



Poznań Economic Congress

27–28 October 2025

**Post-conference
report**



**Poznań
Institute**

Poznań, November 2025



Main Partners of the Poznań Economic Congress 2025:



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CONSERVATIVES
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Poznań Economic Congress 2025 in numbers

Congress 2025

2 days
5 stages
5 Congress zones
28 media outlets
46 partners
62 panel discussions
215 speakers
2000 participants

Congress 2024

2 days
35 panel discussions
39 partners
100 volunteers
230 speakers
1700+ participants

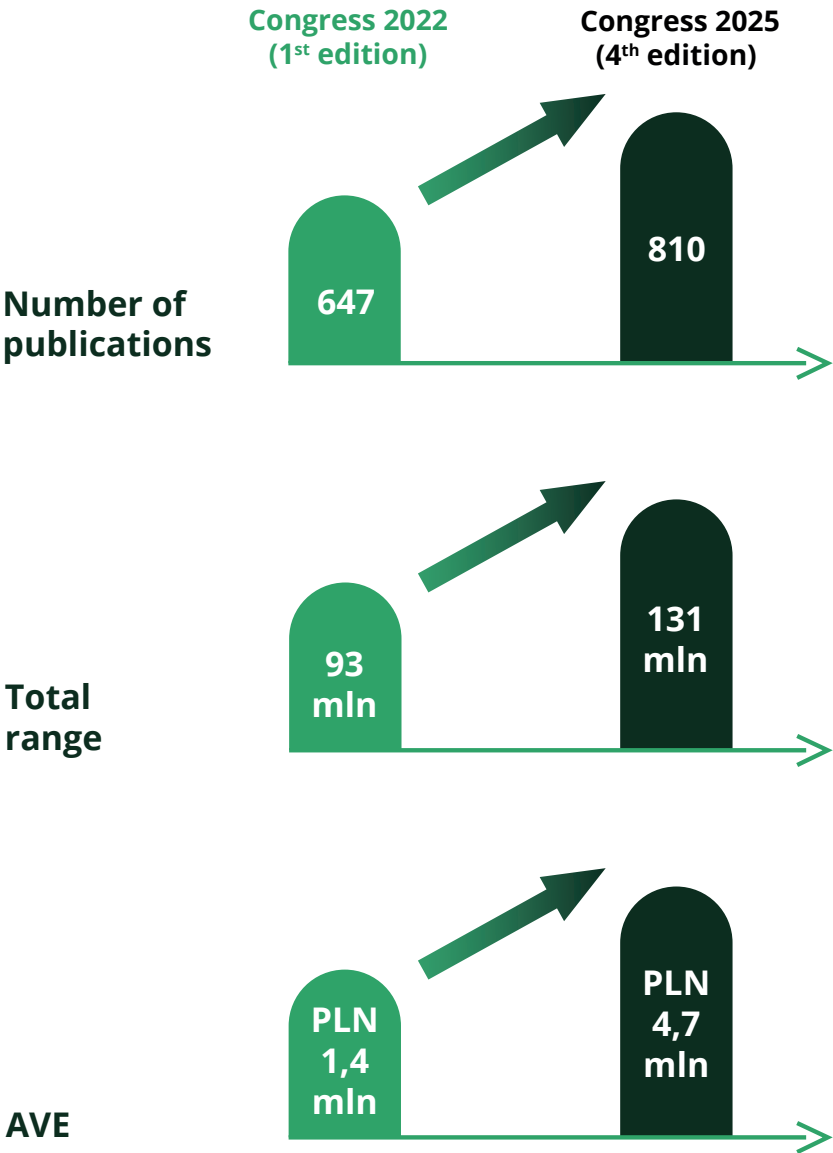
Congress 2023

2 days
30 panel discussions
50 partners
70 volunteers
150 speakers
1400+ participants

Congress 2022

2 days
26 panel discussions
48 partners
50 volunteers
120 speakers
900+ participants

Media coverage



Source: Press-Service Media Monitoring



Selected Poznań Economic Congress 2025 Speakers

Special guests



Karol Nawrocki



Szymon Hołownia



Mateusz Morawiecki

Ministers, MPs, MEPs



Karol Rabenda



Adam Andruszkiewicz



Marcin Przydacz



Michał Gramatyka



Władysław Bartoszewski



Krzysztof Cieciora



Marcin Ociepa



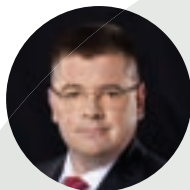
Paulina Matysiak



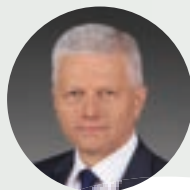
Marcin Horała



Szymon Szynkowski vel Sęk



Tomasz Rzymkowski



Andrzej Grzyb



Michał Dworczyk



Anna Bryłka



Marlena Małąg

Public opinion leaders, experts, researchers and journalists



**Pavel
Latushka**



**Drilon S.
Gashi**



**Anastase
Shyaka**



**Mateusz
Łakomy**



**Jarosław
Ćwiek-Karpowicz**



**Marek
Budzisz**



**Jan
Śpiewak**



**Marcin
Święcicki**



**Karol
Trammer**



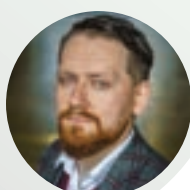
**Rafał
Ziemkiewicz**



**Marcin
Duma**



**Łukasz
Pawłowski**



**Marcin
Giełzak**



**Jakub
Dymek**



**Jacek
Prusinowski**



**Jarosław
Kuisz**



**Piotr
Trudnowski**



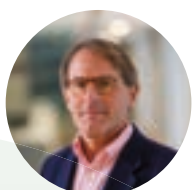
**Małgorzata
Samojedny**



**Kacper
Kita**



**Marek
Magierowski**



**Matthew
Boyse**



**Paweł
Śliwiński**



**Raphael
Minder**



**Artur
Soboń**



**Rafał
Woś**



**Jacek
Raubo**



**Wojciech
Stramski**



**Marta
Mikliszańska**



**Piotr
Arak**




**Marian
Gorynia**

Participants' opinions and conclusions from post-congress surveys

A week after the Poznań Economic Congress ended, we conducted an evaluation survey among the event participants. Its purpose was to gather opinions, conclusions and suggestions regarding the organisation, programme and overall reception of the Congress. The survey allowed us to learn about the participants' expectations and their experiences with individual elements of the programme, such as discussion panels, workshops and the networking part. The survey results are a valuable source of information for us, confirming the high level of satisfaction with participation in the event and, at the same time, indicating directions for further development of the Congress formula in subsequent editions.

This year's Poznań Economic Congress attracted a wide range of participants, more than half of whom (56.8%) were attending the event for the first time. These figures show that the Congress is successfully attracting new audiences and expanding its reach in the economic, academic and local government communities. The main motivation for participants was to take part in discussion panels (58.8%) and to establish contacts with other participants (46.2%), which confirms that the PEC has become not only a platform for knowledge exchange, but also a space for effective networking.





90,0% of 2025 Congress' participants rate the organisation of the Congress (very) highly

83,2% of 2025 Congress' participants declare that the Congress met their expectations

84,7% of 2025 Congress' participants declare that they will take part in the next edition

The survey results clearly indicate that the strongest point of the Congress remains the discussion panels – this was indicated by 65.5% of respondents. As many as 87.5% of participants found the selection of panel topics interesting, with discussions on demography and artificial intelligence, as well as fireside chats with Minister Paweł Szefernaker and Łukasz Pawłowski (President of the National Research Group), receiving particular praise. The thematic workshops were also very positively evaluated – 90.6% of participants considered them valuable and useful in professional practice.

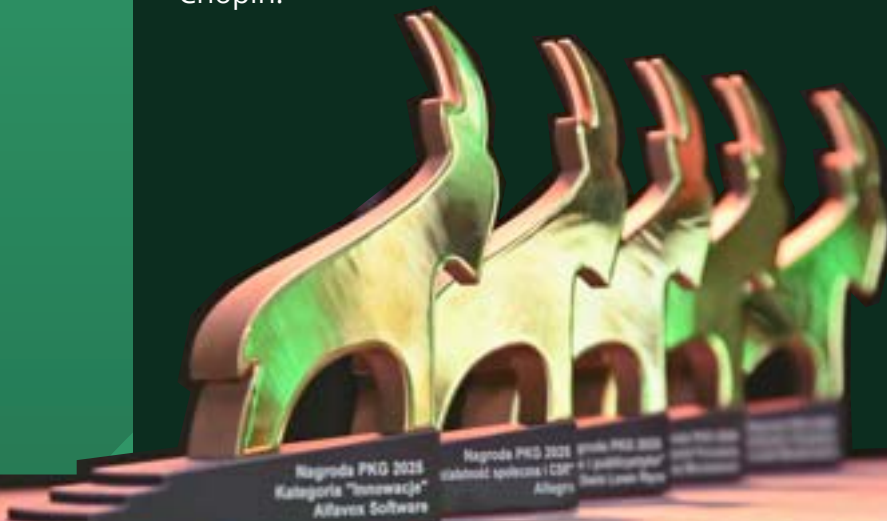
The organisation of the event was rated equally highly – 90% of participants considered it good or very good, and almost all (95.8%) emphasised the simplicity and transparency of the registration process. The congress met the expectations of 83.2% of respondents, and 84.7% declared their willingness to participate in the next edition. The positive image of the event is also reinforced by the fact that 83% of participants plan to recommend PEC to their friends and colleagues, which indicates a high level of satisfaction and loyalty among participants.

It is worth noting that more than half of the respondents participated in both days of the event, which proves the attractiveness of the entire programme and the high level of engagement of the community in the dialogue on the future of the region's and country's economy.

PEC 2025 Awards Poznań Economic Congress awards ceremony

The first day of the Poznań Economic Congress culminated in a formal PEC awards gala, which took place during an evening banquet. In an atmosphere of casual conversation and networking, individuals and institutions particularly deserving of recognition for their contribution to economic development, innovation and the promotion of Poznań were honoured. The awards were presented in several categories, highlighting the diversity of commitment - from technological projects, through social activities, to contributions to building the image of the city and the region.

In the 'Innovation' category, **Alfavox Software** was recognised for its dynamic development of technological solutions. The award in the 'Social Activity and CSR' category went to **Allegro**, recognised for its active participation in social projects and corporate social responsibility. In the newly created category of 'Media and Journalism,' the creators of the podcast Dwie Lewe Ręce (**Two Left Hands**) - Jakub Dymek and Marcin Giełzak - were awarded for popularising the debate on the economy and new development trends. The title of 'Friend of Poznań' went to Prime Minister **Mateusz Morawiecki**, and **Małgorzata Musierowicz**, one of the most recognisable authors associated with the city, became the 'Ambassador of Poznań'. The evening was graced by the presence of **Krzysztof Wierciński**, a participant in this year's International Chopin Competition, who performed several well-known compositions by Fryderyk Chopin.





Speech by Karol Nawrocki, President of the Republic of Poland, opening the PEC 2025

President Karol Nawrocki, opening the Poznań Economic Congress, emphasised that the event is a unique platform for strategic debate on the future of Poland, going beyond current political disputes and short election cycles. He noted that the PEC brings together representatives of business, public institutions and non-governmental organisations, creating a space for dialogue on Poland's *raison d'état* and the long-term interests of the state.

The President also referred to the traditions and cultural specificity of Poznań and Greater Poland, pointing out that the ethos of organic work, entrepreneurship, responsibility and attachment to state institutions constitute a natural foundation for the implementation of ambitious nationwide projects. He recalled historical examples, such as the Greater Poland Uprising, emphasising the importance of pragmatism and reliability in building long-term solutions.

Later in his speech, the President presented his assessment of the contemporary economy, emphasising Poland's success over the last 35 years and its position as the 20th largest economy in the world, while also drawing attention to the risk of the 'middle-income trap'. He pointed to the need for intellectual courage and investment in strategic pro-development projects, including the Central Communication Port and the development of seaports and waterways. He stressed that economic activity must be based on the good of the human person, and that the state and the market should serve citizens, assessing development and legislative decisions through the prism of their impact on society.

The President concluded his speech by saying that the foundation of all economic activity must remain people and their welfare, as John Paul II reminded us in his encyclical *Centesimus annus*. President Karol Nawrocki emphasised that both the state and the market have a duty to serve citizens, and that all development and legislative decisions should be assessed through this prism.



Speech by Szymon Hołownia, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland

Opening the first day of the Congress, Szymon Hołownia, Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, emphasised that Poland and the world are undergoing a period of profound generational change, characterised by overlapping geopolitical, economic, social and demographic challenges, creating a 'poly-crisis' that requires long-term and responsible leadership. He noted that **Poland has the potential to play a significant international role**, which is gaining increasing recognition from global partners, and called for a focus on the country's achievements and strategic position rather than internal disputes.

The Marshal emphasised the need for a new way of thinking about geopolitics, not only in the East-West perspective, but above all in the **North-South** perspective, pointing to the growing role of the **Three Seas Initiative** and the **Nordic-Baltic community** as pillars of security and development in the region. He noted that Poland faces a historic opportunity to build strategic advantages in defence, energy and innovation, and that lasting international cooperation should be based on shared values and decisions assessed through the **prism of future generations**.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki's speech opening the second day of the Congress

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, opening the second day of the Congress, presented his diagnosis of the new geopolitical and economic era, pointing out that the existing paradigms – from the Washington Consensus to liberal globalisation – had been exhausted and **that the global balance of power had changed irreversibly**. He emphasised the need to redefine Poland's strategy in the EU and in its relations with the superpowers, and to develop its own responses to the challenges of competition, geopolitical pressure and economic transformation.

The Prime Minister drew attention to the crisis of the three pillars of the EU – values, redistribution and regulation – and pointed to 'structural political violence' favouring richer countries. He advocated a **'multi-speed Union'** model, allowing for greater freedom of integration, and was critical of the stagnation of key EU projects, including banking and fiscal union. He also presented the concept of an **'Economic NATO'** – deep integration between the EU and the US in response to China's rise and deglobalisation, aimed at strengthening the West's advantage and transatlantic cooperation.

The speech culminated in a vision of the national strategy **'Powered by Poland'**, which envisages a transition from an imitative model to an innovative one, exploiting Poland's technological, industrial and financial potential. The Prime Minister emphasised the need to build economic sovereignty through public procurement, support for domestic industry and the development of dual-use technologies, including in strategic areas ranging from armaments to space exploration. In his opinion, success requires new, bold leadership, capable of thinking strategically and acting in the long-term interests of the state, deciding on Poland's place in the new global architecture.



Discussion panels

The Three Seas Initiative – from idea to practice. Poland's role in shaping the region's security and infrastructure

The discussion focused on translating the idea of the Three Seas Initiative into concrete actions and Poland's growing importance as a leader in Central and Eastern Europe. Poland's potential to coordinate infrastructure and security projects in the region was emphasised, including filling the infrastructure gap on the north-south axis and strengthening the region's competitiveness and resilience.

Attention was drawn to the need for institutionalisation, the establishment of a permanent secretariat and the development of parliamentary, local government and business cooperation. The importance of dual-use infrastructure as a foundation for stability was highlighted, for example in energy projects and pipelines connecting the Balkans, Central Europe and Ukraine. The interest of external partners and the need for continued political commitment and implementation of projects bringing real change to the region were emphasised.



(Not) just CPK, (not) just nuclear power. On the development of Poland's strategic infrastructure

The panel was devoted to the logic and conditions for the implementation of strategic investments in Poland. The discussion focused on the need to define projects based on their objectives (e.g. utilisation of geographical location, industrial development, construction of transport hubs) and then translate them into programmes and specific investments, such as the CPK, nuclear power plants or seaports. It was pointed out that the legal environment should be conducive to the achievement of objectives, and that special laws and the reduction of over-regulation accelerate action.

An important theme was institutional responsibility and the market's executive capacity. The problem of 'decision-making paralysis' resulting from unclear division of responsibilities and the need for central coordination of investments was highlighted. The role of active local governments, a long-term public procurement schedule and areas of greatest strategic return were emphasised: energy transition, automation and the defence industry. The key conclusion was that the state must build support for investments through data-driven communication and act assertively in the face of local conflicts blocking projects of national importance.

Technologies for business. Adapt or disappear – are these the only alternatives for companies?

The panel was devoted to the impact of rapid technological development – especially artificial intelligence – on the functioning of modern companies. The speakers emphasised that AI is radically changing business models, processes and the pace of scaling up companies, becoming a prerequisite for maintaining competitiveness. The growing importance of low-code/no-code tools and the need for a strategic approach based on high-quality data and a clear link between technology and business objectives were highlighted. It was pointed out that delaying the implementation of AI solutions can lead to a loss of cost and operational advantages.

The rest of the discussion focused on mental and organisational barriers and practical steps that companies can take today. The importance of small, specific projects that build trust in technology, develop employees' digital skills and identify internal transformation leaders was emphasised. The speakers agreed that AI is redefining the logic of business, and that companies that start to consciously exploit its potential early on will build a lasting competitive advantage.



European Union–United States relations. Renaissance or collapse?

The panel was devoted to changes in European security and transatlantic relations. The speakers pointed out that the real impetus for Europe's 'awakening' was the assertive US policy under Donald Trump's presidency, rather than Russia's aggression, which many countries had downplayed for years. Attention was drawn to increased defence spending, changing public sentiment and the first steps towards reindustrialisation, although Europe still struggles with a lack of a coherent strategy and its own economic weakness. Maintaining strong trade relations with the US was considered essential for European competitiveness.

The second part of the discussion focused on US-China rivalry and its consequences for Europe, which is neither ready to become fully independent from China nor to ensure its own security. The importance of regional initiatives, such as the Three Seas Initiative, and the rapid enlargement of the EU to include the Western Balkans and Eastern European countries was emphasised. The speakers pointed out that Europe should focus on flexible formats of cooperation and bilateral relations. It was agreed that the future of EU-US relations depends on Europe's ability to strengthen its own potential and adapt to a world shaped by competition between two global powers.



Other discussion panels

- The Baltic Sea under pressure. The battle for the region's energy security
- Digital resilience of the state – cybersecurity as the foundation of a modern economy
- The economy of a shrinking society – what is the future of the market and social policy?
- Fraud and financial scams – how the state can and should effectively combat economic abuse
- #FutureTalk: Poland in 20 years
- Municipalities and demographics – what to do in the face of a demographic disaster?
- The economy of the future in the new energy architecture of the oil and gas sector
- Investing in the family – an opportunity, not a cost. Why is it profitable for companies to think family-oriented?
- The skills of the future and education today – on continuous reforms and the never-ending pursuit of talent
- Towards food security. Polish agriculture in the face of Mercosur, Ukraine and the Green Deal
- The Poznań brand. How to showcase the best we have to offer?
- Patronage, heritage, identity. How can capital flows contribute to national culture and heritage?
- Narrative, sound, strategy and action. Soft and hard power in shaping and defending social values
- Science and education in the age of AI
- A new map of leadership. How to lead in an era of AI, uncertainty and global tensions
- EU plans to move away from imports of Russian energy resources and fuels: efficiency, feasibility, security of supply
- Poland between the West and Asia: business pragmatism or geopolitical loyalty?
- Breeding progress in the era of climate change
- Projections for the economic future and conclusions for our business
- The arms industry and development: a boost for the economy or a security cost?
- The future of climate policy in Poland, Europe and the world
- The constitutional framework of the new Republic of Poland
- Regional challenges – regional passenger rail transport in Poland in the next 15 years?
- Sport in Poland – a social investment or a private interest?
- Refuelling defence: the role of liquid fuels and transmission infrastructure for EU defence









2025 Congress for Charity

During this year's edition of the Poznań Economic Congress 2025, participants had the opportunity to join a unique charity initiative - a collection and auction for the Single Mother's Home in Kiekrz, organised in cooperation with Siepomaga.pl, the Charity Patron of the event. This campaign is an expression of Greater Poland's solidarity and concern for people in particularly difficult life situations.

The auction featured unusual items donated by prominent public figures, including:

- a painting of the Presidential Palace from the President of Poland, Karol Nawrocki,
- a signed copy of the Polish Constitution from the Marshal of the Sejm, Szymon Hołownia,
- a copy of the book "Dopaść Morawieckiego" (Catch Morawiecki) autographed by Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki.

For over 35 years, the Single Mother's Home in Kiekrz has been providing shelter and support to women and their children who are struggling with life crises. The sisters from the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy offer them not only a safe place, but also spiritual and emotional care and the opportunity to start a new phase in their lives. The facility is currently undergoing a thorough renovation, and once it is complete, it will once again take in 12 mothers with children who need immediate help and stability.

The collection is still ongoing, and we warmly encourage you to support the Home for Single Mothers in Kiekrz:



Thank you!

We would like to thank all participants of this year's Poznań Economic Congress for their presence, commitment and contribution to creating a unique atmosphere of constructive dialogue. Your participation, energy and openness to cooperation are the foundation of the success of the PEC and motivation to continuously improve the quality of the event. It is with great satisfaction and conviction that we look to the future – to the next edition of the Congress, during which we will meet again to discuss the most important challenges facing Poland and Europe. See you at the **Poznań Economic Congress 2026** – we hope you will join us again to co-create this unique forum of ideas, inspiration and partnership.

What are we planning for next year?

We have set ourselves the goal of consistently developing the event, strengthening its position as one of the most important economic forums in the country. The 5th edition of PEC in 2026 will be another step towards further professionalisation, internationalisation and expansion of the event's programme.

One of the key changes will be the relocation of the Congress to the **Poznań International Fair**, which will significantly increase the scale of the event and provide a modern space adapted to the growing needs of participants. Along with the new location, all key congress zones will be expanded: the **Partner Zone**, the **Networking Zone** and the **Chillout Zone**, which will receive a larger, more functional and attractive space for cooperation, exchange of experiences and integration.

PEC 2026 will also be a more international event. There are plans to significantly expand the group of foreign guests, including representatives of the world of politics, business and experts from global think tanks. Among them will be the **Special Guest of PEC 2026** – one of the most recognisable figures on the contemporary European political scene, whose presence will emphasise the importance of the Congress.

Our ambition is to achieve new attendance and organisational records:

3000 participants,

300 speakers,

70 partners,

70 panels, debates, workshops and training sessions.

Our intention is to increase the quantity in all areas of the event while maintaining its high quality and prestige.

The Congress programme will be enriched with new components responding to the needs of participants and current socio-economic trends. These will include, among others:

- **Book Stage**, presenting key publications and debates on ideas;
- **Congress' Compass**, a post-Congress publication containing all the most important recommendations of the PEC 2026 panellists;
- **PEC Talks**, short inspirational speeches by public life leaders,
- as well as new **networking** and **workshop** formats that will create additional opportunities for establishing contacts and developing skills.

The 2026 edition of PEC will therefore not only be a continuation of its previous successes, but also a significant step forward in building a modern, open and ambitious platform for economic debate for Poland and the region.

Organiser

The Poznań Institute is a dynamically developing think tank dealing with urban, local government, social and international issues.

Our mission is to support the development of civil society and strengthen grassroots social activity among citizens. We want to achieve this by sharing our knowledge and experience. Our primary area of activity is Poznań, but our perspective extends beyond the city and even the country.



Get to know us!



www.poznanski.org



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Partner:



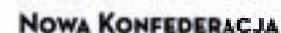
Main Partner:



Standard Partner:



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Poznań Economic Congress

www.kongres.poznanski.org/en
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