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Lublin

>

International Relations

>

Cross-Border Cooperation Congress

<https://lublin.eu/en/lublin/international-relations/congress/>



Official English Website of Congress

www.kongres.lublin.eu

For ten consecutive years in the autumn, Lublin has been a meeting place of cross-border cooperation practitioners from the EU and Eastern Partnership countries. This year, the Cross-Border Cooperation Congress Lublin 2020 (formerly known as Eastern Europe Initiatives Congress) will focus on COVID-19 and the challenges faced by local communities across Europe during the pandemic.

The Congress will be held on **6-9 October 2020** and its predominant theme is '**Local Government of Tomorrow. Between openness and responsibility**'. Due to the current situation, the event will be held in virtual space only, with simultaneous translation into Polish, English, and Russian.

This year, the Congress will focus on COVID-19 and the challenges faced by local communities across Europe during the pandemic. Its predominant theme is Local Government of Tomorrow. Between openness and responsibility. The four days of Congress will be filled with expert panel discussions and workshops with the participation of eminent European experts such as Charles Landry (Great Britain), Rasmus Wiinstedt Tscherning (Denmark), Marharyta Zhenchuk (Ukraine), Prof. Aleksander Sogomonov (Russia), Krzysztof Czyżewski and Edwin Bendyk (Poland). The opening debate will be attended by European mayors and city officials and will focus on local government's priorities in the new, post-pandemic reality. In the following days, we will pay attention to cultural sector and cultural tourism under new conditions and we will think how to build city branding through tourism. Then, we will discuss the possibilities of sustainable economic development, the limitations of traditionally understood growth, as well as structural changes in the labour market. We will look at the new 'wave' of innovation, companies and sectors that have done well in these difficult circumstances. We will also discuss social self-organization in pandemic times taking into account the situation of migrant communities.

As ever, the Congress will be accompanied by **Partners' Forum** in order to facilitate more effective communication and exchange of experiences between organisations seeking international partners. City councillors are invited to a special on-line meeting devoted to the functioning of local government during the pandemic and cooperation prospects with partner cities in future. **Grants' Fair** will showcase opportunities to obtain funds from selected grant programmes. **Best Practice Contest** will feature solutions that work best when undertaking initiatives to the benefit of local communities and cross-

border cooperation in Europe and Eastern Partnership countries amid pandemic. The Congress will be accompanied by livestreamed cultural events.

The Cross-Border Cooperation Congress Lublin 2020 received a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland under 'Public Diplomacy 2020 – New Dimension' programme. We are pleased to announce that Cross-Border Cooperation Congress Lublin 2020 will be held under the honorary patronage of The European Commission Representation Office in Poland. We are also glad that many new partners have joined us this year, i.e.: the Association of Ukrainian Cities, the Belarusian organization 'Twin Towns' and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

All Congress events are free of charge after registration that will be available on the Congress on-line platform. Cultural events will be livestreamed on Congress partners websites.

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