



35TH ECONOMIC FORUM

September 8-10 2026, Karpacz

35th Economic Forum in Karpacz – a leading platform for dialogue

More than 6,500 guests from 55 countries and over 500 substantive events – this, in brief, is what the 35th Economic Forum in Karpacz, held on 8–10 September 2026, looked like. The theme of this year's conference, "Architecture of a New Order – Stability in Times of Change", focused on the challenges facing leaders from the worlds of politics, business, local government, academia and culture.

An exceptional group of guests in Karpacz

Polish politics was represented by, among others, Deputy Prime Ministers Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, Minister of National Defence, and Krzysztof Gawkowski, Minister of Digital Affairs, as well as ministers heading key government departments: Katarzyna Pełczyńska-Nałęcz, Minister of Development Funds and Regional Policy; Paulina Hennig-Kłoska, Minister of Climate and Environment; Dariusz Klimczak, Minister of Infrastructure; and Miłosz Motyka, Minister of Energy. The debates also featured Andrzej Duda, President of Poland from 2015 to 2025; Deputy Marshals of the Sejm and Senate Krzysztof Bosak and Michał Kamiński; former Prime Ministers Leszek Miller and Mateusz Morawiecki; and Paweł Kowal, Chairman of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Committee.





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The international dimension of the Economic Forum

Every year, the Economic Forum in Karpacz attracts prominent international figures. The international dimension of the 35th edition was highlighted by the presence of more than 900 foreign guests, including Montenegro's Deputy Prime Minister Filip Ivanović, former President of the Czech Republic Václav Klaus, former Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, and Secretary General of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Lazar Comanescu. Government institutions were strongly represented by deputy ministers Jan

Sechter from the Czech Republic and Gabriel Gorbačevski, Paulius Petrauskas and Waldemar Urban from Lithuania, as well as Lőrinc Nacsa, Deputy Chairman of Hungary's Welfare Committee. The United States was represented by renowned political scientist Hal Brands, Special Envoy of the President of the United States Nick Adams, and former Meta marketing executive Prof. Nicole Alexander. The global business community was represented by executives including Justin Gandy, Managing Director of MSD Poland, and Guoxin Su, Chairman of the Board of CITIC Europe, while media and social issues were addressed by Mykola Chernotytskyi, Chairman of Ukraine's public broadcaster Suspilne, and award-winning documentary photographers Mads Nissen and Ron Haviv. This diverse and prestigious group of speakers gave the debates a truly global dimension.





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Business and academia at the Forum

This year, the number of business Partners increased by 15% compared with the previous year. The 170 partner companies included both small and medium-sized enterprises, which form the backbone of the Polish economy, and leading investors, innovators and global corporations that have a significant impact on shaping Europe's future.

As part of the Family Business Network, representatives of as many as 107 Polish family businesses, generating a combined annual turnover of PLN 120 billion, took part in discussions in Karpacz. Leading executives actively participated in the panels, including Krzysztof Pawiński, CEO of Maspex; Dariusz Miłek, CEO of Modivo Group; Grzegorz Dzik, President of

the Management Board of Impel; Zbigniew Jakubas, President of the Management Board of Multico; Artur Popek, President of the Management Board of Budimex SA; and Włodzimierz Właźlak, President of the Management Board of Lidl Polska.

The academic sector was also strongly represented. The Forum welcomed more than 600 academics representing 150 higher education institutions, as well as representatives of Poland's leading universities, including Piotr Wachowiak, Rector of the SGH Warsaw School of Economics – the Forum's Main Content Partner; Alojzy Z. Nowak, Rector of the University of Warsaw; Andrzej Szarata, Rector of the Cracow University of Technology; Piotr Jedynak, Rector of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków; Jerzy Lis, Rector of the AGH University of Krakow; Adam Woźniak, Vice-Rector of the Warsaw University of Technology; and Czesław Zajac, Rector of the Wrocław University of Economics and Business.

Key decisions, contracts and reports

During the Forum, government representatives announced landmark initiatives. Minister of Infrastructure Dariusz Klimczak announced that PKP Intercity had ordered an additional 32 Griffin EU200 electric locomotives from Newag, expanding the agreement signed in 2024. An agreement was also signed for the modernization of the IMGW-PIB High-Mountain Meteorological Observatory on Śnieżka, worth nearly PLN 25 million.

In the field of security, the report "Supply Chain Security in the Polish Defence Industry in Peacetime", prepared by experts from six Polish universities, was presented. Meanwhile, experts from SGH Warsaw School of Economics, together with the conference organizers, presented the prestigious annual "SGH and Economic Forum Report", analyzing the macroeconomic dilemmas facing our region. The 17th Healthcare Forum attracted considerable interest, featuring the presentation of the assumptions of the State Pharmaceutical Policy for 2027–2032, as well as dedicated thematic tracks: the Poland–Czech Republic Forum, the Poland–China Forum and the Healthcare Forum.



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At the same time, intensive discussions among local government representatives took place as part of the Regions Forum, which brought together more than 1,200 representatives of local authorities, including 23 regional marshals, 54 city mayors and 80 county heads.

A rich cultural programme

This year's edition of the Economic Forum made history with a record-breaking cultural programme comprising 54 author meetings organized in cooperation with the Jagiellonian University and PWN Scientific Publishers. A wide range of literature was presented across numerous stages – from economics and artificial intelligence to fiction and reportage – alongside new formats for special discussions. The events attracted large audiences, who had the opportunity to meet distinguished Polish and international experts, academics and prominent figures from the worlds of media and politics, including Prof. Hal Brands, Prof. Jerzy Bralczyk, Prof. Andrzej Dragan, Mads Nissen and Ron Haviv. Participants also had the opportunity to receive books signed by their authors.

Prestigious awards of the 35th Economic Forum

The evening galas culminated in the presentation of awards to outstanding individuals and distinguished organizations. Minister of Infrastructure Dariusz Klimczak was named Person of the Year, while the title of Company of the Year went to the Polish Armaments Group (PGZ). The





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Cancer Fighters Foundation was named NGO of the Year. The Economic Forum's Culture and Science Award was presented to Prof. Marta Kwiatkowska of the University of Oxford.

The Economic Forum, organized by the Foundation Institute for Eastern Studies in cooperation with the Lower Silesian Voivodeship, the City of Karpacz, the City of Wrocław, Wrocław Airport and Hotel Gołębiowski, once again served as an influential platform for dialogue connecting key areas of socio-economic life.

More information and photo gallery: www.forum-ekonomiczne.pl

