

OPEN EYES ECONOMY SUMMIT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Open Eyes Economy movement has developed as a response to the concerns of our times. This trend had its intellectual sources in the awareness of a thorough crisis, or perhaps rather crises affecting contemporary societies, global reality and the natural environment. We already have to face the climate change, civil unrest, disappearance of people-to-people links, migrations on a massive scale, or the threat of closing the borders. Is the Open Eyes Economy intended as a repair movement? To a major extent it is because we did not want to stop with stating the problems; from the very beginning we have aimed at working out solutions, finding answers, and promoting constructive attitudes.

ABOUT THE OPEN EYES ECONOMY IDEA

We have started with a major shift of values, moving away from technocratic and neoliberal understanding of economy. We have realised that contemporary economies lack solidarity, stabilisation, security, social responsibility, and thinking in the categories of sustainability. We have understood that we need to change our thinking, not only in the area of academic discussions and dissertations on axiology. We have dreamed of a renewal, a revolution that would be just as intellectually brave, as it should be inspiring and doable.

Every year, we organise a congress in Krakow, the impact of which goes far beyond the circles of economists and businesspeople. While planning the curricula for further editions, we engage in a sort of mapping of new territories: we search for the most up-to-date tendencies, we identify phenomena that will define the nearest and further future, we create lists of long-term solutions and questions that require finding an answer. The curriculum of the Open Eyes Economy Summit could be used to draw a map of trends that would give a comprehensive insight into what defines our contemporary times.

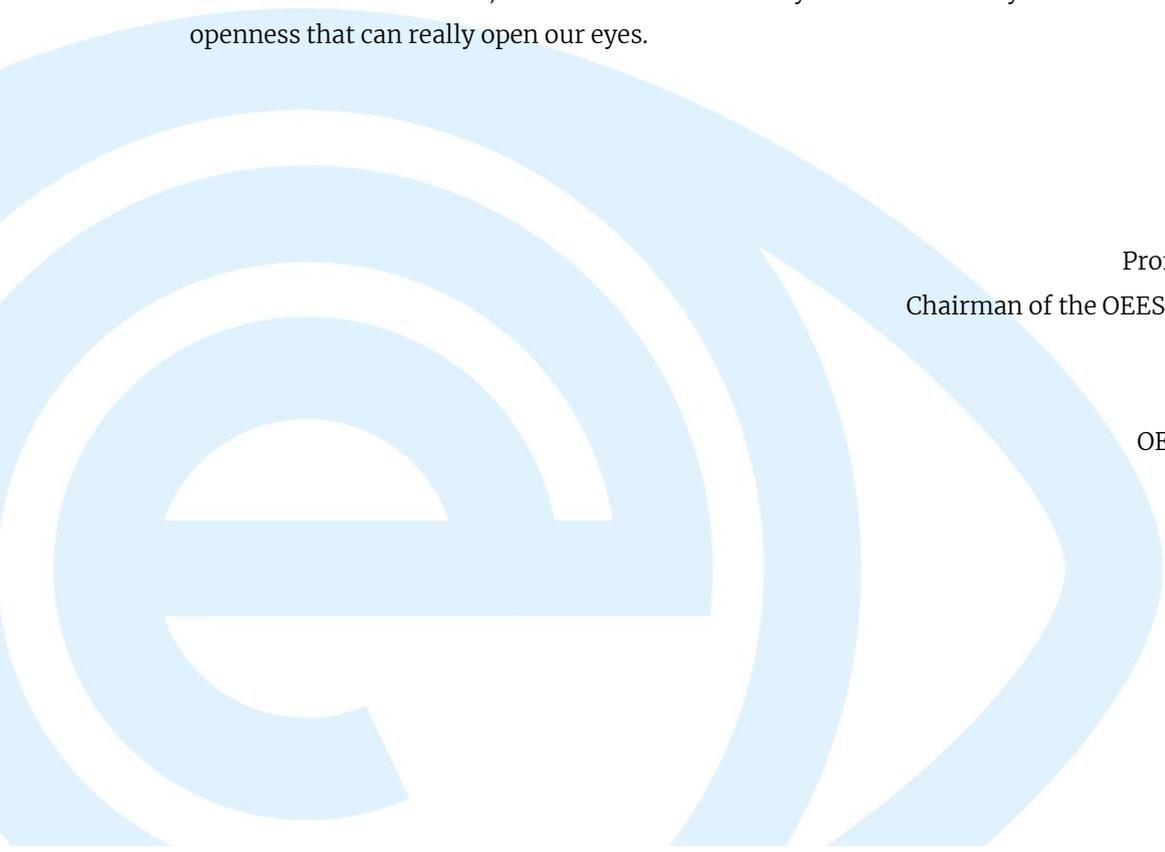
WHAT IS THE OPEN EYES ECONOMY SUMMIT?

OEES is par excellence an interdisciplinary enterprise. Particular sessions and panels are designed so as to confront the experiences of representatives of various disciplines, and the topics discussed lie at the intersection of various areas of knowledge and practice: culture and economics, politics and geography, ecology and business, art and the new media, fashion and ethics. These are just examples. We know that our variable and ambiguous contemporary times require cross-utilisation of methodologies, tools, and experiences, while the traditional academic division into disciplines is becoming obsolete as we speak. We aim at presenting as broad a spectre of projects, theories, and technologies as we can with the aim of working out effective solutions to the most urgent problems of the world we live in. In various circles, we seek innovators, visionaries, and activists who do not stop with stating that the crises exist, but who think and act at working out how to deal with them.

We know that development requires dialogue and confrontation; this means continuous dealing with various groups of interests, languages, and ideas. Sometimes, the best solutions are found at the juxtaposition of different points of view, while another time, it will prove important to show a range of ideas and values to be used by entities to work out their individual approaches to specific problems. This cognitive approach of dialogue is reflected in the congress structure. Apart from the traditional form of a lecture, we focus on intellectual duels and discursive battles among representatives of various options, as well as sessions based on the questions & answers model where our guests answer questions from the moderator and the audience. Open Eyes Economy Summit also has a popularising function: it is a medium for transferring contents worked out by specialists to the awareness and practices applied by representatives of other sectors and disciplines. We want congress participants to always be able to get in touch with the latest trends and the major problems affecting the current public debate.

OEES is not a one-off event, we organise conferences and discussion panels across Poland and the world throughout the year. Initiatives such as Open Eyes Economy on Tour or Neighbours meetings in Krakow make it possible to call Open Eyes Economy an intellectual and social movement. We build bridges among the environments and disciplines, we create a convenient networking space, as well as many occasions for sharing ideas and experiences. Owing to consistent work all year round, without a doubt we can say that Open Eyes Economy Summit is a true melting pot for new ideas, a laboratory for social and business innovations, whose strength lies in people and interpersonal relations.

What will the future bring? We don't know, our programme responds to the changes that occur. We will always certainly aim at being as close as possible to the pulse of the contemporary, at confronting opposing ideas and mixing perspectives, not fearing even the most difficult questions and the most non-standard answers. We want the OEES formula to remain open to various environments, various forms of expression, controversies, and revolutionary ideas: to revolutionists and to renowned experts, conservatists and liberals, scientists and artists. Why? Because we truly believe that it is only intellectual openness that can really open our eyes.



Professor Jerzy Hausner
Chairman of the OEES Programme Council

Mateusz Zmyślony
OEES Creative Director