



THE 6<sup>TH</sup>  
EUROPEAN  
CONGRESS  
OF MATHEMATICS  
JULY 2-7, 2012

KRAKÓW  
INVITES



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Address of the ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:  
**Institute of Mathematics, Jagiellonian University**  
ul. prof. S. Łojasiewicza 6  
30-348 Kraków, Poland  
tel. +48 12 664 66 34, +48 12 664 66 55

**[www.6ecm.pl](http://www.6ecm.pl)**



Collegium Maius (XV<sup>th</sup> century)



Kraków, Main Market Square

*Kraków – a pearl of Polish art and cultural heritage, a great scientific centre and – in the same time – a modern, dynamically growing city, invites international mathematical community to take part in the 6<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Mathematics on 2–7 July 2012. The Jagiellonian University, the oldest one in Poland established in 1364 and the Polish Mathematical Society founded in Kraków more than 90 years ago, co-organizers of the Congress, would like to welcome cordially all of you. A unique intellectual atmosphere, historical tradition, the beauty of the old architecture, combined with the strong scientific basis formed by numerous university level schools and research institutes, the highest quality technical facilities of the University Auditorium Maximum, the venue of the Congress, offer rare in such a scale opportunities and the best conditions for successful work of the Congress, as well as many occasions for relaxing after highest-level scientific debates.*

*Welcome to Kraków!*

Organizing Committee

## ***Kraków and Małopolska Region***

Kraków (Cracow) is a city of inspiring contrasts: a rich tradition and history, a treasury of national heritage, historical architecture and art, inscribed on UNESCO's First List of World Heritage Sites, the title of European Capital of Culture 2000 – and at the same time an open, modern, dynamically growing city. Tradition entwines with modern times, nearly each stone has its own history. A multitude of architectural monuments – estimated at 6,000 buildings and other structures – is supplemented by approximately 2.5 million artifacts collected and displayed in museums, churches, libraries and archives.

The pearl of Polish cities, the former royal capital of Poland, is now often called the capital of Polish culture and science. It is a scientific, educational, administrative and financial centre of Małopolska Region, but also a “must” in all itineraries for tourists visiting Poland. Tourism is inevitable one of the most important sectors in the city's economy. The varied cultural



The Juliusz Słowacki Theater



Wawel Cathedral



Kraków "Old Synagogue" (XV<sup>th</sup> century)



Tatra Mountains

events, and numerous opportunities of high-quality entertainment make a visit to the city the most enjoyable experience. Visitors enjoy also wandering around Kraków and ambiance of various restaurants, cafes and pubs. City life focuses around the Market Square, the second largest in Europe, after St. Marc's Square in Venice. The second heart of Kraków beats in the Wawel Royal Castle, the coronation and burial place of Polish kings. The castle's treasures include royal chambers and state rooms, collections of Oriental art and military trophies, famous collection of Flemish tapestries of amazing beauty as well as archeological specimens. They are the testimony to more than a millennium of Christianity in Poland.

One of the most popular districts of the city is Kazimierz, the former Jewish area with its seven old synagogues and a XIV-century cemetery as well as beautiful gothic churches, famous for the annual international Jewish Culture Festival.

Kraków is the current capital of Małopolska Region, a beautiful picturesque neighborhood

including in particular Tatra Mountains and villages with old wooden architecture. Wieliczka, a medieval salt mine with unique subterranean passages included in the UNESCO World Heritage List, is situated in a distance of just 15 km from Kraków.

### ***Kraków genius loci***

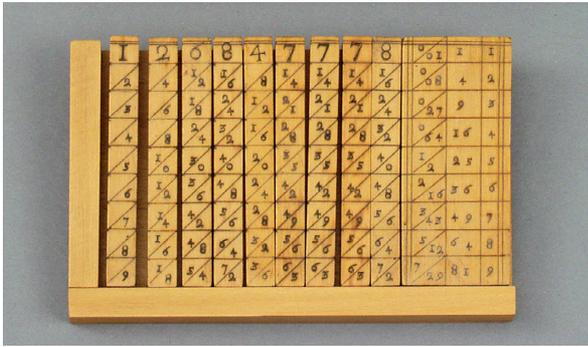
In 1364 the Kraków Academy, the first Polish university (named Jagiellonian University after the dynasty of Polish kings) was established. The middle of the XV<sup>th</sup> century was the time of a significant acceleration of the development of the University. In particular, mathematics and astronomy reached an impressively high level. Scholars educated in Kraków held important positions abroad. For instance between 1448 and 1471 five of them headed university chairs at Bologna University. In 1491 Nicolaus Copernicus (Mikołaj Kopernik) became a student of the Kraków Academy. The old, XV<sup>th</sup> century University seat (Collegium Maius) is still functioning, partially as an extremely interesting University Museum, partially as the



Chapel, Wieliczka Salt Mine



Nicolaus Copernicus, painted by J. Matejko  
(Jagiellonian University, Collegium Novum)



Napier's bones  
(The Jagiellonian University Museum Collegium Maius)



The Bylica torquetum and astrolabium  
(The Jagiellonian University Museum Collegium Maius)

place of regular Academic Senate meetings and several cultural and scientific events.

The 6ECM participants will have an unique opportunity to see the manuscript of the famous Copernicus book *De revolutionibus orbium cœlestium* which will be exhibited for a short time by the treasure of University Library, as well as some astronomical instruments from the Copernicus epoch exhibited in *Collegium Maius*.

It should be added that the splendid scientific tradition was continued throughout next centuries and Kraków became a strong mathematical centre. Here, in 1919, the Polish Mathematical Society was established. The list of co-founders included in particular Stefan Banach, Otton Nikodym, Alfred Rosenblatt, Kazimierz Paulin Żorawski and Stanisław Zarembo.

Wacław Sierpiński and Stefan Mazurkiewicz made essential steps in their scientific careers at the Jagiellonian University: Sierpiński ob-

tained his Ph.D. in 1906, Mazurkiewicz reached the habilitation in 1919. Among outstanding professors of the University there were in particular: Franciszek Mertens in the second part of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century and Franciszek Leja, Tadeusz Ważewski, Stanisław Gołąb, Stanisław Łojasiewicz in the XX<sup>th</sup> century.

One can say that Kraków is characterized by a special *genius loci* stimulating the development of its scientific milieu. As an exemplification of this *spirit of the place*, an anecdote (well known to many mathematicians) taken from the memoirs of Hugo Steinhaus could be mentioned. It is a story on – as he “declared” – *his greatest scientific discovery, that is discovery of... Banach. Walking on a path in the Planty Park in Kraków at a summer evening of 1916, I overheard the words „Lebesgue measure”* – wrote Steinhaus in his memoirs – *I approached the park bench and introduced myself to the young two apprentices of mathematics. (...) The youngsters were Stefan Banach and Otto Nikodym (...). From that we would meet on the regular basis.* It is superfluous to recall



S. Banach



H. Steinhaus



Collegium Novum



Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Sciences



Auditorium Maximumum

here how brilliant scientific career after this meeting was laid ahead of Banach, who was born in Kraków, but mathematically grew in Lvov, building up – among others – the fundamentals of functional analysis. Kraków mathematicians hope – or rather are sure – that the inspiring atmosphere of the city will stimulate fruitful disputes and makes possible several *discoveries*, discoveries in various spheres: science, culture, as well as new interpersonal scientific and friendship relations.

Now in Kraków there are several higher education and scientific institutions, including 15 university level schools. Total number of students in Kraków is estimated over 180,000. Kraków research and educational mathematical centre is one of the greatest and strongest in Poland.

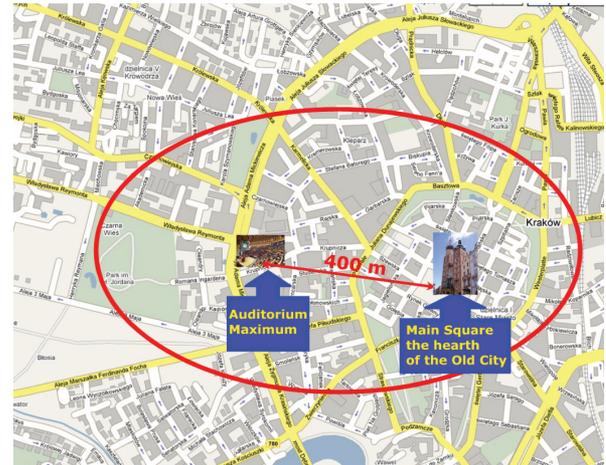
Kraków is the seat of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences established in 1872, as well as the Kraków Branch of the Polish Academy of Sciences and several other intensively acting research institutes.



The main hall of the Auditorium Maximum

The main Congress venue, the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University, located in the strict city centre, can host about 2000 people. Its highest quality technical facilities offer rare in such a scale opportunities and the best conditions for successful work of the Congress, as well as many occasions for relaxing between lectures and debates. A virtual visit to the Auditorium Maximum is available on the Congress web page ([www.6ecm.pl](http://www.6ecm.pl)).

Within the area indicated by the red ellipse there are more than 50 hotels and over 100 restaurants.





[www.krakow.pl](http://www.krakow.pl)    [www.krakowairport.pl](http://www.krakowairport.pl)

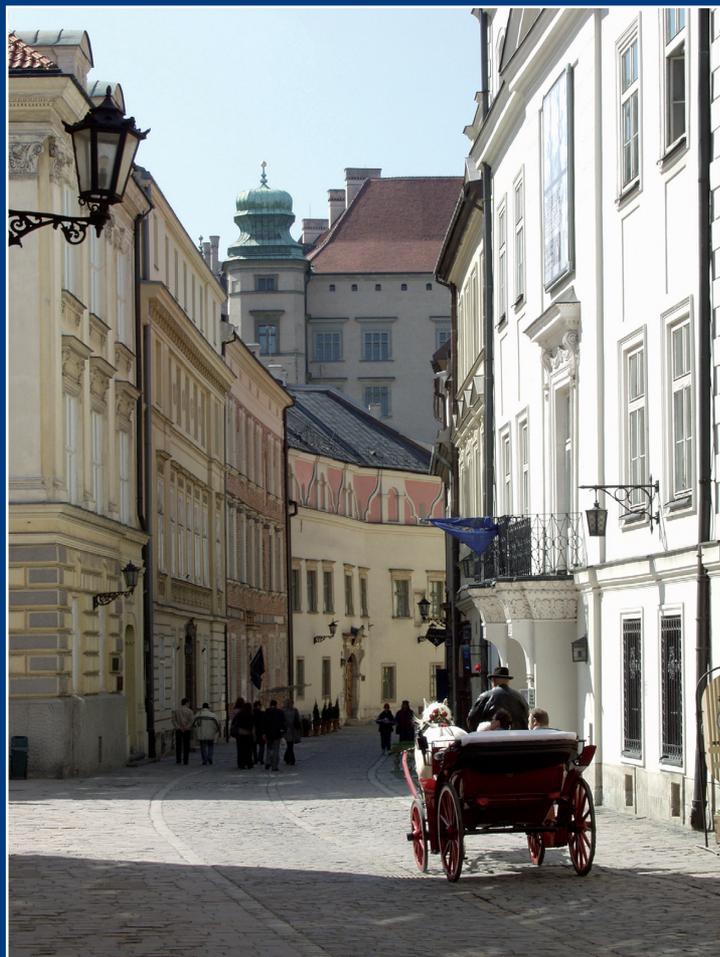
The city is easily accessible by air as well as by car and by train. There is a convenient access from: Berlin (695 km), Prague (530 km), Vienna (445 km), Bratislava (400 km), Budapest (410 km), Zagreb (750 km), Belgrade (800 km), Bucharest (1030 km), Kiev (860 km), Lvov/Lviv (377 km), Minsk (795 km), Vilnius (780 km), Warszawa/Warsaw (295 km).

Kraków is situated at a junction of important transport routes, near the Śląsk (Silesia) Conurbation and the southern border of Poland.

John Paul II International Airport Kraków – Balice is located to the west of Kraków, at a distance of 11 km from the city centre. It takes 20 minutes by shuttle train to get from the airport to the centre. There are several direct regular connections with the most important European airports (including, among many others: London, Paris, Vienna, Munich, Frankfurt, Madrid, Prague, Brussels, Rome), as well as some trans-atlantics connections. There are numerous low-fare airlines that maintain connections to European cities.

The city has also a well-developed network of railway connections with all Polish larger cities as well as several European ones (for instance with Vienna, Prague, Bratislava, Berlin, Budapest, Lvov).

The main railway (with the Airport Train terminal) and coach stations are located 12–15 minutes by foot from the Main Market Square.



Photos:

Konrad K. Pollesch, Jerzy Szczepański, Anna Wojnar, Paweł Koziół,  
Janusz Kozina, Artur Żyrkowski – Municipality of Kraków,  
City Promotion and Marketing Office