



European Committee
of the Regions



województwo
łódzkie

Entrepreneurship to meet the challenges of a modern economy



Event type	Date	Initialising member	Audience
Local debate	18.06.21	Grzegorz Schreiber , the Marshal of the Łódzkie Region, CoR (ECR/PL)	Experts from local government and entrepreneurs, citizens
Organiser		Partners	Themes
CoR		Łódzkie dla biznesu Łódzka specjalna strefa biznesu	Conference on the Future of Europe



Speakers

- **Ms. Dorota Lombardi** - Director of the Department of Investor Acquisition and Service - Representative of the Łódź Special Economic Zone
- **Dr. Longina Madej-Kiełbik** - Chief Research Specialist in the Group of Polymers and Synthetic Fibres of the Łukasiewicz Research Network
- **Mrs. Iwona Pluta** - Deputy Head of the Paradyż Commune
- **Mrs. Agata Tracz** - Secretary of the Łowicz County
- **Mr. Marcin Podgórski** - Head of Regional Office of the Łódzkie Region in Brussels and in Chengdu
- **Mr. Witold Małecki** - Mayor of Tuszyn



Key messages

- Łódz region's development is a continuous, fluid and dynamic process, which means that the creation of a new strategy is based both on the current development strategy and changing external conditions
- The regional program will be the most important tool for the voivodeship under the cohesion policy as well as various national programs
- Supporting the economy means as well investing in education
- Further support for key sectors and entrepreneurs will become a driving force for the development of the region.
- The Łódz Special Economic Zone's professional economic services have already supported 445 investment projects (4.5 billion euros) and created 70.000 jobs in the region.
- Future investment in local projects will further boost the region thanks to national and EU funding.



Press/Social
media coverage

Website

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Entrepreneurship to meet the challenges of a modern economy

The 18 June event was presented by the Lodzkie Region featuring CoR member and Marshal of the Lodzkie Region Grzegorz Schreiber, economic and industry expert as well as local authorities representatives. The event's aim was to present the modern Polish economy with the aim to help local governments in the development of new and better jobs. During the debate, experts from local government and entrepreneurs presented their positions in areas important for the entrepreneurial development of the region, and answered questions from the audience.

Grzegorz Schreiber, the Marshal of the Lodzkie Region, CoR member

Mr. Marcin Podgórski, the panel's moderator, welcomed participants to the panel by introducing the themes and speakers of the debate. The first speaker, CoR member Mr. Schreiber explained that planning the Lodz region's development is a continuous, fluid and dynamic process, which means that the creation of a new strategy is based both on the current development strategy and changing external conditions. The regional program will be the most important tool for the voivodeship under the cohesion policy as well as various national programs. Their scope will result directly from the objectives set out in EU regulations, as well as the needs and investments important for the development of Poland. Another important point to him is the European Instrument for Reconstruction (Next Generation EU) - especially in the context of fighting the economic crisis related to COVID-19 and its consequences. That is an opportunity for entrepreneurs from the Lodzkie Voivodeship to obtain additional funds related to ecological and digital transformation.

In the past, the region already demonstrated its ability to manage funds very well. Additional funding under the Just Transition Fund will be the opportunity to cover all levels of the inhabitants' life: Modern and competitive economy, a civil society of equal opportunities, attractive and accessible space for all. In fact, economic development determines whether the region will be an attractive place to live and work. During the pandemic, the region backed by EC funding, created programs and subsidies that provided entrepreneurs with funds, for changing industries or maintaining employment.

Supporting the economy also means investing in education: Vocational education cannot fail to coexist with the needs of employers and the world of science. Further support for key sectors and entrepreneurs will become a driving force for the development of the region.

Economy from an entrepreneurial point of view

Following Mr. Schreiber's explanation, economic expert Dorota Lombardi and research specialist Dr. Longina Madej-Kielbik described all projects that were undertaken in the Lodz region thanks to national and EU funding. The Lodz special economic zone helps investors in implementing their investment process in the region and can be eligible to up to 55% of state aid. It means they can receive support in recruitment, issuance of new permits, management of new tenders, etc. These professional economic services have already supported 445 investment projects (4.5 billion euros) and created 70.000 jobs. On Dr. Longina's side, the Institute of Polymers and Synthetic Fibres of the Łukasiewicz Research Network, has a 60-year tradition of interdisciplinary R&D in fields such as biopolymers, biomaterials, synthetic polymers and fibres, biotechnology, nanotechnology, pulp and paper, as well as environment protection. Their work is supported by the Horizon 2020 fund of over 1.143.000 PLN and has recently helped the region to produce crucial medical material during the pandemic.

Local authorities in Lodz: developing the region by boosting local projects

The last part of the panel described the local projects that were undertaken by local authorities. Not only national funding was necessary to boost the region but also EU funding improved local projects for smart cities, sport infrastructure, developing sustainable energy sources, implementing better public transportation and improving overall air quality.