

## Mission Statement for the Regeneration of Industrial Cities Congress

Urban regeneration is a process of renewing city's development potential after a period of its weakening and stagnation. In highly developed countries, this term has been adopted as a key to reversing the process of uncontrolled and chaotic growth of urbanization and of cities spreading, accompanied with the diminishing development dynamics. This is not simply about revitalizing specific degenerating areas of a city, but the issue of establishing a new development path and launching the driving forces to bring the city to that path.

Problems affecting industrial cities that have undergone crises and keep adapting to the new conditions are more or less known. In many cases, however, social costs have been immense due to reckless and spontaneous adaptation of industrial cities in highly developed countries to the new circumstances.

The requirements for the broadly understood industrial space are entirely different now than in the nineteenth-century cities. New factors for locating business premises are not compatible with the present relationship, laws regulating land and property use, deriving benefits from the location's added value, etc. The fact that legal systems and ownership structure have not been adapted results in high social costs manifested, among others, in the dispersed industrial and residential buildings, socially and economically unjustified increase in mobility, as well as devastation of large urban space.

Changes occurring in industrial cities are particularly complex. In such cities, we can observe concentration of business activities that are inherently related to business cycles with varied spacetime scales. Industrial cities are also affected by grand global technological cycles that change the geography of development incentives, particularly if economic functions of the cities were strongly conditioned by the transport costs of raw materials and natural resources.

Global processes have resulted in moving the polluting industries to poorer developed countries. The most developed countries have adopted the model of post-industrial and service-oriented cities. This model of a service-oriented city emerged not only owing to its high added value of the new business and services sectors but, as it has turned out, by moving the environmental costs elsewhere (globalization of negative externalities), and with non-sensical transportation of products and raw materials. All this has occurred at the cost of global environmental changes and new global political tensions.

Following a period of careless policy of de-industrialization of European cities, after the global financial crisis of 2007-2009, the thought of reindustrializing Europe emerged, giving production a new meaning in the sustainable development. We should, therefore, speak of modern industrial cities, not post-

industrial cities. Cities that produce useful products and services without burdening other societies and other countries with their negative externalities. A modern industrial city is a city that accounts for spatial effects of global processes of manufacture, exchange, consumption, and recycling in the lifecycles of its products.

Historically, an industrial city was a city whose existence (development) relied on industrial manufacturing. Nowadays, in order to face the competition, it is not sufficient for a city to have production plants. At present, an industrial city must be equipped with an entire infrastructure of the industrial (manufacturing) system.

Effective regeneration of industrial cities largely depends on the highly variable economic situation and their inner potential to deal with the dynamically changing configurations in the manufacturing cities' network subsystems. Such a high dynamics of environmental changes limits the possibility of copying simple regeneration and adaptation solutions in the local urban development policies. Every city must define anew its present and future relations in the macroregional, continental, and global settlement systems. A hypothesis can be proposed that the global challenge related to economic and social security, climatic change, as well as demographic and migration processes, etc., will encourage the accelerated processes of forming new supply-and-demand networks aimed at limiting high business-related risk. The capacity to prove high resistance and resilience of urban systems to external disturbances will prove a major success factor for industrial cities with respect to such processes.

Resilience relies, among others, on the multifunctionality of the cities. Regeneration of industry, therefore, does not mean elimination of other functions. To the contrary, this means integration of production and services, based on endogenous development factors. Regeneration of industry should attract settlement, as it provides for availability of core public services. Economic resilience also depends on diversification of partners in the functional systems at regional, national, and global levels. Therefore, regeneration of industry must mean parallel establishment (or reconstruction) of networks. This refers both to the economic relations/interactions (movement of goods, capital, technology), and the development of the infrastructure to precondition their operability (transport, telecommunications).

Industrial cities of the Central and Eastern European countries should benefit from the experiences of the regenerating industrial cities of the West. We have an opportunity to reduce social costs of regenerating Polish industrial cities. When confronted with the experiences of Western cities facing new global restructuring of manufacture and the need for reindustrializing Europe, Polish experiences will allow for pointing to new mechanisms, rules, and legal solutions to allow quicker responding to the highly variable global manufacturing processes and environmental requirements.

Central and Eastern European cities can also reactivate former networks in the national and international dimensions, while in some areas also including the local cross-border networks (e.g. at the Polish-Czech border in the Upper Silesia).

The Congress wishes to deal with strategic challenges facing contemporary industrial cities that want to compete on the global arena. Such challenges include:

- high dynamics of changes in the economy, short product lifecycles,
- high mobility of people and capital,
- network-based manufacture of products in the online infrastructure,
- dematerialization of production and virtualization of services,
- automation,
- crisis of the anthropogenic and natural environment,
- increasing role of intellectual capital, etc.,
- risks related to the coronavirus pandemic

Important issues that affect regeneration capacity of industrial cities, which can also develop into the Congress theme-paths, include:

- the role of business community in urban regeneration;
- challenges to the development of industrial cities operating within the impact zone of capital metropolises: competitiveness and functional complementarity of bipolar systems, development of polycentric urban functional areas;
- the perspective and specificity of circular economy in an industrial city;
- sustainable spatial development processes as a guarantee of responsiveness of the industrial city and its functional area to new business functions;
- urban functional area as the core for integrated spatial planning and a space looping the local circular economy.

**In particular, the Congress will focus on the following issues:**

1. Economic resilience of the city.
2. Co-management of urban development.
3. Establishing urban productivity clusters.
4. Forming the creative potential and new competences of the residents.
5. Forming the development-oriented spatial structures and infrastructural systems.
6. City's position in the regional, national, and international mobility space as a factor of both competitiveness and resilience to external risks.
7. Spatial structure of functional areas in cities recovering their industrial functions.

**How to preserve the long-lasting and sustainable development capacity of a contemporary city while referring to its heritage and relying on industry as the generating factor for such development? What seems to be a burden for an industrial city moving away from traditional manufacture towards new production? What should be changed with respect to the social, economic, and principally spatial system, namely its development, forms of using the property ownership rights, etc.? These questions and challenges can be synthesized to formulate the most important theme of the Congress: **How to preserve sustainable urban development capacity based on state-of-the-art manufacture?****

Łódź is a city with the industrial history of 200 years, and it is a perfect place to answer such questions and confront them with reality.