

# THE ŁÓDŹ ATLAS

## Sheet II: Łódź's location within Polish political-administrative, transportation and settlement systems

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**Map 1:** The location of Łódź and its region within the European political structures.

The map presents Łódź's location against the backdrop of international political structures and administrative boundaries of the European states in 2002. The area of the European Union and non-EU affiliated states – signatories of the affiliation treaties, the Visegrád Group, and the Central European Free Trade Association – CEFTA are presented utilising the thematic mapping methods. Symbols are used to indicate the locations of major international organisations, UN, NATO and others:

- |     |            |  |
|-----|------------|--|
| 1.  | Copenhagen | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Parliamentary Assembly (PA).  |
| 2.  | The Hague  | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – High Commissioner on National Minorities (HCNM), United Nations – International Court of Justice                |
| 3.  | Brussels   | NATO, European Union – the Council of the European Union, European Parliament, European Commission,  |
| 4.  | Frankfurt  | European Union – European Central Bank (ECB)   |
| 5.  | Luxembourg | European Union – Court of Justice of the European Communities, European Investment Bank (EIB)  |
| 6.  | Strasbourg | European Union – European Parliament, the Council of Europe – Parliamentary Assembly, The European Court of Human Rights   |
| 7.  | Paris      | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).   |
| 8.  | Geneva     | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Court of Conciliation and Arbitration, UN – World Health Organisation (WHO)                                     |
| 9.  | Madrid     | UN – World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)  |
| 10. | Rome       | UN – Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)   |
| 11. | Vienna     | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Secretariat, Representative on Freedom of the Media, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) |
| 12. | Warsaw     | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)   |

Although Łódź is situated near the geometric centre of Europe, its political position is clearly peripheral, especially in relation to the European Union. Owing to its proximity to Warsaw, Łódź benefits in the Central European context. In addition to the organisations indicated on the map (CEFTA and the Visegrád Group), Poland belongs to the Central European Initiative, the Council of Europe, NATO, Council of the Baltic Sea States, and others. However, no headquarters of an international organisation is located in Łódź. The closest is the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in Warsaw (approx. 140 km), while the offices of UNIDO are 600 km away in Vienna. Other cities hosting international organisations are over 1000 km away from Łódź. The closest capital city, apart from Warsaw, is Berlin. The cities of Prague, Bratislava, and Vilnius are at a similar distance from Łódź. Lisbon is the farthest capital city, located at a distance of 2000 km. The map also shows the first tier of administrative divisions within the European countries. Łódzkie Region (Województwo Łódzkie), with its area (18 200 km<sup>2</sup>) and population (2 652 million), ranks among larger administrative units, ranking behind the average Spanish, French and German units (tab. 1).

Table 1: Administrative divisions within the European countries

No.	Country	Name of primary administrative unit (names in native languages)	Number of primary units	Average area of primary unit [000 km <sup>2</sup> ]	Average population of primary unit [000]
1.	Albania	Rreeth	37	0.8	92.4
2.	Andorra	Commune	7	0.07	10.1
3.	Austria	Bundesland	9	9.3	896.7
4.	Belarus	Voblast	9	12.3	923.3
5.	Belgium	Region	3	10.2	3396.7
6.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kraj	6	34.6	1703.3
7.	Bulgaria	Oblast	2	25.5	1890.0
8.	Croatia	Županija	21	2.7	214.3
9.	Czech Rep.	Kraj	13	6.1	792.3
10.	Denmark	Amt + 2 city authorities	16	3.1	377.1
11.	Estonia	Maakond + 5 city authorities	20	3.0	97.3
12.	Finland	Laani + 1 autonomous district	20	16.9	257.0
13.	France	Region	22	25.1	2664.1
14.	Germany	Land	52	2.5	202.3
15.	Greece	Namos	17	29.8	2312.9
16.	Hungary	Megye	12	3.4	1300.0
17.	Iceland	Sýslur + city authorities	4	17.6	915.0
18.	Ireland	Province	7	14.7	38.7
19.	Italy	Regione	4	25.6	2650.0
20.	Latvia	Rajons + 7 city authorities	11	0.02	2.8
21.	Liechtenstein	Gemeinde	55	1.5	84.3
22.	Lithuania	Rajonas + 11 city authorities	3	0.9	140.0
23.	Luxembourg	Distrikt	33	1.9	74.8
24.	Macedonia	Opština	34	0.8	64.4
25.	Malta	Lokali	6	0.05	62.2
26.	Moldova	Julețul	48	2.8	359.2
27.	Monaco	Quartier	4	0.0005	8.0
28.	Netherlands	Provincie	16	22.3	5129.4
29.	Norway	Fylke	20	16.2	220.5
30.	Poland	Województwo	16	19.5	2415.6
31.	Portugal	Distrito + 2 autonomous regions (Azores, Madeira)	20	5.1	544.4
32.	Romania	Judet	41	5.8	550.5
33.	San Marino	Castelli	9	0.007	2.8
34.	Spain	Comunitie	8	6.1	672.5
35.	Slovakia	Kraj	62	0.3	32.1
36.	Slovenia	Obezin	26	1.8	308.3
37.	Sweden	Lan	21	21.4	421.4
38.	Switzerland	Canton	79	9.8	807.0
39.	Turkey	il	27	22.4	1877.8
40.	Ukraine	Oblast + 2 city authorities + 1 autonomous	1	0.0004	1.0
41.	United Kingdom	County (England: 46), district (N. Ireland: 26);	19	2.4	260.3
42.	Vatican	–	20	15.1	2876.0
43.	Yugoslavia	2 republics: Serbia & Montenegro (in Serbia 2 autonomous districts Kosovo & Vojvodina)	92	2.7	632.6
–	average	–	–	9.4	890.3
–	łódzkie	Region (województwo)	–	18.2	2653.0

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**Map 2:** The location of Łódź throughout the changing administrative and political divisions of Poland

Applying the thematic mapping methods and symbols, Łódź's location is shown against the background of changes in the administrative and political divisions of Poland. The administrative division of Poland into regions (województwa) developed naturally from the 14th to the 18th c. The Województwa originated from the former division into principalities and other areas incorporated into them. This division of land had a full hierarchy of officials headed by a voivode (head of the województwo) and from the 15th c. it began to be called a voivodeship (województwo). Before its first partition, Poland had unstable national boundaries and the process of establishing administrative divisions was protracted.

A. The map shows Poland and its regional division into the Województwa in the 2nd half of the 18th c, i.e. just before the partitions. From the 14th c. until 1793, Łódź belonged to the Łęczycki Region (Województwo Łęczyckie) (in its central-southern part), which in the political division of Poland at that time was one of the smallest primary administrative units.

B. The map only presents the changes to the administrative divisions of the Congress Kingdom of Poland, and from 1866 generalgubernatorstwo (Governorate General) of Warsaw - short-term territorial reorganisations at the start of the partitions and during the Duchy of Warsaw period have been omitted. Between 1815 and 1912 the territory of the Congress Kingdom of Poland saw three major administrative reforms which involved changing the number of primary administrative units (down from eight to five, and then up to ten). In 1912, from parts of the former Siedlce and Lublin Governorates, Chelm Governorate was formed, which in 1915 was incorporated to Russia. These latter changes are not shown on the map. For the first 74 years during the partitions, Łódź was part of primary administrative units with their capital in Warsaw. From 1867 until 1915 the city was part of Piotrków Governorate.

C. This map presents the Poland's administrative divisions in the interwar period. The temporary territorial division of Poland introduced in 1919–1922, based on the administrative divisions by the partitioners, survived until 1938. The purpose of the 1938–1939 reforms was to remove all traces of the partition boundaries, while retaining the basic division introduced in 1919–1922. The divisions introduced after WW1 (amended in 1937–1939) were the core for the post- WW2 reform which, despite many changes, survived until 1975. In the Times of the Second Polish Republic, the political situation of Łódź changed radically, as in 1919 the city became, for the first time in its history, the capital of the newly established Województwo Łódzkie (Łódzkie Region). In 1938, as a result of the Munich Conference, the political situation of the Second Polish Republic changed. The Germans annexed the Sudety (Sudeten), while Poland annexed Zaolzie, and a part of Slovakia, including Ukraina Zakarpacza (Carpathian Ruthenia), was incorporated into Hungary – thus the Second Polish Republic gained a common border with Hungary. In March of 1939, before the outbreak of WW2, a part of Czechoslovakia, as the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, was annexed to the Third Reich, and from the rest of its territory the Slovak state of Josef Tiso was formed. The latter changes did not directly affect the position of Łódź within the Second Polish Republic, hence they were omitted from the map.

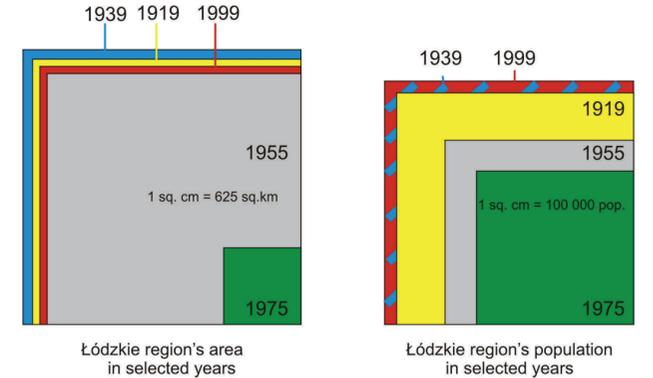
D. The map presents the location of Łódź as part of the administrative division of 1975 and the current administrative division, introduced on 1st January, 1999. The cities which in 1999 lost their regional capital status to become county (powiat) capitals are marked on the map. Łódź only gained its central location within Poland after WW2. During the earlier periods, the city always remained close to the western borders of both the first and the second republics, and also during the Russian partition.

Table 2. The political and administrative position of Łódź throughout the history of the Polish territories

Period	State	Primary administrative unit	Capital of the unit
14 <sup>th</sup> c.–1793	First Republic	Łęczycki Region <i>Województwo Łęczyckie</i>	Łęczyca
1793–1807	Prussia	<i>Südpreußen Provinz</i> (southern Prussia)	Warszawa
1807–1815	Duchy of Warsaw	<i>Departament warszawski</i> Warsaw Department	Warszawa
1815–1837	Congress Kingdom of Poland	Mazovian Region <i>Województwo Mazowieckie</i>	Warszawa
1837–1867	Congress Kingdom of Poland (Russia)	Mazovian Governorate <i>Gubernia Mazowiecka – from 1842 Warsaw Governorate. Gubernia warszawska</i>	Warszawa
1867–1915	Warsaw general gubernatorstwo	Piotrków Governorate <i>Gubernia Piotrkowska</i>	Piotrków Trybunalski
1915–1919	Warsaw <i>Guberniya</i>	Warszawa	Warszawa
	Second Polish Republic	Capital of Łódzkie Region <i>Województwo Łódzkie</i>	Łódź
1939–1945	Third Reich ( <i>Kraj Warty</i> )	<i>Kalisz Regierungsbezirk – from 1941 Łódź Regierungsbezirk</i>	Kalisz (Łódź)
From 1918/1939	Poland	Capital of Łódzkie Region <i>Województwo Łódzkie</i>	

**Map 3:** The position of Łódź against the background of political and administrative systems

The map presents Łódź's position within the changing boundaries of Łódzkie Region. Thematic mapping methods were applied to depict the boundaries of Łódzkie Region (Województwo Łódzkie) in four historical periods and in its contemporary form. Łódzkie Region was established only after WW1 (1919), and with the exception of a short period of the German occupation, it has existed until the present day. The regions was largest in area in 1939, and smallest in 1975–1999. As a result of the administrative reforms in 1938–1939, when the boundaries were moved eastward, a shape similar to the contemporary one was established. It was formed on the historical territories of Wielkopolska and Mazowsze, mainly from parts of the pre-partition Rawskie, Sieradzkie, and Łęczyckie Regions. Historically, five towns (excluding Łódź) from the current Łódzkie Region enjoyed the status of the capital of an administrative unit. Sieradz, Łęczyca and Rawa had that status before the partitions, but Łęczyca and Rawa were never to regain it. Piotrków Trybunalski enjoyed such status twice (1867–1918 and 1975–1998), while Skiermiewice only in 1975–1998, i.e. in the period when Poland was divided into 49 administrative units. Out of the 21 present day county (powiat) capitals, nine gained that status in the Middle Ages, while seven in the 20th c., four of which in the 1950s.



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Table 3. The largest cities in the European states.

Country (year)	First city	Population [000]	Second city/ town	Population [000]	Ratio of first to second
Poland (1999)	Warsaw	1618.5	Łódź (2001)	790.0	2.05
Albania (1995)	Tirana	244.0	Durrës	85.0	2.87
Andorra	Andora la Vella	21.2	Encamp	7.0	3.03
Austria (2001)	Vienna	1562.7	Graz	226.4	6.90
Belarus (1998)	Minsk	1719.0	Gomel	505.3	3.40
Belgium (2000)	Brussels	959.3	Antwerp	446.5	2.15
Bosnia and Herzegovina (1991)	Sarajevo	529.0	Banja Luca	195.9	2.71
Bulgaria (2001)	Sofia	1096.4	Plovdiv	340.6	3.22
Croatia (1991)	Zagreb	706.8	Split	189.4	3.73
Czech Republic (2000)	Prague	1181.1	Brno	381.9	3.09
Denmark (2000)	Copenhagen	495.7	Århus	217.3	2.28
Estonia (2000)	Tallinn	404.0	Tartu	100.1	4.04
Finland (1999)	Helsinki	551.1	Espoo	209.7	2.63
France (1999)	Paris	2147.9	Marseille	807.1	2.66
Germany (1999)	Berlin	3392.9	Hamburg	1701.8	1.99
Great Britain (1994)	London	6962.3	Birmingham	1008.4	6.90
Greece (1991)	Athens	772.1	Thessaloniki (1981)	406.4	1.99
Hungary (1997)	Budapest	1886.2	Debrecen	208.5	9.05
Iceland (1999)	Reykjavik	109.8	Kópavogur	22.6	4.86
Ireland (1996)	Dublin	953.0	Cork	180.0	5.29
Italy (1991)	Rome	2693.4	Milan	1371.0	1.96
Latvia (2000)	Riga	764.3	Daugavpils	114.8	6.66
Liechtenstein	Vaduz	5.0	Schaan	5.1	0.98
Lithuania (2001)	Vilnius	553.0	Kaunas	379.0	1.46
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	81.8	Esch/Alzette	25.4	3.22
Macedonia (1992)	Skopje	444.3	Bitola	77.5	5.73
Malta (1995)	Birkirkara	21.0	Qormi	19.0	1.11
Moldova (1992)	Chişinău	667.1	Tiraspol	186.2	3.58
Netherlands (1995)	Amsterdam	1101.4	Rotterdam	1078.8	1.02
Norway (2000)	Oslo	207.5	Bergen	212.9	0.97
Portugal (1991)	Lisbon	663.4	Porto	302.5	2.19
Romania (1998)	Bucharest	2016.2	Iasi	348.1	5.79
Russia (1999)	Moscow	8299.7	St.Petersburg	4169.4	1.99
Slovakia (1999)	Bratislava	448.3	Košice	241.9	1.85
Slovenia (2000)	Ljubljana	270.5	Maribor	114.9	2.35
Spain (1998)	Madrid	2881.5	Barcelona	1505.6	1.91
Sweden (1998)	Stockholm	751.2	Göteborg	467.2	1.61
Switzerland (1998)	Zurich	336.8	Geneva	172.8	1.95
Turkey (1994)	Istanbul	7615.5	Ankara	2782.2	2.74
Ukraine (1997)	Kiev	2622.0	Kharkov	1536.0	1.71
Yugoslavia (2000)	Belgrade	1168.5	Novi Sad	179.7	6.50

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**Map 4:** Łódź In The European Transport And Settlement Network

This map presents Łódź's position within the European settlement and transport network. Symbols are used to indicate the largest and second largest European cities in terms of population, with their operational airports being rated as per their passenger throughputs. The network of motorways and major roads is also marked, along with flow diagrams showing coach connections with other European cities. Łódź is larger (by population) than many "first" national cities in Europe, including many capitals, outnumbering for instance Stockholm, Oslo, Lisbon and Bratislava. Among the second largest European cities, Łódź holds the ninth position after Barcelona, Marseille, Rotterdam, Hamburg, Milan, St. Petersburg, Birmingham and Kharkov (tab. 3). The significance of Łódź in the settlement network does not correspond to its position in the European transport network, where it has direct rail connections only with Kiev, Prague, and Dresden. Many more connections are offered by coaches. The largest number of coach lines lead to Germany and the Low Countries. The farthest one can travel from Łódź by coach is to Casablanca (via Bilbao – once a week). There are practically no connections with Eastern European countries and the Balkans, with the exception of Greece (once a week) and Lvov (once a week). Łódź is also located outside the motorway and major road systems in Europe. Only the international route E75, connecting the Baltic coast with the south of the continent, runs through the city. It is anticipated that after the modernization of Lublinek airport is completed, air transport will significantly increase.

### Literature and sources

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**Map 5:** Łódź In The National Transport And Settlement Network.

A. The map presents Łódź's location within the railway network, indicating the category of rail lines. A flow diagram is applied to show direct connections of passenger rail lines from Łódź. Electrified lines, as well as major sections non-electrified lines are marked. The significance of individual lines is reflected in the types of train services. Additionally, the circle diagram on the map presents selected elements of the national settlement network – the regional capitals (by size and age structure), other cities being the main railway junctions with direct connections to Łódź.

1. Łódź is the second largest city in the country in terms of population, half the size of Warsaw and almost seven times larger than the smallest regional capital – Zielona Góra. Łódź is the fourth Polish city in terms of area, second only to Warsaw, Kraków, and Szczecin.

2. Łódź has direct passenger transport links with all regional capitals, except Opole and Kielce.  
 3. The historical development of settlement and railway networks have resulted in Łódź not being located on major east-west routes (Warsaw – Poznań) or north-south (GOP – Herby – Żuńska Wola – Gdynia). Łódź is also located outside the Warsaw-Vienna route which runs through Kozłuski, and outside the major line to the south of Poland (Centralna Magistrala Kolejowa).

B. The map shows Łódź's location within the national system of roads, indicating their rank (international, national) and class (dual carriageways, motorways etc.). The map also presents the direct connections coverage by PKS passenger bus lines and the city's location in relation to the major road border crossings.

1. Łódź has direct bus connections with all regional capitals, except Szczecin, Zielona Góra, and Gorzów Wielkopolski. Most connections are southward.

2. The most important route within the national transport system – route no. 1, runs near Łódź and connects the GOP with Gdynia-Sopot-Gdańsk and indicates the route of the projected A1 motorway. As was the case with the railway network, Łódź is located away from major north-south routes. This situation will be changed with the completion of the A2 motorway which will run near the city.

C. This map shows Łódź's location within the airlines network and its rank among national airports as per the passenger throughput. The map also shows Łódź's location within the domestic electrical power lines infrastructure, and within the special transport network.

1. Air transport corridors that run from the north to the south, and from the northeast to the southwest and to the west, intersect over Łódź. However, despite the city's favourable location it plays an insignificant role in the national network. In terms of the passenger throughput, Lublinek airport ranks low among the Polish airports and maintains only one regular flight connection with Warsaw.

2. Gas pipelines and high voltage power lines (220kV) run through Łódź. It is worth emphasising that an oil products pipeline runs near Łódź (from Plock to Kozłuski and Częstochowa).

D. The map shows the zones of straight line distances from Łódź and the sinuosity ratios of the road connections  
 1. Łódź lies almost in the centre of the country (the geographical centre of Poland is 23 km north-east from the city).