



# Poznań

## and its twin cities

**POZnań\***

\* Eastern energy, Western style

## Dear Readers

Poznań – a city open to the world, one of the main centres of foreign investments, a city often chosen by students from abroad. Thanks to its favourable location at a point where important communication links meet and due to numerous Poznań International Fair events, Poznań has always led a life of lively international contacts.



This all resulted in the signing of the first cooperation agreement with a foreign city in 1966. At present, Poznań cooperates actively with 13 cities both from Europe and the World. The idea of town twinning was born in Europe after the Second World War as a way to strengthen peace. Later, in the respective stages of the European unification process, the towns' cooperation was beneficial for new member countries' integration. Apart from the positive influence on cities' economic development, the human factor is also extremely important. Through the enriching discovery of cultural differences, local societies strengthen their own unique identity. Friendship bonds between inhabitants are one of the foundations of cooperation.

Poznań's contacts with her partner cities have a positive influence on city's functioning. Our common projects contribute to enriching cultural life, stimulating economic increase, local communities integration and acting in general. Therefore, we wish to present our partners from Europe and the world, their past and present as well as their heritage and national identity that jointly create colourful mosaic of different cultures.

We are proud that the Council of Europe appreciated our efforts to promote the idea of a united Europe in everyday cooperation with our European partners, granting Poznań the Europe Flag of Honour in 2000 and Europe Plaque of Honour in 2003.

I would like to take this opportunity and invite you to Poznań where guests are always warmly and willingly welcome.

Enjoy your reading! See you in Poznań!

Yours faithfully,  
Mayor of the City of Poznan

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Ryszard Grobelny'.

Ryszard Grobelny



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# Poznań

Eastern energy, Western style



Poznań is a city which combines western standards of living with the energy and enthusiasm of the Central and Eastern European countries. A metropolis with a population of half a million, Poznań is situated in a point that is closer to Berlin than to the capital of Poland. Poznań is inhabited by people one can rely on: educated, fluent in foreign languages, open, spontaneous and, at the same time, stable and dependable. Poznań endorses the technology of success, supported with 1,000 years of a tradition of efficiency: it offers the chance of success to even the most ambitious enterprises and daring visions.

Poznanians successfully organise major international meetings of institutions such as UN and ASEM. The City regularly hosts world important kayak and rowing events on the Malta Regatta Track, a reservoir beautifully situated in the heart of the City. Poznań is also actively preparing for the European Football Championship EURO2012 – the City Stadium is already open. The other investments are proceeding in accordance to the plan, including one of the most important – Poland's largest water park, which is scheduled to open in August 2011.

The specific profile of the City consists also of diversified cultural events, starting from those well-known throughout Europe to younger and dynamically developing. Poznań hosts one of the most famous street theatre festivals in Europe ([www.malta-festival.pl](http://www.malta-festival.pl)), the greatest International Workshops of Contemporary Dance in this part of Europe ([www.ptt-poznan.pl](http://www.ptt-poznan.pl)), animated film festival ([www.animator-festival.com](http://www.animator-festival.com)) and the series POZnan\* for Earth concerts that have already featured Nelly Furtado, Radiohead and Sting.

Poznań is an open European city, elegant, fashionable, but also spontaneous. It offers high standards of living and possibilities of realisation of great ambitions, as well as interesting options of spending free time.





# Assen

– Capital of the “Cycling Province”

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 22.10.1992

With its 67,000 inhabitants Assen is the capital of the province Drenthe. It is the fastest growing city in the northern Netherlands and is a popular tourist and leisure spot. The city has plenty of room for businesses and a pleasant living environment. It has lush green areas and an attractive city centre with 9 million visitors a year.

The origin of Assen goes back 750 years. In 1259 Cistercian nuns moved from the moors of Coevorden to higher ground in the deserted area of Assen to rebuild their monastery. Around the building a small village took root with farmers and traditional industries.

Assen's greatest fame is the TT Circuit Assen. It is one of the most famous motorcycle racing tracks in the world and is the only one that has been in the MotoGP calendar since its beginnings.

In November of each year Assen becomes the centre of international attention when the city hosts the Assen Dance Festival which attracts Ballroom and Latin American dancers from all countries.

Assen, the capital of Drenthe, the „Cycling Province“ of the Netherlands, has an extensive network of off-road cycle paths, the city centre is closed to motor vehicles and nearly half of all journeys in Assen are by bicycle.





## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 16.09.1966

The second largest city of the Czech Republic and the capital of the South Moravian Region has a population of nearly 380,000 people. Situated at a crossroads of European highways, Brno has connections by air and rail to numerous international destinations.

Brno was granted privileges of a royal city in 1243 but the site itself had been settled since prehistoric times. Tides of history brought to Brno Napoleon Bonaparte – the Emperor of the French and his armies were heading to Slavkov for the Battle of Austerlitz, known also as the Battle of Three Emperors.

Nowadays the Brno Exhibition Centre, built in the 19th century, is a venue of many international trade fairs, exhibitions and congresses.

Over 80,000 students attend 6 public and 6 private universities in Brno, the city of Johann Gregor Mendel, “father” of genetics.

The cultural heritage of Brno is acclaimed internationally, like the Tugendhat Villa, a famous example of functionalist architecture that was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Many other historic sites show evidence of the rich cultural past of Brno. A wide offer of regular events – for instance, the fireworks competition “Ignis Brunensis” – and numerous theatres, museums, galleries, cinemas and clubs, highlight its cultural present.

Fans of sports know Brno because of the road motorcycles Grand Prix. Tourists appreciating contact with nature like to explore green spaces of the city as well as forests and protected areas like the Moravian Karst (Moravský kras).





# Győr

– a baroque destination

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 23.01.2008

Győr is situated half-way between Vienna and Budapest, on one of the most important routes in Central Europe. It is the 6th largest town in the country, one of the major administrative and cultural centres in Hungary, and also a university town (since 2002). It has a population of 128,000 inhabitants. The town boasts thermal baths and the Győr-Per airport, which has been opened since 2003.

Győr stands out among other towns for its beautiful baroque architecture. The city received the European Award for its contribution to the protection of historical heritage. The Kaptalan Hill is a historical centre where three rivers converge: Moson-Danube, Rába and Rábca. Győr managed to attract many investments from abroad, especially from international motor consortiums (via the influence of the town's proximity to the Austrian and Slovakian borders and its qualified personnel); several large local companies also developed. The lion's share of the production is exported. The average salary is higher than the national rate.

Győr's biggest factory is RÁBA (manufacturing car parts, cars, farming machines, engines for Opel and buses; it has been operating since 19th century), which is also home of AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft. Main branches of industry include engineering, food processing and light industry.

The character of the city is also influenced by minorities, between them – very active Polish minority with its self-government, cooperating with local authorities. This society preserves Polish culture, language and religion; organises lessons, gathers to sing together, celebrates holidays and concerts. Every year in Győr there are Polish Days with special guests.





# Hannover

– a modern city surrounded by idyllic little villages



## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 29.10.1979

“A modern city, a state capital with groundbreaking architecture and a model infrastructure, surrounded by idyllic little towns and villages” – this is how Hannover describes itself in a guide.

This capital of the federal state of Lower Saxony with population of 520,000, founded in medieval times on the south bank of the river Leine is a major centre of northern Germany, known for hosting annual commercial expositions such as the Hannover Fair and CeBIT, the most important event in the fields of communication, information and telecommunications. Hannover's regional importance is based on its universities and medical school, its international airport, and a large zoo. It is also a major crossing point of railway lines and highways, connecting European main lines in both north-south and east-west directions. Some 40 different theatres, numerous museums and a world-famous State Opera all perform there on the highest level.

In 2008 Hannover earned second place among the major cities of Germany with regard to its business-friendliness. Thanks to the World Exposition EXPO 2000, Hannover has one of the best communications infrastructures in the world. The Hannover fairground, due to numerous extensions, especially for the EXPO 2000, is the largest in the world.

The world famous baroque gardens of Herrenhausen form a grand display of the art of European horticulture over a period of three centuries, and the Hannover Zoo is one of the most spectacular and best zoos in Europe.







# Jyväskylä

– the city of the world famous architect Alvar Aalto,

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 30.06.1979

The city of Jyväskylä was inaugurated as a town in 1837 and is located in the lake district of Central Finland. As a result of merging three municipalities: the City of Jyväskylä, the Rural Municipality of Jyväskylä and the municipality of Korpilahti into one city in 2007, Jyväskylä became the seventh largest city in Finland with over 130,000 inhabitants.

Jyväskylä is a school and a university town with 47,000 students. The multidisciplinary University of Jyväskylä and the JAMK University of Applied Sciences are among Finland's leading research and educational institutions with an increasing number of international students.

Jyväskylä is home to a large variety of cultural activities such as concerts, festivals, museums and theatres. The Jyväskylä Arts Festival, which is the oldest ongoing summer festival in Scandinavia, concentrates on a non-verbal theatre. Jyväskylä is also a broad-based city of music with its own symphony orchestra, the Sinfonia Finlandia Jyväskylä.

Internationally Jyväskylä is perhaps best known for the architecture of Alvar Aalto, for the world rally championship "Neste Oil Rally Finland" and for Graphica Creativa, an international triennial for graphic art.

The landscape of Jyväskylä is varied, with lakes, forests and hills all within walking distance of the city centre. The Laajavuori skiing centre and recreation area provides excellent opportunities for winter sports and other activities.





## **AGREEMENT SIGNED: 24.09.1998**

Kharkiv is the second largest city in the country with its population of about 1,5 million inhabitants. The city is located in the east of Ukraine, close to the biggest industrial centres in Ukraine and Russia (only about 40 km to the Ukrainian – Russian border).

The city was first mentioned in a document from 1655. In 1765, by edict of Catherine II, the city became the centre of the Slobidska Ukraine province. From 1917-1934 it was the capital of socialist Ukraine.

Its industry specialises mostly in machinery. There are hundreds of industrial companies in the city (traditionally home to engineering, defence, metal, transport including aviation, construction materials). Among them are world famous giants like the Morozov Design Bureau and the Malyshev Tank Factory, leaders in tank production since the 1930s; Khartron (aerospace and nuclear electronics); and the Turboatom turbines producer.

It is also a centre of trade and culture, home to the biggest regional centre of the Ukrainian Academy of Science. The city has 13 national universities and numerous private institutions of professional, technical and higher education. A total number of 150,000 students attend the universities and other institutions of higher education in Kharkiv. About 9,000 foreign students from 96 countries study in the city.





## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 06.07.2009

The city is the capital of the western region of Imereti. It is 221 km to the west of Tbilisi. In 2010 the permanent resident population reached 192,500.

Kutaisi was the capital of the ancient Kingdom of Colchis, where heroes of Greek mythology, Jason and the Argonauts, came on a quest for the Golden Fleece, facing three trials from King Aeetes.

Before Georgia's independence in 1991, followed by the country's economic collapse, Kutaisi was a major industrial centre. Kutaisi is one of the most important educational and scientific centres in Georgia, hosting the Gelati Academy of Sciences, established in the 12th century by King David IV. There are numerous universities, institutes, colleges and schools. The landmark of the city is the ruined Bagrati Cathedral, built by Bagrat III, king of Georgia, in the early 11th century. The Bagrati Cathedral and the Gelati Monastery, a few kilometres east of the city, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Kutaisi is located along both banks of the Rioni River. The city lies at an elevation of 125-300 meters (410-984 feet) above sea level.

Besides the monasteries there are many interesting places in Kutaisi, such as: Sataplia Cave, where one can observe footprints of dinosaurs; Geguti Palace, which was one of the residences of Georgian monarchs; „Okros Chardakhi“ – Georgian Kings' Palace; and the Pantheon, where many notable citizens are buried.



# Nottinghamshire

– Robin Hood country



## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 23.05.1994

Nottinghamshire, a county in East Midlands, with a population of just over one million, is home to rich heritage, bustling market towns, castles and ducal mansions set among some of England's finest countryside. Its woodlands and parklands inspired DH Lawrence and Lord Byron. With Sherwood Forest at its heart, Nottinghamshire is known throughout the world as the country of Robin Hood.

The city is home to the oldest existing league football club in the world, Notts County Football Club. Nearby, the world famous Trent Bridge has seen cricket being played for over a century.

The county has a great tradition for arts and crafts. The annual Earth and Fire festival at Rufford showcases great new ceramics while Lakeside Arts Centre hosts Lustre, which celebrates the best in modern crafts. Performers from all over the world descend on Nottingham every year for Nottdance, a regular festival of modern dance.

With two of the UK's leading universities – The University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, numerous further education colleges and 370 schools, Nottinghamshire is top of the class for all levels of educational achievement and boasts the third largest student population in England.

Nottingham is home to a variety of different industries including food processing, furniture, textiles (including very famous lace), tobacco and even bicycles. It is also a major centre for shopping and banking.





# Pozuelo De Alarcón

– celebrities & business parks

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 11.10.1993

The city lies in the centre of Spain, at the foot of the Guadarrama Mountains and is a suburb of over 85,000 inhabitants near the city of Madrid, capital of Spain. It is surrounded by large Mediterranean pine-tree forests.

The city's location near the capital involves it into a number of historic events and development of the city. Amongst other things it has had an influence on construction of beautiful new housing districts; the standard of living in most of its neighbourhoods is high – business movement is very important and brings money and jobs, which ultimately translates into wealth for the town. Noticeable is multitude of companies like Nokia, Fujitsu, Microsoft, Terra, Orange, etc. Since early nineties apart from the luxurious residential areas there were built numerous business parks like La Finca, Attica or the Ciudad de la Imagen, which host audiovisual and telecommunication companies: RTVE facilities, Telemadrid, Televisa, several producers of videos and the Madrid School of Cinema and Audiovisual Arts.

Over 1,000 hectares of Pozuelo are designated as green areas, gardens, woodland and urban parks, some of them elongated and serving to separate different areas of the town.

Among notable people that live there are Real Madrid players and the Spanish World Rally Champion.

The city is a centre of culture and education: home to the University Complutense and several private colleges.





## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 21.06.2010

Located on the Sharon Plain, north east of Tel Aviv, Ra'anana, which in Hebrew means "fresh", was founded in 1922. Established by four Jewish pioneers from New York, Ra'anana now counts nearly 80,000 citizens.

Throughout its history, Ra'anana changed its profile, which was initially agricultural, to become one of the most important cities in Israel, with a high standard of living. In recent years the city has become an important centre of advanced information technologies.

The authorities attach great importance to education and projects dedicated to young people. An important Israeli university, the Open University of Israel, also has its seat in Ra'anana.

It is a city of green spaces and ecology. The largest park on the Sharon Plain was created in the western part of Ra'anana. There is a lake with fountains surrounded by numerous gardens connected by shaded lanes and cycling paths. Many recreational areas, an amphitheatre, sports facilities, zoological gardens and other attractions await inhabitants and visitors.

The professional management of the municipality, its excellent educational system, beautiful parks and gardens and attractive cultural programs, all come together to make the city of Ra'anana the "Pearl of the Sharon".





# Rennes

– „i“ like identity and innovation

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 04.04.1998

A flourishing metropolis inhabited by over 200,000 people, Rennes is the capital of Brittany, a French region with a strong identity due to its Celtic origins.

At the confluence of two rivers, the Ille and the Vilaine, a settlement – Condate (confluent) – was established by Redones, a Gaulish tribe that dominated the eastern part of Armorica (as they called Brittany) since the 2nd century BC. Under the Roman occupation of Gaul, the village situated at an important junction of roads, became a major city of the region. Independent for a long time, Rennes and all Brittany were attached to France in 1532.

Rennes attracts people searching for authentic identity and cultural and architectural heritage. During a visit one should not miss the medieval centre with its colourful timber-framed houses, particularly the Breton Parliament building and the Town Hall.

A city of knowledge and science, Rennes is home to 60,000 students, 2 universities, 28 institutes and schools of higher education. The Rennes-Atalante innovation park contributes to development of new technologies and creation of work places.

PSA Rennes is one of the principal car plants in France. Other industries there include textiles, leather goods, machinery, automobiles, electronic equipment and petroleum.





# Shenzhen

– the city of future



## **AGREEMENT SIGNED: 30.07.1993**

The development of Shenzhen, a gateway for China to the outside world, is regarded as the epitome of the country's drive to reform and modernisation. Shenzhen is a coastal city in South China, only a 45-minute drive from Hong Kong.

Shenzhen has more than 310 rivers and streams, which are associated with the hydrographic systems of the Dongjiang River, coastal bays and the Pearl River mouth. This city has 230 kilometres of coastline rich in marine life and products. Several scenic mountain ranges are located across Shenzhen. The city has rich natural resources, ideal for developing tourism.

Shenzhen was established in 1979. In August the following year, the country's first special economic zone was established there by the Chinese Government. By the end of 2009, the permanent resident population reached over 8,9 million people.

The city has been voted China's Most Dynamic City and Most Favoured City by the Migrant Workers. Shenzhen will also be a pilot zone for a national comprehensive reform program and will be built into a national economic hub, State-level innovative city, model city with Chinese characteristics and international metropolis.

Shenzhen is among the top mainland cities for economic returns. Its per capita GDP ranked first among the major cities. The city leads in high-tech, financial services, foreign trade, shipping and creative cultural industries. Of the 500 biggest global companies, 166 have branches in the city. One in five cell phones is made in Shenzhen.

Chinese entrepreneurs from Shenzhen participate actively and regularly in Poznań International Trade Fairs. Cultural cooperation between Shenzhen and Poznań enables inhabitants of both cities to benefit from the extraordinary art richness of our regions.





# Toledo

– The Glass City with Polish flavour

## AGREEMENT SIGNED: 06.04.1991

Toledo is a Midwestern US city, with a population of about 315,000. It is situated at the western edge of Lake Erie, one of the five Great Lakes.

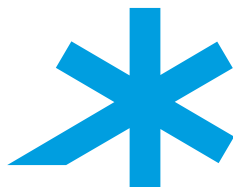
Toledo grew as a heavy industry city, with the automobile industry being dominant. The military jeep which came into use during World War II was produced in Toledo by Willys-Overland Motors.

Long known as the glass capital of the world and home to Libbey Glass, many innovations in glass manufacturing have occurred in the city. Goods produced here include bottles and glassware, windows, windshields and fibreglass. Libbey Glass is the world's largest producer of glass dinnerware; Owens-Illinois is the world's largest bottle manufacturer.

At this time, the manufacturing past of the city plus the current investment in education is coming together for Toledo to become a leader in technology and research. At present, Toledo is a research leader for alternative forms of energy such as solar and wind energy technology.

Toledo owes its past growth and achievement in large part to the contributions of the immigrants who came here from many parts of the globe. The Polish American community dates back to the 1870s and is still very evident in today's Toledo. There are several Polish Catholic parishes, such as St. Hedwig's and St. Adalbert's. Polish immigrants are settled in two neighbourhoods in Toledo, one of which is now called Polish Village. Polish culture and traditions continue in the community.





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