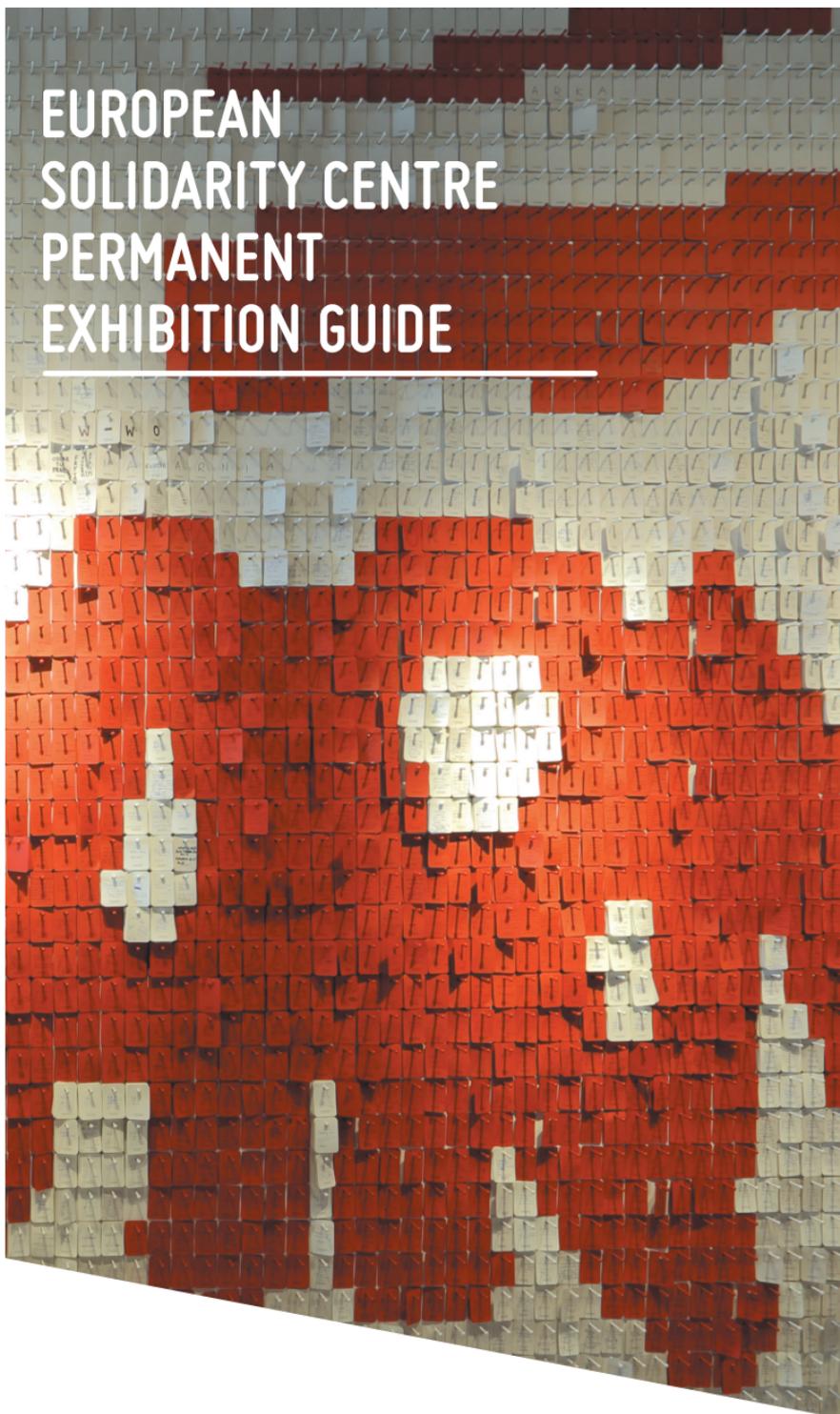


EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CENTRE PERMANENT EXHIBITION GUIDE



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

006	PLACE
010	IDEA
012	PERMANENT EXHIBITION
016	ROOM A THE BIRTH OF SOLIDARNOŚĆ
030	ROOM B THE POWER OF THE POWERLESS
048	ROOM C SOLIDARNOŚĆ AND HOPE
066	ROOM D AT WAR WITH SOCIETY
080	ROOM E THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY
094	ROOM F THE TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM
108	ROOM G A CULTURE OF PEACEFUL CHANGE
114	WELCOME INSIDE

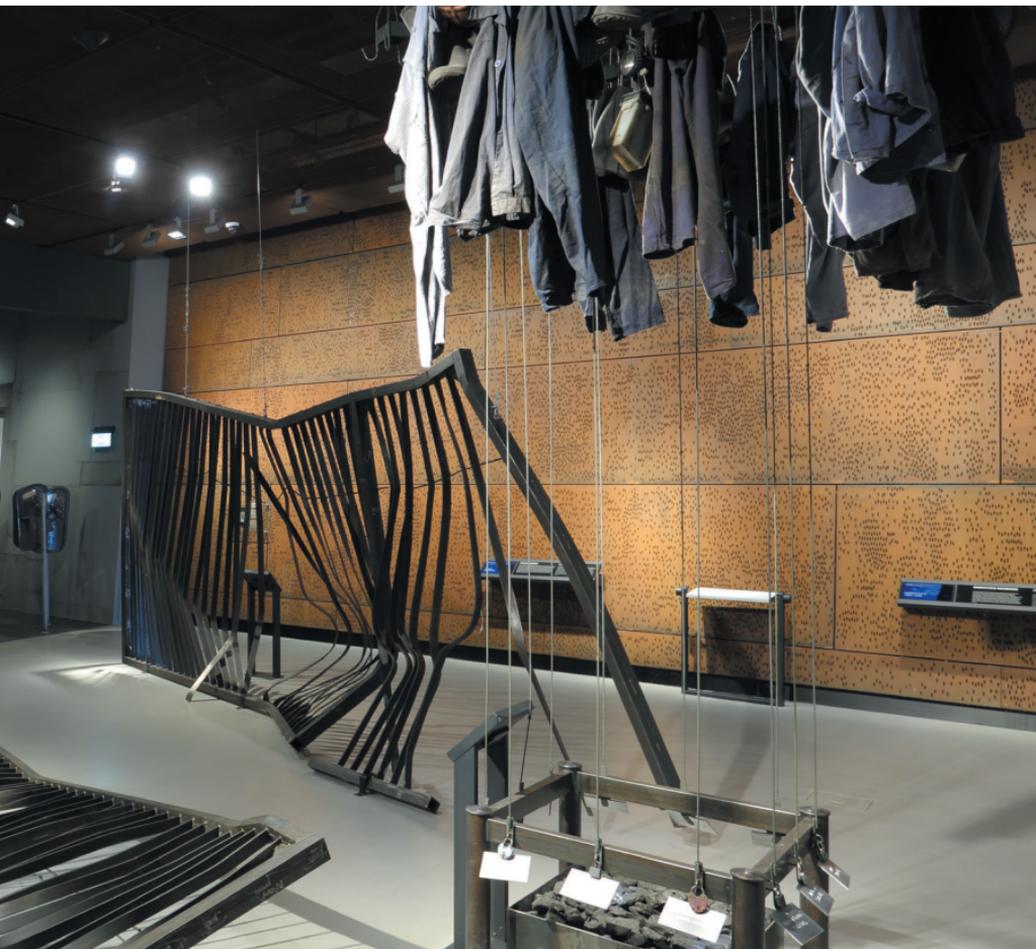


PERMANENT EXHIBITION

The Permanent Exhibition, devoted to the history of Solidarność and to changes that it triggered in Central and Eastern Europe, occupies the main part of the ECS building. It uses nearly 3,000 square meters of space in the 1st and the 2nd floors. It is divided into seven rooms. Visitors spend approximately 2 hours there. The state-of-the-art exhibition is narrative in character – it immerses the visitor in a historical account based on archival exhibits, documents, manuscripts, photographs, video presentations and interactive installations. Every visitor is encouraged to make their own references both

to history and to our contemporary times. The multitude of narrations allows multiple subsequent visits – each being a uniquely new experience.

Boards with 21 demands that the strikers hung on the gates of the Shipyard in 1980, the overhead crane operated by the legendary trade union activist Anna Walentynowicz, the bullet-pierced jacket of the 20-year-old shipbuilder Ludwik Piernicki, shot in December 1970, the original desk of Jacek Kuroń, one of the opposition leaders – these are some of nearly 1800 exhibits available in the permanent exhibition.



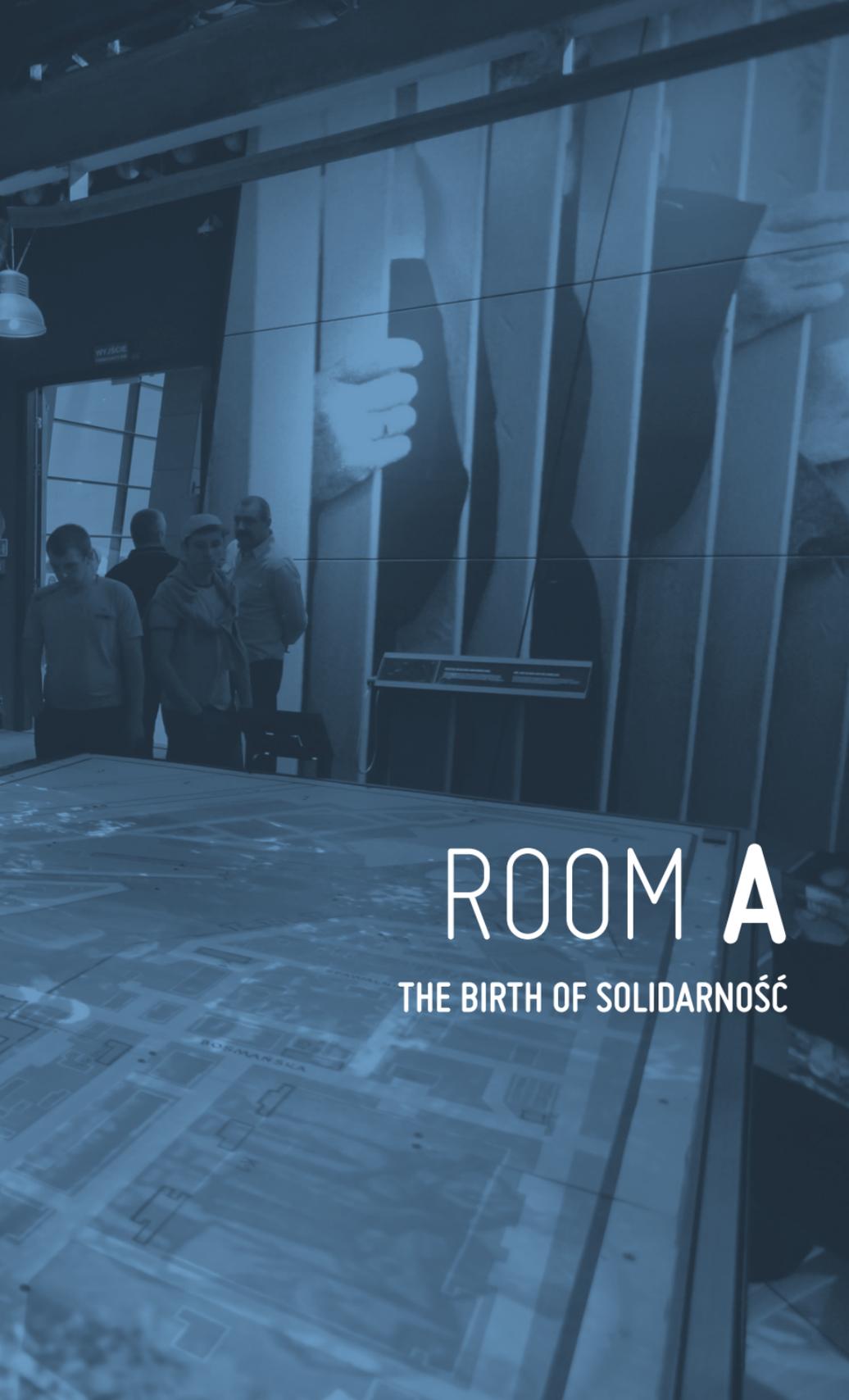
MOVING AROUND

The exhibition can be accessed by the escalator in the winter garden. Visitors on wheelchairs or experiencing other mobility impairments are kindly asked to use panoramic lifts to move between floors.

AUDIO GUIDES

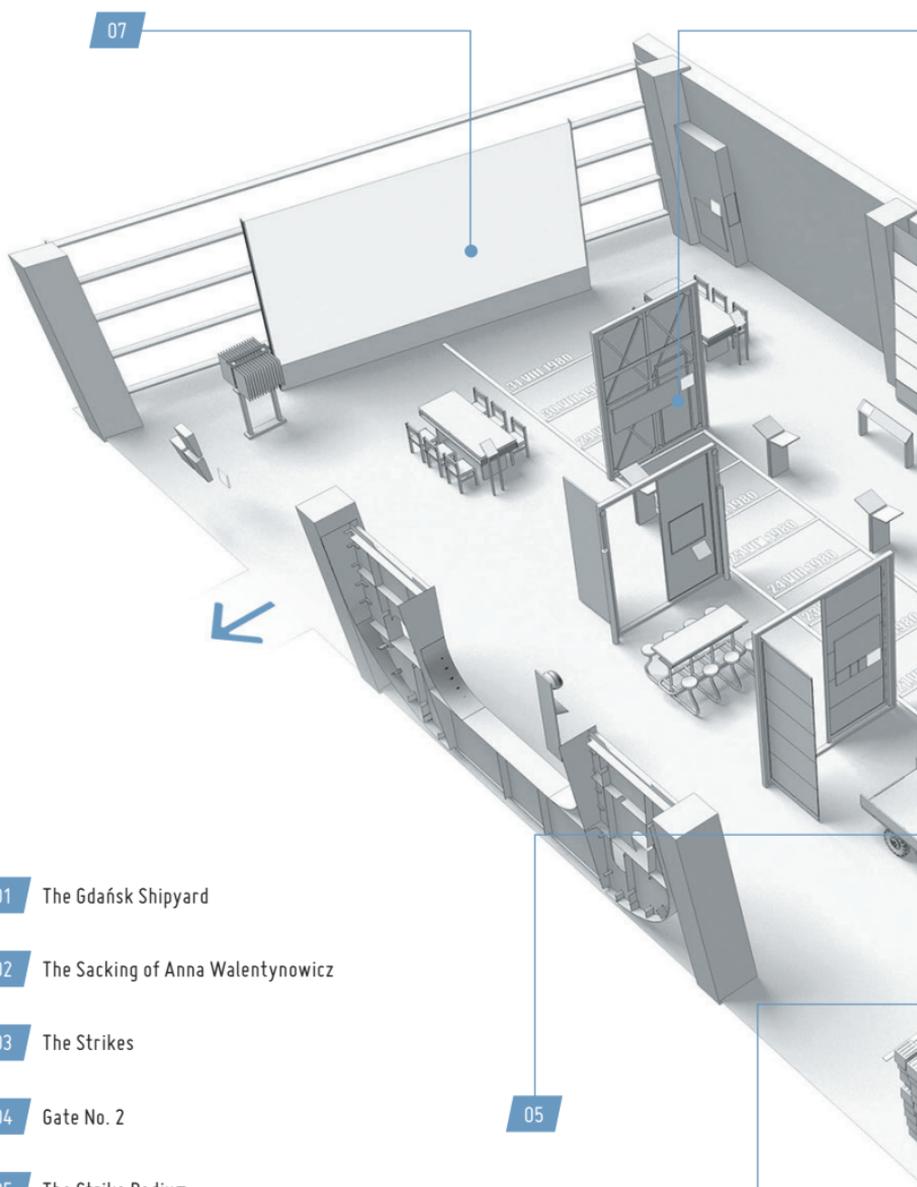
- The cost of borrowing an audio guide is included in the ticket price
- Visitors can choose from seven language versions: Polish, English, German, Russian, French, Spanish and Kashubian
- Audiodescription tours and sign language tours are also available.



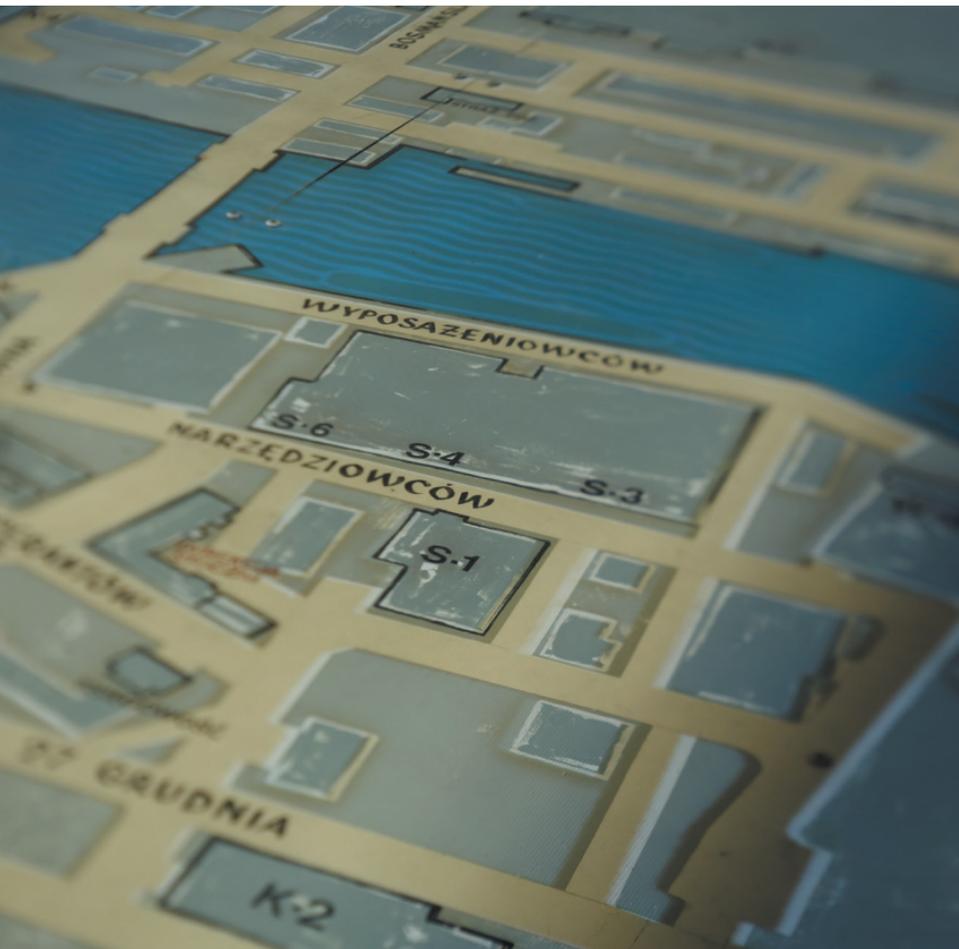


ROOM A

THE BIRTH OF SOLIDARNOŚĆ



- 01 The Gdańsk Shipyard
- 02 The Sacking of Anna Walentynowicz
- 03 The Strikes
- 04 Gate No. 2
- 05 The Strike Podium
- 06 The Demands
- 07 Negotiations and Agreement
- 08 The Logo of Solidarność



01

THE GDAŃSK SHIPYARD

Before the strike began in August 1980, Gdańsk Lenin Shipyard employed approximately 17,000 people. It was the biggest factory in the coastal region. The largest parts of the shipyard comprised the hull, equipment and engine facilities. Protests and strikes at the Gdańsk Shipyard had started as early as 1946. Most tragic had been the strike of December 1970 which ended in bloody pacifications. The map of the Gdańsk Shipyard which is

presented in the exhibition used to stand near the historic Gate No. 2. It helped new employees get a grasp of the shipyard topography (dozens of hectares in all) and quickly find the location of the workshops they had been assigned to. European Solidarity Centre has taken steps to preserve the board in good condition. As displayed in the exhibition, it sets out the events of the first day of the Gdańsk Shipyard strike.



02 THE SACKING OF ANNA WALENTYNOWICZ

The direct cause of the strike at the Lenin Shipyard was the disciplinary sacking of the overhead crane operator Anna Walentynowicz, who had worked at the shipyard since 1950. The official reason for her dismissal was 'gross violation of worker's duties'. The management's decision was motivated by Walentynowicz's activities in the Free Trade Unions (WZZ).

The overhead crane on display comes from Hall 27B of the shipyard's W-2 division. It was operated by, among others, Anna

Walentynowicz. In 2010 the machine's maintenance book containing her entries was found in the operator's cab. Conditions inside the cramped and stuffy cabin of the machine were not pleasant. Anna Walentynowicz recalled: 'It was hard to endure those few hours in the overhead crane. The air was filled with toxic welding fumes, which nobody had thought to ventilate. They gave me a small fan, which only served to mix up the already thick air inside'.