

**SEPTEMBER 3RD & 4TH
WARSAW 2026**



UNITED BY RIVERS

FLOW, FRICTION, FUTURE



Warsaw

10 years



**Warsaw Greenery
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**Warsaw
Tourism
Organization**

SEPTEMBER 3RD & 4TH
**UNITED BY RIVERS
CONFERENCE:
FLOW, FRICTION, FUTURE**
WARSAW 2026

4th September – International Session

Copernicus Science Centre
Wybrzeże Kościuszkowskie 20, 00-390 Warsaw

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|--------------------|---|
| 9:00–9:30 | Registration |
| 9:30–9:40 | Welcome address and opening of the conference (City of Warsaw) |
| 9:40–10:40 | Panel Discussion
Rivers as everyday urban spaces under pressure
How are cities transforming their rivers to respond to climate risks, social needs, and urban development pressures—while staying accountable to residents?
Magdalena Młochowska, Deputy Mayor, City of Warsaw
Māris Sprindžuks, Deputy Chairman, Riga City Council
Angela Tovar, Commissioner and Chief Sustainability Officer, Department of Environment, City of Chicago
Francesco Tresso, Deputy Mayor, City of Turin
Moderator: Dominika Tarczyńska, Journalist, Polsat New |
| 10:40–10:55 | Inspirational talk – one drop one story: Seoul
From Highway to Waterway – The Revival of Seoul’s Cheonggyecheon
Hyeonbeom Jo, Head of the Waterfront Policy Team, Seoul Metropolitan Government |
| 10:55–11:55 | Panel Discussion
Bringing Rivers Back to Life
Experiences in river restoration, renaturalisation and urban regeneration
Hanna Zdanowska, Mayor, City of Łódź
Bart Fokkens, International River Foundation/European Centre for River Restoration
Hyeonbeom Jo, Head of the Waterfront Policy Team, Seoul Metropolitan Government
Ellen Jennings, Environment Programme Manager for the London Waterways
Moderator: Karolina Medyk, Director, International Cooperation Department, City of Warsaw |
| 11:55–12:10 | Coffee Break |
| 12:10–12:25 | Inspirational talk – one drop one story: Warsaw
Vistula District – From Riverbank to Urban Oasis
Jan Plotowski, Plenipotentiary for the Vistula River, City of Warsaw |
| 12:25–12:40 | Signing Ceremony of the United by Rivers Declaration
Family photo |
| 12:40–12:55 | Inspirational talk – one drop one story: Chicago
Building Partnerships, Reviving a River – how collaboration transformed the Chicago River
John Quail, Director of Policy and Conservation, Friends of Chicago River |



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12:55- 13:40

Panel Discussion

Rivers in action: from strategy to implementation

What does it take to translate river management strategies into tangible results on the ground?

How are different local actors collaborating to overcome governance, coordination, financial, and institutional barriers?

Jānis Ruciņš, Expert in Urban Planning, City of Riga

John Quail, Director of Policy and Conservation, Friends of Chicago River

Claudia Singer-Smith, Priority Area Coordinator, EU Strategy for the Danube Region, Priority Area 10 „Institutional Capacity and Cooperation“

Moderator: Natalia Boltot, Coordinator of the United by Rivers Initiative and Team Leader, International Cooperation Department, City of Warsaw

13:40-13:55

Coffee Break

13:55-14:10

Inspirational talk – one drop one story: Paris

Paris' experience in preparing the city and the Seine for the Olympic Games

Anita Ravlic, Head of Communications, International Relations and the Paris Sewer Museum, Water and Sanitation Department, City of Paris

14:10-15:10

Panel Discussion

From Visitors to Residents: Rethinking Tourism on Urban Rivers

How can cities use rivers to attract visitors, support local economies and host major events, while protecting fragile ecosystems and keeping riverfronts accessible and liveable for residents?

Jacek Grunt-Mejer, Plenipotentiary for Revitalization, City of Warsaw

Mateusz Czerwiński, Chairman of the Board, Warsaw Tourism Organization

Jens Ihlen, Managing Director, Visit Düsseldorf

Anita Ravlic, Head of Communications, International Relations and the Paris Sewer Museum, Water and Sanitation Department, City of Paris

Moderator: Paulina Boguta-Miller, Team Leader, International Cooperation Department, City of Warsaw

15:10-15:20

Closing of the conference and conclusions



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