

soroptimistkrakow2025.com

#SIECongress2025

Soroptimists impact SustAlnability



Mission

Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through Education, Empowerment and Enabling opportunities.



About Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE)

Soroptimists act as advocates for causes impacting women and girls at local, national and international levels, focusing on the SDGs of the UN universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure global peace and prosperity. For over a century, Soroptimists have worked to eliminate violence against women and girls and ensure their participation in conflict resolution https://www.soroptimisteurope.org/

Soroptimist International of Europe (SIE) is a network of over thirty thousand professional women who work together at local, national and international levels. Our members include women of all ages, representing a diverse range of professions. SIE currently has 1,152 Clubs operating across 43 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. SIE is the largest of five Federations making up Soroptimist International, which counts around 65,000 members.

As Soroptimists, we strive for the advancement of the status of women, high ethical standards, Human Rights for all, equity development and peace through the advancement of international understanding and goodwill.

Soroptimist International of Europe holds general consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and participatory status at the Council of Europe and the European Women's Lobby. SIE also participates in the work of OSCE through its permanent representatives. This allows SIE to advocate at national and international level and to lobby for the ratification and implementation of treaties concerning women. SIE, also demands that priority issues for women receive their rightful place on the sustainable development agenda.

What we do...more

Every year Soroptimists across 43 countries of Soroptimist International of Europe engage in hundreds of projects within the following areas of focus:

- Sustainability
- Health & Food Security
- Violence against Women
- Women's Empowerment
- Education



WELCOME MESSAGE

Soroptimists Impact Sust Alnability

Dear Soroptimists and Guests,

The Congress of Soroptimist International of Europe will for the first time in history be organised in Poland, Krakow 23rd – 25th October 2025.

We have a pleasure to inform you that the Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska and the Mayor of the City of Krakow, Aleksander Miszalski have taken the event under their patronage.

The Congress will be an ideal opportunity to meet, learn, exchange views and experiences. It will provide a forum where around 1,200 participants: volunteers, officials, academics, and business representatives, will meet to discuss the most pressing issues facing women in the near future. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is constantly creating new challenges and sustainable development in its many aspects will be the major topics.

You will also have an opportunity to get acquainted with sustainable Soroptimist projects and discover the ropes / ins and outs of implementation. Come and let's enjoy together! Be sure to expect engaging speeches and an inspiring side programme.

Kraków will easily fill your leisure time, exploring and discovering this fascinating city. The City has an efficient public transport network, and with your free tickets you can get around on foot or by tram.



Anna Wszelaczyńska SIE Congress Chair



Hafdis Karlsdottir SIE President 2024 - 2025

Organising Committee of the SIE 2025 Congress

At the Heart of the Congress



Hafdis Karlsdottir SIE President 2024 - 2025



Anna Wszelaczyńska SIE Congress Chair



Mihaela Aquelius SIE Secretary General 2024-2025



Mariet Verhoef-Cohen SI President 2017 - 2019



Regine Vögele SIE Finance Controller 2024-2025



Gerda Rosiers SIE Congress Coordinator

Expert Contributors



Inga Lena Darkow SIE Digital Champion 2024-2025



Rita Nogueira Ramos SIE Vice President Advocacy 2024-2025



Margherita Poles
Sustainable Development &
Communications Expert
SI Youth Forum Member.

Local Committee



Katarzyna Brykowicz



Małgorzata Bartkowska



Krystyna Święcicka - Wójcik

CONGRESS TIMETABLE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

	THURSDAY 23rd of October
ROOM S2 14:00	MEET & GREET- Welcome; introduction for young participants - Hafdis Karlsdottir ROOM S2
	YOUNG SOROPTIMISTS - "The Power We Hold - Young Women Creating a Better World" Inga-Lena Darkow, Alice Pomé, Margherita Poles, Katarzyna Piszczako-Pałasz more details ◆
16:00	End of the day
FOYER FLOOR 1 19:00-23:00	Welcome reception - ICE KRAKÓW FOYER FLOOR 1



Soroptimists impact
SustAlnability

CONGRESS TIMETABLE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

	FRIDAY 24th of October
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:00-09:15	A SHORT INTERLUDE OF CHOPIN'S MUSIC BY A STUDENT OF THE STATE GENERAL MUSIC SCHOOL IN KRAKÓW <u>PLENARY ROOM S1</u>
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:15-09:30	OPENING CEREMONY, LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES, FLAG CEREMONY
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:30-09:50	SPEECHES FROM: Anna Wszelaczyńska, Chair of the Congress Hafdís Karlsdóttir, SIE President Małgorzata Kidawa-Błońska, Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland Ewelina Pytel - Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of the City of Kraków for Equality Policy
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:50-10:20	KEYNOTE SPEAKER ON SUSTAINABILITY Pia Heidenmark Cook "Sustainability with a Gender Lens" PLENARY ROOM S1
10:20-11:00	Coffee break - (Press conference)
PLENARY ROOM \$1 11:00-12:30	SUSTAINABILITY – Panel discussion: "Empowered Women Sustainable Change", PLENARY ROOM S1 Moderator: Renata Trottmann-Probst Speakers: Estelle Herlyn, Joanna Bagniewska, Katarzyna Grabowska, Pia Heidenmark Cook
12:30-13:45	Lunch
13:45-15:15	BREAKOUT SESSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
ROOM S4A	Breakout session 1 – Gender Equity for a Sustainable Future ROOM S4A Moderator: Carolien Demey Speakers: Emma Holten, Galia Chimiak, Marzena Maj more details
ROOM S3B	Breakout session 2 - Seeds of Change: Women Transforming Sustainable, Resilient Food Systems ROOM S3B Moderator: Mariet Verhoef-Cohen Speakers: Amrita Gautam, Rosaida Dolce, Jessca Oredo, Joanna Kadziolka more details •
ROOM S4B	Breakout session 3 – Sustainable Cities, Paving the Way for Inclusive, Resilient Urban Futures ROOM S4B Moderator: Margherita Poles Speakers: Alice Paola Pomé, Elizabeth Doherty, Katarzyna Iwińska more details The session of the Way for Inclusive, Resilient Urban Futures ROOM S4B Moderator: Margherita Poles Speakers: Alice Paola Pomé, Elizabeth Doherty, Katarzyna Iwińska
ROOM S3A	Breakout session 4 - The importance of the Istanbul Convention for gender equality ROOM S3A Moderator: Sabine Reimann Speakers: Pascale Franck, Rita Chiappa, Katarzyna Sękowska-Kozłowska more details more details ✓
15:15-15:55	Coffee break
PLENARY ROOM S1 15:55-16:40	SIE SUSTAINABLE IMPACT FOR THE FUTURE – Wrap up the day. Takeaways from the Breakout sessions PLENARY ROOM S1
PLENARY ROOM S1 16:40-16:45	SI President speech
PLENARY ROOM \$1 16:45-17:00	SI Film - International Day of Climate Action
PLENARY ROOM \$1 17:00	End of the day
19:15	30TH ANNIVERSARY OF POLISH UNION - details HERE

CONGRESS TIMETABLE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

	SATURDAY 25th of October
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:00-09:15	ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC PLENARY ROOM S1
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:15-09:45	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Caitlin Kraft Buchman "Al Belongs to All of Us: Understanding the Problems, Processes, and Potential" PLENARY ROOM S1
PLENARY ROOM \$1 09:45-11:15	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - Panel discussion title: "Shaping AI, Empowering women" PLENARY ROOM S1 Moderator: Inga-Lena Darkow Speakers: Katarzyna Cieślak, Arikia Milikan, Caitlin Kraft Buchman
11:15-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-13:30	BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ROOM S4A	Breakout session 1 – The Al Nexus: intersecting technologies, equality, and sustainable tomorrow ROOM S4A Moderator: Berthe de Vos-Neven Speakers: Tania Gomez Herazo, Simon Ruszala, Tristan Van Thielen, Giulia Massimetti more details
ROOM S4B	Breakout session 2 - Al and Healthcare ROOM S4B Moderator: Clara Celauro Speakers: Karolina Kornowska, Xenia Kuipers, Sadiye Emel Sokullu more details ◆
ROOM S3B	Breakout session 3 – AI in Education - Empowerment or Risk? ROOM S3B Moderator: Mariet Verhoef-Cohen Speakers: Felisa Tibbitts, Evelyne Para, Joanna Bagniewska more details ◆
ROOM S3A	Breakout session 4 - AI - Cyberviolence ROOM S3A Moderator: Rita Nogueira Ramos Speakers: Sywia Spurek, Olga Jurasz, Sandra Ramalho, Dina Loghin more details ◆
13:30-15:00	Lunch
PLENARY ROOM \$1 15:00-15:45	SIE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IMPACT FOR THE FUTURE – Wrap up the day. PLENARY ROOM S1 Takeaways from the BS#
PLENARY ROOM \$1 15:45-15:50	PEACE PRIZE - Carolien Demey
PLENARY ROOM \$1 15:50-16:05	Peace Prize recipient speech
PLENARY ROOM \$1 16:10-16:20	Musical interlude
PLENARY ROOM \$1 16:20-16:30	Change of SIE Insignia
PLENARY ROOM \$1 16:30-16:40	Change of SI Insignia
PLENARY ROOM \$1 16:40-17:00	SI CONVENTION2027
PLENARY ROOM \$117:00	End of the day
19:00-22.00	SIE CONGRESS DINNER at Old Tram Depot more details ◆

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Pia Heidenmark Cook

SUSTAINABILITY

Pia is a renowned sustainability leader, author, and former Chief Sustainability Officer at IKEA/Ingka Group. Under her leadership, IKEA ranked among the top three most sustainable brands and successfully decoupled carbon dioxide emissions from commercial growth. Pia's expertise in driving sustainable business transformation is truly inspiring.

She now serves as a non-executive director and senior advisor across various sectors and recently published her book, "Embedding Sustainability."



Caitlin Kraft-Buchman ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Caitlin Kraft-Buchman is a distinguished leader and co-founder of the <A+> Alliance for Inclusive Algorithms. The <A+> Alliance, founded 2019, is a global coalition of technologists, activists and academics who champion Inclusive Al and Affirmative Action for Algorithms so that we come closer to creating gender and racial equality in a world where machine learning does not wire an already biased system into our future. She is also the founder and CEO of "Women at the Table," a growing global CSO for gender equality and democracy based in Geneva, Switzerland. The organisation focuses on advancing feminist systems change by using the prism of technology, innovation, and Al and exercising leverage points in technology, the economy, sustainability, and democratic governance.





PANELLISTS-SUSTAINABILITY

Panel discussion "Empowered Women Sustainable Change",









Estelle Herlyn

Joanna Bagniewska

Katarzyna Grabowska Pia Heidenmark Cook

PANELLISTS- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Panel discussion "Shaping AI, Empowering women"







Caitlin Kraft-Buchman

Katarzyna Cieślik

Arikia Millikan



Moderators: Day 1, Sustainability



Renata Trottmann-Probst SI President 2026-2027



Carolien Demey SIE President 2022-2023



Mariet Verhoef-Cohen SI President 2017-2019



Margherita Poles SI Youth Forum



Sabine Reinmann
SIE President Elect 2024-2025

Day 2, Artificial Intelligence:



Inga-Lena Darkow SIE Digital Champion



Berthe de Vos-Neven SI UN Representative Geneva



Clara Celauro SIE Al Rask force



Mariet Verhoef-Cohen SI President 2017-2019



Rita Nogueira Ramos SIE Vice President Advocacy



PANELLISTS AND MODERATORS - BREAKOUT SESSIONS - SUSTAINABILITY

Breakout session 1 - Gender Equity for a Sustainable Future

Moderator: Carolien Demey

Speakers: Emma Holten, Galia Chimiak, Marzena Maj

Breakout session 2 - Seeds of Change: Women Transforming Sustainable, Resilient Food Systems

Moderator: Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

Speakers: Amrita Gautam, Rosaida Dolce, Jesca Oredo, Joanna

Kądziołka

Breakout session 3 - Paving the Way for Inclusive, Resilient

Urban Futures

Moderator: Margherita Poles

Speakers: Alice Paola Pomé, Elizabeth Doherty, Katarzyna lwińska

Breakout session 4 - The importance of the Istanbul

Convention for gender equality

Moderator: Sabine Reimann

Speakers: Pascale Franck, Katarzyna Sękowska - Kozłowska,

Rita Chiappa



PANELLISTS- BREAKOUT SESSIONS - ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Breakout session 1 - The Al Nexus: intersecting technologies, equality, and sustainable tomorrow

Moderator: Berthe de Vos-Neven

Speakers: Tania Gomez Herazo, Simon Ruszala, Tristan Van

Thielen, Giulia Massimetti

Breakout session 2 - Al and Healthcare

Moderator: Clara Celauro

Speakers: Karolina Kornowska, Xenia Kuipers, Sadiye Emel

Sokullu

Breakout session 3 - Al in Education - Empowerment or Risk?

Moderator: Mariet Verhoef-Cohen

Speakers: Felisa Tibbitts, Evelyne Para, Joanna Bagniewska

Breakout session 4 - AI - Cyberviolence

Moderator: Rita Nogueira Ramos

Speakers: Sywia Spurek, Olga Jurasz, Sandra Ramalho, Dina

Loghin



CONGRESS

GROUND FLOOR

POSTER EXHIBITION

Project team

Team leader



Mihaela Aquelius

Selection committee



Inge Scholte



Jitka Kratochvílová

Designers team



Barbara Mekus



Ines Speck

🔊 Poster Exhibition at the Congress 🌍



We are proud to present:

"Stories of Impact and Inspiration - A Celebration of Our Most Powerful Projects." This exhibition is a vibrant display of hope, resilience, and progress. Each poster tells a unique story, reflecting our commitment to a better future for women, girls, and communities worldwide.

How it came together

Together with the SIE Programme Team, Programme Director Inge Scholte, Assistant Programme Director Jitka Kratochvílová, and the invaluable support from HQ's Bintou Koïta, we developed the selection criteria.



CONGRESS POSTER EXHIBITION

GROUND FLOOR

We chose to highlight projects awarded with the Best Practice Award (2020 onwards), ensuring:

- A wide geographic spread
- Representation of both Union and Single Club projects

The exhibition covers all five focus areas:

- **Education**
- **6** Women's Empowerment
- Violence Against Women
- Health and Food Security
- **Y** Sustainability

The past years have been marked by immense challenges — from natural disasters to the war in Ukraine. Soroptimists responded with solidarity and support, channelling federation funds to assist those most in need. Many of the selected projects reflect this spirit, including impactful union projects that raise awareness of women's issues and strengthen our organisation's visibility.

Acknowledgements

This exhibition would not have been possible without the dedication and creativity of many:

Together with the SIE Programme Team, Programme Director **Inge Scholte**, Assistant Programme Director **Jitka Kratochvílová**, and the invaluable support from HQ's **Bintou Koïta**,

Barbara Mekus (SI Club Düsseldorf Königsallee, Germany) and **Ines Speck** (SI Club Zürich-Turicum, Switzerland)

- tirelessly designing and shaping the posters

Project owners – providing photos, facts, and valuable input **Gerda Rosiers** (SI Club Visé, Belgium) – graciously proofreading the final materials

I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this project and hope you will take time during the Congress to visit the exhibition and be inspired by these powerful stories.

CONGRESS POSTER EXHIBITION

01 Welcome to our Poster 02 Who are Soroptimists? Exhibition

03 Education - Yerevan, Armenia 04 Education - seven clubs, Finland

GROUND FLOOR

05 Education - Ellwangen/Jagst, 06 Kutaisi-Colchis, Georgia

Germany

07 Education - Peja, Kosovo 08 Almere, the Netherlands

09 Education - Norway & Moldova 10 Women's Empowerment, S.C.

Zagreb, Croatia

11 Women's Empowerment, 12 Women's Empowerment, S.C.. Silkeborg, Denmark Maribor, Slovenia

13 Women's Empowerment, 14 Women's Empowerment,

Aarau, Switzerland Izmir, Türkiye

15 Violence Against Women, 16 Violence Against Women, Sudurland, Iceland

17 Violence Against Women, S.C.

18 Violence Against Women,
Kuwait, Kuwait

Wroclaw Poland

Kuwait, Kuwait Wroclaw, Poland

19 Violence Against Women, 20 Violence Against Women, S.C. Lisbon Caravela, Portugal Costa del Sol, Spain

21 Food & Health Security,
Cayenne, France

22 Food & Health Security,
S.C.Chernihiv, Ukraine

23 Sustainability, Metz & 24 Sustainability, 102 clubs, Italy

Strasbourg, France

25 Sustainability, Mezitli, Türkiye 26 Union Project, Road to Equality, Austria

27 Union Project, Siolence, Austria

28 Union Project, Donne & Lavoro
Italy

29 Union Project, Green Oases, Italy 30 Union Project, Financial

Education, Italy

31 Union Project, War Zone Initiative, Poland 32 Union Project, ReBuilding, Türkiye

CONGRESS SPECIAL EVENT

We are delighted to invite you to join the special session for young Soroptimists and non-Soroptimists:

"The Power We Hold - Young Women Creating a Better World"

Introducing Katarzyna Chudziak - a 19-year-old who is not afraid of failure.

SIE Congress 2025 | Krakow | 23 October | 14:00-16:00

The session moderators: Inga-Lena Darkow, Alice Pomé, Margherita Poles,

Katarzyna Piszczako-Pałasz

CONGRESS SOCIAL EVENTS

Welcome Reception

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Time: 19:00 - 22:00

Venue ICE Kraków Congress Center - Address: 17, Marii Konopnickiej,

30-302 Kraków

Congress Dinner

Date: Saturday, October 25, 2025

Time: 19:00-22:00

Venue: Old Tram Depot (Stara Zajezdnia) - Address: Św. Wawrzyńca 12, 31-060

Kraków

30th Anniversary of Polish Union

City tours and cultural attractions

Date: on Friday, October 24

Start: 19:15

Meeting point for all attractions: St. Mary's Church, Plac Mariacki 5



ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION

Badge pick-up

October 23 (Thursday) Time: 12:00 - 21:00 October 24 (Friday) Time: 8:00 - 17:00 October 25 (Saturday) Time: 8:00 - 17:00

Venue ICE Kraków Congress Center - Registration desk at Main Entrance -

Address: Marii Konopnickiej 17, 30-302 Kraków

Free public transport

You can enjoy free public transport in Kraków. To use the free public transportation, please make sure to first collect your badge at the registration desk at ICE Kraków.

Only with your Congress badge will you be entitled to travel free of charge on Kraków's public transport during the event.

The hologram placed on the badge will serve as a transport ticket.

Water stations

As part of our commitment to sustainability and your comfort during the Congress, each participant will receive a glass water bottle. You can collect your bottle at the Congress reception desk.

▲ To refill your bottle, Water Stations will be available on Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the ICE Kraków Congress Centre.

Kraków has some of the cleanest tap water in Europe – safe, fresh, and perfect for drinking. Let's stay hydrated and reduce plastic waste together!

Al translation app

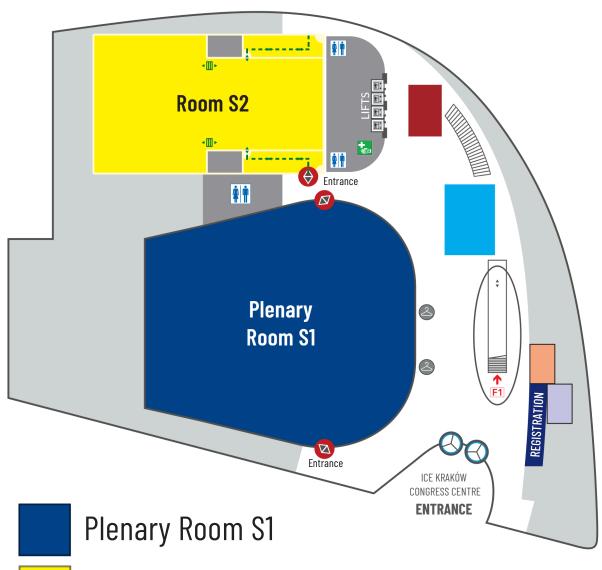
Don't forget to bring your headphones and chargers, so you can easily listen to your chosen language version.

Simply click the link provided under each session in the programme and select the language you wish to listen to the translation in: Polish, German, Italian or French.





Floor 0



Room S2

Congress Poster Exhibition

"Siolence and Al Room"

Speakers Room

Unions Exhibition



First Aid



Elevator



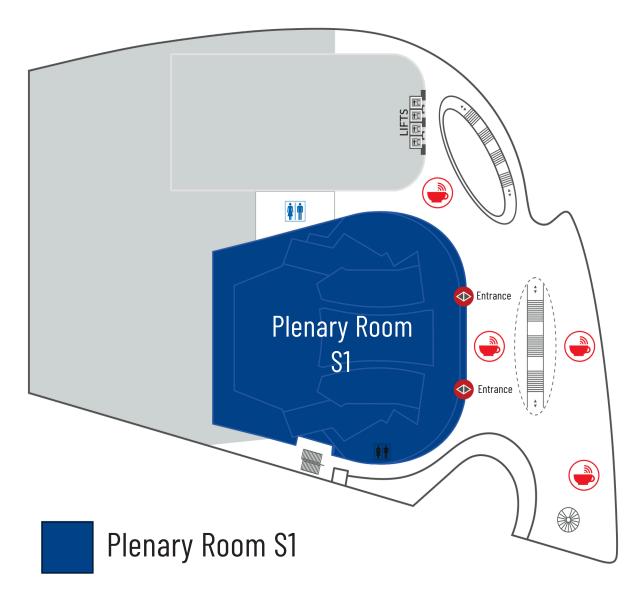
Toilets



Cloakroom

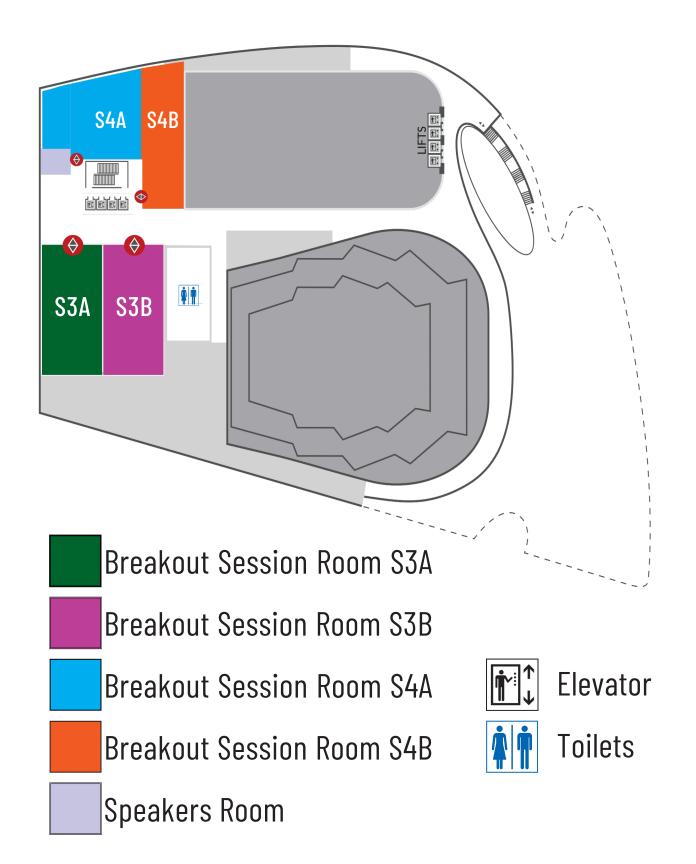


Floor 1



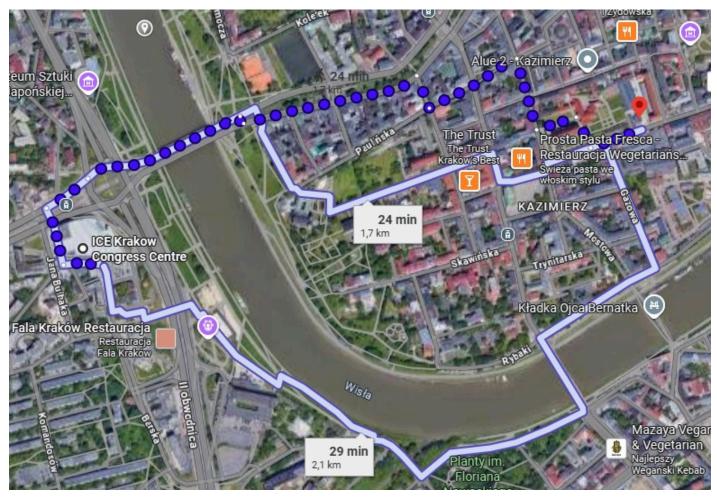


Floor 3



How to get to Old Tram from ICE Krakow Congress Centre

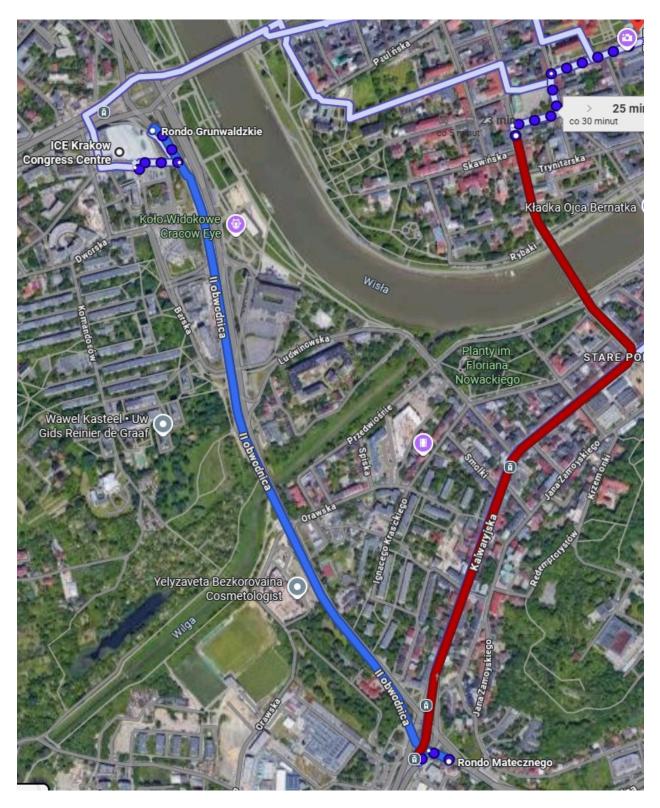
By Walking



The map displays three possible walking routes to the Old Tram Depot, with an estimated walking time of approximately 24 minutes.

The address of the Old Tram Depot is **Św. Wawrzyńca 15** Street.

By public transportation



Take bus lines 173, 179, 301, or 513 to the **"Rondo Matecznego"** stop. From there, take tram 10, 52, or 8 and continue to **"Plac Wolnica"** stop.

The address of the Old Tram Depot is Sw. Wawrzyńca 15 Street.