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Safety at the Forefront – The Premiere Edition of the PROTEGA Trade Fair Comes to a Close

The first edition of the PROTEGA Trade Fair, held at the MTP Poznań Expo, brought together representatives of public administration, uniformed services, institutions responsible for national safety, as well as manufacturers and suppliers of technologies used in rescue operations and crisis situations. The event was a direct response to the growing needs arising from the entry into force of the new Civil Protection and Civil Defence Act.

The fair opened with an official ceremony attended by representatives of the most important institutions within the national security system. Speakers included officials from the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, the Ministry of National Defence, the Greater Poland Voivodeship Office, the authorities of the City of Poznań and the Headquarters of the State Fire Service. All emphasised the importance of cooperation between administration, emergency services and the private sector in creating an effective and resilient civil protection and civil defence system.

Following the official opening, the inaugural panel of the PROTEGA Congress took place with the participation of members of the Honorary Committee and invited guests. Experts discussed the challenges facing the Civil Protection and Civil Defence system in the context of the new legislation.

Debates and Panels – Practice, Expertise and Threat Analysis

The PROTEGA Congress, running alongside the trade fair, offered an extensive expert programme divided between two parallel spaces: the Congress Stage and the Workshop Stage. The Congress Stage focused on topics related to responding to natural and man-made threats, preparing protective infrastructure and building social resilience.





Experts discussed, among other topics:

- crisis response to events such as floods, power outages and failures of critical infrastructure,
- lessons learned from rescue operations in Ukraine in the context of protective construction,
- CBRN threats as well as standards for designing and equipping shelters and protective spaces,
- preparing citizens and public administration for functioning in crisis conditions.

On the Workshop Stage, participants took part in practical training sessions, including first aid, responding to drone attacks, mass-casualty incidents or vehicle-ramming scenarios. The workshops were led by practitioners from emergency services, uniformed forces and crisis management experts.

Exhibitors and Showcase – Technologies for Rescue, Infrastructure and Communications

A key element of the PROTEGA Trade Fair was the comprehensive exhibition where exhibitors presented a wide range of technologies designed for emergency services, public administration and organisations operating in the field of safety. Visitors had the opportunity to explore innovative solutions in the areas of:

- **Rescue and civil protection** rescue and medical equipment, specialised clothing, personal protective equipment, gear for search-and-rescue units;
- **Protective infrastructure** shelters and protective structures, flood-protection systems, water tanks, ventilation systems and equipment for shelters;
- **Technologies and communications** critical communication systems, drones, threat-detection technologies, mobile energy sources, field lighting;
- **Crisis logistics** long-term food supplies, evacuation kits, container-based operational modules.

The diversity of showcased technologies demonstrated how interdisciplinary and complex today's civil protection and civil defence systems have become.

Oxford-Style Debate – Young People Discuss the Future of Safety Education

The programme also included the First Oxford-Style Debate of Uniformed Classes with a Firefighting Profile, competing for the passing trophy of the Greater Poland Provincial Commander of the State Fire Service. The debate brought together students from:

- Edukacja Lubasz I.J. Paderewski Schools (Proposition)
- Zespół Szkół Mechanicznych im. KEN in Poznań (Opposition)

The topic of the debate was:

"The safety guide in brochure form – an outdated relic or an intergenerational educational tool?"





After a balanced and substantive exchange of arguments, the team from Lubasz emerged victorious. The competition held significant educational value, highlighting the fact that young people are already actively engaging in discussions on the future of civil protection.

A Premiere Edition Opening a New Chapter

The strong interest shown by public institutions, local governments, emergency services and the industry confirmed the need to create a space that integrates all environments responsible for national safety. In the face of the changing geopolitical situation and growing natural threats, events such as PROTEGA play an essential role in strengthening the country's resilience.

Up-to-date information about PROTEGA 2025 is available on the <u>official website</u> and social media channels — join us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>.