

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE THIRD WROCLAW
SYMPOSIUM ON COMPETITIVENESS AND
SUSTAINABILITY:
“PERSPECTIVES ON INNOVATION POLICY, ENERGY
SECURITY, AND CIVIC SOCIETY IN TRANSITION”
(WROCLAW, 9 JUNE 2018)**

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*SEBASTIAN JAKUBOWSKI***

The Wroclaw Symposia on Competitiveness and Sustainability intend to spark an international debate on important issues related to economic policy in a rapidly changing world. Attended by more than 80 participants from numerous countries, this year's symposium featured a selection of topics whose scope is not limited to the European region.

Dr Sebastian Jakubowski introduced the agenda stating that the post-crisis era has finally ended. He emphasised that European societies are facing new challenges in the global economy, and pointed to growing burdens of climate change in conjunction with the fourth industrial revolution as the main factors affecting today's economic policy in global context.

The first lecture was presented by Markus P. Raschke, who serves as a project manager at Protect-the-Planet. This internationally operating NGO for climate protection advocates the idea of a 100% sustainable economy. Currently, he leads an international project of legal action, aiming at encouraging the European Union to strengthen its emission reduction targets. He is responsible for the coordination of an international cooperative of NGOs, environmentalists, and environmental lawyers. As former political public relations manager of the Ecological Democratic Party of Germany (ÖDP), he successfully managed a political referendum campaign to shut down a coal-fired power plant. In his current engagements, he moderates numerous societal dialogue processes on infrastructure and economic policy. He holds a degree in Governance and Public Policy from the University of Passau and a Master of Science in European Economic Integration from the Universities of Leipzig and Wroclaw. Markus contributed to innovative research projects at the Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy.

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Markus P. Raschke explored conflicting logics of short-term oriented political decision-making and long-term imperatives of societal and environmental sustainability. He juxtaposed national vs global and economic vs ecological interests, focussing on the need for a paradigm shift towards sustainable development. According to Markus P. Raschke, this urgent transition is jeopardised by established political mechanisms. Therefore, grass-root initiatives should take the lead in decision-making. Examples of local, regional and international actions regarding climate- and environmental protection were provided, including mass movement effects of opinion-forming processes and legal possibilities in transnational structures such as the EU. The presentation also provided an outlook to the Polish-hosted COP24.

The second speaker, Daniel Iglhaut joined the European Energy Service Platform (EESP) in December 2017 to grow the company right from the start. EESP is a start-up company that was founded as a joint venture by two major European energy corporations to leverage business opportunities of both across European markets. Prior to that, Daniel worked i.a. as a consultant at TÜV Rheinland, driving international corporate strategy projects and the European energy research project ENERGISE. Through his long-term experience as project manager for R&D projects in the field of energy economics, he has gained excellent knowledge of the energy economy, cross-market synergies as well as publicly funded research projects. Daniel graduated from the University of Leipzig with a Master of Science in European Economic Integration; he also holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich. During his studies and within his professional career, Daniel has gained extensive experience in Poland and has lived in Warsaw for half a year.

Building upon the preceding, sustainability-focused contribution, Daniel Iglhaut explored how European societies organise energy supply and energy efficiency. After a theoretical and conceptual introduction to a changing energy world, practical perspectives of entering a multi-country energy market were contrasted with the EU's Energy Union. Obstacles to new business opportunities, market access and operations were outlined. In addition, challenges of multi-country utility companies were investigated; future scenarios for energy suppliers in Europe and the customers' role were discussed. Daniel Iglhaut stressed that the effects of an ever more electrified society tie individual behaviour and societal changes into an interdependent context. Also, European energy companies face unprecedented challenges caused by the fourth industrial revolution. The main drawbacks are diminishing profits and no longer viable business logics.

The last speaker, Ph.D. candidate Katarzyna Grotkowska from Wroclaw University, discussed the presence of Libertarian Paternalism in law and ordinary life. She emphasised that from an economic point of view, three things are very precious: time, energy, and money. That is why legislators provide sets of rules intended to organise everyday life. The presentation showcased several examples of laws aiming at facilitating ordinary life or public finances, for example, via the use of technologies to avoid undesired waiting times.

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In closing the third Wroclaw Symposium on Competitiveness and Sustainability, and thanking speakers and other participants, Dr Sebastian Jakubowski expressed his hope that the next Symposium to be held in autumn 2018 would be as inspiring as this one.

This year Symposium's Scientific Committee included Chairmen Dr Daniel W. Bloemers and Dr Sebastian Jakubowski. The remaining members of the Committee were: PhD candidate Katarzyna Grotkowska, PhD candidate Justyna Ziobrowska and Katarzyna Strzelczyk. The Third Wroclaw Symposium on Competitiveness and Sustainability was co-organised by Naukowe Koło Ekonomistów - NKE.