

## A NEW DEAL FOR POLAND

by Robert Biedroń

### **Finally!**

Had somebody knocked on my door in my hometown Krosno 35 years ago and told me that in the future would be where I am right now – I would not have believed them.

**I dreamt** of a different world, but for little Robert that was not the world of politics.

My childhood years in the Subcarpathian Voivodeship and my youth spent as an immigrant taught me a lot about life. Working as a gardener in Naples and as a waiter in London, at many points I had had enough. But these jobs earned me a living and thanks to that I could engage in work for my community. And I have always been preoccupied by the idea that it is important to **change the world** around us. That we have to be true to our ideals and work towards progress. Even if this sometimes means going against the flow.

Working in the Sejm, in the institutions of the United Nations and the Council of Europe allowed me to see many issues from different perspectives. But the experience that shaped me the most was working as Mayor of Słupsk. **Słupsk** taught me that in a politics based on **concrete values and a clear goal**, there is no such thing as impossible. It is possible to balance the books. It is possible to maintain a **dialogue** with the city residents. It is possible to build a **transparent** local administration. It is possible to stop using mayoral limousines. It is possible to invest in sustainable development and renewable energy. It is possible to **cooperate** effectively with the European Union. It is possible to be a **secular** politician and to not need to constantly please the Church. It is possible to run a city whilst ensuring that the **happiness** of its residents remains the main objective.

Poland deserves a **different politics**. A politics without chaos, based on values such as freedom, transparency, trust, equality, solidarity, and cooperation.

Together we can achieve change we have dreamt of for so long. We can let the fresh breeze of **Spring** into Polish politics, which will bring the rejuvenation our country so badly needs. It will bring the energy that will make Poland a country everyone can put their **trust** in, where everyone can be who they want to be, and gender and place of birth do not limit our opportunities for development. A country in which politics is not just about an everlasting conflict but instead about building a sense of **community** and a politics of **cooperation**. A country in which the most important thing is not building monuments, but instead looking to the future and responding to the challenges of the present.

That is why I am offering you this plan for the revival of our country. Here you can find the key points of the political programme, created with your help during the Brainstorm we organised all around the country.

Let's wake up from our winter slumber.

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## **The Poland of today**

A Polish-Polish war has been raging for over 30 years. It is not a war between Polish people, even though the politicians of the two leading parties want to convince us that they are fighting for our interests. Meanwhile every one of us is losing out in this war. This pointless, destructive conflict stops our country moving forwards and developing the way it deserves to.

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## **Poland - time for change!**

### **How will we transform Poland into the land of our dreams?**

- Appointments with a specialist doctor within **30 days**
- **Safe termination of pregnancy** and a guarantee of anaesthetics during labour
- **An end to the age of coal** by 2035
- Minimum monthly wage of **2700 zł**
- **English language** in every household
- **Anti-violence education** and free school meals
- Innovative research – **2% GDP**
- **Free public transport** and 10 million apartments in the EU
- **250 000** new nursery places
- Minimal pension of **1600 zł**
- **Support for the carers** of the disabled
- A **bus** in every community
- **Equal rights** for all
- **1 billion zł** for the national civic participation budget
- **Alimony** paid like taxes
- **A secular state** - an end to religion classes at school
- **Commission** for Justice and Reconciliation
- **No more stamps** for establishing companies by 2022
- An **effective state** for the people, not for the party
- **Free access to culture** and a media without censorship

- **Digital** transition for business and administration

**We deserve** a Poland that step by step becomes the country of our dreams. It is time for change to begin. All we need is our **common engagement**.

Let **change blossom!** It's time for **Spring!**

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## **Our values**

### **Solidarity**

Society is not merely a group of individuals. It is also a whole, which looks after each and every part of itself. When a country develops, the profits should be shared by all citizens. The level of a state's development can be measured by the welfare of the very weakest.

### **Cooperation Conversation**

A just and effective politics is based on a dialogue with the citizens. When planning its actions, the state has to listen to everyone who will be affected by these actions and take their voices into account.

### **Trust Community**

We don't always have to agree, but nobody should be excluded from the community – either by words or by actions. We may have different views, but we are all Polish citizens, and together we make up one society.

### **Patriotism**

Patriotism means working selflessly for the sake of our community and our surroundings. It means working for the good of the country, which – whilst remembering its past – understands the challenges of the present and how to respond to them.

### **Freedom**

Everyone has the right to be themselves and to live their life according to their values, identity, faith, and convictions, as long as they don't limit the freedom of others.

### **Transparency Responsibility**

We believe that all actions of politicians, government and administration have to be transparent. Every citizen is entitled to be informed and monitor the government's work. The government has to take responsibility for its actions.

### **Rule of Law**

Following the rules we have agreed on together is a necessary condition for a functioning, stable, and just state. It is a guarantee of our rights and liberties. The proper functioning of the law and its institutions cannot depend on the whims of whoever is currently in charge.

### **Sustainable Development**

Respect for our natural environment and the protection of animal rights should be an integral part of all public policy. A safe natural environment is the precondition for a good life.

### **Equality**

The basis of a just society is the equality of all citizens. Equality means equal opportunities and equal rights for all, without any kind of discrimination.

### **Peace and Progress**

A stable and safe state is a state which does not seek conflict abroad, but instead looks for understanding and cooperation. It takes care of its interests whilst displaying initiative on the international arena.. It is a state which participates fully in the international community. Its army is apolitical and is not affected by partisan infighting.

It is time to bring common sense back to politics! Our country needs a **revival!**

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## A NEW DEAL FOR POLAND

### **1. The human comes first**

Everyone has the right to happiness, freedom, and safety – regardless of who they are. We need to build the lasting foundations for this freedom for every one of us. Politicians should not tell us what to do with our lives. We need to put an end to making decisions about us without us.

### **Specialist doctor's appointment within 30 days**

Polish people deserve well-functioning health care. Today we need to wait for a specialist doctor's appointment even up to several years. In order to speed up the process, one has to individually spend extra money. If Polish citizens wish to enjoy a healthy life, the healthcare system cannot work this way anymore. That is why we are guaranteeing access to a specialist doctor within 30 days.

We will introduce a waiting time limit for appointments. After 30 days the patients will have the right to choose to be treated in the private sector. The appointment will be funded by the National Healthcare Fund NFZ according to a standard national price list.

In order to upgrade healthcare quality we will ensure proper salaries for all professions concerned with health care, that is among others for physiotherapists, laboratory diagnosticians, and paramedics.

**We will introduce a limit on patients' monthly expenses for prescription medication with an average of 200 zł.** It will depend on the patient's income, so that everyone receives financial support. The amount beyond this limit will be covered by the state. In order to realize these proposals, **government healthcare spending will reach 7.2% of GDP within 5 years, thus reaching the EU average.**

"I am annoyed at the insufficiency of healthcare funding. If not for The Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, I would probably no longer be alive."  
Kamil, 25, Gdańsk

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**An end to the age of coal by 2035. 200 thousand new jobs in the renewable energy sector.**

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air. Every year 45 thousand people die as a result of smog. The current cost of smog is 150 billion zloty per year – nearly twice as much as government healthcare spending. By burning coal, the country, the economy and every one of us is losing out – we have already seen this in our electricity bills. If we don't provide people with clean air and clean energy – catastrophe awaits. **This is why we will withdraw from a coal-based economy by 2035.**

By then we will shut down all coal mines and coal-fired power plants. We will create a renewable energy sector with 200 thousand jobs for miners and electrical workers. Thanks to community adaptation programmes we will provide them safe and well-paid employment and a well-deserved pension.

We will fund the exchange of coal-burning stoves for modern, non-coal based heating installations. We will actively support wind, solar and biomass power. Within 15 years we will have the cleanest air in this part of Europe.

**We will appoint a spokesperson for environmental issues and rights** and introduce a modern law for animal protection. We will close down all fur animal farms, ban animal performances in circuses and get rid of caged chicken farms.

It is a real issue... In Żywiec the smog norms are exceeded by over 2000%!  
Błażej, 31, Żywiec

**Expert's opinion:**

Beata Maciejewska - expert in sustainable development

"It is outrageous that annually 45 thousand people die due to smog"

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**Safe termination of pregnancy and a guarantee of anaesthetics during labour**

The state is responsible for taking care of women's health and safety. Today, in some voivodeships, in order to visit a gynecologist a patient has to travel up to 50 km, and on average there is one specialist doctor per 27 000 patients. During labour, women ask for a C-section, because often it is the only chance of receiving anaesthetics. Wiosna will increase access to gynecological care in smaller towns.

We will guarantee **the right to high standard maternity care**, including access to anaesthetics, conscious agreement for every treatment, comfortable and intimate conditions for delivery of pregnancies, and we will also dispense with unnecessary procedures.

We will guarantee **women the right to safe termination of pregnancies on demand up to the twelfth week of pregnancy**.

We will introduce **full funding for up to three rounds of IVF treatment for every woman** on the basis of a doctor's recommendation. We will also introduce stable and long-term financing of this treatment.

We have dedicated half a million zloty for IVF treatment for a hundred couples in Słupsk.

We will not be free without a guarantee of our reproductive rights.  
Joanna, 28, Gdańsk

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## **Minimum monthly wage of 2700 zł**

The hard work of Poles needs to be properly compensated. Today, the minimum wage is decided behind closed doors and at the last moment. We propose a transparent, **10-year strategy of setting the minimum wage, through consultation with entrepreneurs and workers.** Next year it should reach 2700 zł, in two years – 3000 zł, and in five years – 3500 zł gross. By 2028 we will steadily link it to the average income – it will reach 60% of the average income.

The working rights of people employed through contracts of service will be no worse than the rights of workers employed through employment contracts. **All workers will have the right to 2 days leave per month and also to parental leave.**

Polish wages do not reflect our hard work. How is it possible that a teacher with 20 years of experience earns 2400 zł net?

Krystyna, 46, Płock

### **Expert's opinion:**

Dariusz Standerski –economist and lawyer, expert in economic and social policies

"The right to holidays and rest is one of our fundamental human rights"

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## **Anti-violence education and free school meals in every school**

We will take Polish schools out of the 19th century. **We will create 120 thousand multimedia classrooms** with modern equipment in primary schools across the country. We will ensure that Polish schools respond to the challenges of modern times. The newest technologies, climate change, preventative medical studies, online safety and recognising fake news will make up a significant part of the curriculum. We will introduce teaching of programming languages and modern sexual education into the curriculum.

Violence in the public sphere is an important issue. **We will introduce compulsory anti-violence education in all types of school.**

We will ensure respectable salaries for those who teach our children. Newly qualified teachers will be guaranteed a minimum monthly wage of 3500 zł gross, and licensed teachers and teachers awarded with the title 'Professor of Education' with salary of 6000–7000 zł.

**Programming languages** will be taught as an additional foreign language. **We will introduce modern, factual sex education. Textbooks as well as school meals will be free of charge** for all students. All children will have free access to dental check-ups.

The Finnish model should be seen as our role model of modern education. Instead of teaching historic dates, let's teach children to solve real-life problems.

Sławomir, 41, Leszno

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### **Innovative research – 2% of GDP**

Only through innovation will we build the Poland of the future. Currently we are one of the least innovative countries in the EU. At the same time Polish researchers achieve spectacular successes across the world. We need to utilise their potential. Higher education needs to be centred on **the quality of knowledge and applying it to the challenges of modern times, and not to abstract measurements and indexes**. We will withdraw from the impractical evaluation frameworks currently in use. Innovation comes from the cooperation between different disciplines and giving students and researchers space to develop their ideas. Universities will **cooperate with local authorities, social organisations and entrepreneurs**. Regional universities will become centres for new ideas and for building urban societies. Alongside every university should be a centre for cooperation between different sectors. We will dedicate **2% of our GDP to innovation**. Research results should not end up sitting on a bookshelf, but need instead to be successfully utilised.

Why do universities not cooperate with business efficiently? We should better utilise the potential of young researchers in practical applications, which will benefit all of us.

Marcin, 53, Ostrów Wielkopolski

### **Expert's opinion:**

Prof. Maciej Gdula - sociologist, expert in higher education

"Universities are for nurturing innovative scholars, and not for filling in tables with abstract markers"

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## **Free public transport and 10 million apartments in the EU**

The individual and their everyday problems are at the heart of the way we think about the EU. We will introduce **unified healthcare standards in the EU**. Every EU citizen will be able to use healthcare in every other EU country, on the same level as the country's citizens, without the need for issuing any extra cards or certificates. The European Union has shown that we are capable of solving infrastructural problems. One of these problems is access to affordable apartments. We will create a **European housing programme, which will support the building of 10 million apartments** across the EU, Poland included.

We will ensure every European under the age of **26 will be eligible to free public transport on land across the EU**. This will support development and getting to know the world, as well supporting environmental preservation.

Słupsk has received 170 mln zł of European funds – a record in the region. We have also increased the number of renovated and new apartments by 54%.

I am Polish but also a proud European citizen. Poland should support greater integration with Western countries.  
Maria, 60, Dąbrowa Górnicza

### **Expert's opinion:**

Dr. Krzysztof Gawkowski – lawyer, local councillor  
"We are the most pro-European force in Poland"

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## **2. One community of all of us**

Democracy is a community of all of us. Nobody should be left behind. As a community we are able to withstand the greatest problems. Solidarity is our strength!

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### **English language in every household**

Through knowledge of foreign languages we can better understand the world and find our place within it. **We will double the number of English language classes**. In every secondary school, technical school, and vocational school we will enable students to choose one subject taught entirely in English. After finishing school a child will have

proficiency in English at the same level as Polish. **English subtitles will be available for every TV program.** We will launch a TV station run entirely in English, broadcasted across the whole world.

Without a good command of English no one can find a job. I wish I didn't need to spend a large sum of money on extra English classes for my son. That should be the school's responsibility.  
Beata, 37, Czersk

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250 000 new nursery places

The state should prioritise the happiness of Polish families. Currently the state's approach is very one-dimensional. Only 11% of children have a guaranteed nursery place. The right to education and care does not begin in school, and that's why we will ensure all children in Poland nursery and pre-school places. **In cooperation with local councils and the private sector, we will create 250 thousand nursery places.**

We will expand the Rodzina 500+ programme. **We will get rid of restrictions regarding single mothers and fathers bringing up children.** We will also dedicate money for the first child according to the principle "one zloty for every zloty" – crossing the income threshold will not cause losing the benefit, instead it will merely decrease it. In Słupsk we created 350 new nursery and pre-school places.

In Poland you can only get a nursery place by paying over a thousand zloty monthly, otherwise you get none at all.  
Zofia, 34, Warsaw

I've worked for over 40 years for this country and now I want to be able to lead a respectable life.  
Teresa, 68, Bartoszyce

**Expert's opinion:**

Paulina Piechna-Więckiewicz – lawyer, local councillor  
"Guaranteeing nursery places has to be our civilisational goal"

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## **Minimum pension of 1600 zł.**

Older people deserve a happy life. Currently over half a million pensioners receive less than 1000 zł a month. We will guarantee a **minimum tax-free pension of 1600 zł** for every citizen. We will put an end to decades of injustice in income levels and unpaid housework. Through quickly starting to improve women's pensions we will introduce a mechanism of gradual equalising their pensions with those of men. **Free of charge care assistants** will provide all senior citizens with much-needed support.

In Słupsk, looking after the health of senior citizens, we have introduced an "envelope of life", telemedicine, and developed a system of affordable homes.

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We are talking here about technology, whilst children in my village get to school on a trailer on the back of a tractor.

Karol, 40, Myczkowce

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## **A bus in every community**

The state needs to ensure that people are free to travel. Currently, 14 million Poles do not have access to public transport. We will guarantee effective public transport for all. **We will ensure there is a bus connection in every local community.** We will develop a network of railway connections. People will be able to travel the whole journey using one ticket, regardless of the number of changes. We will synchronise train and bus timetables, in order to speed up journeys. We will put an end to several hour long waiting times for connections. Journeys on public transport will be free for children across Poland.

**Almost all government departments are concentrated in a handful of districts in Warsaw. We will move some of these departments and public institutions from Warsaw to other cities,** in particular to former voivodeship capitals and towns with more than 50 thousand residents.

In Słupsk we have built a fleet of buses. We have one of the most modern fleets in Poland.

## **Expert's opinion**

Grzegorz Pietruczuk - political scientist, local councillor, mayor of the district Warsaw-Bielany

"Our home address cannot decide our future"

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## Support for the carers of the disabled

Nobody should be left behind. It's time to undue the neglect of the current and past governments. **We will raise the basic benefits for people with disabilities by 500 zł** and we will introduce supplementary benefits according to individual needs. We will also provide **annual week-long respite for carers of the disabled people**, linked with rehabilitatory trips for their wards.

We will guarantee free-of-charge **support of assistants to ease the strain of daily activities**, including journeys to and from work and school.

In Słupsk, thanks to the cooperation with social councils, public transport and public spaces are completely adapted to the needs of people with disabilities.

The state needs to take executive decisions. It needs to help actively and have the means to do so.

Zbigniew, 58, Wałbrzych

### Expert's opinion:

Karolina Hamer – paralympian, expert in social policy

"Disability does not mean dependence. The state must finally start understanding that"

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## Equal rights for all

Everybody should be treated equally before the law. Right now that is not the case.

**We will introduce equal marriage for all.** Additionally we will allow the registration of civil partnerships of two people, which will enable them hospital visits and come with obligations such as mutual support.

**We will introduce one pension system for all**, regardless of former vocation. It will simplify procedures, bring savings for the government budget, and bring clarity and transparency to pension rules. Pension increases will be linked to the minimum wage. We will allow easier use of private pension funds. In the course of 10 years we will introduce a strong system built on three pillars: taxes, public funding, and private contributions.

I am dreaming of a country where I can be happy regardless of who I am and whom I love.  
Beata, 30, London

**Expert's opinion:**

Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka – lawyer, expert in civil and trade law  
"We can build a strong society only on the basis of equal rights for all"

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**1 billion zł for the national civic participation budget**

The government should make collective decisions together with citizens. **We will introduce a national participatory budget** – every citizen will have a say on the spending of the **1 billion zł** from the government budget. **We will lower taxes on the basis of participation in the elections** – everyone who votes will get a **refund of 100 zł on their income tax**. We will introduce the option of online voting in elections, local referenda and on participatory budgets.

Every new piece of legislation will be put to public consultation. We will put an end to the practice of surprising citizens with laws decided behind the closed doors and at the last moment.

Politicians always come here to take a picture during the election and then fall silent for another four years.  
Ewa, 48, Pabianice

Expert's opinion:

Karolina Michocka – expert in local government and culture  
"It's time for all citizens to be able to decide directly where their tax money will go"

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**3. A state I trust**

The state should be a support, not an obstacle to realising our full potential. That is why we will get rid of tedious procedures and barriers between citizens and state. We will create mechanisms for effective governance and control of public spending. We will guarantee a stable legal system.

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## **Alimony paid like taxes**

The state can no longer continue to discriminate against over half of the society. The wage gap between men and women in the same jobs can reach up to 700 zł per month. **We will guarantee equal wages for equal work, regardless of gender.**

**Alimony should be collected like taxes** – after a year of **overdue payment** they will be treated in the same way as tax arrears. The administration of payments will be the responsibility of the fiscal authorities.

The police will be given the right to isolate perpetrators of domestic violence from their victims immediately.

In Słupsk a Women's Council has been appointed to safeguard the activities of the local council as regards women's rights.

I wish courts worked better, so that I could receive my alimony.  
Ignacy, 9, Kalisz

## **Expert's opinion:**

Dr. Lilija Twardosz – lawyer, expert in family law

"When it comes to looking after children the state should not take the side of those in debt"

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## **Separate Church and state**

The state should finally get its relationship with the Church in order. The Catholic Church is the largest landowner in Poland after the Treasury. There is no reason why its finances should get special treatment. We will take **religion classes out of schools** and back to the Church and other religious congregations. The money saved will be dedicated to **education and healthcare.**

We will get rid of the Church Fund and include priests in the common pension system. We will tax clergy at the same levels as every other citizen. In order to do this, we will move towards renegotiation of the Concordat treaty.

I wish this country was not ruled by a priest. That Poland would be Poland and not  
"Rydzikoland".  
Tomasz, 57, Tarnowskie Góry

### **Expert's opinion:**

Dr Krzysztof Śmiszek – lawyer, expert in justice systems

"A secular state is the basis of democracy and the democratic rule of law"

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### **A Commission of Justice and Reconciliation**

The government must obey the Constitution. We will appoint a Commission of Justice and Reconciliation formed of experts from the Polish Academy of Science, senior judges and representatives of all political groupings in the Sejm. The Commission will undertake an objective and transparent audit of the state of the rule of law in Poland and will investigate the misuse of the law by public figures in the years 2015– 2019. After three months of initial work the Commission will prepare a report on two areas: the passing of laws and the establishment of personal responsibility. **We will bring the constitutional order back.** The people responsible for violating the Constitution will have to face the State Tribunal.

You need to put things in order, clarify everything, otherwise we can't move forward.

Michał, 37, Łomża

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### **Free internet and digital administration**

We want a state which values free time of its citizens. At the moment we waste weeks waiting for administrative decisions. We will eliminate unnecessary procedures, such as receiving criminal record checks or other documents which multiply existing information that can easily be accessed via government databases. **The remaining procedures will be digitised, so that it will be possible to complete them online.** Resolving everyday matters will not demand long journeys. For example if you want to renew your passport you will be able to resolve this home or at the nearest government office.

All other procedures will be delegated to the lowest level of local government – so that it would be possible to resolve matters as near as possible to your home or workplace. As a result, well-paid civil servants will be able to be involved with solving people's real problems, instead of simply stamping documents.

Documents **will not have to be stamped** – we will completely abolish this relic of the past. All case documents in courts will be able to be delivered in electronic form.

We will introduce **free access to internet across Poland**. Everyone will be able to get online everywhere in the country.

In Poland civil servants treat us like as applicants, not equal citizens. All of that is due to the procedures of previous decades.  
Olga, 51, Sieradz

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### **An effective state for the people, not for the party**

The state should not be seen as a cash cow for party members. Shady deals with political parties cannot be more important than competence. We have to **depoliticise state-owned companies**. Senior positions should go to competent people and not friends and family members. **Candidates for company board members** will take compulsory courses and sit exams before commissions free of politicians. There will be a competitive process for every position. In the case of the 30 most economically important state-owned companies an additional step in this process will be a hearing in a Sejm commission, broadcasted live over the internet. We will also introduce gender quotas on boards and supervisory councils.

Appointments to all positions in **administration and public sector will be publicised**. From the beginning of their career, every civil servant will have to know the criteria and conditions for career advancement. Special status will be given to the Director of the Commission for Financial Supervision, the President of the Commission for Energy Regulation and the President of the Board Commission for Competition and Consumer Protection. They will be appointed by the Sejm from among several candidates chosen through a competitive process.

It shouldn't be the case that instead of serving citizens, politicians make deals for their own benefit.  
Marian, 70, Koszalin

In Słupsk we introduced clear competition rules for positions in state-owned companies and carried them out in a transparent way. As a result, the chosen candidates have performed their tasks better.

### **Expert's opinion:**

Dr Marcin Anaszewicz - lawyer, expert in structural reform of the state

"It is not possible to maintain quality of governance without a non-partisan state and professional civil service"

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## **Free culture and media without censorship**

In Śląpsk we have acquired funds for the building of a new theatre and increased spending on culture by 48%. We have always ensured creative freedom.

Access to culture should not be dependent on place of residence. We will create a community centre in every neighbourhood – a place to spend free time and for the active development of children and young people as well as older people. These spaces will connect with and support libraries, cultural centres and community spaces. We will utilise existing local cultural centres, and where there isn't one yet, we will build one. We will enable free access to community centres for all functioning NGOs and activists and we will make them robust centres of local communities.

**The Silesian language will be recognised as a regional language**, it will be taught at school, and it will be possible to pass your matura examination in it, just like today in the case of Kashubian. Access to all cultural institutions – such as museums and art galleries – will be **free of charge on Sundays**.

Public media boards will be chosen through a competitive process by a commission, consisting not of politicians, but instead of journalists and other professions associated with the media. All spending on public media (including salaries) will be transparent and publicly accessible.

What is currently happening with public media, which is financed by our taxes, with their constant praise of the ruling party, is simply outrageous.

Ewa, 52, Włocławek

### **Expert's opinion:**

Łukasz Kohut - Silesian activist

"The Silesian language must be recognised as a regional language. Polish cultural diversity should be treasured.\*"

\*appears in Silesian in original version

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## **Digital transition for companies**

The state must support entrepreneurship. We will get rid of full excise checks on small entrepreneurs and replace it with an online tax verification system. We will give entrepreneurs a fixed period for adjustment to these new procedures. We will simplify the tax system whilst keeping current tax rates. Interpretation of the tax code will be unified for the whole country.

**Companies will be set up and taxed via the internet.** Everyone will save hundreds of hours of work they currently spend over tables and paperwork.

We will support new economic sectors around 3D printing, AI, fintech, innovative financial services and mobility. **There will be a startup incubator in every community** – complete with a common workspace, in which you will be able to set up your own firm and have access to technical and administrative support and other know-how.

We will introduce a programme for supporting innovation. **The state will take on half of the risk for innovative investments**, up to 3.5 billion zloty annually. This is the critical scale necessary to break down barriers to innovation.

In Słupsk we set up an initiative programme for startups called "Start Up in Słupsk"

I am a fair entrepreneur, and I want the state to support me and not just wait for my failure.

Tomasz, 36, Włocławek

### **Expert's opinion:**

Monika Gotlibowska – entrepreneur, social activist

"In the 21st century, companies need to have the possibility to complete their tax returns over the internet."

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### **How are we going to finance it?**

All of our proposals are planned based on a perspective of several years. These are investments in the development of all of us. They will translate not only into the improvement of living conditions for millions of Polish citizens, but will also benefit the state budget.

- separate Church and state: **3 billion zloty for the budget.**
- digitalisation of procedures: **4.5 billion zloty more into the economy, 1 billion for the budget**
- effective healthcare: **10 billion zloty more into the economy; 3.6 billion zloty in savings for the budget**
- increased VAT receipts thanks to new jobs and growth in household income: 5-7 billion zloty
- winning the war on smog: **up to 15 billion zloty more for the budget**
- disestablishment of redundant institutions (for instance the Institute of National Remembrance, Polska Fundacja Narodowa): **3 billion zloty for the budget**

- increased tax revenue thanks to greater participation in the labour market: **3 billion zloty for the budget**

During Robert Biedroń's mayorship in Słupsk, municipal debt fell by 20% – 50 million zloty. That is on average 60 thousand zloty daily. We achieved this thanks to responsible financial politics, together will bold social investments.

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### **Robert Biedroń**

- Leader of the political movement Spring
  - Mayor of Słupsk (2014–2018)
  - Member of Parliament during 7th session of the Sejm
  - Former Vice President of the Sejm's Committee for Justice and Human Rights and member of the Sejm's Foreign Affairs Committee
  - Member of the advisory group for gender equality, compulsory resettlements and defence at the United Nations
  - Former member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#) of the Council of Europe
  - Expert in human rights organisations in Poland and abroad
  - Founder of the Institute for Democratic Thinking
  - Former Director, owner of the publishing house AdPublik
  - Publicist
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