



“Trade Union “Budowlani” was founded on February 16th 1991 as a follower and successor to many trade organisations of building workers that had been existing for over 100 years of Polish trade union movement history. Many years of experience in the building branch and the affection for our rich tradition stands the capital which we have been using ourselves while passing through the social and economic transformation in Poland. Our organisation has been strengthened by joining the Trade Union of Forests, Wood and Environment Protection Workers in Republic of Poland, which happened during III Congress of Trade Union “Budowlani”, 22-23 October’ 99.

The most important task of “Budowlani” Trade Union is the protection of economic interests of trade union members. We aim to establish partnership, tripartite system of collaboration between employees, employers and government structures. One of the elements of this system should be effective mechanism of vocational training.

Unlike many federate branch organisations the “Budowlani” Trade Union is a homogenous structure. At the end of 1999 it consisted of 16 Regional Boards covering whole the territory of Poland. The Union’s work is directed by the National Management and its Presidium The highest body of the Union is the National Congress of Delegates convened every 5 years. The term of office in all the Union's bodies is also 5 years.

Basic structures of the Union comprise works and inter-works boards, as well as local union circles, the total number of which at the end of 1999 amounted to 540 with about 70,000 members.

Construction of the board: The “Budowlani” TU National Management has the professional structure - operating personnel in National Management Office. The Office is divided into three structures: Management Office, Financial Office and President Office; the first working on organisational and educational targets, exchange of information, international relations as well as exchange and contacts with other social partners; the second providing administrative and financial services. The third focusing on President's work attendance.

The Union maintains good relations with other European trade union organisations of building and woodworkers. Since the fall of 1994 it has been a member of IFBWW, seated in Geneva, Switzerland. The Union also co-operates with the EFBWW seated in Brussels, Belgium and participates in the “Multiprojet” initiative, co-ordinated by the Federation. In 1997 four Central European trade unions – “Budowlani” TU, “Solidarność”, Czech “STAVBA” and Slovak “STAVBA” signed a common agreement of co-operation - also in the field of education. Our Trade Union signed similar agreements with Finnish and Egyptian trade unions. “Budowlani” Trade Union maintains good relations with Finnish, Belgian, German, Egyptian and other construction workers trade unions. Since 1998 the Union has been the part of the Construction Training Network, Northwest Europe;

”Budowlani” is interested in exchanging experiences in the field of workers organisation activity, co-operation in organisation and realisation of various programmes basing on international and own funds. We are interested in building strong international system of trade union co-operation, which could face the challenges that are still arising in front of workers’ organisations at the end of 20th century.”

Zbigniew Janowski, President of Trade Union “Budowlani” (Warsaw, October ’99)

» [www.zzbudowlani.pl](http://www.zzbudowlani.pl)

*Source: Budowlani’s website*