

KRAKOW and MALOPOLSKA REGION

Project VLEH

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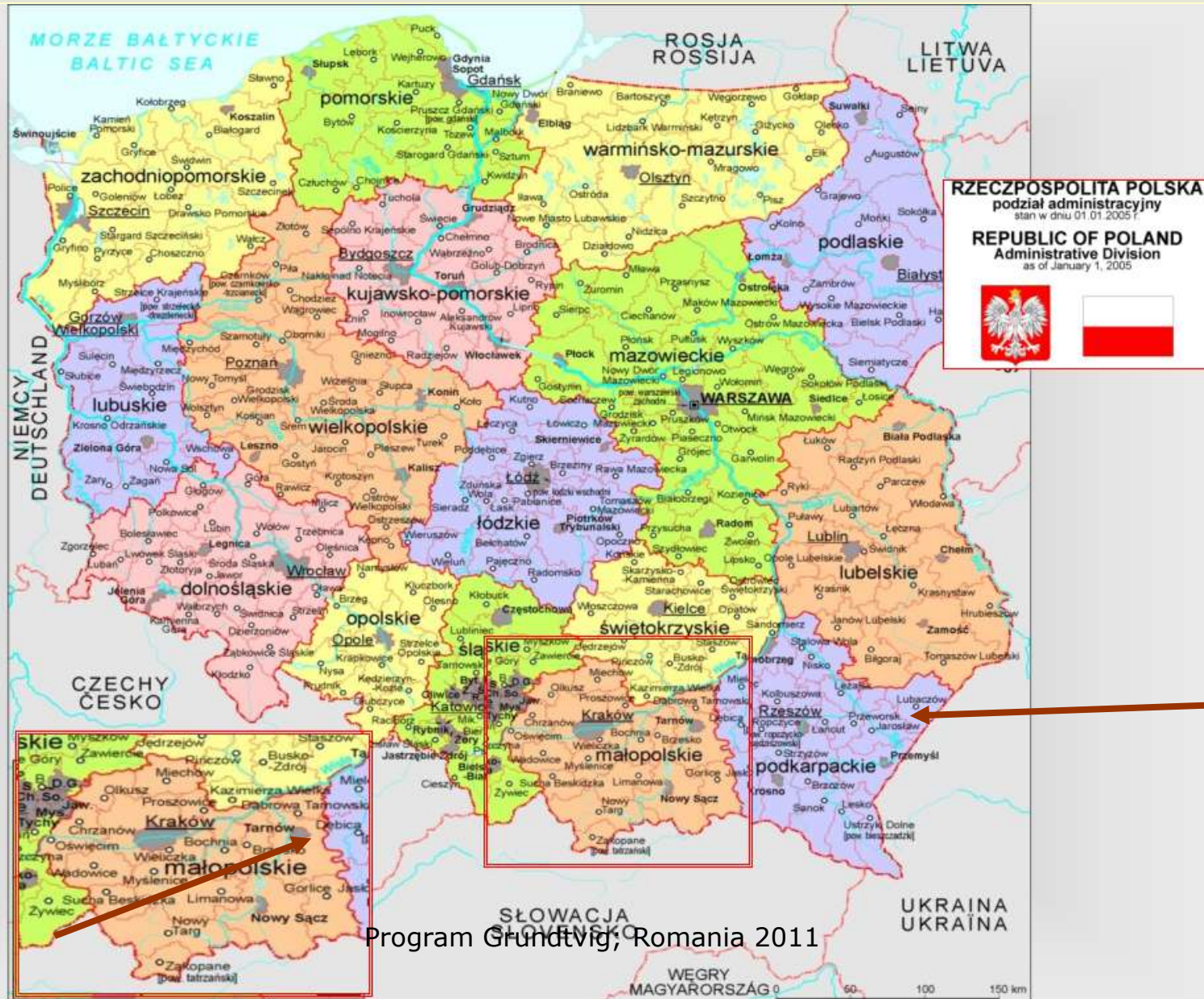
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POLAND IN EUROPE



Program Grundtvig; Romania 2011

MALOPOLSKA REGION IN POLAND and KRAKÓW IN MALOPOLSKA



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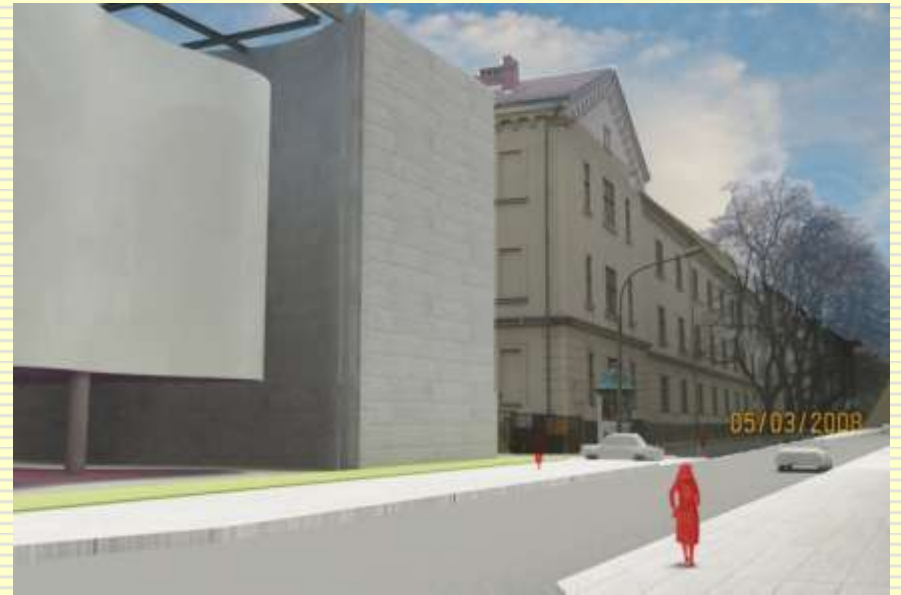
MAŁOPOLSKA REGION

Malopolska is the cartographic centre of Europe!

- Area: 144 km
- Inhabitants: over 3 200 000
- Relief: varied – lowlands, uplands, foothills, highlands
- Six national parks

Malopolska has a lot of historical landmarks from the Romanesque era to the present times

Numerous historic landmarks of wooden architecture have survived in this part of Europe



MAŁOPOLSKA „FOR ALL”

Multidimensional view for:

- **buisnessmen:** *investment-friendly environment*
- **artists:** *the rich tradition and culture*
- **young people:** *universities*
- **tourists:** *historic landmarks and local beautiful landscapes*

KRAKÓW – REGIONAL CAPITAL

**Krakow is Poland's tourist Mecca
and also a gateway to many other must-see sites
in the region (and beyond).**

**Due to the large number of churches,
it is sometimes called „Little Rome”**

<http://www.krakow-info.com/default.htm>

Krakow lies in Poland almost exactly at the intersection of the 50th parallel north latitude and the 20th meridian east longitude. It makes the very center of continental Europe, i.e. roughly halfway between the westernmost Lisbon in Portugal and the easternmost Urals, and equidistant from the Mediterranean and the arctic Barents Sea.



KRAKÓW

HISTORY (VERY SHORT)

- In 1038 Krakow became the capital of Poland and Polish monarchs took up their residence in its Wawel Royal Castle
- The city's Golden Age came by the end of the 15th century when it was the thriving metropolis of a vast and prosperous kingdom stretching from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea
- In its long history Krakow underwent many ups and downs. The proud capital city of a mighty kingdom for centuries, it was turned into a sleepy town of the Austrian empire in the 19th century. Then it became a vital center of Polish national awakening at the turn of the 20th century and the cradle of Poland's rebirth, only to be reduced to backwater under communism.

KRAKÓW HISTORY

- Krakow remained the most important city in the southwest part of the Republic of Poland till September 1939 when Hitler's Third Reich and Stalin's Soviet Union invaded the country and divided it between themselves.
- After the World War II Krakow retained its status as Poland's second most important city and vied with Warsaw for the cultural supremacy.



KRAKOW CULTURE

- Cracow's flowering as a center of culture and learning occurred in the 14th century. The Cracow Academy was founded in 1364, known today as the Jagiellonian University
- Nicholas Copernicus, the astronomer who conceived theory of the solar system, studied at the university (1492-96)
- beautiful Old Town area remains its vibrant hub with numerous landmarks, museums, art galleries, music venues, theaters, university colleges, etc. on top of myriad shops, cafes, hotels and best restaurants in Krakow.



KRAKOW

ARCHITEKTURE

Some of the main examples:

Rynek Główny- the heart of the city; one of the largest and most beautiful squares in Europe in which center is the **Sukiennice**, the former cloth halls dating from the Middle Ages

Wawel Castle – the royal residence which contains excellent collections of Polish and foreign art. The tombs of the Polish kings are located in the Wawel Cathedral

Church of Our Lady (referred to as the Mariacki) – the most important church in Krakow (after the Cathedral) with Veit Stosz altar; every hour a trumpet call is sounded from one of the Church's towers

Kazimierz – the district with Gothic churches and Jewish synagogues

**UNESCO entered the whole of Krakow's Old Town
in the List of the World Cultural Heritage**





HERITAGE OF MALOPOLSKA REGION

There are 8 objects entered on the UNESCO List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (16 of them in all Poland):

- **Krakow's Historic Centre**
- **Wieliczka Salt Mine**
- **Auschwitz-Birkenau former Nazi Concentration Camp**
- **Calvary Sanctuary in Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** where Franciscan monastery is biggest such compound in Europe
- **Four Wooden Churches** on the Wooden Architecture Route in Malopolska

ABBHEY AND CHURCHES

Abbey, monasteries and convents:

- promoted civilisation and knowladge of writing, print and land cultivation, generally – heritage
- they were a refuge for the patriotic spirit and intellectual freedom in Poland under the bondage of the „real socialism” regime
- offer the opportunity for research on the basis of reference materials unavaible elsewhere



PEOPLE

Many famous people were or are from Malopolska:

- **Pope John Paul II**
- **general Józef Bem**
- **Jan Kiepura (tenor)**
- **general Tadeusz Kościuszko**
- **Helena Modrzejewska (actress)**
- **Ignacy Jan Paderewski (pianist, politician)**
- **Krzysztof Penderecki (composer)**

and others who contributed to the development
not only of Poland



MAŁOPOLSKA

FOLKLOR/TRADITION

Some of them:

- prance of the Lajkonik (a Tatar-dressed man riding a Hobbyhorse) in Krakow commemorating the Tatar raid
- the competition of Christmas cribs and Easter palms
- crafts and traditional souvenirs (Bobbin lace, wooden horses birds and angels, religious figures, furniture, pottery, red beat, traditional leather shoes and wool sweaters)
- local products:
- sweets (Pope's cream puffs), crisp rings (obważanki), krakowska sausage, cheese „oscypek”, slivovitz (a high-proof spirit made from plums)





LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

There are six national parks. Two of them, the Tatra Mountains National Park (the highest range of the Carpathian Mountains) and the Babia Gora National Park, have been listed as World Biosphere Reserves by the UNESCO.

Malopolska is one of few regions, where one can find both the Alpine – like Tatras and the real desert.

The best hiking, skiing, bird-watching, biking, water sports, fishing, sightseeing, etc. can be found in Malopolska. It has been famous for his many health resorts since the end of the 18th century.







