

● The Educational Centre in Laski was established thanks to Elżbieta Róża Czacka, who interpreted loss of vision in her younger days as her vocation. In 1911 she established the Association of the Care of the Blind, and several years later – the Congregation of Franciscan Sisters Servants of the Cross. Based on these foundations, she built Centre for Blind People in Laski in the early twenties of the 20th century. Elżbieta Czacka was perfectly aware of the importance of raising blind people to live independently and fully responsibly. Hence the Centre in Laski offers education to visually impaired children from the first months after their birth until the age when they take their A-levels or vocational qualification examinations. The Centre makes an effort to create such conditions where blind children can grow up with the perception of their own dignity and an open approach to others. Consequently, in the future, these individuals will be able to live independently in their families, work environment and the society of sighted people.

Szymon Sławiński
Society for the Care of the Blind

● On **14 October 2011**, the National Bank of Poland is putting into circulation the coins “Europe Without Barriers – 100th Anniversary of the Society for the Care of the Blind”, with the following face values:

10 zł struck in proof finish, in silver (oxidised),

2 zł struck in standard finish, in Nordic Gold.

The National Bank of Poland

holds the exclusive right to issue the currency
of the Republic of Poland.

In addition to **coins and notes for general circulation**,
the NBP issues **collector coins and notes**.

Issuing collector items is an occasion to commemorate
important historic figures and anniversaries, as well
as to develop the interest of the public in Polish culture,
science and tradition.

Since 1996, the NBP has also been issuing **occasional 2 złoty**
coins, struck **in Nordic Gold**, for general circulation.

All coins and notes issued
by the NBP are legal tender in Poland.

NBP

National Bank of Poland

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COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011



Information on the issue schedule can be found at the
www.nbp.pl/money
website.

Collector coins issued by the National Bank of Poland
are sold in the Kolekcjoner service (Internet auction/Online shop)
at the following website:
www.kolekcjoner.nbp.pl

 **KOLEKCJONER**
and at the NBP regional branches.

The coins were struck at the Mint of Poland in Warsaw.
Edited and printed: NBP Printing Office

Europe Without Barriers
100th Anniversary
of the Society for the Care
of the Blind

Europe Without Barriers – 100th Anniversary of the Society for the Care of the Blind

● Despite the progress of medicine, babies continue to be born blind and people lose vision due to various medical conditions and accidents. According to the data from the Central Statistical Office over 1.8 million people are disabled because of damage of their organ of sight or eye diseases in Poland.

● The visually impaired constitute a highly diversified group, which spans children, youth, adults and seniors. There are people, among them, who were born blind or partially sighted and who have lost vision in adulthood. Some of them cannot see anything, while others have a sense of light or can see the world blurred. The partially sighted include individuals who can see the world as through fog, and those who can see it in fragments. Some people suffer from a central scotoma and can only see objects in the periphery, while others have a narrower field of vision and see as through a telescope or a keyhole. The visually impaired can continue an independent life and remain active despite such severe difficulties, but it is necessary for the people who live around them to be aware of the limitations of the visually impaired as well as to support them effectively.

● Those who have lost vision, but also their relatives, need assistance in finding themselves in a new situation. They need training how to be self-reliant at home, at work and during travelling; and also how to be socially active. This assistance requires comprehensive solutions. We also need to seek actively that the visually impaired are properly seen by others.

● For example, with regard to young children, care should be taken to ensure that they play with adequate rehabilitation toys facilitating their development. And while the parents try to restore or save their child's remaining vision, they should not neglect other very important

aspects of the child's life such as education, rehabilitation and general development. Aid must be provided not only to a blind child, but to his or her usually fully fit parents as well. More questions arise as a visually impaired child is growing up. What school should he or she go to - mainstream or special? What textbooks should the child use - in Braille or in large print? What should teachers know about educating a blind or partially sighted child? These issues require professional help and counselling.

● Naturally, a different kind of support is expected by teenagers with blindness as they face dilemmas regarding career planning, choosing a field of study, or generally, pursuing their way of life. Thus, young people expect suggestions how they can organize themselves in order to help one another effectively; how to share experience or pass on some advice on solving a given problem in the fastest, cheapest and best way.

● Adults face yet other problems. They struggle to find a new job or keep the one they already have. Generally, they make an effort to get money to support themselves. The employment rate among professionally active people does not exceed 18 per cent. Most of them work as masseurs, physiotherapists and administrative office workers.

● It is also crucial to help a visually impaired person to master the basic life skills such as travelling and walking safely with a white cane on his or her own or keeping the house. The partially sighted should be taught how to make the most of their remaining vision and use optical aid devices such as magnifiers and telescopes, as well as the right light and clearly differentiated and contrasted colours. Both the individuals with blindness and those who have low vision learn such skills via group and individual training.

● The elderly constitute yet another category. Those people primarily need ordinary life care, professional assistance with everyday matters, and sometimes just the presence of another person. The Polish Association of the Blind manages three social-aid houses for visually impaired elderly people.

● If we want to live our lives to the full, it is not enough to satisfy only the basic life needs. Blind and partially sighted people, like anyone else, need access to culture, knowledge, and the latest information. Modern technology enables people with impaired vision to use the computer and the Internet.

● Both non-sighted and partially sighted individuals try hand at such artistic disciplines as reciting, theatre, music, singing, sculpture, and painting in the case of the latter group.

● The year 2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish Association of the Blind - the biggest organization accepting only members from the blind and the partially sighted community.

● The Polish Association of the Blind (PZN) is one of 5000 non-governmental, public benefit organizations registered in Poland. Because of the number of its members, it is the most representative association of blind and partially sighted people.

● PZN is a self-help organization, established by the blind, acting for the benefit of this group and managed by them. It conducts a broad activity for the benefit of people who are socially excluded because of loss of vision.

Małgorzata Pacholec
Director of the Polish Association of the Blind

COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011 COINS ISSUED IN 2011



FACE VALUE **10** ZŁ

metal **Ag 925/1000 (oxidised)** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **32.00 mm**
weight **14.14 g** ■ mintage (volume) **50,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: On the right, partially against the background of a stylised maze, image of the Eagle established as the Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the left of the Eagle, on an isolated area, face value of the coin in Braille. Below, inscription: 10 ZŁ. Along the rim, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland) 2011. Below the Eagle, on the right, the Mint's mark: M/W.

REVERSE: In the centre, stylised image of a maze. Against it, on the right, stylised silhouettes of two people, one of whom is holding a blind person's cane. On the right, images of six stars arranged in a semi-circle. On the left, semi-circular inscription: EUROPA BEZ BARIER (Europe Without Barriers).

ON THE EDGE: The inscription: 100-lecie Towarzystwa Opieki nad Ociemniałymi (100th Anniversary of the Society for the Care of the Blind).

Coin designer: **DOBROCHNA SURAJEWSKA**



FACE VALUE **2** ZŁ

metal **CuAl5Zn5Sn1 alloy** ■ finish **standard** ■ diameter **27.00 mm**
weight **8.15 g** ■ mintage (volume) **800,000 pcs**

OBVERSE: Image of the Eagle established as the Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the sides of the Eagle, notation of the year of issue: 20-11; below the Eagle, inscription: ZŁ 2 ZŁ. Along the rim, inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA (Republic of Poland), preceded and followed by six pearls. Below the Eagle, on the right, the Mint's mark: M/W.

REVERSE: In the centre, on an isolated area, stylised silhouettes of two people, one of whom is holding a blind person's cane. Around the people stylised images of nine stars. On the left, on an isolated area, semi-circular inscription: EUROPA BEZ BARIER (Europe Without Barriers).

ON THE EDGE: The inscription: NBP, repeated eight times, every second one inverted by 180 degrees, separated by stars.

Obverse designer: **EWA TYC-KARPIŃSKA**
Reverse designer: **DOBROCHNA SURAJEWSKA**