

2011 – the Year of Maria Skłodowska-Curie



**RESOLUTION
OF THE SEJM OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND
On 3rd December 2010, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution
on establishing 2011 the Year of Maria Skłodowska-Curie**

On the centenary of awarding Maria Skłodowska-Curie the Nobel Prize in chemistry for the discovery of new elements polonium and radium, the Sejm decided to pay homage to one of the greatest scientists of our times, whose groundbreaking discoveries have contributed to the global development of science.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie was born on 7 November 1867 in Warsaw. She came from the family, which cultivated patriotic traditions. She was versatile and talented: she knew five languages, was interested in sociology, psychology and science. At the end of the 1880's she organized tutoring activities for children in rural areas, in which she taught Polish language, history, algebra, embodying the ideals of positivism. For this illegal activity she could face exile.

During World War I the future Nobel Prize winner organized a mobile X-ray stations and went to the front, where she trained medical personnel in performing X-rays.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie was the first person to win two Nobel Prizes, in physics (1903) and in chemistry (1911) for elaboration of theory of radioactivity and separation of radioelements. Thanks to her discoveries a new branch of chemistry was born – radiochemistry. First studies on the treatment of cancer with ionizing radiation were performed under her personal supervision.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie was the only woman to participate in the Solvay Conferences – annual meetings of leading scholars. After her death (4th July 1934), Albert Einstein in a beautiful essay wrote that was the only untainted by the fame person of those whom he happened to know.

President of the Polish Sejm: *G. Schetyna*

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