



Programme

9th European Congress of Local Governments

Mikołajki, Poland
MARCH 4 – 5, **2024**

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Programme

9th European Congress of Local Governments

Mikołajki, Poland

MARCH 4 – 5, **2024**

Organizer

EASTERN INSTITUTE

4th March 2024

Guest Registration

Room	6/2	6/4	6/5	5/1	5/2	5/4	5/7 A
Thematic Path	Main Stage	Health	Economy and Finances	Green Energy	Sustainable Development	Society	Politics and Security
13:10-14:10	Where Will the Common Europe Lead Us - a Direction of Changes In the European Union	The Role of Local Governments in Health Promotion and Prevention	What Problems in Polish Cities Can be Solved Through Sustainable Construction?	Closest to Those in Need and Their Problems. Activities of Non-governmental Organizations - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - part I	Thematic Block Green Local Government. How to Develop Cities and Regions While Respecting the Environment?	Social Policy - Municipalities and the Duty to Help Those Most In Need	Thematic Block Revival of Ukrainian Cities: Rebuilding, Institutions, Mechanisms
14:20-15:20	World on the Collision Course - Is Great Power Clash Ahead of Us?	Health of Poles - Current Challenges in Psychiatry	How Profitable Is Diversity? Development of Cities and Regions in the Context of Discrimination Against LGBT+ People	How Can Local Government Units Benefit from The Energy Transition?	Development of Infrastructure for Zero-emission Transport. Will I Be Able to Charge an Electric Car in my Region?	Enlargement of the European Union - Prospects and Risks - part I	Local Governments in the Face of Depopulation - How to Enhance the Attractiveness of Rural Areas?
15:30-16:30	The Future of the Idea of Decentralisation in a Changing World. part I	Prevention of civilization diseases among children and adolescents - the significance of digitizing preventive and balance examinations	Watch out for Cell Towers! Do They Pose a Threat to Real Estate?	Does Modern District Heating Have to Be Based on Coal?	Thematic Block Critical cadence - to panic or to act	How to Build Effective Leadership?	Efficient Self-government in Wartime
16:40-17:55	How Not to Be Left Behind - Digitization of Local Government Units with the Cooperation of Business	16:40-17:40 Should Local Governments Fund Healthcare? 17:50-19:05 Thematic Block Hospitals - Management and Finance	A Socially Responsible Company at the Local Level. Commitment to the Common Good of Employees, Communities and the Environment	Thematic Block Local Energy Security Without Fossil Fuels	Thematic Block Cooperation without Borders: Current Challenges and Prospects for Cross-Border Cooperation	Drones in the Service of Security - How to Increase the Capabilities of Uniformed and Rescue Services	Why Was Russia Not Able to Win the War in Ukraine? - part I
18:05-19:05	Plenary Session 6/1						
19:15-20:15	19:15-19:35 Stories of Success - Krzysztof Gawkowski 19:35-19:55 Stories of Success - Jerzy Buzek 19:55-20:15 Stories of Success - Marek Woźniak		Why Is It Important to Support Local Producers? - part I	Biogas and Biomethane - the Environmentally Friendly Future of Energy	Special Screening of the Film "To the Last Drop" and Discussion with the Filmmakers (Film with English subtitles)	City of the Future - Development Scenarios in Urban and Social Aspects - part I	What Should Poland's Participation in the Reconstruction of Ukraine Look Like?
20:25-20:55							Opening of the Photographic Exhibition 'The Call of the Heart'
21:00	Gala of the European Congress of Local Governments - 6/1						
	Banquet						

5/7 B	5/8	5/9	5/10	5/12	3/1	3/2	6/1 Central Stage
International Cooperation	Culture and Education	Tourism Industry Exhibition	Local Government of the Future	Regional Infrastructure	Investments	Innovation	Europe of the Carpathians
Do Residents Have a Real Impact on the Functioning of Their Municipalities?	Independent Local Media - Does Anyone Even Need Them?	Tasty - Interesting - Effective. Gastronomy Builds the Region's Brand	Modern Territorial Planning as a Chance for Better Living Conditions in the Countryside and in Cities	Transport Exclusion - Poland in the Shadow of Limitations	Impact of Tax Exemptions and Preferences on Local Development	What Should European Cohesion Policy Be Like After 2027?	Via Carpathia Regional Cooperation
Revitalisation as a Process of Dynamic Social Transformation	Local Government Media – a Component of Democracy or Authoritarianism?	Tourist Regions - How to Find a Balance Between Tourist and Resident?	City for Everyone. Residents, Consumers, Entrepreneurs. Challenges for Urban Policies	Digital and Cyber-Secure Local Government - Present or Future?	Local Governments Facing Depopulation – How to Scale Investments in Cities?	Digital Awakening of Local Governments- Transition Not Without It's Challenges	Local Governments in the Process of Transformation of Ukraine.
UNESCO Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites - an Influx of Tourists Challenges Local Communities	Journalist, Businessman or State? Who will Ensure the Independence of Local Media?	Active Seniors and Dignified Old Age as a Challenge for Local Government	The Idea of Polycentric Poland - How to Balance the Development of Regions?	Thematic Block Will the 'Lighting up Poland' Program Effectively Modernize the Lighting Infrastructure and Lay the Foundations for a Smart City?	What about the Globalisation?	Thematic Block Smart City - Data as a Tool for Better Understanding the Needs of the Resident	The role of Universities in Regional Development
Thematic Block Small and Intermediate Urban Areas – How to Ensure a Just Transition?	"Feel at Home!" - Local Integration Programs for Immigrants and Refugees	Nature and Culture - National Parks, Reserves, Open-Air Museums as Elements of Region Promotion	From Energy Vampires to Low-carbon Buildings - Urban Climate Transition	Prospects for the Development of the Aviation Market in the Context of Cooperation with Local Governments	Thematic Block Missing Parking Spaces in Cities - How to Solve this Problem?	A Polish Common Cause - Is There Something that Unites the Poles?	Decentralization – How to Strengthen European Local Governments? - part I
How to Effectively Promote Cities and Regions Abroad?	Europe Facing Global Challenges	Tourism As an Opportunity to Preserve Regional Culture and Develop the Region	The Impact of Energy Investments on Local Communities	Developed Infrastructure As a Factor of Local Development	Access to Science As a Tool for Regional Development	Solar Energy, AI, Digitization: What Else Defines Smart Cities?	

5th March 2024

Room	6/2	6/4	6/5	5/1	5/2	5/4
Thematic Path	Main Stage	Health	Economy and Finances	Green Energy	Sustainable Development	Society
10:10-11:10	Cohesion Policy - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	Together Against Depression: Initiatives by Local Authorities, Ministries, and NGOs for the Mental Health of the Youngest	Open Local Government Budget	Hydrogen the Fuel of the Future	Firstly, the Environment. Good Practices for Restoring Biodiversity at the Local Level	Forms of Citizen Participation in Local Governments
11:20-12:35	11:20-11:35 Stories of Success - Wojciech Bakun 11:35-12:35 What Investments Can Local Governments Afford Today?	District Health Centers - Coordinating Healthcare at the Local Level	How to Support Entrepreneurs Locally for Online Exports. Online Exports as a Power of Trade	Local Energy Dilemmas - How to Ensure Security, Resilience and Sustainable Development in Difficult Times - part II	Smog - Or the Growing Problem of Dirty Air	Zoos, Aquariums and Botanic Gardens - Good Entertainment, Education and Business
12:45-13:45	12:45-13:05 Local Government of the Future - Konrad Fijolek 13:05-13:25 Waterproof Venice: Defending a World Cultural Heritage from Sea Level Rise 13:25 - 13:45 Meeting with Péter Márki-Zay	E-health in Poland - challenges and best practices	Special Economic Zones as a Springboard to the Success of a Region	Why Is It Important to Support Local Producers? - part II	12:45-13:05 The Revitalization of Lake Rożnów and its Shoreline as an Opportunity for the Sustainable Development of the Region	Strength in the network - about the network of Foreigners Integration Centres
13:55-15:10	Thematic Block The Role of Local Government in the Education Process. Challenges, Expectations, Real Opportunities - part II	Health Care outside Agglomerations. Increasing Quality, Preventing Exclusion	How to Solve the Problem of Lack of Housing Availability? Integrated Investment Zones Project	Renewable Energy Community. Distributed, Prosumer Energy. What Should the Energy Strategy of Local Governments Look Like?	Thematic Block Return of Plastic Bottles for a Deposit - Positive Examples of Recycling	Thematic Block City of the Future - Development Scenarios in Urban and Social Aspects - part II
15:20-16:20	Sport as Advertisement - Is It Profitable? - part II	Demographic Changes and Health Challenges	Challenges of Senior Policy at the Local and Regional Level	Local Energy Dilemmas - How to Ensure Security, Resilience and Sustainable Development in Difficult Times - part II	Regional Perspective on the Fight against Drought and Water Shortages	The Role of Regional Financial Institutions in Building the Capital Strength of the Region
16:30-17:30		Closest to Those in Need and Their Problems. Activities of Non-governmental Organizations - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - part II	How to Create a Strong Brand? - part II	Campaign Barometer - Or What Interests Them in Poland?	Unbridled Landfills - How to Solve the Waste Problem?	Local Patriotism - Is It Necessary and What Does It Offer To Us?
17:40-18:40			Local Product, International Success	The Wind for Local Governments. Change in the Provisions of Act 10H and the Impact on Investors		Participatory Budget - a Real Instrument for Citizens to Shape the Urban Space?
20:00	Gala of the European Congress of Local Governments					6/1
	Banquet					

5/7 A	5/7 B	5/8	5/9	5/10	5/12	3/1	3/2
Politics and Security	International Cooperation	Culture and Education	Tourism Industry Exhibition	Local Government of the Future	Regional Infrastructure	Investments	Innovation
With a Sense of Social Responsibility – Growing Activity Among Youth	Climate Crisis: Global Challenges, Local Solutions	How to Consciously Build Security in Europe?	How to Effectively Manage Cultural Institutions	Are Investments in Bicycle Infrastructure Worth Pursuing?	The Significance of Railway in Connecting Regions. Opportunities, Challenges, Barriers	The Winner Takes It All - How To Win The Local Government Investment Race?	Innovation as a Key to Creating a Modern Region and Municipality
What Does the War in Ukraine Entail for European Local Governments?	Thematic Block Investment Attractiveness - How to Create It and How Do Leaders Cooperate with Business?	The Importance of Cultural Institutions in Building Local Identity	Pro-environmental Approach to Tourism - How to Deepen Environmental Awareness of Organizers and Tourists?	Women Leaders in Local Government - the Key Role of Women in the Roles of Commune Heads, Mayors, and City Presidents	Urban Public Transport - What Trends?	Inspirations of Successful Women	Thematic Block Region and SMEs - How to Power Up the Innovative Ventures?
The Day That Changed Everything - War Through the Eyes of a Witness	12:45-13:05 Stories of Success - Gertruda Uścińska 13:05-13:25 Local Government of the Future - Małgorzata Marika-Szulik 13:25-13:45 Local Government of the Future - Robert Szewczyk	Screening of the Film 'Heimat' and Meeting with the Director	Historical Monuments - What Do They Stand For and What Can They Be for a Municipality?	European Port Cities - Capitals of Culture, Economy and Tourism	Between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea - about the Future of Local and Regional Cooperation in Central Europe	Effective Promotion - so What Kind of Promotion?	Sports Tourism - What Challenges Do Local Governments Face?
Why Was Russia Not Able to Win the War in Ukraine? - part II	International Cooperation Among Local Governments - Stagnation or New Opportunities?	Thematic Block National and Ethnic Minorities in Local Governments - Identity, Role, Challenges	Thematic Block Invest in the Past for Better Future - Heritage Tourism in Regions and Municipalities	County Communities and the County - Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow	Media Education - How to Use the Internet Consciously	How to Spend Public Money Wisely?	Thematic Block Cyber Revolution - Where Is the World Heading?
Polish Support for Ukraine's Integration with the EU	Refugees from Ukraine in European Cities - Exploiting Economic Potential and Promoting Integration	A Turn-on for the Switched Off - How to Combat Local News Avoidance?	Thematic Block Cultural Heritage of Cities and Regions as One of the Main Factors of Tourist Attractiveness	Local Government - Continuing Evolution Or Revolution Needed?	Bypad: Modern Bicycle Policy, EU Funds and Satisfied Residents	Regional Efforts to Increase Employment	Building Innovation Through Cooperation Between Science, Business and Local Government Units
Diffused Nuclear Energy. An Upcoming Challenge for Local Authorities	Decentralization - How to Strengthen European Local Governments? - part II	The Role of the Media and NGOs in Strengthening Civil Societies in Europe	Thematic Block Festivals and Mass Events As an Opportunity to Promote the Region	Young People in Local Government - How Do They Change the Surrounding Reality?	Influence of Local Government on Local Sports Infrastructure	Praise Youth and It Will Prosper. Local Governments Nurturing Young Talents	Cyber Security in the Local Government
A 21st Century Commune Leader - What Qualities Should a Local Government Leader Possess?	Town Twinning - an Important International Factor in Local Community Development?	Culture as a Unifying Element in Europe - How to Cooperate Across Differences	Football As a Tool for Promoting Cities and Regions	Safe Neighborhood - What Depends on the Local Government and What on the State?	PPP a Chance to Break the Economic Impasse		Enlargement of the European Union - Prospects and Risks - part II

MARCH 4, 2024**18:05—19:05**

The Future of the Idea of Decentralisation in a Changing World

The high level of local government is one of the greatest achievements of democratic systems. The delegation of responsibilities to local authorities and society has paid off in the development of regions. The serious turbulence we have faced in recent years has left its mark on the process of globalisation and decentralisation. Pandemics, inflation and war in Ukraine have encouraged countries to consolidate power. But is centralisation the right path forward?

New times set tasks and challenges, one of the answers to which should be a revolutionary approach to the idea of decentralisation.

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Partner: Europe of Carpathians Clubs

Via Carpathia Regional Cooperation

Moderator:

Jerzy Kwiecinski, Vice-President of Management Board, Bank Pekao S.A., Poland

Speakers:

Malgorzata Jarosinska-Jedynak, "Rzeszów-Jasionka" Airport Ltd., Vicepresident Poland

Jan Kocak, Head of the Project Management Department, Presov Self-Governing Region, Slovakia

Piotr Pilch, Podkarpackie Region Marshal Office, Deputy Marshal, Poland

Jaroslaw Stawiarski, Lubelskie Region's Marshal's Office, Marshal, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Partner: Europe of Carpathians Clubs

Local Governments in the Process of Transformation of Ukraine.

Speakers:

Marek Bankowski, Mayor, Bukowsko Commune Council,
Poland

Mykhaylo Khariy, National Forum “Transformation of Ukraine”,
Head, Ukraine

Sandor Koles, President, Carpathian Foundation, Hungary

Andrzej Szarlip, Bilgoraj District Council, District Governor,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Partner: Europe of Carpathians Clubs

The role of Universities in Regional Development

1. Creating innovation and knowledge transfer to the business sector, supporting the development of local businesses.
2. Supporting the local community through social and cultural programmers, building social ties, and strengthening regional identity.
3. Creating a specialized workforce tailored to the region's needs, contributing to the region's competitiveness and economic attractiveness.
4. Integrating Eastern Europe through cross-border cooperation and scientific exchanges, accelerating development processes, and strengthening international ties.

Moderator:

Alina Koushyk, Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw, Belarus

Speakers:

Igor Tsependa, Rector, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ukraine

Przemysław Czarnek, Sejm, Deputy, Poland

Stefan Purici, Prorector for International Relations, "Stefan Cel Mare" University of Suceava, Romania

Maciej Szymanowski, Dyrektor, Instytut Współpracy Polsko-Węgierskiej im. Wacława Felczaka, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

Financial Transparency of Local Government Units – Good Practices

We are facing unprecedented variability and an increase in the number of legal acts, which affects the process of controlling the spending of public funds, which is crucial from a civic point of view, through the openness and budget transparency of local government units. How to enable residents to gain insight into the budgeting process or the creation of long-term financial plans, not only to meet the formal requirements resulting from the Public Finance Act, but also to reflect the direction of changes and the nature of planned investments in local governments, for example by unifying the forms of reporting by local governments. What are the best practices used by local government officials that increase the transparency of spending public funds and what foreign models could be effectively implemented in Poland?

Moderator:

Jacek Sierak, Head in Department of Local Government
Economy and Financing, SGH Warsaw School of Economics,
Poland

Speakers:

Serhii Druchyn, Senior Analyst, Polish Economic Institute,
Poland

Jozef Kardys, Kolbuszowa District, District Governor, Poland

Mateusz Klupczyński, CEO, Publink, Poland

Jacek Mroz, City Council of Rzeszów, Treasurer of the City of
Rzeszów, Poland

Bartosz Sowier, Director of Analysis and Legislation
Department, Employers of Poland, Poland

Adam Sperzynski, Rawicz District Council, District Governor,
Poland

Piotr Swiderski, Mayor, Municipality of Rozan, Poland

Leszek Wiecech, External Affairs Advisor, Lemawi Consulting,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Partner: Digital Poland Association

Digital and Cyber-Secure Local Government – Present or Future?

Services provided by public administration should follow the citizens. Therefore, as many of them as possible should be provided using modern technologies. The aim is to streamline and speed up the process of dealing with official matters as much as possible. What is the reality? Do local authorities have the right tools and resources to transform traditional services into cyber-secure 'e-services'?

Speakers:

Lucja Barbaszewska, Regional Sales Manager, Cisco Systems
Poland, Poland

Janusz Cieszynski, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Lukasz Cyrwus, Key Account Manager, Samsung Electronics,
Poland

Michal Kanownik, President of the Board, Digital Poland
Association, Poland

Alessandro Moricca, CEO, PagoPA S.p.A., Italy

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner: Open For Business*

How Profitable Is Diversity? Development of Cities and Regions in the Context of Discrimination Against LGBT+ People

The data of Open For Business shows that discrimination against the LGBT+ community in Poland leads to a loss of 4,6 bln – 9,5 bln PLN annually, translating to between 0,21% – 0,43% of GDP. How does the situation of LGBT+ people affect the growth of local economies and communities? What kind of difficulties do local policy-makers face while striving to build a more open, inclusive environment? Do cities and regions see a connection between openness and development? The basis for the discussion will be the latest Open For Business report on the impact of discrimination around LGBT+ people on the economic and social development of local governments.

Moderator:

Krzysztof Kiryczuk, Editor, Grupa Eurozet, Poland

Speakers:

Lukasz Antkiewicz, Project Manager, Open For Business, Poland

Wiktoria Aleksandra Baranska, Member, Tęczowy Sanok, Poland

Krystyna Danilecka-Wojewodzka, Mayor, City of Slupsk, Poland

Jolanta Niezgodzka, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Karolina Zdrowowska, Head Coordinator for Entrepreneurship and Social Dialogue, City of Warsaw, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Watch out for Cell Towers! Do They Pose a Threat to Real Estate?

Local government officials regularly encounter protests from residents on various issues. Often, such actions by local communities do not result from ill will, but from concerns and a lack of sufficient knowledge. In the context of telecommunication infrastructure (which is extremely necessary for municipalities), protests are often based on its alleged impact on the decline in property values. During the discussion, scientists will address these concerns, presenting the results of their research, which can serve as arguments for conversations with worried residents.

Speakers:

Michał Gluszak, Vice-Director of Institute of Economics,
Cracow University of Economics, Poland

Artur Koziol, Mayor, City Hall and Municipality of Wieliczka,
Poland

Bartłomiej Marona, Associate Professor, Head of Department
of Real Estate and Investment Economics, Cracow University
of Economics, Poland

Wojciech Sypniewski, Mayor, Osielesko Commune, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

16:40—17:55

A Socially Responsible Company at the Local Level. Commitment to the Common Good of Employees, Communities and the Environment

CSR activities are one of the key areas of operation of companies. Social responsibility is most needed at the local level, where companies are close to local communities and their expectations. EU regulations require companies to report data on environmental protection, social responsibility and respect for human rights. Hence, planning and conducting such activities, as well as the ability to present best practices in this area, becomes crucial.

Moderator:

Piotr Kosiak, Professor of the Department of Management,
Collegium Civitas, Poland

Speakers:

Pavlo Moroz, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility
Department, MHP SE, Ukraine

Kacper Parol, President, Impulse Foundation of Youth, Poland

Anna Partyka-Opiela, Partner, Head of Life Sciences Practice,
Rymarz, Zdort, Maruta, Wachta, Gasiński, Her i Wspólnicy
sp.k., Poland

Piotr Wachowiak, Rector, SGH Warsaw School of Economics,
Poland

Fabrizio Zucca, Professor, Bocconi University, Italy

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

Why Is It Important to Support Local Producers? – part I

Local producers help to create jobs, develop infrastructure, diversify the economy and reduce dependence on imports. In the last few years, the economy has been hit hard by the crises we have faced and are still facing, and many local producers have had to leave the business. How important is it and what measures should be taken to support local producers and their products as effectively as possible?

Moderator:

Adam Wyszynski, Editor-in-Chief, PKB24.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Ioseb Berikashvili, Dean, Associate Professor, Caucasus University, Georgia

Jerzy Chroscikowski, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland, Poland

Anna Tkachyk, Chief Operating Officer, Made in Ukraine, Ukraine

Zbigniew Ziejewski, Secretary of State, Ministry of State Assets, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

Rail, Road or Waterway – What Will the Future of Cargo Transport Be Like?

Road transport is responsible for shipment of more than three-quarters of goods in the European Union. However, car use is a source of enormous pollution. How to replace it? Rail and water transport are greener, but they do not offer as much flexibility in route planning. Is re-emergence of the traditional means of transport the future? How to ensure security of supply without harming the environment?

Moderator:

Szymon Sikorski, Plenipotentiary, University of Agriculture in Cracow, Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Krawiec, Head of Sustainable Transport Program, WiseEuropa, Poland

Marcin Slezak, General Director, Motor Transport Institute, Poland

Mirosław Suchon, Deputy, Chairperson of a Parliamentary Club Polska 2050–Trzecia Droga, Sejm, Poland

Michał Wolanski, Assistant professor in Department of Infrastructure and Mobility Studies, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Paweł Zariczny, Director of the Center for Security and Defense Technology, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Transport Exclusion – Poland in the Shadow of Limitations

In metropolitan cities, access to services and work is much easier than in rural areas, where residents often struggle to access basic services, especially if they do not have their own car. This transport exclusion is becoming a real obstacle to the realisation of constitutional rights and civil liberties, while at the same time undermining the ability of local governments to address this problem. Are local governments able to deal with this problem without more support? Should the provision of public transport be an obligation at municipality, provincial or voivodeship?

Moderator:

Lukasz Malinowski, “Railway Market” Editor-in-Chief, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland

Speakers:

Iwona Budych, Chief Executive Officer, Transport Exclusion Association, Poland

Paulina Matysiak, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Aleksander Sniegocki, CEO, Reform Institute, Poland

Andrzej Szarata, Rector, Cracow University of Technology, Poland

Piotr Wojtyasiak, District Governor, District Council in Piotrków Trybunalski, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Missing Parking Spaces in Cities – How to Solve this Problem?

The number of passenger cars in cities and towns is constantly growing. The lack of available parking spaces and spaces due to the increase in the number of cars is a nightmare for almost every city or village. This forces municipalities to look for various transport solutions that will ensure comfortable transport services in the city and at the same time improve the quality of the environment. The strategic goal of the city and commune must be high-quality parking regulation. How to achieve a satisfactory situation with an appropriate parking policy in a specific city or village? What are the best solutions to this challenge? Parking garages, resident card, temporary parking lots connected to public transport, regulated parking zones?

Moderator:

Kamil Ciepienko, Expert, Foundation XBW by Ignacy Krasicki, Poland

Speakers:

Michał Baranowski, Elocity Sp. z o.o., Chairman of the Board, Poland

Andrzej Grygiel, CEO, Grupa GRAND Sp. z o.o., Poland

Michał Nieznanski, Assistant, Sejm, Poland

Michał Wikliniński, Member of the Management Board, CEO, Indigo Polska S.A., Poland

Grzegorz Wysocki, Deputy Mayor, Ochota District of Warsaw Office, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Partner: **LENA LIGHTING S.A.**

Will the 'Lighting up Poland' Program Effectively Modernize the Lighting Infrastructure and Lay the Foundations for a Smart City?

The 'Lighting up Poland' program represents an unparalleled opportunity, distinct from previous modernization initiatives, for a leap forward in the development of Polish lighting infrastructure. It will enable significant savings by reducing electricity consumption, thereby lowering the carbon footprint. It lays the groundwork for infrastructure aligned with the concept of a 'smart city,' improving the safety of all road users. Are all stakeholders in the lighting market prepared for it? Will we be able to build an energy-efficient and intelligent lighting infrastructure that serves the needs of Polish local government? How should the investment project be conducted to fulfill all the program's objectives?

Presentation

**Effective Modernization of Lighting Infrastructure.
Best Practices in the Context of the 'Lighting up
Poland' Program.**

Host:

Michał Macewicz, Sales Director, LENA LIGHTING S.A., Poland

Discussion Panel

Will the 'Lighting up Poland' Program Effectively Modernize the Lighting Infrastructure and Lay the Foundations for a Smart City?

Speakers:

Radosław Agaciak, Mayor, Brojce Commune Council, Poland

Robert Baginski, Mayor, Giby Commune Council, Poland

Krzysztof Harmacinski, Mayor, Ilawa Commune Council,
Poland

Michał Macewicz, Sales Director, LENA LIGHTING S.A., Poland

Wojciech Wirski, Road Lighting Expert, Polski Związek
Przemysłu Oświetleniowego, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

Prospects for the Development of the Aviation Market in the Context of Cooperation with Local Governments

Airports are a strategic element of national and regional infrastructure. They have a significant economic and social impact on the environment. How can local governments contribute to the development of regional airports? What actions need to be taken to address the needs of all stakeholders? What should be done to strengthen the position of aviation entities in the international arena?

Moderator:

Lukasz Malinowski, "Railway Market" Editor-in-Chief, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland

Speakers:

Adam Hamryszczak, "Rzeszów-Jasionka" Airport Ltd.,
President of the Board, Polish Regional Airports Association,
Vice-President of Board, Poland

Tomasz Kloskowski, Chairman of the Board, Port Lotniczy
Gdańsk Sp. z o.o., Poland

Anna Midera, CEO, LODZ AIRPORT CENTRAL POLAND, Poland

Michał Nowotny, Dyrektor Biura Rachunkowości i Finansów,
Polskie Porty Lotnicze S.A., Poland

Wiktor Wojcik, President of Board, Warmia and Mazury Ltd.,
Poland

Radosław Włoszek, President of the Board, Krakow Airport,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

Developed Infrastructure As a Factor of Local Development

There is a two-way relationship between a region's infrastructure and its economic development, in the sense that the better a region's infrastructure, the greater the potential for development; a lack of adequate infrastructure can hinder development and the economy stagnates or even declines. Can we say that infrastructure is the backbone of regions and what do we need to do to develop it quickly and effectively?

Moderator:

Tomasz Nakielski, Managing Editor, NaKolei.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Jacek Przemysław Kostka, President, Association "Polish Cittaslow Cities", Poland

Jan Pilewski, Public Affairs Director, Play, Poland

Jacek Sierak, Head in Department of Local Government Economy and Financing, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Przemysław Tuchlinski, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Office in Białystok, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00***Partner: Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego*

Local Government Investments In Comparison With Their Current Financial Situation – Status After Q3 2023

The results for Q3 2023 indicate that local governments are stepping up their investments despite the deteriorating financial situation.

Quarterly reports on the situation of local governments have been prepared by BGK for several years, following the aggregate data on local government finances that the Ministry of Finance regularly publishes. The reports contain structured data on revenues, expenditures and debt of local governments at various levels. They are an analytical tool for monitoring key aspects of the finances of Polish local governments. During the Panel, BGK representatives Mateusz Walewski and Adam Pilat from the Research and Analysis Department will introduce the findings of the report.

Speakers:

Adam Pilat, Director, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Poland

Mateusz Walewski, Department Director, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**13:10—14:10***Partner:* PAP

What Should European Cohesion Policy Be Like After 2027?

There are only four years left until the start of the new EU financial perspective for 2028–2034. It is high time to start thinking about the strategic challenges facing the Community countries with the planned enlargement. Poland will then find itself in a new situation – so far, our country has been the largest beneficiary of the EU's cohesion policy, but after Ukraine, Moldova and the Western Balkan countries join the EU, this may change to the advantage of the new members of the Community. What should cohesion policy, which constitutes approximately one third of the EU budget, look like in the conditions of the enlarged European Union? How to secure the interests of Polish regions while ensuring support for the newly admitted countries, in particular Ukraine, which requires reconstruction? In what direction should the mechanisms for allocating EU funds evolve?

Moderator:

Anna Banasik, Editor-in-Chief, PAP Self-Government Service,
Poland

Speakers:

Piotr Kaczynski, Expert, Bronislaw Geremek Centre
Foundation, Poland

Jacek Protas, Secretary of State, Ministry of Development
Funds and Regional Policy, Poland

Anna Radwan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

Marek Wozniak, Marshal, Marshal's Office of Wielkopolska
Region, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner: Foundation East European Council*

Digital Awakening of Local Governments— Transition Not Without Its Challenges

Adaptation to climate change and greater energy efficiency are just some of the causes driving the technological transformation. What is the role of cities and regions in this transformation process? What challenges do local governments face in the digital transformation process? The aim of the debate is the exchange of the good practices of European cities and regions in the field of local digital solutions.

Moderator:

Anton Naychuk, Director, Foundation East European Council,
Ukraine

Speakers:

Aleksandra Auleytner, Partner, Domański Zakrzewski Palinka
sp.k., Poland

Piotr Gizinski, Head of Data Monetization, CEE, VISA, Poland

Janusz Jablonski, CEO, BERM, Poland

Jean-Yves Leconte, Former French Senator, France

Jan Pilewski, Public Affairs Director, Play, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30***Partner:* VISA

Smart City – Data as a Tool for Better Understanding the Needs of the Resident

In today's data-driven world, functioning without information seems impossible. Yet, the plethora of varied sources creates an 'information noise'. How can local governments effectively use external data? Which sources are reliable? Can transactional data offer a unique perspective?

Presentation

SMART CITY Transactional Data as a Tool for Better Understanding the Needs of the Resident

Discussion Panel

Smart City – Data as a Tool for Better Understanding the Needs of the Resident

Moderator:

Grzegorz Suszko, Director of Buyer and Seller Solutions CEE, VISA, Poland

Speakers:

Jaroslav Bulka, Advisor to the Mayor of Krakow for Digital Transformation, City of Krakow, Poland

Piotr Gizinski, Head of Data Monetization, CEE, VISA, Poland

Aleksandra Jadach-Sepiolo, Assistant Professor in Department of Innovative City, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Tomasz Skoczylas, Director, Rzeszów City Hall Urban Innovation Center Urban Lab, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

A Polish Common Cause – Is There Something that Unites the Poles?

The political division in Poland is deepening. The so-called The Polish–Polish war is taking place in ever new fields, dividing Poles. In times of galloping polarization, are there values and goals that unite us? On what foundations can we build an agreement? Are we ready to join hands in a gesture of reconciliation and focus on the highest good – the good that, we hope, every Pole cares about – Poland, the common cause.

Moderator:

Magdalena M. Baran, Assistant Professor / Managing Editor,
Foundation Libertel, Poland

Speakers:

Antoni Dudek, Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University
in Warsaw, Poland

Witold Modzelewski, Chairman of the Board, Tax Studies
Institute, Poland

Maciej Radziwiłł, Chairman of the Board, Trzy Trąby
Foundation, Poland

Marcin Wojciech Solarz, Professor, University of Warsaw
Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

Solar Energy, AI, Digitization: What Else Defines Smart Cities?

The fight against climate change, especially through the increasing use of renewable energy, including solar energy, is one of the main challenges of our era. Currently, cities are leading in energy transformation and in the digitization of various aspects of residents' lives and the growing importance of the use of artificial intelligence. What specific digital tools and how are they used for the benefit of cities and their inhabitants? How do these digital tools and renewable energies help raise the standard of living in cities?

Moderator:

Rafal Stepniewski, Editor-in-Chief, Rzetelna Grupa Sp. z o.o., Poland

Speakers:

Elise Cuny, Advisor, Smarter Together, Belgium

Mariusz Guz, Managing Director, Aon Polska, Poland

Kamil Pluskwa-Dabrowski, Member of the Board, IS-Wireless, Poland

Lukasz Rut, Chief Development Officer, Regionalne Centrum Technologii i Wiedzy Interior Sp. z o. o., Poland

Tadeusz Topor-Kaminski, Director of the Institute of Computer Science, Humanitas University, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00***Partner:* **Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR**

Can Parcel Lockers Become Part of Public Infrastructure?

The exponential growth in the popularity of e-commerce has resulted in a huge growth in the parcel machinery market. If only one such vending machine were eliminated, up to thirteen additional delivery vehicles could appear in a given part of the city on the same day, often stopping for delivery in problematic locations. At the same time, the scale of this success means that there are more and more voices demanding regulation and indicating that parcel machines should become part of a more thoughtful and comprehensive vision of urban logistics.

*Moderator:***Julian Kozankiewicz**, President of the Board, Noa Tech, Poland*Speakers:***Alicja Bieszyńska**, Sustainable Delivery Manager, Allegro, Poland**Mateusz Cholodecki**, Head of the Postal Market Laboratory, University of Warsaw, Poland**Maja Kiba-Janiak**, University Professor, Executive MBA Program Director, Wrocław University of Economics and Business, Poland**Maciej Mysona**, Business Development Manager, Urban Area, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland**Mirosław Suchon**, Deputy, Chairperson of a Parliamentary Club Polska 2050–Trzecia Droga, Sejm, Poland**Wojciech Wagner**, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Architecture and Spatial Planning, City of Warsaw, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Impact of Tax Exemptions and Preferences on Local Development

Support for new investment projects on Polish territory refers not only to tax exemptions available throughout the country, but also to preferential conditions for investments in less developed areas. State aid is one of the main factors influencing decisions on the location of planned investments. The Polish Investment Zone provides opportunities for better quality jobs and greater professional activation of local residents, as well as increasing the competitiveness of a region. What is the impact of tax exemptions and preferences on local development?

Moderator:

Robert Gwiazdowski, Professor, Advocate, Gwiazdowski.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Daniel Beger, President, City of Swietochlowice, Poland

Leszek Dec, President of the Board, Suwalki Special Economic Zone, Poland

Olgierd Dziekonski, Plenipotentiary for Economic Development of the Board, Kujawsko–Pomorskie Region's Marshal's Office, Poland

Aleksandra Jadach–Sepiolo, Assistant Professor in Department of Innovative City, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Marek Karólewski, President of the Board, Warmia and Mazury Regional Development Agency S.A., Poland

Przemysław Sztandera, President of the Board, Pomeranian Special Economic Zone Ltd, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner: Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR*

Local Governments Facing Depopulation – How to Scale Investments in Cities?

In the previous decade, out of almost 2500 Polish municipalities in almost 2000 the number of permanent residents decreased. At the same time, Polish society is aging. These processes generate significant challenges for cities. Is the infrastructure we design adapted in scale and function to changing needs? What tools do smaller centers have to stop the outflow of residents? Are agglomeration integration processes based on the Metropolitan Act an effective answer? What actions should we expect from the central authorities in this context?

Moderator:

Lukasz Malinowski, “Railway Market” Editor-in-Chief, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland

Speakers:

Adrian Furgalski, CEO, TOR Consultants Group Ltd. and
Railway Business Forum, Poland

Piotr Grzymowicz, Mayor, City of Olsztyn, Poland

Anna Jaroszuk, Deputy Director of Department of Tourism
and Sport, Marshal’s Office of Warmińsko–Mazurskie Region,
Poland

Piotr Polonczyk, Member of Program Group, Krakow for
Residents, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30**

What about the Globalisation?

Globalisation has recently been subject to a slowdown due to the volatility and tensions in global socio-economic relations. Wars, the Covid-19 pandemic and trade protectionism are negatively affecting global processes, including supply chains, population mobility and international cooperation. Are we seeing a reversal of globalisation trends today?

Moderator:

Grzegorz Kowalczyk, Editor, Business Insider Poland, Poland

Speakers:

Marta Czech, Member of Management, The Polish Crown Foundation, Poland

Janusz Lewandowski, MEP, European Parliament, Poland

Andrzej Paradysz, Autor, Poland

Zdzisław Rapacki, Professor, Olsztyn University, Poland

Paweł Sliwowski, Acting Director, Polish Economic Institute, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

The Winner Takes It All – How To Win The Local Government Investment Race?

The development of a region is measured, among other things, by the number of investments made in it. New investments, apart from additional tax revenue, increase the visibility and image of the municipality, are above all new jobs. However, to attract domestic and foreign investors, a region must be attractive. When choosing the place for a future investment, investors are increasingly considering, apart from the location itself, other factors indicative of the standard of living, such as the availability of schools, kindergartens, health facilities or the intelligent infrastructure solutions applied in each commune. How to further increase the investment attractiveness of municipalities and regions and win the race for investors?

Talk

Stories of Success – Michal Kontraktowicz

Guest:

Michal Kontraktowicz, Mayor, Municipality of Stawiguda,
Poland

Discussion Panel

The Winner Takes It All – How To Win The Local Government Investment Race?

Moderator:

Maciej Wosko, Editor-in-Chief, Gazeta Bankowa, Poland

Speakers:

Janusz Buzek, CEO, ACF Doradcy Samorządu sp. z o.o., Poland

Tomasz Hanzel, Director, Opolskie Centre of Economy
Development, Poland

Michał Młotek, Chairman of the City Council, City Hall of Ilawa,
Poland

Bartosz Pilitowski, President of the Board, Court Watch Poland
Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**19:15—20:15**

Access to Science As a Tool for Regional Development

Highly developed countries are generally characterized by a high level of education at every level of education. Good education generates specialists and experts who can take up high-margin positions in the future. What direction should education go, what indicators should newly opened fields of study in the regions be based on, how does the development of education affect the local labor market? How to design education so that it responds to the needs of the present, but is also the foundation for future prosperity?

Moderator:

Roman Sobiecki, Vice Rector for Development, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Nina Chala, Professor, National University of "Kiev-Mohyla Academy", Ukraine

Ali Gunes, Rector, The University of New York, Tirana, Albania

Konrad Koc, Mayor, Municipality of Belchatow, Poland

Izabela Stanislawiszyn, Public Policy Manager, AMAZON, Poland

Leszek Stypulkowski, Board Member, Social Contract Incubator, Poland

Dorota Tomaszewicz, Director, Olsztyn University, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00 Discussion Panel**

The Role of Local Government in the Education Process. Challenges, Expectations, Real Opportunities – part I

According to the law, local authorities – municipal or district – are responsible for ensuring the conditions for the implementation of educational activities. The local government supports educational institutions in the organisation of the educational process, but – according to NIK's research – it struggles to provide adequate teaching staff and lacks funds for building investments. The educational subsidy is not sufficient to cover all costs incurred by the local government.

Moderator:

Joanna Zukowska, Deputy Director in Institute of Enterprise, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Artur Borkowski, Mayor, City Hall of Serock, Poland

Stanisław Dziekonski, President of the Board, Warsaw New Tech University Foundation, Poland

Karol Gornowicz, CEO, Skriware, Poland

Mateusz Kalinski, Lead Coordinator for Communication, Bilingual Future, Poland

Jan Krysiak, Politician, Confederation of the Polish Crown, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Independent Local Media – Does Anyone Even Need Them?

In times of wide access to the Internet and a multitude of communication platforms, the future of independent local media is unsure. How are the functioning, monetization and operating principles of today's local media changing? In times when anyone can both create and consume content, is the role of local media shrinking, or are they transitioning and adjusting to the current circumstances? Who needs local media today, who is using them, are they still the watchdogs of the local governments' work?

Moderator:

Marcin Iskra, Polish Radio, Poland

Speakers:

Wojciech Andrusiewicz, Director, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

Grzegorz Boguta, Publisher, Wydawnictwo Nieoczywiste, Poland

Andrzej Klimczak, Editor-in-Chief, Polish Journalists Association, Poland

Joanna Olecka, Advertising Director, "Word" Publishing Group, Poland

Krzysztof Szczepanik, Editor-in-Chief, www.olsztyn.com.pl, Poland

Hanna Wawrowska, Gremi Media S.A., Author and Head of The Project Rzeczpospolita Daily The Life of Regions, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner: The Chamber of Press Publishers*

Local Government Media – a Component of Democracy or Authoritarianism?

Where does the expression in press law, that “local governments” can publish press, come from? Is the local government press published in accordance with the Polish legal system if it is not being sold? Media and power – who controls whom? Why does the local government need the press? The local government press as a tool to weaken the private press. Does the ban on media ownership by local governments limit freedom of speech? Is the local government press a supplier of information that is not published in the private press? Are the roles of an official and a journalist compatible?

Moderator:

Dominik Ksieski, Member of the Board, The Chamber of Press Publishers, Poland

Speakers:

Andrzej Andrysiak, President of the Publishers Council, Local Newspapers Association, Poland

Marek Frackowiak, President, The Chamber of Press Publishers, Poland

Arkadiusz Gruchot, CEO, Nowiny Publishing House, Poland

Ryszard Jaloszynski, Editor-in-Chief, Solecka Newspaper, Poland

Tomasz Kowalski, Editor-in-Chief, Sądeczanin.info, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Journalist, Businessman or State? Who will Ensure the Independence of Local Media?

The media do not operate in a vacuum and their independence depends on the environment. The social, political and economic environment. This is particularly important in the case of local media, where due to the smaller size of the community, the influence of the environment may be greater and more direct. What conditions should be met to ensure the independence of local media? A journalist through his diligent work, a businessman with the necessary financial resources, a state skillfully using the administrative and legislative apparatus seem to be entities whose involvement is necessary to build this independence.

Speakers:

Urszula Doliwa, Kierownik Katedry Dziennikarstwa, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Katarzyna Georgiev, Editor of the "Society" Section, Youth About Politics, Poland

Yuriy Kmit, Head, NGO, Information Agency "Western Informational Front", Ukraine

Milosz Manasterski, Editor-in-Chief, News Agency, Poland

Bogda Orzechowska, Editor-in-Chief, TV Suwalki, Poland

Jaroslaw Tokarczyk, President, Future for Children Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

16:40—17:55

“Feel at Home!” – Local Integration Programs for Immigrants and Refugees

Europe has been affected by the migration crisis for a long time. Very often the responsibility for helping refugees and migrants looking for a new home falls on local authorities and NGOs. What can they do to integrate newcomers into the local community, so that both parties can feel comfortable together while respecting different cultures? Where to find sources of funding for such initiatives?

Speakers:

Francisco Javier Ayala Ortega, Mayor, Fuenlabrada Municipality, Spain

Keith Best, Chair, Wyndham Place Charlemagne Trust, United Kingdom

Isabella Corvino, Professor, University of Perugia, Italy

Igor Lisin, Vice-President of the Board, Foundation Ukraine, Ukraine

Marta Pachocka, Lecturer, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Bartłomiej Potocki, Expert, Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

Europe Facing Global Challenges

Europe faces many global applications: climate change, mass migration, aging, low access to resources and sources, cultural antagonisms, energy transformation, wars and armed conflicts, as well as the development of artificial intelligence and the subsequent cyber revolution. What solutions will Europe propose to these issues? Are we able to develop a general, global fight against unraveling – a fight against unresolved problems?

Moderator:

Piotr Kimla, Proffesor, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Speakers:

Andrzej Bobinski, Managing Director, Polityka Insight, Poland

Konrad Golota, Chief of Political Cabinet, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Piotr Mazurkiewicz, Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

Konrad Raczkowski, Vice-Rector, Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

Magdalena Zietek-Wielomska, President, Pro Vita Bona, Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

Safe Local Government. Competence and Responsibility of Local Authorities in Crisis Situations

The war in Ukraine, the migration crisis and the widespread riots and robberies in many countries are also posing new security challenges for local government units. Providing security for citizens is no longer in the hands of central government alone, but is also becoming the responsibility of city and regional authorities. They are investing in ever newer systems for monitoring and responding to emergencies and situations that threaten the life or health of residents. In uncertain times, should the competences of local authorities be strengthened in terms of ensuring security and countering threats? How should spending on “local authority defence” be funded?

Moderator:

Wojciech Andrearczyk, Editor, Region Media, Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Janik, Professor, Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University, Poland

Tomasz Kosmider, Director of the Institute of Security Sciences, Professor, Academy of Justice, Poland

Pawel Makuch, Mayor, Municipal Office in Pruszkow, Poland

Hryhoriy Nedopad, Head, Volyn Regional Council, Ukraine

Andrzej Wasilewski, MAK Ubezpieczenia Ltd., CEO, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Revival of Ukrainian Cities: Rebuilding, Institutions, Mechanisms

After two years of war, life in Ukrainian cities changed dramatically. While the EU and its local authorities will continue to deliver emergency aid, it is also important to join forces to support Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction both now and after the war. Ukraine's sustainable reconstruction strategy has to be based on integrated planning at the territorial level, using a systemic approach for clean, smart, and inclusive areas most affected by the war. In this respect, it is essential to coordinate joint efforts with cities and regions of the European Union, facilitate contacts between local authorities and associations, and share knowledge on capacity building, good governance, and technical assistance.

Presentation

Rebuilding War-damaged Institutions

Host:

Viktoriia Titova, CEO, Big City Lab, Ukraine

Discussion Panel

Revival of Ukrainian Cities: Rebuilding, Institutions, Mechanisms

Moderator:

Mariusz Jan Radlo, Head of the Department of Global Economic Interdependence, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Olena Dmytrenko, Head, Chernihiv Regional Council, Ukraine

Matej Hojnik, President of the Board, The Business Club
Triglav–Rysy Association, Slovenia

Anna Majda, President, Sadecczyzna Development
Foundation, Poland

Artem Semenikhin, Mayor, Konotop City Council, Ukraine

Dariusz Szymczycha, First Vice President, Polish–Ukrainian
Chamber of Commerce, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Local Governments in the Face of Depopulation – How to Enhance the Attractiveness of Rural Areas?

The 2021 ESPON report suggests that EU member states – rather than investing in combating depopulation and aging of the population in rural areas – should focus on improving the living conditions of local residents to make those areas attractive to those who work remotely. Are raising quality of public services and digitization sufficient measures to reverse negative demographic trends? What investments should be made so that the comfort of living in rural areas could equal that of cities? Or perhaps local governments should still strive to stimulate economic growth in peripheral regions?

Moderator:

Mariusz Jan Radlo, Head of the Department of Global
Economic Interdependence, SGH Warsaw School of
Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Gustaw Marek Brzezina, Senator, Senate of the Republic of
Poland, Poland

Erik Anders Eriksson, President of the Board, Hela Sverige Ska
Leva, Sweden

Ivan Fursenko, Deputy Director, Ukrainian Association of
District and Regional Councils, Ukraine

Katarzyna Syryjczyk-Słomska, Przewodnicząca Rady, City
Hall of Mikołów, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Efficient Self-government in Wartime

Ukrainian local government officials proved that even in these difficult war conditions they can ensure the smooth functioning of cities. We have seen their ability to take responsibility and make difficult decisions, to respond quickly to internal and external challenges that often pre-empt legal regulations. The war underlined the role of local government in ensuring the resilience of the country. However, building resilient communities is a complex and lengthy process. What experiences can Ukrainian local government officials share with their European colleagues? And what future awaits Ukrainian cities?

Moderator:

Serhii Zamidra, First Deputy Chairman, National Association of Local Communities, Ukraine

Speakers:

Yuriy Bova, Mayor, Trostyanets City Council, Ukraine

Inga Kordynovska, Founder, CEO, NGO Urban Advocacy Group, Ukraine

Oleksandr Markushyn, Mayor, Irpin City Council, Ukraine

Roman Matys, President, International Investment Office, Ukraine

Yuliia Vusenko, Chairman of the Standing Committee on International Cooperation, Foreign Economic Relations and Investment, Volyn Regional Council, Ukraine

MARCH 4, 2024

16:40—17:55

Why Was Russia Not Able to Win the War in Ukraine? – part I

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has redefined the security issue in Europe. However, the ‘special operation’, as the full-scale war is ordered to be called by Vladimir Putin, is clearly not proceeding in the way expected for the Russian dictator. Despite capturing parts of Ukrainian territory, after two years of conflict, the Russian military has failed to achieve significant strategic successes. On the contrary, Ukraine under the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky, with the support of the US, Poland and other allies, is putting up effective resistance, going on the counter-offensive in places. What are the reasons for the failures of the Russian army, until recently called the second army of the world? Why has the Russian steamroller already stopped at the first country that has put up armed resistance to it?

Moderator:

Bogumila Berdychowska, Editor, Więź Quarterly, Poland

Speakers:

Rajmund Andrzejczak, General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, Poland

Marek Budzisz, Senior Fellow, Strategy & Future, Poland

Oleh Dunda, Deputy, Supreme Council, Ukraine

Marcin Kulasek, Secretary of State, Ministry of State Assets, Poland

Waldemar Skrzypczak, Expert, Waldemar Skrzypczak Consulting, Poland

Olivier Vedrine, Director, Jean Monnet Association, France

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

What Should Poland's Participation in the Reconstruction of Ukraine Look Like?

In Poland, we have been organizing conferences on the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine for many months. Some countries are already financing the implementation of selected infrastructure projects in Ukraine from public funds, which creates a foothold for the involvement of their enterprises in the reconstruction process.

If we want Polish companies to be able to receive serious orders and act as main contractors in the future, Poland's financial involvement in the implementation of selected projects in Ukraine is desirable today, including cross-border projects connecting Ukraine with Poland and through Poland with Europe.

Moderator:

Kazimierz Wóycicki, Director, Akademia Wschód, Poland

Speakers:

Stefan Bekir Assanowicz, Vice-President, National Chamber of Commerce, Poland

Adam Bialachowski, President of The Board, B-Act S.A., Poland

Czesław Bielecki, Owner, President of the Board, DiM'84 HOUSE & CITY, Poland

Anatoliy Drabovskiy, Deputy, Supreme Council, Ukraine

Kamil Sobolewski, Chief Economist, Employers of Poland, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

20:25—20:55

Opening of the Photographic Exhibition
“The Call of the Heart”

Guest:

Oleh Vysochan, Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in
Gdansk, Poland

Host:

Jakub Romaniuk, Programme Director, Institute for Eastern
Studies, Poland

Sviatoslav Sheremeta, Deputy, Head of Committee for Culture
and Informational Policy, Lviv Regional Council, Ukraine

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

Sport as Advertisement – Is It Profitable? – part I

How does the development of sports and successes in this field influence regional promotion and development? One of the local government's tasks is preserving the habitants' health and promotion of healthy lifestyle, however some local governments are investing in professional sports, which sometimes causes mass protests against large investments in professional sports associations in the region. Should these really be treated as an irreparable loss to the local community, or rather as a long-term opportunity for promotion, creating new workplaces and creation of local identity?

Moderator:

Mirosław Bieniecki, President, The Butcher's Race Foundation, Poland

Speakers:

Tomasz Frankowski, Member, European Parliament, Poland

Mirosława Gorazd, Director, Municipal Sports and Recreation Center, Poland

Robert Korzeniowski, Chairman of the Foundation Council, Robert Korzeniowski Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Tasty – Interesting – Effective. Gastronomy Builds the Region's Brand

Gastronomy has enormous potential to shape the region's brand. Local products and unique flavors are not only a tourist attraction, but also a tool for building the identity and economic development of regions. Effective use of the potential of gastronomy can attract investments, promote cultural heritage and stimulate the development of local enterprises. What activities can help promote local food products and attract tourists? What cooperation strategies between the gastronomy sector and local governments are the most effective in building the region's brand?

Moderator:

Witold Ziomek, Journalist, "Wprost" Weekly, Poland

Speakers:

Andrzej Gantner, Polish Federation of Food Industry Union of Employers, General Director, Poland

Toni Konjanovski, Mayor, Municipality of Bitola, North Macedonia

Anna Kurnatowska, Too Good To Go, Country Manager, Poland

Jorida Muho, Deputy Mayor, Gjirokastër, Albania

Radosław Paciejewski, Chairman of District 9, Łódź, Confederation of the Polish Crown, Poland

Rafał Łopusinski, CEO, Browar Bednary, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Tourist Regions – How to Find a Balance Between Tourist and Resident?

Often in tourist destinations there is a threat of locals becoming dependent on the world of tourism or being marginalized. This process takes place in a variety of ways from the lack of adequate employment or its seasonality to the adaptation of the entire urban infrastructure to the needs of tourists. On the other hand, tourism undoubtedly brings tangible benefits to the hosts and, when properly utilized, can counteract the social exclusion of residents. How to strike a balance between tourism and the needs of residents and make the locality friendly to all?

Moderator:

Filip Szatanik, Spokesman, City Hall of Jaworzno, Poland

Speakers:

Piotr Jakubowski, Mayor, Mikolajki City and Municipality Office, Poland

Magdalena Kachniewska, Professor in Department of Business in Transport, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Ewelina Nycz, Academic Lecturer, Rzeszow University of Technology, Poland

Olga Roszak-Pezala, Mayor, Mielno Commune Council, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Partner: Coalitional Election Committee

Active Seniors and Dignified Old Age as a Challenge for Local Government

Due to the ongoing demographic crisis throughout Europe, European Union countries have adopted senior policy as one of their key social policies. Increased employment opportunities for older people, increased participation of seniors in social life and independent living were considered priorities. But what is senior policy in practice and how to manage it wisely? What to do to make life better for seniors in Poland? What actions should local authorities, institutions or social organizations take for older people? We will try to answer these questions together.

Moderator:

Magda Zdyra, Deputy Chairman, New Left, Poland

Speakers:

Bożena Borowiec, Deputy Mayor, City Hall in Dąbrowa
Gornicza, Poland

Sebastian Gajewski, Undersecretary of State, Ministerstwo
Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej, Poland

Konrad Gołota, Chief of Political Cabinet, Ministry of Digital
Affairs, Poland

Grzegorz Pietruczuk, Mayor, Bielany District of Warsaw Office,
Poland

Joanna Wicha, Deputy, Left Together, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

16:40—17:55

Partner: *National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Nature and Culture – National Parks, Reserves, Open–Air Museums as Elements of Region Promotion

Among many elements and factors influencing the interest of tourists and others in a given region, an important place is occupied by, among others: nature reserves, national parks and facilities such as open–air museums and archaeological reserves. These are areas distinguished by special natural, scientific, cultural and educational values. These are also green areas that contribute to improving air quality. How can these areas be used to promote the region and how should they be cared for and made more attractive to attract tourists?

Introductory presentation:

Leszek Zegzda, Chairman of the Culture Committee, City Council Nowy Sącz, Poland

Speakers:

Tomasz Gierat, Director, Ojcow Park Narodowy, Poland

Ramojus Kraujelis, Director, The Administration of the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė, Lithuania

Bartłomiej Kubicz, Director of Department of Culture, Tourism and Promotion, Marshal's Office of Lower Silesia, Poland

Sebastian Smoluk, Deputy Director, Regional Directorate of State Forests in Olsztyn, Poland

Robert Szewczyk, Director of the Promotion Coordination Department, Marshal's Office of Warmińsko–Mazurskie Region, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

Tourism As an Opportunity to Preserve Regional Culture and Develop the Region

Tourism, even leaving aside the issue of increasing residents' incomes, provides in itself a great opportunity for the development of the region. If well developed, it creates jobs, influences infrastructure development, promotes cultural exchange and drives the development of local crafts and products. At the same time, it promotes the local cultural heritage, highlighting its qualities such as cuisine, distinct traditions and local art – which in turn encourages the locals to cherish the cultural distinctiveness of their region.

Do regional authorities use this opportunity to promote their own culture and customs?

Moderator:

Angelika Swoboda, Editor, gazeta.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Grzegorz Biedron, President, Malopolska Tourist Organisation, Poland

Bogdan Dyjuk, Councillor, Regional Council of Podlaskie, Poland

Maryna Leo, Co-Founder, Ukrainian Hotel & Resort Association, Ukraine

Sari Myllynen, Head of Tourism Development, City of Porvoo, Finland

Krzysztof Staszewski, President of the Board, Podkarpackie Development Fund LLC, Poland

Per-Arne Tuftin, CEO, Norwegian Tourism Partners, Norway

Piotr Wasilewski, President of the Board, Gołdap Region Development Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

A Good Mayor – an Efficient Manager – How to Effectively Manage a Commune?

The rulers of our small homelands are competing for new residents, outside investors and financial resources, that is, as a result, for tangible benefits for the local community. The development of knowledge and skills to apply effective management methods is an important element in making rational pro-development decisions.

Moderator:

Marcin Iskra, Polish Radio, Poland

Speakers:

Tomasz Andrukiewicz, Mayor, City of Elk, Poland

Stanisław Jastrzebski, Mayor, Długosiodło Commune Council, Poland

Grzegorz Kapica, Mayor, Jozefow nad Wisła Commune Council, Poland

Jacek Orych, Mayor, Marki City Council, Poland

Brunon Wolski, Mayor, Kaczory Commune, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**13:10—14:10**

Modern Territorial Planning as a Chance for Better Living Conditions in the Countryside and in Cities

Current spatial conditions are largely an outcome of demographic, climatic and economic processes of recent years, which constitutes a challenge for modern and efficient spatial planning, geodesy, cartography, etc. What are the current problems, barriers and prospects for increasing the safety and comfort of life of residents and ensuring harmonious and sustainable economic and social development using modern and functional planning tools?

Moderator:

Jan Brewczynski, Journalist, Camera Operator, EWTN, Poland

Speakers:

Patryk Golba-Zawadzki, Leader, Founder, Lesser Poland for the Young, Poland

Paulina Legutko-Kobus, Assistant Professor in Regional and Local Policy Unit, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Cezary Wysocki, Deputy Director of the Department of Geodesy, Real Estate Management and Spatial Planning, Lubuskie Voivodeship Council, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner: Warsaw Enterprise Institute*

City for Everyone. Residents, Consumers, Entrepreneurs. Challenges for Urban Policies

Urban development is a challenge, but managers must take into account the needs of residents and business. It is important to find a balance so as not to harm either business or the quality of life of residents. Inviting representatives from different backgrounds aims to establish general principles that will promote the well-being of city residents both materially and psychologically.

Moderator:

Katarzyna Rumiancew, Principal Analyst, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

Speakers:

Jerzy Budzyn, OHP Chief Commandant, Ochotnicze Hufce Pracy, Poland

Michał Gora, Alfavox Software, CEO, Poland

Marcin Moczyrog, General Manager, CEE, Uber, Poland

Sebastian Stodolak, Vice-President, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

Ewelina Szczech-Pietkiewicz, Head of the Department of the European Union, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Tomasz Wroblewski, President of the Board, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30**

The Idea of Polycentric Poland – How to Balance the Development of Regions?

Since 1989, we have introduced historically justified decentralization, creating a polycentric network of centers with more or less balanced settlement attractiveness. Today, internal regional competition has led to increased depopulation and degradation of smaller centers in favor of the “big five” and provincial cities. Settlement polarization is a fact, while how to reconcile it with the concept of balanced regional development? Should we bet on the development of metropolises? How to strengthen the regional level of Polish local government? Is a rehierarchyization of the administrative–territorial division needed?

Moderator:

Ewelina Szczech–Pietkiewicz, Head of the Department of the European Union, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Zbigniew Dylewski, Owner, Zbigniew Dylewski, YouTube channel, Poland

Marcin Golebiowski, Deputy Mayor, Starachowice City Council, Poland

Jolanta Milas, Member, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

Pawel Szefernaker, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Lukasz Zaborowski, Transport and Regional Development Expert, The Sobieski Institute, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55***Partner: Veolia Poland Foundation*

From Energy Vampires to Low-carbon Buildings – Urban Climate Transition

Transforming cities to become, on the one hand, resilient to climate change and, on the other hand, to cause less of it, as well as to reduce negative environmental impacts, is undeniably the challenge of the coming years. Today it is no longer a question of if, but how. It is difficult to say which area of change is key – waste management, water, CO2 issues, smog, etc. What is known, however, is that changes in the energy efficiency of municipal infrastructure and buildings, will have an effect on many fronts – emissions, smog, water, etc. The question is how to carry out this process and how to involve all partners in it?

Moderator:

Aleksandra Krugly, Habitat for Humanity Poland Foundation, Poland

Speakers:

Maria Andrzejewska, General Director, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw, Poland

Justyna Glusman, Renovation Wave Association, Executive Director, Poland

Milosz Motyka, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

Grzegorz Pietruczuk, Mayor, Bielany District of Warsaw Office, Poland

Piotr Sprzaczak, Development Director, ESCO Business Line, Veolia Energia Polska, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**19:15—20:15**

The Impact of Energy Investments on Local Communities

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, in 2023 there was a record increase in the capacity of new renewable energy sources. Investments in renewable energy sources are currently at the forefront of European countries' actions in response to the energy crisis. The panelists will try to answer the question of how energy investments affect the inhabitants of given regions. Apart from the global benefits, do they bring benefits to local communities or are they a nuisance in their eyes?

Moderator:

Tomasz Chmal, Partner, Trzeciak|Chmal: Regulatory and Strategic Advisory, Poland

Speakers:

Mihkel Annus, Director, Estonian Renewable Energy Association, Estonia

Ole Gunnar Austvik, Professor, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway

Sebastian Bodzenta, Vice-President of the Board, Bank Ochrony Środowiska S.A., Poland

Rafał Czaja, President of the Board, Association for Efficiency, Poland

Ihor Petryk, Market Development Director, Wärtsilä Energy, Finland

MARCH 4, 2024

12:00—13:00

Main Stage
Room 6/2

Decision Time. How to Win an Election?

Local government elections 2024 are one of the most important events in Poland. How to prepare for them? What is the importance of developing political marketing at the local level? What considerations do people follow when making their choices? How has the way of election campaigning changed especially in social media and the Internet? How to effectively build an audience?

Moderator:

Kastor Kuzelewski, Analyst, Polityka Insight, Poland

Speakers:

Bartłomiej Biskup, Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Norbert Maliszewski, Professor, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Poland

Krzysztof Pietrzykowski, Mayor, Susz City Council, Poland

Zenon Reszka, Mayor, Blonie City Council, Poland

Sergiusz Trzeciak, Partner, Trzeciak|Chmal: Regulatory and Strategic Advisory, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**13:10—14:10**

Where Will the Common Europe Lead Us – a Direction of Changes In the European Union

The European Union, after more than thirty years of its existence, is at a crossroads in its further functioning. Successive enlargements with new member states have made it increasingly difficult to clearly demonstrate a set of common values and objectives to be shared by the twenty-seven member states, inhabited by almost 450 million citizens. Recognising this and planning for the next enlargement, the main EU policy bodies – the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe – want to carry out a series of reforms to facilitate the functioning of a political body with ambitions to co-determine the destiny of the world. However, a decision indicating the general direction of change is necessary. Is the answer to all the problems faced by the Union to be further deepened integration or, on the contrary, should we return to strengthening economic ties at the expense of giving some competences to member state governments?

Moderator:

Grzegorz Kowalczyk, Editor, Business Insider Poland, Poland

Speakers:

Anna Brylka, Director of European Affairs, Confederation of Freedom and Independence, Poland

Jacek Czaputowicz, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Grzegorz Napieralski, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Adam Wielomski, Political Scientist, Pro Vita Bona, Foundation, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Main Stage
Room 6/2

World on the Collision Course – Is Great Power Clash Ahead of Us?

The global rivalry of great powers is entering a new, previously unknown phase. The bipolar rivalry of the world powers, which until now has been called the USA and Russia, no longer corresponds to the real situation. Russia is increasingly losing the race against the USA and is being replaced in this role by China as an emerging global economic and military power. It is China that is being identified as the country that will soon challenge the United States for world supremacy. However, it is difficult to predict whether this will be a challenge based on mutual competition in the economic field, or whether there will be a new arms race, with a consequent military conflict between the two powers. Both sides are aware of the potential huge costs of armed conflict and are looking for another formula for their competition. But can we forget about the global conflict of the superpowers for good?

Moderator:

Piotr Pogorzelski, Radio 357, Poland

Speakers:

Rajmund Andrzejczak, General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces, Poland

David Chalmers, Chair of Federal International Relations Committee, Liberal Democrats, United Kingdom

Aaron Korewa, Director, Warsaw Office, Atlantic Council, USA

Michał Lubina, Associate Professor, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Kamil Muzyka, Board Member, Polska Fundacja Fantastyki Naukowej, Poland

Patrycja Pendrakowska, Vice-President, Boym Institute, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30**

The Future of the Idea of Decentralisation in a Changing World – part I

The high level of local government is one of the greatest achievements of democratic systems. The delegation of responsibilities to local authorities and society has paid off in the development of regions. The serious turbulence we have faced in recent years has left its mark on the process of globalisation and decentralisation. Pandemics, inflation and war in Ukraine have encouraged countries to consolidate power. But is centralisation the right path forward? New times set tasks and challenges, one of the answers to which should be a revolutionary approach to the idea of decentralisation.

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Main Stage
Room 6/2

Decentralization – How to Strengthen European Local Governments? – part I

Mature democracies are characterized by a high level of delegation of tasks, although the details of the solutions may differ. Local government uses the potential of the region and citizens in a better way than centrally controlled systems. What actions should the European Union and member states take in order not to waste this advantage in the form of high self-government? What types of regional cooperation and projects can be considered successful, and where should we look for opportunities to change the cooperation formula?

Moderator:

Renata Maciejczak, Print Project Coordinator, C.H.Beck Publishing, Poland

Speakers:

Elbert Krasniqi, Minister, Ministry of Administering Local Governance, Kosovo

Pawel Kuglarz, Deputy Chairman INSO, Instytut Allerhanda, Poland

Krzysztof Kwiatkowski, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland, Poland

Hans Johan Lilja, Secretary General, Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD), Sweden

Stanislaw Mazur, Rector, Cracow University of Economics, Poland

Rita Tamašunienė, Member, Seimas, Lithuania

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

How Not to Be Left Behind – Digitization of Local Government Units with the Cooperation of Business

Digitization of local government units has become a key area of change because of its potential to transform the management and delivery of public services. Local government units are increasingly willing to invest in digitizing their services. An example is the Małopolska province, which has enabled residents to purchase tickets for public and regional transportation through the mObywatel application. In the modern world, digitization of services is becoming a common thing, increasing the involvement of the local community and business—which way and how should the digitization of local government units proceed? How will digitization increase local community involvement and how will it affect local businesses?

Moderator:

Bartosz Majewski, Head of Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Daniel Beger, President, City of Swietochlowice, Poland

Krzysztof Gawkowski, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Digital Affairs, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Damian Krasinski, Poland

City of Tarnow, Deputy President for Development

Michał Misztal, CEO, Instytut Kreowania Przedsiębiorczości, Poland

Alessandro Moricca, CEO, PagoPA S.p.A., Italy

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—19:35

Stories of Success – Krzysztof Gawkowski

Guest:

Krzysztof Gawkowski, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of
Digital Affairs, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland

Host:

Bogusław Chrabota, Editor-in-Chief, Gremi Media S.A.,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:35—19:55

Stories of Success – Jerzy Buzek

Guest:

Jerzy Buzek, Member, European Parliament, Poland

Host:

Magdalena M. Baran, Assistant Professor / Managing Editor,
Foundation Liberte!, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:55—20:15

Stories of Success – Marek Woźniak

Guest:

Marek Wozniak, Marshal, Marshal's Office of Wielkopolska
Region, Poland

Host:

Boguslaw Chrabota, Editor-in-Chief, Gremi Media S.A.,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00***Partner: Coalition Election Committee*

Effective Housing Policy as a Challenge and Task of Local Government

Housing is both a social good and a market good. As a social good, it serves to satisfy a basic human need – the need for shelter, provides a sense of security and determines human living conditions. Therefore, the Constitution of the Republic of Poland imposes on public authorities the obligation to pursue policies conducive to meeting the housing needs of citizens.

The state's housing policy, through financial, organizational, social and regulatory support, aims to enable everyone to meet their housing needs and live in decent conditions.

Housing is primarily influenced by local factors, which is why, in addition to the state housing policy, local housing policies of local governments are important. It is the task of the municipal government to properly assess the local housing situation and implement support instruments in this area adapted to the difficulties encountered.

Moderator:

Magda Zdyra, Deputy Chairman, New Left, Poland

Speakers:

Ziemowit Borowczak, Director, Gdansk Properties, Poland

Bożena Borowiec, Deputy Mayor, City Hall in Dąbrowa
Gornicza, Poland

Tadeusz Jędrzejczak, Member of the Board, Lubuskie
Voivodeship Council, Poland

Krzysztof Kukucki, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic
Development and Technology, Poland

Tomasz Lewandowski, CEO, ZKZL Sp. z o.o., Poland

Social Policy – Municipalities and the Duty to Help Those Most In Need

How should residents in need be helped? To give a fish or a fishing rod? The implementation of social welfare tasks is the responsibility of the public administration. Tasks are divided between central government and local government. Which of the delegated tasks represent the greatest challenge for local authorities? Which good practices should be highlighted and which actions should be avoided?

Moderator:

Przemysław Smiałkowski, Vice-President of the Board,
Foundation XBW by Ignacy Krasicki, Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Baranowski, District Governor, Lipno District
Council, Poland

Grzegorz Gruca, Vice-President of the Board, Polish
Humanitarian Action, Poland

Andzelika Misiura, Member, Association of Women at the
Center, Poland

Grzegorz Pietruczuk, Mayor, Bielany District of Warsaw Office,
Poland

Krzysztof Szulborski, Community Head, Milakowo Municipal
Office, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20**

Enlargement of the European Union – Prospects and Risks – part I

In recent years, the gravitational pull of the European Union has helped transform the countries of Central and Eastern Europe from communist regimes into modern, functioning democracies. All Europeans benefit from having stable democracies and thriving market economies as neighbours. Enlargement is the EU's most ambitious project: it is, in effect, the reunification of the European continent. Speakers will discuss the risks and prospects of EU enlargement in the current geopolitical context.

Moderator:

Aleksander Arabadzic, President of the Board, Academy of Polish Careers, Poland

Speakers:

Jan Kazimierz Adamczyk, Solicitor, Ustronie Morskie Commune Council, Poland

Michał Braun, City Councillor, City of Kielce, Poland

Adam Lamberd, Director, Austrian Institute for Caucasus Studies, Austria

Pavel Latushka, President, National Anti-Crisis Board, Belarus

Jan Stanisław Parys, Adviser, Consensus Project, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

How to Build Effective Leadership?

In difficult times, when threats outweigh opportunities, effective leadership is one of the key elements that can ensure the success of an organization. The current situation related to Russian aggression against Ukraine, environmental threats and socio-economic realities increases the role of effective leadership at every level of management, including in the area of regional and local government. The analyzes disclose that effective leaders of local communities should proficiently combine methods, skills and features necessary to manage in the spirit of trust and cooperation. How to become an effective leader? This question will be addressed during this panel.

Moderator:

Lukasz Jedrzejczyk, Professor, Olsztyn University, Poland

Speakers:

Wladyslaw Grochowski, CEO, Arche S.A., Poland

Michael Miguères, President, The Institute for Progress, France

Leszek Miller, Member, European Parliament, Poland

Marta Sulimowicz, Treasurer, Lesznowola Municipality Office,
Poland

Pawel Szefernaker, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Yaroslav Zhailo, First Deputy Director, National Institute for
Strategic Studies, Ukraine

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

Drones in the Service of Security – How to Increase the Capabilities of Uniformed and Rescue Services

New technologies are increasingly being used by various emergency services, a great example of this is the unconventional use of drones, which in some police facilities are used to search for missing persons, track suspects or monitor and measure traffic intensity. Students from the University of Niš have created an innovative project involving the use of drones in police operations to locate illegal landfills and eliminate them. What are the new prospects for the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in police operations? To what extent will it improve the work of the police, and will it be used permanently?

Moderator:

Robert Fintak, President of the Board, Polish Chamber of Unmanned Systems, Poland

Speakers:

Robert Kovacs, Head of Special Services' Aviation Service, Rapid Response and Special Police Service of Hungary, Hungary

Wojciech Niewulis, Deputy Commander, Warmińsko–Mazurski Oddział Straży Granicznej, Poland

Jakub Ryzenko, Head of Crisis Information Centre SRC, Centrum Badań Kosmicznych PAN, Poland

Wojciech Stawiarski, CEO, REAKTO, Poland

Arkadiusz Sylwestrzak, 1st Deputy Regional Police Commander in Olsztyn, Komenda Wojewódzka Policji w Olsztynie, Poland

Piotr Zamorski, Mountain Rescuer, UAV Pilot, Mountain Rescue Poland, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:15

City of the Future – Development Scenarios in Urban and Social Aspects – part I

In recent years, there has been a proliferation of concepts aimed at creating modern, resident-friendly cities. Dynamic shifts in how people perceive work and leisure activities are evident, alongside a redefinition of residents' needs. They seek comfortable living environments that offer proximity to amenities while being surrounded by green spaces conducive to relaxation.

Will these changes precipitate a surge in progressive suburbanization, or can future city authorities adapt to resident needs and forestall depopulation by cultivating work and recreational environments aligned with sustainable development principles? What shape will the city of the future take, and what measures can we implement to ensure its residents enjoy a high quality of life and comfort?

Moderator:

Aleksandra Jadach-Sepiolo, Assistant Professor in
Department of Innovative City, SGH Warsaw School of
Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Rostyslav Bortnyk, Mayor, Berezhany City Council, Ukraine
Erzsebet Oroshazi, Founder, Tinyhouse Community Hungary,
Hungary

Joanna Sekula, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland,
Poland

Kerkko Vanhanen, Programme Director, Forum Virium
Helsinki, Finland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00**

How to Create a Strong Brand? – part I

Local governments and local producers recognize the need to stand out from others, to build their own distinctiveness. A well-recognized brand is able to attract tourists, investors, and thus foster the development of the service sector and local industry. A strong brand is due not only to a skillful promotional policy, but also to the efforts of residents – natural brand ambassadors of small homelands. How to effectively build a region's brand? How to communicate with the audience so that the changes made and their effects are accepted? How to promote your distinctiveness?

Moderator:

Tomasz Sztreker, Representative of the President, EWTN,
Poland

Speakers:

Zbigniew Bednarski, Director, Sunningwell International
Polska Sp. z o.o., Poland

Maciej Kopiec, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland,
Poland

Agnieszka Pieniazek, President of the Board, Association for
Development and Promotion of Podkarpacie "Pro Carpathia",
Poland

Pawel Poncyljusz, Expert, Energy For Europe Foundation,
Poland

Piotr Skarzynski, Manager, Institute of Physiology and
Pathology of Hearing, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Do Residents Have a Real Impact on the Functioning of Their Municipalities?

In local and municipal democracies, there are mechanisms for residents to participate in the decision-making process concerning their municipalities. Residents can control the actions of municipal administrators not only by voting for candidates, but also by participating in public consultations, submitting demands or requesting information on the direction of the municipality's economic and social policies. Do residents really use their rights and the opportunities given to them? Do they have a real influence on the functioning of their municipalities?

Moderator:

Jerzy Budzyn, OHP Chief Commandant, Ochotnicze Hufce Pracy, Poland

Speakers:

Arkadiusz Chęcinski, Mayor, City of Sosnowiec, Poland

Agron Haxhimali, Executive Director, Institute of Albanian Municipalities, Albania

Teresa Kaminska, Advisor to The Management Board, Employers of Pomerania, Poland

Serhiy Orlyuk, Mayor, Berdychiv City Council, Ukraine

Malgorzata Zebrowska-Piotrak, Mayor, City of Lomianki, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20**

Revitalisation as a Process of Dynamic Social Transformation

Revitalisation is a long and challenging process, but it offers the potential to achieve lasting results and significant social improvements in the local community. How to achieve revitalisational success? How to engage the local community? What is the relevance of strategic documents on revitalisation? The answers to these questions will help identify best practices in revitalisation.

Moderator:

Vasyl Abaimov, Advisor, All-Ukrainian Association of Village and Amalgamated Communities, Ukraine

Speakers:

Andrzej Brzozowy, Urban Projects Andrzej Brzozowy, Founder, Poland

Aleksandra Jadach-Sepiolo, Assistant Professor in Department of Innovative City, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Grzegorz Mackiewicz, Mayor, Pabianice City Council, Poland

Ruslan Serpeninov, Mayor, Sarny City Council, Ukraine

Natalia Wisniewska, Vice Chairperson, Youth Assembly of the Kuyavian–Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

UNESCO Cultural and Natural Heritage Sites – an Influx of Tourists Challenges Local Communities

The UNESCO World Heritage List consists of cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding universal value. It numbers more than a thousand locations and is maintained by a specialized UN organization. Presence on it undoubtedly gives places a prestigious character, but the influx of tourists associated with it poses quite a challenge for local communities. On top of that, there are strict restrictions on shaping the space around such sites, failure to comply with which is associated with the removal of the monument from the list. How to strike a balance between the well-being of local residents, the needs of tourists and the interests of businesses?

Moderator:

Ewa Sztreker, Journalist, EWTN, Poland

Speakers:

Natalia Gnoinska, President of the Board, Fundacja 8Marca,
Poland

Stanisław Gorczyca, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Malgorzata Maluch, Mayor, Sekowa Commune Council,
Poland

Tetiana Osinchuk, Head, Center For Conservation Of
Archaeological Objects, Ukraine

Bogdan Luczkowski, Mayor, Lukowica Commune Council,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55**

Small and Intermediate Urban Areas – How to Ensure a Just Transition?

Small and medium-sized cities today are struggling with many social, economic, and spatial problems. They have greater difficulties in implementing new technologies and obtaining external funds and suffer from the migration of people to larger towns, which is a major problem both in terms of demography and the stability of the economy and the labor market. Comprehensive revitalization is a difficult process, associated with good organization and coordination of activities of many stakeholders, as well as requiring patience. So how can we counteract the socio-economic collapse of small and medium-sized cities? Do the authorities of these towns have a vision of the development of the country and the role that their cities are to play in it?

Talk

Stories of Success – Jakub Banaszek

Guest:

Jakub Banaszek, President, City Hall of Chelm, Poland

Host:

Tomasz Kowalski, Editor-in-Chief, Sądeczanin.info, Poland

Discussion Panel

Small and Intermediate Urban Areas – How to Ensure a Just Transition?

Moderator:

Olena Snihova, Senior Researcher, Associate Professor,
National Academy of Science, Ukraine

Speakers:

Jakub Banaszek, President, City Hall of Chelm, Poland

Robert Ciborowski, Rector, University of Bialystok, Poland

Ivan Dyriv, Mayor, Dolyna City Council, Ukraine

Malgorzata Manka-Szulik, Mayor, City of Zabrze, Poland

Grzegorz Masloch, Assistant professor in Local and Regional
Development Unit, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Elzbieta Radwan, Mayor, City of Wolomin, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**19:15—20:15***Partner: Regional Government of Castile–La Mancha*

How to Effectively Promote Cities and Regions Abroad?

In today's world of pervasive advertising and social media, even the most developed and recognisable local government units need proper promotion. The struggle to attract tourists, investors or students requires the use of the right tools and promotional efforts in various mass media. Involving cities and regions in international ventures and conducting active public diplomacy is increasingly becoming a means of effective promotion. What are the most well-known and effective methods for promoting local governments?

Moderator:

Narcis Pallares–Domenech, Public Affairs Officer, Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to Italy, Spain

Speakers:

Renata Bem, Executive Director, UNICEF Poland, Poland

Vitalii Fedoriv, Deputy Mayor, Ivano–Frankivsk City Council, Ukraine

Virginia Marco Carcel, Director–General for European Affairs, Regional Government of Castile–La Mancha, Spain

Anton Nilsson, Minister Counsellor and Representative of the Government of Åland in Brussels, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland

Marek Rocki, Director of the Research Institute For Economic Development, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

11:30—13:00

Healthcare Transformation – Evolution or Revolution?

The current structure of medical services provision in hospitals limits access to treatment and generates additional costs. This challenging situation is further compounded by the fact that the resources of these facilities are not adequate to meet contemporary health challenges. Prolonged hospitalization not only has a negative impact on costs but also leads to shortages of hospital beds, posing a significant challenge to the healthcare system. A transition to a different healthcare model is necessary. What would be the most optimal?

Moderator:

Maciej Bogucki, Director, European Centre for Healthcare Strategies and Policies, Poland

Speakers:

Marek Augustyn, Vice-President, National Health Fund, Poland

Elzbieta Gelert, Main Director, Provincial Polyclinic Hospital in Elbląg, Poland

Ryszard Gellert, Director, Centre of Postgraduate Medical Education, Poland

Grzegorz Gielerak, Director, Military Institute of Medicine, National Research Institute, Poland

Arkadiusz Gradkowski, CEO, The Polish Chamber of Commerce of Medical Devices POLMED, Poland

Beata Jagielska, Director, Maria Skłodowska–Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland

Michał Kepowicz, GPA and Market Access Leader at Philips Healthcare CEE, Board Member of Philips Poland, Philips, Poland

Wojciech Maksymowicz, President, Budzik sp. z o.o., Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

The Role of Local Governments in Health Promotion and Prevention

Managing prevention and health promotion, especially in the face of demographic changes and in light of the health debt following the pandemic, should be one of the strategic priorities for local governments. But is this the case in practice? To what extent do the actions taken by local governments in the field of health promotion and prevention result in improved health for local communities? What is the collaboration like between primary healthcare providers and local governments? Are any systemic changes necessary, and if so, what should they be?

Moderator:

Grzegorz Juszczyk, Professor, Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Speakers:

Malgorzata Janas-Kozik, Kierownik Katedry Psychiatrii i Psychoterapii, Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland

Elzbieta Bandurska-Stankiewicz, Professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Andrzej Fal, Professor, National Medical Institute of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Poland

Sylwia Jaskulska, Deputy Marshal, Marshal's Office of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland

Adam Niedzielski, Expert, Poland

Jaroslav Pinkas, Director, Center of Postgraduate Medical Education, Poland

Henryk Skarzynski, Director, Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Health
Room 6/4

Health of Poles – Current Challenges in Psychiatry

Mental health disorders are becoming an increasing challenge for public health and the healthcare system. It is estimated that approximately 1.5 million people in Poland suffer from depression alone, with over 80% of cases affecting the population aged 30–59. Despite extensive public debate on psychiatric care and the introduction of the National Mental Health Program, unfortunately, access to comprehensive and widely available psychiatric care in Poland has not significantly improved.

Moderator:

Mariusz Gujski, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences,
Medical University of Warsaw, Poland

Speakers:

Piotr Galecki, National Consultant, Psychiatry, Medical
University in Lodz, Poland

Izabela Leszczyna, Ministry of Health, Minister, Poland

Aleksandra Lewandowska, National Youth Mental Health
Consultant, Specjalistyczny Psychiatryczny Zespół Opieki
Zdrowotnej w Łodzi, Poland

Paulina Piechna-Wieckiewicz, Ministerstwo Edukacji
Narodowej, Undersecretary of State, Poland

Anna Sremska, Association of Employers in Psychiatric Care
and Addiction Treatment, CEO,

Andrzej Zakrzewski, Director, National Health Fund Warmian–
Masurian Voivodeship Branch, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30***Partner: Medcover Foundation*

Prevention of civilization diseases among children and adolescents – the significance of digitizing preventive and balance examinations

The state of children's health in Poland is alarming. In the era of epidemics of civilization diseases affecting children and adolescents, such as obesity, cardiovascular diseases, postural defects, and diabetes, it is necessary to make more efficient use of all existing resources and opportunities. Effective communication with parents about children's health and support for families through counseling and health education are necessary. There is a need to address the needs and benefits of digital support for health-promoting activities undertaken at the level of schools and local governments.

Moderator:

Pawel Langowski, Public Affairs Director, Medcover sp. z o.o., Poland

Speakers:

Remigiusz Budzillo, Menager Clinic, WIML, Poland

Dorota Kleszczewska, CEO, The Foundation of the Mother and Child Institute, Poland

Karolina Kryszkiewicz, Electronic System of School Medicine Project Manager, Medcover Foundation, Poland

Joanna Nyczak, City of Wrocław, Director, Poland

Piotr Samel-Kowalik, Medical University of Warsaw, Adiunkt, Poland

Andrzej Tytula, Vicepresident, The Main Chamber of Nurses and Midwives, Poland

Should Local Governments Fund Healthcare?

Among the responsibilities of local government in healthcare are health promotion, developing, implementing, and evaluating health programs, and encouraging individual and collective responsibility for health. In reality, many lack the funds for these activities, as a significant portion of the budget goes toward running hospitals. Why do local governments still aim to manage hospitals despite financial challenges? Could decentralization help resolve this deadlock?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Jakubiak, CEO, Modern Healthcare Institute, Poland

Speakers:

Jarosław J. Fedorowski, President, Polish Hospital Federation, Poland

Dorota Galczynska-Zych, Director, Szpital Bielański Warszawa, Poland

Piotr Magdziarz, Managing Partner, FORMEDIS sp. z o.o. sp.k., Poland

Mariusz Trojanowski, Member of the Board, Nationwide Association of Employers of Poviats Hospitals, Poland

Andrzej Zakrzewski, Director, National Health Fund Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship Branch, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**19:15—20:30**

Hospitals – Management and Finance

Hospital finances have always been a difficult and complex topic. According to data from the Ministry of Health, the debt of Polish hospitals at the end of last year amounted to nearly PLN 19.5 billion, with overdue obligations, i.e., those for which the payment deadline has already passed, reaching over PLN 2 billion. Compared to data from the third quarter of 2022, this amount has increased by almost half a billion zlotys. Those managing hospital facilities point out that the reasons for such high indebtedness include, among other factors, the COVID-19 pandemic, increases in minimum wages, and high inflation. How helpful can a change in the valuation of services be? Will the proposed debt relief for hospitals really solve the problem of hospital finances once and for all?

Presentation

Hospitals – Management and Finances

Host:

Zofia Matyja, Partner, Zofia Matyja Law Firm, Poland

Discussion Panel

Hospitals – Management and Finances

Moderator:

Piotr Bromber, Lecturer, University of Zielona Góra, Poland

Speakers:

Elzbieta Gelert, Main Director, Provincial Polyclinic Hospital in Elbląg, Poland

Anna Gil, Director, Healthcare team in Konskie, Poland

Anna Golebicka, Expert, Adam Smith Research Centre, Poland

Andrzej Matyja, Vice-President, The Regional Chamber of Physicians and Dentists in Cracow, Poland

Urszula Pielacka-Chodola, Director, Independent Public Healthcare Center in Dęblin, Poland

Artur Prusaczyk, Deputy CEO, The Medical and Diagnostic Centre, Poland

Artur Zaczynski, Deputy Medical Director, National Medical Institute of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00***Partner: Ministry of Climate and Environment*

Radioactive waste in Poland in the perspective of community development

National Radioactive Waste Repository in Rózan has been operating for over 60 years proving that Poland can effectively and safely manage radioactive waste generated by the Maria research reactor and the use of radioactive substances in science, medicine and industry. Implementation of the nuclear power into the Polish energy mix, as well as developments in the nuclear medicine, will increase the volume of low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste streams in the country, which results in the search for a site to host the new near-surface radioactive waste repository in Poland. Spent nuclear fuel will be neither stored nor disposed of in the new facility.

Moderator:

Wojciech Jakobik, Energy Sector Analyst, Energy Security Center, Poland

Speakers:

Wojciech Galosz, Environmental Protection Specialist, Social initiative Fota4Climate, Poland

Aneta Korcyc, Director, Radioactive Waste Management Plant, Poland

Paweł Pytlarczyk, Director, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

Adam Roguski, Senior Specialist in Engineering Geology, Polish Geological Institute, National Research Institute, Poland

Piotr Swiderski, Mayor, Municipality of Rozan, Poland

Grazyna Zakrzewska-Koltuniewicz, Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

13:10—14:10

Closest to Those in Need and Their Problems. Activities of Non-governmental Organizations – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – part I

Non-governmental organizations help face the challenges of the modern world. Environmental devastation and climate threats, poverty and social exclusion, as well as the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis have become a test of the capabilities and activity of civil society. Being close to local communities, NGOs can respond to key problems and challenges, involving the region's inhabitants in solving them. What are the sources of success of the effectiveness of third sector organizations operating at the local level?

Moderator:

Jeremi Jedrzejkowski, Managing Editor, Rzeczpospolita, Poland

Speakers:

Renata Bem, Executive Director, UNICEF Poland, Poland

Marek Borowski, President of the Board, Food Bank in Olsztyn, Poland

Wojciech Kaczmarczyk, Director, National Freedom Institute, Centre for Civil Society Development, Poland

Wiesław Labuda, Fundacja Orlen dla Pomorza, Poland

Agnieszka Scigaj, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Tetiana Volochai, Head, MHP-Gromadi Foundation, Ukraine

MARCH 4, 2024**14:20—15:20***Partner:* OX2 Sp. z o.o.

How Can Local Government Units Benefit from The Energy Transition?

Carrying out an energy transition due to the need to make fuel markets more dependent on external factors and thus increase energy security and economic efficiency is a necessary process. Local government has been trying for years to reduce the costs of maintaining managed facilities, including energy costs by investing in RES. Green energy is mainly obtained from the sun (photovoltaics) and wind (wind farms). Local authorities are increasingly becoming participants in energy clusters, and to produce energy for their own needs, they are setting up or joining energy cooperatives. What other opportunities are available to local authorities and what tools do they need to successfully implement the energy transition?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Ksiezopolski, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Wojciech Hartung, Counsel, Domański Zakrzewski Palinka sp.k., Poland

Milosz Motyka, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

Bartłomiej Pawlak, Vice-President of the Management Board, Polish Development Fund, Poland

Janusz Piechocki, Mayor, Margonin City Council, Poland

Katarzyna Suchcicka, President, OX2 Poland, OX2 Sp. z o.o., Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**15:30—16:30***Partner: Ciepłownia Przyszłości #OdkryjGeotermię*

Does Modern District Heating Have to Be Based on Coal?

What will replace coal used in district heating in the future? “Black gold” has had a very bad name recently and is blamed for all the climatic evils happening on earth. Everyone tells us that we need to move away from coal to save the world. So is heating with natural gas, hydrogen, RES and heat pumps the future of the Polish heating sector? Is this the only way? Can we really afford such a transformation?

Moderator:

Wojciech Jakobik, Energy Sector Analyst, Energy Security Center, Poland

Speakers:

Lukasz Bialczak, President of the Board, GEOTERMIA POLSKA Sp. z o.o., Poland

Marcin Borek, Director of the Department of Local Government Investments, Polish Development Fund, Poland

Przysław Budzynski, President of the Board, Miejska Energetyka Ciepła Sp. z o.o. w Mrągowie, Poland

Rafał Czaja, President of the Board, Association for Efficiency, Poland

Konrad Nowak, President of the Board, Municipal Heating Company of Olsztyn Ltd., Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**16:40—17:55***Partner: Polish Development Fund*

Local Energy Security Without Fossil Fuels

Local energy safety without local fossil fuels. The energy security of local governments based solely on fossil fuels is uncertain and exposes local society to the risk of lack of energy supplies in the event of failures, geopolitical conflicts or changes in the energy market. Diversification of energy sources is key to increasing the energy security of local governments. This may also include investments in micro energy networks, energy storage or the development of smart energy networks. What are the challenges and barriers (financial, regulatory, technological, social) related to the transition of local governments to safe energy sources?

Presentation

District heating – Technological Solutions And Financing Instruments

Host:

Marcin Borek, Director of the Department of Local Government Investments, Polish Development Fund, Poland

Discussion Panel

Local Energy Security Without Fossil Fuels

Moderator:

Wojciech Jakobik, Energy Sector Analyst, Energy Security Center, Poland

Speakers:

Ryszard Bartnik, Professor, Opole University of Technology, Poland

- Marcin Borek**, Director of the Department of Local Government Investments, Polish Development Fund, Poland
- Marcin Chludzinski**, Były Prezes Zarządu Gaz System (2022–2024), Poland
- Jolanta Kaminska**, Editor in Chief, Biomass Magazine, Poland
- Jakub Safjanski**, Director of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Confederation Lewiatan, Poland
- Wojciech Szymalski**, CEO, Institute for Sustainable Development, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**19:15—20:15***Partner: PGNiG BioEvolution*

Biogas and Biomethane – the Environmentally Friendly Future of Energy

Harnessing the potential of biogas and biomethane is an important part of the energy–gas transition. There are about 18,000 biogas plants in Europe, with the largest operating in Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy. Poland's biogas sector is one of the smaller ones in Europe. According to experts, Poland could produce about 8 billion cubic meters of biomethane per year, but in order to achieve this, several hundred biomethane plants need to be built. What is the importance of biogas and biomethane in the Polish energy sector? What steps are being taken to bring out this potential?

Moderator:

Wojciech Jasinski, Expert, Academy of Polish Careers, Poland

Speakers:

Anita Bednarek, Member of the Board, Polish Agricultural Biogas Producers Federation, Poland

Sabine Dujacquier, Deputy General Manager, Polska Grupa Biogazowa, Poland

Leszek Mank, CEO, BioEvolution Sp. z o.o., Poland

Artur Nizioł, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Biogas System S.A., Poland

Michał Tarka, General Director, The Polish Biomethane Organization, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**12:00—13:00**

Public Green Spaces – How to Build Them, How to Manage Them?

More green areas in urban spaces translates positively into the quality of life of residents. Adapting public spaces, e.g. public buildings or typically industrial areas, into green areas, gardens, squares or urban farms is the direction in which metropolies should be heading. How to transform areas, what spaces to adapt and how to manage them ecologically?

Moderator:

Weronika Tomiak, CEO, The Neurodiversity Foundation,
Poland

Speakers:

Bartłomiej Norkowski, NOBA–EXIM, President of the
Management Board, Poland

Piotr Remiszewski, Mayor, City of Milanówek, Poland

Joanna Wegrzynowska, ESG Manager, LUX MED Group,
Poland

Mieczysław Wołosz, Director, Department of Urban Greenery
in Katowice, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024**13:10—14:10***Partner: Budimex Mobility*

Development of Infrastructure for Zero-emission Transport. Will I Be Able to Charge an Electric Car in my Region?

For Europe to become truly climate neutral by 2050, it is necessary to dramatically reduce the consumption of fossil fuels by all types of transport, including cars. For this reason, a network of charging and refueling points for alternative fuels should be created quickly. How do local governments deal with this challenge, do they see the potential in expanding the network of charging stations in their own area?

Moderator:

Maciej Mysona, Business Development Manager, Urban Area, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland

Speakers:

Pekka Komu, Business Development Manager, LADEC, Finland

Ksawery Lesiecki, Business Development Manager, Budimex Mobility, Poland

Urszula Motowidlak, Professor, University of Łódź, Poland

Andrzej Szalek, Advisor to the Board, Toyota Central Europe, Poland

Michał Vogt, Milivolt Sp. z o.o., CEO, Poland

Michał Wolanski, Assistant professor in Department of Infrastructure and Mobility Studies, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

14:20—15:20

Green Local Government. How to Develop Cities and Regions While Respecting the Environment?

In the debate on the development of cities and regions, there is an increasing desire to develop in harmony with nature. Many local authorities are aiming to increase the amount of green areas and spaces, and new infrastructure investments in towns and cities are being developed according to the principle of sustainable growth. In recent years, there have also been an increasing number of so-called international green rankings that compare individual local authorities in terms of their environmental impact. How can we improve the quality of life in cities while protecting nature?

Presentation

Does Universal Collection and Recycling of Used Cooking Oil Is Possible? Experience Of The Innovative EMKA Oil Project in Opole

Host:

Malgorzata Rdest, Vice-President of the Board, EMKA S.A,
Poland

Discussion Panel

Green Local Government. How to Develop Cities and Regions While Respecting the Environment?

Moderator:

Dorota Niedziolka, Head of the Department of Economic Geography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Pankaj Choudhary, Founder, Let's do it India, India

Agnieszka Kombel–Gawlik, Director, The Great Masurian Lake
2020 Association, Poland

Anna Kornecka, President, ESG Impact Network, Poland

Kamil Lipinski, Team Leader Climate and Energy Team, Polish
Economic Institute, Poland

Malgorzata Rdest, Vice–President of the Board, EMKA S.A,
Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

15:30—16:30

Critical cadence – to panic or to act

One of the co-founders of the Climate Science portal, atmospheric physicist Prof. Szymon Malinowski, said, referring to climate change, that it is possible to panic. In the summer of 2022, almost 800 people died in Poland due to heat, and 50 thousand people died due to smog. We are breaking temperature records, in some regions of Poland there is a lack of water in the summer. The majority of residential buildings in Poland (70 percent) need to be modernized, and 16% of them are energy heaters, which consume 1/3 of the energy used in all buildings. We are wasting water. With the above perspective in mind, a month before the local elections, let's try to answer a few questions. What strategy must local governments adopt to combat the causes of climate change on the one hand, and deal with its effects on the other? Is it only finances that are the missing piece? How to quickly build staff for the green transition and at the same time build support for it? How can we make environmental issues play an important role in the upcoming elections?

Presentation

Host:

Konrad Klepacki, Climate consultant, Gdynia City Hall, Poland

Host:

Maria Wisnicka, Coordinator of the Green Leader Program,
Fundacja Sendzimira, Poland

Discussion Panel

Critical cadence – to panic or to act

Moderator:

Przemysław Radwan–Rohrenschef, Consultant, Action We
Ask About Green, Poland

Speakers:

Kamila Kadzidłowska, Co–Founder, Vice–President of the
Board, Parents for the Climate, Poland

Przemysław Major, 2nd Deputy Mayor, Cieszyn City Council,
Poland

Milosz Motyka, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate
and Environment, Poland

Maria Wisnicka, Coordinator of the Green Leader Program,
Fundacja Sendzimira, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

16:40—17:55 Discussion Panel

Cooperation without Borders: Current Challenges and Prospects for Cross-Border Cooperation

Cross-border cooperation strengthens cohesion and accelerates the development of cross-border areas and creates lasting inter-personal bonds. In recent years, there have been an increasing number of cross-border groupings with permanent organizational structures, created on the basis of grass-roots initiatives of local governments of border regions. Is institutionalized cross-border cooperation – from macroregions, Euroregions, to cooperation networks and local partnerships – using support from EU funds a good response to current challenges and problems of local communities? Do synergy effects bring additional and real benefits in the area of education, safety, labour market and environment?

Moderator:

Radosław Brodzik, Director for Foreign Cooperation and EWT,
Lubuskie Voivodeship Council, Poland

Speakers:

Leszek Buller, Director, Center of European Projects, Poland

Fredrik Holm, Mayor, Halden Municipality, Norway

Reiner Kneifel-Haverkamp, Director General for European
and International Affairs, Brandenburg Ministry of Finance
and European Affairs, Germany

Marek Kuchcinski, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Jaakko Mikkola, Regional Mayor, The Regional Council of
Kymenlaakso, Finland

MARCH 4, 2024

19:15—20:55

Special Screening of the Film “To the Last Drop” and Discussion with the Filmmakers

Guest:

Mateusz Balcerowicz, Vice-President of the Board, State
Water Holding Polish Waters, Poland

Agnieszka Hobot, Editor-in-Chief, WATER ISSUES MAGAZINE,
Poland

Piotr Nieznanski, Senior Advisor to the Foundation Board,
Forum Inicjatyw Społecznych, Poland

MARCH 4, 2024

21:00—00:00

Partner: Governments

Gala of the 1st Day of the 9th European
Congress of Local Governments

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

Partners: Institute of Public Finance

SGH Warsaw School of Economics

Open Local Government Budget

Openness and transparency in public finances are key elements of effective management of public expenditure. Having access to information citizens can control how public funds are spent. While central finances are a subject of widespread public debate, at the local level it is not given due attention, which negatively affects the level of civic awareness and participation. In the Open Local Government Budget panel, experts will try to identify and evaluate the barriers and challenges to greater citizens' participation in monitoring the use of public funds.

Moderator:

Konrad Walczyk, Deputy Director in Research Institute for Economic Development, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Grzegorz Benedykcinski, Mayor, City of Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

Slawomir Dudek, President, Institute of Public Finance, Poland

Mateusz Klupczynski, CEO, Publink, Poland

Jacek Lelek, Mayor, City of Stary Sacz, Poland

Agnieszka Libudzka, Journalist, PAP, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35***Partner: Chamber of Digital Economy*

How to Support Entrepreneurs Locally for Online Exports. Online Exports as a Power of Trade

Looking for an idea to grow local business, we suggest online export opportunities. Especially since the SME environment favors, encourages and suggests the knowledge and tools to do so. What are the phases of company development abroad? What is the organization of processes – logistics and payments? Can you count on the support of local and central administration? What are the foreign missions of Chamber of Digital Economy?

Moderator:

Paweł Oksanowicz, Subject Group Coordinator, Chamber of Digital Economy, Poland

Speakers:

Szymon Bujalski, Vice-President of the Board, Chamber of Digital Economy, Poland

Piotr Czarniak, Public Affairs Expert, Allegro, Poland

Anna Konopa, CEO, Setup, Poland

Agnieszka Pała, Business in Małopolska Center, Manager, Poland

Bartłomiej Pejo, Sejm, Deputy, Poland

Patrycja Staniszweska, President, Chamber of Digital Economy, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

12:45—13:45

Special Economic Zones as a Springboard to the Success of a Region

Special Economic Zones are areas where preferential terms are offered to businesses. In Poland there are fourteen of them. How are the Special Economic Zones organised in Poland and in other European countries? How do they operate on daily basis? What challenges do local governments have to face? What opportunities do they offer to entrepreneurs and habitants of such regions?

Moderator:

Jan Krol, Advisor, Domański Zakrzewski Palinka sp.k., Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Kielec, President of the Board, Kostrzyn–Slubice Special Economic Zone, Poland

Wojciech Kierwajtys, Vice-President of the Management Board, Suwalki Special Economic Zone, Poland

Wiesława Lizinska, Professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Piotr Wojtyczka, President of the Board, Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone "INVEST-PARK", Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

How to Solve the Problem of Lack of Housing Availability? Integrated Investment Zones Project

With a shortage of land suitable for development, subsidizing housing loans causes an increase in housing prices, which deepens the problem of housing availability.

The team of experts – represented on the panel by architect Czesław Bielecki and economists Stefan Kawalec and Maciej Kurek – proposed an approach to the problem from a different angle: by increasing the land supply.

The Act on Integrated Investment Zones would be applied as a *lex specialis* to the urbanization of dormant or wasted properties. It would also constitute a testing ground for future changes in general provisions.

Moderator:

Robert Golaszewski, Editor-in-Chief, Business Magazine,
Poland

Speakers:

Czesław Bielecki, Owner, President of the Board, DiM'84
HOUSE & CITY, Poland

Konrad Fijolek, Mayor, City of Rzeszów, Poland

Hanna Gill-Piatek, Institute of Finance, Poland

Stefan Kawalec, President of the Board, Capital Strategy
Sp. z o.o., Poland

Maciej Kurek, Founder, Maciej Kurek Ab love Incipe, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Partner: MANKO Association – Senior Voice

Challenges of Senior Policy at the Local and Regional Level

The more and more numerous sector of silver society poses a challenge to local governments and regional authorities, but it also holds enormous potential. Activation of the elderly not only contributes to improving the quality of their lives, but also adds value to local social life and, possibly, economy. How to conduct senior policies wisely so that the elderly continue to have a positive and pro-social impact on the local communities?

Moderator:

Lukasz Salwarowski, Chairman of the Board, MANKO Association, Senior Voice, Poland

Speakers:

Marek Bochowicz, Vice-President, National Agreement on Cooperation of Councils of Seniors, Poland

Anssi Kemppi, CEO, Finnish Pensioners Federation, Finland

Michal Kwiatkowski, Owner, Bravecare, Poland

Elzbieta Ostrowska, Chairperson, Polish Association Of Pensioners And Disabled Persons, Poland

Varvara Tertychna, CEO, Starenki Fund, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

16:30—17:30

How to Create a Strong Brand? – part II

Local governments and local producers recognize the need to stand out from others, to build their own distinctiveness. A well-recognized brand is able to attract tourists, investors, and thus foster the development of the service sector and local industry. A strong brand is due not only to a skillful promotional policy, but also to the efforts of residents – natural brand ambassadors of small homelands. How to effectively build a region's brand? How to communicate with the audience so that the changes made and their effects are accepted? How to promote your distinctiveness?

Moderator:

Tomasz Sztreker, Representative of the President, EWTN, Poland

Speakers:

Katerina Cadilova, Chairwoman, National Coordinator, Association of Regional Brands, Czech Republic

Jacek Janiszewski, President of the Curriculum Committee, Association Integration and Cooperation, Poland

Jacek Lelek, Mayor, City of Stary Sacz, Poland

Monika Skowronska-Ziomek, President of the Management Board of the Podkarpackie Branch, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Local Product, International Success

In the era of the widespread Macdonaldisation of services and products, local, imaginatively made, unique and unmistakable products acquire particular value and uniqueness. Some of them are not just the colour of the local community and, over time, achieve great success on international markets. Our products are not only of the highest quality, but are also made with respect for the environment and ecology, and ensure prosperity. How do European local products conquer international markets, and why do we need to take special care and develop this heritage?

Moderator:

Sebastian Pyplacz, Editor in Chief, Silesian Opinion, Poland

Speakers:

Dawid Lasek, President of the Board, Association of the Carpathian Euroregion Poland, Poland

Mariusz Piskula, Professor, Director, Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Olsztyn, Poland

Yevhenii Shakotko, Regulatory and Government Relations Lead, Advantage Ukraine, Ukraine

Justyna Zulewska, Head of the Department, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

Partner: Blue Ocean Business Consulting Sp z o.o.

The Significance of Railway in Connecting Regions. Opportunities, Challenges, Barriers

Railway plays a key role in developing regional economies by facilitating the transportation of people and goods. A well-developed rail network is crucial in improving accessibility to regions, is instrumental in boosting employment and stimulating local entrepreneurship. It affects the wealth of society, which has a positive effect on social and cultural integration between regions and easier access to education or entertainment. The fact is that rail is the most environmentally friendly means of transportation. Leveling greenhouse gas emissions and reducing road congestion is of great importance for the quality of life of rural, urban and regional residents.

Moderator:

Czesław Warsewicz, President of the Board, Blue Ocean Business Consulting Sp z o.o., Poland

Speakers:

Maciej Andrzejewski, Member of the Board for Development, H. Cegielski, Fabryka Pojazdów Szynowych, Poland

Roman Nikitov, Managing Partner, Investment Capital Ukraine (ICU), Ukraine

Adam Pawlik, CEO, POLREGIO S.A., Poland

Jerzy Polaczek, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Leszek Reszka, Professor, University of Gdansk, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35**

Urban Public Transport – What Trends?

Efficient public transport is the pride of a city. Most residents have to use it every day and it is essential for normal life. Different metropolises have their own ideas about the development of public transport. Some prefer subways and urban railways, while others prefer buses and trams. Perhaps a mix of all modes of urban transport is the best solution? Speakers will exchange views and experiences in urban transport development.

Moderator:

Czesław Warsewicz, President of the Board, Blue Ocean Business Consulting Sp z o.o., Poland

Speakers:

Rafał Witold Gorski, President of the Board, The Civil Affairs Institute, Poland

Marcin Kusmierczyk, Counselor, Confederation of Freedom and Independence, Poland

Lukasz Malinowski, “Railway Market” Editor-in-Chief, Zespół Doradców Gospodarczych TOR, Poland

Zdeněk Šponar, Director, The Public Transport Authority of Central Bohemia Region (IDSK), Czech Republic

Michał Wolanski, Assistant professor in Department of Infrastructure and Mobility Studies, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

12:45—13:45

Between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Sea – about the Future of Local and Regional Cooperation in Central Europe

Central Europe is a place of life of many nations with different languages, history, culture and religion, but in many respects similar aspirations, interests and hopes for the future. What divides us is also a huge force, creating us a region with great cultural color, an area with great tourist, investment and development potential. How can we together better manage our area located between three seas? How can we forge a common prosperous future today at the local and regional level?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Szczepanik, Editor-in-Chief, www.olsztyn.com.pl,
Poland

Speakers:

Lukasz Adamski, Deputy Director, Juliusz Mieroszewski Centre
for Dialogue, Poland

Sandor Koles, President, Carpathian Foundation, Hungary

Pavel Latushka, Head, National Anti-Crisis Management,
Belarus

Piotr Pogorzelski, Radio 357, Poland

Maciej Szymanowski, Director, The Wacław Felczak Polish–
Hungarian Cooperation Institute, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10**

Media Education – How to Use the Internet Consciously

The Internet is an amazing tool for acquiring knowledge, entertainment and building relationships. It is also a place full of dangers for unaware users (especially young people). There are huge amounts of unverified information, half-truths and manipulated materials. How can you limit the negative effects of exposure to fake news, disinformation, FOMO, data phishing, piracy, identity theft, financial fraud?

Moderator:

Anna Jupowicz-Ginalska, Lecturer, Faculty of Journalism
Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland

Speakers:

Lucie Cejkova, Scientist, Masaryk University Brno, Czech
Republic

Zofia Dzik, President of the Board, Humanites Institute, Poland

Damian Flisak, Owner, Damian Flisak Kancelaria Prawna,
Poland

Marcel Kieltyka, Member of the Board, DEMAGOG, Poland

Jerzy Kosinski, Professor, Director of the Maritime
Cybersecurity Center, Polish Naval Academy, Poland

Sergiusz Murenec, Chief Editor, Yavp.pl, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Partner: The Civil Affairs Institute

Bypad: Modern Bicycle Policy, EU Funds and Satisfied Residents

The most important issues related to BYPAD concern innovation, obtaining EU funds for infrastructure development and public participation. As part of the discussion, we will seek answers to the following questions: what modern solutions have been created in Polish cities thanks to BYPAD? How has BYPAD influenced the shaping of cities' bicycle policies? What EU funds will be available for the development of bicycle infrastructure and how BYPAD can facilitate their acquisition? What is the purpose of public participation in bicycle policy, and how does BYPAD translate into real public support for bicycle policy?

Moderator:

Rafal Witold Gorski, President of the Board, The Civil Affairs Institute, Poland

Speakers:

Hubert Baranski, President of Board, Normal City Phenomenon Foundation, Poland

Jakub Furkal, Cycling Officer, Gdynia City Hall, Poland

Piotr Kuropatwinski, Senior Bicycle Policy Expert, Polska Unia Mobilności Aktywnej (PUMA), Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30**

Influence of Local Government on Local Sports Infrastructure

Most citizens identify poor healthcare as a major social problem. Meanwhile, many diseases and illnesses can be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle. Local authorities like to show their contribution to the development of sports infrastructure. Swimming pools, playing fields or sports halls can become the pride of a municipality or city. How should local authorities implement such projects? Participants in the debate will present their own experiences and exchange views on the promotion of physical activity.

Moderator:

Jacek Szczesny, Managing Director, former Sports Journalist,
Business Magazine, Poland

Speakers:

Petro Adamyk, Deputy, Lviv City Council, Ukraine

Marek Kwiatkowski, District Governor, Nowy Sacz District,
Poland

Jerzy Michalak, President of the Board, Lower Silesian Park of
Innovation and Science, Poland

Rafal Rudnicki, Deputy Mayor, Municipal Office in Bialystok,
Poland

Isto Vanhamaki, Director of Business Region Development,
LADEC, Finland

Kamila Wojtaszek, Prokurent, Naukowe Place Zabaw, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Partner: Norwegian–Polish Chamber of Commerce

PPP a Chance to Break the Economic Impasse

Currently, only a few and mainly small projects are being implemented under the PPP formula. Banks are reluctant to finance such projects, while local authorities and entrepreneurs, in turn, are skeptical about the possibility of implementing similar projects. Nevertheless, there is a belief in the need to break down existing barriers. PPP is beneficial for both sides: local governments can realize investments that they have been putting off by debt and lack of own funds, while entrepreneurs have missing tenders in which they could fight for orders. How to improve the climate of cooperation between public entities and business and break the existing economic impasse?

Moderator:

Ewa Danela Burdon, President of the Board, Norwegian–Polish Chamber of Commerce, Norway

Speakers:

Daniel Dragan, Deputy Chairman District Council in Biala Podlaska, District Council in Biala Podlaska, Poland

Piotr Grubek, CEO, Municipal Investition Ltd, Marki, Poland

Aleksandra Jadach–Sepiolo, Assistant Professor in Department of Innovative City, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Agata Kozłowska, Expert, The Sobieski Institute, Poland

Alina Sarnacka–Luczyn, Owner, Alina Sarnacka Consulting, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

Innovation as a Key to Creating a Modern Region and Municipality

In today's world, one of the key factors in economic development is innovation. It is innovation and openness to new solutions that most builds the competitiveness and modernity of a country, region or municipality. The richest and best-developed regions are those that are able to attract and retain talented and ambitious people of science and business, who, through their breakthrough solutions, accelerate the increase in the standard of living of local communities. How to manage a municipality and a region to be innovative? How to invest appropriately in research and development?

Moderator:

Roman Sobiecki, Vice Rector for Development, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Konrad Fijolek, Mayor, City of Rzeszów, Poland

Maciej Kloska, Plenipotentiary of the Management Board for Development of Organization, Employers of Poland, Poland

Michał Koczalski, CEO, CEC Group, Poland

Grzegorz Malinowski, Director, Łukasiewicz–ITECH, Poland

Piotr Zakrzewski, Deputy President, Polish Patent Office, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35**

Region and SMEs – How to Power Up the Innovative Ventures?

What regional programs are implemented by local governments to support entrepreneurship and stimulate innovative initiatives? Do young and experienced entrepreneurs still encounter barriers on the road to the success of their business? What policies should local governments pursue to effectively support the spirit of entrepreneurship among citizens?

Talk

Stories of Success – Zbigniew Włodkowski

Guest:

Zbigniew Włodkowski, Mayor, Orzysz City Hall, Poland

Host:

Maria Borzym, Director, Olsztyn Science and Technology Park, Poland

Discussion Panel

Region and SMEs – How to Power Up the Innovative Ventures?

Moderator:

Maria Borzym, Director, Olsztyn Science and Technology Park, Poland

Speakers:

Senton Kacaniku, CEO of SporeFI and Member of Forbes Business Council, SporeFI, USA

Isaltino Afonso Moraes, Mayor, Oeiras City Hall, Portugal

David Schneider, UK Representative, Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA), United Kingdom

Wojciech Warski, Expert, Team Europe Direct, Poland

Andrii Zablovskyi, Head of the Secretariat of Entrepreneurs Council, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024**12:45—13:45**

Sports Tourism – What Challenges Do Local Governments Face?

Sports tourism opens up great opportunities for the region. Sports play an extremely important role on many levels, being important for both health and the development of teamwork skills, but also can be a good way to promote the region and attract investment. Well-developed facilities bring tangible financial benefits to local governments, while businessmen can use sports as a means to promote their own projects, production and services. What are the challenges facing local governments that want to develop sports tourism at home?

Moderator:

Jacek Szczesny, Managing Director, former Sports Journalist,
Business Magazine, Poland

Speakers:

Robert Burzycki, Member, New Left, Poland

Krzysztof Kułakowski, Mayor, Swiecie City Council, Poland

Sławomir Maciej Mazur, Mayor, Municipality of Nieporet,
Poland

Maciej Razewski, Board President, Youth Parliament of the
Republic of Poland, Poland

Mariusz Smysło, Director of Sports and Leisure Centre, City of
Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

Cyber Revolution – Where Is the World Heading?

With the development of artificial intelligence, which opens up new opportunities for us, humanity also faces new challenges, e.g. related to the scope of personal data protection, susceptibility to the FOMO phenomenon, or the impact of fake news. Will the cyber revolution bring a civilization leap for humanity, or will it be an element limiting civil liberties? Where is the increasingly digitized world heading?

Talk

Stories of Success – Pawel Wasiak

Guest:

Pawel Wasiak, Mayor, Lubniany Commune Council, Poland

Host:

Angelika Swoboda, Editor, gazeta.pl, Poland

Discussion Panel

Cyber Revolution – Where Is the World Heading?

Moderator:

Rafal Mandes, Head of Digital & Video, PMPG WPROST.PL,
Poland

Speakers:

Grzegorz Malinowski, Director, Łukasiewicz– ITECH, Poland

Bartosz Szymanski, President of the Scientific Circle,
Scientific Circle of National Security of Military University of
Technology, Poland

Andrzej Zybertowicz, Adviser, National Security Bureau,
Poland

Martyna Luszczek, AI Expert, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**15:20—16:20**

Building Innovation Through Cooperation Between Science, Business and Local Government Units

Due to migration processes in developed countries, the key centers of innovation are large agglomerations. One of the challenges facing local government units is building competitiveness. In the past, mainly due to cheaper labor force, currently, if we want to maintain dynamic economic growth, it is necessary to create instruments stimulating innovation and high-margin services and products. How to build the competitiveness of smaller urban and rural centers located outside special economic zones? How to strengthen cooperation between science, business and local administration?

Moderator:

Mirosław Łukasiewicz, Senior Research Advisor, JP Weber,
Poland

Speakers:

Katarzyna Chojecka, Head of Government Affairs CEE, Cisco
Systems Poland, Poland

Katarzyna Gruszecka-Spychała, Deputy Mayor, Gdynia City
Hall, Poland

Ewa Kraus, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Humanitas
University, Poland

Konrad Ślusarczyk, Director Government Engagement CEE,
VISA, Poland

Jan Strzeżek, Ministry of Economic Development and
Technology, Chief of the Political Cabinet, Poland

Cyber Security in the Local Government

The digitization of many administrative processes opens the door to hackers who effectively exploit the weak points of security systems. In the case of public administration, ransomware attacks pose a particular threat. Criminals generate malware-infected website links or attachments. They are then sent to employees, e.g. in the form of e-mails. Due to the nature and sensitivity of information in the public sector, its representatives are frequent victims of this type of hacker attacks. So how to effectively improve cybersecurity in local government units? Are there examples of local governments that effectively manage cybernetic risk and implement innovative solutions in the field of data and infrastructure protection?

Moderator:

Michał Czarnuch, Partner, Head of Life Sciences Practice,
Rymarz, Zdort, Maruta, Wachta, Gasiński, Her i Wspólnicy
sp.k., Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Błaszczewicz, Blu Holding, CEO, Poland

Michał Fedorowicz, President of the Board, Internet and Social
Media Research Institute, Poland

Maciej Jagaciak, Expert, Foresight Engineer & Technology
Analyst, Polish Society for Futures Studies, Poland

Mateusz Marzoch, Assistant to the Deputy Speaker of the
Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Chancellery of the Sejm of the
Republic of Poland, Poland

Piotr Mieczkowski, Managing Director, Digital Poland
Foundation, Poland

Katarzyna Olszewska, Expert, Polish Cybersecurity Institute,
Poland

Marcin Serafin, Partner, Rymarz, Zdort, Maruta, Wachta,
Gasiński, Her i Wspólnicy sp.k., Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Enlargement of the European Union – Prospects and Risks – part II

In recent years, the gravitational pull of the European Union has helped transform the countries of Central and Eastern Europe from communist regimes into modern, functioning democracies. All Europeans benefit from having stable democracies and thriving market economies as neighbours. Enlargement is the EU's most ambitious project: it is, in effect, the reunification of the European continent. Speakers will discuss the risks and prospects of EU enlargement in the current geopolitical context.

Moderator:

Francesca Traldi, Senior Scientific Advisor, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Italy

Speakers:

Ryszard Czarnecki, Member, European Parliament, Poland

Emanuele Errichiello, Head of the EU Programme, Centro Studi Internazionali, Italy

Mihai Sebe, Expert, European Institute of Romania, Romania

Serhiy Shevchuk, Chairman, NGO Legislation Initiative "Ukraine–EU", Ukraine

Tomasz Wroblewski, President of the Board, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35***Partner: Justina Mutale Foundation*

Inspirations of Successful Women

Nowadays, success increasingly has the 'face' of a woman. How do ladies cope in the socialised social roles that society even unconsciously and unpatentably imposes? How does the female path to the top differ from the male path? What is the inspiration for successful ladies in an evolving world where their voice is being heard more and more strongly and bluntly? How can we all benefit from women's participation in decision-making and management circles? Are we, as a society, breaking the damaging stereotypes of "women soothsayers"?

Moderator:

Justina Mutale, President, Justina Mutale Foundation, United Kingdom

Speakers:

Agnieszka Gorska, Rector, Olsztyn University, Poland

Anna Gorska, Senator, Senate of the Republic of Poland, Poland

Violeta Labazyuk, Head, Khmelnytskyi Regional Council, Ukraine

Réka Sáfrány, Chairwoman, Hungarian Women's Lobby, Hungary

Maria Swiniuch, Adwokat, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10***Partner: Warsaw Enterprise Institute*

How to Spend Public Money Wisely?

Spending public money wisely is an important issue, but money is often handled thoughtlessly. The Warsaw Enterprise Institute has shown many examples of waste, such as expensive toilets and empty train stations. The initiative aims to stimulate debate on rational management of public funds and increase transparency and efficiency in their spending.

Moderator:

Piotr Palutkiewicz, Vice-President, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

Speakers:

Lukasz Bilski, President, Swietokrzyskie Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers, Poland

Jan Pelczar, Krosno District Council, District Governor, Poland

Tomasz Rostkowski, Professor, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Bartosz Sowier, Director of Analysis and Legislation Department, Employers of Poland, Poland

Eugeniusz Swiecki, Mayor, Ciechanowiec City Council, Poland

Karol Zdybel, Ph.D., Management Consultant, University of Hamburg, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**15:20—16:20***Partner: Personnel Service*

Regional Efforts to Increase Employment

Can European regions boast successful employment programs? Especially with regard to the employment of young people and people vulnerable to exclusion? Vocational education programs, availability of information about professional development directions and employment opportunities, stimulating entrepreneurship, what else can be done to increase the employment rate?

Moderator:

Weronika Danilowska, Associate in Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Cezary Bachanski, Specialist, Warsaw Enterprise Institute, Poland

Inga Balnanosienė, Director, Lithuanian Employment Service, Lithuania

Kinga Marczak, Commercial Director, Personnel Service, Poland

Piotr Szumlewicz, Editor-in-Chief, Magazine of Social Dialogue "Fakty", Poland

Izabella Woznicka, Partner, WP Law Wozniccy & Partners sp.j., Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30**

Praise Youth and It Will Prosper. Local Governments Nurturing Young Talents

The youth constitutes the heartbeat of local communities, embodying innovation, imagination, energy, and the promise of a vibrant future. Investing in young talents is not merely a choice but a strategic imperative for the local authorities. Arts, sports, mentorship programs, entrepreneurial incubators and community events not only enhance the quality of life but also serve as platforms for talent showcase and skill development. What strategies can local and regional authorities employ to champion youth talent development and cultivate future leaders?

Moderator:

Katarzyna Iwanicka, Project Manager, The Institute for Liberty, Poland

Speakers:

Bartosz Durma, CEO, We are for U, Poland

Shila Parllaku, Communication Officer, Program Coordinator, National Youth Congress, Albania, Albania

Karolina Pawlak, Director of the Office and Team, Civis Polonus Foundation, Poland

Andriy Sulym, Head, Lviv District Council, Ukraine

Grzegorz Swiech, Member of the Board, OFF School Foundation, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**17:40—18:40**

Effective Promotion – so What Kind of Promotion?

What are the characteristics of effective promotion? However, what should be borne in mind in order for innovative product/brand/service promotion to be successful? What is the importance of a conscious, research-based marketing strategy in planning a promotional campaign? How to build customer loyalty so that they become brand ambassadors? What is the importance of optimisation, data analysis, message consistency, channel integration and long-term relationship building? Has the era of buying with emotions arrived?

Moderator:

Tomasz Sanpruch, Editor-in-Chief, Capital24.tv, Poland

Speakers:

Adam Mikołajczyk, President of the Board, Best Place,
European Place Marketing Institute, Poland

Witold Radwanski, President, Krokus Private Equity, Poland

Wojciech Krzysztof Szalkiewicz, Press Spokeswomen, Olsztyn
District Council, Poland

Marek Zagorski, Key Account Manager, SOLIX, Digital Signage
Systems, Poland

Marcin Zarzecki, President of the Board, Polish National
Foundation, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

How to Consciously Build Security in Europe?

Europe is going through a turbulent period in terms of internal and external security. There is a full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, thousands of immigrants cross the Mediterranean every day, societies are internally polarized and there are religious frictions. These events show the fragility of the order and security of which we are a part. What steps should be taken to ensure the long-term security of Europe and its inhabitants?

Speakers:

Ernesto Ferrante, Journalist, L'Identità, Italy

Aaron Korewa, Director, Warsaw Office, Atlantic Council, USA

Waldemar Skrzypczak, Expert, Waldemar Skrzypczak Consulting, Poland

Michał Sopinski, Rector–Commandant, Academy of Justice, Poland

Viktoriiia Voronina, Executive Director, Center for Security Studies (CENSS), Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—12:35

The Importance of Cultural Institutions in Building Local Identity

Cultural institutions not only reflect local identity but also form it, influencing the development of the community and defining its unique dynamics. Through a variety of activities, such as organising cultural events, exhibitions, workshops or festivals, these institutions not only promote local artistic talent, but also integrate the community around shared values and traditions. Therefore, when discussing the importance of these institutions, it is worth considering what specific initiatives and projects can be undertaken to effectively build a strong local identity and support community development.

Moderator:

Marek Teler, Writer, Poland

Speakers:

Vladyslav Berkovskyi, Executive Director, Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, Ukraine

Helena Agata Jackiewicz, Member of the Main Board, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

Wioletta Jaskolska, Director, Centrum Edukacji i Inicjatyw Kulturalnych w Olsztynie, Poland

Tadeusz Jędrzejczak, Member of the Board, Lubuskie Voivodeship Council, Poland

Bogusław Szwedo, President of the Board, Radio Leliwa, Poland

Piotr Zaleski, Lecturer, University of Warsaw, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

12:45—13:45

Screening of the Film 'Heimat' and Meeting with the Director

Heimat tells of migration as a human experience of subversion of socio-relational and spatial matrices of origin. Through a selection of seventy interviews with migrants who arrived in Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia and Poland, the interviewees collectively reflect on their life path and on the search for a new Heimat.

- Official Selection Nuovi Mondi Film Festival 2022
- Official Selection Eastern Europe Film Festival 2022
- Honorable Mention Mannheim Arts and Film Festival 2022

Guest:

Alessandro Ingaria, Mayor, Commune of Priero, Italy

Host:

Jakub Romaniuk, Programme Director, Institute for Eastern Studies, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

National and Ethnic Minorities in Local Governments – Identity, Role, Challenges

Participants of the panel will discuss the role of local governments in supporting national minorities and will consider various forms of support for these communities. How can we maintain a balance between the right to culture and cultural security in a democratic rule of law? How important is intercultural integration in local communities?

Talk

Stories of Success – Anna Hetman

Guest:

Anna Hetman, Mayor, City Hall in Jastrzebie-Zdroj, Poland

Discussion Panel

National and Ethnic Minorities in Local Governments – Identity, Role, Challenges

Moderator:

Nartsiss Shukuralieva, Professor, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland

Speakers:

Michele Ferrari, President of the City Board, Town of Mariehamn, Finland

Nils Erik Forsgård, Director, The Magma think tank, Finland

Witold Liszkowski, Mayor, Pusk Commune Council, Poland

Miron Sycz, Deputy Marshal, Marshal's Office of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland

Gösta Toft, Vice-President, Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN), Denmark

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

A Turn-on for the Switched Off – How to Combat Local News Avoidance?

Disinformation and deepfake are not the only threats currently affecting the media. According to the Reuters Institute, more than 72% of publishers are concerned about news avoidance, the trend of which has been steadily increasing since the pandemic. When headlines proclaim scandals, crises and disasters, it's hardly surprising that some audiences are cutting themselves off from difficult and depressing content. The Digital News Report found that the list of most avoided topics includes the war in Ukraine and domestic politics. The consequences of such ignorance can be disastrous. What should the media do to regain audience interest and trust? In the age of acceleration, could it be worth to turn to solid, explanatory journalism, as suggested by the advocates of slow journalism?

Moderator:

Bogda Orzechowska, Editor-in-Chief, TV Suwalki, Poland

Speakers:

Marek Bosak, CEO, Modus Consulting, Poland

Ireneusz Iwanski, President, Media Butterfly sp z o.o., Poland

Anna Jupowicz-Ginalska, Lecturer, Faculty of Journalism

Information and Book Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland

Beata Sadowska, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30***Partner: Youth4Media*

The Role of the Media and NGOs in Strengthening Civil Societies in Europe

An essential stability factor for democracy in Europe is an active civil society in conjunction with fundamental rights such as freedom of association and press and freedom of expression. A democratic society also offers numerous opportunities for active participation. Civil society plays a central role in the fight for a democratic future, particularly in Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia, while extensive networks for civil society engagement have emerged in Germany in recent decades. Therefore, the discussion about the future role of an active civil society across Europe is of central importance for the peaceful development of our continent, combined with economic stability.

*Moderator:***Wolfgang Ressmann**, Chairman, Youth4Media, Germany*Speakers:***Mamuka Andguladze**, Managing Director, CMIS–NGO,
Georgia**Nadiia Bedrychuk**, Project Coordinator, Ukrainian National
Association of Journalists, Ukraine**Mika Beuster**, President, German Federation of Journalists,
Germany**Ansgar Klein**, President, Federal Network for Civil
Engagement, Germany**Mkrtych Tonoyan**, President, ACCOS Cultural NGO, Armenia

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Culture as a Unifying Element in Europe – How to Cooperate Across Differences

Panel participants will look for practical solutions to build bridges between European nations. This panel will not only reflect on the cultural heritage of the continent, but also encourage active involvement in collaborative processes aimed at common development and understanding in a united Europe. During the panel, experts will discuss how culture can act as an important element in building the European community, helping to break down linguistic, cultural and political barriers. They will present inspiring examples of initiatives that successfully integrate societies at various levels, both local and international.

Moderator:

Szymon Pekala, Owner, Wojna Idei, YouTube Channel, Poland

Speakers:

Andrzej Giza, Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II w Krakowie, Poland

Sylvia Jaskulska, Deputy Marshal, Marshal's Office of Warmińsko–Mazurskie Region, Poland

Benamina Karic, Municipality of Sarajevo, Mayor, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Katarzyna Kleczka–Zdebel, TV Zabrze, Editor in Chief, Poland

Aleksandra Leo, Fundacja Instytut Bronisława Komorowskiego, Sejm, Deputy, Poland

Joanna Michalska–Reda, Deputy District Governor, Olsztyn District Council, Poland

Cezary Obracht–Prondzynski, University of Gdansk, Professor, Poland

Maciej Piwowarczuk, CEO, Foundation for Great Stories, Poland

Krzysztof Plesniarowicz, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Jesenska Rici, CroCulTour, Croatian Association of Culture Tourism, President, Croatia

Katarzyna Smolny, Assistant professor at the Department of Finance, Wrocław University of Economics and Business, Poland

Jan Szczepaniak, Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II w Krakowie, Poland

Wojciech Tomasik, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Professor, Poland

Lawrence Ugwu, Director, Baltic Sea Cultural Center in Gdańsk, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

With a Sense of Social Responsibility – Growing Activity Among Youth

Political activity in Poland among young adults is lower than in other age groups, which translates into the state of democracy in the country. However, observing recent events in the political arena, some changes can be noted in this regard. Are we dealing with the formation of a society of active and responsible citizens who remember not only their rights but also their duties? What are the chances that the increase in political activity of the younger generations is not just a trend, and that tendency will continue in the future? A society in which every citizen works for positive changes in the immediate environment and has an impact on the taken actions and decision-making processes... Sounds like utopia, or maybe it's a goal within reach?

Moderator:

Julia Draminska, Chairwoman of Academic Circle of Oxford Debates, University of Warsaw, Poland

Speakers:

Albert Hani, Secretary General, Regional Youth Cooperation Office, Albania

Artur Pacula, Vice-Chairman, Youth Assembly of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland

Teodora Panus, President, National Youth Council of Moldova, Republic of Moldova

Piotr Polonczyk, Member of Program Group, Krakow for Residents, Poland

Benjamin Sibille, Founder and CEO, Service Civique European, France

Oleh Volskyi, Mayor, Zhovkva City Council, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—12:35

What Does the War in Ukraine Entail for European Local Governments?

Since the very beginning of the war, European cities and regions have been actively supporting Ukrainians providing shelter to residents fleeing the war, power generators and medical assistance, and financing the reconstruction of liberated cities. Local governments also had additional tasks in the field of assistance in accommodation, social assistance, and education for children. As a result, a new class of local leaders emerged, which after the outbreak of the war showed its best side in the area of crisis management. During the panel, we will want to answer the question of what challenges local governments are currently facing and how they deal with them, what solutions they use, and what cooperation between local government units, government administration and non-governmental organizations looks like.

Moderator:

Yuriy Banakhevych, Correspondent, Ukrinform, Ukraine

Speakers:

Martyna Bogaczyk, President of the Board, Education for Democracy Foundation, Poland

Wojciech Gizicki, Associate Professor, Vice-Dean, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

John Grogan, Patron, Ukrainian-British City Club, United Kingdom

Ihor Hirschak, Secretary, Ternopil City Council, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

Why Was Russia Not Able to Win the War in Ukraine? – part II

The Russian aggression against Ukraine has redefined the security issue in Europe. However, the ‘special operation’, as the full-scale war is ordered to be called by Vladimir Putin, is clearly not proceeding in the way expected for the Russian dictator. Despite capturing parts of Ukrainian territory, after two years of conflict, the Russian military has failed to achieve significant strategic successes. On the contrary, Ukraine under the leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky, with the support of the US, Poland and other allies, is putting up effective resistance, going on the counter-offensive in places. What are the reasons for the failures of the Russian army, until recently called the second army of the world? Why has the Russian steamroller already stopped at the first country that has put up armed resistance to it?

Moderator:

Bianka Zalewska, Reporter, TVN Warner Bros. Discovery,
Poland

Speakers:

Jacek Kluczkowski, Member of the Board, East European
Democratic Centre, Poland

Leon Komornicki, Chairman of the Industrial Committee,
Euro-Atlantic Association, Poland

Slawomir Majman, Deputy Director, Institute of the Security
and International Cooperation, Poland

Oleh Vysochan, Consul, Consulate General of Ukraine in
Gdansk, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Polish Support for Ukraine's Integration with the EU

Ukraine's integration with the EU is important for Poland's security and will contribute to Poland's economic development.

In some sectors of the Polish economy, competition from Ukraine will cause tensions and the need for adjustments.

For these sensitive sectors of the Polish economy, transformation programs should be developed to adapt to Ukrainian competition and support mechanisms should be proposed to facilitate such transformation, as well as a transitional solution when opening the EU market for Ukrainian products or services.

Moderator:

Kazimierz Wóycicki, Director, Akademia Wschód, Poland

Speakers:

Stefan Kawalec, President of the Board, Capital Strategy

Sp. z o.o., Poland

Yevhen Mahda, Executive Director, Institute of World Policy,

Ukraine

Kamil Sobolewski, Chief Economist, Employers of Poland,

Poland

Marcin Swiecicki, President, European Movement Forum,

Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

16:30—17:30

Diffused Nuclear Energy. An Upcoming Challenge for Local Authorities

Up to several dozen nuclear reactors using various technologies may be built in Poland. The implementation of such an ambitious project will have an impact on the reality of many local communities and local government authorities. Nuclear energy offers opportunities related to jobs, budget revenues and the quality of energy supplies. But there will also be potential threats on the horizon. Are Polish local government officials ready to face the challenges posed by distributed nuclear energy?

Moderator:

Wojciech Jasinski, Expert, Academy of Polish Careers, Poland

Speakers:

Pawel Gajda, Lecturer, AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow, Poland

Dawid Jackiewicz, Vice-President of the Board, ORLEN Synthos Green Energy, Poland

Oleksandr Menzul, Mayor, Varash City Council, Ukraine

Jan Stanisław Parys, Adviser, Consensus Project, Poland

Pawel Pytlarczyk, Director, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

A 21st Century Commune Leader – What Qualities Should a Local Government Leader Possess?

Europe is confronted time and again with new challenges. It is not only central governments that need to be effective in tackling the problems, but also local government leaders. Often, we forget about the heads of municipalities and lower levels of government. However, they are often the ones who are on the front line of countering threats and have the best contact with local residents. They also know the problems of their communities best. So what attributes should a modern municipal leader have?

Moderator:

Paulina Legutko-Kobus, Assistant Professor in Regional and Local Policy Unit, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Olgierd Annusewicz, Assistant Professor, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, Poland

Kazimierz Barczyk, Vice-Chairman of the Local Assembly, Malopolska Region Marshal's Office, Poland

Iryna Hrymak, Deputy, Lviv Regional Council, Ukraine

Krzysztof Sobczak, Mayor, Wieniawa Commune, Poland

Marzena Swieczak, Mayor, City of Garwolin, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

How to Effectively Manage Cultural Institutions

Poland is a country with a large background of cultural institutions. In times of crises and turbulences financing the culture falls to the wayside. There are perpetual claims that there is not enough money for culture and cultural institutions, and that the budgetary capacity of local governments does not allow more. Sometimes, however, effective management, conscious strategy and efficient management can turn an unwanted "burden" on the budget of a local government into a product of international importance and a locomotive of regional promotion. How to manage cultural institutions to make them the pearls of the region?

Moderator:

Marek Teler, Writer, Poland

Speakers:

Roman Chmelyk, Director, Lviv Historical Museum, Ukraine

Antoni Czyzyk, Director, Center for European Meetings

"Światowid" in Elbląg, Poland

Aldona Machnowska-Góra, Deputy Mayor, City of Warsaw, Poland

Tomasz Makowski, Director, The National Library of Poland, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—12:35

Pro-environmental Approach to Tourism – How to Deepen Environmental Awareness of Organizers and Tourists?

Without a pro-environmental attitude, i.e. taking care of proper human contact with nature, the number of clean, ecologically safe regions with healthy recreational conditions will gradually decrease. A pro-environmental approach to tourism implies organizing and practicing it recognizing the priority of the laws of nature over man's economic activities and satisfying his own needs. At the same time, it is necessary to strive for full use of natural resources in accordance with their potential, without disturbing their ecological functions. The main objective of regional policy in mountain regions should be to support initiatives and projects that promote the sustainable development of mountain areas in order to improve the living conditions of mountain communities and strengthen resilience to climate change. How should environmental policy be shaped at the national and regional levels to deepen the environmental awareness of both tourism organizers and their customers?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Jan Stawnicki, Deputy Director, The State Water Holding Polish Waters, Regional Water Management Authority in Białystok, Poland

Speakers:

Jorge Brito, Executive Secretary, Intermunicipal Community of Coimbra Region, Portugal

Rafał Gawenda, General Secretary, Confederation of the Polish Crown, Poland

Bernadeta Hordejuk, Chairman of the Voivodeship Council, Warmian–Masurian Regional Assembly, Poland

Wojciech Iwaszkiewicz, Mayor, City Hall of Gizycko, Poland

Wojciech Kozak, Member, Malopolska Region Assembly,
Poland

Hanna Pruchniewska, Mayor, Puck City Council, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

12:45—13:45

Historical Monuments – What Do They Stand For and What Can They Be for a Municipality?

Historical monuments are important elements of local identity for municipalities, being testimony to the history and traditions of a given community. Local governments can support and promote monuments through cultural tourism, organizing festivals or other events that are intended to attract tourists and generate revenues, influencing the economic development of the region. How to use historical monuments for educational purposes and use their educational value by educating the local community in the field of history, culture and art. How to integrate the local community and local business to ensure a long-term future in the region? What are good practices in raising funds for the revitalization and revival of neglected facilities?

Moderator:

Ewa Sztreker, Journalist, EWTN, Poland

Speakers:

Jerzy Kielbik, Director, The Wojciech Kętrzyński Northern Institute, Poland

Michał Krasucki, Director, City of Warsaw, Poland

Tadeusz Krolczyk, Mayor, Ochotnica Dolna Commune, Poland

Viktor Kushnirenko, Chairman of the Board, "Pidhirtsi Castle" Foundation, Ukraine

Michał Laszczkowski, Director, National Institute for Monument Conservation, Poland

Jacek Oberland, Member, Confederation of the Polish Crown, Poland

Katarzyna Zalasinska, Director, National Heritage Board of Poland, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

Invest in the Past for Better Future – Heritage Tourism in Regions and Municipalities

Local history and its vestiges are an important component of the regional/local identity, rooting the citizens in a specific place and community. However, community consolidation is not the only benefit of celebrating the past – history can vitally contribute to the development of a municipality, if promoted properly. How to effectively promote local cultural and material heritage? How to use history to generate tourism? How to turn important anniversaries and monuments into elements which raise region's attractiveness as a holiday destination? Finally, can heritage tourism actually bring in money?

Presentation

**Presentation of a New Report of the National
 Institute for Monument Conservation (NIKZ). How
 to Get the Full Benefit out of Local Heritage?**

Host:

Michał Laszczkowski, Director, National Institute for
 Monument Conservation, Poland

Discussion Panel

**Invest in the Past for Better Future – Heritage
 Tourism in Regions and Municipalities**

Moderator:

Marek Teler, Writer, Poland

Speakers:

Natalia Dzieduszycka, Deputy Director, National Institute for Monument Conservation, Poland

Joanna Pasierbek-Konieczny, President of the Commune Council, Wry Commune Council, Poland

Sviatoslav Sheremeta, Deputy, Head of Committee for Culture and Informational Policy, Lviv Regional Council, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Cultural Heritage of Cities and Regions as One of the Main Factors of Tourist Attractiveness

Cultural tourism involves learning about or experiencing different ways of life of other people, reflected in social customs, religious traditions, intellectual thought or cultural heritage. Tourists are not only eager to visit places where they can smell the whiff of history, but also to attend various events, i.e. concerts, performances, religious ceremonies and regional festivals. Therefore, the presence on the territory of a municipality of objects or areas of protected cultural or natural heritage affects the level of its tourist attractiveness. How to shape the tourist offer to enable tourists to learn about local cultural heritage to the fullest extent possible?

Presentation

History of Przysietnica. From the Earliest Times

Host:

Kazimierz Gizicki, Deputy Mayor, City of Stary Sacz, Poland

Discussion Panel

Cultural Heritage of Cities and Regions as One of the Main Factors of Tourist Attractiveness

Moderator:

Marek Teler, Writer, Poland

Speakers:

Kazimierz Gizicki, Deputy Mayor, City of Stary Sacz, Poland

Petra Havu, CEO, Finnish Museum Association, Finland

Jacopo Ibello, President, Save Industrial Heritage, Italy

Andriy Nayda, Mayor, Kalush City Council, Ukraine
Piotr Lyson, Director of the Social Surveys Department and
Labour Market Department, Statistics Poland, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

16:30—17:30

Festivals and Mass Events As an Opportunity to Promote the Region

Thousands of festivals are being held in Europe every year. Many of them are open-air events, organised far from big cities. Can such events impact popularity of their host areas throughout the year, even though they last for a couple of days only? How can local governments use them in order to build their local brand?

Moderator:

Witold Ziomek, Journalist, "Wprost" Weekly, Poland

Speakers:

Janusz Cieplinski, Director, Warmińsko-Mazurska Filharmonia im. Feliksa Nowowiejskiego, Poland

Zoltan Meszaros, Chief Advisor, Veszprém-Balaton 2023 Zrt., Hungary

Nadiia Moroz-Olshanska, Chairman of the Board, The Mass Spectacles Foundation, Ukraine

Boguslaw Sonik, Chairman, Stowarzyszenie Maj 77, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Football As a Tool for Promoting Cities and Regions

Football has been used as a soft power tool in international relations for years. As the world's most popular sport, it attracts not only the interest of fans from all over the world, but also investors with ever-increasing funds for the development of the sport. This is a great opportunity for cities and regions with the most recognisable clubs of a country or an entire continent to promote themselves through football. How can the world's most popular sport be used to promote cities and regions?

Moderator:

Jakub Romaniuk, Programme Director, Institute for Eastern Studies, Poland

Speakers:

Agnieszka Borkowska, Counselor, Confederation of Freedom and Independence, Poland

Valerio Mancini, Director of Research Center, Rome Business School, Italy

Narcis Pallares-Domenech, Public Affairs Officer, Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to Italy, Spain

Octavian Ticu, Associate Professor, Moldova State University, Republic of Moldova

MARCH 5, 2024**10:10—11:10**

Are Investments in Bicycle Infrastructure Worth Pursuing?

Becoming carbon-neutral is one of the main goals of the European Green Deal, and encouraging citizens to move by bicycle instead of cars can help to achieve it. Cleaner air, increased fitness, better health...the benefits of the popularization of cycling are numerous. However, the costs associated with changing the organization of traffic and creating the appropriate infrastructure – paths, locks, stations – are high and often do not inspire enthusiasm among residents, who, in times of crisis, are stricter when it comes to public expenditure. Is it then worth investing in making cities more bike-friendly? Do investments in bicycle tourism – such as the Green Velo bicycle route, which cuts across five Polish regions – bring real profits?

Moderator:

Filip Szatanik, Spokesman, City Hall of Jaworzno, Poland

Speakers:

Lidia Czerniewicz, Deputy Mayor, Wegorzewo City Council, Poland

Jens Peter Hansen, President, Danish Cyclists' Federation, Denmark

Mirosław Karolczuk, Mayor, Augustów City Council, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—12:35

Women Leaders in Local Government – the Key Role of Women in the Roles of Commune Heads, Mayors, and City Presidents

During the discussion, the following issues will be raised: Why are there still not many women holding key local government positions? What difficulties do women encounter on their way to becoming leaders in local government units? How can women break through the glass ceiling in a male-dominated world? Parity quotas – is this an effective way to increase the number of women in local community roles? Large investments – is this only in the male domain? The strengths of women in local government work. What are the challenges facing women in local government? How to encourage other women to get involved in working for their local communities?

Moderator:

Magdalena Szefernaker, Author of the Book, Poland

Speakers:

Krystyna Danilecka-Wojewodzka, Mayor, City of Slupsk, Poland

Marta Majewska, Mayor, Hrubieszow City Council, Poland

Malgorzata Manka-Szulik, Mayor, City of Zabrze, Poland

Malgorzata Maluch, Mayor, Sekowa Commune Council, Poland

Renata Surma, Mayor, Bystrzyca Kłodzka City Council, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**12:45—13:45**

European Port Cities – Capitals of Culture, Economy and Tourism

European port cities rank among the world's top tourist destinations. Located on the shores of the seas and oceans, they attract people from all over the world with their unique character and rich history, which has also transformed them into contemporary centres of culture. It is also impossible to ignore the important fact that the centuries-old presence and functionality of the ports located in these cities have significantly influenced and continue to influence the economic development of the entire region. What new features do port cities have to offer today and how should we take care of them?

Speakers:

Arkadiusz Klimowicz, Mayor, City of Darlowo, Poland

Mariusz Jan Radlo, Head of the Department of Global Economic Interdependence, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Binay Kumar Singh, President, Federation of Global Maritime Community, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10***Partner: Association of Polish Counties*

County Communities and the County – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

It is 25 years since counties as units of local government are back on the map of Poland. It is no coincidence that the term “as units of local government” is used, because county-level communities have always been a well-established, historically rooted element in the functioning of society. Regardless of the will and decisions of subsequent legislators, these communities have existed and will continue to exist, as they are a natural part of everyday life. The panellists will go back in history, talk about the present day and about current problems. They will talk about the essence of county self-government as it has developed over the centuries, as well as about the state-forming role of the county communities of tomorrow.

Moderator:

Rudolf Borusiewicz, Director, Association of Polish Counties,
Poland

Speakers:

Mieczysław Janowski, Doctor, Rzeszow University of
Technology, Poland

Grzegorz Kubalski, Deputy Director, Association of Polish
Counties, Poland

Janusz Mierzwa, Professor, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Jerzy Stepień, Chairman of Board, Foundation for
Development of Local Democracy, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Local Government – Continuing Evolution Or Revolution Needed?

We are on the eve of the 34th anniversary of the adoption of the Act on local government. Despite numerous amendments, like any legal act, the law is becoming incompatible with the extremely complex post-pandemic realities, Europe coping with the war in Ukraine or local governments under inflationary pressure. New times set new tasks that the creators and amendments of the act could not have had any idea about. Is it time for a new opening? A revolutionary new law for the third decade of the 21st century?

Moderator:

Joanna Sawicka, Political Analyst, Polityka Insight, Poland

Speakers:

Adam Ciszkowski, President of the Board, Union of Polish Local Governments, Poland

Slawomir Dudek, President, Institute of Public Finance, Poland

Oksana Garnets, President, Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project DESPRO, Ukraine

Tomasz Slomka, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Andrzej Wiczowski, District Governor, District Office in Ostroda, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30***Partner: Young@Forum*

Young People in Local Government – How Do They Change the Surrounding Reality?

Youth@Forum is a program that brings together leaders from the social and business community who change reality. What barriers do young people encounter when introducing changes? What challenges do their organizations face and how can local governments support the construction of civil society so that the record voter turnout, especially among young people, also translates into other areas of social life?

Moderator:

Hubert Taladaj, Chief Coordinator, Youth Parliament of the Republic of Poland, Poland

Speakers:

Damian Fiet, Owner, Pirates PR, Poland

Sofia Galaida, Councilwoman, Youth Assembly of the Western–Pomeranian Voivodeship, Poland

Krzysztof Gil, Mayor, Greboszow Commune, Poland

Robert Nowecki, Municipal Councillor, Baranow Commune Council, Poland

Izabela Rakuc–Kochaniak, President, Veolia Poland Foundation, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**17:40—18:40**

Safe Neighborhood – What Depends on the Local Government and What on the State?

In this panel, we will focus on the role of local governments in creating safe communities and the division of tasks between the state and local governments. We will discuss what actions and initiatives of local authorities can contribute to improving the safety of residents, including the use of modern technologies such as street monitoring via video cameras or tools to improve road safety. We will also look at the role of the Municipal Guard and the Volunteer Fire Department in ensuring safety and responding to crisis situations. We will focus our attention on aspects related to crisis management, community education, the environment and inter-sectoral cooperation. We want to find practical solutions that will allow us to build safe and friendly neighborhoods.

Moderator:

Anna Banasik, Editor-in-Chief, PAP Self-Government Service, Poland

Speakers:

Janusz Chelchowski, Professor, Wyższa Szkoła Policji w Szczytnie, Poland

Paweł Rybicki, President of the Board, European Forensic Initiative Centre (EFIC) Foundation, Poland

Roman Smogorzewski, Mayor, City of Legionowo, Poland

Arkadiusz Sylwestrzak, 1st Deputy Regional Police Commander in Olsztyn, Komenda Wojewódzka Policji w Olsztynie, Poland

Maciej Wosko, Editor-in-Chief, Gazeta Bankowa, Poland

Cohesion Policy – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

European funds are a powerful tool for strengthening the cohesion of social, economic and territorial development of the European Union's regions. The purpose of cohesion policy is to reduce disparities between regions, to promote balanced and sustainable development. The questions raised during the discussion will range from the stage of Poland's preparation for the adoption of EU support, opportunities that the funds entail and examples of good practices regarding the implementation of cohesion policy programs in other countries.

Moderator:

Jakub Mielczarek, Director, The Union of the Provinces of the Republic of Poland, Poland

Speakers:

Malgorzata Jarosinska-Jedynak, "Rzeszów-Jasionka" Airport Ltd., Vicepresident, Poland

Marek Opiola, Member, European Court of Auditors, Luxembourg

Miron Sycz, Deputy Marshal, Marshal's Office of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Region, Poland

Francesco Tufarelli, General Director, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Department of European Policies, Italy

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—11:35

Stories of Success – Wojciech Bakun

Guest:

Wojciech Bakun, Mayor, City of Przemyśl, Poland

Host:

Angelika Swoboda, Editor, gazeta.pl, Poland

What Investments Can Local Governments Afford Today?

Only bold and modern investments affect the real development of the region and the lives of its residents. A very big challenge, both for the government and local administrations, is therefore to improve the conditions that foster such initiatives. How can a good investment climate be created now? How important is cooperation between the government and local governments in the implementation of pro-development investments?

Moderator:

Jacek Sierak, Head in Department of Local Government Economy and Financing, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Wojciech Bakun, Mayor, City of Przemyśl, Poland

Grzegorz Czarnocki, President, Regional Chamber of Audit in Opole, Poland

Artur Koziol, Mayor, City Hall and Municipality of Wieliczka, Poland

Malgorzata Pachecka, Mayor, Michalowice Commune, Poland

Tadeusz Truskolaski, Mayor, Municipal Office in Białystok, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

The Role of Local Government in the Education Process. Challenges, Expectations, Real Opportunities – part II

According to the law, local authorities – municipal or district – are responsible for ensuring the conditions for the implementation of educational activities. The local government supports educational institutions in the organisation of the educational process, but – according to NIK's research – it struggles to provide adequate teaching staff and lacks funds for building investments. The educational subsidy is not sufficient to cover all costs incurred by the local government.

Presentation

Funding Modern Education – Opportunities and Challenges

Host:

Mariusz Truszkowski, Founder, School in the Cloud
Foundation, Poland

The Role of Local Government in the Education Process. Challenges, Expectations, Real Opportunities – part II

Moderator:

Bogusław Poltorak, Professor, Vice–Dean for Academic
Programs, Wrocław University of Economics and Business,
Poland

Speakers:

Jarosław Karcz, Mayor, Wlochy District of Warsaw Office,
Poland

Marian Slimak, Managing Director, Milisystem SA, Poland

Patrycja Staniszevska, President, Chamber of Digital
Economy, Poland

Agnieszka Tomasik, Director, Complex of Secondary Schools
No. 8 in Gdańsk, Poland

Jacek Jerzy Tomczak, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economic
Development and Technology, Poland

Mariusz Truszkowski, Founder, School in the Cloud
Foundation, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Sport as Advertisement – Is It Profitable? – part II

How does the development of sports and successes in this field influence regional promotion and development? One of the local government's tasks is preserving the habitants' health and promotion of healthy lifestyle, however some local governments are investing in professional sports, which sometimes causes mass protests against large investments in professional sports associations in the region. Should these really be treated as an irreparable loss to the local community, or rather as a long-term opportunity for promotion, creating new workplaces and creation of local identity?

Moderator:

Mirosław Bieniecki, President, The Butcher's Race Foundation,
Poland

Speakers:

Marcin Mozdzonek, President of the Board, Marcin
Mozdzonek Foundation, Poland

Ireneusz Ras, Secretary of State, Ministry of Sport and Tourism,
Poland

Katarzyna Rysz-Jeckowska, Member, Association of Women
at the Center, Poland

Andrzej Sitnik, Mayor, Siedlce City Council, Poland

Łukasz Wachowski, Polish Football Association, General
Secretary, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

16:30—16:50

Local Government of the Future – Konrad Fijołek

Moderator:

Michael Miguères, President, The Institute for Progress, France

Guest:

Konrad Fijolek, Mayor, City of Rzeszów, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

16:50—17:10

Partner: Venice Sustainability Foundation

Waterproof Venice: Defending a World Cultural Heritage from Sea Level Rise

Host:

Alessandro Costa, General Director, Venice Sustainability Foundation, Italy

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

Forms of Citizen Participation in Local Governments

Citizen participation in society is widely recognised as a desirable phenomenon. Local governments and regions seem to be an perfect sphere of activity for the ordinary citizen. People understand the problems of their local communities much better than central government. Often government interference is not required to solve local problems. Emerging associations and NGOs can effectively publicise important issues for residents. Interaction and association in organisations is also positive for building a sense of community and belonging to a particular group.

Moderator:

Natalia Gmurkowska, Coordinator of the Self-Government Forums of the Lubelskie Voivodeship, Foundation for Development of Local Democracy, Poland

Speakers:

Boglarka Ban-Gal, President, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government, Hungary

Beris Gwynne, Founder/Lead Facilitator, Incitare International, Switzerland

Grazyna Kluge, Deputy Chairman, Warmian-Masurian Regional Assembly, Poland

Justyna Weber, Deputy, City of Munich, Germany

Lukasz Zamecki, Lecturer, University of Warsaw, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35**

Zoos, Aquariums and Botanic Gardens – Good Entertainment, Education and Business

Since the dawn of human civilisation, man has tried to describe and learn about the nature around him. Animals inspire an extraordinary fascination. The variety of species, their forms and their unique lifestyles unintentionally awaken man's respect for nature. The creation of zoos and botanic gardens has proved to be an extraordinary opportunity for the wider public to learn about exotic species. In these centres, research is conducted and endangered types of creatures in the wild are rescued. Additionally, a zoo can become a thriving enterprise. Entertainment, education or business – which activity is most important? What is the role of local government in the development of these facilities?

Speakers:

Liudmyla Denysenko, Director, Lutsk Zoo, Ukraine

Janos Deri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Bird Hospital
Foundation, Hungary

Myfanwy Griffith, Executive Director, EAZA, United Kingdom

Karol Michalik, Member, Confederation of Freedom and
Independence, Poland

Emilia Salach, Director, Gdańsk Zoo, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**12:45—13:45***Partner: Migration Studies Institute*

Strength in the network – about the network of Foreigners Integration Centres

The idea of creating integration centres for foreigners was based on a project implemented by the Department of Social Assistance and Integration at the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Policy. This concept was created on the basis of inspirations taken primarily from Portugal, but also from the Czech Republic. The Centre for the Integration of Foreigners is a place where foreigners can find comprehensive support related to issues related to their stay in Poland from a legal or administrative point of view, but also obtain the necessary information on their rights and obligations or where they can receive educational, health or professional assistance. Foreigners in the Foreigners Integration Centres should also be able to find an answer to their integration needs related to social integration. What are the benefits of cross-linking? Or maybe the experiences of organizations that work by networking their facilities are different?

Moderator:

Mirosław Bieniecki, President, The Butcher's Race Foundation, Poland

Speakers:

Michał Korzeniowski, Head of the Migrant and Refugee Assistance Department at Caritas Poland, Caritas Poland, Poland

Igor Lisin, Vice-President of the Board, Foundation Ukraine, Ukraine

Bartłomiej Potocki, Expert, Ministerstwo Rodziny, Pracy i Polityki Społecznej, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10**

City of the Future – Development Scenarios in Urban and Social Aspects – part II

In recent years, there has been a proliferation of concepts aimed at creating modern, resident-friendly cities. Dynamic shifts in how people perceive work and leisure activities are evident, alongside a redefinition of residents' needs. They seek comfortable living environments that offer proximity to amenities while being surrounded by green spaces conducive to relaxation.

Will these changes precipitate a surge in progressive suburbanization, or can future city authorities adapt to resident needs and forestall depopulation by cultivating work and recreational environments aligned with sustainable development principles? What shape will the city of the future take, and what measures can we implement to ensure its residents enjoy a high quality of life and comfort?

Moderator:

Ewelina Szczech-Pietkiewicz, Head of the Department of the European Union, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Serghei Anastasov, Mayor, Comrat City Hall, Republic of Moldova

Jordi Bosch Meda, Deputy Director General of Urban Housing and Rehabilitation, Government of Catalonia, Spain

Piotr Gasiorowski, Member of the Board, Stowarzyszenie Polska 2050, Poland

Piotr Grzymowicz, Mayor, City of Olsztyn, Poland

Laszlo Szunyogh, Chief Architect, City of Miskolc, Hungary

The Role of Regional Financial Institutions in Building the Capital Strength of the Region

Currently there is a two-tier system of financial institutions supporting regional development. At the national level are BGK and Polish Development Fund, and at the regional level the Regional Development Funds mainly perform this function. As financial institutions they reduce the inefficiencies of the financial market, while as local government companies they serve to support the development and stabilization of SMEs, urban development, energy efficiency projects or innovation, including start-ups. What problems arise from a mixed system? How do financial institutions function in Poland versus abroad? What are the benefits of RDF for local governments at different levels?

Moderator:

Dariusz Adamski, Director, Institute of Finance, Poland

Speakers:

Andrei Carabelea, Mayor, Municipality Piatra Neamt, Romania

Damian Grzelka, Chairman, National Council of Regional Chambers of Audits, Poland

Ales Ipavec, President of the Management Board, Ljubljana Stock Exchange, Slovenia

Robert Koszut, President of the Board, Lower Silesia Development Fund Ltd., Poland

Maciej Wejman, President of the Board, Regional Development Fund for the Lodz Region, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30**

Local Patriotism – Is it Necessary and What Does It Offer To Us?

During the panel we will consider the importance of local patriotism and its role in contemporary communities. We will discuss the benefits that local patriotism can bring in the context of building social bonds, developing the regional economy and promoting cultural heritage. Can local patriotism strengthen European integration? What initiatives, projects and programs promoting local patriotism have proven to be the most effective in different parts of Europe? How can local patriotism be reconciled with global challenges such as migration, climate change and the global economy?

Moderator:

Damian Pilat, Chairman of the Alumni Club (School of Leadership of the Freedom Institute), The Institute for Liberty, Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Bosak, Deputy Marshal of the Sejm, Confederation of Freedom and Independence, Poland

Igor Tsependa, Rector, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, Ukraine

Karol Nawrocki, President, Institute of National Remembrance, Poland

Piotr Zgorzelski, Deputy Speaker, Sejm, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**17:40—18:40***Partner: New Europeans International*

Participatory Budget – a Real Instrument for Citizens to Shape the Urban Space?

The growing awareness of residents in shaping the immediate surroundings and living conditions in their town goes hand in hand with new instruments that enable their direct participation in creating and sharing responsibility for the appearance, functionality and aesthetics of the space in which we live and operate. Is this also an opportunity for greater inclusion of young people in decision-making processes at the local level?

Moderator:

Katarzyna Iwanicka, Project Manager, The Institute for Liberty, Poland

Speakers:

Artur Buszek, Vice-Chairman of the Council, Krakow City Council, Poland

Bent Noerby Bonde, Secretary General, Europe's People's Forum, Denmark

Willie Sullivan, Senior Director, Electoral Reform Society, United Kingdom

Kacper Wieczorkowski, Project Coordinator, The Youth for Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Poland

Dorota Zbikowska, Member, Association of Women at the Center, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**10:10—11:10**

Climate Crisis: Global Challenges, Local Solutions

Wildfires, hurricanes, diseases spreading across borders, limited availability of water and other vital resources... As the impact of climate crisis intensifies, it becomes crucial that local and regional authorities develop effective strategies to protect their citizens. How can local governors contribute to building sustainable futures? The responses might range from investing in resilient infrastructure to enhancing community engagement to promoting sustainable practices, such as circular economy. The discussion will focus on biggest challenges and innovative approaches in the face of climate change.

Moderator:

Dorota Niedziolka, Head of the Department of Economic Geography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Maria Andrzejewska, General Director, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw, Poland

Luc Bouard, Chairman of the Europe Working Group, Villes de France, France

Alessandro Costa, General Director, Venice Sustainability Foundation, Italy

Emilio Torrao, Mayor, Montemor-o-Velho Municipality, Portugal

Madeleine Jonsson, Chairman of the Board of Environment and Regional Development, Västra Götaland County, Sweden

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35***Partner: RWE Renewables Poland Sp. z o.o.*

Investment Attractiveness – How to Create It and How Do Leaders Cooperate with Business?

Building investment attractiveness is a multi-year process, with the Warsaw and Katowice agglomerations being the most popular. Among the smaller centers, these are Tarnowo Podgórne and Masłowice. How can local government units shape a favorable investment climate, e.g. through special economic zones. In the light of the depletion and limitation of development reserves for large centers, well-connected smaller units will be crucial – how can they build their competitiveness and attract investors, and what are the best examples of cooperation between business and local administration?

Presentation

Experience and Plans for Wind Energy in Poland, Preparation of Investments in Cooperation with Local Government

Host:

Jakub Kulik, Project Manager, RWE Renewables Poland
Sp. z o.o., Poland

Discussion Panel

Investment Attractiveness – How to Create It and How Do Leaders Cooperate with Business?

Moderator:

Joanna Zukowska, Deputy Director in Institute of Enterprise,
SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Marcin Chludzinski, Były Prezes Zarządu Gaz System
(2022–2024), Poland

Bartosz Gawkowski, Vice–chairman in Masovian Voivodeship,
New Left, Poland

Andriy Karaush, Head, Rivne Regional Council, Ukraine

Krzysztof Klimosz, Member of the Regional Board, Silesian
Region Marshal's Office, Poland

Aleksandra Szczygiel, Vice–President, Impulse Foundation of
Youth, Poland

Piotr Wojtyczka, President of the Board, Wałbrzych Special
Economic Zone "INVEST–PARK", Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10**

Partners: Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA)

*Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation
Romania–Ukraine*

International Cooperation Among Local Governments – Stagnation or New Opportunities?

One of the competences of local government units is to maintain relations with foreign partners. The institution of twinning cities and regions is very common. However, does this form of cooperation really produce concrete positive effects for local communities? The speakers will attempt to exchange views on the subject and offer their own comments.

Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Romania–Ukraine

Moderator:

Urs Unkauf, Federal Managing Director, Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA), Germany

Speakers:

Igor Babaian, Expert, Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Romania–Ukraine, Romania

Mihai Chirica, Mayor, Iasi Town Hall, Romania

Luiza Hoxhaj, Executive Director, Centre for European Policy Studies Local and Regional Development, Albania

Jacek Piechota, President, Polish–Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, Poland

Serhii Tatusiak, Chairman, Euroregion Dnister, Ukraine

Arkadiusz Zukowski, Professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Partner: Foundation Ukraine

Refugees from Ukraine in European Cities – Exploiting Economic Potential and Promoting Integration

War in Ukraine has caused a migration crisis on an unprecedented scale and dynamics. Although many have chosen to return home after the front lines have stabilized, a significant number remain abroad and redefine traditional understandings of “refugee” and diaspora status. Recognizing the strength, resilience, and skills of Ukrainians, this panel will focus on integration strategies in host communities while addressing the Ukrainian state’s dilemma of wanting its citizens back.

Moderator:

Oleksandr Martynyuk, Editor-in-Chief, InPoland.net, Ukraine

Speakers:

Cezar Grozavu, Executive Director, Regional Office for Cross Border Cooperation Romania–Ukraine, Romania

Marta Majewska, Mayor, Hrubieszow City Council, Poland

Aleksandra Zapolska, Founder of the Foundation, Foundation Zustricz, Poland

Artem Zozulia, Chairman of the Board, Foundation Ukraine, Ukraine

MARCH 5, 2024

16:30—17:30

Decentralization – How to Strengthen European Local Governments? – part II

Mature democracies are characterized by a high level of delegation of tasks, although the details of the solutions may differ. Local government uses the potential of the region and citizens in a better way than centrally controlled systems. What actions should the European Union and member states take in order not to waste this advantage in the form of high self-government? What types of regional cooperation and projects can be considered successful, and where should we look for opportunities to change the cooperation formula?

Moderator:

Renata Maciejczak, Print Project Coordinator, C.H.Beck Publishing, Poland

Speakers:

Grzegorz Benedykcinski, Mayor, City of Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Poland

Peter Marki-Zay, Mayor, City of Hodmezovasarhely, Hungary

Wojciech Modzelewski, Professor, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland

Ryszard Piotrowski, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Arkadiusz Radwan, Professor, Expert, Social Contract Incubator, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**17:40—18:40**

Town Twinning – an Important International Factor in Local Community Development?

Town twinning is the most visible form of European cooperation, this type of cooperation is between villages, conurbations, municipalities, provinces and cities. This can increase involvement and active participation in society, develop relationships, exchange experiences and best practices. Experts will exchange views on partnerships as a factor in community development.

Moderator:

Luiza Hoxhaj, Executive Director, Centre for European Policy Studies Local and Regional Development, Albania

Speakers:

Jerzy Bauer, Mayor, Ostrow Mazowiecka City Council, Poland

Alessandro Ingaria, Mayor, Commune of Priero, Italy

Lucija Vasiljevic, Director, Regional Agency for Spatial and Economic Development of Raski and Moravicki Districts, Slovenia

MARCH 5, 2024**10:10—11:10***Partner: Czepczyński Family Foundation*

Together Against Depression: Initiatives by Local Authorities, Ministries, and NGOs for the Mental Health of the Youngest

Presentation of preventive programs that local authorities can implement in schools and communities.

Indication of the role of local government and public administration in educating society about children's mental health.

Presentation of educational programs aimed at parents, teachers, and students.

Emphasis on the importance of cooperation between different sectors such as education, healthcare, and the local community.

Highlighting the role of local government in early detection of signs of depression in children.

Discussion of local government actions aimed at creating a supportive school environment for students' mental health.

Proposals for anti-discrimination and anti-violence programs.

Emphasizing the role of community involvement in processes to counteract childhood depression.

Proposals for actions to actively engage the community in mental health initiatives.

Moderator:

Paulina Stochnialek, Member of the Board of the Wielkopolska Region, Marshal's Office of Wielkopolska Region, Poland

Speakers:

Krzysztof Klimosz, Member of the Regional Board, Silesian Region Marshal's Office, Poland

Damian Kupczyk, President of the Board, Czepczyński Family Foundation, Poland

Aleksandra Lewandowska, National Youth Mental Health Consultant, Specjalistyczny Psychiatryczny Zespół Opieki Zdrowotnej w Łodzi, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

11:20—12:35

District Health Centers – Coordinating Healthcare at the Local Level

The concept of establishing district health centers aims to create a closer connection between hospitals, primary care facilities (POZ), and outpatient specialist care (AOS). In line with the project's objectives, this approach seeks to better harness the local and organizational potential of hospitals, rationalize the number of departments and beds, and optimize the utilization of medical staff. The counties would take responsibility for both preventive measures and ensuring basic healthcare needs. What conditions are necessary for this idea to be implemented?

Moderator:

Maciej Bogucki, Director, European Centre for Healthcare Strategies and Policies, Poland

Speakers:

Rudolf Borusiewicz, Director, Association of Polish Counties, Poland

Jaroslav J. Fedorowski, President, Polish Hospital Federation, Poland

Anna Lipnicka, Vice-President, National Chamber of Laboratory Diagnosis, Poland

Waldemar Malinowski, President, Hospital Director, Nationwide Association of Employers of Poviats Hospitals, Poland

Marcin Pakulski, Deputy Director of Health Care, Provincial Specialist Hospital in Czestochowa, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10**

E-health in Poland – challenges and best practices

The recent years have been revolutionary for the e-services sector in healthcare. E-prescriptions and electronic medical certificates are now a common standard. With such strong development of e-services, securing transmitted data is also essential. What other directions of e-health development await us in the near future? How to translate systemic assumptions into actions of individual facilities? What does the implementation of these solutions look like in practice? What do medical facilities need?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Jakubiak, CEO, Modern Healthcare Institute, Poland

Speakers:

Edyta Bielak-Jomaa, Member of the Board, Warsaw New Tech University Foundation, Poland

Mateusz Madry, Partner, Head of Life Sciences Practice, Domański Zakrzewski Palinka sp.k., Poland

Paweł Potkowski, Chief Communication Officer, MIGAM S.A., Poland

Marek Witulski, Head of Diagnostic Imaging i Advanced Therapies, Siemens Healthcare, Poland

Tomasz Zielinski, Vice-President, Federation of the Unions of Health Care Employers, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

15:20—16:20

Health Care outside Agglomerations. Increasing Quality, Preventing Exclusion

During the discussion, we will focus on the challenges related to health care in small localities. We will explore ways in which local communities can prevent exclusion from access to appropriate health care. We will discuss the current situation with doctors, medical infrastructure and health education in small towns and villages. What steps should be taken to ensure equal access to health care for all residents, regardless of the size of the locality?

Moderator:

Ewa Baldyga, Journalist, politykazdrowotna.com, Poland

Speakers:

Ihor Guschuk, Professor, Head of Public Health Department,
National University "Ostroh Academy", Ukraine

Wiesława Rybicka-Bogusz, President of Mazovia Region,
Association of Women at the Center, Poland

Zdzisław Sabillo, CEO, Pharma Business Administration
Consultancy, Poland

Krzysztof Zochowski, Vice-President, Nationwide Association
of Employers of Poviats Hospitals, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30**

Demographic Changes and Health Challenges

Demographic changes, including an aging population, pose new and growing challenges to healthcare systems, both in terms of healthcare access and the prevention and management of chronic conditions. According to the National Health Fund (NFZ) data, the cost of treating patients aged 55–65 has decreased, but the cost of treating patients aged 70 and older is on the rise. How are local governments preparing for the aging population and the associated increased demand for healthcare? To what extent have the mechanisms proposed in the law on specialized geriatric care proven helpful?

Moderator:

Andrzej Fal, Professor, National Medical Institute of the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, Poland

Speakers:

Tomasz Hryniewiecki, Plenipotentiary of the Ministry of Health for the National Program of Cardiovascular Diseases, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński National Institute of Cardiology, PIB, Poland

Johann Ilgenfritz, CEO, Founder, UK Health Radio Network, United Kingdom

Tomasz Latos, University Hospital, Former MP, Health Committee Chairman, Poland

Barbara Socha, Economist, Politician, Manager, Poland

Marek Tombarkiewicz, National Institute of Geriatrics, Rheumatology and Rehabilitation, Director, Poland

Gertruda Uscinska, Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

Closest to Those in Need and Their Problems. Activities of Non-governmental Organizations – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – part II

Non-governmental organizations help face the challenges of the modern world. Environmental devastation and climate threats, poverty and social exclusion, as well as the war in Ukraine and the refugee crisis have become a test of the capabilities and activity of civil society. Being close to local communities, NGOs can respond to key problems and challenges, involving the region's inhabitants in solving them. What are the sources of success of the effectiveness of third sector organizations operating at the local level?

Moderator:

Kacper Parol, President, Impulse Foundation of Youth, Poland

Speakers:

Monika Drobinska, President of the Board, Responsible for Dreams Foundation, Poland

Paweł Kaczmarczyk, Development and Partnerships Director, Czepczyński Family Foundation, Poland

Zofia Kwolek, Head of External Relations, Polish Centre for International Aid, Poland

Adriana Porowska, President of the Board, Kamiliańska Misja Pomocy Społecznej, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**10:10—11:10**

Hydrogen the Fuel of the Future

Photovoltaics have grown rapidly in recent years. Will we bet on hydrogen in the next few years? What are the possibilities for its use, and should hydrogen be in the area of investor interest? According to European Union estimates, by 2030 the development of the hydrogen fuel production sector will create 10,000 jobs for every billion euros invested. However, the realization of hydrogen production goals will not be possible without the support of state bodies and local governments.

Moderator:

Krzysztof Ksiezopolski, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Jacek Bogusławski, Member of the Board, Wielkopolska Region, Marshal's Office of Wielkopolska Region, Poland

Henryk Borczyk, Vice-President of Board, Metropolis GZM, Poland

Jacek Gliniak, CEO, hiPower Energy, Poland

Andrzej Wegrzyn, Vice President, Lower Silesian Hydrogen Valley Association, Poland

Ireneusz Zyska, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35***Partner: Foundation 2.0*

Local Energy Dilemmas – How to Ensure Security, Resilience and Sustainable Development in Difficult Times – part II

European countries faced an unprecedented energy crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the same time, climate change requires quick and effective solutions that could strengthen the resilience of the energy system and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources. To what extent do current energy challenges change the conditions for the safe and uninterrupted operation of public goods, security and resilience of modern societies, including at the regional and local level?

Moderator:

Szymon Machalica, Leading Editor, Global Market Zone,
Poland

Speakers:

Wojciech Bryczek, Representative of the Foundation,
Foundation Trading Jam, Poland

Michał Gawel, President of the Board, Foundation 2.0, Poland

Jakub Glowacz, Managing Lawyer, GPKP, Poland

Piotr Maciazek, Managing Editor, In the Green Zone, Poland

Miłosz Motyka, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Climate
and Environment, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**12:45—13:45**

Why Is It Important to Support Local Producers? – part II

Local producers help to create jobs, develop infrastructure, diversify the economy and reduce dependence on imports. In the last few years, the economy has been hit hard by the crises we have faced and are still facing, and many local producers have had to leave the business. How important is it and what measures should be taken to support local producers and their products as effectively as possible?

Moderator:

Adam Wyszynski, Editor-in-Chief, PKB24.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Marcin Bancerowski, President of the Board, DiWine Sp z o.o., Poland

Sylwia Bednarczyk-Mikuli, Deputy Director, Malopolskie Centre of Entrepreneurship, Poland

Karol Kowalewski, Dean of the Management Faculty, Wschodnioeuropejska Akademia Nauk Stosowanych w Białymstoku, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

13:55—15:10

Renewable Energy Community. Distributed, Prosumer Energy. What Should the Energy Strategy of Local Governments Look Like?

Issues related to improving air quality, energy efficiency and switching to cleaner, locally available renewable energy sources are becoming priorities for local communities. An important aspect in implementing the assumptions of a low-emission economy is the appropriate preparation of local government units and equipping them with appropriate instruments to prepare a local energy strategy. How to plan changes in the context of transformation so that they are planned and safe for local communities?

Moderator:

Alexander Paszynski, Publisher, Ecoekonomia.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Grzegorz Wisniewski, President of the Board, Institute for Renewable Energy, Poland

Iwona Arent, Deputy, Sejm, Poland

Mariusz Kostrzewa, CEO, Zeneris Projekty S.A., Poland

Grzegorz Masloch, Assistant professor in Local and Regional Development Unit, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Konrad Szpak, President of Board, Institute for Public Policy, Poland

Krzysztof Tomaszewski, Associate Professor, University of Warsaw, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**15:20—16:20**

Local Energy Dilemmas – How to Ensure Security, Resilience and Sustainable Development in Difficult Times – part II

European countries faced an unprecedented energy crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the same time, climate change requires quick and effective solutions that could strengthen the resilience of the energy system and accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources. To what extent do current energy challenges change the conditions for the safe and uninterrupted operation of public goods, security and resilience of modern societies, including at the regional and local level?

Moderator:

Urszula Jozwiak, Chairman of the Board, Foundation XBW by Ignacy Krasicki, Poland

Speakers:

Piotr Dragan, Mayor, Wisznice Commune Council, Poland

Tomasz Gackowski, President, Investment Fund Company JSC, Poland

Ryszard Niedziolka, Mayor, Ketrzyn City Hall, Poland

Tim Patterson, CEO, Economy Solution Group Limited, United Kingdom

Jakub Sokołowski, Economist, Institute for Structural Research, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30**

Campaign Barometer – Or What Interests Them in Poland?

Poland is in the middle of an electoral rollercoaster. The parliamentary elections have barely taken place and soon we will have to elect our representatives again. This time it will be our local leaders, the best executors of local interests. What are the main topics of the local government campaign and do they coincide with voters' needs? Who do representatives of particular social groups intend to vote for in the upcoming elections and why?

Moderator:

Joanna Sawicka, Political Analyst, Polityka Insight, Poland

Speakers:

Mikolaj Czesnik, Professor, SWPS University, Poland

Michal Kolanko, Journalist, Rzeczpospolita, Poland

Ewa Marciniak, General Director, The Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS), Poland

Tomasz Owsianik, Chairman of the 35th district, Confederation of the Polish Crown, Poland

Lukasz Pawlowski, CEO, OGB, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**17:40—18:40**

The Wind for Local Governments. Change in the Provisions of Act 10H and the Impact on Investors

Is the amendment to the regulations regarding Rule 10H beneficial for the development of onshore wind farms? Have the long-term struggles of stakeholders and investors to liberalize the 10H rule been successful and will finally bring results? What makes the amendment easier and what makes it more difficult? Do we have a chance to unlock the investment? Can we already talk about an investment boom at the municipal level?

Moderator:

Krzysztof Jan Stawnicki, Deputy Director, The State Water Holding Polish Waters, Regional Water Management Authority in Białystok, Poland

Speakers:

Piotr Czopek, Regulatory Director, Polish Wind Energy Association (PWEA), Poland

Wojciech Kukuła, Senior Lawyer, Expert, ClientEarth, Poland

Dorota Niedziolka, Head of the Department of Economic Geography, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Jan Ruszkowski, Expert in the Department of Energy and Climate Change, Confederation Lewiatan, Poland

Adam Wyszynski, Editor-in-Chief, PKB24.pl, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

10:10—11:10

Partner: *National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Firstly, the Environment. Good Practices for Restoring Biodiversity at the Local Level

The assumptions of the EU Green Deal are to lead to climate neutrality in Europe. One of the areas where significant changes will take place is the protection and restoration of biodiversity. Many local authorities understand their impact on nature, as well as their level of dependence on it. To protect it, various programs are being implemented regarding the method of land use, the approach to the design of public places and the functioning of transport. Solutions that have a positive impact on increasing biodiversity are becoming crucial, so it is worth talking about them.

Moderator:

Szymon Sikorski, Plenipotentiary, University of Agriculture in Cracow, Poland

Speakers:

Karolina Gorska, ZPR Media, Super Eco Business Project Manager, Poland

TIME S.A., Head of the Super Biznes EKO Project

Katarina Hazuchova, Independent Environmental Analyst, GPoT, SIOV, Aldesa, Slovakia

Maria Krawczynska-Kaczmarek, General Director, Responsible Business Forum, Poland

Esa Nikunen, Director General of Environment Services of Helsinki, City of Helsinki, Finland

Ewelina Niznik, Ekosystem sp. z o.o., Vice President of the Board, Poland

Jerzy Ostrouch, Chairman of the Board, Multidisciplinary Provincial Hospital in Gorzów Wlkp., Poland

Patrycja Satora, Vice-President of the Board, Institute of Public Finance, Poland

Sylwester Tabor, University of Agriculture in Cracow, Rector, Poland

Piotr Zielinski, Professor, University of Bialystok, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**11:20—12:35**

Partner: *National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Smog – Or the Growing Problem of Dirty Air

As many as 80 % of people living in European cities breathe air that does not meet the standards set by the WHO. According to estimates, 45,000 people die every year in Poland as a result of air pollution. Smog is associated with urban phenomena – despite widespread opinion, the problem also affects rural areas. What measures need to be taken to reduce air pollution? Are we doing enough?

Talk

Stories of Success – Adam Pawlicki

Guest:

Adam Pawlicki, Mayor, Jarocin City Council, Poland

Discussion Panel

Smog – Or the Growing Problem of Dirty Air

Moderator:

Marek Golen, Head of Postgraduate Studies in Waste Management, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Speakers:

Pawel Augustyn, National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Poland

Szymon Duman, Mayor, Stryszow Commune Council, Poland

Anna Hetman, Mayor, City Hall in Jastrzebie-Zdroj, Poland

Anna Krysztopik, Director of Environmental Protection Department, Podlaskie Region's Marshal's Office, Poland

Dominika Mucha, Vice-President of Board, European Clean Air Centre, Poland

Marcin Podgorski, Director Department of Waste Management, Integrated and Water Permits, Mazowieckie Region's Marshal's Office, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**13:55—15:10****Partner:** *National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Return of Plastic Bottles for a Deposit – Positive Examples of Recycling

Plastic is becoming a serious problem for the world's ecology. Compulsory waste sorting works to some extent, but so far it has not been possible to achieve a level of good recycling that does not involve, for example, mixing plastic with paper or glass. A solution that could bring positive effects in recycling could be the introduction of a deposit return system for plastic bottles, which could help reduce the growing mountain of plastic waste and could act as a motivator. Similar examples are already in operation or are being introduced in various EU countries. By throwing a plastic bottle into the recycling machine instead of into the garbage, you can get a receipt that you can present at the checkout and thus pay less for your purchases. This system could result in better recycling rates, motivate people to separate waste and reduce the amount of plastic in the oceans. What are the pros and cons of this solution?

Talk

Stories of Success – Andrzej Czernecki

Guest:

Andrzej Czernecki, Chairman of the Board, Związek Gmin
Dorzecza Wisłoki w Jaśle, Poland

Host:

Tomasz Kowalski, Editor-in-Chief, Sądeczanin.info, Poland

Discussion Panel

Return of Plastic Bottles for a Deposit – Positive Examples of Recycling

Moderator:

Agnieszka Sznyk, President of the Board, INNOWO, Poland

Speakers:

Pawel Lesiak, Vice-President of the Board, Interzero, Poland

Katarzyna Michniewska, Council Member, Polish Chamber of Waste Management (PIGO), Poland

Konrad Nowakowski, Chairman, Polish Chamber of Packaging Recovery and Recycling, Poland

Anita Palukiewicz, Partner, SSW Pragmatic Solutions, Poland

Jakub Sprusinski, Director of Product and Sales Development, T-MASTER Inc., Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**15:20—16:20****Partner:** *National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Regional Perspective on the Fight against Drought and Water Shortages

Climate changes in recent decades and years are causing more and more frequent water shortages, which are becoming more regular and severe, as well as long-term droughts and desertification of green areas. This causes socio-economic problems and an increase in the number of natural disasters such as forest fires, etc. What are currently effective and proven ways to reduce the effects, increase water supply, etc. in regions that are particularly affected by this? What positive experiences can be presented in terms of reducing impacts, increasing the water supply of cities and regions and combating water shortages?

Moderator:

Szymon Machalica, Leading Editor, Global Market Zone,
Poland

Speakers:

Rafał Bonter, Managing Director, Xylem Water Solutions Poland
Ltd, Poland

Magdalena Fuk, Chairman of the Board, Foundation for the
Protection of the Great Masurian Lakes, Poland

Wojciech Modzelewski, Expert, ClientEarth, Poland

Piotr Nieznanski, Senior Advisor to the Foundation Board,
Forum Inicjatyw Społecznych, Poland

Krzysztof Szamałek, Polish Geological Institute, National
Research Institute, Director, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024**16:30—17:30***Partner: National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management*

Unbridled Landfills – How to Solve the Waste Problem?

Starting in 2019, the burden of the obligation to remove illegal and hazardous waste sites lies with local governments. The scale of the problem is growing all the time, it is estimated that more than 500 municipalities may now be affected. Both the lack of state funding and the unclear legal definition of a “wild dump” stand in the way. Very often these are also hazardous waste, endangering the lives of residents, for the disposal of which specialized and expensive facilities are needed. Is the National Hazard Map an effective tool for landfill prevention? Where to get the funds to eliminate landfills? How to deal with waste?

Moderator:

Alexander Paszynski, Publisher, Ecoekonomia.pl, Poland

Speakers:

Michał Dąbrowski, Chairman of the Council, Polish Chamber of Waste Management (PIGO), Poland

Marek Golen, Head of Postgraduate Studies in Waste Management, SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland

Michał Góra, Alfavox Software, CEO, Poland

Przemysław Gorski, Mayor, Jabłonowo Pomorskie City Council, Poland

Ryszard Listwan, Head of the Air Protection Section, The Polish Ecological Club, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

17:40—18:40

Partner: Holcim Poland

What Problems in Polish Cities Can be Solved Through Sustainable Construction?

Studies show that 40% of energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union are generated by buildings, which does not include emissions from producing the construction materials, construction, renovation, and demolition. This means there is significant potential for reducing CO2 emissions due to buildings. By 2030, it is planned to make five Polish cities – Krakow, Lodz, Rzeszow, Warsaw, and Wroclaw – into innovation centres implementing the EU Mission: Climate–Neutral and Smart Cities. Carrying out the Mission would involve a profound transformation of cities, including the decarbonisation of buildings and the creation of new sustainable infrastructure. Increasing material efficiency by accelerating thermal modernisation and recycling building materials alone would have an impact of reducing CO2 emissions by 80%, which is why the role of the construction sector may prove to be a key element in achieving climate neutrality.

Moderator:

Urszula Jozwiak, Chairman of the Board, Foundation XBW by Ignacy Krasicki, Poland

Speakers:

Justyna Glusman, Renovation Wave Association, Executive Director, Poland

Karol Nieradka, Maxberg sp. z o.o., President of the Board, Poland

Mateusz Piotrowski, Holcim Poland, Member of the Board, Poland

MARCH 5, 2024

20:00—00:00

Gala of the 2nd Day of the 9th European
Congress of Local Governments

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