

Country Historic Profile: Poland

World Bank Group Archives

Profile completed: November 18, 2020

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from the [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: January 10, 1946 (withdrawn March 14, 1950)
- IBRD: June 27, 1986 (rejoined)
- IDA: June 20, 1988
- IFC: December 29, 1987
- MIGA: June 29, 1990
- ICSID: not a member

First loan(s)

Information is taken from the [Projects & Operations website](#).

- February 6, 1990: [Industrial Export Development Project](#)

Resident Mission establishment

Information is taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- July 1, 1990

Photo Resources related to country

Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to Poland](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case

studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archive@worldbank.org for guidance.

- [Poland project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- [Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency](#)

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbankgroup.org.

Bretton Woods Conference; Representatives of Poland Attend

July 1-22, 1944

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by Poland

January 10, 1946

First Expression of Interest in Bank Loans

October 14, 1946

Bank Mission to Poland

June 10, 1947

Bank Announces Poland Membership Withdrawal

March 14, 1950

Poland Rejoins IBRD

June 27, 1986

IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by Poland

December 29, 1987

IDA Articles of Agreement Signed by Poland

June 20, 1988

World Bank President Conable Travels to Poland; Pledged Support for Reforms in Poland

February 20, 1990

First Funding for Poland: Loan 3166 - Industrial Export Development Project

February 22, 1990

MIGA Articles of Agreement Signed by Poland

June 29, 1990

Bank Establishes Resident Mission in Warsaw, Poland

July 1, 1990

IFC Establishes Resident Mission in Warsaw, Poland

September 1, 1990

IFC Establishes Polish Business Advisory Services (PBAS) in Warsaw, Poland

February 14, 1991

First Grant from Global Environment Facility (GEF) Approved in Poland

December 12, 1991

Loan to Poland for Emergency Flood Recovery Approved

December 18, 1997

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](#)

December 27, 1945

[Working Party on the Polish Loan Application released](#)

March 27, 1947

[Poland withdraws from World Bank membership](#)

March 14, 1950

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports that are selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 5): Preliminary paper no. 5: repayment prospects for the loan	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application: Preliminary paper no. 1: the Polish four-year plan of economic reconstruction 1946-1949	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 9): Preliminary paper no. 9: industrial rehabilitation in Poland	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 3): Preliminary paper no. 3: the loan application in brief; eligibility of the loan, purposes & uses of the loan	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 8): Preliminary paper no. 8: foreign trade in Poland	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 6): Preliminary paper no. 6: agriculture & food in Poland	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 10): Preliminary paper no. 10: finance in Poland	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 7): Preliminary paper no. 7: transport in Poland	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 4): Preliminary paper no. 4: notes on pre-war Poland - introduction, two decades of development, 1919-1939	March 27, 1947
Poland - Working party on the Polish loan application (Vol. 2): Preliminary paper no. 2: Poland today - the effects of the war on population, banking, currency & prices	March 27, 1947

Country Assistance Strategies

The list is based on a similar list compiled by the World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

Country Strategies Included within Project Documents	
Poland - Enterprise and Financial Sector Adjustment Loan Project	April 8, 1993
Stand-Alone Country Strategies	
Poland - Country Strategy Paper	June 28, 1991

Poland - Country Strategy Paper	December 6, 1992
Poland - Country assistance strategy	October 20, 1994
Poland - Country Assistance Strategy	April 14, 1997
Poland - Country assistance strategy progress report: Poland - Country assistance strategy: progress report	August 25, 1999
Poland - Country assistance strategy	November 13, 2002
Poland - Country Partnership Strategy	March 9, 2005
Poland - Country partnership strategy for the period 2009-13	June 2, 2009
Poland - Country partnership strategy progress report for the period FY2009-2013	May 9, 2011
Poland - Country partnership strategy (CPS) for the period FY14-17	July 15, 2013
Poland - Performance and learning review for country partnership strategy for the period FY14-17	August 18, 2016
Poland - Country partnership framework for the period of FY19-24	May 7, 2018

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, the arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 21, Iss. 100	November 1, 1967	"Maria Skłodowska Curie: the Warsaw years"
Bank's World -- Vol. 8, Iss. 1	January 1, 1989	"Helping Liberalize the Economy - The IFC in Poland"
Bank's World -- Vol. 9, Iss. 3	March 1, 1990	"First Loans to Poland"
Bank's World -- Vol. 10, Iss. 6	June 1, 1991	"The Making of a Market Economy - Poland in Transition"
Bank's World -- Vol. 10, Iss. 11	November 1, 1991	"Poland's Swarzedzkie Fabryki Mebli S.A. - Anatomy of a Privatization"
Bank's World -- Vol. 11, Iss. 1	January 1, 1992	"Poland Receives First GEF Grant"

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews was conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

Martin Rosen	July 12, 1961
William S. Ryrie	August 10 and September 17, 1993
Willi Wapenhans	July 21 and August 19, 1993: First interview session
Aron Broches	July 11, 1961

Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by the World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives' [external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group's history.

Title: [Poland Rejoins the IBRD, Bringing It to 150 Member Countries \(English\)](#)

Originally Published: May 2011

Executive Directors

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

BARANSKI, Leon, (Poland)	May 7, 1946	October 31, 1948
BARANSKI, Leon, (Poland)	November 1, 1948	June 22, 1950
DRAGHI, Mario, (Italy)	November 1, 1988	January 16, 1990
CARANZA, Cesare, (Italy)	January 17, 1990	February 11, 1991
BONAVOGLIA, Rosario, (Italy)	March 26, 1991	October 31, 1992
GERBER, Jean-Daniel (Switzerland)	November 1, 1992	October 31, 1994
GERBER, Jean-Daniel (Switzerland)	November 1, 1994	October 30, 1997
MEYER, Matthias, (Switzerland)	November 1, 1997	May 7, 2001
MEYER, Matthias, (Switzerland)	May 8, 2001	March 31, 2002 PD to April 14, 2002
VEGLIO, Pietro (Switzerland)	April 1, 2002	October 31, 2002

VEGLIO, Pietro (Switzerland)	November 1, 2002	August 2, 2006
VEGLIO, Pietro (Switzerland)	August 3, 2006	October 31, 2006 PD to November 14, 2006
MORDASINI, Michel (Switzerland)	November 1, 2006	October 31, 2010
MORDASINI, Michel (Switzerland)	November 1, 2010	March 28, 2011
FRIEDEN, Jorg Giovanni (Switzerland)	March 15, 2011	October 15, 2016
GRUBER, Werner (Switzerland)	November 1, 2016	October 31, 2020
ZAJDEL-KUROWSKA, Katarzyna (Poland)	November 1, 2020	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbankgroup.org.