

**PRZEWODNICZĄCY  
KOMITETU  
NAUKOWEGO**

Zdzisław Jary  
Profesor

Warszawa  
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Dear Secretary General,

In accordance with the Statutes and Bylaws of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA), and with regard to the formal requirements of the bidding process, we hereby formally register the intention of the Polish scientific community to submit a bid to host the XXIII INQUA Congress in 2031.

It is with great pleasure that we inform you of an initiative undertaken by Polish researchers engaged in various aspects of Quaternary climate and environmental change studies. The proposed host city for the Congress is Warsaw, the capital of Poland, offering excellent conference infrastructure as well as rich historical and cultural heritage.

The principal inspiration for this initiative is the fact that 2031 will mark the 70th anniversary of the first INQUA Congress held in Poland — an event that proved highly successful, opening Polish science to the international community and providing a significant stimulus to global cooperation, being the first congress to take place behind the Iron Curtain.

In April 2025, during a meeting of the Quaternary Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, a Working Group was established to prepare the application to host the INQUA Congress in 2031. This group is composed of researchers from PAS institutes as well as numerous Polish universities. Its primary goal is to prepare an official bid to be presented at the XXII INQUA Congress in India, during which the venue of the XXIII Congress in 2031 will be selected.

The work carried out to date has resulted in several key arrangements necessary for the application, including:

1. **Venue:** Warsaw — Palace of Culture and Science, with an auditorium for 2,600 participants and several smaller halls accommodating 200–300 participants each.
2. **Proposed dates:** 17–23 July 2031 (the venue is reserved for 14–25 July, which will also allow for pre-congress workshops).
3. **Leading institution:** Polish Academy of Sciences — 12 PAS institutes have signed an official agreement on organising the Congress, in cooperation with most Polish universities and research institutions involved in Quaternary studies.
4. **Excursion proposals:** at least eight pre-congress and eight post-congress excursions lasting 4–7 days, most of them transnational, organized jointly with partners from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Ukraine (if the international situation allows).
5. **Mid-congress excursions:** 20 trips to choose from, scheduled for Sunday, 20 July 2031.

6. **Participation fee:** Based on offers received from companies specializing in large congresses, the basic registration fee is estimated not to exceed €750. The exact amount will be determined after discussions with potential sponsors, which we plan to initiate once the Congress has been awarded to Poland.

We are currently working on developing a detailed program of the Congress and preparing promotional materials concerning Poland, Warsaw and Polish Quaternary research.

Hosting the INQUA Congress in Poland would provide an excellent opportunity for a broad presentation of research issues related to the Quaternary. Poland offers unique sites documenting glacial and periglacial processes, as well as aeolian, fluvial, coastal, and mountain phenomena, together with high-resolution records of paleoclimate and paleoenvironmental changes, which may serve as important reference points in scientific debates. Poland's central location in Europe, combined with excellent transport accessibility, encourages participation by researchers from diverse academic and scientific institutions. It is also worth emphasizing Poland's well-developed international cooperation, particularly with neighboring countries, which further strengthens the integrative and scientific potential of the proposed venue.

We fully recognize the importance of this undertaking and regard it as a commitment—both to the legacy of those who organized the VI INQUA Congress in Poland in 1961 and to the younger generation of researchers addressing contemporary challenges related to climate change and environmental transformation.

Yours sincerely,

Chair of Quaternary Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences  
President of the Polish Quaternary Union POLQUA  
Prof. Zdzisław Jary

Chair of the Working Group of the Quaternary Research Committee PAS  
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