

## Take part in the biggest SME dedicated event in Europe!

The IV European Congress of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises will take place in Katowice between the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup> of September. The Congress, organized annually by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Katowice, has, since its inception in 2011, proven to be the single most important event dedicated to the SME sector in Europe.

## Platform for dialogue

The Congress provides a platform for dialogue between different communities, including the representatives of SMEs and larger companies, the scientific community, business environment institutions, local governments and government authorities. With the previous editions gathering over 9000 participants and over 540 lecturers in total, the event only grows in both size and importance. This year there are 25 panel discussions planned with over 130 experts attending and approximately 3000 expected participants. The Congress will be co-organised by the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Polish Ministry of Economy and the Polish Chamber of Commerce under the honorary patronage of the Polish President Bronisław Komorowski, the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and the European Parliament. The Congress Honorary Committee will be chaired by prof. Jerzy Buzek.

## International aspect

The watchword of this year's edition is '10 years of entrepreneurship without borders', serving as a symbolic summary of the ten years since the accession of Poland to the European Union and the impact it had on the Polish economy. The goal is to emphasize the importance of foreign markets and international relations in the development of Polish enterprises, allowing them to be more innovative and competitive. The programme will naturally not neglect other relevant topics, such as the cooperation between science and business, access to capital, workforce education, building a stable and friendly law system and many more.

## Interdisciplinary SME approach

Similarly to the previous editions, the outcome of the Congress and the discussions will be a set of recommendations aimed at Polish and international state institutions, economic self-governments and scientific communities. Those recommendations deal primarily with the proposed direction of SME development and the removal of obstacles to Polish entrepreneurship.

The IV European Congress of Small and Medium-Size Enterprises will be accompanied by the SME Product and Service Fair BIZNES EXPO, which allows businesses and institution to showcase their product mix aimed at the SME sector. Last year the event hosted 50 exhibitors who, over the course of 2 days, were visited by many people willing to establish new business relationships.

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