

Position of the Future Finance Poland Foundation regarding the Draft Development Strategy of the Capital City of Warsaw up to 2040 (Strategy #Warszawa2040+)

On behalf of the **Future Finance Poland Foundation**, as well as the community of institutions, experts, and enterprises from the financial market gathered around our initiative, we hereby present our position on the draft **Development Strategy of the Capital City of Warsaw up to 2040 (Strategy #Warszawa2040+)**.

We express our appreciation for the comprehensive nature of the document and for the ambitions articulated in the vision of Warsaw as an “Open Metropolis.” We particularly value the emphasis placed in the draft strategy on innovation, attracting talent and investors, urban resilience, and the development of metropolitan functions. At the same time, we identify a significant strategic gap in the area of entrepreneurship and economic development—specifically, the absence of a clear and explicit approach to the development of Warsaw as an **international financial centre**, which, in the 2040+ perspective, should become one of the key pillars of competitiveness not only for Warsaw, but also for Poland as a whole.

In light of the above, we recommend supplementing the Strategy with specific actions that will ensure the achievement of objectives related to economic and metropolitan competitiveness. In particular, within **Strategic Objective 4 “Creative Environment” (Directions 4.3 and 4.4), Objective 3 (“Functional Space”), and Objective 5 (“Resilient City”)**, we propose the following:

- 1. Explicit identification of the development of an international financial centre as one of the pillars of Warsaw’s competitiveness and metropolitan functions:**
 - Within Direction 4.4 (“Attracting Investors”), the sector of modern financial services and FinTech should be explicitly identified as priority industries.
- 2. Strengthening the competitiveness of the talent market and international administrative services:**
 - Inclusion of the financial sector in talent attraction policies, including technological, analytical, and regulatory specialists.
 - Within the activities under Direction 5.1 (“Developing an efficient administration”), we propose adding a commitment to provide full administrative services in English (English-first approach) for entrepreneurs and key specialists (Blue Card holders).



- Creation of a dedicated “Fast Track” pathway (at the municipal level, within available competencies) for specialists from strategic sectors (IT, Finance) in the area of legalisation procedures.
- 3. **Active investment promotion of Warsaw as a regional financial and technological hub**, implemented in cooperation with market stakeholders.
- 4. **Establishment of a municipal public–private cooperation platform** dedicated to the development of the financial and FinTech sectors, performing a coordinating and advisory role for the city.
- 5. **Development of a modern congress and exhibition complex** supporting the growth of the business tourism (MICE) sector, enabling Warsaw to host global conferences and congresses such as Money 20/20, Web Summit, or Sibos.
- 6. **Inclusion of financial innovation and green finance** as tools supporting the city’s climate, infrastructure, and social transformation.

We believe that incorporating the above recommendations will strengthen the coherence of Strategy #Warszawa2040+ and allow for a more complete realization of the vision of Warsaw as a modern, open, and competitive European metropolis.

Furthermore, the **Future Finance Poland Foundation** declares its readiness to cooperate with the Capital City of Warsaw during the further stages of implementing Strategy #Warszawa2040+, particularly in the areas of operationalising economic objectives, international promotion of the city, and coordination of public–private activities.

In our assessment, leveraging the existing cooperation infrastructure will enable the city to effectively and coherently strengthen Warsaw’s metropolitan functions, with clear benefits for its residents.

A detailed justification of the presented recommendations, together with an analysis of international benchmarks, is included in the annex to this position paper.

Annex No. 1 to the Position of Future Finance Poland

1. International Financial Centre as an Element of Warsaw's Metropolitan Identity

Global experience clearly demonstrates that leading 21st-century metropolises base their development on advanced financial services, technology, human capital, and the ability to integrate international markets. The financial sector—encompassing banking, capital markets, insurance, investment funds, FinTech, and green finance—today serves as growth infrastructure for the entire economy and is not limited solely to the financial market in its narrow sense.

The development of a financial centre does not imply “glass skyscrapers” isolated from the city—on the contrary, it acts as a catalyst for improving residents’ quality of life and strengthening competitiveness.

An international financial centre is an ecosystem located in the capital city, consisting of financial institutions, market infrastructure, professional services, competencies, and stable regulatory and legal frameworks. It functions as strategic development infrastructure for both the city and the state. Its role is to mobilise, allocate, and scale capital, as well as to manage risk in a safe and credible manner—both for domestic economic needs and in a cross-border context.

In this understanding, an international financial centre serves as a driver of metropolitan development because it:

1. Generates high value-added jobs and strengthens productivity and economic specialisation of the city.
2. Attracts and retains global talent (including expert and technological professionals), increasing Warsaw’s competitiveness at the European level.
3. Strengthens innovation and development capacity in other sectors through financing, risk management, and knowledge transfer—particularly in technology (including AI-based solutions), creative industries, energy, infrastructure, and economic transformation.
4. Builds the city’s international recognition as a credible platform for investment, business expansion, and public–private cooperation.
5. Increases the economic and fiscal resilience of the metropolis by diversifying revenue sources, strengthening employment stability, and enhancing the capacity to finance long-term development goals.

An international financial centre is not an end in itself—it is a tool for strengthening innovation, resilience, and the long-term competitiveness of Warsaw and Poland within the European and global economy.

Moreover, the development of a financial centre translates into tangible benefits for residents in the areas of infrastructure and urban services:

- Revitalisation and activation of metropolitan centres and public spaces; concentration of economic functions supports urban regeneration, investments in boulevards, squares, and recreational areas, as well as improved transport connections.
- Growth in municipal revenues, enabling the financing of public services. Financial firms invest in local infrastructure (branches, training centres, coworking spaces, healthcare services), increasing service availability and expanding cultural and leisure offerings.
- Development of public transport and pedestrian-cycling infrastructure. Concentration of high-value jobs creates an economic incentive to invest in transport efficiency (interchange hubs, metro, trams), reducing commuting from peripheral areas and increasing residents' comfort.
- Increased availability of local services, culture, and leisure opportunities. The presence of international firms and financial events (conferences, fintech hackathons) enriches the city's cultural and educational offer and supports the MICE sector (conferences and business tourism), which the Strategy explicitly calls for.

The absence of a clear strategic objective in this area may, in the long term, weaken Warsaw's ability to compete with other metropolitan centres. Incorporating the development of a financial centre into Strategy #Warszawa2040+ constitutes an investment that supports the Strategy's objectives in the areas of "Functional Space," "Convenient Locality," "Creative Environment," and "Resilient City," delivering direct benefits to Warsaw's residents.