

# **REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND**

The Great Meeting Of The Blind,  
Partially Sighted, Their Families and Friends

## **THE WORLD OF TOUCH, SOUND AND MAGNIGRAPHICS**

17th edition of the conference  
on 20th anniversary of its inauguration  
and 20th anniversary  
of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University  
under the slogan

**EDUCATION AND OPHTHALMOLOGY,  
GIVING BACK HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

**21 – 23 October 2019**

Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University in Warsaw  
Copernicus Science Centre

under the honorary patronage of the wife of the President of  
the Republic of Poland Agata Kornhauser-Dudy

Warsaw 2019

## The co-organizers of the conference:

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw

Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw

Marshal of Mazovian Voivodeship

Center for the Blind in Israel

Team of Special Education at the Pedagogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
Challenge Europe Foundation



20-lecie  
UNIwersYTETU KARDYNAŁA  
STEFANA WYSZYŃSKIEGO  
W WARSZAWIE



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THE CENTER FOR THE BLIND IN ISRAEL



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Państwowy Fundusz  
Rehabilitacji Osób  
Niepełnosprawnych

The conference is co-financed from the funds of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Local Government – Mazowieckie Social Policy Center

The conference is co-financed by the capital city of Warsaw Komitet Honorowy Konferencji

## **Honorary Committee of the Conference**

**Krzysztof Michałkiewicz** – Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled People

**Rev. Stanisław DZIEKOŃSKI** – Associate Professor, His Magnificence Rector of UKSW

**MP Małgorzata Wypych** – Chairperson of the Parliamentary Group for Persons with visual disabilities

**Adam Struzik** – Marshall of Mazovian voyevodeship

**Dariusz Piontkowski** – Minister of National Education

**Władysław Gołąb** – Honorary President of the Society for the Blind in Laski

**Tomasz Pactach** – Director of the Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw (Warsaw)

**Professor Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz** – Ph. D Council of patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation, Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Professor Marek Rękas** – MD, Ph.D.

**Dr. Fredric K. Schroeder** – President of World Blind Union

**Marlena Małag** – President of the State Fund for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (PFRON)

**Nati Bialistok-Cohen** – General Director of Center for the Blind in Israel (Israel)

**Nurit Neustadt-Noy, PHD.** – Consultation and Rehabilitation Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Persons (Israel)

**Professor Tadeusz Słomka** – AGH UST Rector (Cracow, Poland)

**Professor Marzenna Zaorska, PhD** – Chairperson of the Special Education Team of the Polish Academy of Sciences

**Professor Robert Rejdak, MD, Ph. D.** – President of the Association of Polish Ophthalmologists, General Ophthalmology Clinic of the Ophthalmology Department of the Medical University of Lublin

**Agnieszka Kamińska, MD, PhD** – Medical Faculty, UKSW

**Maciej Kłopotowski, PHD.** – Council of Patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation, Department of Building construction and Architecture of the Białystok University of Technology

**Jacek Kwapisz** – the Council of Patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation

## **The Organizing Committee**

**Marek Kalbarczyk** – Chairman of the Committee, Honorary President of Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Rev. Jan Niewęglowski** – Associate Professor, Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Professor Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz** – Ph. D Council of patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation, Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Agnieszka Regulska PHD** – Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Marzena Dycht Professor at UKSW** – Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences UKSW

**Emilia Śmiechowska-Petrovskij PHD.** – Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences UKSW

**Agnieszka Kamińska, MD, PhD** – UKSW

**Jacek Kwapisz** – Lecturer at UKSW

**Malwina Wysocka-Dziuba** – President of Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Janusz Mirowski** – Chairman of the Council of Patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Małgorzata Starzyńska** – UKSW

**Tomasz Krzyżański** – The Challenge Europe Foundation

**Tomasz Jankowski** – Chance for the Blind Foundation

## **Scientific Committee**

**Professor Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz** – Ph. D Council of patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation, Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Anna Fidelus** – professor at UKSW Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University

**Agnieszka Regulska PHD.** – Faculty of Family Studies UKSW

**Marzena Dycht** – Professor at UKSW, – Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences UKSW

**Emilia Śmiechowska-Petrovskij, PHD.** – Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences UKSW

**Marek Kalbarczyk** – Chairman of the Committee, Honorary President of the Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Jan Omieciński, PHD.** – doctor of mathematical sciences

**Marek Tankielun** – Wrocław University of Technology





## THE MAIN IDEA OF OUR MEETINGS

“THE GREAT MEETING”, as we call it, has been organized within the conference REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND. The first edition of “REHA” CONFERENCE was held in 1999, in Warsaw and attended by about 600 guests and 8 exhibitors. Back then, we did not expect it to be such a big event, but now, we are proud to say that within last few editions, REHA was visited by about 2500 participants (during each of the above-mentioned additions) not only from Poland, but from other countries as well. We are honored to say that we had representatives from countries like: Kenya, Israel, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Russia, and many others.

### WHAT IS REHA FOR THE BLIND POLAND ?

Since 1999, Chance for the Blind Foundation has been organizing an international conference and the exhibition of equipment for the blind and visually impaired Called REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND. The main goal of this event is to integrate blind and partially sighted persons from different backgrounds and show them new technologies designed for them. It is also a great opportunity to exchange experiences and methods of work. Chance for the Blind Foundation has also been organizing “east-west meetings” in order to talk about different solutions used for solving problems faced by the blind in their everyday lives. Since its first edition in 1999, REHA has transformed from a small event into a great conference with lectures and discussion panels, many accompanying attractions, such as: sports tournaments, live concerts, and the exhibition of new technologies for people with visual deprivation. In 2017, because of the 25th anniversary of Chance for the Blind Foundation, REHA conference was extended and brand new elements were included. The whole event lasted for three days. Year 2017 was also the first year in which we organized regional REHA conferences across the country. Since then, we have been organizing regional events in 16 big cities of Poland.



It was a great opportunity for our blind and partially sighted beneficiaries to get to know their local community and to share their problems and difficulties with activists and representatives of local authorities. All of these events consisted of: a substantive session with speeches devoted to the modern rehabilitation of the blind and partially sighted; a pick nick with live concerts of blind and sighted artists, sports tournaments, quizzes, and many other interesting attractions. Regional REHA events attracted many people who really liked the idea of being together without any divisions and barriers, the idea that we, s Chance for the Blind Foundation so strongly promote. Since 2018, REHA conference has been organized in Copernicus Science Centre. It is a great location for our event in literal and metaphorical sense: it is a comfortable place and a centre of science and new technologies.







## THE IDOL COMPETITION

“THE IDOL COMPETITION” is a competition organized annually by Chance for the Blind Foundation within REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND conference. The aim of this competition is to award people and institutions, who pay attention to the needs of blind and partially sighted citizens. The IDOL COMPETITION is organized on two stages: regional and national. The winners of the regional stage compete in the national stage. All people can vote because it is done via Internet Once the Internet voting is finished the special body counts these votes and publishes the results. The IDOL COMPETITION is organized within the following categories:

- The idol of the community;
- The office open to the blind and partially sighted;
- The school / educational center;
- The university;
- The company / institution;
- The media;
- The cultural center;

- The special idol: the awards for special idols are given by Chance for the Blind Foundation. There is no Internet voting because special idols are people who have great achievements in the field of blindness and low vision. In 2019, the following people were awarded with the special idol statuettes: dr. Frederic Schroeder WBU President, Tobias Winnes VISPERO vice President, Professor Marzena Dycht, , and MRS. Joanna Winiarska. All awards are given to the winners at REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND conference, during its opening ceremony.

Tobias Winnes – a vice president of the International Sales at Vispero. Since 1990, Tobias has been a great friend of Polish blind and partially sighted people. He has also been a great friend of Chance for the Blind Foundation. Tobias is honestly devoted to his work. He is highly knowledgeable and has many years of experience in providing the blind with newest and the best technological solutions available for them.

Fredric K. Schroeder (President of World Blind Union) – Fredric K. Schroeder, Ph.D., has spent his adult years fighting the misperception over the capabilities of blind people, that they are somehow limited in what they can achieve. As Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, overseeing a multi-billion-dollar agency in the Department of Education, he was particularly dedicated to widening their entrepreneurship opportunities. Dr. Schroeder is a great scientist, but also an amazing person who stands for the rights of people with visual deprivation. We are extremely honoured that dr. Schroeder agreed to visit our country and be present at REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2019.

There are also two different categories especially dedicated for the companies, taking part in the exhibition of new technologies for the blind and partially sighted. All participants vote for the best company present at the conference. They can also vote for the best product presented at the exhibition. All companies who wish to propose a product to the idol competition do so and the participant choose the ones they like best.

## **THE LIST OF EXHIBITORS OF REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2019**

As mentioned before, REHA conference consists , among other elements, of the exhibition of new technologies for people with visual impairments and the organizations and institution that work for this group of citizens. Here, we present the list of exhibitors of this year's REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND.

### **Companies:**

1. Altix ltd. (Poland)
2. Auto ID Polska S.A. (Poland)
3. Copernicus Science Centre (Poland)
4. Comde-Derenda GmbH (Germany)
5. Dolphin Computer Access Ltd. (The UK)
6. Inview Medical (Poland)
7. Matapo s.r.o. (Czech Republic)
8. Seykopol (Poland)
9. Steller Technology GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
10. The woruld of touch and sound
11. View Plus Technologies (representatives from Germany)
12. Vispero (international)

13. Optelec (the Netherlands)
14. Freedom Scientific (USA)
15. Aisquered
16. Medison Wojeciech Maj (Poland)
17. The Society for the Care of the Blind in Laski (Poland)
18. Tactile graphics
19. Printing House

### **Institutions and organizations:**

1. The Challenge Europe Foundation (Poland);
2. "Fundacja KołoBajki" (a Polish foundation that manufactures tactile books for blind children);
3. Chance for the Blind Foundation (Poland)
4. "Fundacja widzimy inaczej" (Poland)
5. Institute and school for the blind in Bydgoszcz;
6. "Galeria Arsenal" in Białystok (an art gallery);
7. "Główna Biblioteka Pracy i Zabezpieczenia Społecznego" (a Polish library that publishes books accessible to the blind);
8. The school of massage in Cracow
9. The NFZ a public health-care institution;
10. An audiobook Publishing House;
11. National Museum in Kielce;
12. Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw;
13. The branch of Polish Association for the Blind in Kozienice;
14. Representatives of Lodz University of Technology;
15. Institute and School for the Blind in Cracow
16. The Institute and School for partially sighted in Warsaw;
17. Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in Warsaw;
18. Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan;
19. Medical University of Łódź;
20. Sheltered Enterprenership in Końskie
21. The Social Insurance Institution (ZUS)
22. "The third eye publishing House" (the publishing house of Chance for the Blind Foundation);
23. The exhibition of paintings of John Bramblit;
24. The sound paintings of Julia Kurek, PHD.



# DESCRIPTIONS OF SELECTED COMPANIES, PARTICIPATING IN THE EXHIBITION, TAKING PLACE WITHIN REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2019



**Altix ltd** – ALTIX has operated in the market since 1989 and was established at the initiative of blind IT specialists. We are the largest company in Poland dealing with the distribution of electronic equipment for visually impaired. To be more specific, we are engaged in typhlo-IT, i.e. computer science for the blind. As far as Poland is concerned, we were the ones who laid the foundations of this field in our country. For many years we have been shaping trends in the market, we are the pioneers in lots of issues related to typhlo-IT. It was us who developed the first Polish speech synthesizer, we voiced the Central Library for the Blind and educational institutions. Not only do we do our best to be business leaders, but also to See More – i.e. to make the society aware of the needs of the disabled! Our purpose is to develop the solutions that allow our clients to be fully independent and successful. We do know that to make dreams come true what is only needed is proper tools. We understand their needs. Our offer comprises a wide range of products designed for varied groups of customers. If you want to find out more about our company, visit our website: [www.altix.pl](http://www.altix.pl).

**Comde-Derenda GmbH** – Comde-Derenda GmbH has over 20 years of experience in the development and production of aids for the blind. Customer feedback and cooperation with organizations and experts, such as mobility coaches, are important factors for our production and innovation process. Our white canes and cane tips are manufactured by hand in Germany and Switzerland.

Comde-Derenda GmbH was founded in 1972 as an engineering office in Berlin. Its business object was the development and production of environmental technology devices



for air quality measurement. In 1992, COMDE GmbH, focused mainly on gas measurement technology for high voltage applications, was founded. Both companies merged in 2012, forming Comde-Derenda GmbH.

Our company is located in Stahnsdorf, close to Berlin. Our three company buildings are home to all three of our business areas: Gas density measurement, environmental measurement technology, and aids for the blind. Comde-Derenda GmbH is certified according to DIN EN ISO 9001:2015.



**Dolphin Computer Access ltd** – Dolphin is the only specialist software house developing solutions to suit all types of reading impairment – from low vision to blindness and dyslexia.

You can speak directly to the makers of our products – we design and develop our products in-house – so when you call us or meet us, you're speaking directly with the people who know most about the products you're using.

Our design and development teams are experts in building software to suit user requirements, and our highly knowledgeable sales and support teams can help you find and use the perfect software for your needs.

**Steller-technology GmbH & Co. KG.** – Seeing again is fun.

This is the motto of our company focused on innovation for visually impaired and blind people. We develop, produce and distribute a new generation of electronic vision aids that are now conquering markets far beyond the country's borders. If optical aids such as glasses or magnifying glass are no longer sufficient, electronic vision aids that can magnify up to 100 times can be used. For every visual impairment and every application, our company offers the right system. The range extends from devices for private use through special transportable student systems to complete workstation equipment. We have succeeded in developing a flexible and modular system in which all devices are compatible with each other (i.e., interchangeable and interchangeable) and which, through its customization capabilities, compensates as much as possible for users' visual impairment. The autonomous expansion and expansion of the system allow us to go with the help of ever-evolving technology completely new ways. In the latest generation of our systems, we have created a bridge between stationary and mobile systems. These devices are battery operated u. help the user to maximum independence and freedom of movement – and that from preschoolers to our seniors.



We are proud to have developed technology that specifically empowers children to become interactively educated. For those affected, that means no longer, week by week, far away from parents and friends in special schools a. Boarding schools to be driven but go to the school very close u. can be at home daily. But complex computer-assisted workstations for highly visually impaired or blind users are also equipped by steller-technology. Our goal is to expand this technology, especially in the direction of mobility and flexibility.



**View Plus Technologies** – In 1988 Professor John Gardner of Oregon State University had an eye operation which caused him to become totally blind. At that time he was Professor of Physics at Oregon State University, and he continued to teach. However, he could no longer evaluate the data from experiments. This difficulty prompted him to establish a university team to research methods for better accessibility to graphical information.

In 1996 his team developed a new high resolution embossing technology and patented it. He was unable to persuade any braille embosser manufacturer to license this technology. They told him that there was no need for blind people to access graphics. He did not believe them, so he and his wife founded ViewPlus to produce embossers. In year 2000 the first product reached the market, the ViewPlus Tiger Advantage embosser, built on a dot matrix printer.

Since 2000 ViewPlus has developed many braille printers, hybrid ink/braille printers, touchpads and a Suite of Software solutions developed to be scalable; running on the small portable personal braille printer to the larger production hybrid printers. Our choice in the technology used in our embossers enables us to be the industry-leading manufacturer of high-definition tactile graphics. All are intended to make information accessible.

**Vispero** – Vispero combines two Latin words: visio and spero. Visio means “the vision”; and spero, “hope”. At Vispero we are driven in our mission of providing hope, determination, and independence through our complementary family of brands.

–Vispero is the world’s largest assistive technology provider for the visually impaired. Although officially formed in 2016, our brands Freedom Scientific, Enhanced Vision, Optelec, and The Paciello Group, share a long, rich history as industry leaders dating back to 1975.

We develop and deliver innovative solutions that enable blind and low vision individuals to reach their full potential – to gain an education, obtain employment, succeed in professional careers, and live independently throughout their lives.

Vispero is proud to operate in 90 countries worldwide, with products localized in over 24 languages.

As the prevalence of age-related eye diseases like macular degeneration steadily rise, assistive technology plays an increasingly vital role, resulting in a growing demand for low vision devices and services. Vispero is uniquely positioned to address these challenges head-on by providing the tools necessary to meet the needs of the low vision population through our far-reaching distribution network.

Our family of brands deliver a superior line of optical and video magnifiers; wearables; scanning and reading devices; and easy-to-use software. Vispero’s partnership with key organizations and advocacy groups keep us in the forefront of the low vision industry.

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## EAST-WEST MEETINGS

The first such meeting was held in 2011 in the National Library in Warsaw as the first and most important element of 9th edition of the REHA for the Blind in Poland Conference. The most important result of the meeting was the resolution entitled „the Blind closer to the world and the world closer to the blind”, concerning current situation of the blind and their perspectives for the future, addressed to authorities of states of the world and international organizations, working for people with visual impairments. The main goal of this document was to improve the situation of blind women and children – part of the blind community who suffers the most. That meeting in 2011 was attended by representatives of the following countries: USA, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Malta, Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kenya, and Poland. After the meeting and the REHA conference, the document of the resolution was sent to all countries present in the National Library.

Like in 2011, we organized a meeting that brought knowledge, experience, and practice together with tools and solutions helping the blind to overcome problems they have to face in their everyday lives. The meeting was held in Copernicus Science Centre before the opening ceremony of REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2019. This year’s event was attended by many distinguished guests from various countries of the world. We had the honor and privilege to welcome dr. Frideric K. Schroeder – president of World Blind Union; great scientists working in the field of blindness and low vision: Fabiana Perla, Laura Bozeman, and Nurit Neustadt-NOy. We also had blind, partially sighted, and sighted activists, working for persons with visual deprivation from the following countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, The USA. All participants accepted and agreed on the idea that all blind and visually impaired people should fight for their rights together. The result of the meeting was a second resolution.

### THE RESOLUTION OF THE EAST-WEST MEETING 2019

Here is the text of the resolution that was discussed, and later on, approved of by the participants of the east-west meeting 2019.

We, blind and visually impaired citizens of the World strive to fully and actively participate in our societies. Therefore, we hereby undertake to express our anxiety and concern in face of certain unfortunate phenomena, still pertaining in the lives of persons with disabilities all over the world. Thus, it is our aim to draw the attention of the World authorities to the following challenges and problems to be taken care of and resolved:

- Persistence of large areas of poverty in the developing countries, resulting in continued living standard differences between the citizens of those countries as compared to the inhabitants of the developed countries;
- low effectiveness of actions, taken by international organizations which should work towards the improvement of this situation. In spite of numerous legal acts and documents having been passed, there is still much to be done, and this not merely in theory, but primarily in practice;
- over-susceptibility of social policies in different countries to the economic crisis phenomena, resulting in the marginalization of the needs of people with disabilities, including blind and partially sighted citizens in the fields of health, education, and rehabilitation;
- increasing tendency towards instrumentally treating the help for the persons with disabilities, including blind and partially sighted people;
- lack of or restricted access to latest achievements in medicine for people at risk of losing their vision;
- excessively common negligence of essential needs of people with visual disabilities in the process of implementing state-of-the-art technological solutions, which directly leads to social exclusion.

Responding to the phenomena mentioned above, as well as to many others not touched upon here, we urge the governments and international organizations to strengthen their determination towards taking action in the following fields:

1. Implementing programs, aimed at improving the quality of lives of people with disabilities, living in both eastern and western countries;
2. Creating equal job opportunities for people with visual impairments, living in different areas of the world;
3. Taking specific actions that would enable blind and partially sighted people to use public transportation and move around easily, safely, and independently;
4. Implementing programs and facilities, enabling blind and visually challenged persons to access newest technological assistive solutions;
5. Taking specific actions to implement the rules of universal design in all aspects of life;
6. Implementing solutions that would allow the blind and visually impaired persons to fully access written documents. The word access here refers to: being able to independently sign them with a valid signature, get acquainted with their content and modify them, when needed;
7. Implementing comprehensive rehabilitation programs for elderly blind and visually impaired adults (including necessary training, mental support, informing them about their rights and obligations etc);
8. Making any kind of content accessible to blind and partially sighted persons (including art, immediate surroundings, landscape, daily tasks, money management, etc.) by such techniques as tactual marking, audio-description, special aids and applications that are and may become available in the future;



9. Making available to blind and partially sighted persons any tools and equipment they need to live full and independent lives on par with the sighted citizens of the world;
10. Promoting the sighted community point of view towards the blind and their abilities by addressing them directly and indirectly via media forms and frames. Moreover, paving the way for blind children to be included in normal schools via electronic games for sighted encouraging that as well as telling them Indirectly how they can deal with the blind;
11. Realizing the above-mentioned goals for all the blind regardless of their origin, gender, or beliefs.

## THE PROGRAM OF THE EAST-WEST MEETING

- 10:00** Opening of the meeting, welcoming guests – Malwina Wysocka-Dziuba (President of CHANCE for the blind Foundation)
- 10:10** Foundation – its history and activity – Malwina Wysocka-Dziuba
- 10:20** Warsaw, Mazovia, Poland – Adam Kalbarczyk
- 10:30** Information resulting in mobility and ability – Marek Kalbarczyk (Honorary President of Chance for the Blind Foundation)
- 10:40** The blind in the world – short discussion about situation of people with visual disability in countries represented
- 11:30** Short break
- 11:40** Subject mentioned above continued
- 12:00** Discussion and approval of resolution resulting from the discussion
- 13:00** Sweet treats prepared by Gastroteam



# THE PROGRAM OF REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2019

**Day 1 – Monday, October 21, 2019.**

Copernicus Science Center (ul. Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20)

**10:00 – 13:00** International meeting called “East – West meeting”

**14:00** The opening of the conference led by Anna Michnicka (Chance for the Blind Foundation) and Jacek Kwapisz (UKSW)

- Welcoming guests
- Reading letters addressed to participants
- Speeches by special guests
- Awarding winners of the idol competition organized by Chance for the Blind Foundation

**15:00** substantive Session

1. 20 years of the REHA Conference (10 minutes) – Marek Kalbarczyk (Honorary President of Chance for the Blind Foundation)
2. Human dignity in the context of difficult life situations (20 minutes) Rev. Stanisław Dziekoński, Associate Professor, His Magnificence Rector of UKSW
3. Modern medicine in the service of vision recovery and forecasting its possibilities for the near and further future: Contemporary glaucoma surgery (15 minutes) – Professor Marek Rękas, MD, Ph.D.  
(national consultant in the field of ophthalmology, Military Institute of Medicine)
4. Support for innovation in the field of eliminating the effects of visual disabilities (20 minutes) – Nati Bialistok-Cohen (Center for the Blind in Israel)
5. Real-world education – schools and universities well prepared for the education of the blind and visually impaired, both in inclusive and special education(15 minutes) – Professor Marzenna Zaorska
6. The city and its surroundings accessible to disabled citizens (10 minutes) – Tomasz Krzyżański (President of the Challenge Europe Foundation)

**16:40 – 19:00** Exhibitions accompanying the Conference

- a. Exhibition of modern technologies
- b. An exhibition dedicated to the activities of NGOS and social institutions
- c. Exhibition “The world of touch and sound”

**18:30** Concert „We are together” – Tango Para Todos formation, with Anna Kwiecień

## **Day 2 – Tuesday October 22, 2019.**

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (Wóycickiego 1/3, building 21)

**09:00 – 13:00** Discussion panels and lectures

### **Room A:** Contemporary medicine in the service of vision recovery Man faced with suffering

- AMD – age-related macular degeneration as a cause of significant visual impairment – the scourge of the 21st century – Selected eye diseases and methods of their treatment
- The most common eye cancers as a cause of blindness and visual disability – Cerebral visual impairment in children and their functional consequences
- Interdisciplinary contexts of parenthood of people with visual disabilities
- Regenerative medicine in ophthalmology – what do we know today?

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

### **Room B:** Upbringing, education and rehabilitation of the blind and visually impaired

- Social education of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński and his relations with the blind
- Views of Mother Elżbieta Róża Czacka on the rehabilitation, education and upbringing of persons with visual disability in the context of contemporary expectations

Vision rehabilitation and the specificity of rehabilitation and educational needs of visually impaired people of different ages

- Does the ability to read Braille affect the well-being and quality of life of the blind?
- Unseen – read! Blind people in the textual world
- Will a smartphone replace a librarian? Library for the blind in the digital world
- Support for students with visual impairment in public schools on the example of the CEDUNIS Counseling Center
- Rehabilitation of adult blind people

(Discussion with participants after thematic sequences)

### **Room C:** Support for innovation in the field of eliminating the effects of visual disabilities

- Accessibility activities carried out by the Ministry of Investment and Economic Development
- Latest trends in access technologies
- Modern rehabilitation of the blind in Israel
  - Listen and touch instead of looking

- Audits of website accessibility: methodology and practice
- A modern museum open to everyone
- „Braille Master” – a tool for educating the blind: the presentation of the project

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

#### **Room D: Contemporary requirements for institutions and social organizations**

- Mission of International Mobility Conference
- The idea of being together – work of the Parliamentary Group for People with Visual Disabilities

Situation of social organizations in Poland

- Local government for the disabled
- European model of social inclusion

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

#### **11:00 – 15:00 Exhibitions accompanying the Conference**

- a. Exhibition dedicated to activities of NGOS and social institutions

Copernicus Science Center

#### **12:00 – 19:00 Exhibitions accompanying the Conference**

- a. Exhibition of modern technologies
- b. Exhibition „The world of touch and sound”

#### **15:00 – 17:00 Technology panels**

#### **Hall A:**

30 years of Altix – the biggest company, working for the blind in Poland

Talking globe and talking chess

Seeing music – a memory of Janusz Skowron – great, Polish musician who was blind

Mobile technologies and Braille displays

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

**Hall B:**

Computers friendly to elderly people as well

Audio navigation inside facilities

Methods and techniques in teaching blind people the basics of programming and algorithmic

Methods and techniques of printing tactile graphics (Discussion with participants after each presentation)

**Day 3 – Wednesday October 23, 2019**

**9:00** Holy Mass for the blind, visually impaired and their families and friends (Michał Dąbrowski organ, Jolanta Kaufman singing, Małgorzata Nachalska violin), Church. St. Krzyża, street Krakowskie Przedmieście 3

**11:00 – 13:00** Panels and workshops – Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University (building 21)

**Room A: O&M and IT**

Introduction to the O&M and independent moving around by blind and visually impaired people

Electronic tools supporting O&M – the perspective of the user

Audits of accessibility of facilities and their surroundings: methodology and practice

„SeeShop” – a mobile application for shopping for the blind (Discussion with participants after each presentation)

**Room B: People with disabilities in the social space**

Situation of people with disabilities in penitentiary isolation

Knowledge and social attitude towards a child with visual impairment

Students with disabilities at UKSW

GOOD BEGINNING, i.e. the conditions for the proper organization of early support for the development of a small child with visual disabilities

Work on a battery of psychological tools to measure the overall emotional functioning and personality of children and adolescents and adapt them to the needs of blind and visually impaired people

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

**Room C:** Access to information – computers, smartphones, Internet, media.

30 years of development of ALTIX from the first Polish speech synthesizer to creating navigation

Audio description of the events

Access to graphic information – tactile graphics in practice

“Ikar. Legenda Mietka Kosza” – meeting with Krzysztof Karpiński, author of the book “Tylko smutek jest piękny”

(Discussions with participants after each presentation)

**Room D:** Accessibility of public facilities, transport, tourism, culture and

Lecture by the blind painter John Bramblitt (USA)

Sound image painted by the blind

We travel the world. Experience from tactile viewing of architectural models and mockups

Wroclaw University of Technology – as a university friendly to students with visual impairments

(Discussion with participants after each presentation)

**11:00 – 16:00** Exhibitions accompanying the Conference

- a. Exhibition „The world of touch and sound”
- b. Exhibition of modern technologies
- c. An exhibition dedicated to the activities of NGOs and

**14:00 – 17:00** Integration picnic (UKSW campus at Wójcickiego street)

**14:50** Announcement of IDOL competition winners in the categories of product and company

**15:00** Integration concert under the slogan „20 years of the Open World for the Blind” – **Krzysztof Dębski, Anna Jurkaszewicz, Monika Janik and friends**

**16:15** Film with audio description (Room A)

- a. Cultural and intellectual competitions
- b. presentations of non-visual sports:
  - showdown
  - ping pong
  - and many others!

Refreshments – our beneficiaries as chefs and waiters