

## Congress on Minorities National and Ethnic Minorities in Poland and Europe

### – Society, Politics, State

[General Program]

Opole, September 23–24, 2025

**Motto:**

*"Democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of the minority."*

— Albert Camus

**Location:** Opole

### Day I [Tuesday, September 23, 2025]

#### 10:00 – Opening of the Congress

##### Welcome addresses:

- Dr. Eng. Marcin Kulasek, Minister of Science and Higher Education, *tbc*
- Prof. Dr. Jacek Lipok, Rector of the University of Opole
- Szymon Ogłaza, Marshal of the Opole Voivodeship
- Monika Jurek, Voivode of Opolskie Voivodeship
- Rafał Bartek, Chairman of the Opole Regional Assembly

#### 10:30 – 12:30: Opening Panel

*National and Ethnic Minorities in Europe – The Value of Multiculturalism*

*(Participants: representatives of the European Commission, Council of Europe, Government of Poland, minority organizations, tbc)*

#### 13:00 – Press Conference

### Public Administration Forum – Part 1

#### [Parallel sessions]

**14:00 – 16:00: Off-site Meeting of the Parliamentary Committee on National and Ethnic Minorities**

**14:00 – 16:00: *A Microcosm of European Integration? Minorities in European Borderlands***

Panel related to the implementation of the B-SHAPES project: Borders Shaping Perceptions of European Societies within the Horizon Europe program.

## Scientific Forum

### [Parallel sessions]

#### 14:00 – 16:00: Opening Panel

*Minorities as a Subject and Object of State Action*

#### 16:00 – 16:30: Break

#### 16:30 – 18:00: Thematic Panel Sessions

- **Section 1a:** *The Rights of National and Ethnic Minorities: From Theory to Practice*
  - This section will analyze legal regulations concerning national and ethnic minorities and their actual implementation in different countries.
- **Section 1b:** *The Role of Regional and Minority Languages in Preserving Cultural Identity*
  - This forum will discuss the significance of minority and regional languages in preserving cultural identity and their protection in multilingual societies.
- **Section 1c:** *Minority Education: Challenges and Perspectives*
  - This section will focus on the challenges and future of minority education, including issues related to teaching in minority languages and integrating minority students.
- **Section 1d:** *National and Ethnic Minorities in Political and Social Life*
  - This section will address issues related to the participation of national and ethnic minorities in politics, civil society, and their representation in state institutions.
- **Section 1e:** *Representation of Minorities in the Media: Images and Stereotypes*
  - This section will focus on the analysis of the representation of minorities in the media, especially in the context of stereotypes and their impact on the social perception of these groups.

#### 19:00 – Dinner

#### 20:00 – Cultural Program

## Day II [Wednesday, September 24, 2025]

### Public Administration Forum – Part 2

#### [Parallel sessions]

**10:00 – 12:30: Forum of Voivodes' Representatives for National and Ethnic Minorities and Other Authorities, Including Local Government Units**

**12:30 – 13:00: Break**

### Social and Civic Forum

#### [Parallel sessions]

**10:00 – 12:00: Opening Panel**

*National and Ethnic Minorities in Europe – History, Culture, Heritage*

**12:00 – Break**

**12:30 – 14:00: Thematic Panel Sessions**

- **Section 2a: *Integration vs. Distinctiveness: Balancing Identity Protection with Full Societal Participation***
  - This section will discuss the challenges of integrating national and ethnic minorities, their distinctiveness, and ways to balance identity protection with full participation in social life.
- **Section 2b: *State and International Support for Minorities***
  - This section will address the mechanisms of state and international support for minorities, including programs, policies, and initiatives aimed at their protection and integration.
- **Section 2c: *Contemporary Challenges for Minorities: Demographic Changes, Migration, and Globalization***
  - This section will focus on the contemporary challenges faced by minorities, such as demographic changes, migration, and the impact of globalization on their situation.
- **Section 2d: *Integration and Multicultural Policies in Practice***
  - This section will focus on the practical aspects of integration and multicultural policies, with special emphasis on local and national-level actions.
- **Section 2e: *Between History and the Future: The Heritage of Minorities***
  - This section will address the heritage of minorities, analyzing its impact on contemporary challenges and the future of these communities.



**14:30 – Break**

**15:00 – 17:00: Closing Panel**

*"A European Perspective for Minorities"*

**17:00 – Closing of the Congress**