



**W**OSTRÓW  
WIELKOPOLSKI  
A City with a Heart



## *Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Ostrów Wielkopolski is a city we can be proud of.*

*Our showcase are the residents. Smart, hardworking, economical and ambitious people.*

*As the self-government, we also do a lot to make our City an even better place to live.*

*That is why we invest in the development of Ostrów Wielkopolski in various areas.*

*In many of them we are the leaders in the region. Pro-family policy, the first buses in Wielkopolska powered by electrical energy.*

*Finally, the first in our voivodeship multimedia library, attractive housing for young people or Tele-care for seniors.*

*This and even more, we are realizing with satisfaction just for you.*

*Therefore, I am happy to encourage you to review our most important achievements.*

*We also address them to people who do not yet live in Ostrów Wielkopolski, but face the choice of their future place to settle down. I assure you that thanks to our pro-social investments for the residents, Ostrów Wielkopolski is a great choice.*

*With cordial greetings*

*Beata Klimek*

The President of Ostrów Wielkopolski



## ECONOMY

Ostrów Wielkopolski uses its opportunity - it is a city that is attractive not only for living, but also for investing. The economic potential of the city includes both energetic and enterprising people (over 9,000 business entities operate in Ostrów), preferences addressed to entrepreneurs (real estate tax exemptions, economic sub-zone), as well as business environment institutions. Every year, the city expands its investment offer. In 2017 Ostrów once again received a golden star - the highest grade in the report „Investment Attractiveness of the Regions 2017” prepared by the Polish Investment and Trade Agency S.A., and a year later we were among the winners of the prestigious „Teraz Polska” / „Poland Now” competition.

One of the three largest rating agencies in the world - Fitch Ratings - at the end of 2017 raised the city's long-term national rating from „A + (pol)” to „AA (pol)” and long-term local currency rating. In 2018 years, this rating was upheld. Never before has Ostrów Wielkopolski had such a high rating! The agency evaluates, inter alia, municipal finances, property expenses, liabilities of municipal companies.



**A laureate of the  
TERAZ POLSKA Competition**



## We support the enterprising ones!

Opening your own business, especially at the start, is certainly a challenge and a serious investment. Therefore, the City together with the Municipal Department of Housing Economy launched a program addressed to young, novice entrepreneurs who want to start their own, one-man business in the city. Under the program, young people can rent commercial premises with an area of up to 40 m<sup>2</sup>, which is in the resources of MZGM / the Municipal Department of Housing Economy on preferential price terms. With entrepreneurs in mind, we also launched the Ostrów Entrepreneur's Card. The goal of the program is to create a package of benefits to help to start and develop one's own business. Under the program, entrepreneurs may receive support at every stage of their business activity, as well as take advantage of the concessions and preferences offered by the partners of this initiative.





## The Offer from the Ostrów Industrial Park

A trial company or a virtual office - sounds hardly realistic? Nothing more wrong. In the Ostrów Industrial Park - a center of support for local business - entrepreneurs can take advantage of such innovative solutions. The set of services that make up the “A Trial Company” package, offered at a preferential price in the form of a monthly subscription, mainly includes the possibility of conducting business activity on trial. “A Virtual office” is, however, full outsourcing of office services without the need for a physical presence of the company in a given place. An interesting proposition is also “Your start-up”.

This offer is addressed to people just starting a business. In 2018, the Ostrów Industrial Park acquired nearly PLN 2 million for the implementation of the “Act with a flourish - Startup for You” project. As part of the project, the company offers, among others, non-returnable subsidies in the amount of PLN 25,000 for people who want to start their own business.



## THE OSTRÓW ECONOMIC COUNCIL

Local entrepreneurs are our advisers. They are part of the Ostrów Economic Council. In addition to supporting the city's economic development, the Council's role is to express opinions and take initiatives regarding the functioning of Ostrów Wielkopolski's economy.

### The best ones invest with us

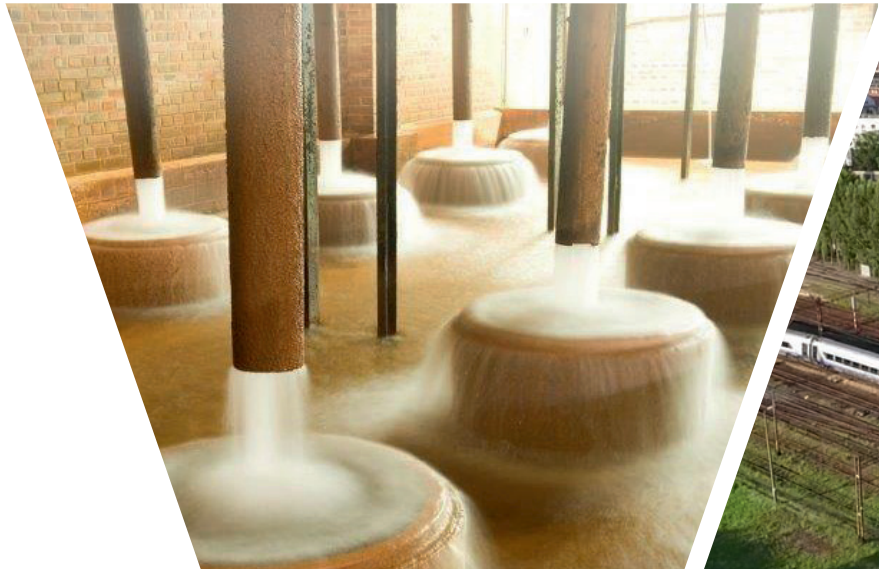
Many international companies have their headquarters in Ostrów Wielkopolski. One of them is, belonging to the world leader in the automotive industry, Mahle Behr. It is the supplier of engine parts, whose products are found in every second vehicle in the world. In Ostrów Wielkopolski there is also a French Mikroma S.A. - a company from the aviation industry,

and the Spanish Balaguer East Europe Sp. z o.o., representing the electromechanical industry. The latter was awarded the title of Business Gazelle for 2015 in the 16th edition of the ranking of the most dynamic small and medium enterprises. Another business operating in Ostrów Wielkopolski is LUBAWA SA - a company listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange which implements orders for the uniformed services.



## The Dominating Branches of the Ostrów Economy:

- automotive industry (Mahle Behr Polska Sp. z o.o., Teamtechnik Production Technology Sp. z o.o., POLMOstrów Sp. z o.o.)
- electromechanical industry (Balaguer East Europe Sp. z o.o., Petronova Sp. z o.o., FP SPOMAX S.A.)
- the arms industry (LUBAWA S.A.)
- the railway industry (EKK WAGON S.A., Kuźnia Ostrów Sp. z p.o)
- the food industry (ZMK Delikates Sp. z o.o.)
- the chemical industry (production of paints and varnishes) (HELIOS POLSKA Sp. z o.o.)
- the wood industry (Sklejka Eko S.A.)
- IT (Techland Sp. z o.o., ZAPIS Hardware Sp. z o.o.)
- the aviation industry (Mikroma S.A.)



## WITH ALL THE RESIDENTS IN MIND

In fact, the city is created by its residents.

They, to a large extent, decide about its development, attractiveness and potential. Therefore, we care for Ostrów Wielkopolski to be a friendly, open, kind and happy city. A city with a lot of potential for both seniors and for younger Ostrowians. The quality of life of residents is a priority for us. We consistently develop programs aimed at different age groups; we support social participation, we listen to the voice of the our residents.







## WE FOCUS ON THE FAMILY!

We carry out a number of activities aimed at young families, all in order to live well and comfortably in Ostrów Wielkopolski. We want people to build their lives, professional careers and their future in our city. One of the forms of support for young parents and a gesture of thanks for the effort put into raising children is the newborn allowance. In 2017, this benefit was awarded to 696 children (including 333 girls and 363 boys).

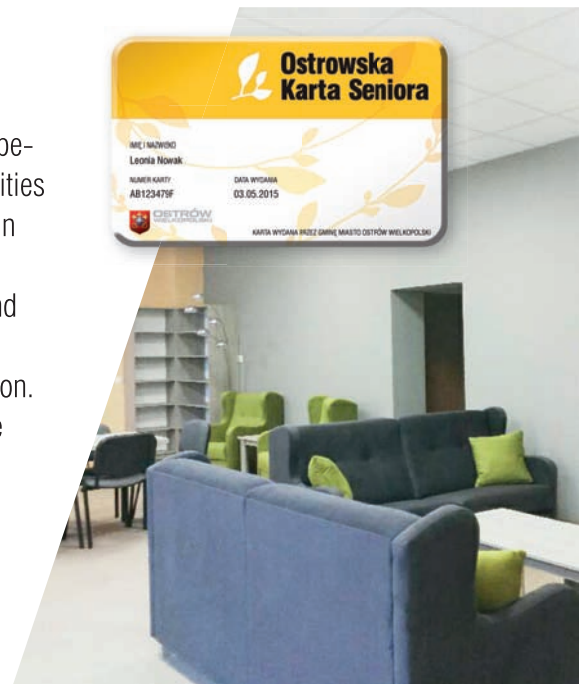
Young families can also take advantage of an affordable housing offer. Here we mean “The Ostrów Housing Program for the Systematic”. In the Ostrów program, it is an urban company that becomes a kind of bank, and the residents pay the loan installments together with the rent to this company. The “Ostrów Family Card 3+” is very popular among both large families and local entrepreneurs, in which large families can get a number of discounts - in shops, bookstores, restaurants, cinema, etc.

A friendly pro-family policy in Ostrów Wielkopolski means also a free kindergarten for kids, and lower fees for municipal waste for large families. It is not without reason that in 2016, Ostrów Wielkopolski received the title of the “The Wielkopolska Region Family Friendly Commune”. We are very proud of it!



## OSTRÓW WIELKOPOLSKI - A CITY OF ALL GENERATIONS

The Ostrów seniors are important to us. We eagerly and frequently draw on their experience and expertise, but also try to meet their expectations. We undertake many activities aimed at improving the quality of life, making them feel better and more comfortable in Ostrów Wielkopolski. It serves this purpose, among others “The Ostrów Senior Card”, which on the one hand, offers discounts on various types of services and products, and on the other strengthens the social activity of seniors. In 2016, thanks to government funding - we opened the “Senior +” Day-Care Centre. The institution fulfills its function. It is a place where a senior will get not only care services, but will also take advantage of its rich recreational and cultural offer. In 2018, the “Senior +” Club was opened in Ostrów Wielkopolski, which is a meeting center for 60+ people. In a newly opened club, seniors can attend interesting classes, read books and newspapers, or simply have a cup of tea and stay together. An interesting proposition is also the Ostrów University of the Third Age. This is a space where seniors acquire knowledge, spend time actively and integrate. The Traveler’s club, the dance workshops, a bicycle section - these are just some of the OUTW classes. We also build community day clubs - places of meetings and inter-generational integration.





The Senior's Time Bank is very popular with 60+ people. The bank's operation is simple - as part of the initiative seniors mutually support each other - from computer use to repairing a tap. We also care about the health and safety of seniors.

We implement a tele-care program, thanks to which a senior - using a telephone or a wireless bracelet with an SOS button - can call for immediate help. Ostrów Wielkopolski was noticed for its pro-senior activities in the world. In 2016, the city was admitted to the WHO Network of World-Friendly Cities and Municipalities WHO. We are happy with such a distinction and it gives us great motivation for further action.



## IT'S THE RESIDENTS WHO DECIDE

Public participation is first and foremost an opportunity for residents to speak on issues important to the city, but also a great way to create communication with the local government. Is it needed? In Ostrów Wielkopolski, we believe it is. In our city, we have launched a number of instruments that strengthen the participation of the residents in the decision-making process and urban policy making. It is primarily the Ostrów Participatory Budget, within which, among others, we have modernized the scout's camp base, we purchased a rescue and firefighting vehicle for the Fire Brigade, and we have installed school lockers in the Primary School No. 7. Every year, the ideas of our residents positively surprise us, but also tell us what investments and tasks are important for the Ostrowians. Also popular is the so-called local initiative, under which residents can jointly with the local government take actions for the implementation of public tasks.





We ask the residents about matters that are important to them. Individual social groups have their representatives in councils that help the City President in making important decisions for the city, including the Senior Council of Ostrów Wielkopolski, the Ostrów Economic Council, the Sports Council and the Youth City Council.

Remarks and comments to the tasks carried out by the local government may also be submitted as part of public consultations.



## WE THINK ECOLOGICALLY

Global approach to ecology. We believe that sustainable development of the city is possible only thanks to comprehensive activities - from ecological education of the children and young people to active policy of the city authorities in the form of programs addressed to residents, ending on low-emission transport, cycle paths, and thermo-modernization of buildings.



### Ostrów with ECO - Award and with 40 million Funding for the WODKAN Municipal Project

In 2017, Ostrów Wielkopolski won the prestigious “ECO-Miasto / “ECO-City” competition organized by the Embassy of France. We received the award in the “Energy Systems” category for cooperation with local entrepreneurs within the energy cluster and for the activities of Ostrowski Zakład Ciepłowniczy.

We have also received a distinction in the “Water Management” category for activities aimed at reducing water losses and an information campaign on rational resource management.

It was not without reason that Ostrów Wielkopolski was awarded for its activities in the water and sewage management.

In 2018, the Municipal company WODKAN S.A. obtained as much as PLN 40 million in funding (the entire project is PLN 80 million) for the implementation of a project concerning the modernization and reconstruction of the Sewage Treatment Plant in Rąbczyn, the modernization of the water treatment station and over 10 km of sanitary sewerage network.

This is one of the largest projects co-financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and the highest funding in the history of the city. For the residents, a new investment means an improvement in the quality of services provided and a lower risk of failure, which in turn translates into the comfort of living in the city.

Modern municipal economy is a trademark of Ostrów Wielkopolski.





## The Green Ostrów

We make sure that Ostrów Wielkopolski is a green city and thus friendly for its residents. In 2017, the city, for the second year in a row, was the winner of the “Czarodziejskie Drzewo” / “Magic Tree” award. It is granted by the Gaja Club - a nationwide association that in 2003 initiated the celebration of the Tree Day in the country. The prize was awarded for planting 3,000 trees in the 600th Anniversary Park and in the residents’ gardens during the city’s ecological activities. For a few years now, as part of the MajOSTascki annual city fair, the residents may exchange plastic bottles that are recycled for tree seedlings. The action is highly appreciated by the Ostrowians!

We think about ecology not only here and now, but above all with a view to the future. Therefore, ecological education in Ostrów Wielkopolski is already conducted among the youngest Ostrowians. Competitions, lessons, ecological performances, learning about the rules of rubbish segregation - these are just some of the activities carried out by the city and by the Ostrów educational institutions. After all, young people will create our future!

We also take care of the allotment gardens, which have a long tradition and many lovers in Ostrów Wielkopolski. The allotment gardens are not only an ideal place for meetings with family and friends, but most of all the green lungs of the city! Especially for the Ostrów allotment gardens owners, we have launched a fund for Family Allotment Gardens. The collected funds allow for the modernization of the allotment gardens infrastructure and other immediate and necessary works.





## Air Protection

The fight for clean air in our city is one of the priorities of the city authorities. The high concentration of particulate matter PM10, PM2,5 and benzo (a) pyrene in the air is still a serious problem in the winter season, not only in our city, but also in the whole country. In 2018, in each of the Ostrów housing developments, we installed sensors that measure the level of harmful dust in the air and allow to identify the source of the problem which is smog and its exact location. This is not the only activity carried out by the city. Since 2015, the city has been granting residents a subsidy for replacement of coal heating systems for ecological heat sources. In 2018, more than PLN 1 million was reserved for this purpose in the city budget. The program is very popular among the residents.

In Ostrów Wielkopolski, we are gradually expanding the heating network, so that further multi-family buildings and single-family houses can join it. Ostrowski Zakład Ciepłowniczy produces heat and electricity using environmentally friendly technologies.

We inform, raise awareness, and promote pro-ecological behaviors that pertain to the fight for lowering the emission. We believe that by working together, we can improve the air quality in our city.





## The Era of Electromobility

In December 2017, we started the era of electromobility in Ostrów Wielkopolski. The city is currently implementing two projects for a total amount of approximately PLN 63 million, of which PLN 46 million is external financing! The funds come from the Wielkopolska Regional Operational Program for the years 2014-2020, including the so-called Integrated Territorial Investments.

So far, Ostrów Wielkopolski has obtained a subsidy for the purchase of 10 electric buses and 6 with diesel engines. Electric vehicles are completely emission-free and environmentally friendly. That's why they run mainly in the city center - to reduce the amount of pollution getting into the atmosphere. Buses are loaded with green electricity from biomass produced by Ostrowski Zakład Ciepłowniczy, in a specially built charging station for electric buses.

In addition to buses - as part of the same projects - in the city arise, among others, four city bike stations, an interchange center, a buffer car park, and an Intelligent Transport System. The city will also build new bicycle paths, bicycle repair points, new bus shelters, and have further electronic boards and modern street lighting installed.



# Ostrów Wielkopolski with a Heart to Culture

If you want to get to know the city where Krzysztof Komeda's jazz was born, listen to good blues, dance to reggae rhythms or immerse yourself in Chopin's music, you must come to Ostrów Wielkopolski. This is where famous and popular events and inspiring exhibitions take place that attract artists from around the world. Everyone will find something for themselves here!



## We organize events to the European dimension

Since 1985, Ostrów Wielkopolski has been hosting one of the largest events presenting the exlibris art. Talking about the International Biennial of Small Graphic Forms and Ex-Libris. Only in 2016, 344 artists from 40 countries from around the world took part in the exhibition! The main exhibition takes place in the second half of the summer in the Museum of the City and always has a wide echo in Poland as well as in the world.

This is not where the cultural offer of Ostrów Wielkopolski ends. The International Chopin Festival in the Colors of Autumn, the Jazz Festival Festival, the Jimiway Blues Festival, Reggae on Piaski, and the National Festival of Independent Theaters are events that every year enjoy great interest of the audience and first-class artists. Artistic emotions are also provided by the festival "Everything is Poetry" and 'Mazel Tov' - an event promoting Jewish culture. A wide cultural offer is prepared every year by Ostrowskie Centrum Kultury / The Ostrów Centre of Culture.

This is where significant, regular events take place, such as the Krzysztof Komeda Film Festival, intimate meetings with authors, cabaret evenings, concerts and theater performances.



## This is where Krzysztof Komeda lived

Although Krzysztof Komeda is a born Poznanian, he spent his youth in Ostrów Wielkopolski and this is where his jazz was born. During his studies at the Male Secondary School in Ostrów Wielkopolski, he met Witold Kujawski, an Ostrowian, a graduate of the same school who introduced Komeda-Trzciniński to the world of jazz. It is just the music of this outstanding composer that the Krzysztof Komeda Film Festival was built around. From year to year, the festival is becoming more and more popular and becomes visible on the cultural map of Poland. Meetings with people from the world of cinema, film screenings and workshops, extraordinary concerts and exhibitions - these are just some of the annual points of this event. So far, the festival in Ostrów Wielkopolski has hosted, among others, Leszek Możdżer, Michał Urbaniak, Jan Kanty Pawluśkiewicz, Agnieszka Holland, Izabela Kuna, Robert Więckiewicz, Joanna Kos Krauze, Zygmunt Konieczny, Mikołaj Trzaska and many others. These names speak for themselves!

Krzysztof Komeda was the protagonist of the promotion campaign of Ostrów Wielkopolski: "Here lived ...". In addition to him, well-known and popular Ostrowians, among others, the Big Cyc formation - celebrating in 2018 their 30th anniversary, the handball players Krzysztof and Marcin - the Lijewski brothers, Maciej Balcar, Mirosław Ferić, Jerzy Ofierski, Wojciech Bąk invited to visit Ostrów Wielkopolski from the welcoming billboards placed at the main entrance roads. We promote ours!





## The Ostrów Route of Culture

The Ostrów Synagogue is, according to many, one of the most interesting historical monuments of Ostrów Wielkopolski. Built in 1857-1860 on the site of the former Jewish quarter by the Ostrowian - builder Moritz Lande, served the Jewish community until 1939. Today, the building, thoroughly renovated thanks to EU funds - the "Synagogue Forum" - attracts many Ostrowians as well as tourists, among whom there are also visitors from afar - descendants of Jewish families who once lived in Ostrów Wielkopolski.

The synagogue stands on the route of the Ostrów Route of Culture. The route on which the most important monuments are located (such as the town hall, the co-cathedral, the former Municipal Theater, the Old Male Secondary School, and the Old Cemetery, older the Powązki in Warsaw) can be visited traditionally - reading information placed on buildings or using a smartphone. For more information and curiosities about the object, just scan the QR code or NFC code from the glass plates hung on the monuments.

Tourist can also be delighted visiting the area around Ostrów Wielkopolski, including Antonin with the Hunters' Palace of the Radziwiłł Dukes, Gołuchów with the Czartoryskis' Castle, or the Barycz Valley Landscape Park.





## We combine history with modernity

Ostrów Wielkopolski focuses on modernity, also in culture. Multimedia cultural institutions - The Multimedia Library and The 3 D Museum - these are completely new proposals for visitors, thanks to which history can be learned using the most modern means of communication. In the 3 D Museum, visitors are transferred to the world from the 19th century - they can take a walk through the old streets of the city, watch old shop windows, or try on virtual clothes from that period. In the Multi-library, cultural stops have been created, including music, technology, literature, film, which can be learned using the latest multimedia materials, sound and image carriers. The city has acquired nearly PLN 5 million for these investments.



## EDUCATION

In Ostrów Wielkopolski, we care for the high quality of education. We invest in the educational base: we build sports halls, as in the case of Primary School No. 9, we develop a city nursery, we thermo-modernize school and pre-school buildings (including Public Kindergarten No. 17 "Ciuchcia"). Students can choose from a wide educational offer, thanks to which they can develop their passions and interests. It brings tangible results. The Ostrów children and young people are successful on the national and international arena and become laureates of many competitions.



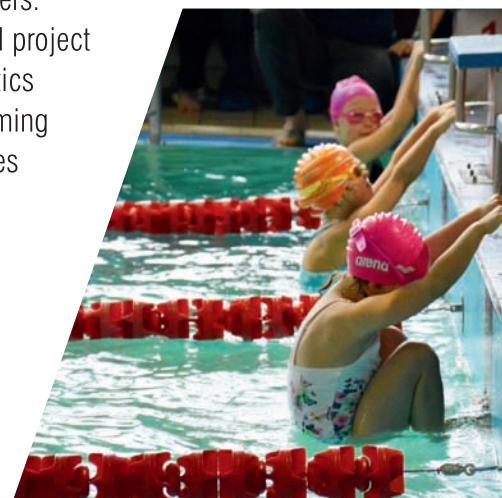


With a view to the youngest residents of our city, a new kindergarten is being built in Ostrów Wielkopolski, at Kujawska Street. It will be a modern, eight-class facility that will fulfill integration functions - children with disabilities will also attend it. This is an investment important for the city, which is a response to the growing demand for new pre-school places in our city. In 2017, we also modernized the Ostrów branch of the City Nursery. This investment is over 100 new places for the Ostrów Wielkopolski toddlers! In addition to the city infant allowance, free of charge stay of the children in the city kindergartens and the new kindergarten functioning in Ostrów Wielkopolski, the developed City Nursery is another element of improving the living conditions in our city for young families and encouraging them to tie their future with Ostrów.



## Interesting Programs and New Technologies

From an early age, Ostrowians can take advantage of a rich educational offer, among others: from the municipal program of free swimming lessons for 6-year-old children, a ministerial project “Swimming for everyone”, the urban programs improving mathematical skills – “Mathematics is everywhere”, “Several views at mathematics”; IT classes “Scratch coding and programming masters” and health projects such as, among others “A glass of milk”, “Fruit and vegetables at school” or “Health for Ostrów 2012-2022”. Thanks to co-financing from the Kulczyk Foundation, all children from Primary School No. 4 receive a free second breakfast. From the 4th grade of primary school, the Ostrów pupils learn a second foreign language. The Ostrów schools also implement international programs. For example - in 2017, Primary School No. 7 took part in an international meeting of partner school representatives as part of the “No place for hate” Erasmus + project and carried out a project entitled “Inter-culturality - a motivation to develop our talents”. Such initiatives are an excellent field for the development of the Ostrów youth!







For the best results in learning, pupils can apply for a Saint John Paul II scholarship of the City of Ostrów Wielkopolski. The scholarship is granted for each semester of the school year.

We introduce children from an early age into the realities of the digital world and the use of Information and Communication Technology. All Ostrów schools and kindergartens - as part of the digitalization program - are equipped with interactive boards, projectors and laptops.

We also care for the smiles of the small Ostrowians. We are implementing the program "To have a beautiful smile you only have to want it" addressed to 5-year-old children. In two primary schools, we have launched dental surgeries, which can be used by pupils from all of Ostrów's educational institutions. We believe that prophylaxis from an early age will allow us to respond earlier to the problems of teeth diseases in children, including caries.



# SPORT

Nobody needs to be convinced that doing sport is healthy. Especially Ostrowians who love active lifestyle and outdoor recreation. There are plenty of places in Ostrów Wielkopolski that encourage you to be active in the open air! There is a redesigned, modern City Pool, there are outdoor gyms, over 40 km of bicycle paths, a skate park, a street workout park, multi-purpose sports fields, colorful and safe playgrounds for children. In winter, the ice rink is very popular.

## Active Rest in the City both in Summer and in Winter

“This is a hit” – this is the most frequent comment from the residents of the area of the skating rink opened at the end of 2017. These words are reflected in the number of visitors to the facility. In the first season of its operation, thousands of Ostrowians, as well as residents of the surrounding municipalities benefited from the ice rink. In addition to the surface of 900 m<sup>2</sup>, the ice rink is equipped, among others in the rental of skates, stands and sound system. What is more, the youngest are offered, “penguins” are intended to learn skating. In the summer, the facility is transformed into a roller rink and the Family Park of Entertainment, so that it can perform its recreational function throughout the year. The city has completed the investment at a cost of PLN 3.3 million, with co-financing of nearly PLN 870 thousand from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, from the pilot Program for the development of supra-local sports infrastructure.





Summer in the city does not have to be boring, and this is due to the City Pool. The facility comprises of, among others, an artificial river, aerial geysers, slides for children and adults. There are also earth terraces and a grassy beach. Invariably, for many years, very popular among the residents of Ostrów, but also the residents of the entire South Wielkopolska, is the recreation and sports center Piaski - Szczygliczka, modernized thanks to the EU funds. The resort is teeming with life 7 days a week for 12 months. Sandy beaches, the water reservoir, the forest, numerous attractions including Rope Adventure Park, Large Insect Park, the foot - bicycle promenade around the lagoon, make this place one of the most popular recreational centers in the region. Piaski can be visited on foot, on roller skates, on a bike or - if you like - on a tourist train. It has gained popularity especially among the youngest, for whom special trips are organized. This area is connected by means of an over-6-km-long bicycle path with the Airport in Michałków, the host of, among others, gliding competitions "Ostrów Glide" and Gliding World Championships. At the airport there is also a professional parachute zone "Pyrlandia Boogie" - a perfect place for the lovers of parachuting.



## Ostrowians love sport

Ostrowians love sport and accompanying emotions. There are over 50 sports entities operating in the city. The most popular disciplines are: handball, football, volleyball, basketball, speedway, athletics, swimming, table tennis, as well as aerial sports and equestrian. Also, a speed-bike is enjoyed by many.

Running has become an extremely popular sport in recent times. In this discipline Ostrowians can try their hand, among others in the Run of the Ostrow Republic. In 2016, we recorded the attendance record in the main race. The distance of 10 km has been completed by 818 people! Another popular happening is The “European Week of Sport”, as part of which numerous recreational and sports events are organized.

Many disciplines will be served by the sports and entertainment hall, awaited for many years by the fans of Ostrow Wielkopolski.





## Sport at the Top Level

The men's team BM SLAM Stal Ostrów has been playing in the Polish Basketball League for three seasons. In the 2016/17 season it won the bronze medal, and in 2017/18 won the title of the Vice-Champion of Poland.

This is also the greatest success in the history of the Ostrów basketball! In 2016, after a dozen or so years of break, the female team of the Towarzystwo Sportowe Ostrovia returned to the extra league. The current star of the Polish national team and one of the leading European basketball players - Mateusz Ponitka - started his adventure with basketball in Ostrów Wielkopolski.

Ostrów Wielkopolski is also a strong handball center, famous for its excellent work with youth. The pupils of the KPR Ostrovia have been the support of the Polish national team for years, they participated in the Olympic Games in Beijing and Rio de Janeiro, they won medals of the world championships, they played at the European championships. Next generations of Ostrów handballers are trained in the Pupil Sports Clubs: Szczypiorniak, Batory, Sparta, and later they support the ranks of the Ostrovia Handball Club. Krzysztof and Marcin brothers Lijewski, the Poland handball nationals come from Ostrów Wielkopolski.

The Ostrów athletics also achieves great successes. Athletes from the Stal LA Sports Club score points in the sports competition of children and youth, bring medals from the Wielkopolska Championships and more and more often not only qualify for the Polish Championships, but also win medals of the most important national competitions in various age categories.





## If speedway, there is no better place than Ostrów

Ostrowians are passionate about speedway. This sport has over 85 years of tradition in our city. Over the years, large speedway events took place at the Municipal Stadium in Ostrów, including the finals of the Individual Junior World Championships, the finals of the European Senior Championships (SEC) or the Speedway Best Pairs Final. Inter-state matches of the speedway Polish national team with Australia, Russia or Denmark also attracted a large audience. The speedway showcase of the city is the Coat of Arms Chain of Ostrów Wielkopolski Tournament, the oldest speedway tournament in Poland and the second oldest tournament in Europe.



# International co-operation - we build bridges, not walls

## We co-operate with twin cities

We are opening ourselves to our neighbors. For many years we have been successfully developing with two German cities: Nordhausen (since 1995, the region of Thuringia) and Delitzsch (since 2000, the region of Saxony), and since 2006 with the Italian city of Lecce. In 2009, we signed an agreement on partnership and cooperation with Brantford in Canada. In 2017, Bergerac - a city located in the New Aquitaine region in France joined the group of twin towns of Ostrów Wielkopolski. In 2017, the City established official cooperation with the district of the Chinese City of Chengdu. The main goal of mutual contacts will primarily be the development of railway cooperation between the cities, including investment, trade and logistics.

Over the years, many interesting cultural projects have been implemented as part of the cooperation with twin cities. Visual design "Mascuma", International Choral Meeting of Friendship - Singing Europe, International Review "We all sing the Rock style" are just some examples of international projects. Both the youngest residents and the slightly older ones took advantage of them.





## Ostrów Wielkopolski with the Diploma of Europe

Ostrów Wielkopolski was honored by the Council of Europe for international cooperation as well as its pro-European activities. In 2017 in Strasbourg, Ostrów received a prestigious award – The Diploma of Europe. The distinction is the first step in the selection of laureates of established in 1955 by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe – the European Prize. This is the highest trophy rewarding exceptional efforts to promote the idea of European unity. Each year, the diploma is received by several top rated cities and municipalities from Europe. The selection is made by the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development of the Parliamentary Assembly.



## Ostrów Wielkopolski in Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities of the World Health Organization

In 2016, Ostrów Wielkopolski was accepted to the prestigious 'Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities' of the World Health Organization. Ostrów Wielkopolski has been appreciated, among others for: The Ostrów Senior Card, The Senior Council of Ostrów Wielkopolski, Day-care Centre "Senior +", the pilot program "Telecare", program of free influenza vaccines for seniors and the operation of the Ostrów University of the Third Age. The membership in the network is primarily a lot of benefits for the city. It allows for connecting with the global network of experts of aging-friendly cities, including top officials, managers and the elderly themselves.



## Municipal Programs with prizes at International Competitions

The important international awards of the City of Ostrów Wielkopolski include the award which the President of the City of Ostrów Wielkopolski, Beata Klimek, received in 2017 in Vienna for the project under the slogan "Municipal programs as a way to improve the quality of life of residents". The President was among 80 finalists from 15 countries from all over Europe in the "Innovations in Politics Award" competition. Ostrów Wielkopolski was appreciated, among others for mobility solutions, amenities for families and seniors, health care activities. The award is granted by the Institute "Innovations in Politics" based in Vienna.





## An international debate is one of the elements of self-government development

An important event that enabled the meeting of representatives of the twin towns to Ostrów Wielkopolski was the International Municipal Conference entitled “Innovative Self-government of Ostrów Wielkopolski - exchange of experiences and good practices in the international arena”, which took place in October 2017 in Ostrów Wielkopolski. The conference was attended by over 100 participants, including representatives of the partner cities from Nordhausen, Delitzsch (Germany), Bergerac (France) and Sweden. Among the speakers were guests from Poland and abroad. For this purpose the City of Ostrów Wielkopolski acquired funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Honorary Patronage of the event was held by the Embassy of Sweden and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.



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