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3SEAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONGRESS AND ECONOMIC



SUMMARY OF THE SECOND EDITION

THE THREE SEAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONGRESS AND ECONOMIC FORUM



Lublin, 6-7 June 2022



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and

ECONOMIC FORUM

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The Three Seas Local Government Congress provides a platform for experts and practitioners from the world of science, politics and business of the twelve countries of the Three Seas Initiative to meet and discuss. The second edition of the event was attended by more than a thousand people from 25 countries: 900 people participated stationary, while nearly 150 people chose the online option. The Congress and Economic Forum included 16 panels, as well as 20 arranged B2B meetings, study tours and side events. There were 30 exhibition stands available for visitors. This year's edition of the event was dedicated to the challenges and risks experienced by the global economy as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as to the directions of the Initiative's cooperation with Ukraine.





The Congress was held under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland **Andrzej Duda**, who in 2016 launched the presidential format for cooperation between the Three Seas countries. The initiative serves to strengthen socio-economic and scientific cooperation and bridge the infrastructural differences of regions located between the Baltic, Adriatic and Black Seas.

The guests gathered in the hall and online were welcomed by the **Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Jarosław Stawiarski**, who referred to the history of the Initiative's establishment:

–The concept of undertaking European cooperation on the somewhat neglected north-south axis had been raised years earlier already by the late President Lech Kaczynski. He considered strengthening of Polish subjectivity and independence in international relations to be an extremely important issue, which is why in the following years the idea of the Three Seas was clarifying more and more.





Making the official opening of the Congress, the **Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Mateusz Morawiecki** noted:

- We are trying to expand the Three Seas Initiative region with further dimensions so that it does not remain a theoretical concept. Local governments can give this idea a practical dimension through regional cooperation. Our congress is taking place in the face of war in Ukraine. There will be no Three Seas Initiative without free and sovereign Ukraine.

After the official opening and reading the letters from the President of Poland **Andrzej Duda** and Speaker of the Sejm **Elżbieta Witek**, Marshal Jarosław Stawiński presented the Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki with the Congress Honorary Award "International Success in the Area of the Three Seas Regions" for his special merits in the fight for Ukraine's independence and inspiring the European Union states to support the invaded country.



Panel I: Three Seas Initiative – Ukraine – challenges of cooperation

The aim of the first panel was to show the consequences of Russia's aggression against Ukraine for functioning of the Three Seas Initiative and challenges of the Initiative's current and future cooperation with Ukraine. The panellists discussed the importance of the Three Seas Initiative format for the reconstruction of the independent Ukrainian state and the possibility of Ukraine's admission to the Initiative. The panel, held in cooperation with the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, was moderated by professor **Beata Surmacz**, Director of the Institute for Central Europe in Lublin.



Participants of the discussion included the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Government Plenipotentiary for the Three Seas Initiative **Pawel Jabłoński**, Ambassador of Ukraine to Poland **Andrij Deschytsia**, US Ambassador to Poland **Mark Brzezinski**, Ambassador-At-Large of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry **Gediminas Varvuolis** and **Konrad Poptawski**, Head of the Central European Division, Centre for Eastern Studies.



Panel II: Energy security of the Three Seas states in the face of war in Ukraine

The panel on building Europe's sovereign energy security and seeking a new order for the direction of raw material supplies was attended by, among others, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance **Artur Soboń**, President of the Management Board of Lubelski Węgiel "Bogdanka" S.A. **Artur Wasil**, Vice-President of the Management Board for Operations of PGNiG S.A. dr **Robert Perkowski**, **Jan Szewczak**, Member of the Management Board for Finances, PKN Orlen, **Paweł Cioch**, Vice-President of the Management Board, PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna S.A and **Jacek Janiszek**, Vice-President of the Management Board, Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe "Puławy" S.A.

– The reduction of supply in the raw materials market has forced the need to deal with the phenomenon of rising raw materials and food prices. The state must partially take the social costs of inflation, hence government programs are emerging (...) For some time, Poland has been pursuing a policy, thanks to which we supplement the import of raw materials with coal, and we also use renewable energy sources," said **Artur Soboń**, **Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance**.

The panel was moderated by **Remigiusz Nowakowski**, Chairman of the Board of the Lower Silesian Institute for Energy Studies, which was a content-related partner of the discussion.



Panel III: Civil Republic – building social capital between Poland and Ukraine

The panellists sought answers to the question of whether building social capital between Poland and Ukraine will contribute to the security of the Three Seas Initiative area. The aim of the discussion was to create joint initiatives and undertakings in social, cultural and economic areas, both in the perspective of the current conflict and in the perspective of the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine and its integration into the European structures and development within the framework of the Three Seas Initiative.

The panellists included: Director of the National Institute for Preservation of Monuments dr **Michał Laszczkowski**, Director of the Department of Infrastructure at the Ministry of Defense dr **Marcin Mazuryk**, Coordinator of the Synergy Programme at the Ministry of State Assets **Łukasz Turkowski** and dr **Tomasz Sińczak**, Expert of the Three Seas Foundation - the content-related partner of the discussion.

Panel IV: Cooperation of the Three Seas universities

The cooperation of the Three Seas Universities Network was announced in the online speech by the Minister of Education and Science, **Przemysław Czarnek**, who also patronized the panel discussion.

The panellists tackled important issues of strengthening and coordinating cooperation between the Three Seas academic centres and discussed expanding the Three Seas activities to include cooperation in the humanities and culture. Participants included the Rector of the Medical University of Lublin, prof. dr **Wojciech Załuska**; the Vice Rector of the Catholic University of Lublin, dr **Beata Piskorska**, the Prime Minister's Plenipotentiary for GovTech, Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Education and Science for Digital Transformation, **Justyna Orłowska**; dr **Filip Ludwin**, Vice-Rector of Collegium Intermarium, prof. dr hab. **Maciej Szymanowski**, Director of the W. Felczak Institute for Polish-Hungarian Cooperation.



New members of the Network of Three Seas Regions

Particularly noteworthy is the **Network of the Three Seas Regions** initiated last year by the Lubelskie Voivodeship - a format for direct cooperation between local governments from the twelve countries of the Three Seas Initiative. In 2021, 15 local governments from Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Slovakia and Hungary made a declaration to establish the Network. In the next step, the following new members joined the Network:

- Central Region (Romania) and Hunedoara Region (Romania);
- Lviv Oblast, Ternopil Oblast, Odesa Oblast (Ukraine) - associate partners.



Panel V: Debate of Regions: Network of the Three Seas Regions – cooperation with Ukrainian regions

The Debate of Regions, dedicated to the expansion of the local government component of the Three Seas Initiative, was held this year with the financial participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of the "Public Diplomacy 2022" programme. The discussion



concerned searching for opportunities to support refugees and financial instruments necessary for the reconstruction of the Ukrainian state after the end of hostilities.

The debate was attended, among others, by Marshals of the Lubelskie Voivodeship - **Jarosław Stawiarski** and Podkarpackie Voivodeship - **Władysław Ortyl**, Chairman of the Ternopil Regional Council **Mykhaylo Golovko**, Vice -Chairman of the Hungarian Pest District **Ádám Karácsony**, **Boris Voloshenkov**, Deputy Governor of the Odessa Region, **Rostyslav Dobosh** from the Lviv Regional Council and **Marcin Chruściel**, Chairman of the Board of the Institute of New Europe.

Partners of the Congress

The Three Seas Local Government Congress is held thanks to the support of the event's key strategic, content-related partners and media patrons, including, among others, Chancellery of the President of Poland, Ministry of State Assets, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as: BGK, Bogdanka, Enea, WSE, Grupa Azoty Puławy, Krajowa Grupa Spożywcza S.A., Polski Cukier, Lotto, Orlen, PFR Portal PPK, PGE, PGNiG, PKP, Poczta Polska, PZU.



A record number of more than 1,000 participants were registered for this year's Three Seas Local Government Congress, including 11 ministers and deputy prime ministers from 7 countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia) and 4 ambassadors



representing: USA, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Lithuania. At the regional level, 12 delegations from the Three Seas regions and 5 representing Ukraine came to the Congress, as well as entrepreneurs from more than a dozen countries.

The first edition of the Congress (June 29-30, 2021) was attended by 730 participants. The official opening was made by the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda, who took on honorary patronage of the event. The event was attended by the Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki (online), Deputy Prime Minister Jacek Sasin, President of Orlen Daniel Obajtek, leaders of key Polish and foreign economy sectors, presidents of the largest listed companies, National Development Bank (BGK), 7 foreign ministers, as well as representatives of public administration and local governments.



On the second day of the Local Government Congress, the keynote address was delivered by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State Assets Jacek Sasin. The Chapter (Jury) of the Congress awarded the "International Success in the Area of the Three Seas Regions" awards. Additionally, transport ministers from Poland and Bulgaria signed a transport declaration.

Marshal Jarosław Stawiarski opened the second day of the Three Seas Local Government Congress at the Lublin Conference Centre.

– Yesterday was dominated by the situation in Ukraine. The ongoing war and its consequences are important for us, the twelve countries of the European Union, and for the whole world. The conclusion made by the Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki yesterday, that there is no Three Seas Initiative without free and independent Ukraine, is one of the most important statements. Ukraine, which is destined to become a European country, is pursuing the countries of the united Europe through the Three Seas Initiative. We can become a kind of an outpost for our Ukrainian brothers," said **Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Jarosław Stawiarski**.



– The Three Seas Initiative is by all means a hit. The prosperity of this part of Central Europe is growing. Thanks to hard work and diligence, we consistently manage to shorten the distance to the rest of the European Union countries. We can jointly look for more favourable energy resources, build infrastructure, make the use of the assets we have," emphasised the **Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State Assets Jacek Sasin**



Award „International Success in the Area of the Three Seas Regions ”

Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Jarosław Stawiarski and Chairman of the Congress Programme Council prof. Marcin Szewczak announced the winners of special merit for the Three Seas Initiative. The Programme Council of the Congress granted the award "International Success in the Area of the Three Seas Regions" in three categories:

- in the "**Personality**" category, the award was given to the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of State Assets Jacek Sasin for contributing to the development of the Three Seas Initiative, strengthening relations between the countries of the region and strengthening the economic potential of the Three Seas regions;
- - in the "**International Company**" category, the award was received on behalf of PZU S.A. by the President of the Board, Beata Kozłowska-Chyła, in recognition of active international activities and support for the development of the Three Seas Initiative;
- - in the "**Regional Company**" category, the award was granted to NORGPOL CZERWIŃSKI S.J., represented by President Zbigniew Czerwiński.



The award was given for creating a positive image of the Three Seas Initiative and strengthening relations between the regions of the Initiative.



After the speech by President of the Warsaw Stock exchange dr **Marek Dietl**, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development **Henryk Kowalczyk** took the floor.

–Ukraine was a significant exporter of cereals. We are beginning to worry about food security of South Africa or the Middle East countries. The aggressor is destroying crops and processing plants. The future of crop yields, which could fall by up to 50%, is in question. The great challenge for the European Union is to support grain shipments from Ukraine," said the **Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Henryk Kowalczyk**.

Panel I: Situation on agri-food markets after the Russian aggression against Ukraine – current status and prospects

The increase in agricultural commodity and food prices observed since the beginning of Russia's attack on Ukraine is causing food security concerns in the European Union and around the world. The agricultural production of Ukraine and Russia is important for the global food market, including the grain market in particular, as well as due to restrictions in energy and fertilizer supplies. The panel discussed the current situation in agricultural markets and the anticipated effects of the war on the agri-food sector in the coming years. Measures to stabilize the situation in agri-food markets were also presented.

Panel II: Is there a need to redefine the policy of north-south transport corridors in the context of the current geopolitical situation? Finalisation of work on road routes, a coherent network of rail links

The discussion during the panel focused on the opportunities created by the new transport corridor within the TEN-T network. The ministers touched on the synergy of connections along the Via Carpatia and Rail Carpatia routes with other EU priority projects, in particular Rail Baltica. The debate did not lack the topic of the war in Ukraine and its short- and long-term effects on the functioning of the transport networks of the Three Seas region.



– Today a very important agreement will be countersigned by the Polish and Bulgarian ministries on joint efforts to expand the TEN-T network, including the corridors indicated north of Białystok. We will also prepare such an agreement with our friends from Romania. Together we will support each other very intensively in these activities, which I am convinced will bear fruit. The revision of the TEN-T network is just taking place - we're thinking about the transportation routes that have already been partially included and will be included in this expanded version in southern and northern Europe," **announced Infrastructure Minister Andrzej Adamczyk.**



The debate was attended by transport and infrastructure ministers from Bulgaria, Moldova, Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania and Greece.

Declaration on transport

Minister of Infrastructure **Andrzej Adamczyk** and Minister of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria **Nikolay Sabev** signed a declaration establishing cooperation for the development of the European Transport Corridors "Baltic - Black Sea/Aegean" and "Western Balkans."



Panel III: Growing Europe – business and health of the Three Seas region



It was emphasised in the panel that maintaining the growth rate of one of the world's most attractive investment areas, i.e. Central and Eastern Europe, requires overcoming economic and geopolitical challenges. PZU, as the region's largest financial institution, seeks to develop innovative business models. The development of the healthcare sector, coupled with its impact on the regional development of the Three Seas area, is one of the priorities of investors from all over the world. The panel was moderated by **Andrzej Jaworski**, Member of the Management Board of PZU Życie SA.

Panel IV: Ahead of the summit in Riga: chances and challenges to be faced by the Three Seas Initiative

The panel prepared participants for the seventh Three Seas Initiative Summit in June 2022 in Riga. They discussed real and potential conflicts between member states and Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the unsatisfactory pace of implementation of priority projects, recapitalization of the 3SI Investment Fund, the return of the region's countries to the path of economic growth and external support (primarily from the US and the EU). The international lineup of experts



included dr hab. **Agnieszka Orzelska-Stączek**, prof. of the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Czech representative dr **Vít Dostál**, Director of the Association for International Affairs (Amo), dr **Andrzej Pukszto**, Lithuanian historian and political scientist, **Miklós Mitrovits** from the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and dr **Łukasz Lewkowicz**, Head of the Visegrad Division at the Institute of Central Europe.

Seminar: Interreg programmes – a platform of cooperation for the Three Seas regions

The purpose of the seminar on Interreg programmes was to exchange experiences and good practices and to discuss the lasting effects of the activities and their impact on development processes in the Three Seas regions. An important element of the debate was also to identify needs, opportunities and ways to build long-term cooperation between regions.



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Diplomas of appreciation - merited for the Lubelskie Voivodeship

The Programme Council of the Three Seas Local Government Congress decided to present additional awards to persons of particular merit to the Lubelskie Voivodeship. Diplomas of appreciation were presented to:

- Deputy Prime Minister **Henryk Kowalczyk** for supporting the Lubelskie Voivodeship as an agricultural region, which is an important element in the consolidation of the agri-food sector through the establishment of the National Food Group and promotion of these activities in the area of the Three Seas Initiative;
- Minister **Andrzej Adamczyk** for supporting the Lubelskie Voivodeship in the development of road and rail infrastructure, in particular the Via Carpathia route named after the late Polish President Lech Kaczynski;
- **Andrzej Jaworski**, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Food Market, for supporting the Lubelskie Voivodeship in the process of providing food security through promotion of domestic food producers, also in the area of the Three Seas Initiative;
- **Artur Wasil**, President of LW Bogdanka S.A., for supporting Lubelskie Voivodeship in the process of green energy transition and sustainable development, also in the Three Seas Initiative area.

Economic Forum

An important part of the event was the Economic Forum, providing a platform for building permanent economic relations, seeking solutions to facilitate doing business abroad and deepening international contacts. Seminars, B2B meetings, study visits, which took place as part of the event, served to exchange experiences and inspirations in the economic field.

The Economic Forum included 6 panel discussions on topics such as digitization of business in the Three Seas countries, the potential of economy, modern education, trade fair and exhibition industry, sustainable economic development of agriculture and business transformation.





The panellists included heads of companies operating dynamically in the Three Seas area, including **Michał Kanownik**, President of the Board, Digital Poland Association; **Marta Poślad**, Director of Google Public Policy in Central and Eastern Europe; dr. hab. **Andrey Bachvarov**, Director of Digital Transformation, Digital National Alliance, Bulgaria; **Virgiljus Dirma**, Director for the European Union and International Relations, Infobalt from Lithuania; **Piotr Regulski**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe "Puławy"; **Dariusz Dumkiewicz**, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Lubelski Węgiel Bogdanka; **Mateusz Wodejko**, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Poczta Polska S. A.; **Konstantin Bekos**, Commercial Counsellor of the Austrian Embassy in Warsaw; **Robert Zapotoczny**, CEO, PFR Portal PPK Sp. z o.o.; **Marcin Majerowski**, Vice President of the Management Board, Powszechne Towarzystwo Emerytalne PZU S.A.; **Tomasz Olenderek**, Member of the Management Board, Krajowa Grupa Spożywcza S.A. ; dr **Daniel Alain Korona**, President of the Board, Elewarr Sp. z o.o.; **Mateusz Kowalski**, Vice-President of the Board, Pekao Towarzystwo Funduszy Inwestycyjnych S.A.; **Krzysztof Golubiewski**, Member of the Board, PKP S.A.; **Justyna Majsnerowicz**, Deputy President of the Board for Finance, Grupa Azoty Zakłady Azotowe "Puławy" S.A.



Panel discussions were accompanied by B2B meetings between Lublin and entrepreneurs from abroad, as well as study visits to two innovative companies PERŁA - Browary Lubelskie S.A. and Fabryka Cukierków "Pszczółka" Sp. z o. o. Among the exhibitors were the event's partners, partner regions and companies with the " Lubelskie Brand" certificate.

Establishment of the Łęczna Energy Cluster

During the Economic Forum, a letter of intent establishing the Łęczna Energy Cluster was signed. The Cluster was formed by nine entities: LW Bogdanka S.A., Lublin University of Technology, Łęczyńska Energetyka Sp. z o.o., Łęczna Powiat, City of Łęczna, Cyców, Milejów, Ludwin and Puchaczów. The cluster aims to work for sustainable development and to take care of energy security in the region. The initiator of the idea is LW Bogdanka S.A.



Side events

Lubelskie Meet & Greet – Start-up community

The event accompanying the Economic Forum was solemnly opened by the Vice- Marshal of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Mr Zbigniew Wojciechowski. The Lublin Science and Technology Park S.A. was the content-related partner of the event.

The event was attended by start-ups from Ukraine, Hungary, Latvia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Poland. The pitching sessions were interspersed with speeches on the offer of the Lublin Science and Technology Park SA, the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development and the Puławy Science and Technology Park. It was a great opportunity for foreign start-ups to exchange experiences, as well as to talk about their business ideas in front of the gathered audience.



II Festival of the Three Seas Regions and exhibitions

The first day of the Congress ended with a ceremonial concert entitled "Music of the Three Seas." The audience gathered at the Centre for the Meeting of Cultures listened to compositions showing the climate of the Three Seas regions, referring to Slavic and Balkan culture, performed by artists from the Musical Theatre. Among the dancers and vocalists were artists from Ukraine. Lublin-based singer Wojciech Cugowski was a special guest. The concert was held as part of the Second Festival of the Three Seas Regions Via Dukt, organized by TVP3 Lublin.



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Stream and full coverage of the second edition of the Congress and the Economic Forum are available at www.congress.lubelskie.pl in Polish and English, as well as on social media FB and Twitter.





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