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**IGU CDES CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL
UNION – COMMISSION OF “THE DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC
SPACES” FACULTY OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING,
ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY, POZNAŃ (POLAND),
SEPTEMBER 16–18, 2025**

The annual Conference of the International Geographical Union (IGU) – Commission of “The Dynamics of Economic Spaces” (CDES) took place in September 2025 in Poznań, Poland, under the theme “Geopolitical Turbulences, Environmental Challenges and the Reconfiguration of Economic Spaces”.

The first day of the Conference took place at the University’s main building (Collegium Minus), in the city center, and the next two days of the Conference were hosted at the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Morasko Campus, in the north of the city.

The Conference opened with introductory remarks of Prof. Zbyszko Melosik, Vice-rector of the Adam Mickiewicz University, Prof. Paweł Churski, dean of the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, Prof. Eva Kiss, Chair of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces, and Prof. Robert Kudłak, Head of the Local Organising Committee.

Then, a keynote speech was held by Prof. Gavin Bridge (Durham University), the subject being very welcome within the conference theme and providing interesting facts about an area almost unknown but decisive for the contemporary civilization: “Geo-economics and the critical minerals moment”.

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The Conference had 24 presentations grouped within eight sessions: The natural environment and sustainability transition I and II, (Geo)Political Impacts, Evolutionary Economic Geography, MNEs' Behaviour and (Geo)Politics, Sustainable Economy and Urban Places, Industry and Regional Development, Economic Resilience and Innovation.

All the presentations were of very high quality, reflecting the innovative approaches in a complex field such as economic geography. Among chairs and presenters were well-known specialists: Prof. Robert Hassink, Prof. Tadeusz Strykiewicz, Prof. Neil Reid, Prof. Nuri Yavan, Prof. Lech Suwala, Prof. Rolf Schlunze, Prof. Piotr Pachura, Prof. Michał Męczyński, Prof. Edilson Pereira Júnior, to name only a few.

Another interesting moment was the keynote speech of Mr. Marcin Rzepczyński (VW Group Poland), titled "Spatial reconfiguration of the production and logistic processes in the automotive industry: A historical and contemporary perspective", where the presenter discussed the challenges that Volkswagen Group must deal with in an era of changes.

The Conference ended with a field trip to the VW Plant Września in Białeżyce (approx. 60 km from Poznań), one of the most modern automotive factories in Europe. The program included a tour of the welding shop and the assembly hall, showcasing automation and robotic processes.

The next Conference of this Commission will be held in Turku, Finland, May 27-29, 2026. IGU Regional Conference, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, between 17 and 21 August 2026, will also include sessions of this Commission.

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DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

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