

# GDYNIA

# ECHO

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THE CITY MADE OF DREAMS AND THE SEA

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Photo by Sylwia Szumielewicz - Tobiasz



## CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GDYNIA CENTRE ON FISHERMEN'S PIER IS CLOSER AND CLOSER

Another step to the construction of a new Gdynia centre on the Fishermen's Pier: a letter of intent has been signed by Gdynia Municipal Authorities and PHN Group (a real estate company).



Visualisation of Fishermen's Pier




*Visualisation of Fishermen's Pier*

The coming years are going to face huge changes in the area of the **Fishermen's Pier**. A new centre will be built where **Dalmor** company, with its fleet fishing in seas all over the world, used to have its offices. The centre will contain restaurants and cafés, hotels, service facilities, offices, residential buildings, and attractive public spaces, including wide seafronts, marinas and a future **Museum of Sailing**. This is one of the most attractive investment areas, as it is situated in the heart of the city, with its three sides surrounded by the sea.

For the regeneration of the area to be a success, it must be linked to the city and the national road system. The existing roads are not enough to provide a safe and quick access to the centre. Therefore, on May 9, 2013, Mayor of Gdynia **Wojciech Szczurek**, PHN Group CEO **Wojciech Papierak** and Dalmor SA CEO **Krzysztof Rychlicki** signed a letter of intent concerning the cooperation in the implementation of a number of road projects in the City Centre.

Common activities will comprise in particular: the broadening of **Waszyngtona street** up to four traffic lanes and its extension up till **Weglowa street**. A new **Weglowa street** will be built as a main thoroughfare between the new Gdynia centre and **Janka Wisniewskiego street**. At the moment, a procedure of selecting a designer of the projects is underway, and the design works will take about 18 months. Natural-

ly, **PHN Group** will have its share in the costs of road infrastructure modernization.

The Fishermen's Pier is a man-made peninsula jutting into the Bay of Gdansk. The area is part of the City Centre and seen as the heart of Gdynia. Nearby, there is a residential complex called Sea Towers and the Gemini Centre of Culture and Entertainment. Kosciuszki Square is also in close proximity.

The revitalization of post-industrial area around the Fishermen's Pier is an element of the municipal authorities' strategy of transforming coastal post-industrial areas into a modern district with attractive residential and office buildings, shops and service facilities. *"A local plan of spatial development of the Fishermen's Pier has already been approved,"* says Mayor of Gdynia **Wojciech Szczurek**. *"This area is inhabited by about 9,000 people. This is more or less as many as the population of the district of Oksywie, which shows the scale of the project."*

As many as 4,000 new jobs will be created in the area. It must be remembered, however, that this will not happen at once. The project will be carried out in stages, which will probably take a dozen or so years. It is worth mentioning that two of the existing buildings (a cold store and a warehouse) are safeguarded as places of historical interest because of their particular architectural value.

## RENOVATION OF MARITIME STATION BUILDING STARTED

**MARBUD construction company has just started renovating the building of Maritime Station and Transit Warehouse. It will be converted into a Museum of Emigration.**



*Historical photo of the Maritime Station/ Press Releases Museum of Gdynia*

The historic building with a space of over 6,000 square metres (2,500 of Maritime Station and 3,600 of Transit Warehouse) will regain its original, pre-war appearance in summer 2014, and Gdynia's waterfront can boast an icon of Modernist architecture.

The Museum of Emigration will open in late 2014 or early 2015. The building was erected in 1933. Apart from handling passengers, it served as a centre of the whole emigration infrastructure that existed in and around Gdynia. On April 24, 1990, it was classified as a historic building.

All the works are performed in line with the conservator's guidelines and design documentation made by ae fusion studio company from Cracow.

The investor is Gdynia Municipality. The total cost of the Museum of Emigration project amounts to PLN 49.3 million, including the co-financing from the EU initiative JESSICA.



*Visualisation of Museum of Emigration*



## MUSICAL THEATRE SOON RE-OPENS



*Visualisation of Music Theatre*

**A bunch of twigs and flowers was placed on the top of the roof of the Musical Theatre in Gdynia to denote the end of extension works. The topping-out ceremony took place on April 16, 2013.** Theatre-goers will be able to see the effects of the works on September 6. As an opening performance, they will see a musical based on the novel "The Peasants" by Władysław Reymont, directed by **Wojciech Koscielniak**.

The extension works of Musical Theatre started on April 19, 2011, with a ceremony of signing and setting in a foundation act for a New Stage. The New Stage with its 300-seat auditorium has already been completed, while the auditorium of the Big Stage will be enlarged from 693 to 1070 seats. The latter one will be the largest in Poland. There will be also a small stage with 150 seats. The whole Theatre with its three stages will have a capacity of 1500.

The whole project cost PLN 71 million, including PLN 41 million of the EU co-financing. The remaining money came from Gdynia Municipality and Pomerania Province Marshall's Office.



*Photo by Michał Kowalski*

## MAYOR OF GDYNIA A MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF THE REGION!

**In the ranking “The Pillars of Polish Economy”, made by “Puls Biznesu” e-daily and a leading research firm Millward Brown SMG/KRC, Mayor of Gdynia Wojciech Szczurek was recognized as “Municipal Manager of the Region in Pomerania Province”.**

The ranking “The Pillars of Polish Economy” aims at awarding companies and local governments whose activities promote regional development. The most important aspect of the ranking is the fact that winners in individual provinces are chosen by popular vote of local government officials, who represent authorities being closest to local businesses and communities. The nation-wide ranking “The Pillars of Polish Economy” is a result of opinion polls conducted by Millward Brown SMG/KRC among local government officials.

On May 16, there was a gala in the Museum of Gdynia during which the results of the ranking for Poland’s northern provinces were announced. Mayor of Gdynia Wojciech Szczurek got the title of **“Municipal Manager of the Region” in Pomerania Province.**



*Photo by Tomasz Kamiński*

Here are ten awarded local governments of Pomerania Province:

1. Gdynia Municipal Office
2. Gdansk Municipal Office
3. Gniewino Community Office
4. Sierakowice Community Office
5. Kobylnica Community Office
6. Chojnice Municipal Office
7. Bytow Municipal Office
8. Chojnice Community Office

9. Starogard Gdanski Municipal Office

10. Slupsk Community Office

The following companies operating in Pomerania Province were distinguished:

1. Lotos Group SA
2. Drutex SA
3. Energa SA
4. Polpharma SA
5. IP-Kwidzyn Ltd.

## ANOTHER MODERN OFFICE BUILDING IN THE PORT OF GDYNIA

**It used to be an old warehouse, and now it is a modern office building. A 6-storey building at 13A Polska Street is ready to use after a thorough modernization.**

Modernization works of a warehouse, known as POSTI building, took 18 months. The result was a completely transformed building with almost 9,000 square metres of office space. The building adds to the economic offer of the port and the city of Gdynia. It boasts an attractive façade, and perfectly harmonizes with Modernist port warehouses. More than PLN 23 million worth of works (commissioned by Port of Gdynia Authority SA) were carried out by Mostostal Warszawa.

The building was erected in 1959, and used to house a commercial and manufacturing company POSTI for years,

serving as an office space and warehouse. Now Maritime School (which up till now has had its seat in the facilities of Dalmor company) is going to move here, occupying the ground and first floors. The remaining office space is for rent, meant mainly for shipping and forwarding companies. One of the tenants is Polish United Baltic Corporation Ltd., being part of the French CMA CGM Group.

Almost 80% of the office space is already rented, which is no surprise, as the building is conveniently linked to the national road network, is located close to the city centre, and boasts a parking lot for 190 cars and 80 bicycles.

## "ACCESS CITIES" CONFERENCE IN GDYNIA

Representatives of European cities selected by the European Commission within the Access City Award 2013 had participated in the "Access Cities" Conference held in Gdynia on May 21-22, 2013. As the only city in Central and Eastern Europe, Gdynia was attributed a special mention in the Access City Award 2012.



The Award is given to EU cities that are the most friendly and accessible for elderly persons and the disabled.

A special guest to the conference is member of the European Commission Johan Ten Geuzendam (Head of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Unit, Justice Directorate) who opened the fourth edition of the Access City Award, a European award for cities easily accessible for persons with disabilities and elderly people. Cities with a population of over 50,000 may send their applications till September 10 (till midnight CET).

*Photo by Michał Kowalski*

## GDYNIA WITHOUT BARRIERS

For years, Gdynia has been awarding authors of ideas and facilities that help break stereotypes in thinking about disability. This year, the annual Gdynia Without Barriers Award has had its 14th edition. The awarded include a primary school, an architect and a tight's manufacture.

During the gala ceremony in Musical Theatre, the "Gdynia Without Barriers" medals were given to:

- **Andrzej Riss, CEO in "Start-Gdynia" Sports Club for the Disabled**, for his long-standing engagement in promoting sports activities with the disabled. Mr Riss is not only a CEO, but a trainer as well. In the Club, persons with disabilities can do weightlifting, swimming, bridge, track and field.

- **Primary School No 35, Gdynia**, for shaping social attitudes promoting tolerance and acceptance. The school has integrated classes, attended by both fully-fit and disabled children. Besides, it organizes many extracurricular activities to integrate children with disabilities, e.g. a theatre club.

- **Association for Assistance to Persons with Autism, Gdansk**, for the programme "Living Together" that provides comprehensive support to adults with autism and related disorders.

- **Artur Labudda**, for his exemplary attitude, openness and passion, breaking barriers and stereotypes, overcoming his own limitations and helping others. Mr Labudda is a very interesting person. When he was 14, he lost both legs in a train accident. In spite of this, he lives a very active life. He is a traveller: he went on an expedition to Siberia, travelled around Poland by quad, went across Poland, from the Bieszczady Mountains to Swinoujscie, in a canoe. He does weightlifting and underwater diving. He shows that it is possible to fulfil your dreams in spite of

any adversities.

- **Architect Marek Wysocki**, for his consistent and uncompromising promotion of universal architectural designing, i.e. an attitude that considers everyone's needs, elderly people and the disabled included.

Two mentions were given as well. One of them went to **Filip Jacobson**, a Gdynia Film School student, for his film study "The Walk". This short film is about 9-year-old twins, Basia and Piotrek. They were born with retinal lesion. Doctors managed to save the girl's sight, but failed to do so with the boy's. The film shows the twins during their walk over the meadow. Their seemingly casual conversation stirs the viewer's imagination, emotions and feelings.

The other mention went to the **tights manufacture Adrian**. You may remember the firm's advertising campaign with **Monika Kuszyńska**, a girl in a wheelchair. An idea of showing a disabled person on billboards was a bold step in breaking taboos, particularly in the world of advertisements, where youth and vitality are promoted.

"**Gdynia Without Barriers**" is an annual contest, where initiatives promoting the elimination of architectural, traffic and social barriers are awarded. The awards include the Mayor's medals "Gdynia without Barriers" and a right to place "Gdynia without Barriers" logo on all the buildings, products and letters of the awarded. Up till now, there have been 14 editions of the contest; the medals were given to 47 people, institutions and organizations, and 40 of them received special mentions.



## INSEPARABLE COUPLE – KAMIL AND PRESTIGE

He has four legs, is black and seems quite ordinary. But he can do unusual things, because he is a dog trained to assist a disabled person. His name is Prestige, and he is going to be an inseparable companion to Kamil Osak from Polish Subcarpathian Region, who has been chairbound for 15 years. The dog was handed over to Mr Osak in Gdynia.



*Photo by Dorota Nelke*

The place was not accidental. The dog was given to Mr Osak by Vectra, a Gdynia-based company, and Gdynia, a city without barriers, has been campaigning for the initiative “**Dog in the City**”, promoting, among other things, the role of assisting dogs.

**Kamil Osak**, 34, has been moving in a wheelchair since a car accident he had when he was 19. This, however, does not stop him from living an active life. He is an Internet analyst, and in his leisure time he does underwater diving and wheelchair rugby. After a meeting with a friend who has an assisting dog, Mr Osak realized that a four-legged friend would be a perfect companion not only in everyday life, but in new challenges as well.

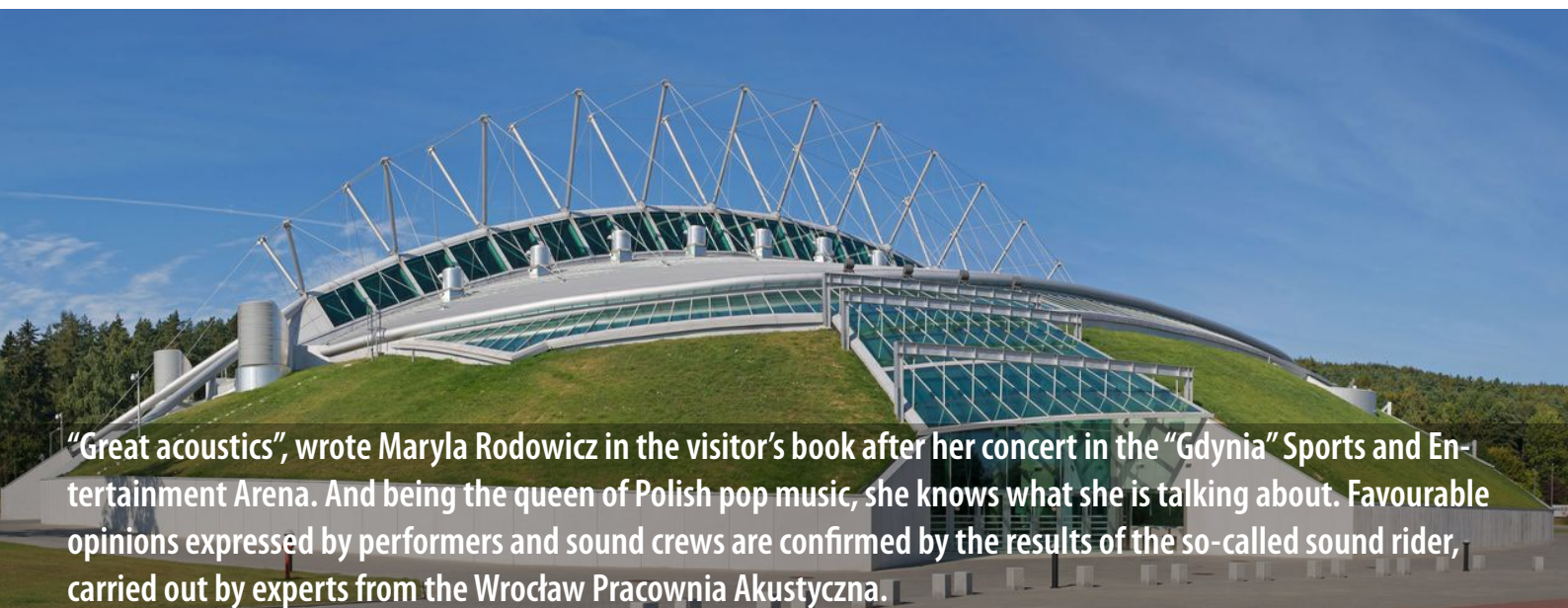
**Prestige**, a flat-coated retriever, born in January 2010, as a puppy started his training in a dogs’ kindergarten, where

he learned how to behave. Then he learned how to assist man. In addition to systematic training, he underwent an intensive process of socialization, in which he had to learn how to “befriend” the world and all the stimulants. Then he got his personal trainer and started specialized training. The final stage was an adaptation course, in which Kamil participated.

Now they are inseparable. Prestige helps Kamil dress and undress, pick up things and fetch them, for example he can pick up the phone. He can open and shut doors (the fridge door too!). While shopping, he can take products from lower shelves, just like a small child. He can take laundry out of the washing machine, and now he is learning how to put it in. He also knows how to call help in emergency.



## THE "GDYNIA" ARENA LIKE THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL IN LONDON



"Great acoustics", wrote Maryla Rodowicz in the visitor's book after her concert in the "Gdynia" Sports and Entertainment Arena. And being the queen of Polish pop music, she knows what she is talking about. Favourable opinions expressed by performers and sound crews are confirmed by the results of the so-called sound rider, carried out by experts from the Wrocław Pracownia Akustyczna.

*Photo by Multimedia Productions*

### Sound first, white lilies afterwards

It is commonly known that artists often have specific whims like vases full of white lilies only or a dressing room full of cuddly toys. However, the most important thing both for artists and agencies selecting concert venues is technical conditions, i.e. sound and lighting. These are determined by the sound rider. The document provides all the necessary information, therefore you do not have to visit a concert venue to know whether it meets the requirements and what equipment it has.

### The sound is excellent!

The experts from Pracownia Akustyczna were impressed by the Arena. Acoustic properties meet not only the requirements of entertainment arenas, but those of concert halls as well. The Arena conditions are suitable for organizing any sports event or concert. Speech transmission is so good that fans have no problems with understanding what the announcer says during sports games and matches.

### Like in New York or London

Pracownia Akustyczna experts also noticed a state-of-the-art system of roller-blinds and backstage facilities which makes it possible to "optically reduce the size" of the Arena interior to adjust it to the character of the event. The space can be arranged for any event like basketball or volleyball matches, a boxing gala, film shows, theatrical performances, fairs, conferences or fashion shows.

All these facilities make the Gdynia Arena one of the best entertainment venues in Poland as far as acoustics is concerned. Pracownia Akustyczna experts say it is comparable to Madison Square Garden in New York or the Royal Albert Hall in London.

### How they sang...

Singers and musicians performing in the Arena know about it. More than 100 events a year are held there, and a proportion of concerts is growing. In 2012, the performers included stars like Nigel Kennedy, Buena Vista Social Club with its legendary vocalist Omara Portuondo, Diana Krall, Seal, but also Moscow City Ballet, which is a rarity at this kind of venues. This year, we have had an opportunity to admire Gregorian Band, Chris Botti and French singer Imany. In May, audiences enjoyed a jaunty Irish show "Lord of the Dance".



*Photo by Sylwia Szumielewicz-Tobiasz*



## HIP-HOP LEGENDS AT OPEN'ER FESTIVAL

**NAS and Kaliber 44 are stars whose albums have pride of place on the shelf of every real hip-hop fan. The New York rapper has never left a musical pedestal since his debut in 1994, while the hip-hop group from Katowice is one the most prominent representatives of the genre. What do they have in common? Both of them are going to play in Gdynia in July!**



*Photo by Tomasz Kamiński*

### Nas

Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones, better known as Nas, started his musical career in 1994 with an excellent album called *Illmatic*. The piece *If I Ruled the World* (with Lauryn Hill of the Fugees singing the chorus) became a worldwide hit and opened the door to success for him. His subsequent albums: *I Am*, *Nastradamus* and a controversial *Hip Hop Is Dead* established his position as one of the most prominent hip-hop artists in the last two decades. Nas has released 11 albums so far. The latest one, *Life Is Good*, was a sensation long before it was launched in 2012, because it was recorded together with the late Amy Winehouse. Soon after her death Nas said he had been working with her on another common project. The result of this is *Cherry Wine*, nominated for the Grammy Award.

### Kaliber 44

Undoubtedly, the group is a living legend of Polish hip-

hop. They created their own style, easily recognized after a mere few lines. Their first album set the music market on fire. In 2000, after the release of *3:44* album, the group retired. And now the legend is coming back!

Apart from hip-hop musicians, a number of other artists confirmed their presence at this year's Open'er Festival.

On the main stage, Radiohead guitarist Jonny Greenwood will perform his show *Electric Counterpoint*. The fans of Jose Gonzalez, known for his own interpretation of "Heartbeats", do not need persuading to go to the concert of the Junip band, as he is their vocalist.

There will be an opportunity to listen to Polish performers as well: Vavamuffin, Ras Luta, Novika, Oszibarack, Fox, Rebeka, Magnificent Muttley, The &, Peter J. Birch and Drekoty.

Heineken Open'er Festival is held on the airfield in Gdynia-Kosakowo – this year on July 3-6.



## STARS AT LADIES' JAZZ FESTIVAL

**Dionne Warwick, Stacey Kent and Akiko – we will have an opportunity to listen to them in Gdynia during the Ladies' Jazz Festival.**

**Dionne Warwick** has had 56 singles on the Billboard hit lists since 1962 (as many as Madonna). She received five Grammy Awards. She will give a concert on July 13, 2013, and it will be her only performance in Poland this time (so far, she has been in Poland only once, giving a concert in Warsaw in 2008). She is such a great artist that it is difficult to name her greatest hits, but everyone must know some of her songs. One of these is surely "Walk on by", later recorded by many musicians, e.g. Seal Cyndi Lauper and The Stranglers; other well-known hits include "I Say a Little Prayer", "I Will Never Fall in Love Again", and "Heartbreaker", recorded with a little help from Barry Gibb of The Bee Gees.

Dionne Warwick's concert will be held on July 13, at 7 p.m., in the Sports and Entertainment Arena GDYNIA.



### **Stacey Kent**

"Stacey is our great friend. She sang in the first edition of the Ladies' Jazz Festival in 2005 and soon afterwards she became extremely popular," says Maciej Farski, one of the organizers of the festival.

Stacey is working on her new album which will be released this autumn. Gdynia audience, as one of the first in the world, will have a unique opportunity to hear her new songs before their premiere. The concert will be held at a very unusual venue – in the Concert Hall of the Port of Gdynia Authority at 9 Rotterdamska street, which was renovated in 2012. The concert will start at 7 p.m. on July 12.

There are still more attractions in the 9th edition of the Festival!

**Akiko**, a sensational jazz vocalist from the Country of Cherry Blossoms, has already bought her plane ticket to Gdynia. She has over 500 jazz standards in her repertoire, but she is a very universal singer. Her concert in Gdynia will be composed of jazz standards and traditional Japanese songs in jazz arrangement. The concert will show how close yet different a concept of jazz is for artists from two remote yet not so much different countries.



### **The concert will start at 8 p.m., July 14.**

The Ladies' Jazz Festival is the only cyclical festival of this kind in Europe. The concerts of all the editions were held in Gdynia on July weekend nights. In its history, the festival hosted many stars (for some of them it was the first visit to Poland): Randy Crawford, Eliane Elias, Patricia Barber, Candy Dulfer, Stacey Kent, Lizz Wright, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Saskia Laroo and many, many others.

This is a place that is not ashamed to present women who pursue not only jazz, but simply some good music.

Other performers during the Ladies' Jazz Festival included women and groups like Ivo Mendes, Frederika Stahl, Mia Cooper of Gabin, The Puppini Sisters, Club des Belugas and Nouvelle Vague with their unusual interpretation of bossa nova.



## VAYA CON DIOS IN GDYNIA

Vaya Con Dios has announced their retirement this year. Before this happens, however, the group will go on a farewell tour. Naturally, Gdynia simply had to be one of the stops in this special tour. The authors of hits like "What's a Woman", "Heading for a Fall" or "Puerto Rico" will give a concert on October 6, 2013, in the Sports and Entertainment Arena GDYNIA.

The Vaya Con Dios group was established in Belgium in 1986. They became extremely popular very soon because of their unique sound and vibes. This unique style is created by Dani Klein's melancholic voice supported by characteristic sounds of acoustic guitar.

Vaya Con Dios released 9 albums, which sold the total of over 7 million copies. The group has planned a series of concerts in 2013 to say goodbye to their fans. Therefore, the Gdynia concert will be the last opportunity to see and hear Vaya Con Dios live in Poland!

## GDYNIA IS BLOOMING, IN REALITY AND IN PICTURES



*Photo by Alina Gadomska*

"A Sea of Pansies" and "Fragrant Company" – these are titles of photographs that brought **Alina Gadomska** a victory in the first edition of a photographic contest called "Gdynia Is Blooming".

The winning picture presents pansies growing on the Seafront and in the area of Kosciuszki Square. The second place was taken by Ms **Ewa Kaniewska**, who took

a particular liking to Persian buttercups in Swietojanska Street. The third place fell to Ms **Danuta Turkula**, who photographed flower islands at the entrance to Kosciuszki Square. The jury also awarded Ms **Alicja Byzdra** for a picture showing white tulips growing at the intersection of Swietojanska Street and Pilsudskiego Avenue.

The prizewinners were given publications on Gdynia.



## EUROPEAN RACE: A RECORD NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



This year, 3,184 people have finished the European Race, which is twice as much as last year, when 1,593 runners passed the finishing line!

*Press Releases/ GOSiR*

The fastest runner was Radosław Dudycz, a “regular” winner of the Race in Gdynia: he was the first a year and two years ago as well. This Gdansk resident needed only 30 minutes and 36 seconds to cover the distance of 10 kilometres, which is 9 seconds slower than last year. The fastest woman was Marta Krawczyńska from Malbork who ran the distance in 35 minutes and 20 seconds.

However, what really counts in the Race is not the result, but participation. Mr Mieczysław Mantkowski deserves particular respect, because although he passed the finishing line as last, running the distance in 1 hour, 59 minutes and 44 seconds, he managed to finish the race and this is his great victory. The participants have different goals they want to achieve: some want to beat their personal best, some want to finish the race in the prescribed time, some want to be better than a friend, and for some it is just fun. Those who finished the Race received commemorative medals, this year with the effigy of the National Rugby Stadium.

Most of the participants of the European Race came from Pomerania, but there were runners from all over Poland: Olsztyn, Włocławek, Bydgoszcz, Warsaw, Łódź, Tarnobrzeg, any many other places.

The name of the Race commemorates Poland’s accession to the EU on May 1, 2004. This year, the event had a particular context, because it was part of the Twin Cities Sporting Games, held in Gdynia. The participants included young athletes from Germany, Lithuania, Sweden, Latvia and Russia.

Another race in Gdynia will take place in the middle of the shortest night of the year. The Midsummer Midnight Run will start on June 21, at 23:59.

Both races are part of the Gdynia Street Race Grand Prix cycle, which also includes Birthday Race (in February) and Independence Race (November 11).

The organizer is Gdynia Sports and Recreation Centre.



## GDYNIA HAS WON TWIN CITIES SPORTING GAMES

More than 300 young athletes from 6 countries were competing at various sports facilities for first place in the Twin Cities Sporting Games, organized by Gdynia for the 21st time. In the overall ranking, young athletes from Gdynia were unrivalled.



*Press Releases/ GOSiR*

This year, young people from Gdynia competed with their peers from 5 twin cities: Kaliningrad (the Russian Federation), Karlskrona (Sweden), Kiel (Germany), Klaipeda (Lithuania) and Liepaja (Latvia).

Our representatives proved unrivalled in swimming. In the basketball tournament, girls from Klaipeda triumphed over Liepaja and Gdynia, while Latvian players won football games, with German and Gdynia teams taking the second and third place respectively. In table tennis, Russians from Kaliningrad were the best, with Lithuanians trying to keep up with them.

Boys and girls from twin cities took part in a 2-kilometre Street Race that was held as part of the European Race.

After adding up the scores of all the sports, the final ranking is as follows:

- 1. Gdynia**
2. Liepaja
3. Karlskrona
4. Klaipeda
5. Kaliningrad
6. Kiel.

However, results are not the most important thing in Twin Cities Sporting Games. What really matters is a good atmosphere and openness to other cultures, and the event was full those. Young athletes had an opportunity to make new friends, and left Gdynia with many pleasant memories.



## THE FASTEST FEET IN THE WORLD SET THE STAGE ON FIRE

Gdynia hosted Michael Flatley, whose feet (called the fastest in the world) are insured for 40 million dollars, and his troupe. The Irish musical and dance performance "Lord of the Dance" delighted the audience that filled the Arena to the last seat.



Photo by Maciek Czarniak

Rarely do we have such a concert that makes the audience dance from the first minute to the last. Rarely do we have such a concert that equally enchants both men and women. But can it be otherwise if we are watching dancers who have reached an unimaginative level of virtuosity, whose feet are faster than thoughts? Who seem to be hovering above the stage without touching it?

The **"Lord of the Dance"** show is a mixture of traditional Irish and popular cultures. It is a tale about an everlasting battle between good and evil told by means of wonderful

step-dancing. This fabulous choreography, simply unbelievable in parts, is accompanied by traditional Celtic music, though given in a little more popular form. But it is not only music and dancing that make the audience thrilled. The scenography and, most of all, the play of lights are most impressive, too.

Among the audience leaving the Arena after three encores and a standing ovation, there did not seem to be a single person who would have any doubts that "Lord of the Dance" is the most popular dance show in the world.

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