

33. ANNIVERSARY ECSinfo

SERPEN 80'

Visualisation – Paweł Czarzasty / ECS Archives



Visualisation – Paweł Czarzasty / ECS Archives

EDUCATION IS OUR PRIME objective



Basil Kerski, ECS director
– The European Solidarity Centre is a live and open institution engaging many young people. To me, working with the young is our prime task. After all, democracy is not yet an obvious system, and this translates to the unceasing need to care for civic education. We would like the new ECS building to become an agora, the meeting place where at least a hint of that critical moment in the August strike when the workers did not leave for home lingers around.

Basil Kerski
Phot. Grzegorz Mehring / ECS Archives

Visualisation
Paweł Czarzasty / ECS Archives

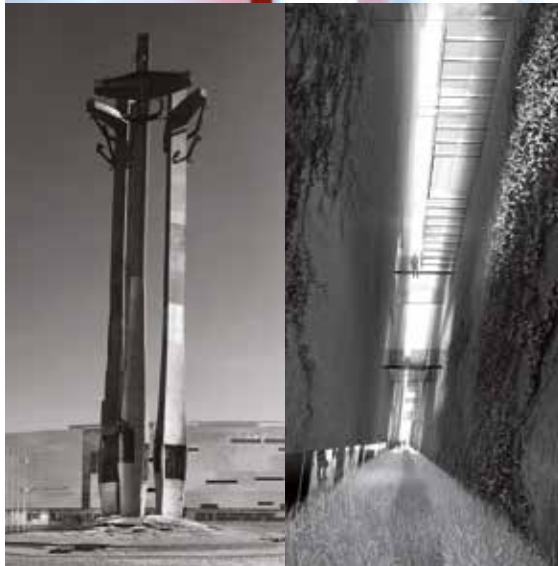
THE BUILDING is PEOPLE



Visualisation / PPW FORT sp. z o.o.
made available by the Municipality of Gdańsk



Visualisation – Paweł Czarzasty / ECS Archives



The permanent exhibition

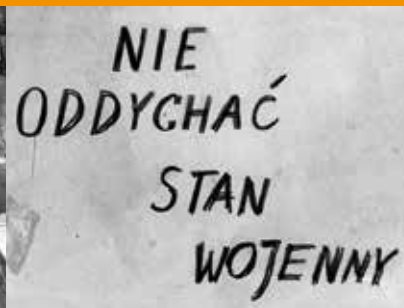
dedicated to the history of the Solidarity movement and the changes it catalysed in Central and Eastern Europe – will be the heart of the new ECS building now growing at the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers.

The new premises will also host conferences, debates, theatrical performances, film shows, and temporary expositions. We will have a creative workshop unit to pursue projects for children, teenagers, and everyone else. We will have a centre of academic research.

Organisations working *pro publico bono* and the actions they pursue will also be welcome here. Our book collection and the photographic, film, and audio archives will be available to every resident of Gdańsk, researcher, and visitor. The place will combine the functions of a city agora, museum, centre of creative work, and centre of culture, all in one. The ceremonious opening of our ECS premises is planned in 2014.

To read about the building works on the new ECS seat, go to p. 2

Visualisation / PPW FORT sp. z o.o.
made available by the Municipality of Gdańsk



WE DIG INTO PRIVATE ARCHIVES

We have already dug out e.g. the door of the yard hospital shot through in December '70; the gantry crane operated by Anna Walentynowicz; the offset matrices of the legendary 'Solidarity' Strike News Bulletin; the sweater Lech Wałęsa wore when signing the August Agreements; the battery-electric truck used as a podium during the strike; two militia Star trucks; and post ink-stamps from the internment times.



Paweł Golak, historian and archivist, Head of the Department of Museum and Archives and the ECS Library
 – We want to build a possibly most complete collection of materials documenting the history and the heritage of Solidarity. Obviously, artefacts from the Gdańsk region are easiest to obtain. Nevertheless, we manage to reach people from the rest of Poland and from abroad. We are interested in any objects representing the Solidarity heritage: memorabilia and documents, letters and leaflets, posters, books and magazines, photographs, memories of the witnesses of those days, film and audio recordings, official documents, commemorative stamps, seals... Home basements can offer true gems.

Paweł Golak
 Phot. Robert Kwiatek / ECS Archives

More about our collection on p. 4–5

THE SEARCH FOR MEMMORABILIA IS ON

Anyone who has tokens of the Solidarity times is welcome at ECS
 Contact: tel. +48 58 768 23 31 and e-mail: pamiatki@ecs.gda.pl

How come there was water in the trench; when does steel come alive; and where can you find the most beautiful nook in the new building? – these are the questions we asked Renata Wiśniowska of the ECS project office at Gdańskie Inwestycje Komunalne who keeps an eye on the works so that the building is consistent with the design and supervises any changes. It is already her second large project after the PGE Arena stadium in Gdańsk.

EXQUISITE VIEWS



Renata Wiśniowska
 Phot. Grzegorz Mehring / ECS Archives

You are working on a sizable structure, so I guess you face many problems?

– I do not complain. I like coming to the site. We start at 7 am, and this is a good beginning to a new day.

What thoughts come to your mind when you hear people say it is a 'concrete bunker'?

– It hurts to hear such opinions, the more so that I know they are unjust. I remember how surprised our guests were on the Open Day last year when they came inside. The interior strikes and takes you aback: it is spacious and all soaked in light. I personally like

the building too. It is inspiring, stands out above the common, is highly sculptural, and has an idea behind it.

Once we started lining the walls with steel sheets, the 'bunker' opinion changed to 'rust-eaten'. The building does look totally different now.

– Corten, the steel we are cladding the building in, is a fashionable material at the moment. However, to have it virtually everywhere around you, except for the glazing, and at such a scale is unique. The steel injects life into the building, its colour changing from full sun to rain, or dusk... It is a highly

interesting feature. I like that rusty tint.

What surprised you on the project?

– At the very onset we found that the 6 m deep foundation trench was unexpectedly filling up with water. It was unexpected considering that the investment had been well prepared at the design stage, and land surveys conducted beforehand. We were not prepared for any such developments. It turned out that the water was seeping in from where we had drilled probes 90m into the ground. We had to lower the water pressure effectively, and that required some thinking.

You are building 100% to the design; are there any deviations from it?

– Changes are unavoidable. Some stem e.g. from the swift technological progress in IT installations. We have also asked an independent expert to assess the design of the heating system. The expert said that the design was devised properly, however the boiler room would work better, if we had four pumps installed instead of three, as they could then work in the cascade mode. The modification has been incorporated.

Do you have your favourite spot in the new ECS building?

– The spot I favour strongly is the platform of the viewing terrace to-be, 30 metres above the ground. Access to it will be from a panoramic lift. Up there, you get a stunning view of the post-shipyard area, the clusters of the Main and Old Cities, and if the air is clear, you can even catch a glimpse of the stadium.

And when your mission is over?

– I will certainly be happy to see the

building open wide to the people of Gdańsk. It is built with them in mind. I am deeply confident that whoever sets his foot in here will be bound to like it. What gives me a sense of satisfaction is that I can have my own share in its construction.

THE PROJECT IN FIGURES

- ▶ **1 hectare**
the area excavated for the foundations
- ▶ **6 metres**
the foundation depth
- ▶ **95 TH tonnes**
the soil removed from the site
- ▶ **50 TH m³**
of concrete
- ▶ **25 349.75 m²**
the building footprint
- ▶ **5 floors**
- ▶ **286**
cars is what the basement car park can accommodate
- ▶ **18 TH m²**
of the Corten steel for the facades
- ▶ **14 TH m²**
of the Corten steel for indoor linings
- ▶ **1700 m²**
of skylights

– We can remember the pangs of uneasiness in our hearts when we saw other major events grow into the icon of changes in Europe. We want our Polish Solidarity to be the token of changes to the better and of the downturn of the totalitarian system. Our pride should be promoted from here, from Gdańsk – said President Bronisław Komorowski at the celebration of building in the cornerstone on the ECS construction site. – The idea of solidarity should continue and be consolidated irrespective of any Polish disputes, affinities, or antipathies.

OUR PRIDE



President Bronisław Komorowski at the ceremonious laying of the cornerstone
Phot. Łukasz Unterschuetz / ECS Archives



Topping out the ECS building
Phot. Krzysztof Mystkowski / KFP / ECS Archives

The site of the new ECS premises under construction lies north of Solidarity Square, next to the monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers, the historic Gate No. 2 to the Gdańsk Shipyard, and the BHP Hall where, on 31 August 1980, the Inter-Factory Strike Committee signed an accord with the

took place on 31 August 2005, in Solidarity Square, in between the historic Gate No. 2 where the shipbuilders displayed the strike postulates on wooden boards in August 1980, and the site of the future ECS edifice. '[...] May this live monument – symbol of the victorious and peaceful Solidarity revolution – stand to become the

The Competition Jury chose the proposal put forward by the Gdańsk architects of the Fort Studio as the best.

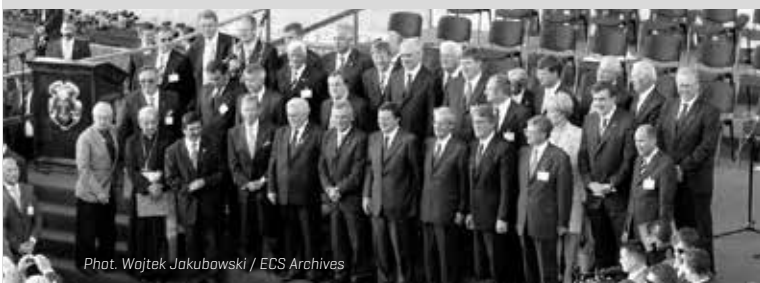
On 14 May 2011 the cornerstone of the future ECS building was laid. President Bronisław Komorowski spread the first trowel-full of cement.

The usable floor area of the new ECS edifice adds up to nearly 26 TH square metres. The permanent exhibition dedicated to the phenomenon of Solidarity and the transformations it triggered in Central and Eastern Europe will form the heart of the building. The exhibition will spread over the area of almost 3 TH sq.m. of the first and second floors. It will combine the traditional display methods with state-of-the-art technological solutions. The visitors will be shown the authentic exhibits and at the same time given access to 3D projections and electronic displays of photographs, archive films, documents, maps, biography abstracts, calendars,

press releases...

The space will be friendly to the disabled. For instance, it is planned to have Braille captions and audio commentaries.

The project is valued at PLN 229.115 MM gross, out of which the European Union is co-financing PLN 107.043 MM gross [Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment – Priority Axis XI: 'Culture and Cultural Heritage', Action 11.2 'Development and Improvement of cultural infrastructure of over-regional importance'].

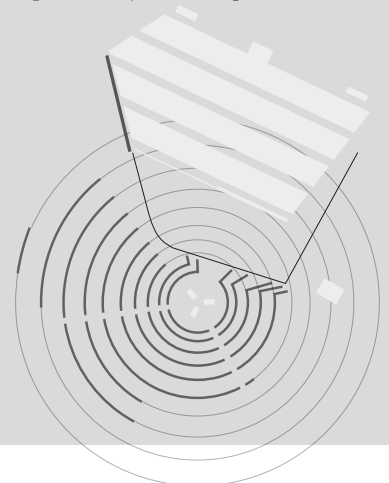


Phot. Wojtek Jakubowski / ECS Archives

communist Polish government. The intention behind the concept developed by the authors of the architectural design of the ECS building was to have the monument, the gate, and the BHP Hall physically incorporated in the ECS museum exhibition.

The ceremonious signing of the Deed of the ECS Foundation

world centre of promoting the idea of freedom, democracy, and solidarity' – the 29 signatories, including 22 prime ministers and presidents of those days proclaimed in unison. The international architectural contest for the ECS building was entered in by 58 architectural studios from all over the world.



261 candidates stood to the Sejm and Senate elections of 4 June 1989 under the banner of Solidarity. Most promoted themselves standing arm in arm with Lech Wałęsa on their advertising banners. The ECS Archives have the largest Polish collection of the ‘Lech team’ posters – we only miss three! The search for them was a major project. We received a supportive response from over 100 cultural institutions and about 100 private collectors, including more than 50 Solidarity candidates of those days.

THE LECH TEAM



The ‘Lech team’ lays wreaths at the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers. In the background: Lech Kaczyński and Bogdan Lis – the candidate senators from the Gdańsk Voivodship who did not have photos taken with Wałęsa, Gdańsk, 29 April 1989
Phot. Igor Witowicz / ECS Collection

‘A photo with Wałęsa’ turned into an icon of the June elections. The idea of producing a series of election posters where the candidates to the Sejm and Senate would be supported by none else but Lech Wałęsa, authority and legendary leader of the democratic opposition, came from Andrzej Wajda and Bronisław Geremek. The stakes were high. 35 per cent seats in the so-called contractual Sejm were reserved for the Solidarity candidates. As for the Senate, 100 per cent mandates could be won.

Two photographic sessions

It is not true that the June election posters were photo-mounted. In the aura of exceptional mobilisation there were two major photographic sessions plus several individual ones arranged. The first was conducted in the BHP Hall of the Lenin Gdańsk Shipyard in Gdańsk late in April 1989. The other was held two weeks later, in the conference room at 5/7 Wierzbowa Street in Warsaw, hired from the Indo Polish Friendship Association. A vast majority of the portrait shots were taken by Erazm Ciołek [who donated the record-setting number of 169 posters to the ECS] and Jarosław M. Goliszewski, assisted by Jerzy Kośnik and Maciej Laprus. Over the years, the posters of the ‘Lech team’ have spurred various myths. Out of the two coming to the fore, one says that only one candidate did not

take a photo with Wałęsa, and in effect lost the elections. The other says that all Solidarity candidates had their photos taken with Wałęsa. These myths were confronted by Adam Cherek, a historian working at the Permanent Exhibition Department, ECS, during his research.

Who was, and who was not there

It is not true that the only candidate who lost the elections was the one that did not have a photo taken with Lech Wałęsa. – *The only oppositionist candidate who lost on 4 June 1989 was Piotr Baumgart, candidate senator of the Piła Voivodship – Adam Cherek reports. – His poster was produced during the Gdańsk session and we have it in the ECS collection. In the course of inquiries, our team has managed to identify the names of an odd dozen Solidarity candidates who won their local elections without a photo with Wałęsa.*

The group outside the photo-pool includes surprisingly many persons, and Witowicz from Rzeszów proves it evidently. Witowicz did not pose for the still. One poster of the ‘Lech team’ gained high popularity – the one of the future prime minister, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki.

The devil is in the details

When the posters were processed for printing the names and the photos got mixed up on several occasions.

Adela Dankowska, candidate MP from the Leszno district and a plane and glider pilot, was shown as herself and as Maria Stolzman from the Pińczów district, candidate MP and doctor of agricultural sciences. Stanisław Hoffman, candidate senator from the Leszno Voivodship, a gynaecologist and obstetrician, had his Wałęsa photo taken twice – in Gdańsk and Warsaw. This triggered an avalanche of mix-ups. His non-scheduled photo was mistaken for Eugeniusz Wilkowski from the Chełm Voivodship, the youngest candidate to the Senate [aged 34] who could not take part in the photographic session because of illness. Faced with the error the activists of the Chełm Voivodship would cut off the top section of the poster featuring the photo of Hoffman mistaken for Wilkowski so that all was left of it was the section with his name and Wałęsa’s support caption. On the other hand, Janusz Woźnica, candidate senator from the Zamość area, was the only member of the ‘Wałęsa team’ who had his Wałęsa poster produced... against his will. He did not arrive at the Gdańsk session. Years later, he explained he had feared Solidarity would share the fate of the pre-war PSL party pacified by the communists and of its chairman, Stanisław Mikołajczyk, who fled Poland under cover. Nevertheless, the Solidary activists from the Zamość area produced a collage where Woźnica and Wałęsa, their photos taken from the membership cards, look like Siamese twins joined by their arms.

THE SEARCH IS ON

There are three posters missing from the otherwise complete set of the ‘Lech team’ collection:

- **Adam Mitura** | MP candidate from Skarżysko-Kamienna
- **Bogusław Pałka** MP candidate from Szczecinek
- **Stanisław Strózik** MP candidate from Sieradz

Do you happen to have those posters in your collection?
Contact: a.cherek@ecs.gda.pl



GŁOSUJ NA
STANISŁAWA HOFFMANA
KANDYDATA DO SENATU



GŁOSUJ NA
EUGENIUSZA WILKOWSKIEGO
KANDYDATA DO SENATU

▲▲Poster of Stanisław Hoffmann, candidate senator, 1989, ECS Collection / donated by Erazm Ciołek
▲Wrong caption; actually it is Stanisław Hoffman next to Lech Wałęsa, 1989, ECS Collection / donated by Erazm Ciołek



Poster of Adela Dankowska, candidate MP, 1989 / ECS collection / donated by Erazm Ciołek



Wrong caption; actually it is Adela Danowska next to Lech Wałęsa, 1989 / collection of the Witold Gombrowicz Public Library of the Kielce Voivodship



Poster of Janusz Woźnica, candidate MP, 1989 / ECS collection / donated by the Zamość Museum



Poster of Jarosław Kaczyński, candidate senator, 1989 / collection of Andrzej Sudejko

EXHIBITION: ROADSTO FREEDOM

The 'Roads to Freedom' exhibition has but a few months' life left. It will be closed in 2014 so that the exhibits can be moved to the permanent exhibition in the new ECS building.

The exhibition entitled 'Roads to Freedom' has the history of 13 years now. For the first 6 years it was on display at the historic BHP Hall. Later, it was moved to the basement of the NSZZ 'Solidarity' building for technical reasons.

The 'Roads to Freedom' Exhibition
24 Wąly Piastowskie Street, Gdańsk
Open:
1 May – 30 September | Tuesdays – Sundays, 10am – 6pm
1 October – 31 March | Tuesdays – Sundays, 10am – 5pm

Danuta Kobzdej, president of the Solidarity Centre Foundation and godmother of the exhibition, finds the shot-through leather jacket of Ludwik Piernicki, a victim of the December 1970 events, the most precious exhibit. To her, the jacket carries a strong statement making one feel what the communist system was like.

– It was thoroughly moving to visit the boy's mother in Kashubia. We had had a brief talk, exchanged a few words about her health,

when she went up to a wardrobe, took out the jacket, and handed it over to us speechless. That moment and the exhibit itself remain deeply rooted in my memory. In reply to our invitations to Gdańsk, the mother said she was grateful but would never visit the exhibition.

Over the last four years the 'Roads to Freedom' exhibition had 225 thousand visitors from all over the world.



Phot. Łukasz Unterschuetz / ECS Archives

MEDAL OF GRATITUDE

We owe a Medal of Gratitude to all those who supported Poland in its struggle for freedom and democracy. The ECS established the distinction on Solidarity's 30. anniversary. To date, more than 500 people from all over the world have been honoured with the Medal. Some would smuggle in printing machines and radio transmitters for the underground Solidarity, others would organise transports of medicaments and food, still others would take care of the families of the interned oppositionists or demonstrate in defence of the civic liberties violated in Poland. We have a proposal form placed on the ECS website. It is there for anyone who wishes to tell us the story of a man the Poles owe gratitude to.

The Chapter of the Medal of Gratitude considers each proposal against its own merits. The most recent major Medal presentation ceremony was held at the Polish embassy in Berlin on 28 June 2013. The distinguished persons included professors from Berlin and other Germans who arranged charitable aid for the opposition in Poland throughout the nineteen-eighties.



Phot. Robert Kwiatek / ECS collection

MEDAL OF GRATITUDE

Information, and the Medal of Gratitude proposal form: www.ecs.gda.pl/medal
We are awaiting your proposals at: medal@ecs.gda.pl

CHARKIN'S NOTEBOOK

Journalists would arrive at the Lenin Gdańsk Shipyard from all over Poland. What they saw on site was utterly different from the picture imprinted on the Poles by

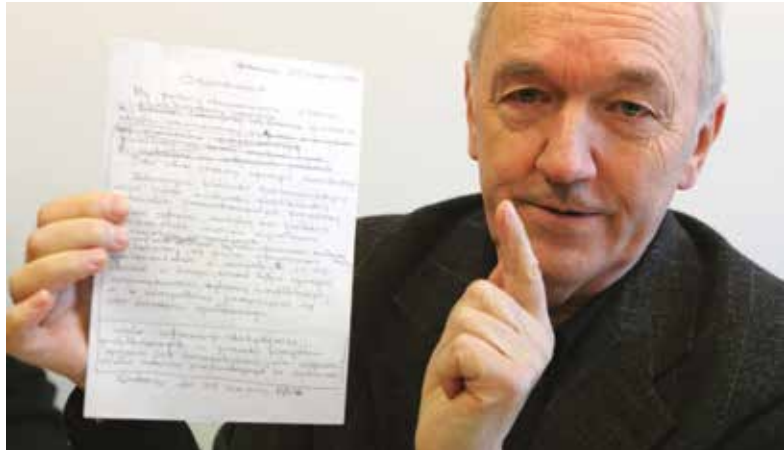
the state-controlled media. Therefore, they resolved to testify to the truth. 'We, the Polish journalists present in the Gdańsk Coast area during the strike, make this

statement...'. On 27 August the 'Solidarity Strike News Bulletin' published a note from 36 journalists protesting against the deliberate public disinformation campaign, the biased commentaries of the central press, the hindrances mounted to prevent objective reports on the situation in the Coast area, and against thwarting honest performance of the journalist's duty to the society.

For 33 years, several sheets torn out of a notebook, where the journalists took their notes and placed their first signatures, plus two notebook sheets with the final text appended with the signatures

were kept safe by Wojciech Charkin, a journalist from the Gdańsk branch of the 'Politechnik' national student weekly in those days and co-editor of the statement. He was also the one who collected the signatures and typed the clean copy stored in duplicate on A4 sheets. Charkin's notebook joined the ECS archives in the spring of 2013.

– I was waiting for an initiative like the European Solidarity Centre. It should have been established long ago. The notebook was waiting with me – said Wojciech Charkin when donating the precious piece of memorabilia. – I have always believed a private library shelf or desk drawer is not where it belongs. The document will be displayed at the permanent exhibition in the new ECS building.



Wojciech Charkin and the archive notebook
Phot. Grzegorz Mehring / ECS Archives

Active in various fields

Those whom we reach in various ways extending invitations to take up joint actions are the contemporary heirs of the solidarity idea. The European Solidarity Centre has operated for more than five years. We already have a record of many successful projects. The new building will enable us to enrich and diversify our offer.



78

concerts
and film
shows

1.

in history national
sociological research
to find out what the
Polish think about
Solidarity

18

documentary
films produced

46

books
published

30

open
lectures

22

temporary
exhibitions

632

youth projects

800

film-recorded
testimonies of the
oppressionists

199

conferences
organised

16 200

publications
in the library
collection

225 000

visitors to the
'Roads to Freedom'
exhibition

98 000

archived
leaflets, posters,
documents

41 500

archived
photographs

Who is the ECS intended for?

The heroes

of the Polish road to freedom, since their testimony is invaluable for the young Poles already born in the free country, and other nations still struggling for freedom in the most remote pockets of this world

Academicians

and artists, since without their research, analyses, and creative activity one cannot save the idea or the phenomenon of the Polish revolution won without a drop of blood shed

The children,

so that they know who the Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers commemorates, why shoes were available on tokens, what the August Agreements were, and why WRONa failed to subdue the eagle [WRON = Military Board for National Salvation; WRONa = the crow; eagle = Polish national emblem]

The journalists

digging for the truth; here, they will find testimonies given by the people of the times of opposition, backed by documents, writs, letters, posters, personal memorabilia, books, magazines, photographs, memories of the witnesses of those days, films, and audio recordings...

Those yearning for culture

since theatre, music, and visual arts are perfect carriers conveying both the human longing for solidarity, and the fears instilled by any form of captivity

Us all, since we believe, as John Paul II would say, that freedom is not given to us once and for all; therefore we need to stay engaged in dialogue and repeatedly redefine the virtues fundamental for the civic society: justice, common good, responsibility, truth...

The young,

so that they do not perceive the Polish road to freedom as no more but a piece of dead history one reads about in the school coursebook

The teachers,

whom we invite to join in common projects believing that one can discuss the recent Polish history and the civic virtues in a passionate manner

Students,

whom we inspire and support so that each year we can see ever new master and doctoral theses dedicated to the Polish road to freedom

Non-governmental organisations

whom we want to serve sharing our space so that they can develop their lines of activity and offer them our topical and logistic support

Oppositionists

from the countries still fighting for freedom, since Solidarity continues to inspire: 'We studied revolution on the example of your Solidarity' – said Mohamed El Dahshan, economist and political scientist from Egypt who visited Gdańsk last year accompanied by 17 leaders of the democratic opposition from Tunisia and Egypt

Tourists

visiting Poland so that memory of Solidarity stays alive and its ideals continue to be the common good of the human race

The ECS purpose defined in its statute:

- to commemorate, cherish, and promote the heritage and message of the Solidarity idea and the anti-communist democratic opposition in Poland and the world
- to inspire new initiatives of cultural, civic, unionist, self-governmental character, national, European, and universal in nature
- to share the output of peaceful fight for freedom, justice, democracy, and human rights with those deprived of them
- to participate actively in the building of the European identity and the new international order

SELECTED CAPTIONS FROM THE ECS CALENDAR for 2013

January – May October – December

| Gdańsk

Public lectures by intellectualists and researchers

► Gdańsk Solidarity Lectures

| 4. edition

January – June September – December

| Gdańsk

National project in history for junior and senior high schools in Poland

► The Green School of Freedom

| 1. edition

National educational project for junior and senior high schools in Poland

► Solidary School

| 1. edition

February – June

| Gdańsk

Youth project

► 'The Solidary Young. Revolutions and Choices'

| 3. edition

April – June

| Gdańsk

► All About Freedom Festival – visiting event

| 1. edition

April – October

| whole country

► Competition for the best research work on the history and idea of Solidarity

| 3. edition

June

| Gdańsk

Finals of the high school student project

► 'Democracy – add to favourites!'

| 1. edition

July

| Gdańsk

Workshops for kids and teenagers

► 'Summer at the shipyard'



| 2. edition

August

| Gdańsk

August '80 community celebrations in the districts



| 3. edition

August – September

| Gdańsk

► Festival Solidarity of Arts



| 5. edition

August – October

| Gdańsk

► Open air exhibition dedicated to the strikes of August 1988: 'On the eve of the huge change'

30 August

| Gdańsk

Lecture

► The Solidarity Ethics. Reflections on the anniversary of signing the August Agreements

| 2. edition

ECS

Europejskie Centrum Solidarności

September

| Pomerania

Youth project

► 'Youth Forum'

| 6. edition

September

| Gdańsk / Warsaw

Premiere show of the film:

► 'Wałęsa. The Man of Hope'

Dir. Andrzej Wajda

October

| Berlin

Second symposium of the European institutions focused on the history of the 20. century

► European Remembrance

October

| Gdańsk



| 7. edition

November

| Wrocław

Festival

► 'XX Century Anamneses'

| 2. edition

November

| Gdańsk

Conference of the 'New Eastern Europe' quarterly

► 'Europe with future perspectives'

