



# 6<sup>th</sup> WORLD WICKER AND WEAVING FESTIVAL

## FRAMEWORK PROGRAM



6th World Wicker  
and Weaving Festival  
Nowy Tomyśl 2026

### 6TH WORLD WICKER AND WEAVING FESTIVAL NOWY TOMYŚL 2026

*"There are two lasting things we can leave as a legacy to our children:  
the first is roots – the second is wings."*

Hodding Carter, Jr

The World Wicker and Weaving Festival is undoubtedly the largest and one of the most important gatherings of the weaving community and its enthusiasts.

The sixth edition of the Festival is, in many ways, returning to its roots.

Above all, we are returning to Nowy Tomyśl, the city where the Festival was born and where the great heritage of the region—wicker and basketry—has its roots.

### "BACK TO THE ROOTS"

This is the motto of the event planned for 2026. The 6th World Wicker and Weaving Festival will be a meticulously designed event, truly worthy of a „six-star” rating.

We are confident that it will be another wonderful event dedicated to extraordinary people with remarkable skills.

New challenges, numerous attractions for basket makers and visitors, spectacular shows, exceptional individuals, innovative ideas, and tangible benefits—all of this awaits you once again in Nowy Tomyśl, which for a few days will become the world capital of basketry, showcasing various applications of willow.

Andrzej Pawlak – Festival Commissioner

Maciej Pawlak – Deputy Festival Commissioner

## 1. 7TH INTERNATIONAL BASKETRY COMPETITION For the Grand Prix of the Festiva

A two-day competition for the Festival's Grand Prix title is an opportunity for basket makers from around the world not only to have their work judged by an international jury but, above all, to learn about design trends, techniques, and basketry materials used in different parts of the world. This exchange of experiences fosters the discovery of entirely new areas of a craft known to humanity for thousands of years.

This way, unique works of material culture are created, which can rightfully be called the cultural heritage of humanity. Despite changes occurring in other industries, basketry remains a craft where the human touch is irreplaceable.

The competition consists of two parts: works created live and submitted works, with participants competing individually.

Live-created works will be judged by an international jury in five categories:

- Traditional basket
- Haberdashery
- Traditional decorative form
- Abstract decorative form
- Basketry using synthetic and highly processed materials

Submitted works will be judged in two categories:

- Utility form
- Decorative form

The traditional highlight of the competition will be the Grand Gala, where, in the spotlight and camera flashes, the results of the competition will be announced, and prizes awarded. The presence of many distinguished guests, the exciting course of the event, and the warm atmosphere will make this an unforgettable occasion.

**Join us to experience the emotions of healthy, creative competition and witness basket makers from around the world at work!**

## 2. FIRST BASKETRY PARALYMPICS Giving Wings

Many people engage in basketry. For some, it is a way to earn a living; for others, it is a lifestyle. Some discover their talent, passion, and sense of purpose through it, even though the fast-moving world often overlooks them.

People facing various limitations have often remained unnoticed among the many competition partici-

pants. We want to change that. We have decided to create a platform where these valuable individuals can be seen and properly recognized.

Following the example of similar sports competitions, without direct competition with those without limitations, we will create an environment where people with disabilities can fully showcase their skills, inner wealth, and talent.

### 3.

## **SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**

### **Roots and Wings. Heritage and Future**

A series of exhibitions that, besides offering historical and educational value, will provide inspiration for incorporating basketry products (both decorative and utilitarian) into homes and gardens—a space where tradition intertwines with modernity.

Colorful exhibitions showcasing the work of national and international artists will be filled with charming exhibits, interesting information enriched with photographs, and multimedia presentations, accompanied by stories from the creators and guides.

### 4.

## **THE FUTURE HAS STRONG ROOTS**

### **Outdoor exhibition showcasing the history of wicker and basketry in the Nowy Tomyśl region**

What made modern-day Nowy Tomyśl a significant center of global basketry?

The history is incredibly fascinating, stretching back hundreds of years. It all started in the nearby town of Trzciel... This story will be told through an exhibition that will take visitors on a journey into the past—both distant and recent.

We will also share our dreams, our journey towards recognition as intangible cultural heritage, and some of our plans for the future.

### 5.

## **MASTER'S SCHOOL**

### **Workshops for experienced basket makers**

Weaving is a unique craft found all over the world. Across the globe, people have reached masterful levels of skill in this craft.

Workshops for experienced basket makers will be led by outstanding artists from various countries. These workshops are intended for those already well-versed in basketry techniques. We want the best to learn from the best.

Besides participants taking part directly in the workshops, everyone will have the opportunity to observe the masters at work.

## 6.

### **ANYONE CAN WEAVE**

#### **Weaving workshops for everyone**

Open weaving workshops, accessible to all without restrictions, will provide a unique opportunity to try one's hand at basketry and create a personal piece—perhaps the first—that can be taken home as a keepsake.

The variety of available materials will ensure that everyone finds something for themselves and perhaps discovers a new hobby or even a new profession.

Experienced instructors and master craftsmen will conduct the workshops.

## 7.

### **WEAVING HELPS PEOPLE**

#### **Special demonstrations**

Basketry can support solutions to many problems people face daily. It fosters respect for work, strengthens social relationships, aids in the rehabilitation of incarcerated individuals, and helps treat sensory disorders and overcome psychological and emotional barriers.

This event will include demonstrations, discussions, and occupational therapy workshops dedicated to people with disabilities and those at risk of social exclusion. We place particular emphasis on the equal participation of these individuals in social life.

## 8.

### **ROOTS AND WINGS – HERITAGE AND FUTURE**

#### **Scientific conference**

The world around us is constantly and dynamically changing.

How can an ancient and invaluable human skill meet the needs of the modern world? How can the seemingly insignificant and common willow plant be used to make a difference? Can willow help combat climate change?

During this unique scientific panel, through a series of lectures by leading experts, we will present the latest advancements in this field. The conference will be organized in collaboration with our partner, the University of Life Sciences in Poznań.

Through discussions, we will determine how humanity can benefit from this heritage. We hope that this will foster valuable cooperation between scientific centers in Poland and abroad, leading to something truly beneficial for the Earth and humanity.

## 9. INTERNATIONAL FAIR

Would you like to buy an original and practical item, woven in Poland or in another European country or even on another continent? Perhaps you are looking for an original decoration or a work of braiding art?

The international fair offers an unusual opportunity to buy unique braiding products made by artists from different corners of the world. Such an opportunity does not occur more often than once every four years. Eco-friendly, surprisingly sophisticated in their form and colour, and at the same time functional and practical, the products will delight everyone. Each piece contains a pinch of emotion and personal experience of the creator, which is why each product is unique.

There will also be other handicrafts, healthy food and many other interesting products.

The international fair is a large international fair, teeming with life and a blaze of colours.

## 10. CONCERTS OF THE 6TH WORLD WICKER AND WEAVING FESTIVAL OF WICKER AND BASKETRY Nowy Tomyśl 2026

Simultaneously with the festival the Feast of Nowy Tomyśl - Hop and Wicker Fair will take place and therefore - for all participants and guests of the VI World Wicker and Weaving Festival and Hop and Wicker Fair - the Mayor of Nowy Tomyśl is preparing a rich and varied programme of concerts and artistic performances. Pop, rock, folk, cabaret - there will undoubtedly be something for everyone.



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and Weaving Festival  
Nowy Tomyśl 2026

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### ORGANIZER:



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