

About SOKWMS

The Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Self-Governments (SOKWMS) was an event directed at representatives of self-government and government administration, politicians, representatives of scientific organizations and NGOs from Poland and abroad. Organized from 2012 to 2015, it was a platform for dialogue and exchange of best practices strengthening civic and self-government dimension of the Polish foreign policy. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland was co-organizing and co-financing the events, within the scope of the calls of proposals launched by the Ministry.

The 1st Session of The Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Self-Governments entitled [“International cooperation of self-governments and priorities of Polish foreign policy”](#) took place in Poznań (15 November 2012). Its aim was to create a platform of cooperation and flow of information between the government and self-government administration concerning the foreign policy. The platform was to enable use of the potential of the dynamically developing foreign cooperation conducted by Polish municipalities, districts and regions in implementation of the Polish foreign policy priorities. The objective of the 1st session was to identify opportunities and challenges that self-governments face in the context of foreign cooperation, as well as to create a catalogue of good practices.

Another session entitled [“Experiences and perspectives regarding the role of Polish self-governments in strengthening the local and regional dimension of the Eastern Partnership”](#) also took place in Poznań (28 June 2013). It was the first session focusing on the concrete geographical area of international cooperation. The debate concentrated on the Eastern Partnership as well as the best practices and expectations for the future in that field.

The 3rd Session of SOKWMS entitled **“Experiences, perspectives and challenges of cooperation of Polish self-governments with Chinese local authorities”** was held in Lodz (26 September 2014). The selection of China as the leading theme of the conference was a result of the constantly increasing number of Polish self-governments entering into cooperation with Chinese partners or showing interest in such cooperation. The conference brought the nature of cooperation with China closer, discussed potential directions of its development and most frequently encountered obstacles.

The 4th Session of The Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Self-Governments entitled **“Poland - Nordic countries. Self-government dimension of international cooperation”** was held in Kielce (17-18 November 2015), within the scope of a project under the same name. This editions, contrary to the previous ones, was focused on two main themes. During the first day of the event the stress was put on the success of the Polish self-government reform, thus becoming a part of the commemoration of the Year of Self-Government announced by the President of the Republic of Poland Mr Bronisław Komorowski (2015). The second day of the conference was concentrated on the experience, prospects and barriers in cooperation with partners from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

The 4th Session of The Polish Standing Conference on the International Cooperation of Local Self-Governments in Kielce was co-organised and co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the

Republic of Poland within the call for proposals "Support for local government and civic dimension of Polish foreign policy 2015"