and most crucial gaps



The scheme:

- **22 programmes divided into 8 packages (reflecting objectives of the programme)**
- **Each programme included in at least 3 packages**
- **Each expert is to evaluate one package (compare the programmes with regard to the objective)**
- **Each programme is to be evaluated from at least 3 different angles by 3 different persons**
- **All experts obtain a short info about each of our programmes**



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The nearest challenge:

External, international evaluation of one of our programmes:

HOMING: 2-year grants for young researchers returning from an extended scientific stay abroad

(In 2007 the Foundation obtained supplementary funding for the programme from the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism)

A group of international experts will analyze the programme, it's objectives, conditions and hitherto experiences (December 2008)



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Thank you for your attention

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