

CONGRESS MISSION STATEMENT

Economy of a Water City

THE PROFILE OF THE CONGRESS

The subject of the Congress is a widely understood economy of water cities. However, the point is not water management alone. Water cities perceive water as an important component of their development - not only as raw material but also as an element of landscape, culture and economy. Hence, the triad: WATER - CITY - QUALITY OF LIFE.

The “green city” is a fashionable motto of recent years. At the same time, Poland is a country that faces a problem of inadequate water resources. The Congress is to point out that cities should become “green and blue” in order to develop further. Greenery is an easily noticeable element affecting the attractiveness of the city - finding a balanced position for water in the city requires more imagination but it has a more comprehensive impact on the urban development.

The Congress will focus on all the interdependencies between the water and urban environment. An ambitious goal is to indicate the paths that can help eliminate negative effects of the mutual interactions of both environments. Therefore, an analysis will be needed to show the complexity of the environmental aspects of water management - it has to take into account the supply, production and distribution systems, the threats to water sources, the threat of destructive force of the element, the opportunities for river transport or the drought risk.

Therefore, detailed considerations describing the Input-Output relationship will be assumed. An inventory of the factors that have an impact on how the city manages or how it can manage the water environment will be carried out. The life quality in the city will be linked to the data on water consumption, the amount of sewage and the risk of contamination of groundwater, lakes, rivers and streams.

Furthermore, river transport and its impact on the environment as well as constraints posed by the environment against this form of transport will be addressed. A complex of phenomena related to supply and distribution logistics will also be discussed.

The Congress will also be an opportunity for a comprehensive debate on ecological problems affecting the quality of life, spatial planning taking into account the aquatic environment, and how water consumption affects the market.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS

The programme of the Congress is based on three thematic axes:

- City
- Water
- Quality of life

The first axis: [City](#)

Without a natural or artificial access to water, the city is not able to function. The importance of this access is important for each category: a city as a group of residents (the social category), a city as an economy, and a city as developed spaces. The basic atoms are people who create the community for which the quality of life and the prospects of increasing it constitute the most important value.

Further, water has an impact on the vaguest category of urban environment evaluation - the symbolic category. Water can be an important element of the “city spirit”, the “urban legend”, or the “imaginarium” based on the history of the city and its heritage.

The second axis: [Water](#)

The issue of resources will be addressed - their maintenance, quality and renewability. The conflict arousing situations related to the incompatible expectations, demand and opportunities of urban economy will be indicated. The subject matter can be reduced to three issues: too little, too much and too dirty water.

The third axis: [Quality of life](#)

The subject is a reflection on how water can be incorporated into the municipal development mechanism to establish a beneficial relationship with the quality of life of the city inhabitants. All the aspects related to the concepts of prosperity and well-being will be addressed. The quality of life will be related to both situation of individual people and of the entire population.

Therefore, we have to pay attention to the fact that the way we manage resources and the aquatic environment is important not only for us but also for the next generations. In the current balance it is necessary to consider the impact of water on the opportunities of urban environment development; it is necessary to indicate the conflict situations and propose adequate solutions. An example here can be the flood risk management - on the one hand, classical safeguards are not fully effective while, on the other, it is impossible to abandon them in the existing urban tissue.