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Report on the National Academic Conference
“Etniczność. Mniejszości i ruchy etniczne we współczesnym
świecie” [“Ethnicity: Ethnic Minorities and Movements in the
Modern World”], Faculty of Political Science and Journalism,
Lublin, April 9–10, 2025

From 9 to 10 April 2025, the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (UMCS) hosted the national scientific conference “Etniczność. Mniejszości i ruchy etniczne we współczesnym świecie” [“Ethnicity: Ethnic Minorities and Movements in the Modern World”]. The aim of the conference was to present research findings and facilitate an interdisciplinary discussion. Topics to be addressed included an analysis of the concept, conditions and classification of ethnicity, the formal and legal dimensions of ethnicity, ethnic minorities and ethnic movements, ethnic politics and ethnic conflicts, the media image of ethnic minorities and movements, and examples of ethnic minorities and movements in the contemporary world. The organisers’ invitation was met with a high level of interest from researchers, with the event being attended by more than 50 scientists representing the most significant universities and research centres in Poland.

The conference was organised under the scientific supervision of Prof. Maria Marczevska-Rytko; the conference secretaries were Jakub Bijak, MA, and Dorota Maj, PhD. The ceremonial opening of the event and the welcoming of the assem-

bled participants were performed by: Prof. Dorota Kołodyńska – Vice-Rector for Students and Quality of Education (UMCS), Ewelina Podgajna, PhD, UMCS Professor – Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism (UMCS), Marcin Wichmanowski, PhD, UMCS Professor – Deputy Director of the Institute of Political Science and Administration (UMCS), and Prof. Maria Marczevska-Rytko – Head of the Department of Political Movements and Ethnic Studies (UMCS).

The conference plenary panel was opened by Wawrzyniec Konarski, PhD, AFiBV Professor, who delivered a paper entitled “Nieznosna lekkość etnokulturowości... wprowadzenie do tematyki” [“The Unbearable Lightness of Ethnoculturalism... An Introduction to the Topic”]. In his speech, he outlined the theoretical framework of the debate on ethnicity and drew attention to the complexity and multidimensionality of ethnocultural phenomena in the contemporary world. The floor was then taken by Tomasz Browarek, PhD, UMCS Professor, who presented a paper entitled “Współczesna prasa mniejszości narodowych i etnicznych w Polsce” [“Contemporary Press of National and Ethnic Minorities in Poland”]. In the course of his analysis of a selection of press titles, the role of these publications as instruments of communication, integration and the shaping of minority identities was discussed. The third speaker in the plenary session was Prof. Maria Marczevska-Rytko, who presented a paper entitled “Wymiar etniczny ruchów separatystycznych” [“The Ethnic Dimension of Separatist Movements”]. Her presentation focused on the links between ethnic identity and separatist aspirations, showing their social, political and cultural conditions.

The discussions then continued in eight thematic panels. The first panel, with six speakers, focused on the legal regulation of ethnic national minorities and the migration and education policies of minorities in Central and Eastern European countries. The second panel featured seven speeches on the media image of national and ethnic minorities, the role of artificial intelligence in shaping this image, and the relationship between political affiliation and stereotypes and attitudes towards national and ethnic minorities. The third panel comprised five speakers, whose presentations focused on the issue of national and ethnic minorities in Poland, with particular emphasis on the local dimension and the Polish community in the USA. The fourth panel involving seven speakers, focused on the issues faced by the Tatar, Kashubian and Ukrainian minorities in Poland. The participants in the fifth panel presented their research findings on various aspects of national and ethnic minorities. These included the protection of regional and minority languages and questions of autonomy and religiosity. The sixth panel, with seven speakers, focused on the issue of national and ethnic minorities in the following countries: Slovakia, Hungary, Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine. The seventh panel, comprising seven panellists, focused on national and ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Gagauzia, Ossetia and the Western Balkans. Meanwhile, participants in the eighth panel presented the issue of the German minority in Poland, as well as how national and ethnic minorities functioning in the United Arab Emirates, New

Zealand, and Greenland. There was a lively discussion during the panels, and the speakers unanimously emphasised the high quality of the presentations.

Cultural events were also an integral part of the conference. Conference participants had the opportunity to learn about the multicultural and multiethnic heritage of Lublin.