Chapter 1
General Provisions

Article 1.
This Act shall specify the law applicable to private law relationships connected with more than one State.

Article 2.
1. If statutory law specifies the law of one’s nationality as applicable, a Polish national shall be subject to Polish law, even if the law of another country recognizes him as its own national.
2. A foreigner who is a national of two or more States shall be subject, as to the law of his nationality, to the law of the country with which he is most closely connected.
3. If the applicability of the given law is made dependent on whether certain persons have the nationality of the same country, to consider that this requirement is met it shall be sufficient that the law of that latter country recognizes them as its nationals.

Article 3.
1. If the statutory law provides that the law of a person’s nationality shall apply, and the nationality of this person cannot be determined, or this person is not a national of any country, or the content of his national law cannot be ascertained, then the law of the country of his place of domicile shall apply; in the absence of the place of domicile, the law of the place of his habitual residence shall apply.
2. Provision of paragraph (1) shall accordingly apply to a person who was granted the protection in the country other than the country of his nationality due to the fact that its links with the country of nationality were breached because of violations of fundamental human rights in that latter country.

Article 4.
1. In cases provided by the statutory law, the applicable law may be chosen by the parties.
2. The choice of law shall be made expressly or shall clearly result from the circumstances of the case, unless the provision allowing a choice of law provides otherwise.
3. The choice of law made after the conclusion of a legal relationship shall not adversely affect the rights of third parties.
4. If, at the performance of a juridical act and before the choice of law had been made, the requirements regarding the form provided by the law applicable to the form of this act were observed, the validity of the act cannot be challenged based on the law applicable to it as the effect of that choice.

5. In determining whether the choice of law was made and in examining the validity of the choice of law, the provisions of Articles 11, 17, 24 and 25 shall apply.

6. Provisions of paragraphs 2 to 5 shall apply to the change or rescission of the choice of law.

**Article 5.**

1. If the foreign law specified as applicable by this Act specifies Polish law as governing the given relationship, then Polish law shall apply.

2. The provision of paragraph 1 shall not apply where the specification of the law applicable:
   1) was the effect of the choice of law;
   2) concerns the form of a juridical act;
   3) concerns contractual or non-contractual obligations, or obligations arising from unilateral acts, which are governed by the law applicable specified by the present Act.

**Article 6.**

1. The law specified as applicable by this Act shall also include the provisions of public law which, according to the law governing the given relationship, shall apply to it.

2. If the law applicable to the given relationship contains provisions establishing legal presumptions, or other rules determining the burden of proof, such provisions shall apply.

**Article 7.**

Foreign law shall not apply, should the effects of its application be contrary to the fundamental principles of the legal system of the Republic of Poland.

**Article 8.**

1. Specification of a foreign law shall not exclude the application of those provisions of Polish law from the content or purpose of which it follows unequivocally that they govern the given legal relationship irrespective of the law applicable thereto.

2. When applying the law governing the legal relationship, effect may be given to the mandatory provisions of the law of another country with which the given legal relationship has a close connection, if under the law of the latter country those provisions are applicable irrespective of the law governing the given relationship. In considering whether to give effect to those mandatory provisions, regard shall be had to their nature and purpose and to the consequences of their application or non-application.
Article 9.
If within the country whose law is applicable there are in force several distinctive legal systems, then the law of this country shall specify which of these systems shall apply. In the absence of such a specification, the legal system which is most closely connected with the given relationship shall apply.

Article 10.
1. If the circumstances on which the applicability of a law depends cannot be established, then the law which is most closely connected with the relationship shall apply.
2. If the content of the applicable foreign law cannot be ascertained within reasonable time, then Polish law shall apply.

Chapter 2
Natural persons

Article 11.
1. Legal capacity of the natural person and his or her capacity to effect juridical acts (legal transactions) shall be subject to the law of his or her nationality.
2. Where the natural person enters into a juridical act within the scope of his or her business activity, it shall be sufficient that his or her capacity be governed by the law of the country where his or her place of business is situated.
3. The paragraph (1) shall not preclude the application of the law to which the juridical act is subject, if this law establishes specific requirements as to the capacity to effect such an act.

Article 12.
1. If a contract is entered into between the persons in the same country, the natural person who has the capability to conclude the contract according to the law of that country may invoke his incapacity resulting from the rights mentioned in Article 11 (1) only if at the time of the contract the other party was aware of the incapacity or was not aware due to his own negligence.
2. If the natural person effecting a unilateral juridical act would have had the capability to perform the act according to the law of the place where it was effected, he or she may invoke his or her inability arising from the law designated in Article 11 (1) only if it brings no prejudice to those who, acting with due diligence, relied on the assumption that the person making the transaction was capable to perform such an act.
3. If the person effects the juridical act through his representative, in determining the conditions for applying the provisions of the paragraph (1) and (2), circumstances concerning the representative shall be taken into account.
4. The provisions of the paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply neither to juridical acts in the field of family and guardianship law, and inheritance law nor to the acts relating to property located in the country other than where such acts have been made.
Article 13.
1. Incapacitation is governed by the law of nationality of the person concerned.
2. If the Polish court decides on the incapacitation of a foreigner, Polish law shall apply.

Article 14.
1. Declaration of death of a person lost shall be subject to his or her national law. The same rules shall apply to the determination of the death or of the time of one’s death.
2. Where Polish court decides on the declaration of death, or on the determination of the death (of the time of death) of a foreigner, then Polish law shall apply.

Article 15.
1. The name of the natural person is subject to his law of nationality.
2. The acquisition or change of the name or surname shall be governed by the law applicable to the assessment of events which led to the acquisition or change of name or surname. The choice, however, of the names at the conclusion or termination of marriage shall be governed by country of his nationality of each of the spouses.

Article 16.
1. The rights of personality of a natural person shall be governed by the law of his nationality.
2. The natural person whose rights of personality are threatened by the violation or have been adversely affected may claim protection under the law of the country in whose territory the event giving rise to the risk of infringement or to the violation took place, or under the law of the country in whose territory the effects of the infringement occurred.
3. If the breach of rights of personality of a natural person took place in the mass media, the right to reply, correction, or other similar safeguard measures shall be subject to the law of the country in which the broadcaster or publisher is established or has his habitual residence.

Chapter 3
Moral Persons and Other Organizational Entities

Article 17.
1. Moral person shall be subject to the law of the country in which it is seated.
2. If, however, the law specified in the paragraph (1) refers to the law of the country according to the law of which the moral person was established, the law of the latter country shall apply.
3. The law specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall govern in particular:
   1) formation, merger, division, transformation or dissolution of the moral person;
   2) legal character of the moral person;
3) the individual name and the business name of the moral person;  
4) legal capacity of the moral person;  
5) sphere of competence and the rules of functioning as well as the appointing 
and the dismissing of the members of its organs;  
6) rules of the representation;  
7) the acquisition and the loss of the status of the shareholder, or of the 
membership in the moral person, and the rights and obligations connected 
therewith;  
8) responsibility of the shareholders or of the members for the debts of the moral 
person;  
9) legal effects of the breach by a person representing the moral person of the 
law, articles of association or the statutes.  

**Article 18.**  
1. If the moral person shall perform the juridical act within the sphere of its business 
activity, it shall be sufficient for this person to have the ability to act under the law 
of the country in which its place of business is situated.  
2. Where no restrictions of the ability or representation of the moral person are 
provided in the country in which the juridical act was made, the moral legal person 
may rely upon such restrictions under the law designated in Article 17(1) and (2) 
against the other parties only if the other party is aware of them or he did not 
know about them because of negligence. This provision shall not apply to the 
judicial acts concerning the alienation of real property in a country other than that 
where juridical act was performed.  

**Article 19.**  
1. After the seat of the moral person has been moved to another country, the moral 
person shall be subject to the law of this country since the moment of the 
transmission. Legal personality obtained under the law of the previous seat shall 
be maintained, if it is provided by the law of each of the countries concerned. 
Transmission of the seat within the European Economic Area shall never lead to 
loss of moral personality.  
2. The merger of moral persons seated in different countries requires the completion 
of the requirements specified in the law of all these countries.  

**Article 20.**  
The provisions of Article 16 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the protection of 
personal interests of legal persons.  

**Article 21.**  
The provisions of Article 17 to 20 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the organizational 
entities devoid of the legal personality.
Chapter 4
Representation

Article 22.
Statutory representation shall be subject to the law applicable to the legal relationship from which the authorization to represent arises.

Article 23.
1. Powers of attorney (voluntary representation) shall be subject to the law chosen by the principal. The chosen law may, however, be invoked in regard to the third person only where the latter knew or could readily have known about the choice. The principal may invoke the law chosen in regard to the representative only if the latter knew or could readily have known about the choice.
2. In the absence of the law choice by the principal, the powers of attorney shall be governed consecutively by:
   1) the law of the country of the representative's seat, in which he acts on a permanent basis, or
   2) the law of the country, in which the principal's place of business is situated, if the representative acts in this place on a permanent basis, or
   3) the law of the country, in which the representative actually acted, representing the principal, or in which he should have acted in accordance with the principal's will.

Chapter 5
Effecting the juridical act and its form

Article 24.
1. In determining whether the juridical act was effected, the law applicable to the juridical act shall apply.
2. The party who contends that he did not consent to be bound by the juridical act concerned, may rely upon the law of the country in which he has his habitual residence if it appears from the circumstances that it would not be justified to determine the effects of his or her conduct in accordance with the law specified in the paragraph (1).

Article 25.
1. The form of the juridical act shall be governed by the law applicable to the act itself. It shall be sufficient, however, to comply with the form prescribed by the law of the country in which the act was done. If the contract is being concluded between persons who, at the time of declaring their intentions to be bound, are present in different countries, it shall be sufficient to comply with the form prescribed by the law of either of these countries.
2. The paragraph (1) second and third sentence shall apply neither to the alienation of property nor to juridical acts the subject matter of which is the creation, fusion, division, transformation or liquidation of a moral person or of another organizational unit devoid of moral personality.

3. If the case of a juridical act performed by the representative, the circumstances mentioned in the paragraph (1), second and third sentence shall relate to the representative himself.

Chapter 6
Limitation of Action (Prescription of Claims for Performance)  
And Other Institutions Connected With the Lapse of Time

Article 26.
Limitation of action (prescription of claims for performance) shall be subject to the law applicable to the action (to the claim) itself.

Article 27.
Article 26 shall apply mutatis mutandis to other institutions connected with the lapse of time.

Chapter 7
Obligations

Article 28.

2. Contractual obligations, which under the rule of Article 1(2)(j) of the Regulation referred to in the paragraph (1), were excluded from its scope of application, shall be subject to the provisions of this Regulation which are appropriate for the given obligation.

Article 29.
1. If the Polish law provides for compulsory insurance, such an insurance contract shall be subject to Polish law.

2. If the law of the Member State of the European Economic Area, which provides for compulsory insurance, designates its own law contracts as applicable to such insurance contracts, this law shall apply.

Article 30.
1. Except for the cases regulated in the Regulation referred to in Article 28, the choice of the law of the country which is not the Member State of the European Economic Area, to the contract, which has a close connection with the territory of
at least one Member State shall not deprive the consumer of the protection granted by Polish law implementing the following directives:


2. If the law applicable to the contract within the scope of Directive 2008/122/EC of 14 January 2009 on the protection of consumers in respect of certain aspects of timeshare, long-term holiday product, resale and exchange contracts (OJ L 33, 2.3.2009, p. 10) is the law of the non-Member State of the European Economic Area, the consumer shall not be deprived of the protection granted by the Polish law implementing the Directive, provided that:

1) any of such immovables is situated within the territory of the one of Member States, or

2) in the case of the contract not directly related to the immovable, if the professional carries on his business or profession in a Member State, or by any means, directs such activities to a Member State, and the contract falls within the scope of this activity.

Article 31.

Obligation arising out of a security other than the promissory note (the bill of exchange) or the check is governed by the law of the country in which the security is drawn or issued.

Article 32.

1. The obligation arising from unilateral juridical act shall be subject to the law chosen by the person who performed the act. From the moment where both parties to such an obligation are individualised, the choice of law, as well as its alteration or termination shall require the agreement of both parties to this relationship.

2. In the absence of law choice, the unilateral obligation shall be subject to the law of the country in which the person who performed the unilateral juridical act is habitually resident or seated. Where it results from the circumstances that the
obligation is more strictly connected with the law of another country, this latter law shall apply.

**Article 33.**

**Article 34.**
The law applicable to the non-contractual civil responsibility arising from the traffic accidents shall be designated by the Convention of 4 May 1971 on the Law Applicable to Traffic Accidents (Journal of Laws 2003 No. 63, pos. 585).

**Article 35.**
Liability for acts and omissions of the organs which are engaged in a public authority in the given country shall be subject to the law of that country.

**Article 36.**
The law which governs the obligation being subject to the assignment shall also designate the effects of the assignment against the third parties.

**Article 37.**
Assumption of debt shall be subject to the law of the country governing the debt assumed.

**Article 38.**
The impact of the change of currency value on the extent of the obligation shall be assessed according to the law applicable to the obligation itself.

**Chapter 8**
**Arbitration agreement**

**Article 39.**
1. The arbitration agreements shall be subject to the law chosen by the parties.
2. In the absence of the choice of law by the parties, the arbitration agreement shall be subject to the law of the country in which the agreed arbitration venue is situated. Where the latter was not agreed, the arbitration agreement shall be subject to the law applicable to the legal relationship to which the given dispute relates; it shall be sufficient, however, that the arbitration agreement be effective under the law of the country in which the arbitration takes place or in which the arbitral tribunal issued the award.
Article 40.
The form of the arbitration agreement shall be subject to the law of the country of the place of the arbitration. It shall be sufficient, however, to comply with the form provided by the law applicable to the arbitration agreement.

Chapter 9
Ownership and other property rights. Possession

Article 41.
1. Ownership and other property rights shall be governed by the law of the country in which the object thereof is situated.
2. The acquisition and the loss of the ownership, as well as the acquisition, the loss, the change of the content, or of the priority, of other rights in rem shall be subject to the law of the country in which the object of these rights was situated at the time when the fact causing the above-mentioned legal effects occured.

Article 42.
Property rights to the aircraft or to the ship, as well as to the rail vehicle shall be subject to the law of the country in which this aircraft, ship or rail vehicle is registered, and in the absence of the register or registration – to the law of the country where the mother harbour, rail station or any similar place is situated.

Article 43.
Property rights to the goods in transportation shall be subject to the law of the country from which they were sent. Where it follows from the circumstances that these rights are more strictly connected with the law of another country, this latter law shall apply.

Article 44.
Right arising from the record in the securities account which is held in a securities settlement system shall be governed by the law of the State in which the account is kept.

Article 45.
Articles 41 to 44 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the possession.

Chapter 10
Intellectual Property

Article 46.
1. The establishment, the content and the termination of the intellectual property right shall be subject to the law of the country in which this right is exercised.
2. The paragraph (1) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the alienation of the intellectual property right and to the determination of the priority of these rights.

3. The protection of intellectual property shall be governed by the law of the country under which the protection is claimed.

**Article 47.**

Entitlement of the employee against the employer in respect of intellectual property rights related to the employee’s activity within the framework of the employment relationship are subject to the law applicable to that relationship.

**Chapter 11**

**Marriage Related Matters**

**Article 48.**

The ability to conclude marriage shall be determined for each of the parties by the law of his or her nationality at the time of concluding the marriage.

**Article 49.**

1. The form or the marriage is subject to the law of the country in which it is celebrated.

2. Where the marriage is celebrated outside the territory of the Republic of Poland, it shall be sufficient to comply with the form required by laws of the nationality, of the permanent or habitual residence of both spouses.

**Article 50.**

The effects of the inability to conclude the marriage or of the failure to its form shall be settled by the law specified respectively in Article 48 and 49.

**Article 51.**

1. Personal and patrimonial relationships between spouses shall be subject to the law of their current common nationality.

2. In the absence of the common nationality, the law of the country in which both spouses have their place of permanent residence – or, in the absence of the latter, of their common habitual residence – shall apply. Where the spouses are not habitually resident in the same country, the law of the country with which both are otherwise most strictly connected shall apply.

**Article 52.**

1. The spouses may make their patrimonial relationships governed by the law of nationality of the either spouse or by the law of the country in which one of them is permanently or habitually resident. The choice of law may be made also before the conclusion of marriage.

2. The marriage agreement shall be subject to the law chosen by the parties according to the paragraph (1). In the absence of the law choice, the marriage
agreement shall be governed by the law applicable to the personal and patrimonial relationships between the spouses at the time of entering into the agreement.

3. When choosing the law applicable to patrimonial relationships between spouses or for the marriage agreement, it shall be sufficient to comply with the form prescribed for marriage agreements either by the law chosen or by the law of the country in which the law choice was made.

**Article 53.**

1. If the spouse and the third person being the creditor have at the time of the establishment of the obligation their habitual residence in the same country, the law of that country shall apply to assessment of the effectiveness of matrimonial property regime as against third parties, unless the third party at the time the establishment of the obligation was or could be aware of the nature and content of that matrimonial regime, or the requirements for transparency and public registration under the law applicable to matrimonial property, or – with respect to rights in rem in immovable property – under the law of the country in whose territory the property is located, have been complied with.

2. The paragraph (1) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the liability of the spouse for the debts drawn by the other spouse in relation to the matters concerning the ordinary family needs.

**Article 54.**

1. Dissolution of marriage shall be governed by the common law of the nationality of spouses at the time of the dissolution request.

2. In the absence of the common nationality, the law of the country in which both spouses at the time of requesting the dissolution of the marriage have their place of permanent residence – or, in the absence of the latter at that moment, of their last common habitual residence, provided that at least one of them is still habitually resident in that latter country – shall apply.

3. Where the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) are not met, the dissolution of marriage shall be governed by Polish law.

4. Provisions of paragraphs (1) to (3) apply mutatis mutandis to the legal separation of spouses.

**Chapter 12**

**Relationships between the Parents and the Child**

**Article 55.**

1. Determination and negation of the child’s origin shall be subject to the law of nationality of the child at the moment of his birth.

2. If the law of the nationality of the child at the moment of his birth does not provide for the the affiliation of the child to a putative father, it shall be governed by the law of the nationality of the child at the moment of the affiliation.

3. The recognition of the child shall be subject to the law of the nationality of the child at the time of the recognition. Should this law not provide for the recognition
of the child, the law of the nationality of the child at the moment of his birth shall apply, where the latter provides for the recognition.

4. Recognition of child conceived but unborn shall be subject to the law of the country of his mother’s nationality at the time of recognition.

**Article 56.**


2. In the case of change of the habitual residence of the child to the residence in the country which is not the Party to the Convention referred to in the paragraph (1), the law of this country specifies from the time of this change the requirements for the application of measures undertaken in the country of the previous habitual residence of the child.

**Chapter 13**

**Adoption**

**Article 57.**

1. Adoption shall be subject to the law of the country whose the adopter is a national.

2. The common adoption by the spouses shall be subject to their common law of nationality. In the absence of the common nationality, the law of the country in which both spouses have their place of permanent residence – or, in the absence of the latter, of their common habitual residence – shall apply. Where the spouses are not habitually resident in the same country, the law of the country with which both are otherwise most strictly connected shall apply.

**Article 58.**

The adoption cannot take place without observing the rules of the law of the person who is to be adopted, concerning his and his legal representative’s consent to the adoption, and the permission of the competent State authority, as well as these concerning the adoption restrictions because of the change of the place of previous the permanent residence to the place of residence in the other country.

**Chapter 14**

**Guardianship and Care**

**Article 59.**

1. The law applicable to the guardianship and care over the child shall be designated by the Convention of 19 October 1996 on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law,
Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, concluded in the Hague on 19 October 1996.

2. In the case of change of the habitual residence of the child to the residence in the country which is not the Party to the Convention referred to in the paragraph (1), the law of this country specifies from the time of this change the requirements for the application of measures undertaken in the country of the previous habitual residence of the child.

Article 60.

1. Establishment of the care or guardianship or other protective measures for an adult shall be subject to the law of that person’s country of nationality.

2. If the Polish court decides on measures referred to in the paragraph (1) in relation to the foreigner permanently or habitually resident in the Republic of Poland, Polish law shall apply.

3. Execution of measures referred to in the paragraph (1) shall be subject to the law of the country in whose territory the person whom these measures concern is habitually resident.

4. In the cases referred to in Article 1107(2) and (3) of the Law of 17 November 1964 – Code of Civil Procedure (Journal of Laws No. 43, pos. 296, with amendments), Polish law shall apply. The same shall concern the execution of the pronounced measures.

Article 61.

Guardianship for the moral person shall be governed by the law of the country to which that person is subject.

Article 62.

Curatorship to attend to the particular matter (cura ad actum) shall be governed by the law applicable to the matter itself.

Chapter 15

Maintenance obligations

Article 63.

The law applicable to the maintenance obligations shall be designated by Council Regulation (EC) No 4/2009 of 18 December 2008 on jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition and enforcement of decisions and cooperation in matters relating to maintenance obligations.
Chapter 16
Inheritance Matters

Article 64.
1. The decedent in his testament or in any other kind of the will may subject the inheritance to the law of his nationality, of his place of permanent or habitual residence at the time of making such a will or at the moment of his death.
2. In the absence of the choice of law to the inheritance, the law of the decedent’s nationality at the moment of his death shall apply.

Article 65.
Without prejudice to Article 66, the validity of testaments and other kinds of the will shall be governed by the law of decedent’s nationality at the time of making these acts.

Article 66.
1. The law applicable to the form of the testament and its revocation shall be designated by the Convention On the Conflicts of Laws Relating to the Form of Testamentary Dispositions, concluded in the Hague on 5 October 1961 (Journal of Laws 1969 No. 34, pos. 284).
2. The law referred to in the paragraph (1) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the form of other dispositions mortis causa.

Chapter 17
Other Legal Relationships

Article 67.
In the absence of the designation of the law applicable under the present Law, the specific provisions contained in the ratified conventions as in force in the Republic of Poland and the law of the European Union, the relationship covered by the scope of application of the present Law shall be governed by the law of the country with which this relationship is the most significantly connected.

Article 68.
Article 3 (1), 6 and 7 of the Air Law of 3 July 2002 (Journal of Laws 2006 No. 100, pos. 696, with amendments) shall not apply to the relationships covered by the scope of application of the present Law.

Chapter 18
Amendments to the Provisions Being in Force

(Omitted).
Rozdział 19
Final Provisions

Article 80.
The Law of 12 November 1965 – Private International Law (Journal of Laws No. 46, pos. 290, with amendments) shall be abrogated, except for the provisions relating to the maintenance obligations, which in this regard shall remain in force until 17 June, 2011.

Article 81.
The Law enters into force after 30 days since the date of its promulgation, except for Article 63, which enters into force on 18 June, 2011.