
SILESIA

land of opportunities



Silesian
Voivodeship





LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am proud to present you with a brochure promoting the investment and economic potential of the Silesia Region – a place where not only does the heart of Polish industry beat, but where there is also a space full of opportunities, where tradition meets modernity and local potential is combined with strongly supported internationalisation.

The transformation of the Silesia Region is being propelled by record EU funding for the years 2021–2027, with the region receiving as much as €3 billion under the Cohesion Policy and €2 billion from the Fair Transformation Fund. Such funds have never been available to us before, and we intend to make good use of it!

Silesia is open to innovation through the development of the new technology sector, green energy and modern services. Our future activities will focus on strengthening regional smart specialisations, such as the green economy, information technology or medicine.

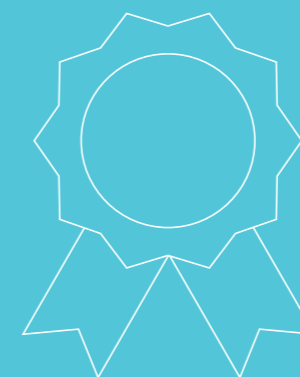
Our region is famous for its strong links between universities, research and development centres, business environment institutions and local businesses, and it is a place where domestic and foreign entrepreneurs find favourable conditions for the development of their ventures, while access to qualified staff and a wide range of support from regional and local institutions are the foundations on which we build our competitive advantage.

The Silesia Region, with its rich industrial heritage, is a region of many opportunities – from a strong economy, through the development of new technologies, to culture and tourism. Combining its industrial tradition with modern solutions, it offers an ideal place for companies and individuals seeking development opportunities and a good place to live.

I would like to address this publication to everyone interested in our region and invite you to discover its rich offer. I am convinced that our region can be a reliable partner in various projects and that here you will find space to succeed both in business and personal development.

WOJCIECH SAŁUGA
Marshal
of the Silesian Voivodeship

SHARE IN GDP



Silesia Region
12.1 %

Mazovia Region
22.6 %

1

2

good choice

- **2nd place** among Polish regions in terms of **GDP** – strong economic position of the whole region
- a leading **exporter** among Polish regions
- a diversity of industries
- **2nd place** among regions in terms of the **number of entities of the national economy**
- a high level of industrialization and the potential for **innovative development**
- a high level of social and economic development **attracting investment**
- **transport accessibility**
- extensive **road, railway and airport infrastructure**
- well-developed **warehouse and office real estate market**
- **logistics center** of southern Poland
- significant **human resources** and highly qualified employees with unique competences
- a wide range of dozens **higher education institutions**
- a wide network of **scientific and research units** and **business environment institutions**
- a large **sales market**
- a reliable **partner in international relations**
- numerous **distinctions and awards** in prestigious investment attractiveness rankings
- region of many **sports, cultural and artistic events**
- **tourist** potential
- **post-industrial** attractions
- unique **landscape**



PANORAMA OF KATOWICE CITY CENTRE

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak

SILESIA

gateway to the european market

key role in regional and cross-border development within the European Union

an important communication and trading point on the European map

one of the best ways to enter European markets, strategic geopolitical and economic importance

KATOWICE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



- **WITHIN A RADIUS OF 1 000 KM**
- **13 CAPITALS**
- **221 MLN INHABITANTS**



SILESIA

basic information

THE SILESIA MUSEUM IN KATOWICE

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



REGION

4

sub-regions

36

counties and cities with county rights

167

municipalities

12 333

km²

-
-
-

THE CAPITAL OF THE REGION
the capital of the sub-region
city with county rights



SILESIA

communication center of Poland

strategic location

best transport accessibility in Poland

the densest network of expressways and motorways in the country

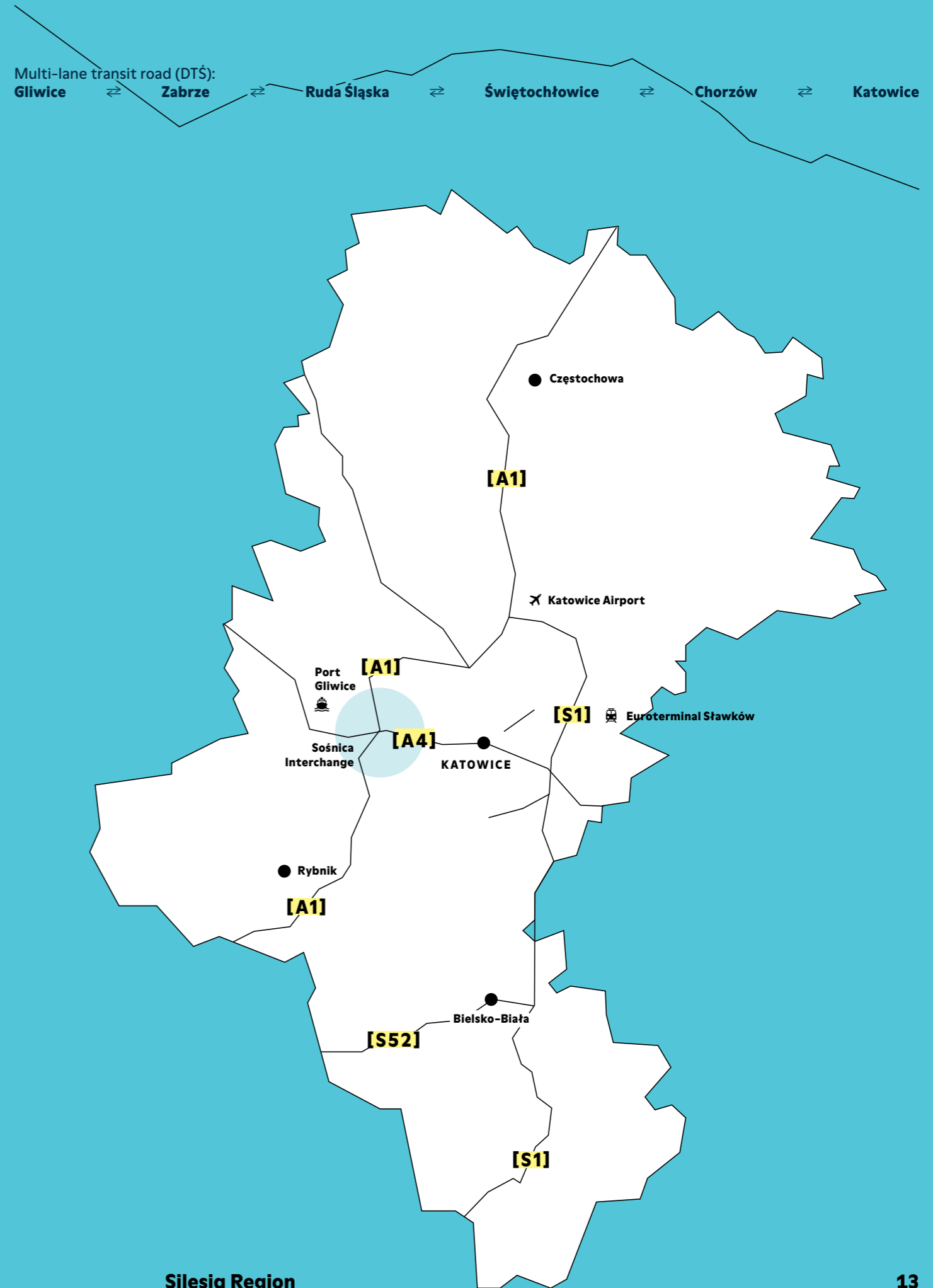
key elements of transport infrastructure

Katowice International Airport

railway routes which are part of international railway lines

- **pan-European transport corridors**, intersection of A4 and A1 motorways, connecting the west with the east and the north with the south of Europe
- **Sośnica interchange** – the largest road interchange in Central Europe
- **Multi-lane transit road (DTŚ)** connecting the cities of the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM Metropolis)
- **1st place in Poland** in terms of the length of motorways and expressways per 1 000 km²
- **Euroterminal Sławków** – the westernmost point of the broad-gauge railway, linking the region with the transport system in Asia

- **railway junction in Tarnowskie Góry** – the largest marshalling yard in Poland and one of the largest in Europe
- **Gliwice River Port** – the largest and most versatile inland port in Poland, part of the Oder Waterway, connecting the region with the seaports of Szczecin and Świnoujście and with the network of Western European canals
- **Katowice International Airport** – 4th place in Poland in terms of the number of passengers and 2nd in Poland in terms of the number of cargos served
- **within 100 km 2 important international airports:** Kraków Airport and Ostrava Airport



Silesia Region

SILESIA

residents with potential

1st place in Poland in terms of population density (352 people/km²)

- qualified and experienced staff with unique and highly developed technical and engineering competences
- one of the largest sales markets in Poland

1st place in Poland in terms of urbanization coefficient (76%)

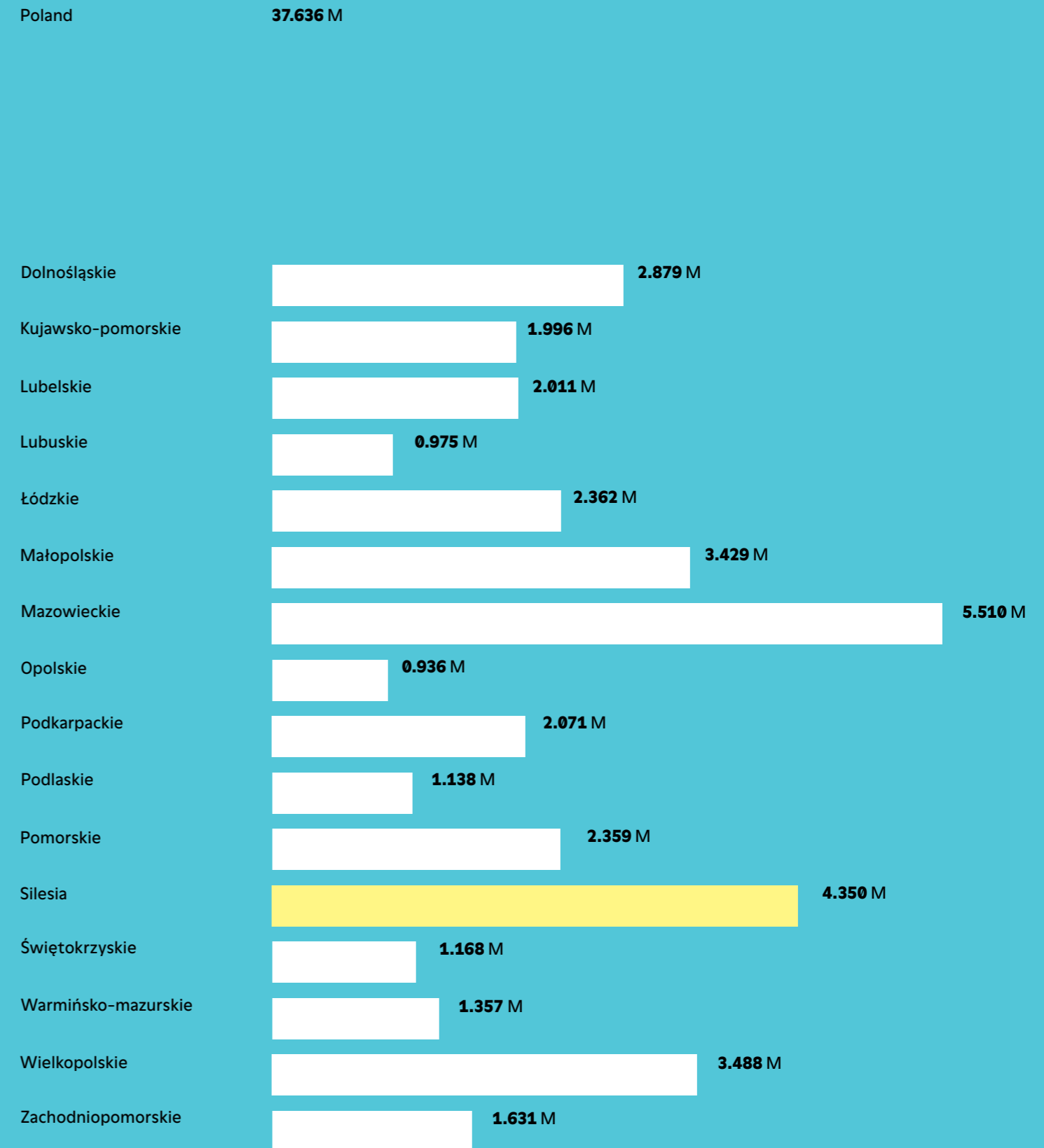
2nd place in Poland in terms of population (11.5% – almost 4.35 million)



BIEGAŃSKI SQUARE IN CZĘSTOCHOWA

Photo: Adam Markowski

POPULATION



SILESIA

economic heart of Poland

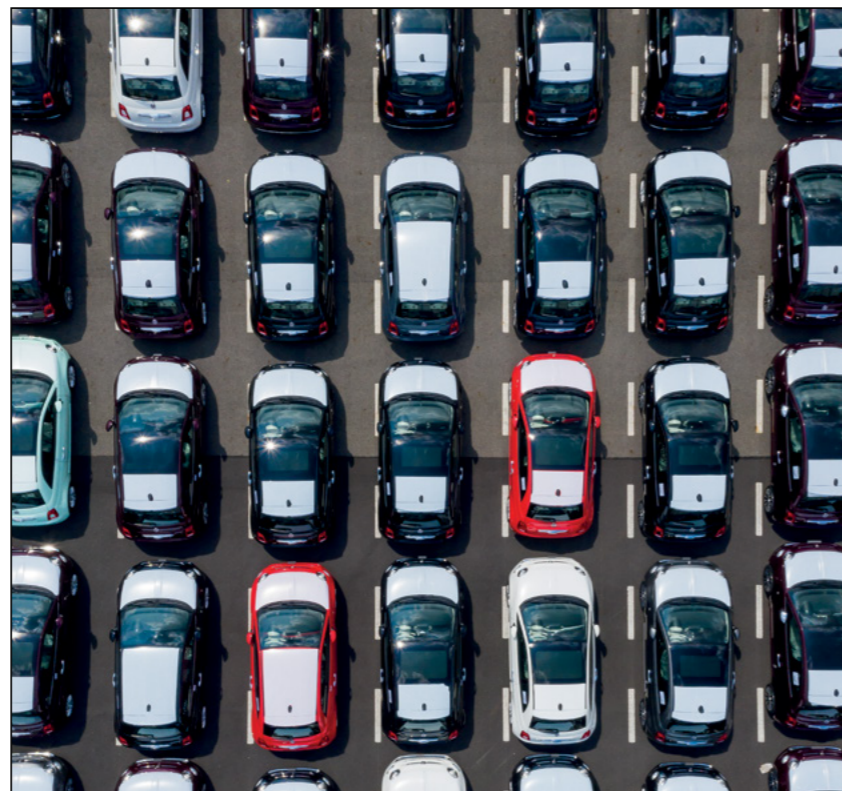
2nd the economically strongest region

- diverse and modern economic structure
- strong industrial traditions
- rich natural deposits – including hard coal, zinc and lead
- a good place to create startups

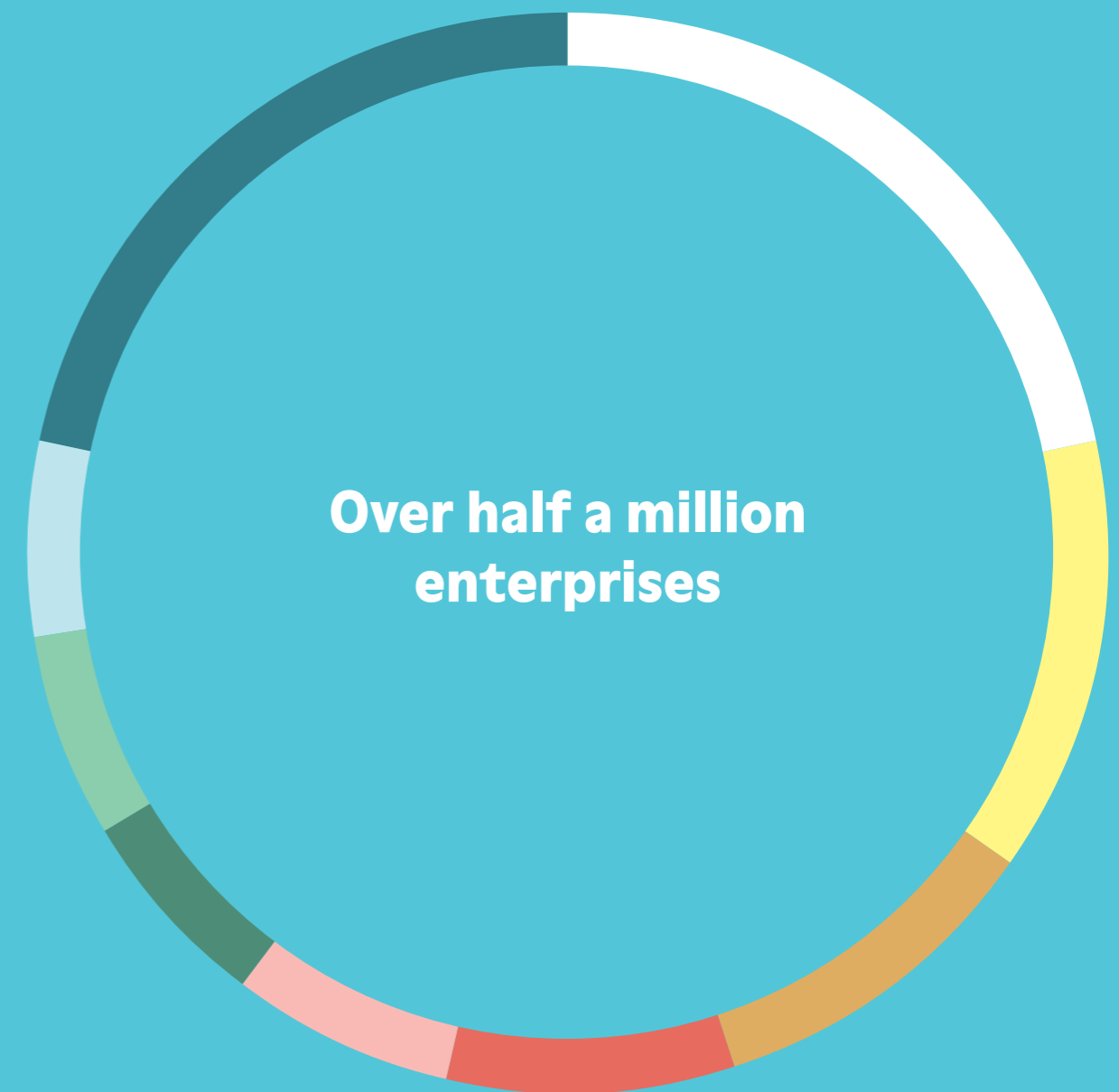
2nd place in terms of GDP (12.1%)

2nd place in terms of the number of enterprises – over 533 thousand (10.4% of entities operating in Poland)

3rd place in terms of the number of enterprises per 1000 inhabitants



STRUCTURE OF ENTITIES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY [2023]



SILESIA

leading exporter

2nd place in terms of exports (11.1% share in the total value of Polish exports)

- the region's most important export industries:
- car parts and accessories
 - cars
 - steel products
 - plastics

strong brand built by regional products and services

cross-sectoral economic cooperation, broad collaboration and numerous partnerships

strengthening the country's position on the world economic map



Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak

THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPORT MARKETS OF THE SILESIA REGION [2022]



innovative economy

2nd place in Poland in terms of the number of research units – 803 entities (10.8% of units nationwide)

implementation of the first Regional Innovation Strategy in Poland

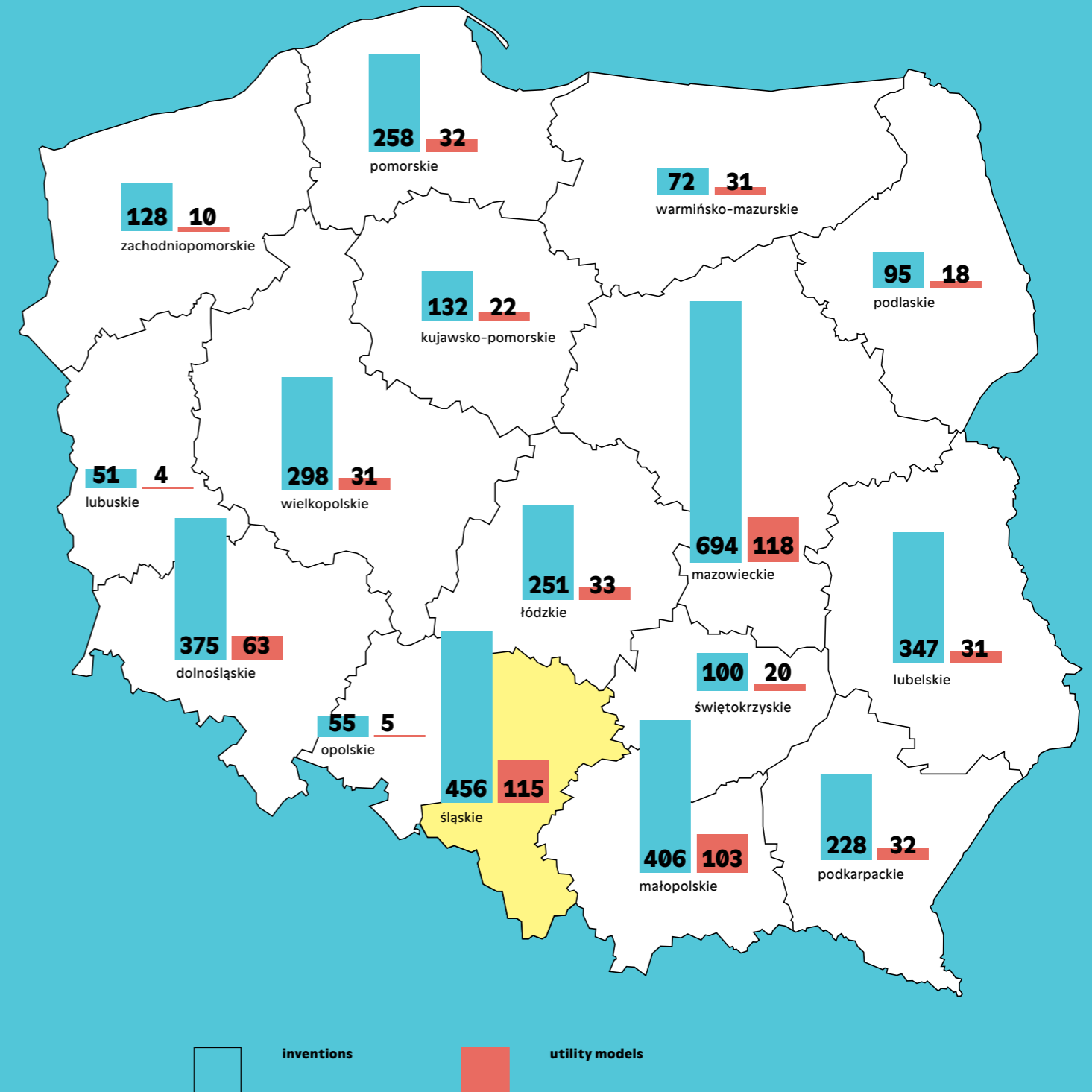
industries of the future: e-mobility, e-sports, design, IoT (Internet of Things) nanotechnology and smart construction



- smart regional specializations:
- energy
 - medicine
 - ICT
 - emerging industries
 - green economy

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak

APPLICATIONS FOR INVENTIONS AND UTILITY MODELS [2023]



□ inventions □ utility models

SILESIA

effective use of EU funds

**EUR 5.14 billion for
the development
of the regional economy**

**support under three funds:
the European Regional
Development Fund (ERDF),
the European Social Fund
Plus (ESF+) and the Just
Transition Fund (JTF)**

**record allocation –
about 15% of funds
allocated to all regional
programmes in Poland**

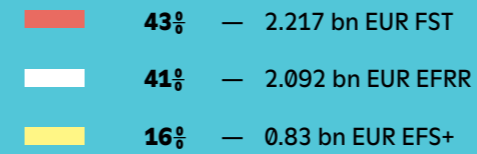
**PLANETARIUM –
SILESIAN SCIENCE
PARK IN CHORZÓW**

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak

the example of EU-funded
project



**SILESIA
[2021–2027]**



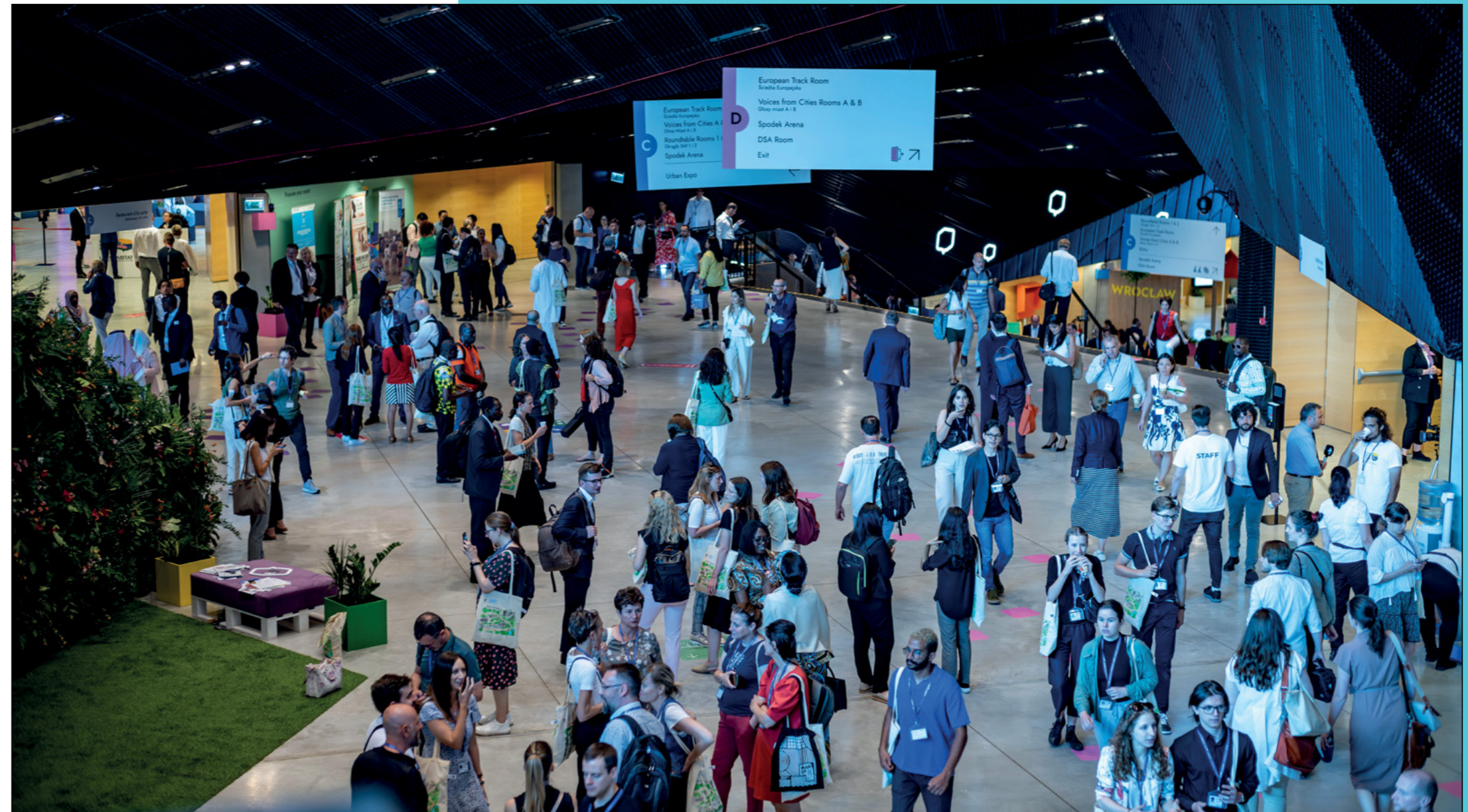
actions for entrepreneurs

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CENTRE IN KATOWICE

Photo: Andrzej Grygiel UM WSL

Implementation of the project “InterGlobal” – internationalization of SMEs from Silesia” co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, under the European Funds for Silesia 2021–2027 programme, in partnership with the Upper Silesia Fund S.A.

- **Objective:** development and strengthening of internationalization processes of enterprises in the Silesia Region
- **Value of the project:** EUR 24.8 million
- **Implementation period:** 2024–2028
- **Activities carried out under the project :**
 - foreign trade fairs
 - organization/co-organization and support of domestic events of an international nature
 - foreign inbound missions
 - foreign trade observatory
 - leisure industry center
 - foreign outbound missions
 - services of foreign advisors
 - internationalisation academy
 - export workshops
 - information meetings
 - specialised consulting services
 - export vouchers
 - business networking
 - information campaigns



SILESIA

from the past to the future

the largest mining region of the European Union, in the process of transformation for almost 30 years

Territorial Just Transition Plan for the Silesian Voivodeship 2030 – an integral part of the European Funds for Silesia 2021–2027 programme

Just Transition Fund – mitigating the social, economic and environmental impacts of the transition to a climate neutral economy

- **New Technologies District – Katowice Gaming and Technology Hub**
- location on revitalised post-industrial sites
 - support through the Fair Transformation Fund
 - investment as a multi-level platform for the development of the games industry, artificial intelligence, technological and digital innovation
 - education centres, offices, co-working spaces, laboratories and modular production studios
 - creation of community and added value through collaboration between global and local companies, universities and start-ups

- **Association of the Silesian-Malopolska Hydrogen Valley**
- promoting hydrogen as the fuel of the future in transport and energy
 - supporting the development of the hydrogen economy
 - striving to build the Silesian-Malopolska hydrogen industry

KATOWICE GAMING AND TECHNOLOGY HUB

Photo: AMC Studio Andrzej M. Choldzyński (visualisation)



SILESIA MUSEUM IN KATOWICE

Photo: Andrzej Grygiel UM WSL



SILESIA

the first metropolis & a dynamic capital

GÓRNOŚLĄSKO- ZAGŁĘBIOWSKA METROPOLIA (GZM METROPOLIS)

2.1 million inhabitants

260,000 enterprises

19 universities

41 closely cooperating
municipalities

2.5 thousand km²
of a well-connected
megacity

KATOWICE

280,000 inhabitants

almost 60,000 enterprises

European City of Science 2024

100 business service centers
from 18 countries

7th place in the fDi Intelligence
ranking of the Financial Times
Group entitled European Cities
and Regions of the Future 2024
in the FDI strategy category



SILESIA

attractive office market

KATOWICE

5th largest office market in Poland

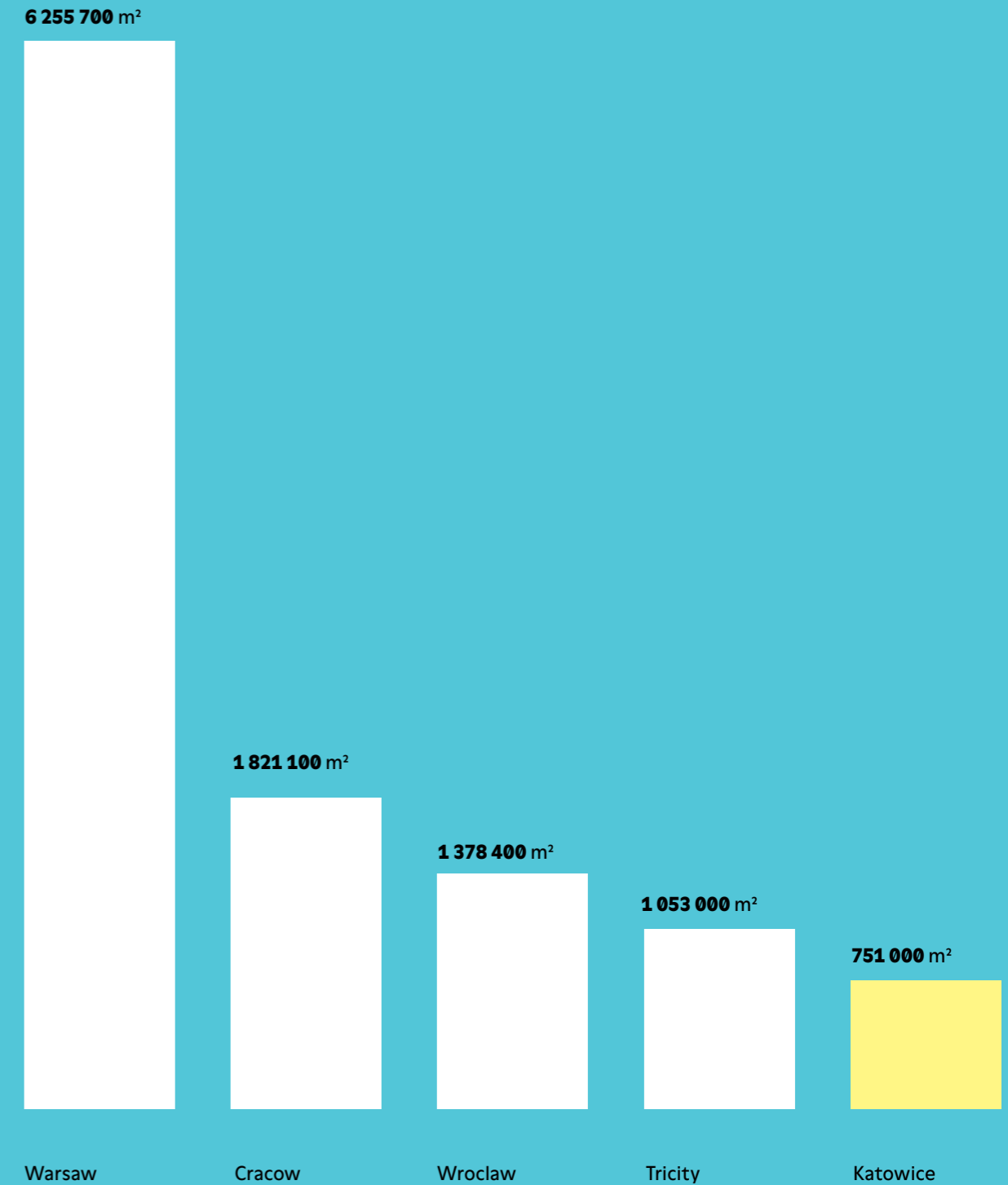
assets at the level of 751 thousand m²

area under construction – 59 thousand m²

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



THE FIVE LARGEST OFFICE SPACE MARKETS IN POLAND



SILESIA

attractive warehouse market

2nd place in Poland
in terms of the size
of warehouse space

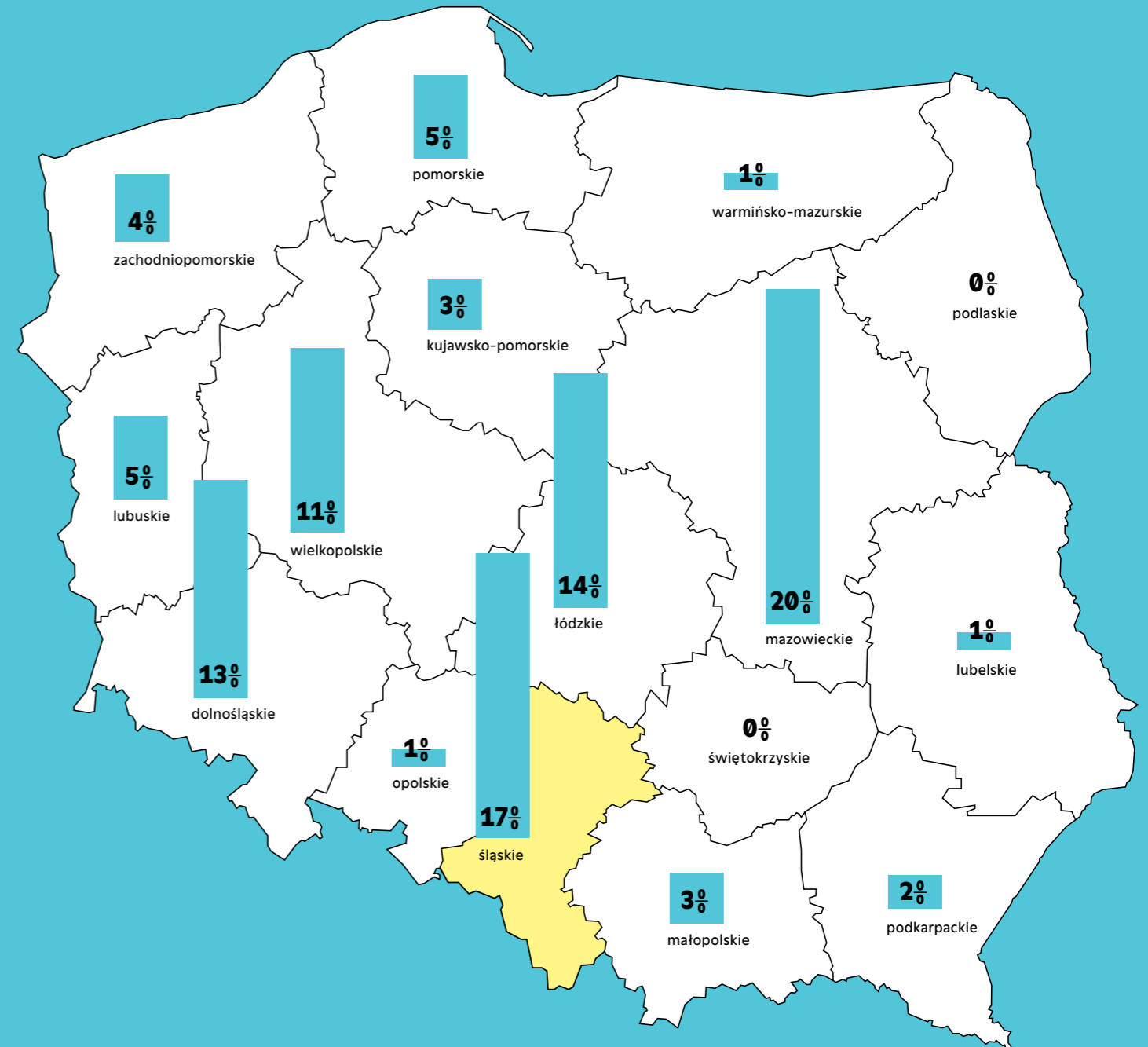
17% of the total
warehouse space
available in Poland

resources at the level
of 5.47 million m²

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



WAREHOUSE SPACE MARKET IN POLAND [2023]



SILESIA

center of modern business services

Katowice and the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM Metropolis) - one of the 5 key centres for modern business service centres in Poland

strong position of the BSC industry affecting the local labour market

140 - number of business service centres in the Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia (GZM Metropolis)

33 400 people - employment

19 - number of centres employing at least 500 people

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE OF CENTRE



SILESIA

good place to invest

consistent actions of the regional authorities for the construction and development of a favourable investment climate in the region

modern office space

attractive location

highly qualified staff

modern office space

wide cultural offer

numerous tourist attractions

a wide range of leisure activities

attractive warehouse market

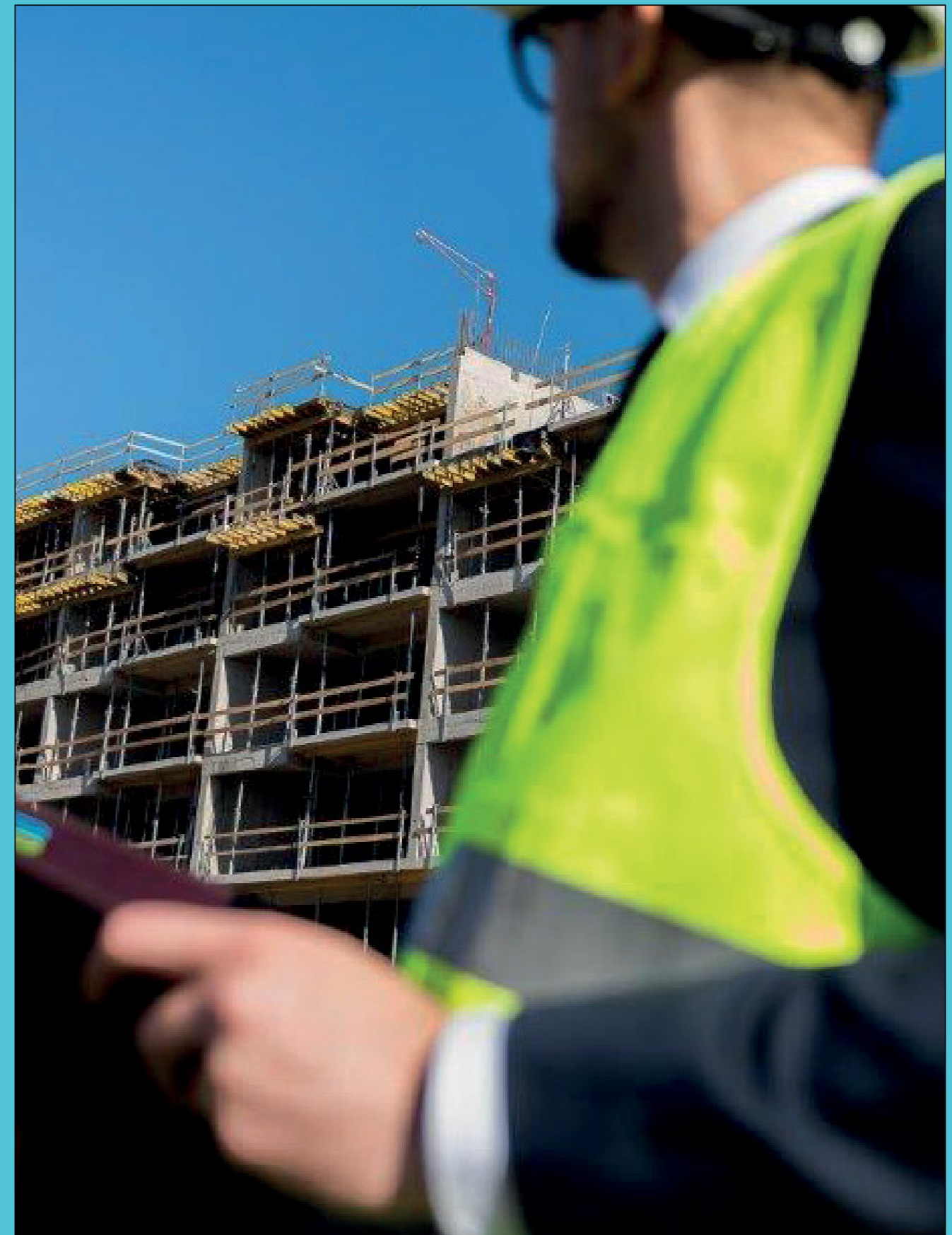
→ **Ranking by fDI Intelligence from the Financial Times Group entitled European Cities and Regions of the Future 2025**

- **4th place** in the cost-effectiveness category
- **7th place** in the business friendliness category
- **8th place** in the FDI strategy category

→ **Ranking by fDI Intelligence from the Financial Times Group entitled European Cities and Regions of the Future 2024**

- **3rd place** in the cost-effectiveness category
- **9th place** in the FDI strategy category

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



SILESIA

one of the best special economic zones

KATOWICE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

one of the best economic zones in the world in 2015–2023

600 companies

100 000 jobs

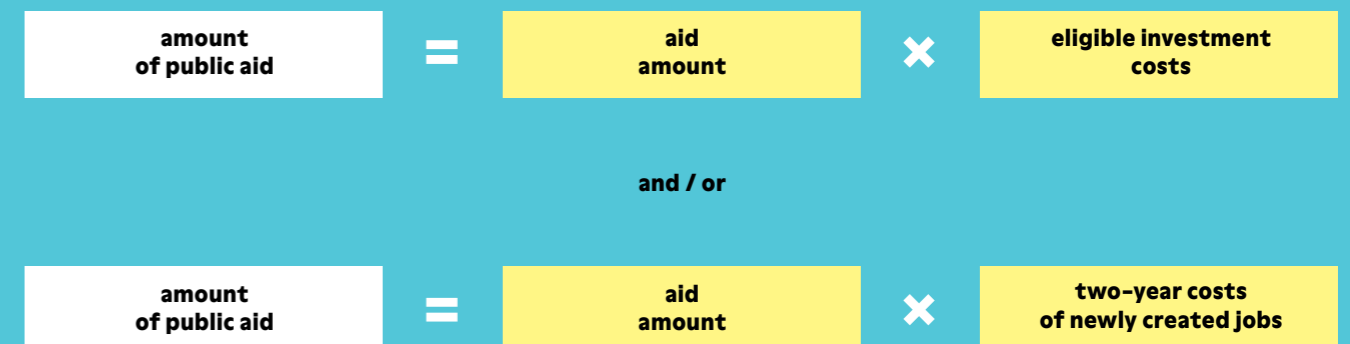
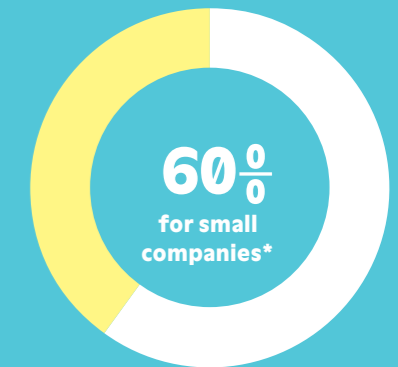
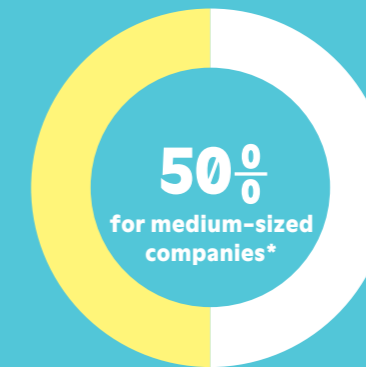
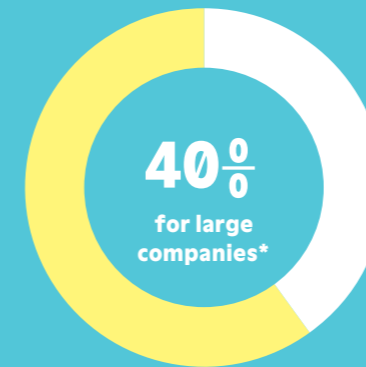
the total value of investments almost PLN 48 billion

the best industrial zone in Europe and the Leader of Sustainable Development according to the Financial Times ranking – fDi Global Free Zones of the Year 2024

coverage – the Silesia Region and part of the Opole Region



INVESTOR TAX EXEMPTIONS



*does not apply to the Częstochowa subregion

SILESIA

business environment institutions

RYBNIK CITY CENTRE

Photo: M. Koczy UM Rybnik



network of business environment institutions – chambers of commerce, industry and trade, craft guilds, business support centres, advice centres, business information centres and business associations

impact on the growth of competitiveness and development of the SME sector

industrial, scientific and technological parks – support for the development of innovation of enterprises in the region and technology transfer



SILESIA

comprehensive education

THE KAROL SZYMANOWSKI ACADEMY OF MUSIC IN KATOWICE

Photo: Andrzej Grygiel UM WSL

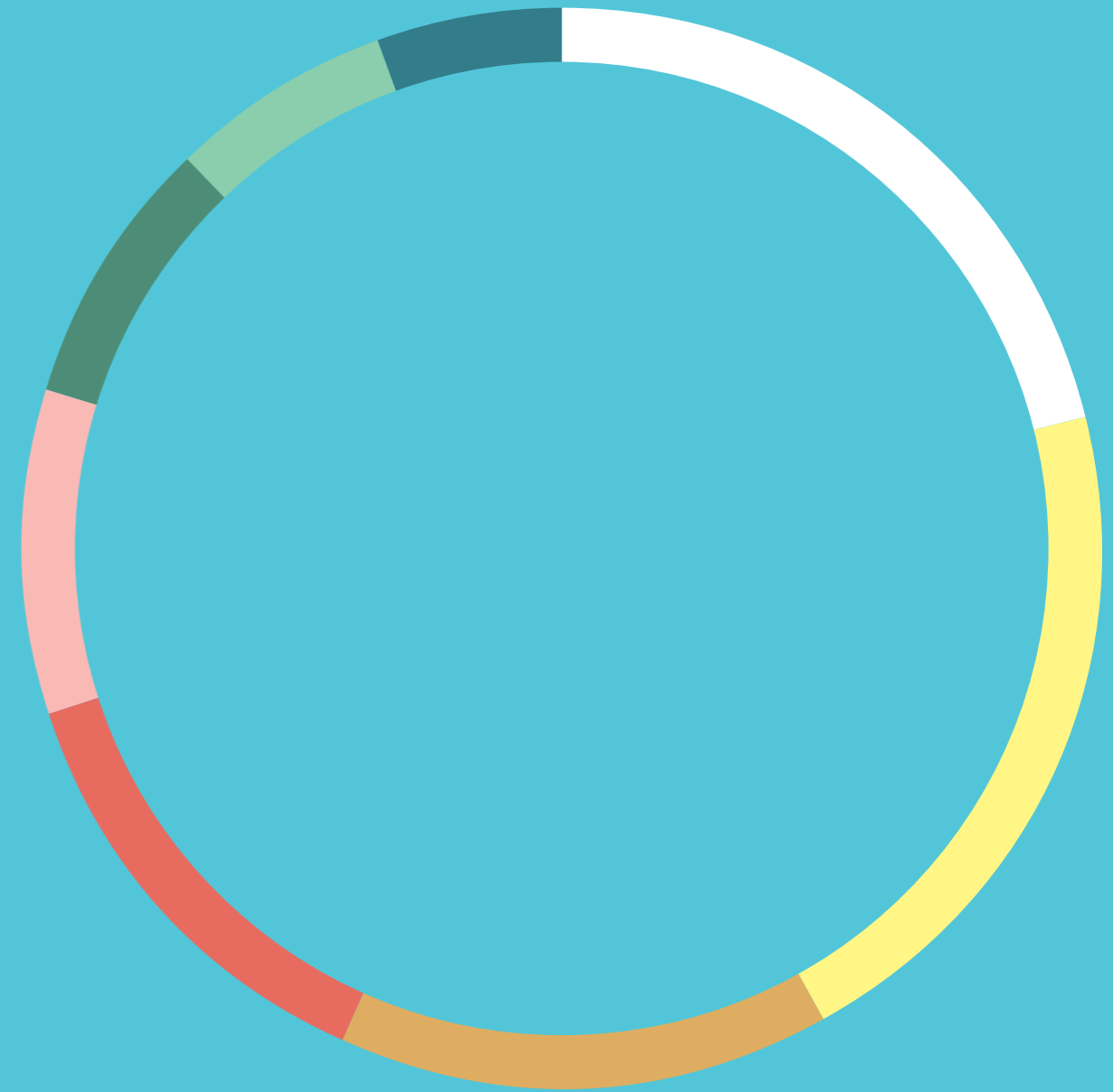


5th place in Poland in terms of the number of students (over 107.000)

31 home universities, 18 branches of universities from outside the region

Silesian University of Technology among 10 Polish universities with the status of a research university

STUDENTS IN THE REGION



SILESIA

national key clusters

MEDSILESIA CLUSTER - THE SILESIAN NETWORK OF MEDICAL DEVICES

medical robotics, surgical and orthopaedic tools, diagnostic devices, rehabilitation, medical equipment and telemedicine

SILESIAN AVIATION CLUSTER

gliders, light and ultralight aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles, aero-engine modules and composite structures

SILESIAN NANO CLUSTER

nanotechnology, advanced materials, material engineer, incremental manufacturing

SILESIA AUTOMOTIVE & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

automotive and new technologies

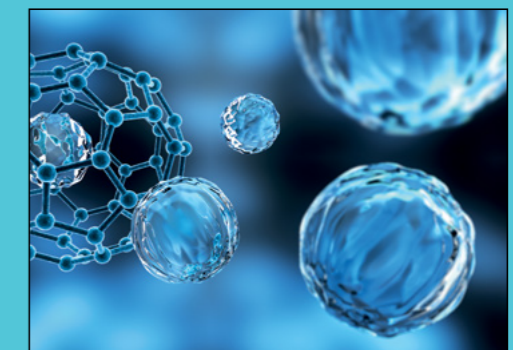
Silesia Automotive & Advanced Manufacturing



MedSilesia Cluster - the Silesian Network of Medical Devices



Silesian Aviation Cluster



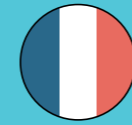
Silesian Nano Cluster



international cooperation



PARTNER REGIONS



Hauts-de-France
France



Land North Rhine-Westphalia
Germany



Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén
Hungary



Lviv Oblast
Ukraine



Moravian-Silesian Region
Czech Republic



Chernivtsi Oblast
Ukraine



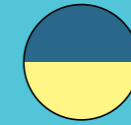
Wales Region
United Kingdom



Žilina Self-governing Region
Slovakia



Autonomous Community of Asturias
Spain



Donetsk Oblast
Ukraine



Adjara Autonomous Republic
Georgia



Liaoning Province
China



State of Nevada
USA



Zhytomyr Oblast
Ukraine



Parana State
Brazil



Gifu Prefecture
Japan



Abu Dhabi Emirate
United Arab Emirates



State of West Bengal
India

OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION:

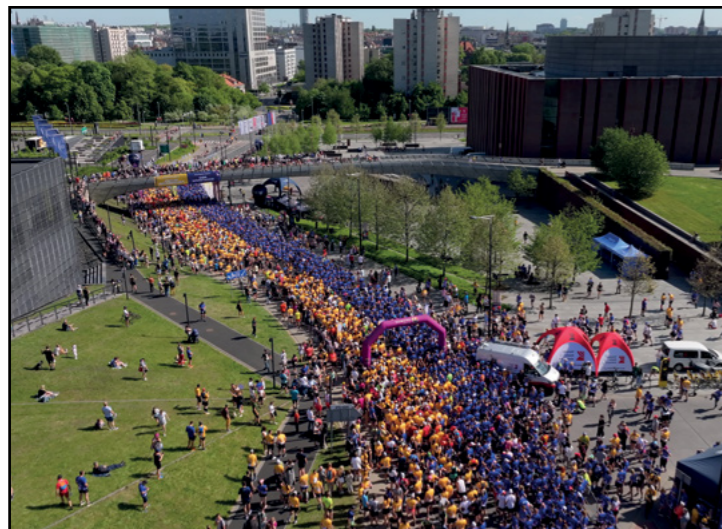
Regional Weimar Triangle
Regional Cross-Border Triangle

region of great events

attractive conditions for business tourism

a high level of tourist development

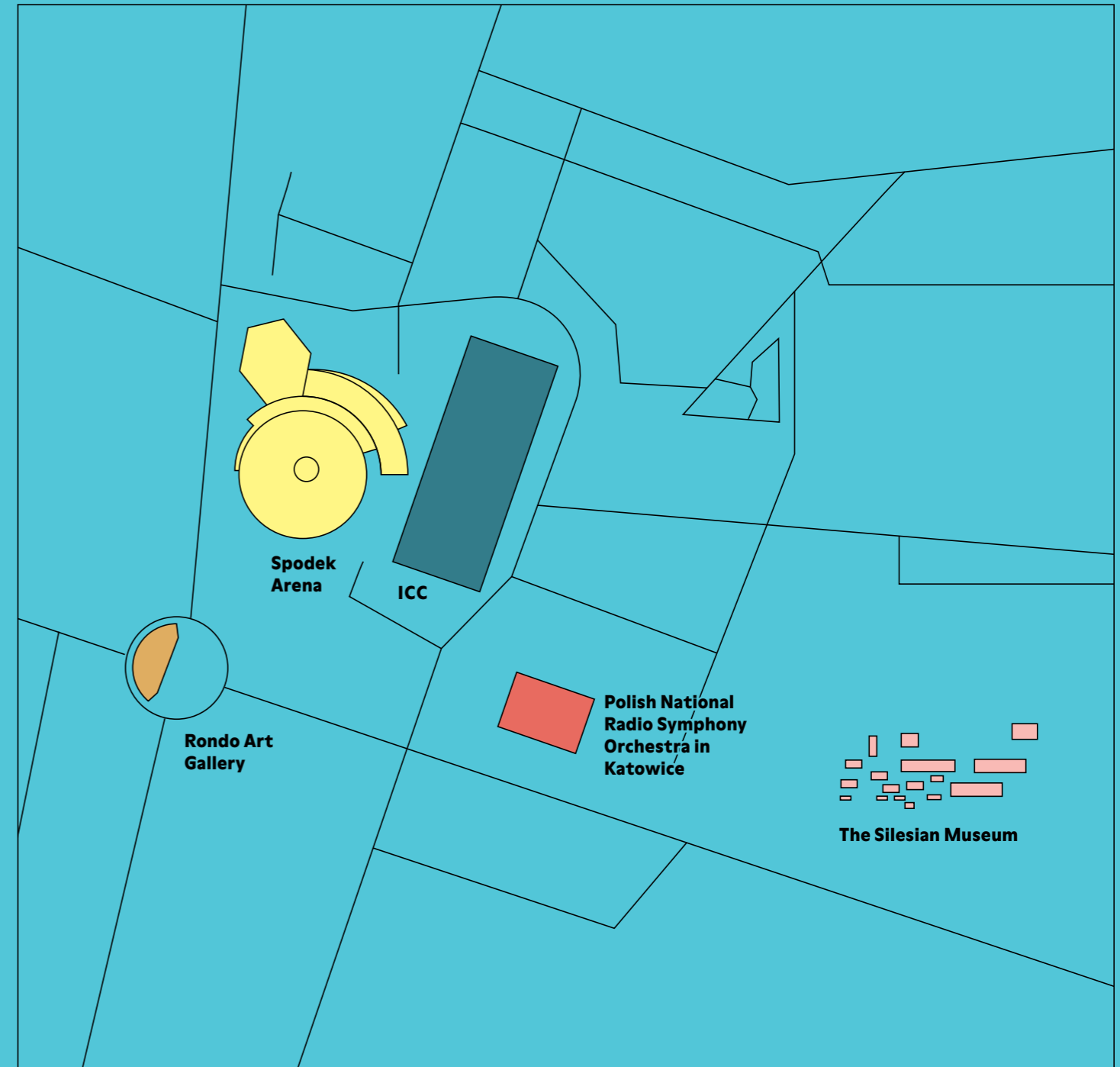
an average of over 6 million tourists per year



CULTURE ZONE IN KATOWICE, SILESIA MARATHON

Photo: Silesia Marathon

- Finals of the international e-sports tournament Intel Extreme Masters (IEM): 65,000 visitors and 710,000 viewers online
- European Economic Congress
- European Congress of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
- International Congress Centre in Katowice ICC
- PRECOP conference
- Design Days, Energy Days
- Expo Katowice International Trade Fair
- Industry 4.0 Conference
- Meeting Industry Silesia Convention Bureau: increasing the value of the region's brand as an attractive venue for business meetings, conferences, fairs and conventions



SILESIA

diverse tourist attractions

green areas – 32% of the region's area

St. Nicholas Rotunda in Cieszyn – featured on the 20 zloty note

Silesian Park – twice the size of Central Park in New York

„Elka” cableway, Silesian Park – the longest lowland cableway in Europe

Silesian Planetarium – the oldest and largest planetarium in Poland

Radio station Gliwice (height 111 m) – the tallest wooden structure in Europe

Guido Mine in Zabrze – the largest post-industrial tourist complex in Europe

the deepest venue for small meetings in Europe – Guido Mine, 320 m underground

the largest lace in the world entered in the Guinness Book of World Records – Koniaków Lace Center

one of the most acoustically perfect concert halls in Europe – the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice

Katowice – one of the greenest cities in Poland

the tripoint between Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia



1



1. OGRODZIENIEC CASTLE

Photo: Andrzej Grygiel UM WSL

2. LAKE POGORIA III

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak

3. “ELKA” CABLEWAY IN SILESIA PARK

Photo: Piotr Cyganik

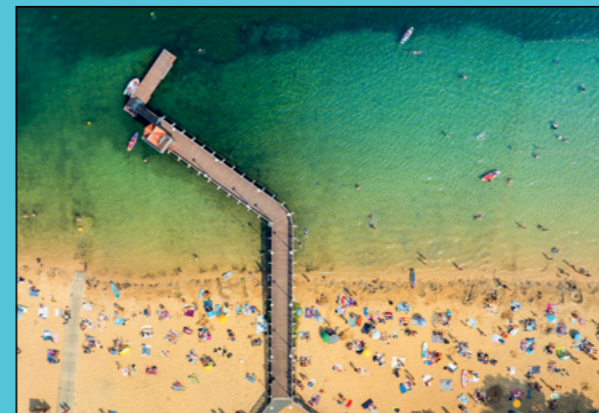
4. GUIDO MINE IN ZABRZE

Photo: Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze

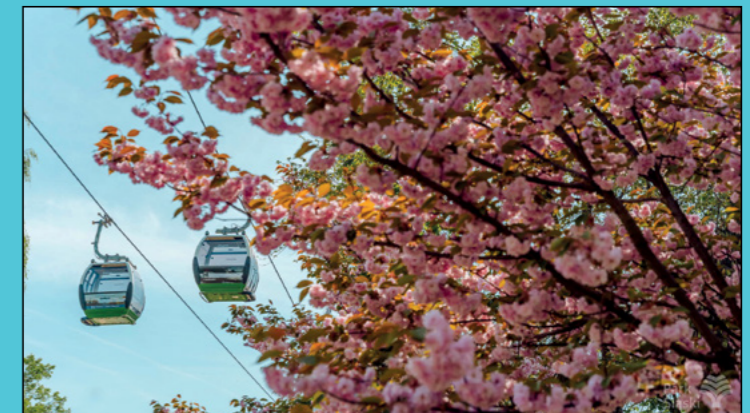
5. THE BESKID MOUNTAINS

Photo: Marshal Office of the Silesian Voivodeship

2



3



4



5



SILESIA

friendly administration

**BUILDING OF THE
MARSHAL'S OFFICE OF
THE SILESIA VOIVODESHIP
IN KATOWICE**

Photo: Radosław Kaźmierczak



support for Polish
and foreign investors

support for investors
in contacts with local
authorities, institutions
and companies from
the region

increasing the
competence
of local government
administration staff
in the field of building
the investment
potential of the region

conducting and
expanding the database
of investment offers

promoting local
investment offers

participating
in investment and
business events

activities promoting
the region as a good
place to invest

support for regional
enterprises in their
expansion into foreign
markets

post-investment care

References

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- **Marshal Office of the Silesian Voivodeship**
Department of Promotion, Economy and Sport
Ligonia 46, 40-037 Katowice
+48 32 77 44 503
ps@slaskie.pl
www.slaskie.pl
 - **Silesian Investor and Exporter Assistance Center**
coie@slaskie.pl
www.invest-in-silesia.pl
 - **Preparation**
Silesian Investor and Exporter Assistance Center
 - **Graphic design**
Marta Gawin
www.martagawin.com

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Investment offers