

## 2nd REGENERATION OF CITIES CONGRESS

7 - 8 JUNE 2022

### PROGRAMME ASSUMPTIONS

In June 2021, the Regeneration of Industrial Cities International Congress was organised in Łódź. The event generated a lot of interest from experts in various fields. One of the reasons was the profile and programme of Congress which demonstrated the need and possibility to develop a new approach to urban development **through integrative regeneration processes** of functions and built environment.

#### ABOUT THE REGENERATION OF CITIES

Regeneration is about discovering the usefulness of each component of productive potential under new conditions and integrating it appropriately into the productive and developmental cycle. It is a process in which, on the one hand, a new "grammar" of management emerges (new concepts, new language, new conceptualisation of the city's functioning and development) and, on the other hand, management shifts to a new developmental trajectory. This process cannot be launched without modifying the socio-economic imaginary and building a new paradigm in the approach to further urbanisation and urban development processes.

When talking about urban regeneration, we must be aware that the need for regeneration arises primarily from differences in the pace of change of the functional sphere in relation to the spatial structures necessary for the proper functioning of cities. It is a feature of urban systems that the functional sphere relating to production processes is changing more rapidly in relation to changes in physical development. And the challenge of contemporary processes is that this gap is widening even more. It should be noted that as a result of accelerating innovation and increasing mobility, and the globalisation of development processes and externalities, these disparities are not only becoming greater, but their removal by traditional instruments is insufficient. The delayed adaptation of urban spatial structures to economic and social processes exacerbates other phenomena such as urban sprawl processes triggered by intense pressures to capture the benefits from the failure of property markets.

The costs of spontaneous transformation and adaptation of cities to new civilisation processes are increasing. One of the reasons for this phenomenon is the high inertia in institutional changes (formal and informal) adequate to correct the failures of market processes, including real estate markets. One way of reducing the costs of these processes is an active integrated public regeneration policy - **focusing mainly on the sphere of spatial development**. Urban development under conditions of climate and demographic risks, digitalisation of the economy, and increasing uncertainty, together with globalising pressure to develop new land, require introducing new principles for

managing urban resources to offset the increasingly high social and environmental costs of urbanisation processes. Public action for urban regeneration is, therefore, about balancing pull factors and dispersion forces to guarantee, with increasing demand for urbanised space, at the same time a sustainable ecological development and functioning of the settlement network.

A new and strategically urgent challenge in transforming urban structures appropriate to new conditions is also the **need to ensure their resilience in the face of rapid and only partially foreseeable technological, economic, environmental, social and political changes**. Resilience is, in this view, the link between security and development. Launching such a resilience-building process in the city becomes a strategic response and a necessity in the regeneration processes of urban structures. The foundation of this process must be the productive use of one's own resources and potential.

These new challenges form the basis of **new urban policies oriented to the regeneration needs of urban areas and cities**. Urban regeneration encompasses the impact on the whole of the urbanisation and metropolisation of space resulting from global urbanisation processes, including those processes occurring in so-called rural areas. Urban regeneration is a profiled policy of public authorities, local and governmental, to maintain and develop a variety of complex urban functions and its spatial structures (land use) in territorially limited arrangements - guaranteeing high resource productivity while limiting destructive effects on the wider environment. So far, the relevant concept of urban revitalisation has generally been area-based and concerned fragments of urban space (areas) that have lost their former functions, be they productive or social. Revitalisation is a component of urban regeneration processes.

Based on the above assumptions, the next editions of the Regeneration of Industrial Cities Congress will each time have one leading theme, but in such a way as to link the main development themes in its in-depth consideration.

**The 2nd Regeneration of Industrial Cities Congress will focus on policies and processes of urban regeneration seen through the lens of climate change adaptation.**

#### IDEA FOR THE 2ND CONGRESS - THE CLIMATE DIMENSION OF URBAN REGENERATION

Regeneration is not an end in itself but is conditioned by the goals and challenges arising from the effects and processes of civilisational development. The world now recognises that the most important global and civilisational challenge is rapid climate change associated with greenhouse effects, accelerating the increase in the earth's surface temperature.

Statistics and studies on urban emissions prove that cities are the biggest generators of the greenhouse effect. Therefore, it is here that the most significant potential for change lies through appropriate regenerative and adaptive processes. Cities are

also the biggest sources of innovations and good practices. Relevant global, regional and local public policies can accelerate regeneration and adaptation processes for the climate challenges of our cities.

The aims of the 2nd Congress is to share domestic and international experiences of cities that have taken action to adapt to climate change from different spatial, demographic, economic and environmental perspectives, and to formulate recommendations-addressed to the Polish spatial policy and multi-stakeholder urban policy - in terms of local adaptation strategies.

The global climate strategy imposes the need to protect biodiversity, restore environmental values and take adaptive actions by socio-economic systems. However, it is the cities and the urbanised world that face the main challenges. Adapting cities to climate risks is part of the actions for regenerating natural systems and becomes the overarching goal of any urban system. We assign the highest values of public importance to these objectives. City authorities must skilfully decompose them into local public values, represent those values and use appropriate instruments to minimise social pitfalls, reorient the actions of economic actors towards long-term benefits, reduce market failures or minimise the negative effects of market failures, where the behaviour of city users may not be compatible with this climate objective function.

The climate challenge poses several fundamental questions. How to make commercialised and appropriated urban goods as the commons? How to formulate community new values in the context of global solidarity? How to decompose global strategic goals into local adaptation strategies? How to define new values and integrate the effects of climate change into urban development and transformation? And what subsidiary assistance is required from government authorities and the EU to achieve these long-term goals?

Combining the concept of cities regeneration with climate change adaptation imposes a new perspective on urban transformation. It points to the evident necessity of taking a holistic view of urban development processes over the long term under entirely new and surprising conditions and challenges - not only climatic but also the increasingly powerful climate change-related local effects of globalised demographic and economic phenomena.