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## Conference ‘The European way of growth: A growth policy for a secure, resilient and globally competitive European Union’

The conference ‘The European way of growth’ will discuss the effects to date and future challenges of cohesion policy, including its impact on the security and socio-economic transformation of the European Union.

Cracow, ICE Kraków Congress Centre, January 30-31, 2025

### Program

First day – January 30, 2025

Host: Marcin Mańka

09:30 –  
10:00

Keynote lecture

- Szymon Hołownia, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland (tbc).

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10:00 – 11:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz, Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland,</li><li>• Paulina Hennig-Kloska, Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland,</li><li>• Aleksander Miszański, Mayor of Krakow, Poland.</li></ul>				
11:00 – 13:00	How does the Cohesion Policy build a strong Europe? Achievements and new challenges (tbc)				
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch				
14:15 – 16:15	Parallel sessions				
	Territorial accessibility and mobility	Climate neutrality – challenges for competitiveness and growth	The social dimension of the Cohesion Policy and its transformation	Economic transition  Moderator: Krzysztof Gulda	Digital transition  Moderator: Aleksandra

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	<p>Moderator: Paweł Engel, Deputy Director of the Centre for EU Transport Projects (CUPT)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sofie Defour, Climate &amp; Freight Director of European Federation for Transport and Environment AISBL</li></ul>	<p>(session organized by the Ministry of Climate and Environment)</p> <p>Moderator: Krzysztof Bolesta, Secretary of State, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Poland</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marcin Korolec, Chairman of</li></ul>	<p>Moderator: Piotr Stronkowski, Human Capital Development Expert, European Training Foundation</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manuela Geleng, Director for Jobs and Skills, DG EMPL, European Commission</li><li>• Piotr Krasuski, Director of the</li></ul>	<p>Introductory discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wolfgang Münch, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.</li></ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michał Kobosko, Member of the</li></ul>	<p>Przegalińska, Kozminski University</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agnieszka Jankowska, President of the Council for Digitization, Executive Director Corporate and Public Affairs T-Mobile Polska</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• María del Carmen Corral Escribano, Deputy Director of Planning, TEN-T and Logistics, Ministry of Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Sustainable Mobility of Spain</li> <li>• Katrien D'Hert, Brigadier General,</li> </ul>	<p>the Board, Green Growth Institute (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diego Pavía, Chief Executive Officer, EIT InnoEnergy (tbc)</li> <li>• Agata Stańda, Member of the Management Board, Solaris Bus &amp; Coach sp. z o.o.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of the European Social Fund, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anna Mlost, Director of the Regional Development Department, Marshal's Office of the Malopolska Region, Poland</li> </ul>	<p>European Parliament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adam Mikołajczyk, Director of the Department of Regional and Spatial Development at the Marshal's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship</li> <li>• Łukasz Piekarski, Member of the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mato Njavro, Ph.D. Dean, Zagreb School of Economics and Management</li> <li>• Andrea Emilio Rizzoli, Director, Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence (IDSIA USI-SUPSI)</li> <li>• Michal Vašečka, Director,</li> </ul>
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	<p>Director of Logistics at the European Union Military Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alan Lynch, Head of Division at Strategic Transport Advisory Division, JASPERS +</li><li>• Dionizy Smoleń, expert</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kurt Vandenberghe, Director General, DG Clima</li><li>• Brookfield representative (tbc)</li><li>• Impact Clean Power Technology representative (tbc)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benedict Wauters, Director of the European Programmes unit in the Flemish Ministry of Labour and Social Economy, Belgium,</li><li>• Jan Jakub Wygnański, CEO of the Studio for Research and</li></ul>	<p>Management Board of VIGO Photonics S.A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marina Ranga, Expert of the European Commission and member of the Economic Commission for Europe within the United Nations;</li><li>• Sylvia Schwaag Serger, President of</li></ul>	<p>Bratislava Policy Institute.</p>
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	<p>at PwC Poland Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oksana Zikuna, Programme coordinator for European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, Environment at the European Commission</li></ul>		<p>Social Innovations Shipyard, Poland.</p>	<p>the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, Professor at Lund University and member of the EC Expert Group on the impact of scientific research and innovation on the economy and society.</p>	
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19:00 – 21:00	Dinner (at Stara Zajezdnia Kraków)
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Second day – January 31, 2025

Host: Marcin Mańka

9:00 –	Opening of the second day of the conference
9:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jan Szyszko, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland,</li><li>• Krzysztof Bolesła, Secretary of State at the Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland.</li></ul>
9:15 – 11:00	Territorial approach of development policies in the context of future challenges and global trends (tbc)
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 13:30	Parallel sessions

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	<p>Effective implementation of Cohesion Policy – lessons learned and recommendations for the future</p> <p>Moderator: Radosław Antoszek,  Director of the Department for Coordination of EU Funds Implementation,</p>	<p>Territorial dimension of Cohesion Policy</p> <p>Moderator: Michał Olszewski, President of the Warsaw Metropolis Association, former Deputy Mayor of the City of Warsaw (2011–2024)</p> <p>Key-note speaker: Wiktor Szydarowski, Director of European Grouping on Territorial</p>	<p>Green industrial policy as a tool for building cohesion</p> <p>(session organized by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management)</p> <p>Moderator: Radomir Matczak</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marta Babicz, Director of the External Funds</li> </ul>	<p>Think Europe, do Interreg!</p> <p>Moderator: Łukasz Cioch</p> <p>Beneficiaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soeren Bollmann, Head of the Słubice-Frankfurt Cooperation Centre and Training Office.</li> <li>• Karolina Kiwior, Manager, GOPR</li> </ul>	<p>Non-tangible benefits from the implementation of Cohesion Policy</p> <p>(session organized by the National Federation of Polish NGOs (OFOP))</p> <p>Moderator: Karolina Dreszer-Smalec, President of the National Federation of Polish NGOs.</p>
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	<p>Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Alison Hunter, Director and Senior Adviser, Economic and Public Policy Consultancy (EPPC) and</li></ul>	<p>Cooperation (ESPON EGTC).</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Thomas Kiwitt, Director Planning, Verband Region Stuttgart (ITI), Germany</li><li>Primož Kroflič, Manager of the Local Action Group The Diversity of the Countryside (CLLD), Slovenia</li></ul>	<p>Department, National Fund for Environmental Protection &amp; Water Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brooke Flanagan - Director Climate and Environment, Eurocities (tbc)</li><li>Marcin Korolec, Institute for</li></ul>	<p>FOUNDATION, SOS TO THE RESCUE. Soeren Bollmann, Head of the Stubice-Frankfurt Cooperation Centre and Training Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tomasz Stefański, Deputy Mayor of Stubice, Poland.</li></ul> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Rafał Baliński, Director of the</li></ul>	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Anna Drabarz, European Disability Forum (EDF)</li><li>Femke Gremmelprez, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST)</li><li>Carlos Mendez, Co-director of European Policies</li></ul>
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	<p>European Policy Centre (EPC), Belgium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Johannes Rossbacher, Senior Expert in EU Cohesion Policy, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry,</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• František Kubeš, Head of Department for Strategic Development and Cooperation, City of Brno (ITI), Czech Republic</li><li>• Jens Mennecke, Lower Saxony Ministry for Federal and European Affairs and Regional</li></ul>	<p>Green Economy (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jacek Truszczyński, Head of Unit; DG GROW (tbc)</li><li>• Mikel Landabaso, Director for Fair and Sustainable Economy, Joint Research Centre, European</li></ul>	<p>Territorial Cooperation Department, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hynek Böhm, University of Opole</li><li>• Nils Chresten Andersen, The Regional Municipality of Bornholm,</li></ul>	<p>Research Centre (EPRC), University of Strathclyde Glasgow, UK,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anelia Stefanova, CEE Bankwatch Network,</li><li>• Thomas Wobben, Director for Legislative Work, ECR.</li></ul>
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	<p>Regions and Water Management, Austria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emma Toledano-Laredo, Director in DG REGIO, REGIO.F Better implementation, closure and</li></ul>	<p>Development, Germany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wolfgang Münch, Deputy Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, EC</li><li>• Agnes Reiner, Deputy General Director, National Agency for Territorial Cohesion (ANCT), France</li></ul>	<p>Commission (tbc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Olena Feleniuk, Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine</li><li>• Irene McMaster, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow,</li><li>• Sławomir Tokarski, DG REGIO, Director REGIO. D.</li></ul>	
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	<p>Programme e Implementation III (tbc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Triin Tomingas, Head of Foreign Funding Unit, Ministry of Finance, Estonia</li><li>• Bernard Witkoś, Attaché in</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nuno Romão, Director of Regional Policy Unit, Cohesion and Development Agency, Portugal</li><li>• Artur Szymczyk, President of the Management Board, Lublin Metropolitan Area Association (ITI), Poland,</li></ul>			
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	the Cabinet of the Polish Member, European Court of Auditors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Małgorzata Wierzbicka, Director of Department of Supra-Regional Programmes, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland.</li></ul>			
13.30-14.00	Break				
14.00-15.30	<b>Summary panel</b> Reports from parallel panels from both days of the Conference (shadow reporters: Monika Bartosiewicz-Niziołek, Stanisław Bienias, Bartosz Ledzion, Małgorzata Kachniarz, Karol Olejniczak, Michał Wolański - all tbc).				

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	Summary discussion - conclusions on challenges for Cohesion Policy (tbc).
15.30	<b>Closing of the conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz, Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy, Poland,</li><li>• Paulina Hennig-Kloska, Minister of Climate and Environment, Poland.</li></ul>
15.40	<b>Lunch</b>
<p>The conference will be accompanied by additional events not included in the agenda, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exhibition of projects and their effects by selected beneficiaries “Deeply rooted in Cohesion” (at the ICE Kraków Congress Centre, during both days of the conference),</li><li>• Training workshops – one-day workshops organized before the conference (January 29, 2025, from 10:00 to 17:00) for a limited number of people. The workshops will be organized at the ICE Kraków Congress Centre:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Gen AI in your research team (only in Polish, limited to 30 participants)</li><li>b. Service Design workshop - a practical approach to public service design (only in Polish, limited to 30 participants)</li></ul></li></ul>	

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- c. Territorial Impact Assessment – strengthening cohesion, resilience, and competitiveness! (only in English, limited to 40 participants).
- City walking tours – January 30, after the end of the meeting, before dinner.

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