

# Polish Internet Governance Forum Summary Report



Warsaw, January 2019.

## Forum Organisation

The 2018 Internet Governance Forum — “Technological Sovereignty” was the most important annual event organised as part of the IGF Poland - Digital Development Forum initiative.<sup>1</sup> This is the third edition of the conference<sup>2</sup> which brings together representatives of business, administration, academia, non-governmental and technical organisations willing to actively participate in the discussion about the future of the Internet.



1. Photo by: Jacek Tarach

The Forum was organised by a coalition of organisations and institutions representing administration, academia, business, as well as non-governmental and technical organisations. The IGF Poland initiative was directly responsible for its preparation. The work was coordinated

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<sup>1</sup>This initiative, launched in 2016, aims to facilitate cooperation between different circles interested in shaping and developing Internet-related public policies. It wants to achieve this goal by creating a space for sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices, as well as discussing the most pressing issues related to the Internet on equal footing, in a free and open manner. More information about IGF Poland can be found on [the initiative's website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Previous editions of the Forum took place on the 18th of October 2016 (Warsaw University Library) and the 21th of November 2017. (the latter in the regional formula as the Central European Internet Governance Forum). The Forum serves as a follow-up to the annual workshops organised since 2014, using the slogan "Find out who is in charge of the Internet".

by the IGF Poland Steering Committee, comprising leaders representing five stakeholder groups, as well as a Polish expert at the UN MAG — UN Multistakeholder Advisory Group:<sup>3</sup>

- Wanda Buk, Ministry of Digital Affairs (administration)
- Prof. Dariusz Jemielnik, Koźmiński University (academia)
- Roman Malinowski, NASK (technical organisations)
- Igor Ostrowski, Dentons (business)
- Krzysztof Szubert, UN Multilateral Advisory Group
- Alek Tarkowski, Centrum Cyfrowe [Digital Centre] (NGOs).

The conference programme was created as a grass-roots initiative, by all stakeholders – a record number of 20 organisations were invited to co-organise the Forum. The vast majority of the agenda - the entire block of parallel sessions – comprised their own proposals for debates on topics that are currently relevant to Internet users. The organisations that participated in the creation of the programme were selected in a contest organised by the Steering Committee. Out of the eighteen proposed panels and workshops, sixteen passed the qualification process and were featured in the conference agenda.

## The course of the Forum

The Forum was organised on the 13rd of December 2018 at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw. It comprised a plenary panel discussion and sixteen parallel sessions. The conference was held in Polish and, partly, also in English (without interpretation).

The Forum's formula has enabled a multilateral and open debate on the main challenges and opportunities presented by the development and popularisation of the Internet. During the meeting, with the active participation of the audience, the invited participants were looking for new proposals and solutions, enabling a wise and responsible policy regarding the development and popularisation of the Internet, responding to the emerging needs. Among the 275 participants present at the Copernicus Science Centre there were representatives of public administration, entrepreneurs, non-governmental and technical organisations, as well as academia.

The Forum was broadcast live on-line. The recorded broadcasts are available at the [IGF Poland website](#).

The programme of this year's event included topics such as the responsibility of Internet platforms, copyright reform, freedom of expression on the Internet, artificial intelligence and transparency of algorithms. The participants discussed, among other things, the challenges and opportunities offered by AI for Polish entrepreneurs, legal solutions aimed at counteracting

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<sup>3</sup> The UN Multistakeholder Advisory Group (UN MAG) is responsible for the organisation of the Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum.

ensorship of the Internet, OSE and digital competences required by the increasingly digital and technical world, as well as digital tax.

The Forum was opened by Marek Zagórski - Minister of Digital Affairs. In his speech, he stressed the advantages of multilateral discussion among equal partners, each of whom — the state, business, academia and the fourth sector — has a different role to play. Referring to the subject of the conference — technological sovereignty — he said that we should try and understand this concept in a broader scope than only just referring to strictly technological issues. We also need to look at it from other perspectives, such as issues like freedom and rights on the Internet, data as a currency, or regulations that can protect us or restrict our activities on-line. The Minister expressed his hope that the Forum would provide an opportunity to talk about this dilemma.



**2. Plenary Session. Photo by: Jacek Tarach**

Presentations during the plenary part of the Forum also focused on a broad understanding of technological sovereignty and regulation of the Internet, which, while needed, will not solve all our problems. Among the speakers were:

- Krzysztof Silicki, NASK
- dr Agnieszka Skala, Warsaw University of Technology
- Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
- Aleksander Kutela, Onet.pl Group SA, Digital Poland Foundation

- Krzysztof Szubert, UN Multilateral Advisory Group
- Igor Ostrowski, Dentons

The course of the individual Forum sessions is discussed below.

### **Session 1.1 — Principles for responsible on-line platforms. What is the future of the eCommerce Directive?**

During the round table discussions, the participants talked about:

- what intermediaries already do to ensure the trust and security of users by preventing the dissemination of illegal content and inappropriate on-line market activities;
- a regulatory framework for all stakeholders; obligations and rights of both the platforms and their users;
- technological tools used to fulfil these duties (content filtering);
- soft tools used for platform regulation (cooperation with authorities, collecting societies, educating users, etc.);
- the issue of transparency of platforms' activities in the context of activities related to the removal of content published by users;
- the responsibility of the platforms for moderating content and how this activity should be controlled by public institutions;

The issue was presented from a legal, technological, economic and social perspective.

The session was organised by the Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation and OLX.

#### **Moderator:**

*Sylwia Czubkowska, Gazeta Wyborcza, Wyborcza Tech*

#### **Panelists:**

*Chris Sherwood, OLX Group*

*Natalia Mileszyk, Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation*

*Katarzyna Szymielewicz, Panoptykon Foundation*

*Maciej Groń, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

#### **Summary**

The discussion took place in the form of a round table, which enabled all participants to speak and present their opinions. In her opening speech, Natalia Mileszyk representing the Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation noted that these days, the majority of users use the Internet exclusively via on-line platforms. This means that for the vast majority, the Internet is synonymous with these platforms. At the same time, there is a growing demand for the Internet beyond these platforms — to make this possible, there is a pressing need to discuss the principles of the Internet concerning the role of the state, platforms and users. Chris Sherwood of the OLX Group referred to this remark, acknowledging that both the industry and the platforms recognise their growing responsibility and social expectations towards them. He recalled that under the eCommerce Directive, platforms are already responsible for removing illegal content as soon as they are aware of it. He also pointed out that responsibility should not rest solely with the platforms, but should be shared between users, public authorities acting as regulators, platforms and third

parties. The platforms cannot be the only ones actually held accountable for dealing with problems and violations of the law on the Internet. The platforms are not law enforcement authorities and should therefore not act as such.

Responding to these comments, Director Maciej Groń, representing the Ministry of Digital Affairs suggested that in January 2019 he would organise a debate on future rules and responsibilities on the Internet, if stakeholders are interested in such a meeting. He also pointed out that the EU is introducing the final amendments to the recommendations concerning the digital single market strategy for the next European Commission, and a common position of Polish stakeholders would be a good opportunity to shape future proposals of the European Commission. Katarzyna Szymielewicz of the Panoptykon Foundation expressed her scepticism, arguing that national practices and concepts are never powerful enough to shape a global framework like that. In response to questions about the responsibility of the platforms, Szymielewicz stressed her organisation opposes giving the platforms the power to settle disputes or giving them the authority of law enforcement agencies. Instead, the Foundation advocates for establishing a regulatory framework encompassing multiple stakeholders, as this will not result in giving all the power to a single stakeholder. For example, public authorities should prosecute crimes, while platforms should facilitate their activities. The Foundation does not want the platforms to be the only judges in on-line disputes. The debate participants agreed that stakeholders should first discuss and agree on general principles for regulation of on-line activities, and only then look for solutions to specific problems, such as copyright infringement or terrorism.



### 3. Session on the future of the eCommerce Directive. Photo by: Jacek Tarach

In the final part of the debate, the participants talked about users' rights and responsibilities. Katarzyna Szymielewicz noted that the procedures concerning the users' liability do already exist, but they are extremely lengthy and problematic. Public administration should address this issue by creating a rapid procedure for court rulings on user liability. The Wikimedia Foundation representative agreed that this is a sign of a weakness of the regulatory bodies, who should focus on the challenges ahead, instead of regulating minor issues from the past. A representative of Migam Group noted that users with disabilities should also have access to eCommerce services, while Krzysztof Gutowski, representing Plagiat.pl, criticised the regulatory bodies for their passive approach to responsibility of platforms, which means that the rules pertaining to this field will be written by the strongest players on the market. Wojciech Kołodziejczyk representing ZAPA – the Union of Audiovisual Authors and Producers – pointed out that, according to his knowledge, the cost of filtering tools is going down, which means that more and more responsibility will fall on platforms due to the risk management related to precedent court rulings. Michał Białek, head of Wykop.pl, presented the inner workings of the platform in reality, arguing that the platform is not able to physically track all illegal content uploaded to its websites.

The following conclusions were reached during the debate.

#### 1. Discussion of a new responsibility model, encompassing platforms, users and third parties.

The participants of the debate pointed out the need to establish new rules and principles of responsibility on the Internet, which would define the roles and rights of platforms, as well as users, third parties and public authorities, to be their main postulate. In response to these suggestions, Director Maciej Groń, representing the Ministry of Digital Affairs (MoDA), assured that if interested parties wanted to continue this debate, the Ministry can help them establish a working group. The conclusions of the debate should form the basis for the preparation of Polish recommendations for the future EC with regard to its new Digital Agenda.

## **2. Law enforcement needs to be strengthened and stakeholders' responsibility on the Internet should be balanced better.**

According to many participants, law enforcement in the so-called “on-line cases” is either limited or difficult. The main reasons for this state of affairs include insufficient knowledge of technology in the courts, as well as the fact that users do not have the tools to defend their rights on-line. What is more, third parties do not cover the costs of unjustified claims, which due to the increased demand for content filtering affects not only the platforms, but also users and hosting providers. The participants pointed out a number of measures and ways of solving these problems, including:

- state investment in substantive support for courts with regards to on-line matters, for example by providing training courses;
- considering setting up a fast-track procedure for court rulings on users' liabilities (e.g. tort liability) arising from their on-line activities.

## **3. Filtering content may not replace the activities of regulatory bodies and court judgements.**

Despite content filtering tools becoming more advanced and cheaper every year, they also have limited effectiveness. The legislation should establish a framework to ensure, first and foremost, that action is taken against offenders who break the law, and that action involving the removal of content by intermediaries should be regarded as ancillary or, at most, complementary.

## **Session 1.2 — Freedom of speech on the Internet — policy challenges**

*Main questions and scope of the session:*

1. *How should the Internet be treated — as a medium or something completely different? If we treat the Internet as a medium, we can apply the current law to the Internet, and if it is something completely different, should we create new legislation just for the Internet?*
2. *When does censorship begin and who can be a censor? States, entrepreneurs and users — each of these groups would like certain content to be hidden or removed. How to ensure freedom of speech in such a situation and who should do it?*
3. *Threats to freedom of speech — fake news, monopolies — versus security and public peace.*

*The session was organised by Fundacja Republikańska.*

### **Moderator:**

*Dominik Mazur, Fundacja Republikańska*



**Panelists:**

*Jolanta Jaworska, IBM*

*Kamil Cymerman, Republican Foundation*

*Wojciech Klicki, Panoptykon Foundation*

*Anna Sobaczewska-Młynarska, Department of Constitutional Law and European Research,  
Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences*

**Summary****Session 1.3 — How to level the playing field in the European digital services market?**

*The workshop was devoted to the issue of competitiveness of European digital enterprises (platforms) in national markets, as well as in the European market and in the global space. During the workshop, the participants talked about the specific nature of challenges and barriers standing in the way of improving competitiveness by European start-ups, scale-ups and — more broadly — local technology companies. The discussion focused on how their opportunities for growth and competition in an increasingly globalised digital market compare to international companies operating on a global or pan-European scale.*

*After the first part of the debate, when the general situation of European technology companies in comparison with international players was already covered, the focus was put on the subject of European regulations, such as the Digital Services Tax and P2B (platforms-to-business). Building on these specific examples of legislation introduced in Brussels, the participants looked at the challenges faced by the legislators, from the perspective of the European players affected by the enacted legislation, in order to shape the European digital services market in the most efficient and equitable way, where all actors have equal rights, obligations and... opportunities. The good intentions of legislators do not always translate into good legislation — quite to the contrary, in fact, since it is not uncommon for European technology companies, which were supposed to be protected by the law in their competition with international online giants, to de facto fall victim of the new regulations. During the workshop, the participants debated about the ways of supporting local companies, instead of creating additional barriers on their road to development and success.*

*The session was organised by Allegro.pl European Tech Alliance and EURACTIV.pl.*

**Moderator:**

*Karolina Zbytniewska, EURACTIV.pl, expert media*

**Panelists:**

*Hubert Romaniec, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

*Filip Majdowski, Ministry of Finance*

*Dr. Magdalena Piech, Allegro.pl*

*Oleg Roibu, eMAG*

*Dr. Magdalena Słok-Wódkowska, DeLab, University of Warsaw*

**Summary**

As a market, the European Union is characterised by high digital potential (500 million consumers in above-average financial health); however, it remains fragmented. In order to

support industry and at the same time give European consumers an opportunity to take advantage of better eCommerce services, since 2015 the European Commission has been implementing the subsequent elements of the Digital Single Market. The intentions of the European Commission do not always translate into good legislation, and what is more, European digital companies cannot count on financing comparable to that received by companies from the USA and China.

The panellists noted other obstacles stunting the development — a gradual decrease of the EU's share in global demand, a constant lack of an adequate number of IT professionals, as well as less-developed culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, compared to the rest of the world.

Each of the participants also alluded to regulatory issues aimed at clearing up the situation and strengthening the position of local technology companies — among the issues raised, the participants listed European tax regulations (DST) and the regulation of relations between platforms (P2B).

The participants formulated the following postulates:

- introducing an internationally-applied principle of tax fairness along with the new fiscal obligations (for example no double taxation of income that is already covered by CIT);
- determining how the tax on digital services is to be charged — there is still no consensus regarding charging such a tax (proposals include on data sales, as well as on advertising revenue) and from what size will the entities be subject to it;
- the obligation to identify the so-called virtual branch for each country — deemed a difficult task. This must be agreed not only by EU Member States, but also by third countries with which European countries have bilateral tax treaties.
- deepening the cohesion of European markets.



4. Session on the European digital services market. Photo by: Jacek Tarach.

### Session 1.4 — Sustainable development in the era of Artificial Intelligence. How to increase the benefits from the use of AI and minimise the negative impact of the AI on society and economy?

The following issues were discussed during the panel.

- Artificial intelligence as an element of sustainable economic and social growth.
- How to create policies and regulatory environment so that the benefits of artificial intelligence solutions reach the widest possible audience?
- How to identify and respond to threats connected with artificial intelligence in order to effectively minimise the impact of such threats?
- How to support and model the impact of AI on the labour market — what is needed for the balance of benefits and risks to be in the black?
- How to address AI challenges in the area of education and skills needed in the labour market?

The session was organised by Microsoft Poland, Digital Poland and Digital Centre Foundation.

#### Panelists:

*Alek Tarkowski, Digital Centre Foundation, discussion leader*

*Piotr Mieczkowski, Digital Poland Foundation*

*Piotr Marczuk, Microsoft Poland*

*Małgorzata Starczewska-Krzysztozek, Lewiatan*

*Krzysztof Szubert, UN Multilateral Advisory Group*

Michał Pukaluk, Ministry of Digital Affairs

## Summary



### 5. Session on the benefits of using AI. Photo by: Jacek Tarach

The debate during the session focused primarily on attempts at answering three questions:

1. How to increase the benefits from the use of artificial intelligence and minimise the negative impact of the AI on society and economy?
2. How to stimulate demand for AI solutions in Poland, in particular in state-owned companies?
3. How to accelerate the digitisation of SMEs in Poland?

Among the answers to the first question, the participants pointed out the need to develop ethical rules and principles which should guide AI solutions developers. In addition, there is a certain need to develop digital services and help rural regions, since digitisation strengthens mostly the largest urban centres.

Among the responses to the third question, the panellists pointed out the need to support education of companies and SME employees, without whom it is going to be impossible to further increase the digitisation of economy.

The participants also pointed out that state-owned companies were more open to ordering innovative and modern solutions.

Additionally, the participants postulated developing the

- AI Development Strategy for Poland
- as well as establishing relevant institutions (such as the AI Institute) which would implement, monitor and control the implementation of AI solutions in Poland

## **Session 2.1— Copyright reform and its impact on business models, innovation, Internet governance, as well as access to knowledge and culture**

*The European copyright reform arouses much controversy and stirs up emotional responses among the experts, and rightfully so — its outcome will affect not only users' access to content and culture, but also some of the functioning business models, the liability of Internet intermediaries, the rights of press publishers and the development of text and data mining technologies. During the round table debate, the invited participants will face the question of whether the current shape of the reform corresponds to the challenges posed by the development of the Internet and new technologies. We are also counting on hearing many voices from the audience.*

*The Digital Centre Foundation has been dealing with the subject of the reform from its very beginning — we note that this topic has strong political connotations in the discourse, which is why we decided to invite representatives of various circles — who often have opinions that differ from ours — to the IGF. We wanted the IGF round table debate to be an opportunity for presenting a comprehensive, as well as global — in terms of competitiveness and innovation opportunities — perspective on the reform of European copyright law.*

*The issue of reform was presented from different perspectives, including legal, technological, economic and social. The round table debate was attended by representatives of business, creative industry, technology industry, science and non-governmental organisations.*

*The session was organised by the Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation.*

### **Moderator:**

*Natalia Mileszyk, Centrum Cyfrowe Foundation*

### **Panelists:**

*Barbara Szczepańska, eIFL*

*Katarzyna Klafkowska-Waśniowska, Adam Mickiewicz University*

*Michał Buczyński, Wikimedia Poland*

*Michał Białek, Wykop.pl*

*Rafał Kownacki, ZAIKS*

*Magdalena Tul, singer, composer, lyricist*

### **Summary**

The participants identified and discussed the following issues pertaining to the copyright reform:

1. no public debate on the reform;

2. lack of space to look for compromise solutions in the ongoing copyright reform;
3. the debate on copyright was dominated by the topic of regulating platforms — which raises all kinds of issues, including little interest in other areas of copyright and too narrow the discussion on regulating platforms only to the topic of copyright;
4. in the debate on copyright reform, digital creators, who play an increasingly important role in shaping culture, were omitted.

Each of the speakers could present one postulate concerning the reform:

1. Barbara Szczepańska, eIFL, pointed out that the reform is not a response to the needs of the public culture sector and devotes too much attention to commercial culture — all while it is still necessary to facilitate the functioning of the GLAM sector.
2. Michał Buczyński, Wikimedia Polska, pointed out that not all Internet platforms are commercial in nature and applying the same rules to all platforms may be too much of a burden for non-commercial ones.
3. Rafał Kownacki, ZAIKS, emphasized the problem of value gap — the issue of settlements between collecting societies and on-line platforms, and he appealed for regulation of the issue.
4. Małgorzata Tul, artist, noticed the need to change copyright law and adapt it to digital content sharing.
5. Olek Wendzel, tworcyninternetowi.pl emphasised that Internet creators do not always have the same interests as traditional creators.
6. Katarzyna Kłafkowska-Waśniowska, Adam Mickiewicz University, pointed out that the communication around the reform is very unclear and the studies presented in support of the draft directive do not always fully explain the proposed solutions.
7. Michał Białek, Wykop.pl, stressed that the regulation of on-line platforms should be different for various types of platforms — it will be very difficult for Polish platforms to meet the requirements of the directive.

Copyright reform is controversial, particularly in view of the proposed content filtering, which is supposed to respond to the creative industry's needs for profit-sharing between them and on-line platforms. In the case of other such controversial digital topics, it is important to ensure that the public debate is shaped properly and that the complex legal issues are clarified from the very beginning. The debate participants emphasised the absence of a representative of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in a debate on copyright reform — in Poland there is a noticeable lack of strong intellectual leadership in this area, especially since the Copyright Forum stopped being organised. It is necessary to start the debate on the implementation of the directive with all stakeholders as quickly as possible, since only at this level will it be possible to adapt possible solutions adopted at the EU level to the needs of Polish stakeholders.

## Session 2.2 — Poland and Digital Baltic Sea Region

*The main objective of the debate was to analyse Polish interests in the Baltic Sea region and international cooperation in the field of digitisation in the region.*

*During the debate, the participants:*

- *focused on what Poland can gain from digital cooperation and how to contribute to it;*

- *talked about opportunities and challenges;*
- *pointed out ideas for new projects involving entities from the Baltic Sea region;*
- *established new contacts between stakeholders and extended cooperation networks/*

*The discussion was inspired by the following initiatives carried out in the Baltic Sea Region:*

- *Top of Digital Europe Think Tank, [www.topofdigital.eu](http://www.topofdigital.eu) — on the potential of digital cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, in particular the State of the Digital Region publication 2015-2017.*
- *The DIGINNO Project, [www.diginnoobsr.eu](http://www.diginnoobsr.eu), in which 24 partners (mainly ministries and industry associations) from nine Baltic States jointly analysed approaches to SME digitisation, cross-border digital solutions and digitisation policies The Polish partner of the projects is KIGEIT.*

*The session was organised by Aalborg University in Copenhagen (DIGINNO), Microsoft, Ministry of Science and Higher Education (Policy Area Innovation).*

#### **Moderator:**

*Torben Aaberg, Aalborg University, Copenhagen*

#### **Panelists:**

*Andrzej Jarzewski, Ministry of Industry and Technology*

*Bożena Skibicka, KIGEIT*

*Daniel Jastrun, Scandinavian-Polish Chamber of Commerce*

*Jarosław Tworóg, KIGEIT*

*Joanna Wojtkowska, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;*

*Mads-Emil Nygaard Stærk, Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Warsaw*

*Michał Pukaluk, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

*Piotr Marczuk, Microsoft Poland*

*Reet Reismaa, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia*

*Tomasz Jałukowicz, Ministry of Science and Higher Education;*

*Tomasz Klekowski, Lewiatan*

#### **Summary**

Poland plays an important role in digitisation of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The countries in the region are increasingly interested in strengthening their cooperation with Poland, mainly — but not only — due to the size of our market and strong human capital in ICT. It seems that there is a large untapped potential and great interest in cross-border digital cooperation in the BSR in the public sector and the IT industry in Poland. The Baltic Sea Region provides opportunities that are comparable to those in other regions, such as the V4.

Among the ideas for areas of cooperation and projects, the participants pointed out:

- data exchange management, establishing a laboratory for data warehouses in the region.
- cybersecurity;
- IT skills;
- artificial intelligence (AI);
- e-health;
- digital innovation centres.

Stronger cooperation in the BSR may help us speed up decision-making processes in Europe and make the digital transition more efficient.

From the standpoint of the industry in Nordic countries, IT is the main topic of interest when it comes to cooperation. Poland is attractive due to the size of the market and many well-qualified IT experts. Formerly, Polish companies were mainly viewed as subcontractors; however, these days start-up companies want to come to Poland. BSR start ups should be invited to Warsaw.

Main Polish centres: Numerous well-educated IT experts and strong software development; however, Poland needs experience in the industry, as well as in Industry 4.0. Other areas of cooperation: AI from the industry perspective, 5G strategy for building ecosystems for software-defined solutions.

The level of trust between SMEs/industry and public administration is also crucial. In this area, Poland can inspire Scandinavian countries, because these countries are characterised by a high level of social capital.

“Digital Europe” priorities can inspire various areas of cooperation within the BSR.

Poland is particularly strong in Fintech — some even say it is a pioneer. In PL, financial institutions cooperate and develop joint digital solutions.

### **Session 2.3 — Modern technologies in a modern city — the future of ride-sharing market**

*Modern technologies and the use of the Internet via digital platforms are both of great importance for the development of cities — this statement was the motto of the panel. The participants opened the debate by defining what ride-sharing services are and how they influence the development of urban mobility. They touched upon the subject of the future of employees in the age of the Internet. Greater freedom and flexibility of work, the egalitarian employment opportunities for persons with disabilities and the possibility of combining work with other activities — these are the key phenomena concerning the future of the labour market in the era of technological development. The participants also talked about legal and regulatory issues, while pondering about adapting the law to keep up with technological development and support the development of innovation in the field of urban mobility.*

*The session was organised by CEC Government Relations, Polish Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications, Taxify*

#### **Moderator:**

*Stanisław Pietrzak, CEC Government Relations*

#### **Panelists:**

*Dr. Alex Kartsel, Taxify*

*Robert Bednarski, Wrocław Municipal Office*

*Dr. Renata Włoch, DELab*



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During the debate, the participants laid out the directions of development of the urban transport market. Among other things, they mentioned autonomous cars — the participants unanimously stated that this stage of development of the transport market in Poland is still about 10 years away.

Other solutions, which can be used in the near future and will certainly have an impact on urban mobility is the gradual banning passenger cars from the hearts of the cities, as well as the development of car rentals and new forms of moving around the city with the help of applications — electric scooters.

The example of Wrocław shows that ride-hailing and ride-sharing are complementary to urban transport and do not compete with it in any way, which is why it is worth taking these services into consideration and cooperating with them in order to jointly create the urban space.

The participants also covered regulatory issues, including a bill which is currently undergoing the legislative process and which will affect the operations of entities using applications for passenger transport in Poland.

The participants of the debate extend the following postulates:

- The presence of application-based transport in cities should be taken into account and cooperation with these entities should be established in order to make our cities more friendly and accessible for these modes of transport.
- The new draft law should be adapted to the needs of all market participants, both conventional taxi drivers and transport service providers. Among other things, we should do away with outdated topography tests and enable using an application as a taximeter.
- Around 80% of employees of ride-hailing companies work less than 20 hours a week. They should therefore not be restricted in their access to an additional source of income by prohibiting the provision of occasional transport services in the city.

## Session 2.4 — NEN — fast, safe and free access to the Internet in Polish schools

*The panel was devoted to the development of the National Educational Network as an opportunity for a civilisational leap in the education process.*

*The session was organised by NASK.*

### Moderator:

*Bohdan Pawłowicz, NASK*

### Panelists:

*Prof. Jacek Leśkow, NASK National Research Institute*

*Dariusz Stachecki, Feliks Szoldrski Primary School No. 3 in Nowy Tomysł*

*Dominik Kopera, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

*Sebastian Ptaszyński, Wasilków Municipal Office*

*Tomasz Łukawski, Little Insurgent Primary School No. 3 in Ząbki*

*Tomasz Kulasa, Ministry of National Education*

## Summary



6. NEN session. Photo by: Jacek Tarach

### **Session 3.1 — Should global content distributors (Facebook, Google) spend 1% of their revenue on combating Fake News?**

*The giants of the digital market earn money on content creation, regardless of its quality. Often the more controversial and unlikely the news, the better it “sells” time and engagement in social media. In connection with the above, the fact of the existence of media funded by selling advertisements based on time spent on the websites results in the production of fake news. Governments are considering various restrictions and regulations on content distributors, which are aimed at preventing, among other things, excessive creation and spread of fake news. How to create a mechanism for curbing fake news, who should deal with it?*

*The session was organised by ESCOLA S.A.*

#### **Moderator:**

*Krzysztof Wojewodzik, ESCOLA S.A.*

#### **Panelists:**

*Jarosław Lipszyc, Modern Poland Foundation*

Piotr Stec, Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Silesia  
Michał Brennek, Ziemia na Rozdrożu  
Tomasz Ganicz, Wikipedia  
Beata Zwierzyńska, University of Lower Silesia  
Angelika Tracz, Demagog Association  
Anna Gruhn, Mises Institute



7. A debate on digital tax. Photo by: Jacek Tarach.

### **Session 3.2 — Limiting users' freedom of expression in social media — a violation of human and citizen rights, or a necessity for fighting against violations of law and common decency on the Internet?**

*The session was devoted to the growing phenomenon of censorship of users' statements and posts in social media. The debate outlined the insights about the current functioning of social networks and the use of algorithms to monitor and remove content. During the session, Polish legal regulations — derived from the Civil Code and the Code of Petty Offences — aimed at combating censorship applied by the administrators of social networking sites were also presented. In the final part, apart from the *de lege lata* and *del lege ferenda* postulates, a debate was started on the threats to freedom of speech, which may*

result from the regulations planned by the European Commission, aimed at “combating disinformation” on the Internet.

The session was organised by Ordo Iuris, Kancelaria Adwokacka Adw. Tomasz Piotr Chudzinski.

**Moderator:**

*Tomasz Piotr Chudzinski, Kancelaria Adwokacka Adw. Tomasz Piotr Chudzinski*

**Panelists:**

*Dr. Tymoteusz Zych, Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture*

*Dr Marcin Olszówka, Chair of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Lazarski University in Warsaw*

*Maciej Groń, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

*Lidia Sankowska - Grabczuk, Spokesperson of Prawica RP*



**8. Session on freedom of expression in social media. Photo by: Jacek Tarach.**

**Summary**

Maciej Groń briefly presented the issues pertaining to the joint agreement between the Ministry of Digital Affairs and Facebook, as well as the position of the Polish government on the proposal of the European Commission on combating disinformation.

Lidia Grabczuk outlined the need to introduce mechanisms balancing the right to freedom of speech and restricting this freedom in the case of so-called hate speech into legislation.

Dr. Tymoteusz Zych appealed for introducing appropriate legislative changes in the Act on electronic services, as well as indicated the obligations resulting from legal regulations, which should also be enforced in relation to social media website administrators operating in Poland.

Dr. Marcin Olszówka pointed out the risks associated with negative disinformation — a phenomenon that may occur in the case of introducing supranational secondary legislation regulating the fight against disinformation on the Internet.

During the discussion between the debate participants with the audience, the latter spoke about 4-5 times. The lively discussion, great interest of the audience and time limitations of the panel forced the debate to be cut short in the middle.

The participants all agreed that freedom of speech on the Internet should not be absolute. At the same time, the risks related to the excessive fight against the message subjectively classified as disinformation, and thus — broad introduction of censorship in secondary acts of supranational law were outlined and pointed out. Therefore, it is necessary to constantly monitor the work of the EU institutions and to support them, so that the planned regulations do not serve to censor politically incorrect content. The participants quoted, among other sources, the European Commission Communications, which read that the potential criticism of EU institutions, the wide opening of borders to illegal immigration, the ideology of global warming will be qualified as disinformation, which will have a chilling effect on freedom of speech and will result in censorship of expression of entities presenting different points of view.

They also pointed out the need for necessary legislative actions in order to adapt Polish law to the current level of technological development.

### **Session 3.3 — alGOVrithms. How to make algorithms created by the authorities transparent?**

*While research on algorithms used on social networking websites and their impact on societies is present in the public debate, the analysis of algorithms used to support the decision-making process in the context of the relationship between the state and its citizens is a relatively new phenomenon. Research conducted by the ePaństwo Foundation shows that the governments of Central and Eastern European countries have not undertaken any systemic action to develop standards for including algorithms in decision-making processes. This does not mean that public institutions do not use automated processes to regulate the legal and factual situation of citizens of Central and Eastern Europe, Poland notwithstanding. The aim of the debate was to outline the solutions implemented or postulated in Western Europe and the United States. The workshop resulted in the development of specific proposals pertaining to the subject of securing the rights and freedoms of citizens and ensuring that the algorithms created will be accountable and transparent, in cooperation with the participants.*

*The session was organised by the ePaństwo Foundation.*

#### **Moderator:**

*Krzysztof Izdebski, ePaństwo Foundation*

**Panelists:**

*Magdalena Siwanowicz, ePaństwo Foundation, Warsaw Legal Hackers*  
*Sebastian Szymański, Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw*  
*Zuzanna Warso, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights*

**Summary**

The debate concerned the mostly obscure issue of implementation of algorithms making decisions or supporting decision-making in relations between the state and its citizens, which is hardly popular in Poland and in the Central and Eastern Europe.

The panellists raised questions as to whether such algorithms should be used by the state at all, particularly given that a large part of the tools mentioned during the session concerns the area of justice, which should never become a proving ground for testing the operation of algorithms. Algorithms carry the risk of discrimination. The participants pointed out that the data “fed” to algorithms may be an issue. Historical data used for this purpose may even further entrench discrimination. According to the debate participants, the use of algorithms may also violate the right to privacy protection, for example by profiling. Transparency also remains an issue — including the question of whether it is possible to apply the information clause to algorithms using artificial intelligence at all.

Despite that, the fears that machine decision making will completely eliminate the human factor seem to be mostly unfounded; however, the focus should be put on issues pertaining to the threats to the principle of equality. Digital traces enable the state to learn a lot about the life of its citizens, all while the state and companies are reluctant to reveal how this data is used. In this context, the risk of manipulation — such as in the case of Cambridge Analytica — also becomes noteworthy.

Creating IT tools including algorithms is desirable. They can potentially increase not only the efficiency of public services but also their transparency. However, there is a great need to assess the impact of introducing such tools in order to anticipate potential risks.

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Creating IT tools including algorithms is desirable. They can potentially increase not only the efficiency of public services but also their transparency. However, there is a great need to assess the impact of introducing such tools in order to anticipate potential risks.

It is important to consider informing citizens about the inner workings of the algorithms and the effects of their operation on the life of a particular citizen in a clear and understandable way. In this respect, we may refer to the regulations put on financial institutions, which forced them to explain the inner workings of high-risk investment instruments.

Therefore, a mechanism to monitor the functioning of already implemented algorithms should also be developed. This will enable rapid intervention by the legislator or the system provider in the event of risks of discrimination or privacy breaches.

Algorithm development should involve a multidisciplinary team of IT specialists, officials and ethicists. This is too complex an issue to leave it to the IT specialists alone.

Irrespective of a possible “hard” regulation on the assessment of the impact of introduction of specific tools, soft regulation methods such as codes of ethics or codes of best practices should be introduced, as per the calls and postulates made at EU level.



9. A debate about algorithms developed by the authorities. Photo by: Jacek Tarach.

### Session 3.4 — Developing technologies — challenges for new digital competences

*Technologies and new solutions in 5G networks, the Internet of Things or machine learning are blurring the boundaries between the physical and digital worlds. They will transform communication, the economy, industry and society in general, bringing risks, as well as opening up new opportunities — new products and services, new types of work and new business models. As a result of these changes, both business leaders and governments will face the challenge of fully exploiting the potential of the new technology age for the benefit of both economies and societies.*

*The panel was devoted to both the existing and planned activities related to building digital competences in response to challenges posed by development of technology. The aim of the debate was not only to diagnose the current state of the discourse and work, but also to raise awareness of the competence gap problem. The participants of the meeting also tried to answer the question of the actions and strategies that will be able to effectively solve this problem, and what they should look like.*

*The session was organised by the Office of Electronic Communications*

**Moderator:**

*Dr. Lidia Stępińska-Ustasiak, Office of Electronic Communications*

**Panelists:**

*Ewelina Grabowska, Ericsson*

*Gabriella Schitteck, ICANN*

*Mike NXELE, ITU*



Dr. Jarogniew Rykowski, Poznań University of Economics

## Summary

Technologies and new solutions in 5G networks, the Internet of Things or machine learning are blurring the boundaries between the physical and digital worlds. They will transform communication, the economy, industry and society in general, bringing risks, as well as opening up new opportunities — new products and services, new types of work and new business models. As a result of these changes, both business leaders and governments will face the challenge of fully exploiting the potential of the new technology age for the benefit of both economies and societies.

Mike Nxele, Senior Human Capacity Building Officer of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) started the session with a presentation on technological trends that will have an impact on the labour market and the future of jobs.

We are seeing an exponential increase in the impact of the digital transformation on the economy. This is influenced by many factors, such as the growing number of connected devices, the development of artificial intelligence, virtual reality, gigadata, the development of smart cities, as well as robotics. According to Gartner, by the end of 2050 we can expect about 200 billion connected devices. Thus, when we talk about the emergence of new skills, some experts predict that the robots will take over most of the current professions. For this reason, when you ask your children who they would like to be in the future, the only legitimate answer is “I don't know” — said Mike Nxele. He stressed that while looking at the digital economy we can easily see the emergence of a new set of skills needed to respond to the needs of the future market. From the point of view of digital competence development, it will be necessary to retrain workers and adapt their skills to an ever-changing environment, as well as to include skills combining different fields in their set of competencies.

Over the last few decades, the development of ICT and technology has had an impact on competences required for work. With the expansion of the role of ICT in different sectors, such as health, agriculture, public administration, transport and many others, the need to develop digital competences is growing. Moreover, according to the forecasts presented in the ITU report *Capacity Building in a Changing ICT Environment 2018*, some developed countries, such as the UK, indicate that 35% to 47% of all occupations will disappear over the next few decades as a result of automation in industry and other sectors. This means that a significant percentage of the workforce will have to acquire new qualifications.



10. Panel discussion on digital challenges for competences. Photo by: Jacek Tarach

According to a survey conducted by Ericsson, we should not be afraid of digital transformation. Ericsson carried out an analysis to show how many jobs and professions will have to change or disappear completely as a result of automation. Ewelina Grabowska, Head of Learning Services in Europe at Ericsson argues that only 6% of them will be fully eliminated, while over 60% will be affected and changed in some way. “Many people will have to learn what to change and how to adapt to this new environment. For this reason, a significant part of the effort should be invested in change management in order to develop a new way of thinking. Employees will need to adapt to changes at a very rapid pace. The only answer to all the consequences of the digital revolution that we will encounter in the future is continuous learning,” said Ewelina Grabowska.

In long-term planning strategies regarding preparing the society for the future challenges of the labour market, we should start with changes at primary school level. “Our children are different and will always be such, because we live in the most revolutionary period in the history of the human kind. Children are constantly distracted and bombarded by YouTube content, tutorials, games. They learn in a completely different way, so the traditional way of teaching offered by schools and universities can be boring for them. It is too hierarchical and linear, while they expect more,” Ewelina Grabowska tried to convince the audience.

Prof. Jarogniew Rykowski from the Poznań University of Economics agreed with Ewelina Grabowska that these days teaching requires a different approach. “We read books, while current students read from the screens, and that's a big difference. When we compare

secondary and higher education, we will also see numerous changes. When students go to high school, they have a lot of subjects and a wide spectrum of many topics. We refer to it as T-shaped education with many areas being developed horizontally. When these students start their studies at university, they specialise in one subject, in one area of knowledge. It is an I-shaped model of education, very popular at universities, which in comparison to T-shaped is based on vertical aggregation of knowledge, where each subject is built on the foundation of the previous one. We do not need I-shaped education on universities, because it results in specialists in very narrow fields - experts in nothing,” said Prof. Rykowski.

People who have acquired basic knowledge can learn on their own, while experts in specific fields are focused on narrow areas. This can be a problem in the digital age, which requires rapid adaptation to change. “When I was a student, I learned one programming language and it was Pascal. Then I learned about a hundred or so languages, of which I now use perhaps ten. This shows that self-education is now the key. After graduating 30 years ago, one could spend 30 years in the same company. Now after graduating people know nothing, and they have to learn more” Prof. Rykowski added.

Ewelina Grabowska confirmed that the young generation that joins Ericsson requires a special approach. “15 years ago, we offered our employees standard technical training courses. The next step was on-line training, then videos made available on-line. The next step is gamification, or video that is a part of a game. In order to engage people in the learning process, we use game elements. We see that this is the most effective way of teaching thousands of engineers in our research and development centres in China and other locations. Companies like Ericsson talk a lot about agile teams, cooperation and diversity. Our research shows that only diversity brings the best results. But does the current education system provide the necessary tools to meet the needs of business? Does it teach how to think creatively, cooperate and combine ideas? — Ewelina Grabowska asked.

Preparing for change is a responsibility shared by everybody. Some countries are developing their own national digital strategies, which are integrated into the education system. Mike Nxele added that the process of building digital competences must involve a variety of stakeholders interested in both the future of education and the adoption of new technologies. “The private sector also plays a role in the development of digital strategies for countries. When everybody is involved in creating and using digital tools, new markets emerge for them. The role of academia is crucial because universities are the source of research. Local communities are also important for digitisation and digital competence building.” said Mike Nxele.

Gabriella Schitteck, Global Stakeholder Engagement Senior Manager, Nordic & Central Europe ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) shared the perspective of a global organisation. “We engage people locally by investing in awareness-raising programmes. We have many programmes in this field, such as the NextGen@ICANN program for students who would like to be active in their local communities. We also run ICANN Learn, an open, web-based platform aimed at both tech-savvy people, as well as those without such knowledge. We also run a variety of regional initiatives, such as the Internet Academy in Poland, where we

organise meetings with experts on various topics related to the Internet. One of our key missions is to ensure the stability of the Internet, which is why we also help governments, law enforcement agencies, the military and end users by enabling contact with our experts.

Mixe Nxele mentioned several programmes aimed at developing digital competences, carried out by the ITU. “ITU responds to the challenges of the digital revolution in many ways. One of such examples is the ITU Academy, which we have been running and developing since 2010. As part of its activities, training programs are created by ITU Centres of Excellence and carried out. They also serve as a platform for dialogue with different stakeholder groups.”

Neither the transformation process nor the discussion about the future challenges of the labour market are new; however, we are still at the beginning of a long road. “Our experience with multidisciplinary studies shows the multitude of formal barriers have to be overcome in order to offer such a way of education. The obstacles start piling up at the stage of first contact with the Polish system of registration and certification, then there is another issue, namely adjusting it to the formal classification of subjects. Judging by our education system, we are definitely not yet prepared for change,” said Prof. Rykowski.

The implementation of new technologies always requires new and complex competences. “We should start with ourselves, because continuous learning is crucial. We must change and be open to all new learning opportunities. We must also teach our children how to learn, because in the future, this will be the most important skill. We should acquire knowledge every day and this is the only answer to the needs of the market — Ewelina Grabowska concluded.

### **Session 4.1 — The New Internet. Will blockchain and other similar technologies lead to a decentralised Web 3.0?**

*During the workshop, the participants debated about the future of Web 3.0.*

*This new web is supposed to be created as a result of the constant evolution of the Internet. Web 1.0 featured mainly one-sided, passive distribution of content from one party to another. Web 2.0 is the web as we know it today, which has become a much more interesting place thanks to social media, easy data sharing and services based on the sharing economy. Users actively create content, but usually tend to use intermediaries, many of which are giant companies.*

*Web 3.0 is shaping up before our eyes. It is supposed to be a distributed network in which users, applications and devices interact — not only to communicate, but also interact economically — in a way that does not require the involvement of others. The data is under the full control of its owners and at the same time can be easily shared. Web 3.0 is supposed to be very secure, since its critical locations will not depend solely on individual entities.*

*Web 3.0 will consist of various elements, many of which can be created using blockchain and other technologies based on the paradigm of decentralisation. These include services that are currently centralised or hard to develop without the involvement of central entities, such as payment systems, digital identity systems or domain name systems. There are many indications that blockchain and similar technologies can become the cornerstone of Web 3.0. Open platforms such as Ethereum could become a distributed, shared infrastructure for the new, decentralised Internet. Although we do not know yet which*

*solutions will eventually turn out to be the most popular, it can be assumed that at least some of them will be based on blockchain technology. The aim of the workshop was to debate about the opportunities and threats of Web 3.0, from the perspective of users, service providers, and the public sector.*

*The session was organised by the Coalition for Polish Innovation.*

#### **Moderator:**

*Jacek Czarnecki, Foundation of the Coalition for Polish Innovation*

#### **Panelists:**

*Jakub Lipiński, Jagiellonian Club*

*Patryk Walaszczyk, IBM*

*Iwona Karasek-Wojciechowicz, Jagiellonian University*

*Łukasz Gleń, Golem Factory*

*Piotr Rutkowski, Ministry of Digital Affairs*

#### **Summary**

### **Session 4.2 — Can artificial intelligence become a driving force for the development of the Polish economy?**

*In the financial markets, more than 80% of transactions are carried out by algorithms based on artificial intelligence. Most of the digital content reaching us, even if we are not aware of it, is tailored to our preferences, based on data describing our behaviour, processed by AI algorithms. On the one hand, AI is the foundation of the strategy of gaining a competitive edge by companies with the largest capitalisation in the world, and, on the other hand, it is the leading direction of capital allocation in start ups by VC funds. The value of the global market for AI solutions in 2018 is estimated at PLN 4.5 trillion, which represents a 70% increase compared to 2017. In 2022, the value of the AI market will exceed PLN 15 trillion (CAGR 33% y/y). The European Union, the USA and China all develop institutional solutions aimed at stimulating innovation by supporting initiatives in the area of AI.*

*For several years we have been observing the first results and effects of the revolution — a qualitative change that began several years ago in the area of development and application of AI methods to support a broad range of processes, including in service, industry, security and defence, as well as in everyday life. This revolution went unnoticed by a broader audience for many years, but these days its effects are becoming more and more difficult to disregard. AI is beginning to shape the technological, economic and social landscape of the modern world.*

*Will the Polish economy be an observer, participant, or maybe a conscious creator of this process?*

*Which directions of AI development are the most prospective from the technological and economic point of view?*

*Can the Polish economy specialise in the development of AI methods? In which areas and niches?*

*Are local conditions (human resources, education, data, IT technologies, experience, know-how) conducive to this process, or do they rather make it difficult?*

*What conditions would have to be met in order for Poland to become a local, or perhaps global centre for the development and implementation of AI methods?*

*The session was organised by the Warsaw School of Economics.*



11. A discussion about AI as a driving force of the Polish economy. Photo by: Jacek Tarach.

**Moderator:**

*Dr. Grzegorz Koloch, Warsaw School of Economics*

**Panelists:**

*Dr. Jarosław Arabas, Eng. Warsaw University of Technology*

*Prof. Tomasz Szapiro, Warsaw School of Economics*

*Jacek Biały, Sii Sp. z o.o*

*Dr. Tomasz Puton, Symmetrical Labs sp. z o.o.*

**Summary**

From an economic standpoint, the broadly understood concept of the “driving force” behind economic growth are the needs on which the supply side should focus in order to properly identify and address them. The global economy is currently developing at a specific pace, mainly due to technology and technological progress. Technologies are changing rapidly and are also becoming obsolete just as quickly. These days, artificial intelligence — both in the algorithmic and technological context — becomes an area with stronger and stronger impact on various aspects of business and societies. On the other hand, it is a revolution like any other, and supplying AI-based solutions is not very different from other modern industries.

The development and implementation of AI-based methods is just one of many existing industries. Polish economy has predispositions and even a comparative advantage in some areas related to the use and development of artificial intelligence solutions; however, this requires

initiating actions on a larger scale, both bottom-up and top-down. This primarily concerns investments that should be aimed at areas where we have an advantage or can quickly catch up with the leaders.

The key resources are primarily our STEM-educated experts, whom Poland has more or less as many per capita as the United Kingdom, which is not only a leader in Europe, but also in the world. In order to exploit this potential, it is necessary to stimulate the cooperation of businesses and academia.

AI does not exist without data, and collecting data is only part of the solution, since quality of said data matters just as much.

The role of the regulatory bodies is crucial in stimulating the development of the economy based on AI solutions. Algorithms need large databases to be operational, and the public sector — including state-owned companies — is a potentially important “producer” of data. Efforts aimed at data openness are important, but symmetry in relations with international partners — both other countries and large companies — is equally important.

Many AI-related projects around the world are commissioned by the public sector. In Poland, there are already initiatives and projects aimed at coordinating the process of providing AI solutions for the public sector. The more such initiatives, the better.

The establishment of an AI development centre in Poland could be one of the key initiatives of economic policy makers in the field of innovation. The costs of implementing such a project would not be high and the potential added value would be enormous.

Resources should be channelled where there is a possibility of gaining a competitive edge. We are talking about AI that is algorithmic, rather than technological, since this is where we can obtain an advantage. Given our focus on algorithmic AI, we are able to develop any advanced solution existing at the moment in the world within 12 months.

### **Session 4.3 — Digital Innovation Hubs — the way to digitisation of European industry**

*The future of Europe holds an inevitable digital transition. Digital innovation hubs are one of the tools for building a strong and competitive economy on our continent, the establishment of which is stimulated by the European Commission. What is the role of such hubs in Poland's innovative ecosystem? Will we effectively develop our economy with the solutions achieved thanks to the 4.0 revolution? Will European companies be able to compete effectively against their American and Asian counterparts? How will Polish companies perform against this background?*

*The session was organised by the Polish Business and Innovation Centers Association in Poland, Toruń Technology Park.*

#### **Moderator:**

*Tomasz Urbanowicz, Polish Business and Innovation Centers Association in Poland, Toruń Technology Park*

## Summary

### Session 4.4 — Poland 1918-2018: From Independent to digital, or how to preserve freedom and security in the era of advanced technologies

*Reflection of experts on the long way of Poland in the last 100 years, with particular focus on the last quarter of that century — 25 years of NASK.*

*A reminder of civilisational changes that took place in Poland after regaining independence in 1918, as seen from the perspective of challenges related to the technological progress of the 21st century.*

*Is it possible to look for starting points for the future in the past — and if so, is it constructive?*

*Does Poland have a chance to experience civilisational changes at a similar scale as those that occurred in the 1920s? What are the obstacles faced by Poland and Poles? What are our strengths and, consequently, our opportunities?*

*Intellectual confrontation with the problem of the 21st century antinomy — a contradiction between the Internet as the embodiment of ideals of freedom and the need to maintain on-line security, or in other words, limiting said freedom.*

*An attempt to outline a vision of modern Poland on the scale of the XXII century.*

*The session was organised by NASK.*

#### **Moderator:**

*Marcin Bochenek, NASK National Research Institute*

#### **Panelists:**

*Krzysztof Silicki, NASK*

*Dr. Monika Mizielińska-Chmielewska, Media Trend*

*Jerzy Kalinowski, KPMG*

*Prof. Antoni Dudek, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University*

#### **Summary**

Beginning the panel, Prof. Dudek pointed out the significant involvement of scientists-inventors and international authorities in shaping the new Polish statehood. He also emphasised that the civic attitude of the interwar period was understood as the primacy of duties towards the community and statehood over personal goals, including professional career.

The participants of the debate noted that community-oriented thinking is not so strong any more, and conflicts stemming from different perspectives, worldviews, ideas or interests are not diminished by the notion of the common good, because it is interpreted differently. Dr. Mizielińska-Chmielewska presented a vision of modern development of society. Dr. Kalinowski devoted his presentation to the reflection on the educational structures, which raise Polish youth.





12. Session "Poland 1918-2018. From Independent to digital". Photo by: Jacek Tarach.

The main suggestion of the discussion was to focus on improving the level of Polish universities. The participants also suggested that technical universities — such as the Warsaw University of Technology — and economic universities should be also included among the most prestigious and most subsidised universities. According to Dr. Kalinowski, focusing on higher education exclusively at universities is a mistake which will be felt in the future.

Questions regarding the Polish Internet Governance Forum and IGF Poland can be sent to [igfpolska@mc.gov.pl](mailto:igfpolska@mc.gov.pl), or directed to the phone number: +48 22 245 55 28.