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Past, present and future status of the National Geological Archives in Poland

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For several decades, the Central Geological Archives (CGA) of the Polish Geological Institute - National Research Institute have been the main repository of the geological-environmental documentations and the geological samples (drilling cores). The geological information gathered in the CGA has been an important tool for geological research, space planning and environmental management. It has been utilized for the rational management of mineral resources and water as well. The history of the archives extends back to the early post-war period, although some collections are much older and come from much earlier times. In 2012, the Central Geological Archives comprised three types of the archival units, namely: - the archive of geological materials and maps in Warsaw; - the archives of geological materials and maps in six regional departments and three magazines; - the archives of geological samples (drilling cores) in 8 localities all around the country (fig. 1) in the settlements of Halinów, Iwiczna and Leszcze in Central Poland, Kielniki, Puławy, Hołowno and Michałów in the south, and Szurpily in NE. Starting from the year 2013, the central geological archives have obtained the status of National Geological Archives, the structure of which has been transformed into three archival divisions. They are as following: - Dissemination division of geological information; - Archive division of geological documentation and maps; - Archive division of geological samples. Tasks of NGA are to gather (fig. 2), to register, to archive and to protect the geological information present in the form of geological documents and drilling cores, and to render these geological materials accessible to the users.

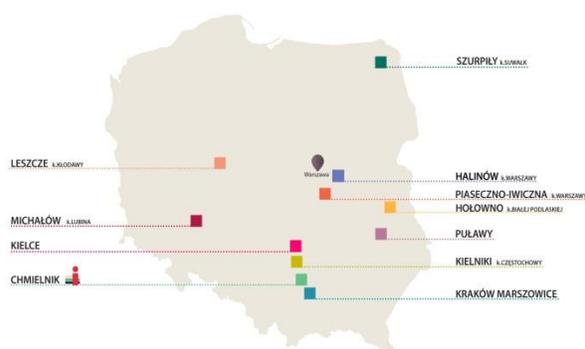


Figure 1. Geological archives in Poland



Figure 2. Storage of drilling cores in the Hołowno geological archive

According to the investment plans a totally new enterprise will be built in years 2016-2017 – a storage hall and the analytical building. Geological information, which has been possessed by the National Treasury, will be gathered there with a wide public access to it. A primary high level storage magazine with a surface area not less than 7500 m² and the analytical building with a technical part will store up to 1 billion meters of drill cores in 1 meter long wooden boxes. That will cover a storage demand for

drilling cores up to late 2020s in Poland and will enable centralization of most of the archives disseminated at present all over Poland. The centralization idea concerns also the storage of geological documentations together with the first stage of the digitalization activities that have already started. First digitalization steps will cover 600m of various volumes of geological documentations stored in Warsaw, Rzeszyca Książa and in smaller amounts –in other places.

