



**Thematic Committee**  
**6 - 8 June 2001**

**6. Environmental management and City Development Strategy  
for Katowice Agglomeration, Poland**

# Katowice Agglomeration

## Environmental Management and City Development Strategies

### SITUATION

Katowice Agglomeration is located at the southern part of Poland in the region called Upper Silesia. It is most urbanized, industrialized and densely populated region in the country, covering the area of 1250 km<sup>2</sup> with the population of approximately 2.1 million and average population density reaching from 640 to 4500 people/km<sup>2</sup>.

Katowice Agglomeration is considered as an exceptional area in Poland in respect of its environmental and spatial conditions. It creates a single mass of 15 adjoining cities governed separately, but sharing commonly infrastructural and environmental problems.



It has been a traditional old industrial region since 19 c. with extremely high concentration of heavy industry based on locally existing hard coal, zinc and lead. The results of a long-term industrial impact are easily noticed in contemporary spatial structure of Katowice Agglomeration. There are many industrial premises all over the region, as well as many barrens, degraded areas, flood lands, areas of subsidence, hips of mining and metallurgic origin, etc.



## POLICY APPROACH

Katowice Agglomeration now-a-days is facing the restructuring process, carried out since few years, however is not always efficient enough to manage with environment and degradation of space. Gradually increasing number of urban, environmental and social conflicts has been recognized by local authorities as a priority for further municipal development.

Local authorities decided to set a cooperation with the UN structure - firstly with UNCHS/Habitat, than with UNDP and UNEP in order to promote a sustainable development through the Agenda 21 principles at the local level. The UN approach not only met the needs of Katowice Agglomeration, but it was consistent with Polish State Environmental Policy.



## INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP PARTNERSHIP (Union and Project)

Cooperation between the Union and the UN system resulted in implementation of Sustainable Katowice Agglomeration Project (SKAP), belonging to a world-wide family of UNCHS programmes called: Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP). It was divided into two phases: 1994-1997 and 1997-2000, based on formal agreement between the Government of Poland and the UN system.

Project was implemented by the Union for Sustainable Development of the Cities of Katowice Agglomeration, purposefully called into being 1994, by 13 municipalities. The idea of Union establishment was a response to the lack of formal and governmental structure for Katowice Agglomeration. In other words - spatial context of Katowice Agglomeration required a specific institutional frame-work, embodied by the Union as an institutional, legal and powerful structure.



## FINANCES

Project funding was mainly based on financial support provided through the UN system from other external donors, such as: ICSC (Canada), UNEP/IETC, the Government of Japan. Financial contribution of municipalities was around 20% of a total Project budget.

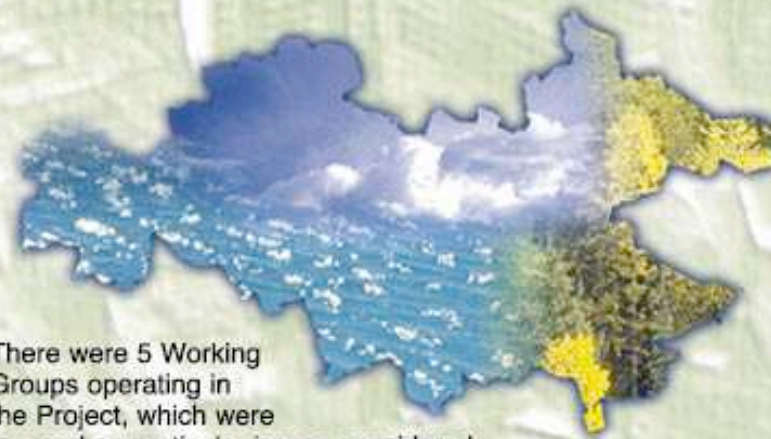
## RESULTS AND IMPACT (Activities and Tasks)

Project activities were addressed to all Union municipalities and other cooperating partners. Tasks taken up by the Project were divided into three general task groups:

- ▶ *pilot projects' implementation*
- ▶ *elaborations of informative and diagnostic character*
- ▶ *educational and training activities*

The regular Project implementation was based on thematic Working Groups. Their field of interests reflected the problems considered as priorities for Katowice Agglomeration. Variety composition of the Working Groups illustrated a cross-sectoral cooperation.

Participants, taking part in the meetings represented municipal and regional level and other organizations from public and private sector, such as: research institutes, universities, municipal enterprises and private companies.



There were 5 Working Groups operating in the Project, which were focused on particular issues considered as the priority problems for Katowice Agglomeration:

- ▶ *Rehabilitation of post-industrial derelict and contaminated areas*
- ▶ *Reclamation and re-use of post-industrial areas*
- ▶ *Municipal waste management*
- ▶ *Municipal sewage management*
- ▶ *Revitalization of urban environment*



## REPLICATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Pilot projects were the main Project output having a pre-investment nature. They were elaborated as: feasibility studies, technical assistance or land-use projects for selected area. Each pilot project dealt with another aspect of transformation of post-industrial premises and derelict lands.

Their main goal was to serve as a "bank of model solutions and procedural proceedings" available through the Project to all Katowice Agglomeration municipalities. Those solutions were expected to be a component of municipal strategies, as well as to an overall strategy for the entire Katowice Agglomeration. Particular solutions provided by pilot projects could be applied in other places, respecting local specific modification. There were seven pilot projects, selected according to three main criteria: **1)** importance and common occurrence, **2)** feasibility **3)** replication.

Other Project activities referring to environmental management and city strategic building were prepared in the form of documents and publications, e.g:

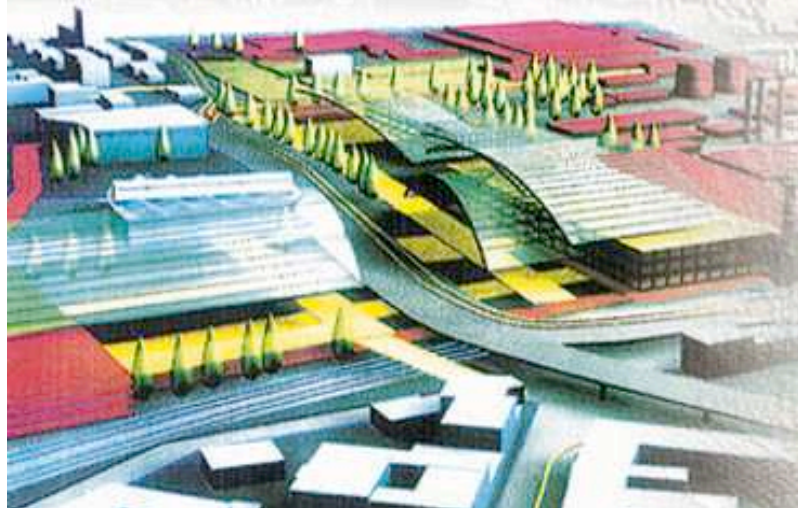


- ▶ *Environmental Profile of Katowice Agglomeration - updated version (bilingual)*
- ▶ *Strategy Report of Katowice Agglomeration as a part of the European Report prepared on international conference URBAN 21*
- ▶ *Model transformations of post-industrial and derelict areas (typology and classification of post-industrial areas)*
- ▶ *Urban Environmental Indicators' List for Katowice Agglomeration cities*

Project Team was also involved in preparation of important regional and national documents:

- ▶ *Strategy for Silesian Voivodship (Province)*
- ▶ *Metropolitan Areas Delimitation*
- ▶ *National Report: Istanbul +5 (as a part of National Secretariat for Habitat Agenda activities).*

Project role, in the context of Katowice Agglomeration was to strengthen local capacity building in the field of city development strategies as well as environmental management. It was illustrated by a big number of trainings, conferences, workshops and study tours took place during the Project implementation.



## **LESSONS LEARNT (conclusions)**

Project was not expected to solve the serious and deep-seated problems of Katowice Agglomeration by itself. Nevertheless, it was to provide the Union members with technical and financial support in the field of urban and environmental management and city development strategies. Cooperation set between the Union and the UN system was an extraordinary lesson of sharing knowledge, experience exchange and permanent process of learning for all partners involved.

Having accomplished goals and tasks assigned for the Project, Sustainable Katowice Agglomeration Project was terminated in December 2000. Its activities and input into regional development was highly assessed during Terminal Tripartite Project Review.



# Improvement of Urban Environment within Katowice Agglomeration (1996 - 2001)



The last five years have brought a number of important changes in Katowice Agglomeration in terms of industrial restructuring as well as administrative and institutional reforms. This process has had a significant impact on environment, economy and quality of life.

The new administrative division introduced in 1999 has created more favourable conditions to regional development and self-government capacity building, by decentralising the authority and shifting more responsibilities to local level.

There are four cities within Katowice Agglomeration that are rated among national leaders of economic transformation: Katowice, Sosnowiec, Dabrowa Górnicza and Gliwice. Their status results from the following criteria: dynamics of companies with foreign capital, number of employees and number of individual businesses.

The cities of Katowice Agglomeration constitute the fourth largest scientific and academic centre in Poland. Apart from public high schools and universities, there has been a permanent expansion of non-public schools and language colleges over the last five years.

The infrastructure of Katowice Agglomeration has changed for better in recent years. This includes in particular the improvement of transportation network - mainly by creation of more efficient linkages among the cities. The telecommunication system has been also enriched by introducing new operators.

Protection of natural resources and landscape values as well as a renewal of urban and post-industrial areas are of special concern for local authorities. There is a continuous increase of a number of forests and city greenery, reaching presently more than 30 % of the total Katowice Agglomeration surface. An improvement of the urban environment by reducing the air and water pollution has been noticed in recent years too. The environmental policy adopted in Katowice follows the principles of the Habitat Agenda.

Presence of foreign capital, city centre revitalisation, preservation of natural and cultural values, as well as development of network of high quality recreational and educational centres significantly strengthen the metropolitan function of Katowice Agglomeration.

The above mentioned improvements and processes are only a signal of the dynamics and complexity of the transformation going on since the mid of 90s. This is both a challenge and a chance for the sustainable development of the region. In this context, the Habitat Agenda will continue to be used as a guide for further action.

