

The “Citizen and Law” Programme was an undertaking of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, carried out by the Institute of Public Affairs 2002-2014. It operated in support of the active participation of citizens in public life and their accessibility for citizens. The programme supported the activities of non-governmental organizations and its purpose was to expand and facilitate the access of citizens to legal assistance and to encourage citizens to take advantage of their rights in the public domain.

The “Citizen and Law” Programme was launched in 2002 in order to support the development of various forms of social, civic and legal counselling. It did so by providing grants to non-governmental organizations which dispensed free, specialist legal information and advice. The Programme also provided assistance to individuals in dire material straits and is involved in the public debate on reforming the system to access to legal advice.

During the programme’s seven editions (2002-2013), three main types of parallel efforts were launched:

- **Grant competition** – factual and financial support for advisory organizations. Grant competition supports the activities of non-governmental organizations, and its purpose is to expand and facilitate the access of citizens to legal assistance and to encourage citizens to take advantage of their rights in public domain.
- **Expert Committee** – comprising authorities from the legal community, that develops research and recommendations concerning systemic solutions facilitating citizens’ access to legal assistance
- **Active Citizen Forum** – an independent consultative body studying barriers to voter turnout and developing recommendations on how to increase voter participation