

# SMOGATHON

## Poland aiming to be a global leader in fighting smog.

*Cracow 19th July 2017. 100 thousand dollars and semifinals in five cities worldwide – China, India, UK, USA, and Poland. The call for applications for the third edition of Smogathon is now open.*

Smogathon is a competition where specialists choose the best innovative anti-smog solutions. In the previous two editions, moss panels which consume pollution and special air quality sensors were rewarded. However, neither of the previous editions were as international, as this year's. *We are no more declaring a local fight, we are declaring a global war against smog due to which 7 million people yearly die prematurely, says Maciej Ryś, the creator of Smogathon.*

### Worldwide semi-finals

Since 15<sup>th</sup> June teams from all the world can sign up for one of the five semifinals. They will take place in October in Berkeley, CA (the USA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct), London (the UK, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct), Warsaw (Poland, 9<sup>th</sup> Oct), Bangalore (India, 16<sup>th</sup> Oct) and Hong Kong (China, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct). Free sign-up can be made on the website [www.smogathon.com/apply](http://www.smogathon.com/apply) until 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017. To each semifinal, 10 to 12 teams will qualify. They will have 5 minutes to present their solutions which will be assessed by an international jury. They will judge among other, the implementation feasibility, innovativeness and impact of decreasing the air pollution. *We invited experts from the world of science and technology who are most important to our initiative, as well as businesses, administration and NGO representatives, and investors, says Kamila Knap, Smogathon's co-organizer.*



Smogathon founders: Maciej Ryś, Anna Ryś, Maciej Ujejski, Kamila Knap.

From every international semifinal two best teams will be chosen. The organizers will cover their transportation costs for the Smogathon final in Kraków. Additionally, two online application projects will be directly qualified to the final. *It is an opportunity, for those, who despite organizing five attractive semifinal locations, cannot make it to the venue. We wouldn't want the requirement of taking part in the semi-finals to become a barrier. We are aiming to collect the best ideas from all the world and to enable presenting them in front of a broad audience during the final, says Ryś.*

### Cracow – the capital of fighting against smog?

The final of Smogathon will take place on **25-26 November** in Kraków. The winners will be announced the day after. *We chose this city not because "this is where it all began," says Maciej Ryś who organized the first Smogathon edition in 2015 resulting in Airly, the network of cheap air quality sensors created during that hackathon, is used today in all Poland and in Kraków itself (more than 100 sensors). The capital of Małopolska is taking serious actions aiming to eliminate the problem of smog. There are high chances that with 5 to 10 years Polish cities will be looking at Kraków as an example of a successful fight for clean air.*

*Smogathon will have its part in promoting Cracow as a regional capital fighting with smog. Starting from the reward quotas, says Ryś. **The winning team receives 100 thousand dollars, whereas 75% will be dedicated to implementing the solution in Cracow.*** The partners of Smogathon, among others, are the European Commission Representation in Poland, Małopolska region and the City of Kraków. The Google Campus in London and Warsaw support Smogathon, the Berkeley Energy Association and

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Resources Collaborative working with the University of California at Berkeley, as well as the recognized Indian University, the International Institute of Information Technology.

Smogathon's final gala on **27<sup>th</sup> November 2017** will be topped with the **Global Clean Air Summit** taking place during the same day. The [Conference on clean air](#) will take place in **ICE Kraków Congress Center**, which is organized by the Polish Smog Alarms the Marshall's Office of Małopolska Region and Smogathon.

Promo video: <https://youtu.be/t0TjBqss2R8>



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**Below:** INFOGRAPHIC about Smogathon 2017 (the structure)

