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## The first underground mining ‘geopark’ in Zabrze, SW Poland- for promotion of geotourism

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This poster introduces a project of the first underground geopark, based on selected post-mining sites of Zabrze City in south-west Poland. It has been elaborated by Polish Geological Institute in Warszawa and aiming creation of a link among various mining sites on the town territory.

Geopark as a surface defined regional structure is based on the following aspects: geological, architectural, sometimes post-industrial, environmental, historical and other aspects (depending on the area). Projected geopark will be founded on objects like ‘Historic GUIDO Coal Mine’, ‘The KROLOWA LUIZA Mine’ and ‘MACIEJ Shaft’.

Zabrze is the place where the International Conference is held every year, in which guests are the representatives of industrial heritage and tourist organizations from Poland, Europe and other countries, as well as academia.

There are a very few places in Europe with such numerous industrial heritages, mainly related to mining. Some of the existing industrial heritage facilities had already been made available to the public there. However, no geological complement is provided, so an exemplary visitor there couldn’t find how the mined rocks have been formed. Proposed geopark will provide detailed geological information to the public as well as create new opportunities for touristic-cultural activity and local economy.

The geopark will be the first mining geopark in Europe such that most of main touristic attractions are located underground.

Keywords: geopark, geotourism, mining, industrial heritage, Polish Geological Institute, Poland