

# THE GREAT MEETING OF THE BLIND, VISUALLY IMPAIRED, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

## THE WORLD OF TOUCH, SOUND, AND MAGNIGRAPHICS 2017



## REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2017

THE GREAT MEETING OF THE BLIND, VISUALLY  
IMPAIRED, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

THE WORLD OF TOUCH, SOUND,  
AND MAGNIGRAPHICS 2017

Within

15th EDITION OF REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND

Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw

**(17-18th October 2017)**



Under the Honorary Patronage of  
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and the First Lady Of Poland – Agata Kornhauser-Duda

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**Marek Kalbarczyk** – Chairperson of the committee – President of the Foundation





## 25 years of Chance for the Blind Foundation

REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2017 was really special. Thanks to the involvement and smart ideas of our coworkers, it was organised within two parts: the great gala in “Torwar”, and the great meeting in the Palace of Culture and Science. Unlike other conferences, 15th edition of REHA FOR the blind in Poland, was held in October, not in December. We were fed up with the snow and a cold weather. We never wanted to organise our conferences in such conditions, but we did not have a choice because it did not depend on us. This edition was different: we could choose other, much better time, so we did it.

The 15th October is the day celebrated by the blind worldwide. The white cane is our symbol. It allows us to move around the city independently and informs others that we cannot see. It is very important because, thanks to this, other pedestrians know that there is someone that may need their help. In order to celebrate this day, the 15th edition of our conference, and the 25th anniversary of our Foundation, we organised a great gala in “Torwar”, in Warsaw, and two-day lasting conference in the Palace of Culture and Science. This bulletin is devoted to the second event having taken place in the Palace of Culture and Science.



This edition of REHA was attended by thousands of participants. It is a great honour that it was visited by so many people from all over the country. We had guests from abroad as well. Our conference is open to everybody. We would very much like to manifest our presence in the world and remind the whole society and authorities that they should show the empathy to blind citizens. They need help and support. Removing consequences of visual impairment is not possible without funds and enhancement of financial support and donations. With other branches of medicine, the situation is just the same. Pneumonia cannot be cured with vitamin C, or seriously damaged kidney, which cannot fulfill its functions and needs to be transplanted. When ophthalmologists are not able to help someone who lost their sight, removing consequences of this disability is quite an expense. When a blind person is not able to see again, they, at least, have the right to the access to information. When they are not able to read printed sources, they have to make use of new technological, digital and IT solutions – computers and peripheral devices, such as: speech synthesisers or Braille displays. This is what the modern approach to rehabilitation looks like. All technological news should be available to the blind and partially sighted people. These devices cannot remain in labs or on shelves in shops, but be at homes of the blind and partially sighted people who need them. On one hand, the space needs to be adjusted to the needs of people with visual impairments and their possibilities, on the other. The whole rehabilitation process and trainings are useless, when our beneficiaries are not able to move around independently. Our public space has to be accessible: with Braille and speaking features. The important thing is that it is not so expensive that our country could not afford it. It is time for the empathy for people with visual impairments. REHA is organised to fulfill the above-mentioned goal. We meet in such a big group of people in order to articulate our expectations. No country

can be called a modern one, if it cannot take care of the blind and partially sighted citizens.

Poland wants to be called a developed country. Therefore, it should remember about the disabled who are not able to see like others, but want to study, work, create families and take part in other activities like the rest of society.

This year, Chance for the Blind Foundation, received a significant support from the State Fund of Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons and other institutions, thanks to which we could invite our guests to events, taking place on different floors of the Palace of Culture and Science. On the lower floors, there were, first of all, the exhibition of new technologies. On upper floors, we organised the substantive session, workshops, and panel discussions. One could play, get to know new sport disciplines, take part in various competitions, get to know different opportunities, concerning daily life, etc. The whole conference was really great and fascinating which is clearly visible from this publication.

Like everything good in the world, our conference seemed to end too soon and all our guests had to come back home. Our Foundation organised transport to all regions of our country. Our participants were accommodated in good hotels in Warsaw, with tasty meals. No one complained.

We invite you, therefore, to read this publication. We present here a short summary of every aspect of our conference.

The Palace of Culture and Science is a large building. It is not easy to know where the specific halls are. However, it looked like the division into two parts, proposed by us, helped with moving around and finding selected places.



## **The Invitation to next edition of REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND**

The 16th edition of REHA is going to take place on 13-15th October 2018. On Saturday (13th October) and Monday (15th October), we are going to visit the Copernicus Science Centre. On Sunday (14th October), we are going to come to the Institute for the Blind in Laski. There are going to be many interesting and fascinating presentations and other attractions. In the Copernicus Science Centre, we are going to take part in the substantive session, discussion panels, and the exhibition entitled “the world of touch and sound”. On Sunday evening, there is going to be a pick nick in the Old Town of Warsaw. For the first time in history, we are planning the conference so long before the event. We hope that you will reserve your time to spend it with us.



## I. The substantive session





## I. 1. The Opening of the Conference

The substantive session of the Conference was held in Starzyński Hall located on the 4th floor of the Palace. It is a bi hall with about one thousand seats. It turned out, however, that it was not enough. We added 300 more chairs in the neighbouring, but well-communicated with Starzyński Hall but, again, this amount was not suitable. We estimate that in the first hours of our meeting we had about 1400 guests or even more. The conference was led by two announcers: Dominika Stankiewicz from Chance for the Blind Foundation's office in Opole and Rafał Nowicki from the Institute for the Blind in Owińska. Mr. Nowicki led the conference for the second time, perhaps, that is the reason why everything was realised without big delays.

The first element on our schedule was awarding the winners of the IDOL competition. Yet, the plan had to be changed because our conference was visited by minister Andrzej Dera and director Roman Kroner who read the letter from the President of Poland – Mr. Andrzej Duda and awarded presidential honours to activists from our Foundation and other people involved in working for the blind and partially sighted persons' community. It is a great honour for us that, people appointed by our organisation, were acknowledged by the President and other authoritative people to deserve receiving these honours.

## I.2. The letter from President of Poland and awarding honoured persons

The President of Poland, Mr. Andrzej Duda, honoured notable blind people and also sighted people who are deeply involved in helping blind and partially sighted. On behalf of Mr. Andrzej Duda, Mr. Roman Kroner awarded the above-mentioned honours. Mr. Andrzej Dera read the letter prepared by the President of Poland for all participants of our meeting. The content of the letter is the following:

*Dear President!*

*Honourable organisers and participants of today's meeting!*

*Ladies and gentlemen!*

*On the occasion of the 15th Jubilee Conference of REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND and the 25th anniversary of Chance for the Blind Foundation, on behalf of myself and my spouse, I would like to express my sincere congratulations and respect for all those involved in these valuable undertakings. I warmly greet the representatives of institutions and organisations thanks to which the conference and its accompanying events have gained such a rich, attractive programme. I am convinced that this exceptional event will contribute to the integration of the blind and partially sighted, as well as to the dissemination of knowledge about both the challenges they face and their significant achievements. I am glad that the improvement of the Polish model of improving and empowering people with visual disabilities and equalising their life opportunities is joined by scientists, activists, and volunteers with such a large amount of positive energy, knowledge, and experience.*

*Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, during the war, the chaplain of displaced children and nuns from the Institute for the Blind in Laski, called: „Be responsible for your duties and obligations, for the place you occupy (...) in the*

*nation, in the country, in your professional life. This is the way to greatness. (...) We should believe in our greatness and desire it. (...) Every great thing must be expensive and difficult. I believe that this is what the fathers of our independence thought, whose huge success from a hundred years ago - the recovery of a sovereign Polish state - we will commemorate next year. I also think that it is from this perspective that we should place the activity of blind and partially sighted people: their impressive and inspiring achievements, their most respectable determination, attitude of service, creativity and the ability to organise themselves.*

*The state awards presented today for the distinguished representatives of this community will be a particularly solemn expression of appreciation and gratitude of the Republic of Poland and our entire civic community. The International Day of the Blind, celebrated on October 15th and this year's 25th anniversary of Chance for the Blind Foundation, is an opportunity to honour its founders, dedicated employees and volunteers, their full range of national and international initiatives, as well as the dynamism of the community around it. Your activities are excellent proof of how blind and partially sighted people contribute their own, extremely important and irreplaceable contribution to the comprehensive development of our Homeland. On the other hand, it makes us aware of the scale of needs and difficulties faced by people with disabilities on a daily basis. I would therefore like to reiterate once again: Poland can only be a genuinely solidarity-based and truly modern country if all its citizens have equal rights and fair, equal opportunities to earn their personal, professional and social success in order to make full use of their individual potential for action in the common good.*

*I wish that your meeting today and the next decades of fruitful work of Chance for the Blind Foundation will bring us closer to making this ideal a reality. Thank you once again for this important initiative and I would like to greet all of you very warmly.*

*Yours faithfully,  
Andrzej Duda*

Below, there are short presentations of distinguished people.



**Janusz Skowron** – a significant blind jazz pianist and composer. During his unusual career, he performed in many countries, e.g. Germany, Czech Republic, Israel. He played with many famous musicians. During REHA FOR THE BLIND IN

POLAND 2017, Mr. Skowron was awarded with the Gold Cross of Merit for the second time. For the first time, he received the Gold Cross of Merit from the president Lech Kaczyński in 2009.



**Igor Busłowicz** – a great, blind computer scientist who devoted all his professional life to people with visual impairments. Mr. Busłowicz received a Gold Cross of Merit.



**Barbara Planta** – since 2007, Mr.s Planta was a principal in the Institute of Blind People in Cracow. Mr.s Planta received a Gold Cross of Merit.



**Michał Bałamut** – a great, blind computer scientist honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit. In his professional life, he pays a great deal of attention to making new technological solutions accessible for the blind users.



**Henryk Rzepka** – a great, blind computer scientist and typhlopedagogue. His works change lives of thousands of blind people in Poland. Mr. Rzepka was honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit.





**Marek Tankielun** – the first blind person, who graduated from Wrocław University of Science and Technology. He received a Silver Cross of Merit. Currently, Mr. Tankielun works at the Wrocław University of Science and Technology, adapting and preparing various educational materials for the blind and visually impaired students.



**Sławomir Sarota** – honoured with a Silver Cross of Merit, great teacher and computer scientists. He works as a teacher in the school for the blind in Cracow. He is an author of many useful publications, concerning standards of educating blind and partially sighted students.



**Tomasz Flaga** – honoured with a Silver Cross of Merit. He teaches mathematics and typhlo computer science in the school for the blind in Cracow. His professional life is fully devoted to working for the blind and visually impaired students.



**Marta Zielińska** – a very brave and a wise person who devoted all her life to helping the blind. She was honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit.





**Janusz Mirowski** – a volunteer, member of the council of patrons of Chance for the Blind Foundation, honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit. He works in the company offering new technologies for the blind and visually impaired persons.



**Jolanta Kaufman** – almost blind opera singer honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit. She performed in many countries, e.g. Canada, Australia, USA, popularising music of great, Polish composers.



**Jacek Kwapisz** – a great teacher and typhlopedagogists honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit. For many years, Mr. Kwapisz was an orientation and mobility skills teacher in the Institute for the Blind in Laski. Mr. Jacek Kwapisz is also one of the founders of Chance for the Blind Foundation.



**Krzysztof Kulik** – a director of an innovative department of tactile graphics in Altix. Mr. Kulik was honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit. His works are mainly focused on solutions, making public space more accessible to the blind and partially sighted people.



**Ilona Nawankiewicz** – a partially sighted worker of Chance for the Blind Foundation honoured with the Silver Cross of Merit.



**Marek Kalbarczyk** – since 1994 president of Chance for the Blind Foundation. In 2009 honoured with Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. During REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND 2017, Mr. Kalbarczyk was honoured with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta. This is a very unique state honour which, in its history, was given to

about 15 thousand people. Among them, there are only a few blind people all cooperating with Chance for the Blind Foundation.

Mr. Kalbarczyk is a manager, author of 45 books, computer scientist, editor of the magazine published by Chance for the Blind Foundation entitled "HELP – wiedzieć więcej". He created many computer programs and other solutions helping the blind in their independent life.

*From left to right: Krzysztof Kulik, Roman Kroner – Director of the Distinctions and Nominations Office in the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, Henryk Rzepka, Janusz Mirowski, Michał Bałamut, Marta Zielińska, Jacek Kwapisz, Marek Kalbarczyk, Andrzej Dera – Sekretarz Stanu w Kancelarii Prezydenta RP, Barbara Planta, Marek Tankielun, Igor Bustłowicz, Tomasz Flaga, Ilona Nawankiewicz, Sławomir Sarota, Janusz Skowron, Jolanta Kaufman*





### I.3 IDOL COMPETITION

Chance for the Blind Foundation, since the first edition of REHA conference, has been organising an IDOL competition. Within this period, it went through many changes and modifications, but main idea remains the same: our Foundation wants to distinguish people and institutions who passionately work for persons with visual impairments. In the IDOL competition, there are five categories: company / institution, office, idol of the community, media, and education. All IDOLS are awarded with a special statuette, created by great Polish artist – Andrzej Dłużniewski, who lost his sight. After that, however, he remained active as a lecturer. But before that, prof. Dłużniewski had designed and created a statuette which presents a meditating wise sage. This statuette is given to all winners of our IDOL competition.

## I.4 IDOL competition 2017

This edition of the competition was really special because it was organised in two stages: regional and national. The winners of regional IDOL competitions took part in the national stage. The categories remained the same as in previous editions.

Below, we present the winners of IDOL competition 2017:

**Education:** Dr. Kamila Miler-Zdanowska

**Company / Institution:** The Invisible Exhibition in Warsaw

**IDOL of the community:** Tomasz Koźmiński

**Media:** Dariusz Szpakowski

**Office:** Tomasz Pactwa



1. Dr. Kamila Miler-Zdanowska,
2. Tomasz Pactwa,
3. Tomasz Koźmiński,
4. The Invisible Exhibition in Warsaw

During REHA, all visitors could vote for the best exhibitor and the product of 2017 for the blind and partially sighted.

**The results of this part of IDOL competition, are the following:**

**First prize:** The city of Warsaw

**Second prize:** The Copernicus Science Centre

**Third prize:** Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Product of 2017 for the blind:**

**First prize:** application “Your Way” – Chance for the Blind Foundation

**Second prize:** Touchit – Altix

**Third prize:** InsideONE – Insidevision.

**Product of 2017 for partially sighted:**

**First prize:** MyEye – Orcam

**Second prize:** Compact6HD – Optelec

**Third Prize:** EasyReader for Apple and Android.





## I.5 Special IDOLS of Chance for the Blind Foundation

On the occasion of 25th anniversary of Chance for the Blind Foundation, we decided to give special idols to people giving their lives to the blind and visually impaired.

Below, there are short presentations of our idols.



**Stanisław Kotowski** – an extremely wise blind man with many skills. He worked as a director in the Polish Association of the Blind. We wish every person to be as intelligent and knowledgeable as Mr. Kotowski.



**Donata Kończyk** – a young, sighted person who cares very much about the blind persons' community. She worked at the Warsaw University, preparing educational materials for students with visual impairments and teaching them orientation and mobility skills. She is a specialist in rehabilitation of the blind and making public space accessible to this group of citizens.



**Artur Pozorek** – as a clarck, he helps people with disabilities. He does his job with great involvement and passion.





**Paweł Kacprzyk** – president of the Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski. He is a young activist and a manager. Thanks to his work, “Laski” become more opened to cooperations with other organisations and institutions.



**Marta Zielińska** – a great person who dedicated her life to people with visual impairments. She worked in Laski and took part in the process of founding of Chance for the Blind Foundation.

We would like to congratulate all our idols and thank them for their work.

## I.6 Special guests' speeches

The presence of representatives from various institutions, organisations on our meeting, is very important for our Foundation. Thanks to this, we see that problems of the blind and partially sighted people are not unknown to our authorities who pay a great deal of attention to solving them. Our conference was attended by: Mr.s Małgorzata Wypych – chairperson of the Parliamentary Group for People with visual impairments, Tomasz Pactwa - Director of Welfare & Social Projects Department of the Capital City of Warsaw, Artur Pozorek – the representative of Marshal of Masovian voivodeship, Paweł Kacprzyk – President of the Association of the Care for the Blind in Laski. We also listened a speech given by Marek Kalbarczyk – the President of Chance for the Blind Foundation, concerning 25th anniversary of this organisation. 25 years is a long period of time during which Chance for the Blind Foundation achieved great success: 16 regional offices (consultation points) in the whole country,

40 projects per year, about 50 publications. Chance for the Blind Foundation is also one of the most important partners of State Fund of Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons. It helps thousands of blind and partially sighted people in Poland, employing about 40 specialists.

Paweł Kacprzyk presented activities of the Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski and the institute for the Blind. He spoke about ways of supporting not only the blind, but also their families.

## **1.7 Speeches given during the substantive session of the conference**

The main speech was given by prof. dr hab. Jadwiga Kuczyńska-Kwapisz and Jacek Maciej Kwapisz. Our experts presented a speech entitled „Polish Solutions supporting persons with visual impairments”. The speech was mainly focused on support and rehabilitation of the blind on various levels of their development and education. Another speech was concerned with 25 years of working for the Polish Blind. It was presented by Elena Świątkowska – the director of Chance for the Blind Foundation. In her speech, Mr.s Świątkowska pointed out to different aspects of activities undertaken by Chance for the Blind Foundation. It is an organisation which helps the blind and visually impaired persons to become independent in their daily lives. Thanks to unusual actions, it shows that visual impairments are not barriers that cannot be overcome.

Another speaker was Sister Benita from the Association for the care of the Blind in Laski. She presented a speech devoted to history of this association and the institute for the blind, its achievements, and future goals. It is worth-mentioning that the city of Warsaw plays a very important role when it comes to making the space of the



city accessible to the blind and partially sighted. Mr. Tomasz Pactwa gave a speech presenting efforts put into taking care of the blind citizens by the authorities of Warsaw.

## **I.8 Newest solutions dedicated to the blind and partially sighted**

The last element of the substantive session of the conference was the presentation of various solutions helping blind and visually impaired to overcome their disabilities.

We had presentations of the following companies: Altix sp. z o.o., iWorld Service, InsideVision, and Bones AG.

## II. Panel discussions and workshops



## II.1 Activities undertaken by the government for people with visual impairments



The discussion was led by the representative of State Fund of Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons, Mr. Mirosław Izdebski. The meeting was also attended by MP Małgorzata Wypych. The main focus of the whole discussion was the support given by State Fund of Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons, and other undertakings that need to be done in order to help people with disabilities.

## II.2 iWorld Service



During this discussion, the representatives of this company discussed various technological solutions offered by Apple and mobile applications offered by other firms.

## II.3 Good practice of accessibility



The rules of making space accessible for the blind were demonstrated by Krzysztof Kulik – the director of Altix which is an innovative company offering various solutions supporting people with sight loss.

## II.4 Design and implementation recommendations for architectural models in public spaces



This part was led by dr. Agnieszka Kłopotowska and dr. Maciej Kłopotowski. They discussed different architectural models installed in public spaces in Poland. They spoke also about their upcoming book concerning this topic.

## II.5 The presentation of the Polish foundation “Blind on tandems”

The presentation was devoted to activities undertaken by this organisation. The main subject of these activities is organising different trips for the blind and their sighted guides on tandems.

## II.6 Audio description enriching all images: practical workshops

This workshop was fully devoted to audio description which is a vital part of the rehabilitation of the blind.

## II.7 Jaws vs NVDA in professional access to information



This workshop was conducted by Henryk Rzepka from Altix and Jan Bloem from Freedom Scientific. Both



experts introduced advantages and disadvantages of screenreaders mentioned in the title of the workshop.

Another, slightly similar, workshop was conducted by Jan Gawlik from the Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski. The workshop was focused on measurements with help of computers. It was a very interesting and important workshop.

## **II.8 Braille and Chopin – Piotr Witt**

It was an unusual meeting with Mr. Piotr Witt, an excellent writer living in France. The discussion in the Palace of Culture and Science was devoted to the book, published also in Braille, entitled “Przedpiekle sławy rzecz o Chopinie”.

## **II.9 Senior club “Piękna jesień” – Krystyna Konieczna from the Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski**

Mr.s Konieczna, during her workshop, presented various activities of members of the senior club.

## **II.10 “Everybody has their Rio” – Wojtek Makowski**

It was a motivational presentation prepared by a blind sportsman, Wojtek Makowski who represented Poland during paraolympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

## **II.11 Magnifying image: optical and electronic magnifiers – useful tools for rehabilitation vs cheap solutions, e.g. from China – Adam Kalbarczyk from Altix and Jim Porse from Optelec**

During this workshop, the discussion was focused on differences between good-quality solutions offered, e.g. by Optelec and cheap tools which do not meet the requirements of useful rehabilitation devices, produced, e.g. in China.

## **II.12 The “Virtualna Warszawa” project – Dariusz Linde**



Dariusz Linde, a worker of Chance for the Blind Foundation, spoke about the projects realised in Warsaw for people with visual impairments. Mainly, he presented two projects: “Virtualna Warszawa” and “VIP system +”.

## **II.13 Braille: system of the past or opportunity for future success – Henryk Rzepka**

Another workshop conducted by this great specialist from Altix. Surrounded by many talking devices, people with sight loss tend to forget about reading and writing in Braille. During this discussion, participants talked about advantages and disadvantages of using Braille alphabet.

### III. Accompanying events



## **III.1 The International Exhibition of new technologies for the blind**

The list of exhibitors, taking part in REHA FOR THE BLIND 2017 is the following:

### **III.1.1 Organizations and Institutions**

1. Belarus Association of the Blind
2. Copernicus Science Centre
3. “CEDUNIs” (foundation)
4. „Katarynka” (foundation)
5. „Trakt” (foundation)
6. Chance for the Blind Foundation
7. “Room of Touch and Sound”
8. Cooking corner
9. “Kołobajki – książki dotykowe” (presentation of tactile books for children)
10. The Capital City of Warsaw
11. David Brimer (UK)
12. National Museum in Kielce
13. The invisible exhibition
14. Modern school

15. Rzeszow University of Technology
16. SmartBrailer: learning how to read and write in Braille
17. Institute for the Blind in Cracow
18. School of massage in Cracow
19. “TianDe”: How to look beautiful – visage
20. Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski
21. Towarzystwo Pomocy Głuchoniewidomym (Association taking care of deaf blind people in Poland)
22. Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
23. Jagiellonian University
24. Publications of Chance for the Blind Foundation

### **III.1.2. Companies**

1. Altix sp. z o.o.
2. Ambutech
3. Bones AG
4. Brawo
5. Dolphin Computer Access
6. E.C.E.
7. ElBraille

8. Freedom Scientific
9. Grzegorz Złotowicz
10. Help Tech
11. HumanWare
12. IndexBraille
13. InsideVision
14. InView Medical
15. iWorld Service
16. LVI Low Vision International
17. Medison
18. Nowa Praca Niewidomych – Cepelia
19. Optelec
20. Printing House
21. Transition Technologies
22. Tactile graphics





## III.2 „The room of Touch and Sound”



This is one of the oldest attractions at our conference. The main goal of the “room of touch and sound” is to do various things without using the sense of sight.

## III.3 Other accompanying attractions included:

- Ping-pong for the blind
- Shooting with laser weapons without using vision
- Solving Rubik’s cube
- Teaching Braille
- Cooking corner prepared by Mr. Jan Paszkowski.



Another very interesting and inspiring attraction was a workshop, during which participants could learn basic techniques of self-defence. “These skills are very useful” – admitted participants afterwards.

“How to look beautiful – visage” – another very warmly welcomed workshop prepared by professional beauticians.





During our event in the Palace of Culture and Science, one could also play board games adapted for the blind.

We had also something for travelers. One could see our unusual talking map of the world and take part in various, very interesting and creative competitions and quizzes.

All participants were provided with tasty donuts and sandwiches.

### **III.3 International Meetings**

All participants had a unique opportunity to meet representatives of blind and visually impaired people from different countries. It gave possibility to exchange experiences concerning situation of blind persons' community from different perspectives: different countries.

### **III.4 The Mas in the intention of the blind persons' community**

On 18th October, at half past nine, we participated in the mass in the intention of the blind, visually impaired, and their families and friends. The mass took place in the cathedral of Warsaw. It was a great opportunity for all participants to pray together for the whole community of the blind and partially sighted persons.

# Spis treści

<b>25 years of Chance for the Blind Foundation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Invitation to next edition of REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I. The substantive session</b>	<b>8</b>
I. 1. The Opening of the Conference	9
I.2. The letter from President of Poland and awarding honoured persons	10
I.3 IDOL COMPETITION	16
I.4 IDOL competition 2017	17
I.5 Special IDOLS of Chance for the Blind Foundation	19
I.6 Special guests' speeches	20
I.7 Speeches given during the substantive session of the conference	21
I.8 Newest solutions dedicated to the blind and partially sighted	22
<b>II. Panel discussions and workshops</b>	<b>23</b>
II.1 Activities undertaken by the government for people with visual impairments	24
II.2 iWorld Service	24
II.3 Good practice of accessibility	24

II.4 Design and implementation recommendations for architectural models in public spaces	25
II.5 The presentation of the Polish foundation “Blind on tandems”	25
II.6 Audio description enriching all images: practical workshops	25
II.7 Jaws vs NVDA in professional access to information	25
II.8 Braille and Chopin – Piotr Witt	26
II.9 Senior club “Piękna jesień” – Krystyna Konieczna from the Association for the Care of the Blind in Laski	26
II.10 “Everybody has their Rio” – Wojtek Makowski	26
II.11 Magnifying image: optical and electronic magnifiers – useful tools for rehabilitation vs cheap solutions, e.g. from China – Adam Kalbarczyk from Altix and Jim Porse from Optelec	27
II.12 The “Virtualna Warszawa” project – Dariusz Linde	27
II.13 Braille: system of the past or opportunity for future success – Henryk Rzepka	27
<b>III. Accompanying events</b>	<b>28</b>
III.1 The International Exhibition of new technologies for the blind	29
III.1.1 Organizations and Institutions	29
III.1.2. Companies	30

III.2 "The room of Touch and Sound"	32
III.3 Other accompanying attractions included:	32
III.3 International Meetings	33
III.4 The Mas in the intention of the blind persons' community	33



## XVI EDITION OF THE REHA FOR THE BLIND IN POLAND CONFERENCE

On 13th through 15th of October we are inviting you to the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, where subsequent meeting of Blind, partially sighted and their friends will take place. In KSC, substantive session, discussion panels, concerts, tournaments and international exhibition entitled "Virtual Warsaw - City friendly to the blind" will take place. On Sunday 14 of October we will go to Laski near Warsaw for many fascinating attractions. In the evening, after return from Laski, we will meet with Warsaw citizens and tourists in Warsaw Old Town.

We are Inviting