



Warsaw, 30 May 2019
Press Release

14 best economic universities from Central and Eastern Europe met in Warsaw to discuss the challenges arising from digital transformation and cooperation between academic community and business environment

On 30 May 2019, at the premises of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, an event entitled ‘Constitution for Science in Poland and Reinventing Finance in a Digital World: Employability, Education and Partnership’ was held. The event was organised by the Ministry and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) – the world’s leading and largest professional body of management accountants.

The meeting was attended by eight Polish economic universities, in which CIMA and University Program was launched, and six best economic universities from Central and Eastern Europe: Ukraine, Slovakia, Czechia, Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary. To participate in this event representatives of global companies whose headquarters are located in voivodships represented by each Polish university were also invited.

The event was aimed at developing good practices in cooperation between academic and business communities. One of its main assumptions was to enable participants to get the latest information on the changing needs of employers concerning knowledge and skills gained by economic studies graduates. It was also important to show what kind of challenges universities around the world face in the times of digital transformation and how they tackle them creating modern study programs and introducing new models of education.

The meeting begun with the speech by **Andrzej Stanisławek**, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, who talked about the reform of higher education in Poland and the importance of aligning university curriculum with international employers’ needs.

*– The Constitution for Science changes the system of higher education thoroughly. It focuses on the quality of education and research, internationalisation of Polish universities, as well as greater degree of cooperation between the socio-economic environment and the academic community. The reform introduces a new advisory body at universities – University Councils in which representatives of universities’ environment also sit. Entrepreneurs, experts, local activists will influence university’s strategy, – states Deputy Minister of science **Andrzej Stanisławek**. – However, this is not the end of the ministry’s undertakings to combine the needs of employers and business with the offer of science and higher education. We support dual studies, we have introduced new form of implementation doctorates. We also plan to launch a digital platform that will facilitate contact between science and business. Thanks to this, we enable intensive exchange of knowledge between researches, academics and entrepreneurs, – he adds.*

Subsequent speeches were given by CIMA representatives: **Karen Phang** CPA, FCMA, CGMA, Associate Director – Academic Engagement; **Jakub Bejnarowicz**, Associate Director, Europe; **Shane Balzan** FCMA, CGMA, Senior Director, Curriculum Development; and **Dr Yvonne Hinson** CPA, CGMA, Academic in Residence.



The final official part of the event was a panel discussion with employers entitled 'Employability, Education and Partnership', moderated by Shane Balzan. It was attended by senior finance professionals and Chartered Global Management Accountants (CGMA designation holders), who talked about the profile of graduates of economic faculties and the skills finance specialists should have in the world of robotics and automation.

*– In accordance with the title 'Employability, Education and Partnership' we have managed today to create a platform for discussion between the Ministry, the academic and business communities. We are very grateful to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education for the joint organisation of this truly international event, during which not only the universities' voice and different perspectives of global companies were presented, but also new methods of education and best practices from Great Britain, the United States and Malaysia, – says **Jakub Bejnarowicz**, Associate Director, Europe, CIMA.*

One of the examples of modernising universities' offer is adjusting study programs to a level that allows obtaining professional certificates such as CIMA Diploma in Management Accounting as part of CIMA & University Program. This provides students with the opportunity to gain knowledge, confirmed by global CIMA exams, which responds to the needs of international employers. Some Polish universities are now at a stage of establishing dedicated teams for the unification of their study programs with CIMA syllabus.

Previous successful academic discourses have been organised last year by CIMA in Johannesburg, Delhi, Jakarta and Lagos. Poland was chosen among European countries in which CIMA operates due to the exemplary cooperation of Polish universities with global employers. The formula of the meeting in Warsaw was enriched with a new element – roundtable talks during which university, business and CIMA representatives took part in a professional business game. The conclusions will serve as a basis of a report entitled "Employability, Education & Partnership in CEE Region", prepared by Associate Professor Bartłomiej Nita from the University of Economics in Wrocław and Associate Professor Remigiusz Napieček from the University of Economics and Business in Poznań.

Meeting international universities at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education was also a great opportunity to celebrate 100 years of leading the management accounting profession worldwide by CIMA. Founded in 1919, it had its 100th birthday on 8 March 2019. – *Building on our 100 years heritage, we embrace our future. As CIMA looks to the next 100 years it can do so with confidence, knowing it has the benefits of this combined strength, a truly global standard with the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation, and the means to provide the world's most highly-skilled accountants with knowledge, insight and foresight to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world – adds **Jakub Bejnarowicz**.*

In January 2019, CIMA announced updated CIMA Professional Qualification adapted to the requirements of the future of finance, updated CGMA Competency Framework covering topics including digital skills, blockchain technology and cybersecurity, and Digital Mindset professional development course that will give finance professionals the resources they need to thrive in the digital age. This improved set of competences is considered the most sought-after and up-to-date in the field of management accounting, which is one of the most dynamically developing area of business consulting and whose specialists play an increasingly important role in their organizations.

ENDS



Notes

The following universities and companies took part in the 'Constitution of Science in Poland and Reinventing Finance in a Digital World: Employability, Education & Partnership' event organized by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and CIMA:

- Warsaw School of Economics
- University of Economics in Katowice
- University of Economics in Cracow
- University of Economics and Business in Poznan
- University of Economics in Wroclaw
- Kozminski University
- Lodz University
- University of Gdansk
- University of Economics in Bratislava
- The University of National and World Economy
- Budapest Metropolitan University
- Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadym Hetman
- Bucharest University of Economic Studies
- Infosys BPM
- Mazars Polska
- Alexander Mann Solutions
- Hewlett Packard Enterprise
- Bridgestone
- DC Minerals part of Group De Cloedt

About the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), founded in 1919, is the world's leading and largest professional body of management accountants. As part of The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association) its members and students operate in 184 countries, working at the heart of business. CIMA members and students work in industry, commerce, the public sector and not-for-profit organisations. CIMA works closely with employers and sponsors leading-edge research, constantly updating its qualification, professional experience requirements and continuing professional development to ensure it remains the employers' choice when recruiting financially-trained business leaders.

About the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants

The Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the Association) is the most influential body of professional accountants, combining the strengths of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to power opportunity, trust and prosperity for people, businesses and economies worldwide. It represents 667,000 members and students in public and management accounting and advocates for the public interest and business sustainability on current and emerging issues. With broad reach, rigor and resources, the Association advances the reputation, employability and quality of CPAs, CGMA designation holders and accounting and finance professionals globally.

About the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation

The CGMA designation is the most widely held management accounting designation in the world. It was established in 2012 by the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) to elevate the profession of management accounting globally. It distinguishes more than 150,000 accounting and finance professionals who have advanced proficiency in finance, operations, strategy and management. In the U.S., the vast majority are also CPAs. The CGMA designation is underpinned by extensive global research to maintain the highest relevance with employers and develop competencies most in demand. CGMAs qualify through rigorous education, exam and experience requirements. They must commit to lifelong education and adhere to a stringent code of ethical conduct. Businesses, governments and non-profits around the world trust CGMAs to guide critical decisions that drive strong performance.

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