WORLD
COPERNICAN
CONGRESS



555th Anniversary
of the Birth
of Nicolaus Copernicus
1473–2028

Toruń
Kraków
Olsztyn
Toruń

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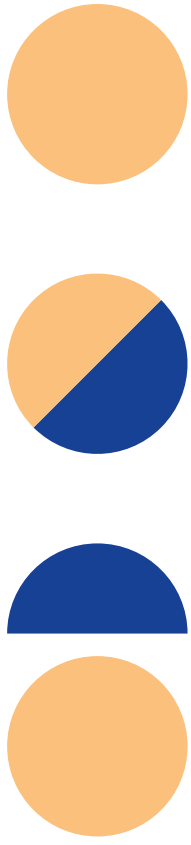
In 2023, to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, Poland hosted a landmark event – the **1st World Copernican Congress**. The Congress provided an international forum for presenting the current state of research on the life, work, and intellectual legacy of this outstanding scholar and astronomer, as well as for examining his enduring influence on the development of science, culture, and the arts.

In 2028, marking the 555th anniversary of Copernicus's birth, the **2nd World Copernican Congress** will be held.

The Congress will be jointly organised by the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, and the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. Reflecting the rich and continuously evolving Copernican traditions developed and fostered at these institutions, the Congress will once again adopt a travelling format. Sessions will be hosted successively in Toruń, Kraków, and Olsztyn, before returning to Toruń for the concluding proceedings.

Schedule of the 2nd World Copernican Congress

- 21–23 February 2028 — **Toruń** – official opening ceremony, Education and Science Popularization Section.
- 10–12 May 2028 — **Kraków** – Economics Section, Philosophy Section.
- 22–24 June 2028 — **Olsztyn** – Biography and History Section, Medicine Section, Museums and Conservation Section, Law and Public Administration Section.
- 21–23 September 2028 — **Toruń** – Copernicus's Cities Section, Culture Studies Section; *Copernican Revolution in Astrobiology: Life, Planets, and the Universe Section, Cartography* Section; Congress summary and closing Ceremony.



Copernicus' Cities Section (Toruń)	This section will focus on places associated with the life, work, and legacy of Nicolaus Copernicus. Its aim is to explore the astronomer's connections with various cities, from the places of his birth and education to the cities where he lived, worked, and conducted his observations. Presentations will also address the historical, cultural, and scientific significance of the cities that form part of the Copernicus Trail, and will highlight their role in promoting the knowledge of Copernicus and his achievements.
Education and Science Popularization Section (Toruń)	This section, dedicated to contemporary educational practices, science popularization, digital tools, skills development and inspiration drawn from the legacy of Nicolaus Copernicus, will serve as a forum for teachers, educators and science communication specialists. Discussions, workshops, and practical sessions will explore the use of science, technology, arts and mathematics following the ideas and concepts of STREAM education. It will be an opportunity for participants to acquire new skills, competences and inspirations for working with children and young people.
Economics Section (Kraków)	How will money evolve in the coming decades, and will cash eventually disappear from our everyday life? This section will examine the ongoing transformation of financial systems, including cryptocurrencies, central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), and the growing prevalence of cashless transactions. Experts will discuss the implications of technological innovations for economic security, privacy, economy, and the role of public institutions and the state in shaping the future of financial markets.
Philosophy Section (Kraków)	Is contemporary science on the brink of another major revolution? This section will address methodological challenges facing research, focusing on the role of artificial intelligence, big data, computer simulations, and emerging technologies in research and their impact on the reliability and credibility of research findings. It will become a space for discussions on whether scientific progress today is driven by transformative breakthroughs or rather by the gradual evolution of knowledge.
Biography and history Section (Olsztyn)	Do we already know everything about Copernicus? This section will examine the astronomer's life, scholarly achievements, and the broader historical, social, and cultural context of the Renaissance. It will provide a platform for presenting the most recent research on Copernicus's biography and output, and for discussing his enduring influence on the development of science.
Medicine Section (Olsztyn)	This section will address both medicine in the age of Nicolaus Copernicus and contemporary challenges in public health. Taking Copernicus's role as a physician as its point of departure, it will explore medical education, professional practice, and scientific knowledge from the late medieval and early modern periods until the modern times. Discussions will also focus on non-communicable diseases, preventive healthcare, and emerging epidemic threats, and on analysing challenges facing contemporary medicine.
Museums and conservation Section (Olsztyn)	This section is focusing on monuments, museums, and the material heritage associated with Nicolaus Copernicus. It will explore issues related to the preservation and protection of manuscripts, astronomical instruments, portraits, and other artefacts connected with Nicolaus Copernicus. Participants will also discuss the role of museums in communicating his scientific heritage, as well as contemporary conservation practices and the application of new technologies in museum studies.
Law and administration Section (Olsztyn)	This section will examine legal thought and administrative practice in the age of Nicolaus Copernicus, as well as his activities as a Doctor of Canon Law. Participants will explore the legal systems of Royal Prussia and Warmia, along with Copernicus's role in public administration, monetary reforms, and the development of the legal culture of his time. Discussions will also address the influence of Renaissance legal ideas on the evolution of contemporary law and public administration.

Culture Studies Section (Toruń)

This section will explore the presence of Nicolaus Copernicus and other distinguished Poles in cultural memory, examining their representations in literature, arts, theatre, monuments, and historical narratives. Participants will investigate how such "citizens of the world" are perceived and commemorated across different European cultures, and how collective memory of these figures evolves over time. This section will bring together perspectives from history, culture studies and memory studies, and it will provide a forum for reflection on cultural heritage and identity.

Copernican Revolution in Astrobiology: Life, Planets, and the Universe (Toruń)

This section will focus on contemporary research into the origins of life, exoplanets, and the place of humanity in the Universe. It will draw inspirations from the Copernican shift in perspective, and it will examine how advances in astronomy and astrobiology continue to transform our understanding of the Universe and the possibility of life beyond Earth. Participants will discuss most recent scientific discoveries and consider how contemporary research extends the legacy of the Copernican Revolution.

Cartography Section and The 37th Polish Conference of Historians of Cartography (Toruń)

The Cartography Section will explore the cartographic legacy of Nicolaus Copernicus and the relationships between astronomy, mathematics, geography, and map-making and the representation of the world in the early modern period, as well as the informational, aesthetic, and visual richness of maps. Participants will discuss how Renaissance cartographic practices contributed to the development of modern methods of measuring, conceptualising, and representing space, while remaining a significant element of the history of both Polish and European cartography.



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY IN KRAKÓW

UNIVERSITY OF WARMIA AND MAZURY IN OLSZTYN

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