

Call from the CITY

Aleksander Miszański
Mayor of the City of Krakow



Dear Reader,

as the year draws to a close, it's the perfect time for conferences, meetings and reflections, with the highlights of this period being the 9th edition of the "Open Eyes Economy Summit" and the 14th "Life Science Open Space" events, both emphasising the importance of innovation for the development of the city and business. This approach is echoed by local startups, as presented in the latest "Krakow Startup Report". For students aspiring to bring their business ideas to life, the Zabłocie Cluster 20.22 hosted the "Krakow Innovation Games" - a hackathon tackling the challenges faced by local communities.

Initiatives based on joint action have also been making a difference. The "Charity Amateur Volleyball Tournament" returned for its fourth edition, raising funds for the St. Lazarus Hospice, and the "Climate Contract for Krakow", shaped with input from residents and organisations, is paving the way for a sustainable future.

I hope you enjoy the current issue of the newsletter!

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Call for the **BUSINESS**

Life Science Open Space 2024

Krakow Once Again a Hub for Life Science Innovators

The 14th edition of “Life Science Open Space” is now behind us! Once again, the event attracted a diverse range of professionals and enthusiasts from the life sciences sector, especially innovations in the area of health and quality of life.

On 28 and 29 November, the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University welcomed **384 participants** - entrepreneurs, scientists, investors, representatives of startups, research institutions and public administration officials.

A total of **82 presentations** showcased the latest developments, innovative projects, solutions and collaborative opportunities poised to shape the future of life sciences and health care. **An impressive 110 people appeared on stage: experts, speakers and panelists.**



The thematic sessions focused on areas such as:

- **Bridging Science and Technology:** Innovations at MedTech and Digital Health
- **Pioneering Health Solutions:** Biotechnology, HealthTech and MedTech
- **Digital Health:** Development and implementation of technology in healthcare
- **Dent Tech:** The future of dental technology and oral health
- **Food & Lifestyle / AHA:** Pathways to sustainable health
- **Life Science Startup Scene:** Innovators shaping the future

„**Life Science Open Space 2024**” reaffirmed its status as one of the most important events in Poland, fostering cooperation at the interface of science, business and public administration. LSOS proved to be much more than just a conference, but above all a vibrant space for networking, partnerships and cross-sector cooperation.

The 15th edition will be held on 27-28 November 2025, so mark this date on your calendars. Because innovation thrives on collaboration!

Klaster LifeScience Kraków

<https://lifescience.pl/>

Call for the **COOPERATION**

Climate Contract for Krakow

A contract prepared and submitted to the European Commission

„The Climate Contract for Krakow” is a strategic document that was created as part of the EU initiative European Mission of 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030, which Krakow joined in 2022.

The contracts set an ambitious challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2030 compared to 2018.

Entrepreneurs support Krakow's climate ambitions.

The contract was created in a participatory manner, with broad participation of the local community: residents, businesses, NGOs and universities, and feedback received during its development helped shape the final document, which has received nearly **50 letters of support**;

The companies supporting the contract, most of which are members of the Pact for the Climate, include:

- Krakow Technology Park Sp. z o.o.,
- Columbus Energy SA,
- SIG Sp. z o.o.,
- Astor Sp. z o.o.,
- Geminve Sp. z o.o.,
- BWI Group Sp. z o.o.,
- Jacobs CH2M Sp. z o.o.,
- Fibermarkt Sp. z o.o.,
- Salumanus Sp. z o.o.,
- DCN Europe SA,
- Kion Business Services Polska Sp. z o.o.

Read more at:

Pact for the Climate

https://www.krakow.pl/klimat/269973,artykul,pakt_dla_klimatu.html

Climate Contract for Krakow

https://www.krakow.pl/klimat/247309,artykul,kontrakt_klimatyczny_dla_krakowa.html



Call for the **COOPERATION**

Socio-Economic Innovation Zabłocie Cluster 20.22

In 2024, the Zabłocie Cluster 20.22 continued to thrive as a hub for events, initiatives and new projects attracting almost 24,000 participants, hosting more than 100 workshops, conferences, meetings, concerts and other events.

Working with entrepreneurs, NGOs and residents of Krakow, the Cluster has confirmed its role as a creator of spaces connecting business, innovation and social integration.

Key 2024 events:

- **Autumn Fair at Zabłocie Cluster 20.22**

The first edition of the fair organised by the Department for Entrepreneurship and Innovation of the City of Krakow brought together exhibitors and guests such as the "Great Village Market" from the Great Village and the Urban Greenery Board. The Fair showcased sustainable economy practices, multiculturalism and corporate social responsibility.

- **Launch of the Entrepreneurship Incubator**

Supporting entrepreneurs and aspiring business owners, this initiative aligns with the spirit of the New European Bauhaus, combining sustainability, design, ecology and technological innovation. In 2024, the Incubator signed 15 contracts with entrepreneurs and 10 with individuals.

- **GIS DAY 2024 – „GIS for Krakow: A city of history and future"**

The 25th anniversary edition of the global GIS celebration was dedicated to the use of

geographic information systems in modern urban space management.

- **Life Challenge as part of the InnoMaker project**

Focused on slow life and social innovation, this event offered a variety of activities - from handi-craft to the latest technologies.

- **Third edition of Beyond Labels**

An inclusive job fair promoting good business practices and alternative methods of cooperation.

- **Gala for Krakow Philanthropist of the Year 2023**

An event under the patronage of the Mayor of the City of Krakow honouring individuals and institutions working for the benefit of the local community.

Cluster tenants

The Zabłocie Cluster 20.22 is home to long-term tenants, including NGOs (the Zustricz Foundation, Kraków Miastem Startupów, Znaki Równości Federation, Social Innovation Workshop Foundation, Development Space Foundation) and companies and entrepreneurs (ProMusicLab, Voice Masters, Przedsiębiorstwospoleczne.pl, Impacto sp. z o.o., NSCG sp. z o.o.).

In the Social Innovation Zone, the Food Bank Association in Krakow uses the space for its statutory activities. The second floor of the Zabłocie 20 building houses the Multicultural Centre, the Social Integration Centre and Information Point for Foreigners.

You are welcome to join us!

For more information on the activities of the Zabłocie Cluster 20.22, visit:

www.zablociespace.pl.



Call from the **SCIENCE**

Krakow Innovation Games 2024

Students are changing Krakow – a summary of Krakow Innovation Games 2024.

The third edition of the **Krakow Innovation Games** was held on **11-12 December 2024**, with this year's hackathon focusing on the pressing topic of "Supporting mental health at schools." This is a very topical issue that encouraged participants to explore the issue of the mental well-being of youth and teachers and create innovative solutions.

Seven teams of students and teachers from Krakow's high schools and technical schools took part in the competition. **The winners of this year's KIG were students from the św. Rafała Kalinowskiego School Complex No. 1**, who presented the project "Open up to support", a campaign designed to encourage young people to seek advice from psychologists. The winners adopted social media as a platform to connect mental health professionals with young people. By sharing positive content published on social networks and promoting mental hygiene awareness they want to normalise the image of people with psychological problems.

The winners received prizes totalling PLN 2,800, including individual and school rewards.

Additionally, the Jury singled out teams from the 31st High School for their "Know Yourself" app, and from the New Technology Technical School in Cracow for their "Robotics Team" project.



Open Eyes Economy Summit

„Europe is facing existential threats that it hasn't felt in the last few decades. What is at stake today is whether Europe will survive as a model of life,” Jerzy Hausner summarised the 9th edition of the Open Eyes Economy Summit.

The ninth edition of the summit was met with record attendance, with more than **5,500 people** attending the event on 19-20 November 2024, of whom as many as 4,500 took part in sessions at the ICE Krakow Congress Centre, further strengthening the key position of the OEEES on Poland's event calendar.

Once again, the Congress became a space for exchanging insights on current economic, political and social issues. The theme **“The Soul of Europe”**, addressed in many discussions, encouraged reflection on the future of Europe, its identity and the values that shape it. The event was also accompanied by numerous publications, interviews and cultural events.

We invite you to the next edition of the **Open Eyes Economy Summit!**

<https://oees.pl/>



Call from the **HELP**

Volleyball for a Cause

the Krakow City Hall Steps Up

On 6 December, volleyball players from the Krakow City Hall once again joined the **4th edition of the Charity Amateur Volleyball Tournament** - an event aimed at integrating communities, promoting healthy lifestyles, and, most importantly, raising funds for the St. Lazarus Hospice in Krakow. Eight teams took part in the tournament, with PKO BP Bank as the winner, beating academics from the Jagiellonian University in the gripping finals. The Krakow City Hall team came in fifth place, although the most important result was the help for the St. Lazarus Hospice. This year's edition has already raised **PLN 10,000** through an ongoing virtual piggy bank collection, with a volleyball memorabilia auction collecting another nearly **PLN 3,500**. The total amount of support to date is nearly **PLN 30,000**.

A day later, on 7 December, the Board of Sports Infrastructure in Krakow organised the inaugural **Local Government Volleyball Tournament for the Mayor's Cup, under the patronage of Krakow Mayor Aleksander Miszalski**, with **twelve mixed teams** entering the competition. A collection of cat and dog food was conducted during the tournament, as part of a **Christmas**

collection organised by Krakow City Council Chairman Jakub Kosek **in support of the Krakow Society for Care of Animals**.

The team representing the Rzeszow City Hall beat Krakow in the finals, meaning Krakow had to make do with an impressive second place. A player of the Krakow City Hall team was honoured as the MVP of the tournament.

While the volleyball matches are over, the spirit of giving continues. **A collection for the St. Lazarus Hospice is open until the end of the year** (more at www.uj.edu.pl/turniej-siatkowi). We also encourage you to find out how to support our four-legged friends and take care of their needs at: www.ktoz.krakow.pl

See you on Krakow's volleyball courts!



Call for the **FUTURE**

Krakow Startup Report 2024

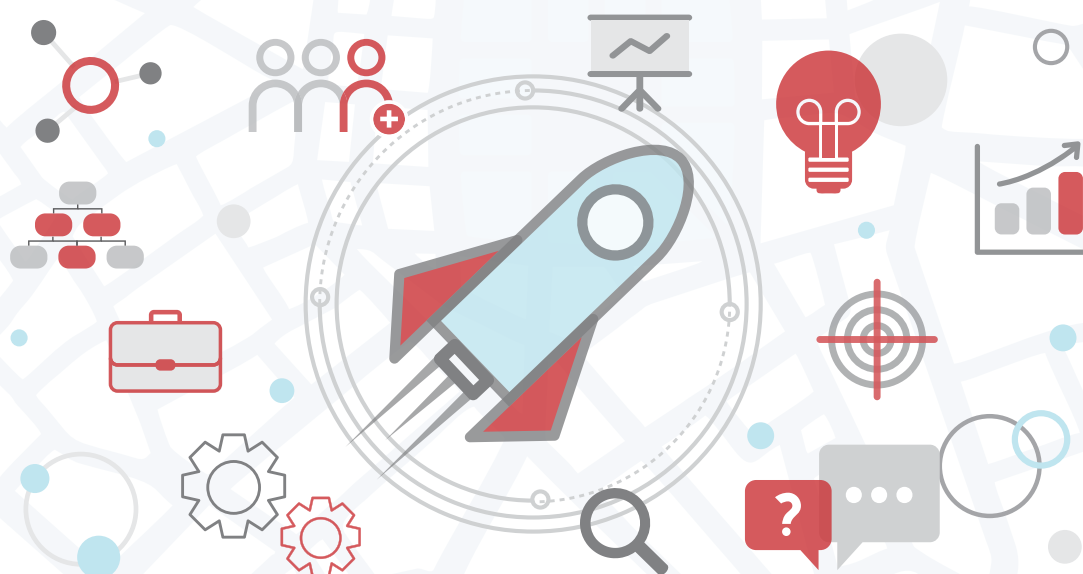
The second edition of the Krakow Startup Report is now available.

The report, prepared by the **#OMGKRK Supporting Foundation**, is a publication showing not only the rapid development of startups and the startup community in Krakow, but above all how their potential is growing and how much they influence the development of both Krakow's business and the city itself.

The report offers a detailed overview of startups operating in Krakow and funding opportunities thereof, as well as the key industries.

It also provides insights into Krakow's economic situation, business incubators and available co-working spaces, as well as recurring events organised in Krakow and related to startups. **"Krakow Startup Report"** is a comprehensive study offering a snapshot of the Krakow startup scene.

From January 2025, the Report will be available at www.dlabiznesu.krakow.pl.



Biznes



Kraków



POP



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