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Rev. prof. Józef Tischner, *The Ethics of Solidarity*

Poland's National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

Poland's National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue has been developed in line with decision no. 1983/2006/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of European Union of 18 December 2006 concerning the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue. Its provisions also reflect the national cultural policy: the Full Dimension Patronage, the National Strategy for Cultural Development 2004-2013 and the National Cohesion Strategy.

1. The National Context – Issues related to multiculturalism

1.1. Ethnic and national diversity of Poland

Before WWII, Poland was a multiethnic country and national minorities constituted 30% of the society. At present, minorities constitute approximately 2-4% of Poland's population. The census taken in 2002 provided grounds for stating that Poland is an ethnically homogeneous country in spite of the coexistence of many groups declaring different identity. In 2002, 96.7% of the population labelled themselves as Polish. Other than Polish nationality was declared by 1.23% of Poland's population, while the nationality of 2.03% was not stated¹. Among those declaring nationality other than Polish, the largest group are the German, Byelorussian and Ukrainian minorities. Some of the minorities are dispersed across the country (e.g. Ukrainians, Roma), and some inhabit fairly compact areas (e.g. Germans, Lithuanians). Persons with non-Polish nationality reside primarily in three voivodeships [*provinces*]: Śląskie, Opolskie and Podlaskie. A share of minorities in the total population of each of these voivodeships is, respectively, 12.5%, 4.6% and 3.9%².

1.2. Poland's policy towards ethnic and national minorities

The rights of national and ethnic minorities are guaranteed by the supreme legal acts of the Republic of Poland. Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland provides: “1. The Republic of Poland shall ensure Polish citizens belonging to national or ethnic minorities the freedom to maintain and develop their own language, to maintain customs and traditions, and to develop their own culture. 2. National and ethnic minorities shall have the right to establish educational and cultural institutions, institutions designed to protect religious identity, as well as to participate in the resolution of matters connected with their cultural identity.”³

¹ National Census, Main Statistical Office, 2002, see: http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/nsp/index.htm

² National Census, Analytical Part, p. 43, see: http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/nsp/ludnosc/an.doc

³ Article 35, Sections 1 and 2. The text passed on 2 April 1997 by the National Assembly, see: <http://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm>

A notable document is the Act on National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Language⁴ which defines and specifies national and ethnic minorities found in Poland. The act mentions 9 national minorities: Belorussians, Czechs, Lithuanians, Germans, Armenians, Russians and Slovaks, Ukrainians and Jews, as well as 4 ethnic minorities: Karaims, Lemks, Roma and Tatars. The act also indicates one regional language – the Kashubian language⁵.

The issues related to respecting the rights of national minorities have been also discussed in other legal acts⁶. These include: *the Act on Elections to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the Senate of the Republic of Poland*⁷ which exempts electoral committees created by organizations of national minorities from the requirement of exceeding the 5 per cent electoral threshold, and the *Act on the System of Education*⁸, according to which public schools enable minority members to maintain their national, ethnic, language and religious identity and, in particular, to study their language and their own history and culture.

Moreover, there has been the Common Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities⁹ operating in Poland since 2005 and its tasks are, inter alia, to express opinions referring to the implementation of rights and needs of minorities, to give opinions on the programmes serving to provide favourable conditions for maintaining and developing the cultural minority identity, as well as to take actions aimed at counteracting discrimination of people belonging to minorities.

1.3. Demographic structure and migrations of population.

In 2004, a drop in the numbers of population was reported in 6 member states. The reason for this phenomenon in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland was both a negative migration balance and a negative birth rate. In Hungary and Germany, a negative birth rate was not fully compensated for by a positive migration rate¹⁰. In the remaining 19 member states, an increase in the population was reported. At the same time, in 4 states only, a growth in population resulted to a greater extent from the birth rate rather than from the migration. It is the migration that ensured this growth in the remaining 15 countries.

Poland's current demographic structure and the changes observed suggest that in the future the number of foreigners will increase¹¹. This process will reflect the phenomena that

⁴ Act on National and Ethnic Minorities and Regional Language of 6 January 2005, Official Gazette 2005 no. 17 Item 141 of 6 January 2005

⁵ In accordance with the European Charter of Regional and Minority Languages, a regional language means a language that is traditionally used within a given territory of a State by nationals who form a group numerically smaller than the rest of the state's population and which is different from the official language of that state. A definition of regional languages does not include either dialects of the official language of the state or the languages of migrants.

⁶ See Zych M., *New Polish Legislation Regarding National, Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities*. [w:] "Proceedings of the international conference on Minority Names/Indigenous Names and Multilingual Areas. Geonames 2005. Ljouwert/Leeuwarden, Frisia, the Netherlands, April 14-16 2005". 2005, Ljouwert/Leeuwarden: Fryske Akademy, p. 75-78.

⁷ Act of 12 April 2001 Statute of Elections for the Sejm of the Republic of Poland and the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Official Gazette 2001 No. 46 Item 499 as amended.

⁸ Act of 7 September 1991 on the System of Education. Official Gazette 1991 No. 95 Item 425, as amended.

⁹ Common Commission of the Government and National and Ethnic Minorities operates under Article 23 Section 1 of the Act of 6 January 2005 on national and ethnic minorities and regional language (Official Gazette No. 17, Item 141, as amended)

¹⁰ *Population Statistics 2006*, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luksemburg 2006 r., p. 46 - 51

¹¹ *Ibid* p.53-69

took place in the West European countries in the past¹², therefore, it is essential for Poland and its citizens to take actions aimed at the promotion of intercultural dialogue.

2. Social consultation

The initial guidelines of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs relating to the preparation of Poland's National Strategy for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue have been consulted with the representatives of national cultural institutions involved in activities at national level relating to intercultural dialogue. Those included: the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, the International Cultural Centre, the Fryderyk Chopin National Institute and the National Centre for Culture.

In order to ensure as wide social consultation as possible, the Council of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland is to be established and it is to be composed of the representatives of leading non-governmental organizations in Poland, ethnic and national minorities organizations, academic communities as well as government institutions and offices.

The council is to be set up in 2007. The opinions of its Members will be, whenever possible, taken into account in the final shape of the Strategy. Additionally, the Members of the EYID Council are to act as the "Ambassadors of the EYID in Poland" responsible for the promotion of the Year's idea in the communities addressed by the initiatives of intercultural dialogue.

3. National priorities for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

3.1. Introduction

Poland has a significant tradition of intercultural dialogue. "The Republic of Poland has been set in the heart of Europe for centuries, at the crossroads: north-south, east-west. Our country was constantly crossed by various armies (...) also, alien rule was imposed on us. We ourselves lost our independence many times. This all creates our specific sensitivity and easiness to understand other nations' tragedies. It also lets us appreciate the value of peace. Over the centuries, Poland had a political system which allowed for developing the mechanisms of coexistence of various nations, cultures and religions."¹³ It was in Warsaw where, on 28 January 1973, the act called the "Warsaw Confederation" was signed to guarantee the freedom of religion and equal rights for people of different denominations. It must be taken as evidence of tolerance and open-mindedness of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the era of counterreformation in Europe.

A contemporary reference to that event might be both the experiences of the Solidarity movement in Poland which gave rise to the process of system transformation in the Central European countries, and the popularization of the idea of the philosophy of dialogue found in the writings of the reverend professor Tischner, the philosopher and ethicist.

The creation of the Solidarity trade union and civic movement was a breakthrough moment in the history of modern Poland and Europe. Thanks to the actions of Solidarity, Poland regained its independence, which led to the liberation of other communist block countries. This breakthrough was not due to armed resistance against the communist authorities but due to peaceful involvement in common cause for many different

¹²Changes in the structure of population in Poland have been presented in the report of the Main Statistical Office entitled "The Structure of Population". See: Population, Natural and Migratory Movement in the Years 1946-2005, http://www.stat.gov.pl/dane_spol-gosp/ludnosc/ludnosc/index.htm

¹³Dialogue or confrontation? Henryk Suchar's interview with doc. dr hab. Krzysztof Gawlikowski, President of the Polish Council for Asia and the Pacific, Manager of the East Asia Studies Centre at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Science and the Centre for East Asia Civilization at the Warsaw School of Social Psychology, see: <http://www.decudent.pl/index.php?id=issue&nr=200309&art=7#art>

communities: workers, academic youth, farmers, clergy and the intelligentsia. They all joined forces in order to strive for independence and respect for human dignity and truth, thus bringing the totalitarian system, which failed to respect elementary human rights, to an end. The experiences of September '80 and Solidarity may serve as a reference point for all societies deprived of democratic values, including those with totalitarian and authoritarian rule, where human and civic rights are violated.¹⁴

The values represented by Solidarity appear in Rev. Józef Tischner's philosophical thought – the thought which is strongly linked with a current of the philosophy of dialogue which sees a meeting with another human as a pivotal moment for the realization of humanity. Rev. Józef Tischner made the philosophy of dialogue the ground for the ideals of the ethics of solidarity – the ethics of openness, understanding and responsibility for another human being which protects those who suffer against despair, heralds hope and a chance to realize human dignity. The guiding principle of all the actions taken in Poland within the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue could be the words of Rev. Tischner: *“A reliable dialogue derives from a certain assumption which must be accepted, explicitly or tacitly, by both sides: neither me nor you are able to know the truth about ourselves if we remain distant from each other, closed in the walls of our fears, but we must look at each other from the outside, so to speak, I - with your eyes and you - with mine, we must compare our views in the conversation and only thus we are able to find an answer to the question what we are really about.”*¹⁵ This message will be closed in the form of a broadly understood slogan of the EYID: “Dialogue is building mutuality” (Rev. prof. J. Tischner)

3.2. The objectives of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland

The strategic objective of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland shall be to demonstrate various contexts and understanding of multiculturalism in Europe with special regard to the Polish tradition and historical experiences contributing to the continent's cultural heritage. Propagating intercultural dialogue as a process enabling functioning in a more open and complex cultural environment, in which different cultural identities and beliefs coexist both in the member states and within individual countries, will provide grounds for counteracting xenophobia and intolerance for otherness.

At community and national level, an assumption arising from the objective adopted by EYID will be to present Europe's Christian roots as the value which not only coexists with other religious traditions and modern beliefs, but also as the value which shapes the platform for dialogue which constitutes the foundations of a diverse and dynamic society, the European citizenship which is open to the world, respects cultural diversity and is based on common values of the EU as laid down in Article 6 of the EU Treaty and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. An equally important assumption will be to present the tradition of the multi-religious Poland which has been a guaranty of religious tolerance for ages.

At regional and local level, the assumption of the implementation of the EYID will be connected with presenting local contexts of multiculturalism to promote a better mutual understanding of citizens and their future cooperation. A special emphasis will be put on the actions showing the importance of engaging in multicultural dialogue in the daily life, and highlighting the contribution of different cultures and expressions of cultural diversity into the heritage and ways of life in the member states. Such actions will create favourable conditions

¹⁴ See: The Gdańsk Declaration of the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of creating “Solidarność”, source: www.solidarność.org.pl

¹⁵ Rev. prof. Józef Tischner, *The Ethics of Solidarity*, Kraków 2000, p. 18.

for Poland to create a plane of dialogue and cooperation with its neighbouring countries, in particular with Ukraine and Belarus, to deepen the dialogue with the Ukrainian and Belorussian minority in Poland, and to support democratic movements in the countries now directly neighbouring the European Union.

3.3. Priorities of implemented actions.

The implementation of the adopted assumptions will be supported by actions planned at national, regional and local level that fall within one of the four priorities adopted to celebrate the EYID in Poland.

These priorities are:

1. Conferences, seminars and debates on contexts of multiculturalism.
2. Studies and publications referring to the contexts of multiculturalism in Poland and in Europe.
3. Festivals and reviews presenting and introducing the faces of multiculturalism.
4. Workshops and training courses with particular attention given to the needs of children and young people, teaching open-mindedness towards ethnic and cultural diversity.

Projects implemented in the framework of the EYID should demonstrate a high level of cooperation between partners, a cross-sectional look at the problem, as well as the adopted methodology, a transparent budget, coherent management of the project, plus an innovative and creative approach to the issues of the project and/or the nature of cooperation between partners.

Additionally, any such projects should provide European added value, namely, they should have perspectives that look beyond the local, regional or even national interests and objectives of development on the European level.

To determine European added value while assessing proposals, the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- the experience of the organisers with regard to the sector addressed by the project, the efficiency of their activities and their influence on the audience,
- the relevance of the target audience for the objectives of the selected EYID priority,
- the multicultural nature of the audience addressed by the project,
- the size of the audience (in particular for projects implemented within the framework of Priorities 1 and 3)
- the possibility to continue actions undertaken within the project, further activities of the organisers, or increasing benefits on the European level, arising from the activities proposed.

3.4. Coordination body for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland

The National Centre for Culture is a coordination body for activities related to the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland. The NCC is a state institution which works for the development of culture. The NCC's statutory objectives include: inspiring and supporting social movements and non-governmental organizations operating in the field of culture and national heritage; providing cultural information and conducting research work; maintaining and propagating the tradition of the nation and the state and cultural education; as well as stimulating interest in culture and art.

3.5 Audiences, task leaders – strategy and schedule of actions

The actions under the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue will be taken at three levels:

- **Level one** – initiatives arising from the assumptions of the European Council for the EYID, including the implementation of projects co-financed by the EU.
- **Level two** – initiatives under the common slogan of the EYID in Poland, resulting from the strategy of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and relating to intercultural dialogue (including projects related to the cooperation with Ukraine and Belarus), however not financed from the EU funds.
- **Level three** – actions associated with the celebration of EYID in Poland necessary to achieve the intended overall and specific objectives, such as the launching of the EYID website, developing and disseminating a newsletter covering the EYID initiatives, creating a catalogue of “good practices”, information on interesting intercultural projects in Poland, promoting as a broad public debate as possible on different ways of seeing the phenomenon of multiculturalism and how these attitudes are determined.

Audiences:

The activities related to the implementation of the EYID in Poland, undertaken at all the three levels, will be aimed at the following audiences:

1. Children and young people
2. Communities and organizations of ethnic and national minorities, in particular individuals in danger of being excluded
3. Non-governmental organizations, academic communities, state and public institutions dealing with multiculturalism issues
4. Central administration and self-government bodies.
5. Public and private media

The idea and the intended objectives of the EYID are also to be presented to the private sector representatives in order to raise additional funds for the task implementation.

Task leaders:

Leaders of the tasks co-financed from the EU funds will be appointed by open competitions organized in Poland, in accordance with the EU procedures approved for the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Leaders of the tasks under the common slogan of the EYID in Poland will be organizations and institutions successfully implementing actions in the field of intercultural dialogue. A complete list of leaders for this group of activities will be defined based on the submitted descriptions of the implemented projects which will be then included in the catalogue of “good practices” of the EYID. The institutions implementing the objectives of the EYID are, for example, the Centre “The Borderland of Arts, Cultures, Nations”, the Villa Decius Association or the Foundation of the Dialogue of Four Cultures Festival.

The activities accompanying the events of the EYID in Poland relating to the promotion of the ideas and objectives of the EYID will be the responsibility of the EYID Team at the National Centre for Culture, in close cooperation with the EYID Council and leaders of projects implemented within the framework of the EYID in Poland.

Schedule of the EYID activities in Poland:

In order to reach the intended effects of the implementation of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland, the following dates have been adopted for implementation of tasks:

No.	Activity	Dates for implementation
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1	Developing the EYID strategy in Poland	January 2007 – February 2007
2	Disseminating information on the EYID	March 2007 – June 2007
3	National call for proposals for the EYID	April 2007 – May 2007
4	Appointment of the EYID Council in Poland	April 2007 – June 2007
5	Selection of national projects to be co-financed	June 2007
6	Preparation of the application for the EYID in Poland	July 2007 – August 2007
7	Submission of the application for the EYID in Poland to the European Commission	14 September 2007
8	Constructing the website of the EYID in Poland	June 2007-October 2007
9	Promotion of the EYID idea (debates, information in press)	October 2007-March 2009
10	Updating the website of the EYID in Poland	November 2007 – March 2009
11	Creating the catalogue of “good practices”	November 2007 – March 2008
12	Implementation of activities indicated in the national project if the EYID	1 January 2008 – 20 March 2009
13	Promotion of “good practices”	April 2008 – March 2009
14	Selection of activities implemented under the auspices of the EYID in Poland (activities under the common logo)	January 2008 – March 2008
15	Final financial report for EU grant	April – June 2009
16	Activities of the EYID Team in the NCC	January 2007 – March 2009

4. Education

At all the levels of the implementation of the EYID, a lot of weight is attached to projects pursuing the idea of a formal and informal intercultural education aimed at children and young people as well as at adults. Such activities have been distinguished due to the recognized significant role of education in teaching openness to different cultures, religions and beliefs, and in preparing children and young people for the coexistence in the era of the global, pluralist society.

All the priorities referred to in Section 3.3, provide space for projects which contribute to:

1. Shaping the attitude of dialogue.
2. Shaping understanding for cultural otherness – ranging from subcultures in one’s own community to the cultures of remote societies.
3. Preparing for interactions with members of other cultures.
4. Strengthening one’s own cultural identity.

A priority adequate for implementation of activities oriented directly at intercultural education is Priority 4. *Workshops and training courses with particular attention given to the needs of children and youth and teaching open-mindedness towards ethnic and cultural diversity.*

Actions implemented in the framework of the EYID are to provide favourable conditions for working out a model of intercultural education contributing to the coexistence of cultures, respect for differences, acceptance of cultural pluralism and an ability to function in a pluralist society. In projects implemented under Priority 4, an emphasis will be placed on educational aspects related to learning about religious, national or ethnic minorities on one hand, and, on the other hand, on elements serving to integrate minorities, immigrants or refugees through learning the culture and the Polish language, meetings with the natives, etc.

As part of the implementation of the EYID's educational projects, so far as possible, the cooperation with the centres dealing with the promotion of intercultural education that are experienced in the implementation of projects in this field is to be established. These are, for example, the Centre for Citizenship Education, the Federation of Educational Initiatives, the Education for Democracy Foundation, the Intercultural Education Foundation and other.

5. Good practices

Within the framework of the EYID, a range of actions is to be undertaken to promote "good practices" referring to initiatives whose aim is to disseminate the idea of intercultural dialogue. The activities will be carried out in two stages:

Stage 1 – identifying the examples of "good practices".

Stage 2 – propagating the examples of "good practices".

An electronic survey on projects implementing the idea of intercultural dialogue has been developed in the web portal administered by the NCC called "Polish regions in the European cultural space". The information about the survey has been distributed along with the request to disseminate it to all the website audiences, and next, it will be sent to partner institutions cooperating within the framework of the EYID, as well as to the Departments of Culture at Marshal's Offices in all the Voivodeships. While preparing for the EYID, the information on the "good practices" base that is being created should reach a wide range of organizations operating in Poland.

The information collected in the survey is to create the internet base of "good practices". The EYID website will contain a section fully devoted to the examples of "good practices" which are to be categorized so as to facilitate fast identification of projects searched for. Additionally, the website will include abridged descriptions of "good practices" in the selected European languages, which is to enable the creation of the European platform for the exchange of information and experience.

Interesting intercultural projects in Poland will be promoted through all activities implemented within the framework of the EYID, accompanied by the promotion of the EYID website and the catalogue of "good practices" as well as a broad discussion on the idea of intercultural dialogue with participation of the authors of projects listed as "good practices".

6. Promotion strategy

Because of the main objective of the EYID in Poland, the purpose of the activities that make up a communication strategy is largely to build a widespread awareness of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, and, as a consequence, to disseminate the idea of dialogue, tolerance and respect for different cultures.

The intention is that the activities implemented within the framework of the EYID should be aimed at all the citizens of the Republic of Poland, with particular attention given to children and young people, and emphasis will be placed on the EYID to be addressed to everybody regardless of their nationality, denomination, education and economic status.

Information and promotion campaign will focus on the issues such as:

- promotion of the motto of the EYID in Poland as a key message;
- visual identification of projects being part of the events of the EYID (logo; promotion materials; television, radio and press spots);
- the website of the EYID in Poland;
- cooperation with the media;
- social campaign;
- giving "patronage" to interesting and significant projects on the intercultural subjects;

- cooperation with territorial self-government bodies.

A slogan of the EYID in Poland will be the words of Rev. J. Tischner: “*Dialogue is building mutuality*”. Frequent usage of the slogan in the materials concerning the celebration of the EYID in Poland and a social campaign shall add to a better promotion of the EYID ideas.

Similarly, the EYID logo will function in the sphere of visual identification. It is to be placed in all the publications referring to this task.

The main source of information about the EYID will be the website that is to be updated systematically, and the materials contained thereon will be translated into selected EU languages. It is expected that the EYID website will bring together all the actions taken during the EYID in Poland, and it will become a platform for communication and the exchange of information for all individuals and organizations involved in the implementation of the EYID, with emphasis placed on using this medium to contact the EU citizens not resident in Poland. One of the website’s elements will be a newsletter sent on a regular basis.

However, as only 31 per cent of Poles use the Internet¹⁶, both the national media and the local media (TV, radio, press) are planned to be involved in the promotion campaign of the EYID.

It is intended that the EYID will be accompanied by a national social campaign using the logo and motto of the EYID, whose aim will be to propagate dialogue, tolerance and respect for different cultures. It will be also possible to implement the campaign in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and with the financial support provided by commercial institutions.

A wide promotion of the idea of intercultural dialogue will be also supported by projects under the auspices of the EYID, although they will not be implemented directly within the framework of the EYID.

Cooperation with Marshal’s Offices and local organizations shall help build the awareness of the EYID in Poland’s individual regions.

7. Lasting impact of the task

The lasting impact of the actions of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland will be guaranteed by preserving the website which was appointed to serve the Year in Poland. The website, which will contain some examples of interesting projects and records of public debates on multiculturalism, will be an interesting and significant source of information for many people interested in the issues related to intercultural dialogue. Additionally, the internet forum created for institutions and organizations that carry out the intercultural cooperation related activities, will be able to serve as a platform for the exchange of information, also after the closing of the EYID official actions.

8. Monitoring and reporting

The National Centre for Culture will monitor the actions of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue in Poland according to the standards and requirements laid down in this respect by the European Union.

The Strategy will be implemented at several levels. Basic instruments for the implementation of the Strategy being at the same time the main areas of monitoring and evaluation, are:

¹⁶ *The Internet and Computers: equipment in households, ways and purposes of use*, research announcement, CBOS, 2006, see: http://www.cbos.pl/SPISKOM.POL/2006/K_058_06.PDF

- grants awarded by the European Commission for projects at national level – level one
- a system of patronage given by the national coordination body (NCC) for projects implementing the objectives of the EYID – level two
- actions implemented directly by the national coordination body (NCC) necessary to achieve the intended objectives – level three.

Implementing bodies of projects shall submit to the national coordination body (NCC) the following reports:

- in the case of projects financed by the EU with a duration of less than 3 months – a final report on the implementation of the action, containing a description of the content-related effects of the project and a final financial report - within 3 months from the completion of the action.
- In the case of projects financed by the EU with a duration of more than 3 months – quarterly progress reports and a final report on the implementation of the action, containing both the content-related effects of the project and a final financial report - within three months from the completion of the action.
- In the case of projects under the common logo of the EYID – quarterly progress reports and a final report on the implementation of the action specifying the content-related effects of the project - within three months from the completion of the action.

Beneficiaries of EU financial assistance shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure related to the implementation of the project for a period of five years from the date of the last payment.

The Commission and the national coordination body (NCC) shall take every other step necessary to verify that the actions financed are carried out properly and in compliance with the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) no. 1605/2002.

Should any irregularities be identified at any stage of the implementation of projects co-financed under the EYID, the NCC shall request the beneficiary to provide relevant explanations. This will apply particularly to any delays in the implementation of the task, abandonment of the implementation of any part of the project, or any change in its substantive content.

Based on the documents received, the national coordination body of the EYID in Poland (the National Centre for Culture) will submit to the European Commission a final report on the implementation of the EYID, in accordance with the requirements laid down in the documents specified by the Commission.