



Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



Report from the Evaluation Board: *Polish Challenge Fund – 2021*

The Polish Challenge Fund (PCF) is a component of the **Polish-UNDP Partnership: Innovative Solutions to the SDGs (PUP)**, Project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and implemented by UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, to address development challenges in three partner countries: Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

The objective of the Polish Challenge Fund is to facilitate the transfer of Polish know-how and innovative solutions that would address development challenges identified by the respective UNDP Country Offices and contribute to the SDGs' achievement.

1. Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund

Based on the Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund announced on June 4, 2021, **UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub received by July 17, 2021, in total 24 Applications (US \$901,300) for the Polish Challenge Fund.**¹ The deadline for submission of the documents was stated as Saturday, July 17, 2021, at 11:59 PM CET in the Call for Proposals.

1.1. Review of Eligibility Criteria and Completeness

All 24 received Applications were reviewed against the eligibility criteria and completeness; **in total all of the 24 submitted Applications met the mandatory requirements and were evaluated.**

1.2. Evaluation of Eligible and Complete Applications

All 24 eligible and complete Applications were evaluated by the five-member Evaluation Board. The Evaluation Board was established on July 5, 2021 and consisted of the following members:

Name	Institution
Katarzyna Rozesłaniec	Programme Specialist, Istanbul Regional Hub
Eva Lacinová	Innovation Specialist for Challenge Funds, Istanbul Regional Hub
Stanislav Kim	Programme Specialist, Istanbul Regional Hub
Konstantine Chanturia	Project Manager, Georgia Country Office Team
Andreas Sandberg	Programme Specialist, Ukraine Country Office Team

¹ The Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund was published on the website of UNDP Procurement Notices: https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=79271 (June 4, 2021).

The Project Board is responsible for approval of initiatives to be funded, based on the evaluation process and recommendations from the Evaluation Board. The evaluation is based on the Guidelines of the Polish Challenge Fund, which are part of the Call for Proposals and attached as **Annex I** to this Report.

The evaluation process, including the review of the Application, its content, requested funding and scoring of the Evaluation Board members, is described in detail in **Annex II** to this Report. All received Applications are attached as **Annex III** to this Report and clarifications received from the Applicants are attached as **Annex IV** to this Report.

The Evaluation Board conducted the evaluation of submitted Applications based on approved technical selection criteria. **Eighteen Applications scored above the threshold of 50%**, which was the minimum score for Award.

The total amount of funds allocated for Awards under the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund is US \$240,759.5. The Evaluation Board decided to send a round of clarification to the submitting offices of the following top-ranked Applications: No. 2, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 24. The clarifications from the Applicants were evaluated by the Evaluation Board and recognized as satisfactory (with a deadline of August 24, 2021). **Following the technical evaluation and revision of the received clarifications, in total 6 initiatives (with total value of US \$230,705), receiving the highest scores (over 60%), were selected by the Evaluation Board for funding and recommended for the Project Board approval (No. 2, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 22).**

Applications No. 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 passed the minimum threshold of 50% and were evaluated, however, they received relatively lower assessment from the Evaluation Board. On the other hand, due to a joint agreement that the quality of these proposals is not at par with the others and that the funding can be allocated for more impactful use within the Project instead, the Evaluation Board proposes that these proposals are not granted.

The overview of the results with the detailed comments and reasoning of the Evaluation Board is stated under sections 1.3. and 1.4.

1.3. List of Received Applications with results

No.	PROJECT TITLE	APPLICANT	COUNTRY	SCORING	EVALUATION BOARD DECISION
1.	Professional Partnership Cooperation between The Republic of Poland and Ukraine in the Field of Energy Efficiency Improvement: Transfer of Expert Knowledge and Polish Experience in the Field of Thermomodernization of Existing and Designing New Public Low-Energy Buildings for Their Youngest Users in the Odessa Oblast – "Save Energy for Kids" (SEFK)	The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE)	Ukraine	47,90	No
2.	Transfer of Green Technologies Using a Demonstration Scientific and Didactic Facility of Hybrid Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment Plant in Yavorovskyi National Nature Park (Ukraine)	University of Life Sciences in Lublin (ULSL)	Ukraine	75,20	Yes
3.	Computer Assisted Argument Mapping as a Tool to Foster Participation and	Swarmcheck Sp. z O.O.	Georgia	61,70	No

	Collective Problem-solving: Rustavi Pilot for Georgia				
4.	Signpost	Indico Plus Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	27,80	No
5.	CodeAll	Expansio Sp. z O.O.	Republic of Moldova	55,00	No
6.	Bin-e – a Smart Waste Bin Leveraging the Advantages of AI-based Image Recognition Technologies to Improve Waste Sorting at Source and Motivate People to Reduce Their Consumption of Plastic	Bine Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	52,40	No
7.	Innovative Technology for the Wastewater Treatment	EKOPROM Michał Hawryłyszyn	Republic of Moldova	63,40	No
8.	PROTE-MOS: Ecosystem Neutral Excess Sludge Minimization Tech for Moldova	PROTE Technologie dla Środowiska Sp. z O.O.	Republic of Moldova	70,00	Yes
9.	Smart Building Management	Barbara Wysocka Design	Ukraine	39,80	No
10.	WIN (Women Innovation Network) 2.0/WIN2MD	SMRT.BIO Central Europe Sp. z O.O.	Republic of Moldova	59,30	No
11.	Smart Management of Heat and Cooling Energy in the Building	CEDMA Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	39,10	No
12.	Extreme sense of Safety and Daily Life. A Design Platform for Living in Isolation	Institute of Industrial Design	Georgia	51,00	No
13.	Increasing Population Resilience to Air Pollutants in Ukraine	Lichba Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	75,30	Yes
14.	Adaptive Low-power Lights Control with Advanced Detection and Bus Prioritization in Batumi	Spinnea Sp. z O.O.	Georgia	73,60	Yes
15.	Living Lab Model Driving Sustainable and Participatory Urban Transformation - Green Energy Heekaton Component	Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PSNC)	Georgia	50,60	No
16.	Post COVID Travel and Immigration Planning Platform/Data APIS	Danish Shafi Soomro Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	43,40	No
17.	Post COVID Travel and Immigration Planning Platform/Data APIS	Danish Shafi Soomro Sp. z O.O.	Georgia	43,40	No
18.	Pocket Sink and Pocket Bath	Wash Innovation Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	55,20	No
19.	Ukrainian 3G: Cutting-edge, Scalable Hybrid Energy Integrator & Storage Hub for Public Facilities in Ukraine	"MAKROTERM", Agata i Krzysztof Wachał - Spółka Jawna	Ukraine	63,50	Yes

20.	Introduction of Remote Computer-Aiding Diagnosis System Teledicom to Moldavian Market	ENTERP Kamil Sterna	Republic of Moldova	59,40	No
21.	Sustainable Agriculture – Growing Crops (Hops and Barley) for Beer Production by Small Local Farmers in Rural Areas	MAH Poland Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	53,90	No
22.	Let's Bee	Vivende Sp. z O.O.	Georgia	66,20	Yes
23.	Air Quality Monitoring & Forecasting for Tbilisi. Extending the Measurement Possibilities by Pollutants such as Desert Dust	Airly Sp. z O.O.	Georgia	58,10	No
24.	Air Quality Monitoring & Forecasting for Clean Transport Guidance in Kyiv, Lviv and Nikolaev	Airly Sp. z O.O.	Ukraine	61,10	No

1.4. Technical Review of Applications

Application No. 1

The Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE): Professional Partnership Cooperation between The Republic of Poland and Ukraine in the Field of Energy Efficiency Improvement: Transfer of Expert Knowledge and Polish Experience in the Field of Thermomodernization of Existing and Designing New Public Low-Energy Buildings for Their Youngest Users in the Odessa Oblast – "Save Energy for Kids" (SEFK) (Ukraine)

Description: Preparation of architectural, technical and economic assumptions for the implementation of a demonstration public building with minimum energy consumption in the Odessa city region. The project aims to identify potential and demand for modern methods of designing revitalization investments, thermo-modernization of existing buildings and designing new buildings, based on principles of sustainable development, while striving to minimize energy demand.

Comments and suggestions: The leverage of the Polish know-how and innovativeness in the proposed field were not demonstrated in the Application. The social impact and number of positively affected final beneficiaries, which will profit from the solution, were assessed as low. The sustainability of the Project was not described in full detail and the overlaps with the ongoing initiatives implemented in the energy sector in Ukraine were not demonstrated. The Application lacks details on potential for scale-up and replication. Moreover, Project's Budget Breakdown is composed only of personal and administrative costs (incl. 2 visits to Odessa by 5 people each) and not balanced; the Application lacks plans related to sustainability.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 47,9%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 2

University of Life Sciences in Lublin (ULSL): Transfer of Green Technologies Using a Demonstration Scientific and Didactic Facility of Hybrid Constructed Wetland Wastewater Treatment Plant in Yavorovskiy National Nature Park (Ukraine)

Description: The aim of the Project is to transfer green technology of wastewater treatment from Poland to Ukraine through development and implementation of a demonstration scientific and didactic facility of a hybrid constructed wetland wastewater treatment plant in the Yavorovskiy National Nature Park in Ukraine.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of a very high quality and impact on development challenges. The description of the background, activities and experience of the Project team were provided in a clear and comprehensive way. Project's Budget Breakdown is clear with additional information provided and presents the full picture. The potential for scale-up and replication were assessed as high.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- Activities envisaged in the Application include construction of facility (wetland wastewater treatment plant). *The Applicant is requested to explain whether construction and/or other relevant legal/other approvals from the regional/local authorities necessary for running the facility are already obtained?*
- The possibilities of replicating the proposed solution in Ukraine were characterized as enormous, however not enough details were provided. *The Applicant is requested to elaborate on potential for scale-up and replication of the proposed solution, indicating specific sectors and locations.*
- Activities envisaged in the Application include organizing a workshop (beginning of the Project), as well as final conference in Ukraine (end of the Project), which might be challenging given difficult epidemiological situation and travel/quarantine restrictions both in the Republic of Poland and in Ukraine. *The Applicant is requested to indicate possible alternative ways to implement those points of the Project, under the same level of financing.*
- Risk management description did not provide details about the possible negative ecological impact. *The Applicant is requested to elaborate on the possible environmental risks and their mitigations.*
- Among Project's activities it is planned to conduct webinars and produce materials promoting technology of wastewater treatment. *The Applicant is requested to determine ways to enhance visibility of the proposed solution, focused on cooperation with UNDP IRH and financed from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Polish Aid).*

University of Life Sciences in Lublin (ULSL) provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 22, 2021. The clarification was detailed and gave appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board, therefore it was accepted as satisfactory.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Application after clarification of questions from the Evaluation Board.*

Application No. 3

Swarmcheck Sp. z O.O.: Computer Assisted Argument Mapping as a Tool to Foster Participation and Collective Problem-solving: Rustavi Pilot for Georgia (Georgia)

Description: The Project aims to inspire a transformation in the area of effective decision-making in Rustavi, through deploying technology and equipping representatives of local stakeholders with capabilities how to use it, in order to broaden the palette of participation mechanisms and target the existing gap by allowing to engage in a strategic and systemic way.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of high quality and tackles challenges identified in the local context in an innovative way. However, development impact, Project's sustainability and potential for scale-up and replication were assessed as questionable.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 61,7% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 3 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 4**Indico Plus Sp. z O.O.: Signpost (Ukraine)**

Description: The purpose of the Project is to introduce the Signpost Application which will allow people to find the nearest church, inform about the hours of masses, confessions, services, or meetings of local communities. The application will also inform about what is happening in the parish by making available parish announcements, news and mass intentions.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is characterized by a low level of innovativeness and low impact on development challenges, both in a short and long term. The Project is focused exclusively on limited number of beneficiaries (from a very specific background) and the reasons behind the need of transferring the solution from the Polish to Ukrainian market, as well as Poland's comparative advantage in the specified sector – were not provided in the Application. The social impact behind this technical solution is not clear and cannot be fully evaluated. The reasoning for scale-up and replication was not given in a full context.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 27,8%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 5**Expansio Sp. z O.O.: CodeAll (Republic of Moldova)**

Description: The Project aims at introducing a chatbot (CodeAll) to teenagers between 13 and 19 years old. The tool is the world's first chatbot that teaches coding with a virtual teacher that answers the questions of the user, moves the user step by step through the lessons and monitors the progress.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is focused on an important topic, which seems relevant to the local context. However, the development impact and Application quality, including the intervention logic, were not given in a full local context of the Republic of Moldova – especially taking into consideration the ongoing local initiatives and the possible overlaps with them. Moreover, sector benefits, sustainability of the solution and impact for beneficiaries are not fully demonstrated and localized.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 55% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 5 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund*.

Application No. 6**Bin-e: Bin-e – a Smart Waste Bin Leveraging the Advantages of AI-based Image Recognition Technologies to Improve Waste Sorting at Source and Motivate People to Reduce Their Consumption of Plastic (Ukraine)**

Description: Bin-e is a smart waste management system, consisting of a device for automatic waste segregation and a mobile app. The smart waste bin recognizes the type of waste thanks to an AI-based recognition system and sorts it to the relevant chamber automatically. The Project will test two features that will tackle the challenge of plastic consumption: displaying personalized recommendations and rewarding for using Bin-e.

Comments and suggestions: The solution is focused on the important topic, however the probability of implementing the solutions described in the Application was assessed as medium to low in the local context of Ukraine, mainly due to the fact that the proposed activities were not supported by location analysis for solution's implementation (pilot venue not defined). Therefore, the potential for scalability and replication of the solution is

not fully assured. The calculations provided in the Budget Breakdown are not accurate and the totals do not reflect declared co-financing and requested funding levels.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 52,4% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 6 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund*.

Application No. 7

EKOPROM Michał Hawryłyszyn: Innovative Technology for the Wastewater Treatment (Republic of Moldova)

Description: The Project aims at stopping the process of environmental pollution with sewage by building generally and widely available treatment plants. It consists on using technology of wastewater treatment which eliminates odour and allows full sewage utilization, without the necessity of removing sewage sludge.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is prepared in a clear and comprehensive way, with a strong development impact in the local conditions. The solution proposed in the Application is of a unique and innovative character for the local market. However, the Application does not provide a detailed plan for scale-up and replication in both local and regional context.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 63,4% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 7 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund*.

Application No. 8

PROTE Technologie dla Środowiska Sp. z O.O.: PROTE-MOS: Ecosystem Neutral Excess Sludge Minimization Tech for Moldova (Republic of Moldova)

Description: The Project aims to adjust and transfer genuinely pioneering, cost effective, easily adaptable Polish bio-industrial water treatment patented know-how: piloting and mainstreaming smart, versatile, sewage treatment MD fine-tuned technology, curbing the amount of unwanted waste - sewage sludge at all major design (old, retrofitted and new) sewage treatment plants: PROTE-MOS.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of a very high quality and impact on development challenges. The description of the background, activities and experience of the Project team were provided in a clear and comprehensive way. Project's Budget Breakdown is clear and additional information is provided. The potential for scale-up and replication were assessed as high.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Project proposal without further comments*.

Application No. 9

Barbara Wysocka Design: Smart Building Management (Ukraine)

Description: The Project consists on developing an intelligent building management system for the Center of St. John Paul II, which is currently under construction. The Project involves the implementation of automatic control of internal lighting, monitoring and access control, and reducing costs of energy consumption.

Comments and suggestions: The degree of innovation and originality of the solution proposed under the Application were considered as low. The described beneficiary group is very narrow and limited only to owners

and users of the building (from a specific background). The potential for scale-up and replication was not given in the full context. The Application is based on the same approach and challenges as the Application No. 11.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 39,8%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 10

SMRT.BIO Central Europe Sp. z O.O.: WIN (Women Innovation Network) 2.0/WIN2MD (Republic of Moldova)

Description: The Project is focused on encouraging market-driven entrepreneurship potential of women in the Republic of Moldova (based on the experience gained in the first edition conducted in Ukraine), by introducing best practices and uniting women to increase their chances for employability as a mitigation to the COVID-19 ravages. The main goal of the Project is to replicate and scale up the set of tools (online tests, meeting scenarios, best practise tool-kit) to support and encourage women in the Republic of Moldova to foster their entrepreneurship and adjust their skills to local labour market needs.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is prepared in a clear and comprehensive way, with a strong development impact and gender dimension. The proposed solution is characterized by its high potential for scalability. However, the sustainability of the solution was considered questionable.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 59,3% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 10 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund*.

Application No. 11

CEDMA Sp. z O.O.: Smart Management of Heat and Cooling Energy in the Building (Ukraine)

Description: The Project involves development and implementation of an intelligent energy management system for heat and cold in the Center of St. John Paul II, based on remote management of control devices, which will enable the control of the heat node and heat pumps, underfloor heating, mechanical ventilation (air handling units) and air conditioning.

Comments and suggestions: The degree of innovation and originality of the solution proposed under the Application were considered as low. The described beneficiary group is very narrow and limited only to owners and users of the building (from a specific background). The potential for scale-up and replication was not given in the full context. The Application is based on the same approach and challenges as the Application No. 9.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 39,1%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 12

Institute of Industrial Design: Extreme Sense of Safety and Daily Life. A Design Platform for Living in Isolation (Georgia)

Description: The aim of the concept is to turn to the psychological and physiological aspect of design to deliver holistic space for living. The purpose is to investigate the impact of the quality of the environment (existing

architecture) on the quality of life in homes, which from “concrete bedrooms” have become a 24/7 human microcosm. The Project is based on synesthetic design and neurosciences applied to architecture.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of high quality and provides an innovative and unique approach to the important topic, which is responding to challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Applicant’s experience is of high quality and well documented. However, the potential of scalability and replicability were assessed as low, and the number of beneficiaries is very limited. The possible negative impact of the solution is not fully considered within the risks management description, i.e. negative impact on the mental health of users.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 51% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 12 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 13

Lichba Sp. z O.O.: Increasing Population Resilience to Air Pollutants in Ukraine (Ukraine)

Description: The aim of the Project (solution “Djinn EI”) is to extract environmental data from different sources, analyze it in real-time and to deliver easily understandable information about the environmental impact to every citizen. The tool uses data of air pollution (particulate matter size 1, 2.5, 10 um), gas concentrations (of NO_x, O₃, CO, SO₂) from 3rd party sensors and weather conditions. The Project will run analytical services for the first time in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Lviv, Zaporizhia, Donetsk regions.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of a very high quality and impact on development challenges. The description of the background, activities and experience of Project team were provided in a clear and comprehensive way. The potential for scale-up and replication were assessed as high.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- From the Application it is not clear how much data is required to be gathered and processed in order to fully implement the Project. *The Applicant is requested to clarify what will happen if not enough data is gathered in course of the Project.*
- It is not clear how the possibilities of scaling up and replicating the proposed solution in Ukraine and beyond are characterized by the Applicant. *The Applicant is requested to elaborate on potential for scale-up and replication of the proposed solution.*
- Project’s proposed Budget Breakdown is dedicated entirely to financing administrative costs, which cover monthly salaries of the involved experts. It is necessary to provide more details regarding the value for money of the Project and explain how the Budget would allow full implementation of the solution, taking into account that it is focused only on expenses connected to costs of the experts’ work. Moreover, the Budget includes "co-financing from other sources" elements, which lack explanation. *The Applicant is requested to indicate details on Budget Breakdown composition and enumerate alternative sources of financing.*
- The precise Polish know-how is not strongly described in the proposal. *The Applicants is requested to describe the projects, which were applied by the Applicant in Poland or abroad, as the Polish know-how.*
- Only application for registration of an entity in the commercial register of entrepreneurs [Wniosek o rejestrację podmiotu w rejestrze przedsiębiorców] was attached to the Application, however the excerpt from the public register [Odpis z Krajowego Rejestru Sądowego], or other appropriate register, is missing. The Applicant must be registered in the Republic of Poland. *The Applicant is requested to share the excerpt from the public register.*

Lichba Sp. z O.O. provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 20, 2021. The clarification was detailed and gave appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board, and additional documents were attached, therefore it was accepted as satisfactory.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Application after clarification of questions from the Evaluation Board.*

Application No. 14

Spinnea Sp. z O.O.: Adaptive Low-power Lights Control with Advanced Detection and Bus Prioritization in Batumi (Georgia)

Description: The Project consists of implementing modern adaptive traffic control system that continuously adapts to actual traffic level detected by cameras, with advanced data analytics combined with public transport priority at first selected intersection in Batumi. It will also include new low-power and low-consumption traffic lights and up-to-date traffic control software. The Project will serve for training of involved collaborators of the City of Batumi and its municipal organization Batumi Autotransport for the use of modern traffic control technologies and for evaluating the impact that the implementation of modern traffic technologies on larger scale would have in Batumi.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of high quality and provides an innovative solution to problems in the local context, and takes into account the relevant SDGs. The Application was prepared in a clear, detailed and comprehensive way.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- Activities envisaged in the Application include organizing trips and meetings (beginning of the Project), as well as training in Georgia (end of the Project), which might be challenging given difficult epidemiological situation and travel/quarantine restrictions both in the Republic of Poland and in Georgia. *The Applicant is requested to indicate possible alternative ways to implement those points of the Project, under the same level of financing.*
- It is not sure, if the system could be adapted to all types of transportation (vehicles, i.e. cars, trams, etc.). *The Applicants it requested to identify the possibility of scale-up to other means of transport.*
- Details on Project's visibility are not provided in its full scope. *The Applicant is requested to determine ways to enhance visibility of the proposed solution, focused on cooperation with UNDP IRH and financed from the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Polish Aid).*

Spinnea Sp. z O.O. provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 23, 2021. The clarification was detailed and gave appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board, therefore it was accepted as satisfactory.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Application after clarification of questions from the Evaluation Board.*

Application No. 15

Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PSNC): Living Lab Model Driving Sustainable and Participatory Urban Transformation - Green Energy Heckaton Component (Georgia)

Description: The Project aims to address the issue of poor involvement of diverse stakeholders in the process of creating innovation in green energy area. The proposed concept of living lab will give grounds for creating local stakeholder involvement mechanisms, with hecatons being its critical component, that shall unite local communities of innovators, public entities, private sector companies, NGOs and academia.

Comments and suggestions: The reasons behind the need of transferring the solution from the Polish to Georgian market, as well as Poland's comparative advantage in the specified sector – were not provided in the Application. The reasoning for scale-up and replication was not given in a full context.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 50,6% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 15 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 16

Danish Shafi Soomro Sp. z O.O.: Post COVID Travel and Immigration Planning Platform/Data APIS (Ukraine)

Description: The solution will allow Ukrainian businesses and individuals to find all visa and entry requirements for 190 countries with a single click in one platform and data API, and offers the first digital marketplace/platform to hire cross-borders immigration service providers in 100+ countries.

Comments and suggestions: The Application has low impact on development challenges and focuses mainly on new market possibilities of the Applicant. Legal requirements necessary for implementing the proposed solution, as well as the level of engagement of the central/local government in its implementation were not provided. The engagement of the central/local government is a core prerequisite for the successful implementation and sustainability of this solution. The reasons behind the need of transferring the solution from the Polish to Ukrainian market, as well as Poland's comparative advantage in the specified sector – were not provided in the Application. The reasoning for scale-up and replication was not given in a full context.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 43,4%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 17

Danish Shafi Soomro Sp. z O.O.: Post COVID Travel and Immigration Planning Platform/Data APIS (Georgia)

Description: The solution will allow Georgian businesses and individuals to find all visa and entry requirements for 190 countries with a single click in one platform and data API, and offers the first digital marketplace/platform to hire cross-borders immigration service providers in 100+ countries.

Comments and suggestions: The Application has low impact on development challenges and focuses mainly on new market possibilities of the Applicant. Legal requirements necessary for implementing the proposed solution, as well as the level of engagement of the central/local government in its implementation were not provided. The engagement of the central/local government is a core prerequisite for the successful implementation and sustainability of this solution. The reasons behind the need of transferring the solution from the Polish to Georgian market, as well as Poland's comparative advantage in the specified sector – were not provided in the Application. The reasoning for scale-up and replication was not given in a full context.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 43,4%. Only Applications that scored above 50% could be considered for Award under the Polish Challenge Fund (as per the Guidelines for the Polish Challenge Fund).

Application No. 18

Wash Innovation Sp. z O.O.: Pocket Sink and Pocket Bath (Ukraine)

Description: Portable hygiene systems PocketSink & PocketBath increase the efficiency of limited water for hygiene purposes. The device is a substitute for water infrastructure, which will be used in Eastern Ukraine – the region which faces water crisis due to neglected water infrastructure.

Comments and suggestions: The solution is focused on the important topic, which is responding to humanitarian challenges present in the local context. The Applicant's experience is of quality and well documented. However, the potential for scale-up and Project's sustainability were not provided. The Applicant submitted a similar proposal in the 2020 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund and similar feedback was given to the Applicant by the Evaluation Board, however no significant progress in the quality of the Application was recognized.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 55,2% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 18 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 19

"MAKROTERM", Agata i Krzysztof Wąchała – Spółka Jawna: Ukrainian 3G: Cutting-edge, Scalable Hybrid Energy Integrator & Storage Hub for Public Facilities in Ukraine (Ukraine)

Description: The Project aims to facilitate transfer, promotion and further market scaling up of genuinely Polish, smart, easy adjustable, hybrid (operating on both green and conventional sources) Energy Integrator & Storage Hub: Ukrainian 3G®, along integrated the air heat pump and Turbostove® fireplace/stove on various wood waste, with water jacket and internal heat exchanger, along indoor installation, to provide energy efficient heating & cooling and hot water for public and private facilities in Ukraine. The system offers simple, easy, low-cost energy efficiency boost and green technologies.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is of high quality and provides an innovative solution for the local context. The Application was prepared in a clear, detailed, and comprehensive way.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- Project's proposed Budget Breakdown includes Activity 6 "Targeted promotion of the project results", however no details are provided. *The Applicant is requested to indicate details regarding the promotion and visibility of the proposed solution.*
- Long-term sustainability of the Project is not clear – as the ownership of the manufactured products is not explained in full detail. Who will be responsible for maintenance after the Project's completion? *The Applicant is requested to determine possibilities of using the results of the Project after its completion (for both beneficiaries and the local partner, and beyond).*

MAKROTERM", Agata i Krzysztof Wąchała – Spółka Jawna provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 20, 2021. The clarification was detailed and gave appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board, therefore it was accepted as satisfactory.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Application after clarification of questions from the Evaluation Board.*

Application No. 20

ENTERP Kamil Sterna: (Republic of Moldova)

Description: Project vision is to provide a proactive remote medicine tool for medical doctors who are diagnosing cardiology cases to get diagnose and apply treatment method. It allows equal access to advanced medical services, remote consultations (COVID-19 situation) and training of medical experts/knowledge exchange.

Comments and suggestions: The potential for scale-up and replication of the solution proposed in the Application were assessed as low. Sustainability of the Project in the local context of the Republic of Moldova, as well as

requirements necessary for its implementation, as well as data protection details, were not fully explained by the Applicant.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 59,4% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 20 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 21

MAH Poland Sp. z O.O.: Sustainable Agriculture – Growing Crops (Hops and Barley) for Beer Production by Small Local Farmers in Rural Areas (Ukraine)

Description: The Project aims to address sustainable agriculture by promoting and proving the ability to grow raw materials (hops and malt barley) necessary for beer production by small local farmers in rural areas of Ukraine. The Project will cover the whole value chain, from the identification of availability of local raw materials, especially hops through the trial production of beer based on these locally available raw materials. Beer will be produced on an experimental beer equipment, designed by the beer expert from the Polish brewery.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is focused on new market possibilities of the Applicant, but its development impact – especially with consideration of the Project's impact on the ground (to potential beneficiaries and in relation to the defined areas) – is not provided in a detailed and full way. The Application is focused on alcohol production and its connection with the general nature and development purposes of the Polish Challenge Fund was not possible to be fully evaluated.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 53,9% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 21 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 22

Vivende Sp. z O.O.: Let's Bee (Georgia)

Description: The Project aims to test and demonstrate systemic solutions for modernising the apiculture sector to increase the sustainability, resilience, and food security and food safety of honey production, to increase the pollinator population by using patented solution for honey extraction, transportation system and sensors analytics.

Comments and suggestions: The Application is characterized by its innovative character and originality. The proposed solution has high potential for scale-up and replication, as well as long-term sustainability. However, the experience of both the Applicant and the local partner was not provided.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- It's not clear how the proposed solutions for honey extraction, transportation system and sensors analytics can translate into automatization of the production or manufacturing process. *The Applicant is requested to provide more information about the method usage and possibilities of deployment.*
- Potential for scale-up and replication of the proposed solution has not been explained in full detail. *The Applicant is requested to provide plans for scale-up and replication of the Project.*
- It is not clear to what extent the automatized method was proven beneficiary for the local and small-scale honey producers. The Applicant is requested to provide details about the scope of cases where the proposed solution can provide help or result beneficiary, with consideration of its development context.

- It is not clear who are the local honey providers and how they are selected, engaged etc. *The Applicant is requested to provide more details about the honey providers (micro-business and business owners) in Georgia, including their overall background and connection to the Project.*
- Long-term sustainability of the Project is not clear, as well as the maintenance after the Project's completion. *The Applicant is requested to determine possibilities of using the results of the Project after its completion (for both beneficiaries and the local partner, and beyond).*
- The experience of both the Applicant and the local partner was not provided. *The Applicant is requested to provide portfolios and CVs of the project management team.*

Vivende Sp. z O.O. provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 24, 2021. The clarification was detailed and gave appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board, and additional documents were attached, therefore it was accepted as satisfactory.

Decision: The Evaluation Board recommends *accepting the Application after clarification of questions from the Evaluation Board.*

Application No. 23

Airly Sp. z O.O.: Air Quality Monitoring & Forecasting for Tbilisi. Extending the Measurement Possibilities by Pollutants such as Desert Dust (Georgia)

Description: The Project aims at installing the network of thirty air quality sensors in Tbilisi. The company will use existing infrastructure of air quality data monitoring, in order to detect and track pollution in the city areas. Special focus will be given to study dust particles related with desert dust, which appear often in the region.

Comments and suggestions: The proposed solution has strong development character and its nature is important in the local conditions. However, the Budget Breakdown was not attached in the relevant format and the Evaluation Board was not able to fully evaluate and score it. Engagement of the local government would help with the scale-up, implementation and sustainability of the solution.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 58,1% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 23 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Application No. 24

Airly Sp. z O.O.: Air Quality Monitoring & Forecasting for Clean Transport Guidance in Kyiv, Lviv and Nikolaev (Ukraine)

Description: The Project aims at installing the networks of air quality sensors in three cities in Ukraine: Kyiv, Lviv and Nikolaev (thirty sensors in total). The company will use existing infrastructure of air quality data monitoring. This dense network of sensors will make possible detecting and tracking air pollution in the city areas.

Comments and suggestions: The proposed solution has strong development character and its nature is important in the local conditions (and in line with the UNDP work in the country). However, the Budget Breakdown was not attached in the relevant format.

The Evaluation Board requested clarification of the following questions:

- It is not clear what the Project brings to the region as advantage (in comparison to two Projects already supported by the Polish Challenge Fund in 2020) and what are the benefits for the locals and for the Applicant in this context. *The Applicant is requested to give the development impact and to describe the connections to the previous editions.*

- It is not clear how the Application follows up/builds on the previously implemented Projects and their results, i.e. what has been achieved (so far) and how this implementation might change the environment. *The Applicants is requested to describe the outcomes of the previously supported Projects and explain how this proposal builds on the previous editions.*
- The Budget Breakdown form was provided in a .numbers format and not in the requested Excel sheet, therefore Project budget was not evaluated. *The Applicant is requested to provide Budget Breakdown in the indicated format, attached as mandatory to the Call for Proposals.*

Airly Sp. z O.O. provided the Evaluation Board with the clarification on August 23, 2021. The clarification did not give appropriate feedback to the questions raised by the Evaluation Board and it was evaluated as unsatisfactory by the Evaluation Board; especially in relation to the outcomes of the previously supported Projects and lessons learned in relation to the submitted Application, which were considered too general and not linked with the proposed implementation approach.

Decision: The overall scoring of the Application by the Evaluation Board was 61,1% and passed the minimum threshold of 50%. Due to the lower assessment of the Application No. 24 compared to the other Applications and limited amount of the total funding for the 2021 Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund, the Evaluation Board recommends *declining the Application and does not consider it for the Award under the Polish Challenge Fund.*

Applications with No. 2, 8, 13, 14, 19 and 22 above **could be considered for implementation** in the framework of the Polish Challenge Fund – **in case if all comments and suggestion made by the Evaluation Board are adjusted.**

Applications with No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 above **are not considered for implementation** in the framework of the Polish Challenge Fund.

Date, name and signature of the member of the Evaluation Board:

Katarzyna Rozesłaniec

Programme Specialist, Istanbul Regional Hub

Katarzyna Rozesłaniec

26-Aug-2021

Eva Lacinová

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26-Aug-2021

Annexes to the Report:

Annex I: Call for Proposals to the Polish Challenge Fund 2021

Annex II: Scoring Card to the Polish Challenge Fund 2021

Annex III: Applications to the Polish Challenge Fund 2021, No. 1-24

Annex IV: Clarifications to the Evaluation Board, No. 2, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 24