Magiczny Kraków

International cooperation in a nutshell

2022-03-15

Formal or informal? From project to agreement

Some of the basic types of agreements regulating the cooperation between Krakow and other international cities are: twin cities agreement, partnership agreement and honorary title of Krakow's Twin City.

However, cooperation with some of the cities is based on **other principles**: basing on other signed documents (such as letter of intention, understanding, cooperation programmes for a specific number of years), or – in case of no signed document – shared experience and projects.

It is universally noticeable trend for international cooperation between cities to **depart from the model of cooperation in which the first mutual action is signing a formal document**. Instead, cities tend to **cooperate on projects** and share international ventures, which are to verify the potential for their cooperation before it becomes formalised.

Geographic representation of Krakow's international friendships

Other **European cities** are a vast majority of Krakow's international friends. As many as three partner cities are in **Germany** (Leipzig, Nuremberg, and Frankfurt am Main).

Krakow is open to the world and its contacts reach as far as **North America** (Rochester and San Francisco in the United States), **South America** (Cusco in Peru, Curitiba in Brazil, La Serena in Chile, Quito in Ecuador), **Asia** (Tbilisi in Georgia, Nanjing in China), and even **Africa** (Moroccan Fes).

As many as 8 cities permanently cooperating with Krakow are **state capitals**: Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest (Hungary), Kiev (Ukraine), Quito (Ecuador), Rome (Italy), Tbilisi (Georgia), Vienna (Austria) and Vilnius (Lithuania).

The nearest located city – only 177 km away from Krakow – in Košice (Slovakia) with which Krakow cooperated without an official agreement. On the other hand, our farthest located partner is La Serena in Chile, 12 605 km away, (honorary twin city).

What once was and what is today

Even though a city's international cooperation is not conditioned by the state's politics, its directions and priorities are governed by specific social and political contexts and concerns of individual partners. Therefore, previous models of international cooperation were different from those favoured

at the moment. It is all the more satisfying to observe long-term partnerships which have withstood the test of time!

The longest history of official contacts is between Krakow and Leipzig: Cooperation agreement between the Presidium of the National Council of the City of Krakow and the Municipal Council of the City of Leipzig was signed on 8 September 1973.

Krakow's **youngest partners** include Olomouc (Czech Republic): letter of intention concerning cooperation between the cities was signed on 2 June 2016.

Several records

Nanjing (China) with 7 165 000 residents is most **densely populated citiy**.

The smallest one is Solothurn in Switzerland with the area of 6 km^2 and population of ca. 16 720 residents.

The **highest situated city** is Cusco in Peru with the breath-taking elevation of 3326 m.

The **farthest north** is Trondheim (Norway) and the **farthest south** is La Serena (Chile). Quito lies closest to the equator and it is also the only capital in the world directly menaced by an active volcano (Pichincha)!