

Paweł P. ZAGOŹDŹON  
Katarzyna D. ZAGOŹDŹON

## UNDERGROUND GEOTOURIST OBJECTS IN POLAND

*underground tourist routes, mines, caves,  
tourism, geotourism*

This paper summarizes selected information regarding underground tourist facilities in Poland which may be regarded as geotourist attractions. The article discusses the natural objects (about 20 caves) but more attention has been paid to the anthropogenic objects: post-mining (18) and those associated with military activity (6). From the geotourist point of view such anthropogenic facilities allow insights into the structure of the rock mass in areas of very diverse geology. They lead to the exploitation of such a variety of minerals like coal, rock salt, fluorite, as well as Au, Ag, Pb, As, Cu, Fe, Ni and Sn ores and rock materials, such as flint, chalk and sandstone for glass production. Moreover they document 6.5 thousand year history of mining on the territory of Poland.

The distribution of these objects is very uneven. Significant groups are located in Lower Silesia and in the Silesia-Cracow region; smaller ones are in the Tatra Mountains and in the region of Kielce, while isolated objects are located in central and eastern Poland.

Attention was paid to the perspectives and the need to create new objects of this kind and the need to regulate the formal requirements for the operation of such facilities.