

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN POLAND – NATIONAL REPORT

Polish Committee of TICCIH

1. Political and economic conditions versus protection of industrial heritage in Poland

The process of economic transformation in Poland that started with social and economic reforms at the end of the 20th century, resulted in closing multiple historic industries and in some instances - entire industrial regions. The liquidation of tangible traces of Poland's industrial development has not been accompanied by a reasonable plan to retain the most important evidence of Poland's economic development.

Steelworks, mines, textile factories and a number of other industrial facilities for years were the pride of their employees and the citizens living nearby. Along with the economic transformation process, the facilities started to be examples of technological backwardness and poor quality of life of the inhabitants. Today it has become exceedingly difficult to find the silhouettes of blast furnaces, mine shafts, cooling towers or brick chimneys of former boiler houses in the landscapes of Polish cities. Despite a growing interest in industrial heritage, the liquidation process of the last evidence of the industrial history of these regions has been progressing. Important, often the last examples of industrial activity keep being closed or destroyed. This is what has been going on with the historic closed mines in Upper Silesia.

Economic development - Poland in the European Union

The first two decades of the 21st century saw an intensive economic and social development in Poland. Poland's accession to the European Union in 2004 accelerated the development process, in particular due to financial support from the European Union.

The additional financing supported a number of projects covering overhauls, maintenance and adaptation of historic technical equipment for new purposes, primarily social purposes. With the subsequent financial tranches from the EU budget, a number of projects were carried out covering industrial heritage. The projects are pursued primarily by local government authorities at various levels. Most often post-industrial facilities are adapted for museums, cultural and office facilities. Along with economic development, a new type of investors appeared - development companies adapting originally industrial facilities into new functions: offices, apartments, shops.

The number of adapted post-industrial facilities has grown abruptly. Post-industrial facilities in large cities have become especially attractive for investors. Apartments in former factories are much in need and reach prices comparable to new

developments. However, many of the projects were completed without complying with the rules of protecting industrial heritage.

2. Legal basis for protection of industrial heritage in Poland

Historic monuments in Poland are protected in line with the Act on protection and care of historic monuments, approved in 2003 and amended by Poland's Parliament afterwards. Technical and other monuments are protected primarily by being entered to the Register of Monuments, kept separately for each province by the Provincial Monument Conservators.

Facilities of special importance for Poland's history are registered since 1994 and classified - pursuant to ordinances issued by Poland's President - as "Historic Monuments".

The prestigious title has been awarded to 91 historic facilities and complexes all over the country, including 11 technical monuments:

- Bochnia - Salt mine (2000)
- Ciechocinek – Complex of graduation towers and salt works with Tower and Parks (2017)
- Duszniki Zdrój – paper mill (2011)
- Gliwice – radio station (2007)
- Augustów Canal (2007)
- Elbląg Canal (2011)
- Krzemionki near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski – Neolithic flint mine (1994)
- Ozimek – cast iron chain hanging bridge on the Mała Panew river (2017)
- Tarnowskie Góry – underground galleries of a historic silver ore mine and the "Black Trout" adit (2004)
- Warsaw – Complex of a Filter station by William Lindley (2012)
- Wieliczka – salt mine (1994).

3. Industrial heritage in Poland on the UNESCO World Heritage List

In Poland there are 15 facilities on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Among them there are two technical facilities:

- The Salt Mine in Wieliczka was entered to the UNESCO list in 1978 as one of the first 12 facilities in the world. In 2013 the entry was expanded with the Salt Mine in Bochnia and the Saltworks Castle in Wieliczka;
- The lead, silver and zinc ore mine in Tarnowskie Góry was entered to the UNESCO list in 2017. The lead, silver and zinc ore mine is located in Upper Silesia, a main mining area in Central Europe. The facility covers underground corridors with shafts, galleries and an underground water management system.

4. Most important projects

Growing social awareness concerning the need to protect cultural heritage as well as economic development and funds resulting from Poland's accession to the European Union resulted in multiple new projects related to protection and mainly adaptation of

technical monuments to new functions. Among the most important tasks completed in recent years are the following:

Chosen projects carried out by local governments:

- Museum of Urban Engineering in Kraków (1998)
- Museum of Nature and Technology in Starachowice (2001)
- Museum of Technology and Communications. Art Depot in Szczecin (2006)
- EC1 Łódź City of Culture (including: Centre of Science and Technology EC1) – a former city power and heat plant (2008)
- “Ekspluseum” in Bydgoszcz (factory of explosives from 1939) (2011)
- Museum of Coal Mining in Zabrze, composed of “Queen Luiza” Adit, Guido mine and the Main Key Heritage Adit (2013).

Chosen projects carried out by business institutions (developers):

- Shopping Centre with an Art Gallery Old Brewery in Poznań on the basis of the former Hugger Brewery (2003)
- Commercial, service and entertainment centre Manufaktura in Łódź in the former factory site owned by Izrael Poznański (2006)
- Hotel Andel’s in Łódź in the former spinning mill owned by Izrael Poznański (2009)
- Office, service, commercial and entertainment complex Art N in Warsaw in the former Norblin Factory (launched in 2017)

Chosen projects carried out by private investors and NGOs:

- Topacz Museum in Ślęza near Wrocław (2003)
- Railway Museum in Silesia in Jaworzyna Śląska (2004)
- Beer Brewing Museum in Tychy (2004)
- Live Porcelain Museum in Ćmielów (2005)
- Żywiec Brewery Museum (2006)
- Metallurgy Museum of Mała Panew Valley in Ozimek (2012)
- “Former Mine” Science and Art Centre in Wałbrzych (earlier Museum of Mining and Industry in Wałbrzych) (2014).

An important group is composed of museums operated by the Foundation for the Protection of Silesian Industrial Heritage:

- Railway Museum in Silesia in Jaworzyna Śląska (2004)
- Zinc Rolling Mill Museum in Szopienice-Katowice (2016).

5. Museums

Over the last 5 years major changes occurred among museums documenting industrial heritage. According to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, in 2018 there are almost 800 museums in Poland. There are 168 of those that fully or partly document industrial heritage which is over 21% of all Polish museums. Since

2000 there have been 76 industrial museums opened, mainly at the beginning of the 2000s. This is a growth by over 45%. In the last 5 years, three more technical museums were registered.

The growing number of technological museums in recent years has resulted almost exclusively from the activities of local governments and private persons who initiated museums covering industrial heritage, technological heritage, monuments of technology, etc.

The situation was different with respect to state museums. Poland's core museum "Museum of Technology in Warsaw" established in 1955 by the Central Technical Organisation NOT, was recently deprived of funding from the state treasury, and has materially deteriorated. As a result of the agreement concluded in 2017 by NOT on the one hand, and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the City of Warsaw - the National Museum of Technology was established (by the two Ministries and the City of Warsaw) which took over the premises, collections and archives of the former NOT Museum of Technology - and thus it became the state-owned National Museum of Technology. Now the Museum is being reorganised. Branches of the Museum of Technology, including historic industrial facilities from the beginning of Poland's industrialisation of mid-19th century, were largely taken over by local governments.

Transformation has also affected Poland's major railway museum in Warsaw. The Museum is now being transformed and waiting for the construction of its new premises.

The last European operating steam depot in Wolsztyn operating regular railway lines was transformed into an institution of culture. In 2017 it resumed regular railway service with steam locomotives.

6. Education on industrial heritage in Poland

Education in the history of technology and protection of industrial heritage has been offered at university level since the 1970s. History of technology is offered at most technological universities as an element of broader curricula. Autonomic classes in history of technology are available at the Universities of Technology in Wrocław, Gliwice and the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków.

Protection of industrial heritage is now occasionally present and mostly with other core subjects. The curriculum on protection of industrial heritage for students of the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Technology in Wrocław is an exception. The curriculum is performed in the form of lectures and practical classes.

7. Activity of TICCIH Poland

Since its establishment in 1978, the Polish TICCIH Committee (PK TICCIH) has been supporting and initiating actions in the sphere of protection and interpretation of industrial heritage in Poland. The intensified activity last year resulted from the reconstruction and activation of the organisational structures of PK TICCIH.

Members of the organisation were involved in rescuing historic industrial facilities in Silesia, including historic mining facilities. The organisation is involved in the

preservation of the historic Gdańsk Shipyard in Gdańsk. Now, the members of PK TICCIH are working on a management project for the historic Neolithic flint mine in Krzemionki near Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski as the Museum has filed an application to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Over the last three years, members of PK TICCIH were involved in:

- a cycle of conferences organised in the Zinc Smelting Museum “Walcownia” in Katowice (2016, 2017)
- organisation of a national exhibition titled “100 years of motorisation in Poland”
- efforts to protect industrial landscape around the historic Katowice Mine, adapted to house the Museum of Silesia.

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