



**Event title:** Europe - what Europe? Reflecting on the future of Europe

**Event type:** Citizens' debate

**Date:** 2 June 2017

**Organiser:** Gdynia City Hall

**Partners:** Europe Direct; Pomorskie Regional EU office; Pomeranian Science and Technology Park

**Initiating Member:** Stanisław Szwabski (PL/EA)

**Audience:** around 200 participants including mostly youth (pupils and students), as well as teachers, city councilors, local and regional authorities, employers' organisations, NGOs and political parties.

Reflecting on Europe is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions, providing a platform for citizens' participation in the ongoing discussion on the future of the EU. We are committed to make citizens' voice heard!



### Speakers

**Janusz Lewandowski**, Member of the European Parliament

**Jan Olbrycht**, Member of the European Parliament

**Tadeusz Truskolaski (PL/EA)**, Mayor of Białystok, CoR Member

**Stanisław Szwabski (PL/EA)**, Gdynia City Council, CoR Member

**Marzena Guz-Vetter**, Deputy Head of the European Commission Representation Office in Poland

Moderator: **Marek Ponikowski**

### Key Messages

Most participants' concerns revolved around the **employment** prospects in the region, especially for youth and those with vocational trainings. Yet overall, citizens showed their appreciation for their rights stemming from EU membership such as residing and working legally in another EU Member State.

It was underlined that **education** plays a crucial role in preparing young people to play an active part in a society and successfully participate in the changing labour market. Furthermore, citizens were interested in learning more about the measures that are being taken to tackle the **refugee/migrant crisis**. In this context, it was emphasized that more solidarity and 'responsibility- sharing' are needed.

There was also a question about how Poland's can become more innovative in the field of renewable energy technologies, especially given the country's coal-dominated **energy** sector.

## Social media impact

### Top Themes around #EUlocal



### Press/Social Media Coverage

**Media coverage** - broad coverage by regional media

[Samorząd \(1\)](#)

[Samorząd \(2\)](#)

[Samorząd \(3\)](#)

[Samorząd \(4\)](#)

[Samorząd \(5\)](#)

[Głosgdyni](#)

[Głosgdyni](#)

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[Informacjaprasowa](#)

[Centrum Prasowe](#)

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#### Website

[CoR Local Event Page](#)

#### Social media

[Flickr gallery](#)

### Reflecting on Europe: Follow-up

The *Reflecting on Europe* survey, the CoR's feedback mechanism to report the main concerns and ideas of citizens participating in local events, was promoted during the event and on social media in Poland. Around 70 replies from Pomerania Region have been collected.

The outcome of all 'citizens' dialogues' will feed into the CoR's opinion on "*Reflecting on Europe: the voice of regional and local authorities to rebuild trust in the EU*".

### Services supported by the CoR

#### Moderator's services

**Conceptual development of the event** including preparation of the programme with the moderator and speakers

**Press & Social Media:** CoR's events' page, Facebook and Twitter, Flickr gallery, provision of communication material and media partnership

### Contact

**European Committee of the Regions**

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