

WHERE IS THE GREEN REVOLUTION HEADING?

The European Union has made it clear that by 2050 Europe is to become the world's first climate-neutral continent with a zero CO₂ emissions. Energy from renewable sources, green hydrogen powering not only cars and planes, but entire industries, with a leading role played by new technologies.

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SUMMER IN POLAND

HEL THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN EUROPE

European Best Destinations, a travel website dedicated to promoting culture and tourism in Europe, has published its annual ranking on the top beaches in Europe and Hel Peninsula in the north of Poland on the Baltic Sea came in the top 10 most beautiful beaches voted by worldwide travelers.

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12th edition of the KPMG report

POLISH LUXURY GOODS MARKET BACK ON ITS FEET

According to a KPMG report, "The luxury market in Poland. Luxury in sustainable development," in 2021 the market's value was almost PLN 30 billion (EUR 6.3 billion). After the collapse of sales in 2020, the next year saw a rebuilding of the luxury goods market. In 2021, the entire market in Poland reached a value of nearly PLN 30 billion, higher than before the pandemic. Half of the companies have an ESG strategy.

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FESTIVAL OF WINES

On the August weekend, Zamość will once again turn into the capital of Polish wine. The third edition of the Festival of Polish Wines and Regional Products will take place on 13 August.

p. 20



OUT OF THE BOX

Gator Segbefia is a Ghanaian student from Kiev, who came to Poland a few days after the Russian invasion on Ukraine. Like millions of people of Ukraine, he fled the war and found shelter and friendship in Poland.

p. 23

HOW POLISH SOCIETY HAS BEEN HELPING REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

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During the first three months of war in Ukraine, 70% of Poles got involved in helping refugees. Private spending on this purpose may have reached EUR 2.14 billion (PLN 10 billion) during this period, 0.38% of GDP, according to the Polish Economic Institute's estimates.

In 2021 as a whole, private spending on charity amounted to PLN 3.9 billion. The total value of help for refugees assigned by the Polish authorities and provided by citizens during the first three months of the war amounted to almost 1% of the country's GDP.

p. 8





 Katarzyna Braiter
Editor in Chief

”

There are some places we are happy to come back to. Places that have something that attracts us to them. I have been trying to visit Uniejów every year for the last 10 years. A town known for its warm healing waters. A town that lies between Łódź, Warsaw and Poznań. A town that draws you in by virtue of the strength of its inhabitants and the creativity of its authorities. During these 10 years I have stayed in all the hotels there: of course, in the castle, which the White Lady is said haunt (but the only lady I was scared of was my reflection in the mirror, accidentally dressed in white clothes), and the Lavender Baths, which are not only a hotel but also a medical spa. Recently, I spent a wonder-

ful few days in the Aparthotel, perfectly created for a non-condition rest with a long swimming pool. But of course the most important thing is the Uniejów Thermal Baths, an amazing complex with swimming pools with natural warm waters, which grows every time I visit Uniejów. It attracts hundreds of people every day, whole families, and not only in summer. The complex can also be used in winter. When we have had enough of the rest, we can go around the area. For those who follow the path of religion, you can visit Licheń, which will certainly not leave anyone indifferent. I will not write about the rest, because it would take quite a bit of writing. But I encourage you to check it yourself.

Quotes of the week



Robert Lisicki
Director of the Labor Department,
Lewiatan Confederation

”

The decrease in the number of people changing jobs and the reasons for rotation (a lowering of the importance of dissatisfaction with a previous employer) reflect a certain caution among both employees and employers resulting from the economic situation.



Agnieszka Salach
Spokesperson, KRUK SA

”

For 35% of Poles, "ecologically" also means "economically." Respondents in our research mainly indicated that saving electricity, water or gas brings them savings in the form of lower bills.



Michał Kurtyka
Minister of Climate
(2019-2021)

”

There is no better time for us in Poland to start talking about reducing energy consumption by buildings. Brussels has accepted the National Reconstruction Plan, the key element of which is the energy efficiency of buildings.



Marzena Strzelczak
president, general director
of the Responsible Business
Forum

”

The digitization of enterprises in Poland and in the world is a fact. Regardless of the sector or industry, the future will be largely based on digital knowledge, skills and competences. High technologies have become part of our everyday life at work and privately.



Fewer employees happy with their pay

The situation on the market is not easy for employers, as heightened concerns about the economic situation add to rising employee expectations. Therefore, the challenge is not only to maintain highly qualified staff, but also to create a remuneration strategy that will allow businesses to effectively build teams in the face of the rising costs of running a business.

According to the latest Hays Poland report, even though 83% of companies made pay raises in the first half of the year, only 37% of specialists and managers said they were satisfied with the remuneration they receive. Moreover, many of them said the increases granted are often not commensurate with the current economic conditions. In the first half of the year, most salaries increased by just over 5%, the Hays Poland study "Labor market 2022. Semi-annual trend review" indicates. This as inflation rises into double figures.

Pay hikes in the second half of the year are considered by 46% of employers, while most - 53% - plan to keep wages at the same level until the end of the year.

81% of entities said they would consider pay offers in at least some situations. It is worth adding, however, that only 35% of the surveyed companies clearly assessed this solution as an effective way to retain employees.

"Despite widespread increases, the percentage of employees satisfied with their earnings is falling. Therefore, in the second half of the year, high rotation among specialists and managers should be expected. In a situation where the current employer does not respond to the financial expectations of a highly qualified employee, he will be willing to look for other opportunities on the labor market," says Alex Shteingardt, Managing Director of Hays Poland.

cartoon



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Marek Zuber
Lecturer at the WSB Academy

Economic look

"HOT" PROFESSIONS

In June, unemployment in Poland was 4.9%, the lowest level since the system changes at the turn of the 1980s and 1990s.

June unemployment did not surprise anyone. For the first time since the beginning of building the capitalist economy in our country, i.e. in thirty years, it has fallen below 5%. It was exactly 4.9%. We also expect similar data in July. Poland is now facing a slowdown in the economy. It has actually started, which can be seen, for example, in the PMI index, which shows the sentiment of entrepreneurs, looking at retail sales or industrial production. However, the coming crisis should not turn the labor market upside down. Unemployment will increase,

but relatively slightly. The crisis will not, in my opinion, mean that finding a job will become a challenge. In the opinion of much of society, the crisis will mean that a large part of society will become impoverished. For the first time in almost ten years, they will feel less money in their household budgets. Wages will, I believe, grow slower than inflation. As has been happening since May. Therefore, everything indicates that in many areas of crisis there will still be a shortage of people to work, and after the crisis this problem will again turn out to

be one of the biggest challenges for many entrepreneurs. In the 2026-2027 perspective, it may be one of the structural inhibitors to growth.

If there will be a shortage of people to work, which jobs are the most competitive salary-wise? The first group of particularly attractive professions are those related to the broadly understood knowledge-based economy. This is nothing new, we have been seeing this for years. Recently, demand in this area has only been growing, which has been contributed by, for example, the pandemic. IT specialists are an important group. But within this concept, we will have a whole host of professions



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from programmers, through security specialists, to Big Data, that is, very generally, dealing with data sets. But IT is a very broad concept, you can exchange and list various specialties. It is estimated that about 50,000 of this type of specialist are missing in Poland.

But not only "new technologies" come at this price. Many more traditional jobs are also sought in Poland. For example, there is still a shortage of nurses, truck and tractor drivers (i.e. popular trucks for short), as well as earthmoving operators and welders. The general shortage of medical staff has been a problem for many recent years. This is due to various reasons. In the case of nurses, the problem is the still relatively low salary, especially when compared to what a nurse educated in Poland can earn in Western Europe, where there is also a shortage of specialists. In the case of drivers, the still insufficient labor supply results, for example, from the high costs of obtaining the appropriate licenses. Anyway, the pandemic also contributed to the even greater increase in the number of job offers for drivers. Colloquially speaking, someone has to divorce goods ordered online. It should also be mentioned that this profession was practiced and practiced by many Ukrainians in Poland. And some of them returned to fight the Russian invaders. It is estimated that there is a total shortage of even 100,000 drivers in Poland.

Another big problem is the lack of employees for logistics centers, e.g. warehouse workers or forklift operators. The current "sugar panic", which has little to do with the fundamentals of the market, started with logistical problems. The largest Polish retail network experienced shortages, especially sugar, because there was no way to physically deliver it. And there was no way to deliver it, because there are not enough employees in the logistics centers of this chain. And it caused the snowball effect. People rushed to other stores, they ran out of sugar, the price went horrendously up. In some stores it is already 10 zlotys per kilogram, while there are no fundamental reasons even for sugar to cost 5 zlotys per kilo. As you can see, the topic is really serious. Finally, looking from the other side, a few words about who has the biggest problems with finding a job. So who? Economists! This is one of the effects of the great popularity of this type of studies and the related oversupply of specialists. accountants are still looking for. Therefore, if you acquire additional qualifications, and it is easier to do with the basics resulting from education, it is much easier to find a job.



Comment by professor Elżbieta Mączyńska,
honorary president of the Polish Economic Society

Socialism, Solidarism, Humanitarianism

Helping poor people is an absolute civilizational duty of developed countries. The fact that one crisis is following on the heels of another is, in part, a consequence of neglecting social problems for four decades and equating economic growth with socio-economic development (it turns out that this is not the same thing and is something economists have repeatedly warned about). It is essential to provide people with a better quality of life and sustainable development. For this, three pillars are necessary: economic (i.e. GDP), social (i.e. the quality of life and conditions for building a family) and ecological, because what do we need material goods and family for, if we are poisoned by a sick environment. Mother nature will punish our disregard for ecological issues. In order for development to be harmonious, the European Union uses the term "triple sustainable development." I prefer "sustainable, harmonious development" because equilibrium is a temporary state; life consists of various imbalances, it is this imbalance that forces us to look for new solutions. Even before the pandemic, there was a lot of social murmuring and social discontent in many countries, a characteristic phenomenon being the 'yellow vest' protest in France. Growing social inequalities are a feature of this world - unfortunately - and the pandemic crisis has exposed this even more. Inequalities are not only in terms of income and property, but also those related to access to education, health, etc.

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LOT Polish Airlines Renews and Expands Services Agreement with Embraer

Embraer and LOT Polish Airlines, the national carrier of Poland and leading airline in Central Europe, announced, at the Farnborough Airshow 2022 edition, they have signed a contract to renew and expand the Pool Program to support LOT's fleet of Embraer E-Jets. In the new agreement, LOT will also add seven E-Jets to the original contract, with the Pool now covering a total of 44 aircraft and over 300 components. Currently, Embraer's Pool Program supports more than 50 airlines worldwide.

"The Pool Program has been paramount to increasing LOT's fleet availability, guaranteeing efficiency and competitive results, allowing LOT to focus on day-to-day aircraft operations. This extension and the inclusion of additional aircraft is a part of LOT's fleet growth strategy.

Flexibility and true partnership are the basis of our longstanding cooperation with Embraer," said Maciej Wilk, COO of LOT Polish Airlines.



photo credit: LOT/Kamil Wrzosek

BSIS IMPACT certification granted to SGH



SGH Warsaw School of Economics has been granted a certification of the Business School Impact System. It confirms SGH's impact on its partners from the socio-economic environment and its role in engaging social responsibility. BSIS certification was delivered on Thursday, July 14th. The final decision on granting SGH with BSIS certification has been preceded by several months of implementation of EFMD guidelines and recommendations. Whole the procedure was completed by the end of June this year. In the summary report drafted by the BSIS experts, the value of the financial impact of the SGH on its partners and other stakeholders was estimated at €321 million.

In the area of cooperation with business partners the report points out the excellent interaction of with the enterprises. Internships and study programmes offered at our university in cooperation with those (e.g. EY, Santander, Citi Bank) is perceived as a huge advantage. In this case, the contribution was estimated at €2.2 million. "Only a very small group of around 60 leading business schools in the world can currently boast a BSIS certification. Therefore, we are pioneers in social engagement, which becomes more and more important in the operations of higher education institutions," – said dr hab. Jacek Prokop, professor of SGH and Vice Rector for International Relations.

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Lublin named the European Youth Capital 2023

Lublin is the first ever Polish city to become the European Youth Capital. In the annual contest organised by the European Youth Forum, Lublin was recognized for its energy and inspirational ideas of young people. The city secured the title after being shortlisted along

with Beia Mare and Kazan. The application submitted by Lublin focuses on three areas: The City for Youth, Youth for the City and Youth and the City. The first one covers a wide range of activities designed by the city for young people. The second area is about projects

and initiatives created and carried out by young people, youth organisations and volunteers, whereas the last area is focused on the collaboration and partnership between the city and youth to deliver a great number of actions and programmes. The 2021-2023 budget for initiatives under the European Youth Capital in the city will amount to about PLN 27 million, including PLN 13 million in 2021 alone. Lublin will become a stage for 73 big events, festivals, activities around sports, culture, education and youth participation. This huge success, activities and events will help build Lublin's image as a youth-friendly place and better involve young people in co-deciding about the city's growth. This, in turn, will translate into growing a metropolis that better understands and meets expectations of young people, makes their voice heard, encourages them to stay in the city and start professional careers here.

POLANDWeekly

Invest in Poland

After a recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Polish economy rebounded swiftly and grew by 5.9 percent in 2021. However, the economy is projected to slow down in 2022-23 because of increased inflation, fueled by energy and commodity price increases, uncertainty spurred by the war in Ukraine, and economic deceleration in its main trading partners in Western Europe.

“Two consecutive shocks, in quick succession, risk stalling the recovery in the EU countries, including in Poland”, said Gallina A. Vincelette, Regional Director for the European Union Countries at the World Bank. “The pandemic depleted national budgets and the war in Ukraine leaves governments fac-



“Two consecutive shocks, in quick succession, risk stalling the recovery in the EU countries, including in Poland”, said **Gallina A. Vincelette, Regional Director for the European Union Countries at the World Bank.**

POLAND'S GROWTH POTENTIAL COULD REACH 4 PERCENT

Ambitious labor market reforms and investments in productivity enhancement and green transition can boost the growth potential of Poland to four percent in the coming years, according to the new World Bank EU Regular Economic Report – Living Up to Potential in the Wake of Adverse Shocks.

ing an uphill battle to tackle rising inflation, low growth, and a cost-of-living crisis that is hitting the most vulnerable hard. But in the face of adversity lies opportunity. Stronger institutions and better governance to carry out difficult reforms and ensure inclusive, green, and resilient growth are the order of the day.”

According to the World Bank economists, Poland's growth potential - a measure of the medium-term development capacity of the Polish economy - slowed from 3.7 percent during 2002-07 to 3.3 percent in 2010-19. Going forward, successfully implemented reforms that offset the drag from a shrinking labor supply, improve the quality of human capital and aim for ambitious green and digital investment targets could help reverse this downward trend and boost

Poland's growth potential to 4 percent during 2022-30.

“Scarred labor markets, tightening credit, disrupted supply chains, and slowing innovation have shown us how a crisis can reverse years of income gains,” said Gallina A. Vincelette. “But there is hope for correcting the course if countries invest prudently, prioritize life-long learning, and remove barriers to firm entry and trade while fostering



more competition. Increased attention to the green and digital transition will also support potential growth.”

The EU Regular Economic Report assesses multiple reform options to boost Poland's growth potential. These include measures to counter the impact of aging, boost inclusion, strengthen institutions and facilitate the green and digital transition.

Amongst others, the report highlights reform options that could help the country continue to increase its labor force participation rate. Although the increase in employment relative to 2019 is among the highest in the EU, the current retirement age of 65 years for men and 60 years for women is posing considerable challenges in the context of the demographic trends.

In addition, policies aimed at expanding access to digital connectivity could accelerate digital transformation and con-

”

The increase in employment relative to 2019 is among the highest in the EU, the current retirement age of 65 years for men and 60 years for women is posing considerable challenges in the context of the demographic trends.

sequently support higher productivity of the Polish economy. At the moment Poland ranks among the bottom in the EU in the Digital Economy and Society Index with Research & Development spending being among the lowest in the region.

Also, Poland is the second most greenhouse gas-intensive economy in the EU, and significant effort is needed to make progress on the green transition that would help the country reduce its emissions while also supporting energy security. Climate change-related investments alone accounting for at least 37 percent of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan are expected to cut emissions by a quarter relative to the pre-NextGenerationEU path. In addition to the options discussed in the report, the reforms included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan provide a further upside to productivity and growth.

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Poland's growth potential - a measure of the medium-term development capacity of the Polish economy - slowed from 3.7 percent during 2002-07 to 3.3 percent in 2010-19.



According to experts, this is how the most important trends and directions of the energy transformation are being shaped. Given the context of recent world events it will not slow down. On the contrary.

The energy transition is inevitable and will be heading towards the elimination of greenhouse gas emissions and measures to sustain them.

The European Union has made it clear that by 2050 Europe is to become the world's first climate-neutral continent with a zero CO₂ emissions balance, and by 2030 greenhouse gas emissions are to fall by 55% compared to 1990.

The war in Ukraine, however, triggered a wide debate on the possibility of meeting these goals, especially in Poland or Germany - that is, countries most heavily dependent on energy resources imported from Russia.

However, experts are convinced that, although in the initial period cutting off from Russian supplies may slow down the decarbonization processes in Europe, over a slightly longer perspective it may significantly accelerate the energy transformation. Expensive energy forces a radical improvement in energy efficiency and accelerates the development of renewable energy sources in all sectors of the economy.

Green transformation

- first: new technologies

- Today, the energy transformation mainly boils down to reduc-



The European Union has made it clear that by 2050 Europe is to become the world's first climate-neutral continent with a zero CO₂ emissions balance



WHERE IS THE GREEN REVOLUTION HEADING?

Energy from renewable sources, green hydrogen powering not only cars and planes, but entire industries, with a leading role played by new technologies.

ing CO₂, which can be achieved in several ways, including using the circular economy, process optimization or elimination of CO₂ from production processes, says Jens Hundrieser, European Industry Manager for Energy and Metal, Endress + Hauser.

The latest trends and directions of green transformation were one of the topics of the Energy Conference organized in June 2022 by Endress + Hauser in Tarnowo Podgórne near Poznań, which was attended by several dozen industry experts.

Everyone agrees that new tech-

nologies will play a leading role in the energy transformation. After all, sun, wind and water alone will not make the full transition to a renewable energy system possible. Innovative solutions as well as a digital revolution in the energy sector are needed to face the limited capacity of transmission networks, optimize energy storage or enable the integration of RES with conventional systems.

"Certainly, there is a need for greater social awareness of the requirements of the entire energy system and technologies that

must be implemented in order for the system to survive this transformation. Today, all technologies related to the energy transformation are largely at the research stage, therefore, in order to start implementing them, we have to wait for real effects and apply only these mature systems. We cannot succumb to the pressure we face, either in connection with the climate crisis or the conflict in Ukraine. At the moment, a lot of money is being allocated to research in this area, many companies are interested in taking part in it, so this is a positive trend. However, it must be a balanced, well-thought-out transformation, and not applying existing solutions that will not work," says Piotr Szul from INTEC Sp. z o.o.

Heat recovered from waste

One of them is a combination of recycling and district heating. As early as 1991, landfill was completely banned in Denmark, and local governments were obliged to implement a waste management policy.

Today they are commonly segregated both in households and in industry, and those that are not suitable for recycling are collected by incinerators and converted into heat, and then fed to the heating network (approx. 75%) and converted into electricity. (about 25%).

Thermal waste treatment with energy and heat recovery is a solution, examples of which also have appeared in Poland. Such a system functions for example in Krakow Eco-Incinerator ("Ekospalarnia"), belonging to the Krakow Municipal Holding, that produces as much energy annually from waste as is needed to drive all Krakow's trams, and the heat generated from waste is transferred to the MPEC network.

It is working on two innovative solutions in heating, which may turn out to be a breakthrough in the decarbonization of the entire sector (IEO)

On the premises of

Przedsiębiorstwo Energetyki Ciepłej w Końskie, the "Heat Plant of the Future" will be built, allowing the production of heat, 80% of which will come from renewable sources. This will happen thanks to the use of solar energy and balancing energy using wind farms.

The second project is carried out in Radzyń Podlaski, where a technology enabling the production and storage of heat from renewable energy in combination with cogeneration is being developed. The system will be 80% based on green hydrogen which will be produced in the electrolyzer and used in fuel cells. It is to be the first zero-emission heat source in Poland.

Green hydrogen

- a strategy with a global reach

Green, i.e. hydrogen produced from wind, water and solar energy, has a huge decarbonization potential not only in heating, but for the entire industry.

"Today it is not only a trend, but also a consciously implemented global industrial strategy. It can be one of the keys to the energy transformation and help many industries achieve a breakthrough on the road to climate neutrality," says Hundrieser.

This emission-free gas has numerous applications in many sectors. Thanks to it, surplus production of green energy can be stored and introduced into the gas network. It can also be converted into electricity and heat in fuel cells.

In the chemical industry, it is used as a raw material for the production of ammonia and methanol. In the oil industry, it is used in the refining process.

"Hydrogen is undoubtedly one of the dominant topics in the energy sector today. We have been hearing about it for years as an alternative fuel that would be safe for the environment, but today, when the climate crisis intensifies and the conflict in Ukraine has limited the sources of raw materials, the topic has significantly accelerated. Until a few years ago, experts estimated that fossil fuels would cease to play a dominant role in the transport industry by 2050, and today we have a very strong turn towards the mastery of hydrogen technology and applications for large-scale installations," says Tomasz Ordon, from Unibep SA.

On June 8, the European Parliament announced that from 2035 it will be possible to register only zero-emission cars - electric or hydrogen-powered.

Airbus declared a few months ago that in 2035 it will introduce the first hydrogen-powered aircraft to the market, and the UK's Zero Emission Development Entrepreneurship is also working on a hydrogen propulsion system for aircraft that will be competitive with aviation fuel machines.



Clean energy in the heart of investment process

RE-Source Poland Hub, a foundation that supports Poland's energy transformation and the Polish Investment and Trade Agency have started co-operation that aims to promote the Polish sector of producers of clean energy from renewable sources both in Poland and the world. The signed agreement will improve the exchange of knowledge and experience in the area of regulations, technology and standards applicable in the industry. RE-Source Poland Hub and the Polish Investment and Trade Agency will jointly work to promote Poland as a center for

the development of technology for obtaining clean energy from RES. In addition, they will also take action to create conditions for the development of Polish companies in the sector for production of clean energy from renewable sources.

On the 18th July of this year, during the debate from the series "Green energy for business. Sustainable development and socially responsible business" preceding the signing of the agreement, Szymon Kowalski, Vice President of RE-Source Poland Hub pointed out that in Poland we have a huge potential for the development of renewable ener-



gy sources, which we must use to strengthen the competitiveness of our economy - "In our electro energy system there is room for up to 30 GW of wind capacity - which in the future, in a situation of favorable winds, will allow us to satisfy even 100% of our electricity demand".

Grzegorz Słomkowski, Member of PAIH's Management Board, emphasized the importance of attracting investors to Poland. He also spoke about their interest in green energy - "More and more often in conversations with potential investors the topic of access to and use of energy from renewable sources comes up. This is extremely important from the point of view of the Polish economy. Already at the stage of preparing an area for investment, we must think about providing this type of energy."

Baltic Power secured contract for transportation and installation of offshore wind turbines

A company has signed a reservation contract with Cadeler of Denmark for the transport and installation of some 70 turbines for the Baltic Power offshore wind farm – a joint project of PKN ORLEN and Northland Power Inc. In the next steps, the company will select contractors to supply the turbines, founda-

tions, internal and export cables, to construct offshore and onshore substations, and to provide farm maintenance services. The project, planned to be executed between 2024 and 2026, will involve the construction of a wind farm with a total generating capacity of up to 1.2 GW.

"Execution of the contract is an important step in our procurement strategy, which assumes that all critical components and services necessary to complete the project on schedule should be secured by the end of this year. The vessel we have booked is one of approximately fifteen in the world capable of installing the latest generation of turbines," emphasizes Jarosław Broda, Member of the Baltic Power Management Board.

Cadeler specialises in the installation of offshore turbines. Since 2012, it has installed nearly 400 offshore wind turbines and more than 500 foundations, which

together generate energy for more than 5.5 million European households. The signed reservation agreement guarantees the availability of a specialized vessel

for turbine installation during the construction phase. The final agreement will be signed once Baltic Power has made a final investment decision.

Baltic Power has become one of the fastest paced projects on the Baltic Sea. The construction of a wind farm with a capacity of up to 1.2 GW is scheduled for 2024–2026. During that time, about 70 wind turbines with a minimum capacity of 14 MW will be erected in the sea, ultimately supplying clean energy even to one million households.



”

The vessel we have booked is one of approximately fifteen in the world capable of installing the latest generation of turbines,” **emphasizes Jarosław Broda, Member of the Baltic Power Management Board.**



Power plant in Lower Silesia

There is an agreement on the construction of a Lower Silesian power plant consisting of 10 small nuclear reactors. On Thursday, July 28, the Legnica Special Economic Zone (LSEZ) and DB Energy, a Wrocław-based company, signed a letter of intent to this issue with Last Energy Poland. The plans call for the construction of a power plant consisting of 10 Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) with a total electrical capacity of 200 MW. "The global energy short-

age problem has been much talked about. Potential investors are increasingly hampered by the availability of energy and gas in the quantities they need. The new solution could allow a safe, stable and emission-free source of energy for factories located in the Zone. We are taking another step not only towards green energy, but also towards strengthening energy security," - said Przemysław Bożek, president of the Legnica Special Economic Zone.

The investment will be carried out almost from A to Z by the American company Last Energy, an American investor, developer and operator of small modular nuclear power plants. "Poland is one of the first countries where Last Energy plans to implement the developed SMR technology. The cooperation being developed is aimed at increasing energy security for Polish industry and society," - said Damian Jamroz, president of Last Energy Poland.

HOW POLISH SOCIETY HAS BEEN HELPING REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE

Poland has spent 1% of its GDP helping refugees from Ukraine in the first months of the war.

During the first three months after Russia invaded Ukraine, 70% of Poles got involved in helping refugees. Private spending on this purpose may have reached EUR 2.14 billion (PLN 10 billion) during this period, 0.38% of GDP, according to the Polish Economic Institute's estimates. For comparison, in 2021 as a whole, private spending on charitable causes amounted to PLN 3.9 billion. The total value of help for refugees assigned by the Polish authorities and provided by citizens during the first three months of the war amounted to almost 1% of the country's GDP. Poles spent EUR 1.93-2.14 billion (PLN 9-10 billion) on helping the refugees.

Public spending linked to granting Ukrainian refugees access to benefits and social assistance, as well as to public services (especially healthcare and education) will amount to around PLN 15.9 billion this year. The amount Poles spent on helping refugees during the first three months of the war was higher than the amount they spend on charitable causes in 2021 as a whole. The most probable amount spent on them is in the EUR 1.93-2.14 billion (PLN 9-10 billion) range. "Estimated total annual spending in Poland by the public authorities and private individuals on helping refugees during the first three months of the war reached EUR 5.45 billion (PLN

25.4 billion) – the equivalent of 0.97% of Polish GDP in 2021. In our estimates, we took into account the money transferred directly or through public fundraising, as well as the value of items purchased for refugees, the value of the housing and food they were offered, and other forms of support. During the next stage – integration – efficient coordination and the mobilisation of the various public and social actors' potential and resources will be key" said Piotr Arak, director of the PEI.

The PEI's research shows that Poles' engagement in supporting refugees from Ukraine was the strongest at the start of the war. "During the first months of the

The Polish Economic Institute is a public economic think tank dating back to 1928. Its research primarily spans macroeconomics, energy and climate, foreign trade, economic foresight, the digital economy, and behavioural economics. The Institute provides reports, analyses, and recommendations for key areas of the economy and social life in Poland, taking into account the international situation.



war, 70% of adults were involved in support efforts. Half of Poles were consistently involved in helping refugees, both at the start of the war and in subsequent weeks. The leading forms of support were material and financial donations. 59% of respondents bought items for the refugees and 53% donated money. Less frequent forms of support were helping refugees sort out various matters (20% of respondents) and volunteering (17%). Meanwhile, 7% of respondents let refugees stay in their house or apartment," - said Agnieszka Wincewicz-Price, head of the behavioural economics team at the PEI.

Who was most inclined to help? Among people with the high-

est monthly revenue (above PLN 5000 – EUR 1070 net), the percentage of people who helped refugees the most was three times higher than among people with the lowest revenue (below PLN 2000 – EUR 428). Yet even among people earning less than PLN 2000, assistance was widespread – just 26% of people in this group did not help in any way. A person's level of education turned out to be important, too. A higher share of people with higher education helped – around 10 pp more than in the other groups. Strong engagement in helping the refugees was also associated with factors such as charitable engagement before the war, direct contact with foreigners (especially Ukrainians) before the war, and regularly following media coverage of the war and the fate of refugees. 28% of male respondents said they did not help at all, compared to just 19% of female respondents. In terms of age, the youngest respondents (24-30 years old) contained the highest share of strongly engaged respondents (18%), but also of people who did not help at all (27%).

How the scale and form of help evolved

The scale, form and intensity of help for refugees changed as the refugee crisis and expectations about when the conflict would end evolved. With time, the percentage of people actively involved decreased. Around the start of May, 57% of respondents said they were involved in some form of assistance. Yet it is worth emphasising that 50% of respondents said they were helping both at the start of the

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Poles spent EUR 1.93-2.14 billion (PLN 9-10 billion) on helping the refugees

war and later, when the survey was conducted. The scale of social engagement was also unprecedented compared to Poles' support for charitable and social causes prior to the war. Before it, 17% respondents spent their private time helping others; of these, 35% did so sporadically (a few times a year or less often).

The refugee crisis is entering the integration phase

During the first days and weeks of the war, Polish society's support was not only material, but also largely symbolic, because, in many cases, it preceded institutional aid and had a significant influence on shaping public opinion in other countries. "With time, the number of refugees residing in Poland changed, as did their needs. During the next stage, which the report's authors refer to as "adaptation", the role of the state became key as refugees were incorporated into the Polish state and welfare system, receiving access to public and social infrastructure, as well as institutional support," - said Piotr Arak, director of the PEI.

Source: Polish Economic Institute



POLANDWeekly

Report

The luxury market in Poland



Luxury apartments in Foksal 13/15 in Warsaw

After the collapse of sales in 2020, the next year saw a rebuilding of the luxury goods market. In 2021, the entire market in Poland reached a value of nearly PLN 30 billion, higher than before the pandemic. However, the results are generated by one segment - premium and luxury cars, the value of which increased by 25.3% y/y to PLN 20.5 billion.

"The luxury industry is slowly rebuilding revenues to pre-pandemic levels. Only the car segment so far premium and luxury brands surpassed 2019 lev-

els. In addition to automotive, the alcohol segment will probably also reach its pre-Covid value of sales in 2022. A far worse situation is noted in the hotels and SPA segment, which experienced the most painful restrictions at the peak of the pandemic, and though last year saw growth, there is still a long way to recover. Any predictions about the future are burdened with a dose of risk, above all due to the situation in Ukraine and the possibility of the re-introduction of restrictions in the economy if the epidemic situa-

POLISH LUXURY GOODS MARKET BACK ON ITS FEET

According to a KPMG report, “The luxury market in Poland. Luxury in sustainable development,” in 2021 the market’s value was almost PLN 30 billion (EUR 6.3 billion). Half of the companies in the market have an ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance) strategy.

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“The luxury industry is slowly rebuilding revenues to pre-pandemic levels. Only the car segment so far premium and luxury brands surpassed 2019 levels. In addition to automotive, the alcohol segment will probably also reach its pre-Covid value of sales in 2022. A far worse situation is noted in the hotels and SPA segment, which experienced the most painful restrictions at the peak of the pandemic, and though last year saw growth, there is still a long way to recover. Any predictions about the future are burdened with a dose of risk, above all due to the situation in Ukraine and the possibility of the re-introduction of restrictions in the economy if the epidemic situation in Poland worsens again,” says co-author of the KPMG report Tomasz Wiśniewski, Valuation Partner at KPMG CEE.

For companies selling luxury goods, two key groups of consumers are people whose gross income exceeds PLN 20,000 and PLN 50,000. In 2020 in Poland there were 284,000 people with incomes



above PLN 20,000 per month, an increase of 7% y/y. The number of people with gross income in excess of PLN 50,000 per month increased by 11.6% to 77,100. Average earnings in this group amounted to almost PLN 134,000 per month, which means tax revenue from rich people in Poland throughout 2020 amounted to PLN 124 billion, 20% higher than in 2019.

Warsaw - the capital and main business center of the country - has the largest proportion of people exceeding the second tax threshold. The city has the highest cost of living and correspondingly high earnings. “The year 2021 was marked by record inflation that in Decem-

ber exceeded 8% and reached the highest level in 21 years old, and the first months of 2022 brought more records. Although the rich are affected by inflation less than other Poles, one of the direct effects of inflation that we are observing is increased interest in luxury goods as an investment. This is especially so seen in categories such as real estate, cars and luxury jewelry,” says

report co-author Andrzej Marczak, Partner, Head of the Advisory Department Central and Eastern Europe Tax Department, KPMG in Poland.

According to a Credit Suisse Global Wealth report Databook 2021, at the end of 2020 in Poland more than 149,000 people had property calculated in net assets of at least \$1 million. From 2019 to 2020 in Poland 14,600 people could be identified as HNWI



(high net worth individuals).

Among 19 selected European countries, Polish HNWI is ahead of such countries as Portugal, Finland, Greece and the Czech Republic. In the same ranking, Poland moved a bit closer to Norway (177,000 HNWI) and Ireland (182,000).

At the forefront of European countries with the largest HNWI number for the first time was Germany with over 2.9 million HNWI, overtaking the UK (2.5

million) and France (2.5 million). The structure of millionaires in Poland and the rest of Europe is very similar with over 91% of those people having assets in the range of \$1-5 million.

Cars

The very good sales results of premium and luxury cars were compensated by worse results than before the pandemic in other segments. This segment, which turned out to be the most resistant to the effects of the pandemic in 2020, achieved a 25.3% increase in value in 2021 to PLN 20.5 billion. It is also the only segment where the value of sales has already exceeded that of 2019 - by 23.4%. The most popular luxury car brands among sellers in Poland were Maserati, Bentley and Ferrari. Among the premium brand cars, three brands account for over 68% of vehicles sold in 2021:



BMW is the leader in the premium car segment in Poland.

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Power consumption in kWh/100 km (combined, WLTP): 18,4–19,6
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BMW leads the premium segment

The first half of 2022 again brought positive results for the BMW Group in Poland. With the introduction of attractive models to the market and the development of a further dealer network, the company can expect an optimistic end to the year.

"I am very proud of the BMW Group Polska team and our dealer network. The excellent results prove that we demonstrate strong resistance in difficult times for the automotive industry, both in Poland and in the world. I am glad that the fresh and attractive portfolio of BMW, MINI and Motorrad models is most desired by Polish premium customers. Now we are waiting for what the second half of the year will bring," said **Christian Haririan, Managing Director BMW Group Polska**. With 12,364 registrations, BMW is the clear leader in the premium car segment in Poland. The brand has a 31% market share. In June, the increase in sales was as much as 16%, and the half-year ended with a result comparable to the year before.

The first months of 2022 were dominated by the most impressive premiere in the automotive industry: the new BMW 7 Series. Since the world premiere in April, there are already 3,500 customers in 45 different places in Poland who have got to know this groundbreaking car. The current generation with 296 registrations continues to maintain its leading position in the luxury limousine segment, and the level of orders for the new model scheduled for autumn is growing dynamically.

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Premium and luxury cars segment turned out to be the most resistant to the effects of the pandemic in 2020, achieved a 25.3% increase in value in 2021 to **PLN 20.5 billion**.

BMW, Mercedes and Audi. It is worth paying attention to Tesla and Cupra, which, although they did not dominate in their category in terms of volume, were characterized by high growth dynamics sales. Compared to 2020, there was an almost six-fold increase in Tesla's sales and a 27-fold increase in Cupra growth.

Clothing and accessories

The luxury clothing and accessories market in 2021 increased by PLN 418 million, or 16.6% y/y, thus making up for a large part of the drops recorded in the first year of the pandemic. The market value was PLN 2.9 billion, and forecasts indicate that it will regain its record value from 2019 (PLN 3.1 billion) as early as 2023. Accessories currently account for one fifth of the value of this segment, and their importance will continue to grow. "From the beginning of the pandemic, the clothing market was potentially the most vulnerable to sales declines. Lockdown and closed shopping malls necessarily created limitations in purchasing options. We also did not deal with the so-called lipstick effect, which often occurs during crises. So it was quite unusual.

We got stuck at home, sitting in sweatpants in front of our computer screen. So there was a lot of fear, but in a relatively short time we noted a return to old consumer behavior. Our clients are both retail and e-commerce stores. We saw especially in the pandemic the latter growing rapidly. The key is to maintain the symbiosis of these two sales channels and navigating the omnichannel model," says Tomasz Wasiucionek, Commercial Director, GPOLAND Group in the KPMG report.

Real estate

The growing earnings of Poles, while concerned by high inflation, were fueled by low interest rates through most of 2021 resulting in increased demand in the real estate market. Due to the lack of a uniform definition of a luxury apartment, the market for this segment of goods is priced differently. Cenatorium, which specializes in monitoring changes in real estate transaction prices and their impact on the development of the Polish



Dr Irena Eris SPA Hotel in Krynica Zdrój



Gucci Boutique in Vitkac, Warsaw

housing market, estimates that in 2021, the value of concluded purchase transactions premium and luxury real estate in Poland was 18% higher than in 2020 and amounted to PLN 2.6 billion.

Hotels and SPA

The situation on the luxury hotel and SPA services market is the least positive. In 2020,

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Premium and luxury real estate in Poland was 18% higher than in 2020 and amounted to **PLN 2.6 billion**.

this market lost two-thirds of its value, so the 13.1% increase achieved a year later is not very impressive. In 2021, the segment was more than half its size than before the outbreak of the pandemic, its value amounting to PLN 576 million.

"We started 2021 with the period of lockdown in the hotel world. However, while loosening the covid restrictions, all three Dr Irena Eris SPA hotels became the beneficiaries of 'domestic luxury' - a new trend that appeared in the pandemic and is ongoing, where we spend more for local restaurants or hotels," says Henryk Orfinger Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Dr Irena Eris S.A.

Alcohol market

The luxury alcohol market in Poland, compared to other seg-

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The luxury clothing and accessories market in 2021 increased by **PLN 418 million**, or 16.6% y/y, thus making up for a large part of the drops recorded in the first year of the pandemic.

ments of goods luxury, underwent a pandemic crisis in a relatively mild manner, shrinking by PLN 169 million in 2020 (-13.4% y/y). Nevertheless, in 2021 it made a strong recovery and was valued at PLN 1.2bn (+11.4% y/y). Forecasts concerning the value of retail sales indicate that already in the next year its pre-crisis level will be reached. "Categories of whiskey, gins and super premium rums were on the rise at a two-digit rate. This is the result of premiumization and more and more availability in retail and attractive displays on storefront shelves. We can say that alcohol from this segment entered the mainstream and we expect that this trend will permanently change consumption," said Łukasz Piwowarczyk, Head of Customer Marketing, DIA-GEO Polska.

Luxury in the era of sustainable development

Over half (58%) of the surveyed companies from the luxury goods industry said that they attach great or very high importance to ESG issues, and nearly one third say moderate importance. Moreover, the vast majority of respondents said that the sustainability of a luxury good can significantly (36%) or moderately (48%) improve their level of prestige.



LIFE GOES ON

Sylwia Ziemacka talks to Katarzyna Lemańska, Marketing & Leasing Director in Europejski – a luxurious mix use building housing hotel, retail and office spaces in Warsaw's most prestigious location.

Who buys luxury goods in Poland? Are they Poles or foreign tourists / expats?

The customers of shops offering luxury goods in Poland are almost everyone, although some products are available only to the wealthiest. They include Poles, foreign tourists and local expats. The proportions of individual groups in sales depend on many factors. In the pandemic, there was a shortage of foreign tourists, but this gap was filled by domestic customers deprived of the chance to travel the world and shop in their favorite boutiques in Milan or Paris. Nowadays, there are more and more business and tourist travelers, so this ratio is still very fluid.

Have the pandemic and the war in Ukraine changed Poles' approach to purchasing luxury goods? If so, how?

The luxury goods sector, not only in Poland, but all over the world, is quite resistant to all kinds of turbulence. Nevertheless, two such strong economic

and political factors have left their mark on the industry. The turbulence was extremely violent, but didn't last long. After the initial stagnation caused by the first wave of the pandemic in 2020, customers quickly regained their purchasing mood and reintroduced themselves or learned how to buy online. They doubled up on buying products that would allow them to forget the hard times of hard lock-down. Customers who had been trapped in their homes for months, without the possibil-



After the initial stagnation caused by the first wave of the pandemic in 2020, customers quickly regained their purchasing mood and reintroduced themselves or learned how to buy online.



Katarzyna Lemańska, Marketing & Leasing Director in Europejski Property

ity of traveling, compensated for the deterioration in their standard of living with expensive gifts. During the pandemic, which brought many of us home office, the fashion changed into a much more relaxed one, and this in turn was a pretext to change one's wardrobe. The specter of an economic slowdown, and even an economic crisis, has further contributed to the turn to luxury products with the promise of a stable investment and as a well-known escape from inflation. In 2021, customers were buying luxury real estate, watches and jewelry en masse, and this translated into recouping the losses from the previous year in these segments. The beginning of 2022 promised to be extremely optimistic, bringing hope for further sales increases, but the outbreak of the war quickly and rapidly extinguished the positive moods of luxury brands and the purchasing enthusiasm of wealthy customers. After the first shock, which lasted until

the summer holidays, the situation is slowly stabilizing. We see a peaceful return to old shopping habits in the segment of luxury fashion, watches, jewelry and accessories.

How do you assess the situation on the luxury hotel services market today?

In 2020 and 2021, the entire hotel industry in Poland, regardless of standard, suffered from four lock-downs. It should be remembered that today hotels, especially luxury ones, are often multifunctional facilities that generate revenues from an entire range of services. The hotel offers not only accommodation, but also catering, events, conferences, SPA and many other services.

The hotel industry suffered significantly during the pandemic. All stays, conferences, weddings and corporate events were suspended. There were also no foreign tourists. These serious restrictions resulting from the imposed restrictions resulted in the collapse of the industry and a reduction in the value of the hotel market by 66% compared to the previous year (KPMG Report: The Luxury Goods Market in Poland. Luxury in the Era of Sustainable Development 2022).



The hotel industry suffered significantly during the pandemic. All stays, conferences, weddings and corporate events were suspended. There were also no foreign tourists.

Contrary to the retail brands sector, in this business there is no possibility of providing an on-line service, the proceeds of which could even partially cover the losses incurred. Hotels had to wait for the total defrosting of the industry, and in the short periods of operations between successive restrictions, Poles reacquainted themselves with domestic tourism. Hotels from the luxury segment benefited greatly from this because Polish guests, faced with the suspension of tourist traffic in the world, chose domestic destinations, but of a higher standard. This tendency was not reversed even by the outbreak of the war in Ukraine. The first half of 2022, also brought a huge wave of events, concerts, conferences and wedding receptions, which



had been suspended or canceled during the pandemic. As all over the world, our visitors seem to say, "That's enough, we can't wait any longer. Let's have fun, meet. Our life is running out."

Fashion and accessories are a large segment of luxury goods. On the map of Warsaw, we see more places with luxury offers, Europejski Boutiques, Redford & Grant, Vitkac, but also shops located in the Elektrownia Powiśle, Fabryka Norblina, etc. What does this mean for the luxury goods sector and its future? What is the situation outside of Warsaw?

To begin with, the luxury segment should be distinguished from the premium segment. Today, luxury brands are located in several Warsaw locations: Europejski Boutiques (with brands such as Hermès, Patek Philippe, Rolex, Brunello Cucinelli, Aston Martin, L'Amour, Tailors Club and HE



Despite the perfect mix of luxury and premium brands, we still lack some leading international players. The pandemic, and then the outbreak of war, disrupted the sequence of their debuts on the Polish market, which does not mean that Warsaw has disappeared from their radars.

Concept Store) as well as Redford & Grant, Moliera 2 and Vitkac. As the first three are very close to each other, the area of Krakowskie Przedmieście and Piłsudski Square is considered to be "Warsaw's luxury hub."

Despite the perfect mix of luxury and premium brands, we still lack some leading international players. The pandemic, and then the outbreak of war, disrupted the sequence of their debuts on the Polish market, which does not mean that Warsaw has disappeared from their radars. We are noticing a considerable revival of interest in Poland in the face of the loss of operations in Russia and Ukraine. Today, the only barrier to entry into Poland is the low supply of adequate retail space in Warsaw, which is characterized by an excellent location, prestigious architecture, direct vicinity of similar brands, beautiful surroundings and a high intensity of tourist traffic. When it comes to locations in shopping malls, which are more and more beautiful and more modern, it is a great address for premium brands and this trend has been visible for many years. In turn, the pandemic has changed and the related restric-

tions are prompting more brands to look for high-street locations. Such a store not only provides direct access from the street, is not subject to restrictions in force in shopping centers, but is also a great showcase of the brand visible 365 days a year for motorists and pedestrians.

As far as regional cities are concerned, the moods for expansion have not yet been detected among luxury international retail brands, but the domestic distributors (or franchisees) tend to develop their operation outside of Warsaw, in regional cities and tourist resorts, mostly with premium brands.

Warsaw remains the most attractive market for luxury retail tycoons due to its economic strength, business environment and political power. This is the largest labor market in the country with mature property supply, with the largest stock of modern commercial space and highest purchasing power per inhabitant.

A KPMG report states that more than half (58%) of the surveyed companies from the luxury goods industry declare that they attach a lot or very great importance to ESG issues. Do you see it at the level of the products or services you offer?

Absolutely yes. This is a trend that has no going back. Luxury brands simply won't survive without real ESG strategies. Environmental and social issues and indicators must be viewed on a par with financial criteria. This approach has only recently found fertile ground in the luxury sector, as luxury is commonly associated with excess and splendor, and not with sustainable development. However, the evolving, more and more conscious attitude of consumers has forced significant changes in this market segment.

Brands are increasingly looking for ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and water consumption in the production process, work on the development of innovative solutions in the supply chain, improve digital competences, introduce travel restrictions for employees, a policy of diversity and inclusion, and promote the idea of fair trade paying more and more attention to social issues. Of course, there are a lot of challenges ahead of them related to the introduction, monitoring, measurement and reporting of ESG activities, if only because of territorial differences, but the first steps have already been taken. The sector has understood that today ESG is not a brand differentiator, it is an absolute "must" for survival. Personally, I count on increasing customer awareness, which will translate into real actions of brands in the field of ESG, and this in turn will benefit everyone. Both people and the environment.



POLANDWeekly

ESG in practice

• Environmental • Social • Governance

SUPERVISORY BOARDS RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The results of the study "Supervisory boards' response to climate change" carried out as part of the Chapter Zero Poland initiative by the Responsible Business Forum with the support of the Deloitte Foundation, show many areas that require improvement.

The research was conducted in February and March 2022 among the recipients of Chapter Zero Poland activities, i.e. people sitting on supervisory boards of companies in Poland. The aim of the study was to show the approach of regulators to climate issues as well as to identify a map of risks and opportunities related to the inclusion of climate action in the strategies of business organizations.

The aim of the study was to show the approach of regulators to climate issues as well as to identify a map of risks and opportunities related to the inclusion of climate action in the strategies of business organizations.

The study is illustrative in nature, but its results can be used to further design solutions and look for answers to what place regulators should take in achieving zero emissions and what they need to be able to properly perform tasks. The results will form the basis for the development of plans for the next months of Chapter Zero Poland's development.

One of the dimensions studied is the level of knowledge about climate change. The declarations of people sitting on supervisory boards show that they have



a good knowledge of climate change. At the same time - as shown by the answers to other questions - it turns out that the knowledge obtained from external sources tends not to translate directly into action for the climate in individual organizations. The insufficient level of awareness of climate challenges and their consequences was visible, inter alia, in responses about the risk weighting for individual business processes and climate indicators. For 39% of respondents, climate indicators are less important than financial indicators, and for 36% climate indicators are just as important as financial indicators. Only slightly more than half (57%) of the respondents see business risks associated with climate change. For the largest group it is disruptions in the supply chain and risk related to obtaining financing. Respondents also see opportunities related to climate action. These are: the transition to more efficient green energy sources and access to new sources of financing.

Raising the awareness of members of corporate governance on climate change seems to be a key

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Climate change appears as a regular topic at supervisory board meetings in only 20% of organizations. In the next 27%, the topic was raised once.

issue, taking into account the need for companies from various sectors to take intensified action for the climate, including the development of climate strategies, goals adequate to changing regulatory requirements and the capabilities and needs of the company. The themes that should be addressed within educational topics, according to respondents, should be: reporting climate issues in annual and non-financial reports; strategies of business activities in the field of counter-

acting and adapting to climate change as well as monitoring and measuring the environmental impact of the activities undertaken. Another area of analysis was the maturity of supervisory and management structures to take up climate issues and exchange information between bodies in governance structures. 61% of respondents admitted that the current competences of supervisory boards in the field of enterprises' activities for climate protection are too small and 68% do not have access to climate-related information in their organization.

Supervisory bodies do not have committees responsible for climate issues (73% of responses). A similar situation occurs in management bodies in which only 1/3 of companies have a person responsible for climate issues and sustainable development on the board. Climate change appears as a regular topic at supervisory board meetings in only 20% of organizations. In the next 27%, the topic was raised once. 68% of respondents.

Key business solutions, such as

the Green Deal, the Paris Agreement, the EU Taxonomy or the Fit for 55 package, are recognizable, but their roots in companies have only just begun. This is partly related to relatively new issues, which are being refined by the originators themselves. Another reason may be that the priority given by business to climate issues is too low. The activities already undertaken by enterprises in the environmental area include: reporting climate issues in annual and non-financial reports, identifying climate risks, monitoring and measuring the environmental impact of undertaken activities, measuring greenhouse gas emissions, including CO₂. Supervisory boards, along with governance bodies, will have an important role to play in guiding companies on the path of strategic transformation towards a zero-carbon economy. Supervisory authorities can direct the attention of management boards to climate issues and assess their achievements, and they can inspire and indicate opportunities for new sources of financing from investors expecting specific climate results.

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POLANDWeekly Real Estate



POLISH CRE BACK ON GROWTH COURSE

Investment in commercial real estate in Poland grew by nearly 50%, with spending in the first half of 2022 amounting to €2.88bn – according to a new CBRE report.

The largest transaction involved the sale of the Warsaw Hub by Ghelamco Poland to Google for almost €586mn – the largest single building purchase transaction in Poland's history. "The investment volume we witnessed in Poland during H1 2022 is the second largest volume on our market ever. Only in 2018 were better results recorded. This shows that we have navigated the pandemic quite well. In addition, in spite of the war in Ukraine and its implications for financial markets and the general economic situation, we have also witnessed major transactions in Q2. Ac-



tivity in the office real estate sector increased by 59% in H1 2022. In the retail sector, owing to the two portfolio transactions in Q1 2022, the growth was as high as 173%. Activity in the industrial & logistics sector dropped by 19%, which results from a high baseline from the previous year. Warehouse investments then amounted to as much as €869m, which was the greatest amount of all sectors," says Przemysław Felicki, Head of Investment Properties at CBRE in Poland.

According to the CBRE report, investment in European commercial real estate reached

€152bn in H1 2022. The investment volume was up 10% compared to H1 2021 and exceeded the record of €151bn in 2018. The record first half year was driven by a very strong Q1, where total investment volumes reached €84bn. This was



The return of employees to offices spurred 19% investment growth in the sector in H1 2022. Recovery can also be seen in retail – owing to a large transaction in Spain, European transaction volume in this sector grew by as much as 54%.

the second strongest Q1 behind the record-breaking Q1 of 2020. Q2 volumes declined slightly, by 11%, to €68bn, as increased borrowing costs and economic uncertainty slowed investment activity. Real estate pricing has also been impacted by high inflation across the globe and central banks' rate increases.

In terms of investment in Europe, Ireland (+47%) and Belgium (+134%) stood out. Investment volume in Ireland was driven by the Hibernia REIT portfolio consisting of office, residential, and warehousing properties. Italy (+53%), the Netherlands (+37%), Spain (+44%), and France (+24%) also posted higher volumes. In Poland, growth in H1 2022 amounted to 44%. Overall, €2.88bn was invested in commercial real estate located in Poland.

Offices on the rise, retail showing signs of recovery

The return of employees to offices spurred 19% investment growth in the sector in H1 2022.

Recovery can also be seen in retail – owing to a large transaction in Spain, European transaction volume in this sector grew by as much as 54%.

The office and the commercial real estate sectors stand out in Poland as well. In the former, the H1 2022 growth was as high as 59% y/y. Owing to the two portfolio transactions in Q1 2022, the commercial sector grew by as much as 173%. A 19% decrease was recorded in the warehouse sector, which results from the high baseline level of the previous year.

"In spite of higher financing costs, investors still have an appetite for commercial real estate, especially intended as a partial hedge against inflation risks. This affects yield rates and the market is currently trying to find a new balance. In the next few months, we expect to close several major transactions and start new processes which will stress Poland's stable position and prove the market's liquidity," says Felicki.



Reconstruction of the Schiller Passage in Łódź



Visualisation by Łódź City Hall

Schiller Passage is located at 112 Piotrkowska Street in the heart of Łódź. It is a popular public space where numerous concerts and events are being held. Now, thanks to the revitalization, the space will gain a new look. "It will be a major redevelopment. We will replace the surface of the passage and underground

installations. There will be new elements of small architecture: we will put benches, litter bins, stands and we will install new lighting. Most importantly, the arcade will turn green. We will plant over 50 trees on it, as well as decorative shrubs and flowers" - announced Olga Kassańska from the Municipal Investments Board.

ISS HQ in Warsaw first in the world to receive a platinum accessibility score

The ISS Hub, a new global headquarter hub for the facility service provider ISS in Warsaw, has just been evaluated by accessibility assessment organisation Mobility Mojo. The premises received top marks for accessibility and usability, making it the first to ever reach Platinum status.

Wide passageways and doors, simple signage for easy orientation, spacious lifts, lowered reception desk, visual impairment friendly colour schemes, ramps to all terraces and even specially designed furniture handles are just a few examples of how ISS has adapted

their new Warsaw headquarters to the highest accessibility and usability standards. This will allow for a more diversified group of employees and guests to feel welcome and included at the office. Global accessibility organisation Mobility Mojo has assessed

ISS Warsaw, evaluating all the areas and office facilities of the building, including building entrance, reception, hallways, lighting, breakout spaces, stairs/lifts, working stations, meeting rooms and cafeteria.

With a previously unheard of 9.6/10 score, the ISS Warsaw Hub has received the top rating of Platinum, becoming the first in the world to reach this level. "I'm truly excited by this Platinum score, which is a testament to ISS's efforts in creating inclusive workplaces, where everybody can be their authentic self and feel like they belong. Diversity and Inclusion must never just be words in company poli-



cies. An inclusive mindset and culture should be reflected and reinforced by the way we talk, look and act, as well as through the physical surroundings of the workplace. This goes not just for ISS, but also for our 40,000 customers around the world. Going forward, this accessibility assessment approach will be part of our workplace services in order to support our customer's D&I agendas even further," - said Margot Slattery, Global Diversity and Inclusion Manager of ISS. The ISS Hub is located in Fabryka Norblina (the Norblin Factory), a multifunctional complex in Warsaw's Wola district, which belongs to the Capital Park Group. The common areas of the Fabryka Norblina building also contributed to the platinum score, as it was designed with the highest standards in terms of diversity and inclusion. "When looking at the aspects related to the availability of the Norblin Factory for people with

different needs and requirements, we are cooperating with the non-profit organisation 'The Integration Foundation'. At the stage of our investment implementation, we introduced a number of various amenities that make it easier for people with disabilities to move around at our complex, in line with the foundation's recommendations. This included clear directional information at the main entrances, adequate lightning, dedicated parking spaces located in close proximity or directly at the entrances of elevator lifts, automatic garage entrance doors, wide lifts with lowered panel and voice notifications, bells-intercoms at office receptions and lowered spaces to cater for people who use wheelchairs as well as toilets equipped with handles, supports and alarms, to mention just a few," - said Kinga Nowakowska, COO and member of the management board at Capital Park Group.





Hel

photo credit: Bartłomiej Bulicz

HEL AMONG ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACHES IN EUROPE

European Best Destinations, a travel website dedicated to promoting culture and tourism in Europe, has published its annual ranking on the top beaches in Europe and Hel Peninsula in the north of Poland on the Baltic Sea came in the top 10 most beautiful beaches voted by worldwide travelers.

The Hel Peninsula (or Hel Spit) is for many people a paradise on earth. The sandy peninsula juts out from the mainland and digs deep into the Baltic Sea, splitting the waters of the Gulf of Gdansk from the peaceful Puck Bay. People living on the Hel Peninsula call this area the beginning of Poland and do not like it when someone says the opposite. The peninsula is a narrow, 34-km spit, created by sea current flowing from the east along the coast, carrying sand from the bottom of the ocean. The entire Hel Peninsula belongs to the Coastal Landscape

Park, which was established in 1978 to protect this unique part of Poland. The narrowest is at the base, in the vicinity of Władysławowo, it is only about 100 meters, and its width at the end, near Hel, is about 3 kilometers. Therefore, when we look at the map of Poland, it looks like a "cow's tail." A railway line and a convenient road with a bicycle path run along the entire Hel Peninsula. Tourists staying here can enjoy the beautiful, uncrowded beaches by the open sea or the beaches located on the Bay of Puck. There are many campsites by the bay that specialize in servicing windsurfers and kitesurfers as the conditions for them are ideal.

A few interesting seaside resorts are located on the peninsula:

WŁADYSŁAWOWO - a popular resort among tourists, located on the Baltic Sea just at the entrance to the Hel Peninsula. Nice sandy beaches and unique surroundings attract crowds of tourists. In Władysławowo, actually in Cetniewo, is the Olym-



Chatupy

photo credit: AdobeStock



For natural reasons, the Hel Spit is one of the best places in Europe to learn kitesurfing and other "board" sports.

pic Preparation Center - where Polish sportsmen prepare. The Alley of Sports is also associated with sport - with outstanding names from Polish sports. Near Władysławowo, you can visit Cape Rozewie to visit the lighthouse in Rozewie.

CHAŁUPY - an old Kashubian summer resort located at the beginning of the Hel Peninsula between Władysławowo and Kuźnica. For most of the summer, the bay offers very good conditions for water sports, especially windsurfing and kite-

surfing. There are several campsites that specialize in servicing windsurfers. There is also a small marina where you can rent bikes and eat fish.

KUŹNICA - an old Kashubian fishing village, which has re-



Jastarnia

photo credit: PAP/ Pawel Kazmierczak

cently turned into a quiet summer resort. Kuźnica is located in the middle of the Hel Peninsula, 12 km from Władysławowo and 20 km from the city of Hel, between Chałupy and Jastarnia. The port and marina in Kuźnica

is a perfect base for water sports enthusiasts.

JASTARNIA - the capital of the commune, a tourist town located in the middle of the Hel Peninsula between Władysławowo

and Hel. The port in Jastarnia is an excellent base for water sports enthusiasts, while ships and hydrofoils sail to Gdynia regularly from here. There is a small airport in Jastarnia - sightseeing flights are organ-

ized here in the season. Worth seeing are the bunkers (open to the public) that were part of the Jastarnia Resistance Center during World War II.

JURATA - a recognized, pre-war resort, a summer resort for the elite, located in the middle of the Hel Peninsula, in the Jastarnia commune, between Jastarnia and the town of Hel. Jurata is located in a pine forest and has a microclimate. A special attraction of Jurata is the walking pier from which you can admire the Bay of Puck and the promenade (Międzymorze Street), connecting the Baltic Sea with the Bay of Puck.

HEL - an old Kashubian port city, a summer resort located at the end of the Hel Peninsula. The port of Hel is an excellent base for water sports enthusiasts, while ships sail from here to Gdynia, Gdańsk and Sopot. There is a Fisheries Museum in Hel, where you can climb the observation tower to admire the panorama of the city, the Coastal Defense Museum and the famous Hel sealarium. An undoubted attraction is also the lighthouse, open to the public - climbing to the top of the lighthouse will

reward you with a picturesque view of the sea and the Hel Peninsula from its summit.

There are also many campsites located along the peninsula that gather windsurfing and kite lovers. For natural reasons, the Hel Spit is one of the best places in Europe to learn kitesurfing and other "board" sports. Almost always there is wind from the open sea to the west and along the inside part of the arch, which is established by the strip, thus pushing surfers in the direction of the land. According to statistics, on average, the wind blows at a speed of 12 knots for 220 days a year. The best months for kitesurfing are May, June, and September. Surfers prefer the already mentioned north shore of the spit and the waters of the Gulf of Puck. There, even half a mile from the coast, the water depth ranges from 0.5 to 3 feet. The sea bed is sandy and pleasant. The area is free from dangerous coral reefs, thorny sea urchins, burning jellyfish or rocks, or other surprises lurking for swimmers in warmer climates. The water of the gulf on the spit side is clean, warm, and low in salt content so that even after prolonged training, it does not dehydrate the skin as much as the salty waters of the ocean and southern seas.

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YOU WILL FIND REAL POLISH FLAVORS IN ZAMOŚĆ

FESTIVAL OF WINES AND REGIONAL PRODUCTS

On the August weekend, Zamość will once again turn into the capital of Polish wine. The third edition of the Festival of Polish Wines and Regional Products will take place on 13 August.

Roztocze is famous both for its excellent cuisine and for its rich wine traditions dating back to the Middle Ages. In mid-August this year, Zamość will once again host one of the largest festivals of Polish wines and regional products in the country. The event will be graced by a concert by Kasia Kowalska.

“In search of true taste’ is a festival that has become a part of the series of events organized every year in Zamość. We are glad that with each edition it gains a larger group of fans. Polish wines, although they are becoming more and more popular, are still difficult to access due to the relatively small production compared to the top European wine countries. Fruit and grape wines from Roztocze are made according to traditional recipes and refer to all that’s best in Polish wine traditions. And thanks to the festival, we have the opportunity to get to know most of the winemakers from this region and their products in one day. This is a great idea for a weekend trip for all lovers of wines and regional cuisines, also for those who have not had the opportunity to come into contact with them so far,” says Zuzanna Amarante from the Zamojski Wineries Foundation.

The Festival of Polish Wines and Regional Products will take place on August 13 at the Grand Market Square in Zamość. It starts at 10.00.

Wine tastings, fruit orchard and taste and smell laboratory on the Great Market Square in Zamość

The festival will be attended by 11 winemakers from Roztocze and the Lublin region. Dozens of grape and fruit wines will be awaiting visitors. This year, the event is also joined by local restaurants, which for the duration of the festival will have a special menu, to which regional wines are selected. Restaurateurs and sommeliers will in this way encourage guests to taste and talk about the secrets of the art of combining wines with dishes, i.e. the so-called “food & wine pairing”.

In the zone of regional products, it will be possible to taste local cheeses, honeys, breads and cakes. A permanent element of the event is the Laboratory of



The city of Zamość is called the “pearl of the Renaissance,” as well as the “Paddock of the North,” thanks to its unique architecture. Zamość offers a lot of tourist attractions, its buildings have a rich history. The Old Town has a wonderful market, Zamoyski Palace, Armenian tenement houses, an Arsenal and bastions. It was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1992.

Zamość is a unique Polish city, which has retained its homogeneous style to this day. In the summer season, the market turns into an art salon, where concerts and theatrical performances are held. The city is an important element of Polish heritage and it is worth taking the time to get to know it well.



Taste and Smell, where you can check what makes up the taste and smell of a given wine.

Why is it worth visiting Zamość and Roztocze?

Roztocze is a picturesque region at the south-eastern end of Poland, which stretches through the Lublin and Podkarpackie provinces to Lviv. Thanks to

the high insolation and numerous hills of the area, it is called the “Polish Tuscany.” Its unique microclimate has made it an excellent area for viticulture and fruit growing. For many years, Roztocze has been at the forefront of the largest producers of currants, gooseberries and raspberries in Poland, from which, regional, high-quality fruit



wines are produced. Among the grape wines, the most popular varieties are johanniter, riesling, regent, seyval blanc and solaris.

The “In Search of True Taste” Festival is at the same time a promotion and support for the development of Polish win-

emaking and regional products from Roztocze.

The organizers of the event are the Zamojski Wineries Foundation and the city of Zamość.

More information: wposzukiwaniuuprawdziwegosmaku.pl



A region is more than just a place on a map. It is created by exceptional people, a special character and a unique culture. The quintessence of a given region is its traditional products and the way they are produced. In order to support regional phenomena, the European Fair of Regional Products was established. It is an event that promotes authenticity and diversity, giving the opportunity to meet the living cultural heritage of both Poland and Europe. The XIII European Fair of Re-

XIII European Fair of Regional Products

gional Products will take place in the very center of Zakopane, on the Upper Krupowa Plain, from 11 to 15 August. During the fair, a very wide range of products will be presented, dairy and confectionery. It will be a great opportunity to taste not only delicious dishes but also drinks, including

beer, wine and various types of tinctures.

The European Fair for Regional Products offers four thematic zones, and therefore a diverse face of tradition.

A handicraft zone, full of authenticity and originality, which is an opportunity for exhibitors



to present their unique works of artistic value with motifs characteristic of a given cultural circle. A cosmetics zone that allows participants to get acquainted with the cosmetics offered by exhibitors with the best composition. An agri-food zone, where exhibitors, producers have a chance to present their unique products, and a gastronomic zone, full of diversity, where exhibitors can present their products manufactured according to traditional recipes. At the European Fair of Regional Products one can meet outstanding guests: the Circle of Rural Housewives, the Association of Malopolska Chefs and Confectioners, recommended chefs of Podhale inns, as well as representatives of friendly cities and districts. Exceptional guests are happy to present their skills and share their own experience,

which makes the fair a place full of attractions, open to discussions and exchange of knowledge. During the fair, the Oscypek and All Kinds of Cheese Festival takes place, which is preceded by a colorful procession, in which delegations of local authorities, baczowie, invited guests and anyone who wants to join participate. In addition to tasting highlander dishes, various competitions, as well as lectures, the fair is accompanied by an artistic program. Every year on an outdoor stage you can admire the performances of regional bands, as well as concerts of popular music stars. As a result, the European Fair of Regional Products abounds in a joyful and unique atmosphere and the Tatra District becomes one of the most interesting places on the map of Europe in the summer.



Jarosław Uściński, Chef and owner of the MOONSFERA restaurant; President of the Polish Association of Chefs and Confectioners

Fish but what kind

There is no doubt that the fish are delicious and healthy. We live in Poland, and here we can not buy all fish fresh.



In summer, we travel all over the country and we have the opportunity to eat delicious fish from the surrounding waters. If you are in Podkarpacie, we have delicious places that not only sell great dishes but are also fish farmers. A healthy farmer, min. carp, catfish, trout or zander. In Warmia and Mazury, hundreds of lakes and a whole range of fish. We have places and regions all over the country where we eat real fish. The real ones are those that are simply caught wild or well-farmed. We also have sturgeon farms in Poland and related products such as caviar. The highest quality caviar. It's near Konin. A few years ago I got to know these kennels and I am their client to this day. I regu-

larly buy fish from such breeders. And if not freshwater, what kind? Of course, not imported from Asia, such as the pangasius or the famous "cod loins" with up to 50% of water and stabilizers. Similarly, the so-called freshwater prawns. "Wannamei" highly controversial. If frozen, only with the MSC description. There are explanations on the net. If the salmon, wild only. If you want to eat fish today, buy the ones from the counter of a better market. They are labeled whether fresh or defrosted. And even defrosted is the price for fish, not for water frozen with fish. Generally, I buy either fresh or fish from European catches because their quality is definitely higher. And how to eat delicious fish here and now? Fish soups are a way of lighter summer food, and it always works. If you like mushrooms, I have a delicious and simple recipe for you. We need a light stock of vegetables and, for example, a fish head or skeleton. This recipe will tolerate almost any fish, but freshwater will build the flavor of the soup. We already have a light decoc-

tion. We need root vegetables cut into small cubes or grated. A few diced potatoes will also come in handy. A solid handful of dill chopped. Mushrooms - what they will be. We currently have chanterelles. Half a cup of cream and fish such as trout fillet, pike perch, carp or other freshwater fish. We start from the beginning. Put a little butter in the pot / saucepan and when it gets hot, add the chopped leek - fry lightly for about 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Add mushrooms and stew for 10 minutes. Add 2-3 bay leaves and 3-4 grains of allspice. Then add the vegetables, shredded vegetables. After another 5 minutes, add the potatoes. Pour in the finished hot stock and cook over low heat. When vegetables and potatoes are soft, season gently with salt and pepper. Add the diced fish and stir lightly. After 3-5 minutes, the fish will be ready. Finally, add the chopped dill and the cream. Boil it and... enjoy it. The slightly oriental option is: replace the cream with coconut milk and instead of dill give a lot of chopped carol and 2-3 tablespoons of soy and fish sauce. Chanterelles will play great in this compilation.



Katarzyna Braiter
Editor in Chief

Q&A WITH A FRIEND

Ewa Zbaraszewska a designer who combines fashion with architecture. She creates projects aimed at women and making them feel beautiful and self-confident.

Ewa, we met recently and I was enchanted by what you do. So your beautiful coats. In fact, I saw one of your coats before I met you and made a huge impression on me. Where did the idea for designing coats come from?

Ever since I can remember, I have been delighted with beauty, harmony, texture, color ... my grandfather was an architect, he created beautiful paintings, I think that growing up in love for the fine arts had a big influence on me. I am also an architect of interiors, it is the perception of forms and shapes of broadly understood architecture that inspires me especially. I can say that I feel exceptionally such materials as natural steamed wool, which has a number of interesting features for me, e.g. elasticity, texture, and the possibility of modeling spatial shapes from it. For 5 years I have been running the Art Moda Polish Designers boutique in Stalowa Wola in my beautiful hometown, as well as the ART & MODA Foundation, which promotes unique architectural styles of our city: modernism, art deco and the last defined style, which is socialist realism. By acting as a designer and president of the foundation, I initiated the creation of the fashion community in Stalowa Wola,



She took part in international fashion shows: Fashion Hall Berlin, SATISFASHION ROMA as well as national ones, including Krakowski Fashion Week, 4 Fashion Stalowa Wola and Nadwiślański Fashion Week. What is extremely important, she creates the fashion community in Stalowa Wola, cooperating and promoting local designers. Her designs were published in renowned fashion magazines such as: Paris GMARO Magazine, Poznański Prestiż i Moda w Polsce. The coats he creates are dedicated to women who value individual style and comfort, at the same time emphasizing the dynamics of movement, and the unique cut and energetic colors make it impossible to pass unnoticed while wearing them. Unique coats win the hearts of women from all over Europe.

promoting and inviting local artists and designers to cooperate, hence these two worlds still interpenetrate in my work and interact with each other.

What do I design coats for? The reason may seem too simple ... so I was looking for extravagant outerwear in intense colors for my styling, which I did not find on the Polish market. One day I came across a beautiful steamed wool in the color of heavenly blue, which delighted me and this is how I designed the first coat - for myself. I have an Instagram, so I added a photo of myself in it as a post, I quickly noticed that it gained a lot of "likes", and one of them caught my attention in particular. This coat noticed a very famous in the world of Hollywood stars, the so-called. "red carpet" director Cole Walliser, I admit that it was a sign for me and I read it as the right direction in my work as a novice designer.

How long ago did you become drawn to the world of fashion?

I have always dreamed of designing and I am very happy that now is the time when I can fulfill my passions that have been in the sphere of my dreams and plans for a long time.

Your coats have a touch of romance mixed with modernity. Was this the intended effect?

My motto is to transfer two worlds that often function in parallel, but still next to each other, fashion from "catwalks" and street style fashion. From the beginning, the idea of my projects was to connect both of these worlds, i.e. all coats should shine on the catwalks and be available and find their place in the daily stylizations of each of us.

I know that you have been no-

ted and invitations to foreign shows have rained down. How did it come about. Which show do you appreciate the most? In fact, I saw two of your shows. One was more intimate and the other was in the beautiful Ferrajoli Palace in Rome. You weren't the only designer there, but you and your coats shone. Tell us about this show.

Already during the first show at which I presented the coats, they aroused great interest on the part of women and the media. I was noticed, there was an offer to take part in a significant international show opening Fashion WEEK in Berlin called Fashion Hall Berlin organized by Samira Günther. European shows open the way to presenting your collection to recipients from all over the world. After a fantastic show in Berlin, I started dreaming about Rome.... and soon I received an e-mail with an invitation to the SATISFASHION ROMA event organized by the charismatic Kasia Stefanów in the beautiful scenery of Palazzo Ferrajoli in the heart of the Eternal City. I admit that I experienced this show especially ... thanks to the ubiquitous beauty that surrounds us, but also the absolutely extraordinary atmosphere created by the amazing fashion connoisseurs who came there, among them my wonderful guests: Dr. Gabriela Mercik, Agnieszka Kozakiewicz, Dr. Danuta Mył, Monika Jakła and of course You Katarzyna.

I also saw the support of your family. Were they rooting for you from the beginning? Are they proud of you?

My sons Michał and Szymon and my husband Witold, who was with me in Rome, are invaluable support for me. Family and their opinion is a key value in my life. However, I would like to add that I was accompanied by a team of friends, my task force; brilliant photographer Małgorzata Giebułtowicz and Julia Kułacz who creates beautiful and unique jewelry.

Do you know what your next steps in the world of fashion will be? Will you surprise us again?

I am constantly working on new projects, building a website with recipients from all over the country and abroad in mind. My idea is to create for all women, for each figure I personalize coats for specific clients.

Can we expect you with a show in Warsaw?

It will be with great pleasure that I will be at the show in Warsaw whenever I have such an opportunity.

photo credit:
Małgorzata Giebułtowicz
& Rafael Poschmann



Poland through the eyes of foreigners



Wiktorja Sawicka-Djassi

OUT OF THE BOX

Gator Segbefia is a Ghanaian student from Kiev, who came to Poland a few days after the Russian invasion on Ukraine. Like millions of people of Ukraine, he fled the war and found shelter and friendship in Poland.



You found yourself in Poland quite unexpectedly...

Yes. I was a student and working in Kiev. I arrived in Ukraine on the 1st of November 2021. Before that I had never, ever left my homeland Ghana. Back home I reached a point where I felt stuck and I needed to change something. I thought that a new environment would help – being away from everything I knew, so I could just start fresh. Ukraine, out of all European countries, was the easiest and the cheapest to go to. Plus, I knew someone who had been living and working there for about six years. That's how I found out that as an English speaking person I wouldn't have any trouble getting a good job there. The first memory I have is the moment I'd stepped outside the airport. It was freezing. My agent said – 'you think this is cold? Just wait...' /laugh/ I started the Ukrainian language course three days later and then went job hunting, which didn't last very long. I got my residency card and was able to attend interviews. Soon I got a contract, training, and started working in customer service. And so I had this plan all mapped out for myself and things were working out really well for me. After the three and a half months I was about to land a new, better job. The interview was scheduled for the 24th of February.

And then Russia attacked...

At 5 am the vibration of the building woke us up. Morning strike. This memory of the first missile dropped is still so vivid. It was actually very close to us. We kept hearing the explosions and then they started the air raid sirens to let people know they should hide. I stayed inside for the entire day and at night we were taken to the underground bunker. It kept getting worse but at 4 am the next day we decided to go out. And that's when we saw another explosion. It was terrifying. First you see this bright red light, a flash, then you start running and only after you hear the sound. At that moment I decided I wasn't staying. We ran to the train station but we couldn't get onto the train. I found a taxi but the fee to get to Lviv was \$1000. I managed to find one Ghanaian and two Somalis, we chipped in and took the 11-hour journey to Lviv. When we arrived, I didn't want to take any chances with the train after the first experience and continuing the drive towards Polish border was impossible because of the traffic. So we walked. It took us five hours. When we finally got to the border, we had to spend

the night outside waiting for our turn to cross. The next day we were directed to the customs to get registered and then - we were in Poland. That was on the 28th of February.

Aside from the obvious state of shock, how was it for you to find yourself here?

Once we were in Poland - I remember this very clearly - I felt huge relief. The organization was so different – it was no longer like this rigid kind of system. First we were taken to some kind of a mall transformed into the big sleeping area with beds,



At 5 am the vibration of the building woke us up. Morning strike.

This memory of the first missile dropped is still so vivid. It was actually very close to us. We kept hearing the explosions and then they started the air raid sirens to let people know they should hide.

food and all kinds of supplies. We had access to everything we needed in this situation. The buses were shuttling, taking people to the train station. I took the bus the next morning and then from the train station I headed to Warsaw. On the bus I met a Ghanaian who had someone waiting for him in Warsaw and that was my starting point here. At first my plan was to just take a breath, rest for few days and go back to Ghana.

What made you rethink?

I had a conversation with my dad. I told him what I was plan-

ning and he said – 'ok, but maybe stay for a bit, rest and weigh you options - you never know'. And that's what I did. In a meantime I was already in touch with the group of people from Ghana here in Poland. As a student in Ukraine I was able to register for the temporary residency. I signed up for the Polish language course and got my PESEL number. I didn't even make a decision to stay at that point. But I had to act, organize myself and follow the necessary procedures. I had a lot of help from Polish people here – in terms of getting information and networking. This support I felt very early on.



I had a lot of help from Polish people here – in terms of getting information and networking. This support I felt very early on.

You've been here for five months now - longer than in Ukraine. What do you think about Poland?

I like it very much. First of all, I feel much safer here. Back in Ukraine I felt more like a 'stranger'. People in Warsaw seem to be really familiar with different cultures. There is this atmosphere of kindness and willingness to welcome others. I think this changed everything in my head. Back in Ghana and even in Ukraine I lived a very boxed life. I wasn't really interested in exploring different ways of life or thinking, I just liked to stay within the things I knew. Of course this change may have a lot to do with the obvious experience of how close I was to the actual death, but somehow instead of bringing me down, it made me feel more alive. I'm sure that Poland, Warsaw and most importantly people, played an important part here and for this I will always be grateful.

So you would like to stay?

Yes, very much. Right now I am in the process of legalizing my stay, so I have to be patient and take it day by day. But it's already been an incredible journey, which I really wish to continue in the future.

GIORGIO ARMANI

I AM WHAT I LIVE

MY WAY

THE NEW FEMININE FRAGRANCE

