

Paweł Matelowski

An activity report

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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AN ACTIVITY REPORT

The report covers the Koło Naukowe Politologów Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego [Scientific Society of Political Scientists of the Rzeszów University] activity during the academic years of 2003/2004 and 2004/2005. Dr. Wojciech Furman is currently a supervisor of the Society (KNP UR), whereas its board consists of Paweł Matelowski – President, Tadeusz Żywczak – vice-President, Monika Struck – deputy President, Arkadiusz Południak – secretary, Tomasz Szalacha – treasurer.

The KNP UR’s main objective was to attempt to create an inclusive forum within which young people associated with political activity could exchange views. The KNP UR managed to organize five meetings of Polish political parties’ youth organizations. The following topics were discussed: 24 March 2004 „SLD – AWS – similarities and differences”, 24 November 2004 „The policy of the Polish state towards the Iraq”, 10 March 2005 „Lustration in the Polish public life”, 14 April 2005 „Visions of the Polish Presidency” and 12 May 2005 „Evaluation of the first year of Polish membership in the structures of the European Union”. The KNP UR initiated co-operation with the following youth organizations: Stowarzyszenie „Młode Centrum”, Federacja Młodych Socjaldemokratów, Forum Młodych PiS, Koło Młodych LPR, Forum Młodych Ludowców, Koliber, Samoobrona RP, Federacja Młodych Unii Pracy, Socjaldemokracja Polska, Stowarzyszenie „Młodzi Demokraci” as well as Młodzież Wszechpolska and Związek Młodzieży Wiejskiej.

Owing to the co-operative linkages with the organizations, interesting speakers – public figures could be invited. During the first of the meetings (2 March 2004) Andrzej Potocki, an experienced parliamentarian, former Secretary General of Unia Wolności [Freedom Union] was our guest. He had a presentation dedicated to the issue

„The success of populism in Poland a failure or a natural consequence of transformation?” On April 20, 2004 the next meeting took place whose focus was similar – „Populism in politics – the debate continues”. This time Tadeusz Sosnowski, a member of the Executive Board of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship was present, formerly a co-founder of Samoobrona RP [Self-Defence of the Republic of Poland] in the voivodeship, currently a member of Polskie Stronnictwo Ludowe [Polish Peasant Party].

Participation of the KNP UR members in a variety of student seminars and academic conferences testifies best to the scope of interests entertained by the students of political science. On 18–21 May 2004, the KNP UR representatives – Katarzyna Rup, Katarzyna Wolak and Tomasz Nowak – took part in a conference „Współczesne Chiny. Kultura. Polityka. Gospodarka” [Contemporary China. Culture. Politics. Economy] which was organized by Studenckie Międzywydziałowe Koło Azji Wschodniej i Pacyfiku na Uniwersytecie Łódzkim. They presented a paper entitled „Tybet – integralna część komunistycznych Chin czy enklawa wolności?” [Tibet – an integral part of China or an enclave of freedom?]. In September 2004, members of the KNP UR (Ewa Kulik and Paweł Matelowski) participated in a conference organized by Akademia Podlaska in Siedlce. The conference was dedicated to „Scientific trends of academic youth”.

The Society’s activity was enriched with victorious participation of our representatives in an educational hiking tour „Szlakiem bojowym 6. Dywizji Piechoty gen. Bernarda Monda”, which was organized by the Rzeszów division of Instytut Pamięci Narodowej on 26–28 May 2004. The hiking-orienteeing tour included finding places and fortifications which were part of war operations. The tour was complemented with a competition covering the history of activities carried out by 6. Dywizja Piechoty gen. Bernarda Monda and fortifications of the „Molotov Line”.

The Society’s members were also active abroad. The initiation of the „international dimension” of the Koło Naukowe Politologów took place on 14 January 2004, when our representatives participated in a meeting with a student group from the University of Bielefeld, discussing „Polish-German relations in Europe. Perspectives for partnership”. On 2–4 May 2004, in co-operation with Katedra Politologii UR and the Institute of European Integration at the Iwan Franko University

in Lvov we organized a Polish-Ukrainian student seminar „Burdens and opportunities of Polish-Ukrainian co-operation”. The seminar visit aimed at identifying forms which lead to mutual understanding, basing on frank exchange of views and awareness of problems affecting the neighbouring countries. An extended description of the Lvov seminar is included in the 6th (29) issue of „Gazeta Uniwersytecka” of June 2004.

Another element of the international co-operation by the KNP was constituted when a Polish-German-Ukrainian student seminar was organized in Rzeszów on 12–18 September 2004. It focused on „Poland, Germany and Ukraine in the process of European integration”. The seminar, lasting for a week, was attended by students of the Rzeszów University, Lvov University and the University of Bielefeld as well as students of Wyższa Szkoła Społeczno-Gospodarcza in Tyczyn. Altogether, 62 people participated, including 16 Ukrainians and 16 Germans. English was the working language of the seminar. The seminar debates were related to the process of European integration and policies of the European Union. The first (32) issue of „Gazeta Uniwersytecka” in January 2005 published an extended coverage of the seminar activities. In August 2005 yet another event was organized which had an international scope. It was the second Polish-German-Ukrainian student seminar „Poland, Germany and Ukraine in the process of European integration”.

Our activities attracted the media attention: press and television journalists covered the events organized by the KNP many times. In 2003, we took part in a meeting featuring a Ukrainian opposition member, professor of political science Mykoła Tomenko and a Ukrainian writer Andrej Kurkow who were invited to „Salon Osobistości” of the Radio Rzeszów. On 11 December 2004 representatives of the KNP UR participated in a televised debate featuring representatives of NSZZ „Solidarność” and experts of the Instytut Pamięci Narodowej. The debate concentrated on the anniversary of the introduction of Martial Law in Poland. The TVP Rzeszów [the Rzeszów division of Polish public Television] was interested in the activities of our Society even earlier. It broadcast coverage of the meeting with Andrzej Potocki as well as of a „working” session of the KNP UR during which the Society’s members expressed their opinions concerning the foundation of SDPL [Social Democracy of Poland].

On 15–23 September 2005, a group of six KNP UR’s members took part in a study visit to Bielefeld. All the initiatives came true because of

the involvement of the KNP UR members, invaluable assistance of the KNP supervisor, Dr. Wojciech Furman and full support by the Katedra Politologii heads: Professor Henryk Cimek and Dr. Maria Ożóg as well as Anna Mazur, the Katedra's secretary.

We welcome co-operation and are grateful for the support of those on whom we may always rely.