

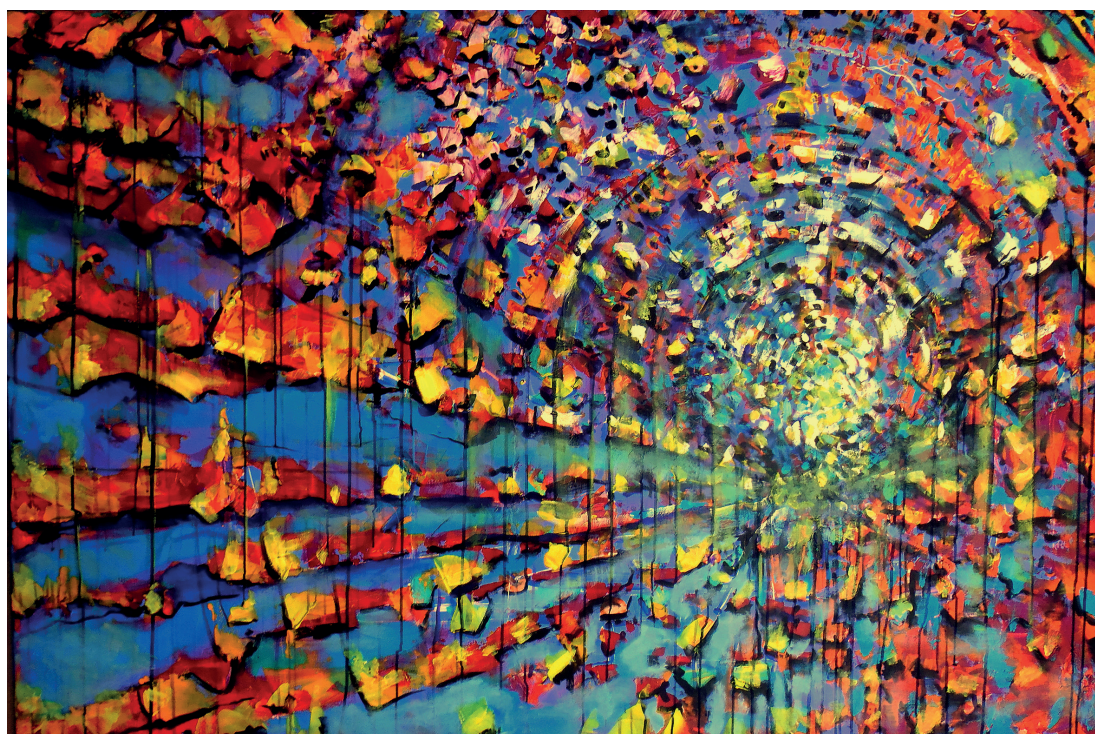
# POLAND'S ENERGY SECTOR ON THE BACK OF SCIENTIFIC ARGUMENTS

There can no longer be any doubt that the greenhouse effect, associated with increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the atmosphere, is caused by mankind's burning of fossil fuels, in conjunction with the gradual deforestation of the globe. In the coming decades, therefore, the Polish economy faces a necessary but difficult energy transition, seeking to ensure the security of energy supplies whilst at the same time striking a balance between socioeconomic development and respect for ecological principles. Moreover, achieving climate neutrality over the next three decades will be further complicated by the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. For these and other reasons, the prospects for the adoption of an energy transition package have social and political emotions running high in Poland.

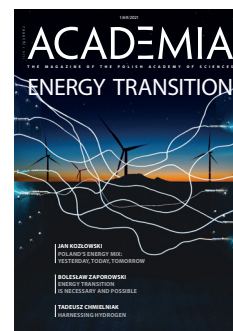
It is our hope that the various scholarly opinions gathered together in this issue of *Academia* magazine will foster thoughtful discussion on the energy transition in Poland, firmly grounded in solid scientific argumentation. In the articles of this issue, a number of Poland's top energy experts discuss various aspects of renewable energy sources and their impact on the country's energy sector, conveying the very latest state of knowledge on a number of sub-sectors. No matter what solutions are implemented, it seems clear that one important consequence that needs to be reckoned with is the social costs of the energy transition borne by society, particularly visible in coal-mining regions.

Several of the authors, as well as the PAS Committee on Power Engineering in its position statement published herein, point out that there is no industrially developed country in the world, with similar natural conditions as Poland, that intends to build a safe and zero-emission power system based solely on renewable energy sources within the next three decades. The overarching conclusion they point to is the necessity of investing in nuclear energy in Poland.

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Lukasz Jankiewicz, "Everything is Energy," 100×150 cm, oil on canvas, Wrocław 2019



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