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Origins and History of the Polish Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, 1991–2016

The European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – Polish Division was setup in 1991 as a branch of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (EAERE) which was originally founded, in the mid-1980s. In 1990, EAERE commenced formal activities as an Academic Association after the registration of its Articles of Association in Siegen, Germany. The main aims of the Association, as written down in the Articles of Association, are to raise the level of academic research on the environment and act as a pressure group on environmental policy at a European and Global level as well as in the particular countries.

EAERE is organising annual meetings to discuss environmental issues which is always combined with an academic conference. The first conference entitled: *“Environmental Cooperation and Policy in the Single European Market”* took place in 1990 in Venice, Italy. This was followed in 1991, by one in Stockholm, Sweden discussing: *“Economics of International Environmental Problems and Policies”*. EAERE’s third annual conference, titled: *“Institutions and Environmental Protection”*, took place between 16-19th Jun. 1992 in Krakow, Poland at the Cracow Academy of Economics. From this time on, conferences have been held on an annual basis in a number of European countries. During conference in Krakow participated the following Distinguished Professor and EAERE’s members: Domenico Siniscalco, Henk Folmer, Ignazio Musu, Frank J. Convery, Rudiger Pethig, H. Landis Gabel, Karl J. Mäler, Ekko C. van Ierland, Alessandro Lanza, Karine Nyborg, Jan van der Straaten, Eamonn J. Judge, Thomas Sterner, Ger Klaassen, Clara Costa Duarte.

Since 1998, together with its U.S. sister organisation AERE (Association of Environmental and Resource Economists), EAERE organises a global conference (the World Congress of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists) which takes place every three years. Without doubt, this is a realisation of one of the

main statutory aims of the Association being the integration of environmental policy on a global level.

Shortly after the official founding of EAERE, there was an initiative in Poland led by Professor Tomasz Żylicz (at the time Director of the Economics Department of the Polish Ministry of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry), to create the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – Polish Division (*Europejskie Stowarzyszenie Ekonomistów Środowiska i Zasobów Naturalnych – Oddział Polski, ESESIZN – OP*). This initiative was followed up in June 1990 with an invitation from Dr. Bronisław Kamiński (Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry at the time) inviting a group of around 60 senior academics to a meeting in Krakow. During this meeting it was decided to setup the Association in Poland and the Founding Committee consisted of: President – Professor Kazimierz Górka (Cracow Academy of Economics), Professor Tadeusz Borys (Wroclaw Academy of Economics), Professor Stanisław Mestwin Kostka (University of Warsaw – Affiliate in Białystok) and Professor Bazyli Poskrobko (Białystok University of Technology).

The Founding Committee then organised the first meeting of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – Polish Division in Krakow on 9th Mar. 1991 attended by 98 economists representing all the major Research and Higher Education Establishments in Poland.¹

The first President of EAERE – Polish Division was Professor Kazimierz Górka from the Cracow Academy of Economics who served from 1991 to 1994. Professor Górka was followed by Professor Anna Jankowska-Kłapkowska from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy (AGH), Krakow who served from 1994 to 1998. The next President was Dr. Leszek Preisner two terms: 1998-2002 and 2002–2006, followed by Dr. Tadeusz Pindór from 2006 to 2010. Professor Leszek Preisner was then re-elected for his third term 2010-2014 and again for the current (fourth) term from 2014 to 2018.

A fact worth noting is that since 1994, the Registered Office and Secretariat of EAERE – Polish Division is in Krakow. It was initially affiliated with the AGH Department of Economics and Natural Resource Management then, from 2006 to 2018, with the AGH Department of Economics, Finance, and Environmental Management. Bearing this history in mind, it should be stressed that from the very beginning of the Association's activities in Poland, the Polish (former European) Association of Environmental and Resource Economists is very closely linked with the Department of Economics, Finance, and Environmental Management, Faculty of Management, AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow. These connections have existed for as long as 22 years and are for two main reasons: firstly, because members of Department (Professor Anna Jankowska-Kłapkowska, Professor Leszek Preisner and Professor Tadeusz Pindór) have been or are currently officers of PSESIZN and secondly,

¹ M. Banach, *Europejskie Stowarzyszenie Ekonomistów Środowiska i Zasobów Naturalnych w Polsce*, in: „*Ekonomia i Środowisko*”, Vol. I, Paper 1, Białystok 1992, p. 195-197.

because this is the physical location of the Association's Secretariat, which organises the PAERE General Assemblies, conferences and academic seminars.

Currently, the Association has around 230 members who are mainly Lecturers or Professors holding senior office at the major Polish Higher Education Establishments. The largest number of members (39) is based in Krakow, followed by Warsaw (27), Wroclaw (24), Bialystok (19) then Katowice and Olsztyn (both with 12). Other cities represented are: Szczecin, Bydgoszcz, Poznan, Torun, Opole, Rzeszow, Zielona Gora, Lublin and Zamosc. This geographical spread results in a good representation of Teaching Establishments across almost the whole country which is significant in ensuring a more national coverage. In spite of this, despite numerous efforts by the PAERE Board, Gdansk and the Pomerania region are still under-represented in the Association membership although this is a region with a strong academic background and a significant role in the economy of Poland.

Recently, the Association's Articles of Association were aligned to current legal requirements in Poland in requiring the PAERE General Assembly to take place annually. Prior to this, the General Assembly took place once every two years. For this reason up to now, 16 General Assemblies have taken place without including the Founding Meeting in Krakow on 9th Mar. 1991.

Decisions as to the location for a specific General Assembly are based on practical considerations and on a recognition of the academic contribution of the Higher Education Establishments in the region or city chosen to host the General Assembly. General Assemblies are normally organised as part of an Academic Conference and the range of geographic locations where the General Assemblies have taken place has without doubt had a very positive influence on the degree of integration of both individuals and groups working on environmentally related topics in the academic world or in various institutions.

Members of the Association are also very active in various environment related organisational bodies and, as well as this activity, carry out numerous analyses and provide input and opinion on issues related to ecology or environmental policy.

A significant aspect underlining the commitment of Association members to realising the statutory goals is the organisation of new courses in Environmental Economics, Environmental Management and Environmental Policy at a number of universities. This includes the organisation of post-graduate courses covering various aspects of Natural Resource Economics.

There are however other activities carried out by Association members which may be worth mentioning. These include:

- Providing „expert opinion” on a number of significant aspects regarding the implementation of sustainable development in Poland.
- Participation by Association members in advisory boards and consultative councils.
- Preparation of technical and expert evaluations with regard to environmental protection.

On 4th Oct. 2007, as a result of a resolution by the PAERE Board, a new section was founded within the framework of the Association to deal with the Economics of Water Supply Safeguarding, Water Utilisation and Protection. This section was headed by Professor Rafal Milaszewski who was appointed by the PAERE Board. In 2008, the PAERE Board passed a resolution authorising this section to be located within the Department of Environmental and Resource Economics at Warsaw Business School. However, from 2014 this Section is now located at the AGH Department of Economics, Finance, and Environmental Management in Krakow. Since it was founded, the section has organised five academic seminars.

The Association is also very active in publishing and, in collaboration with the Foundation of Environmental and Resource Economists in Białystok, issues the following:

- Conference Proceedings – *“Economics and Environment”* (widely known in Poland as the “Green Library Series”): collection of conference materials, proceedings and publications edited by Professor Kazimierz Górka (currently 35 volumes).
- Journal of the Polish Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – *“Ekonomia i Środowisko”* (“Economics and Environment”): Academic Journal edited by Dr. Elżbieta Broniewicz, Chief Editor (currently 59 Research Papers).
- Books and other materials published by the *“Ekonomia i Środowisko”* (“Economics and Environment”) Publishing House under the auspices of the Foundation of Environmental and Resource Economists in Białystok.

As many of the persons working in the Foundation of Environmental and Resource Economists are also members of the PAERE, the relationship between the two organisations is very close and from the start of the Foundation members of our Association formed the Foundation’s Editorial Board and the Programme Advisory Panel. Moreover, many of the PAERE members have entrusted the publication of their books and academic papers to the *“Ekonomia i Środowisko”* (“Economics and Environment”) Publishing House run under the auspices of the Foundation of Environmental and Resource Economists in Białystok.

From the start of its activities, the Polish Division was the only representative of EAERE in Poland. This is because the EAERE Articles of Association, as a matter of principle, do not anticipate the creation of separate country affiliations.²

Over the many years in which the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – Polish Division has been active here have never been any issues raised with this name which was officially registered in the Business Register in Krakow. Problems appeared when the name EAERE – Polish Division, as a faithful reflection of the mother organisation, appeared in English on its web-site. The EAERE Board in Milan, Italy explained that the Articles of Association do not envisage the creation of national entities and therefore approached the Board of the EAERE – Polish Division with a request to change the name. The purpose was to try to avoid public confusion or problems of a formal nature due to the names of both organisations.

² K. Górka, G. Peszko, *Krakowski szczyt ekonomistów środowiska i zasobów naturalnych*, in: *“Ekonomia i Środowisko”*, Vol. I, Paper 2, Białystok 1992, p. 176.

The subject of the name of our Association was discussed on a number of occasions at meetings of the Management Committee as well as at Annual General meetings (for instance in Supraśl on 11th Nov. 2012 and on 6th Dec. 2012 at the Wrocław University of Economics).

On 9th Jul. 2014, the XI Commercial Law Department of the Company Registration Court in the Krakow-Śródmieście District Court in Krakow, authorised the registration of the new name of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists – Polish as being the: **Polish Association of Environmental and Resource Economists** and from 16th Jul. 2014, this new name has become the exclusive name of our Association. Appropriate steps have been taken by the PAERE Board to ensure all relevant documents are modified and to inform all appropriate institutions.

Significant contributions to environmental protection can be attributed to very many of our members but in spite of this, the 20th Anniversary of the European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists was celebrated in a fairly subdued manner and was combined with the first *Convention of Faculties incorporating Environmental Economics, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development* which was organised on 26th Sep. 2011 by the Department of Economics, Finance, and Environmental Management, Faculty of Management, AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow³. The Convention was attended by representatives of 9 University Faculties which carry out environmentally related activities in Poland. These representatives presented reviews of the activities and contribution of their faculties in this area. The reviews were then published by the “*Ekonomia i Środowisko*” (“Economics and Environment”) Publishing House in Białystok⁴.

During the current term 2014–2018 following members are officers at the PAERE Board and Revision Committee:

The Board PAERE: Professor Leszek Preisner (President), Professor Adam Budnikowski (Vice-President), Professor Bogusław Fiedor (Vice-President), Professor Małgorzata Burchard-Dziubińska (Secretary General), Professor Tadeusz Pindór (Treasurer), and as Board Members: Dr. Elżbieta Broniewicz, Professor Kazimierz Górka, Professor Andrzej Graczyk, Professor Barbara Kryk, Professor Elżbieta Lorek, and Professor Rafał Miłaszewski.

The PAERE Revision Committee: Professor Ryszard Janikowski (Chairman), Professor Mariusz Plich (Vice-Chairman), Dr. Paulina Szyja (Vice-Chairman), and two Members: Dr. Paweł Bartoszczuk and Dr. Ksymena Rosiek.

The Jubilee of the 25th Anniversary of the Polish (former European) Association of Environmental and Resource Economists took place on 19th Sep. 2016 in Krakow and was supported by the Department of Economics, Finance, and Environmental Management, Faculty of Management, AGH University of Science and Technology

³ *Badania naukowe i działalność dydaktyczna w zakresie ekonomii i zarządzania środowiskowego – Pierwszy Zjazd Katedr Ekonomii i Zarządzania Środowiskowego*, L. Preisner (ed.), Wyd. Ekonomia i Środowisko, Białystok 2012.

⁴ L. Preisner, *20-lecie Europejskiego Stowarzyszenia Ekonomistów Środowiska i Zasobów Naturalnych*, in: “*Ekonomia i Środowisko*”, No. 3(43), Białystok 2012, p. 226-235.

and was followed by the two-days conference on: Natural Resources and Sustainable Development, 20–21 Sep. 2016 in Krakow.

The Board of the Polish Association of Environmental and Resource Economists would, within the framework of our Association, appreciate the development of strong relationships between the Academic Community and individuals who find the aims of the Association to be relevant and important. Therefore, persons interested in membership of our Association are kindly requested to contact us via the following address:

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