

# In Metropolis GZM. Business

ECONOMIC BULLETIN OF METROPOLIS GZM

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## Katowice Airport is developing. Infrastructural investment worth PLN 1.5 billion (EUR 346.4 million)

**GÓRNOŚLĄSKIE TOWARZYSTWO LOTNICZE S.A. HAS PRESENTED THE KATOWICE AIRPORT INVESTMENT PROGRAM FOR THE YEARS 2024–2028. ONE OF THE PROJECT'S ELEMENTS IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PASSENGER TERMINAL.**

The plan covers the development of all airport areas, i.e., the passenger, airplane technical service, and cargo areas.

Furthermore, GLT S.A. is planning to develop the fourth area of operations: a goods and fuels transshipment facility based on a railway siding. The biggest and most expensive project planned within the 2024–2028 investment program is the construction of a main passenger terminal.



Source: 2024–2028 Katowice Airport Investment Program  
- Katowice Airport/News (katowice-airport.com)

The most important investments planned as part of the 2024–2028 Katowice Airport infrastructure development program are:

- A main passenger terminal with a floor area of 49,000 square meters. The facility will be equipped with jet bridges and connected, via a tunnel, to the “Pyrzowice Airport” railway station
- A new road system in front of the main terminal, including a kiss & fly area
- A multi-modal transfer center
- Expansion of open car parks; construction of a multi-story car park
- A multi-modal transshipment center for goods and fuels based on a railway siding
- The fourth hangar for airplane technical services
- The second cargo terminal
- A new guard post for the Airport Rescue and Firefighting Service and new back-up facilities for the airport’s transport and operating departments
- The total estimated cost of the 2024–2028 Katowice Airport investment program is approx. PLN 1.5 billion (approx. EUR 346.4 million), including approx. PLN 950 million (approx. EUR 219.3 million) for the main passenger terminal. GTL S.A. is planning to finance the project through its own funds, a commercial loan, a share capital increase, and European Union subsidies.

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# The region and the city of Katowice among the best places to invest in



## A success of the Silesian Province and the capital of the Metropolis, Katowice, in the European Cities and Regions of the Future ranking.

- The Silesian Province came 9th in the “FDI Strategy” category and 3rd in the “Cost Effectiveness” category.
- Katowice came 7th in the “Top 10 Large European Cities of the Future

2024 – fDi Strategy” ranking, accompanied by such great cities as Glasgow, Antwerp, Porto, and Bilbao. It was also the highest-ranked Polish city in this category.

- This year, Katowice also debuted in the “Large European Cities of the Future 2024 – Cost Effectiveness” category which describes the relation between the standard of living and services and the costs.

RANKING	REGION	COUNTRY
1	Paris Île-de-France	France
2	West Midlands	United Kingdom
3	North Rhine-Westphalia	Germany
4	Catalonia	Spain
5	Emilia-Romania	Italy
6	Piedmont	Italy
7	Lombardy	Italy
8	Madrid	Spain
<b>9</b>	<b>Silesia</b>	<b>Poland</b>
10	Andalusia	Spain

RANKING	CITY	COUNTRY
1	Glasgow	United Kingdom
2	Antwerp	Belgium
3	Porto	Portugal
4	Bilbao	Spain
5	Gothenburg	Sweden
6	Düsseldorf	Germany
<b>7</b>	<b>Katowice</b>	<b>Poland</b>
8	Rotterdam	Netherlands
9	Izmir	Turkey
10	Poznań	Poland



Source: own compilation based on “Silesian Province still on top in fDi intelligence!”.



Source: own compilation based on “Katowice as the best Polish city in terms of attracting direct foreign investment”.

# SkyPort opens in Katowice

**A Sector Skills Center in the area of airports and airport terminals has been opened in Katowice. The SkyPort is the only facility of this type in the region.**

The purpose of this new institution is to allow various target groups (pupils, students, teachers, and adults looking to rebrand) to acquire or supplement knowledge, skills, and professional qualifications or to totally rebrand into the area related to the operation of airports and air terminals. Special support will be provided to people working or learning in technical fields: airport operation services and the running of airports and airport terminals.



Source: own compilation based on “SSC training seminars offer”.

# Siemianowice Śląskie supports sector education

**The city of Siemianowice Śląskie has acquired more than PLN 1,866,000 (EUR 433,000) for a project consisting in improving the qualifications of 450 pupils of three vocational schools.**

Each of the pupils will be able to complete a 150-hour internship for which they will receive a scholarship. The intern’s remuneration will be 80% of the minimum national hourly rate.



Source: own compilation based on “Support for sector education in Siemianowice Śląskie”.

# Canadian investor to create 150 highly-specialized jobs

**Hatch, a company operating in the engineering services sector, will open a Business Services Center in Katowice, which will specialize in providing R&D, engineering, IT, architectural, and consulting services, as well as in technical and environmental advisory services.**

As a result of the project, which is worth PLN 54 million (EUR 12.5 million), the company will hire at least 150 highly-qualified employees who will provide modern and highly complex and advanced business and engineering services.



Source: own compilation based on the press materials of the Katowice Special Economic Zone.

# Katowice: the European City of Science 2024. There will be a Scientific Program for Silesia

A letter of intent in this respect has been signed by eight higher education institutions that make up the Academic Consortium, the Łukasiewicz Research Network, and the Łukasiewicz Center, which will be the operator of the program.

The Scientific Program for Silesia will be a multi-annual project of cooperation between Silesian higher education institutions. It is intended in particular to support the participating institutions in achieving scientific excellence through the establishment of a framework for even better and more efficient financing of research and development.

The program is intended to support the participants in carrying out their statutory and individual values, tasks, and goals, including public goals. The program will revolve around the problems related to the transformation of the Silesian region.

As explained during the signing of the letter of intent, this will contribute to financing the scientific research focused on the needs of the region.

Katowice is the first city in Central and Eastern Europe to become a European City of Science. Previously, the title was held for instance by Barcelona, Munich, Manchester, and Copenhagen. The decision to make Katowice a European City of Science was made at the end of 2021. On 22 December 2021, the "Katowice: City of Science" Academic Consortium agreement was signed.

**Record-breaking extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) therapy for COVID-19 patients; research on glaciers; a wound dressing that dissolves, releasing medications; or a system for the restoration of artifacts from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi death camp. These are just a few examples of the research and discoveries that have been selected for presentation in the "50 Outstanding Achievements of Silesian Science" special publication.**

This is a review of research and artistic initiatives carried out by the employees of the "Katowice: a City of Science" Academic Consortium in the last decade.

The publication was prepared by seven public higher education institutions of the Silesian Province. The review shows a small section of the significant topics researched by these institutions and their importance in the region's transformation in terms of climate and environment, health and quality of life, industries of the future, social innovations, industrial and cultural heritage, and creation and criticism.

The list was produced in connection with the celebration of the Polish Science Day, which was held on 19 February, on the birthday of one of the most outstanding Polish scientists: Nicolaus Copernicus. On 19 February 2024, a delegation from the GZM Metropolis, comprising representatives of local governments and higher education institutions, attended the events organized on this occasion in the European Parliament in Brussels.



Source: own compilation based on "A letter of intent for the Scientific Program for Silesia is signed in Katowice".

# 50 scientific achievements for 50 weeks of the European City of Science



See: "50 Outstanding Achievements of Silesian Science".



Source: "Polish Science Day in the Katowice European City of Science | Silesian University in Katowice".

# Katowice: one of the cities with the highest percentage share of students

Out of every 1,000 residents of Katowice, almost one fifth (180) are students of the 16 higher education institutions located in the city. In this respect, only Poznań is ahead of Katowice, with 210 students per 1,000 residents.

This data comes from the "Academia in Polish Cities" report produced by the Polish Institute of Economics, a public think tank operating since 1928.

The levels of academic development are based on seven ratios: prestige, the situation of graduates on the job market, academic potential, scientific efficiency, innovativeness, education conditions, and internationality. In the final ranking, Katowice was placed in the middle of the pack.

The authors of the report analyzed the cities making up the GZM Metropolis (Katowice, Gliwice, Sosnowiec, and Dąbrowa Górnicza) separately, without considering them as elements of a metropolitan association understood as a cohesive municipal organism.

## ACADEMIC LEADER

- Warsaw
- The **highest** values of most ratios (except for patents and protection rights)
- The ranking includes 19 higher education institutions based in Warsaw

## CLOSE BEHIND

- Kraków
- Poznań
- Wrocław
- High** values of most ratios (except for the number of students studying in foreign languages and the number of academic teachers)
- 25% of the higher education institutions included in the *Perspektywy* ranking are based in these cities
- These cities are perceived as academic cities

## IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK

- Gdańsk
- Katowice**
- Lublin
- Łódź
- Values of the ratios lower than in those that are Close Behind, but higher than in the In Pursuit group
- 20% of the higher education institutions included in the *Perspektywy* ranking are based in these cities
- These cities are perceived as academic cities

## IN PURSUIT

- Białystok
- Bydgoszcz
- Częstochowa
- Gdynia
- Opole
- Rzeszów
- Szczecin
- Toruń
- Values of the ratios lower than in those that are In The Middle Of The Pack, but higher than in The Peloton
- Each of these cities is home to at least two higher education institutions included in the *Perspektywy* ranking
- These cities are not perceived as academic cities (except for Toruń)

## PELETON

- Biała Podlaska, Bielsko-Biała, Dąbrowa Górnicza, Gliwice, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kalisz, Kielce, Koszalin, Olsztyn, Radom, Siedlce, Słupsk, Sosnowiec, Tarnów, Zielona Góra
- The **lowest** values of most ratios
- Each of these cities is home to one higher education institution included in the *Perspektywy* ranking
- These cities are not perceived as academic cities



Source: own compilation based on "Academia in Polish Cities".



# The Metropolitan Bike system has been launched. It is among the largest in Europe

**Ultimately, the system will have 7,000 bikes and enable travel across the 31 municipalities of the GZM Metropolis. The project value exceeds PLN 180 million (EUR 41.5 million).**

In accordance with the plan, the system was launched in eight cities on 25 February 2024. The Metrobike will make it possible to move around all of the cities of the GZM Metropolis, across the boundaries of cities and municipalities. It is planned that the bikes will be available in the remaining municipalities at the turn of July and August 2024.

The system will replace all of the existing city bike systems, making it possible to travel freely, without the anxiety of whether you have accidentally gone outside the city limits. The only thing a user has to remember is to return the bike to a station.

Users pay for renting a bike via the same application that is used to purchase public transport tickets. Every person holding a mid-term or long-term ticket will be able to use the Metrobike for 60 minutes a day for free.



➤ Source: own compilation based on "Metrobike starts on 25 February".

# Replacement of heating sources and combating energy poverty

**The GZM Metropolis has selected the operator of the "STOP SMOG in the Metropolis" program, the purpose of which is to replace the sources of heating and improve the heating efficiency of the buildings in which people who suffer from energy poverty live.**

The program operator is the Foundation for Efficient Use of Energy. The task of the Foundation will be to carry out energy audits of buildings whose owners have applied to be a part of the project.

The project goal is to improve the air quality in the GZM Metropolis. Money comes from the Fund for Thermal Efficiency Improvement and Renovations (PLN 7.7 million/EUR 1.7 million), the GZM Metropolis budget, and the budgets of the participating municipalities.

The operator will be responsible for the comprehensive handling of applications, including the carrying out of audits, specifying the list of the necessary works, and drafting technical documentation, as well as providing support in selecting the construction works contractor, exercising supervision, and making settlements with the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, which subsidizes the program. Furthermore, the operator will provide the beneficiaries with energy advisory services.

➤ Source: own compilation based on the "An agreement with the operator of the 'STOP SMOG in the Metropolis' program has been signed - GZM Metropolis".

# Good Mobility 30/50: the Metropolis adopts a strategic transport document

**Railways are to be the main form of transport in the GZM Metropolis, with the share of car journeys decreasing. This is one of the main assumptions of the Good Mobility Package adopted by the Board of the GZM Metropolis. The Package includes the Sustainable Municipal Mobility Plan (known as "Good Mobility 30/50") and diagnostic documents.**

"The plan assumes completion of specific projects by 2030, so that the intended effects occur by 2050. Hence the name Good Mobility 2030/2050", says Marcin Domański, Deputy Director of the Department of Communication and Transport of the GZM Metropolis.

In addition to a municipal mobility plan, the Good Mobility Package contains diagnostic elements, such as instructions on how to shape the parking policy. In the future, the Package will be supplemented with more instructions and standards in terms of mobility.

The Good Mobility Package can be downloaded here (Polish language version): <https://bip.metropoliagzm.pl/artykul/34552/131214/pakiet-dobrej-mobilnosci>

➤ Source: own compilation based on "Good Mobility 30/50: the Metropolis adopts a strategic transport document".



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