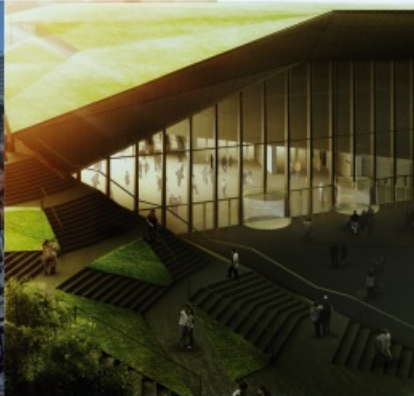





KATOWICE
for a change





The Scientific Information Center and Academic Library (CINiBA) is a joint project of The University of Silesia and the University of Economics in Katowice. The building, whose color alludes to traditional Silesian bricks (nevertheless built from an unusual shade of sandstone) was awarded the President of Poland's GRANDPRIX for the Best Architectural Object of the 21st Century, the title of the Best Public Utility Building in the 7th edition of a contest organized by the *Architektura-murator* magazine, as well as the 2012 Building of the Year award in an opinion poll organized by the ArchDaily architecture website.



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Katowice is a unique city, the center of the largest metropolitan area in Poland and the administrative, academic and cultural heart of the Silesian Province. The city's roots are related in the mining and metallurgy industry, while currently it is developing as a thriving economic, educational, cultural and entertainment center.

The first written note about Katowice comes from 1598 but the history of districts such as Dąb or Bogucice dates back even further. The 19th century saw the development of the area: the first two mines were opened in the 1820s and **in 1865 Katowice was granted municipal rights.** Soon, numerous tenements and public utilities started to spring up and the young city became the leading center for Upper Silesian industry. The events which took place after World War I – the plebiscite and the three Silesian Uprisings in 1919, 1920 and 1921 – provided the next

stimulus for its growth. As a result, the eastern part of Upper Silesia together with Katowice found itself within the borders of the reborn Polish state. **Katowice became the capital of the autonomous Silesian Province** and several representative public administration buildings and impressive residential districts were erected in the city. Many buildings from that period are of the highest architectural quality. This tradition continued after World War II. Among many of the investments made on a grand scale, especially one – the Spodek Indoor Sports and Entertainment Arena – is widely recognized domestically as well as abroad, thanks to its unique architecture. After thorough modernization, Spodek fascinates passers-by with a multicolor illumination that stresses its characteristic architectural structure.

Today, the face of Katowice is changing. It's impossible not to notice the growing number of modern office buildings and beautifully renovated facades of historic tenements. The city owes its new image to activities which have been consequently undertaken over the last years, using its perfect location as well as its economic, administrative and intellectual potential.

Silesia Metropolis – a formal union of neighboring cities located within the Katowice conurbation. One of the largest and most dynamically developing metropolises in Poland and East-Central Europe.

*It is here in the legendary Spodek Arena that the major sports events take place, among which one should definitely name the EuroBasket European Basketball Championship. In April 2013 Spodek will be hosting the **BNP Paribas Katowice Open** women's WTA tournament, with the participation of the world's top tennis players. The tournament will be the biggest tennis event in Poland in 2013. In 2014 Spodek will be hosting the most important sports event so far – the **Male Volleyball World Championship**.*

*Spodek is also the venue of big concerts where some of the world's most renowned artists, representing all music genres perform, as well as of other events which attract a massive audience. At the beginning of 2013 Spodek was filled to the very last seat during the **Intel Extreme Masters** world gaming championship. The city was visited by the best cyberathletes in the world.*



The city's promotional motto is **Katowice. For a Change**. Its logo is a heart in which the traditional, industrial, mining and Silesian Katowice blends with the aspiring, economically sound, creative, ambitious, modern and avant-garde Katowice and which draws on these two complementary images.

Katowice. For a Change draws attention to the current **transformation** process which the capital of the Silesian province, together with the entire region, is undergoing. These changes cannot be compared to those of any other municipal area in Poland. They are manifested especially in the economy, where traditional branches are being replaced with new fields, where **innovation and highly developed technologies** are put to the fore and where there is a significant shift from the industrial zone to modern services, e.g. in IT.

Katowice. For a Change is also an expression of strong conviction that **Katowice, with its avant-garde and innovative face, is a city worth discovering**. It is a place in which new music (OFF Festival Katowice, Tauron Nowa Muzyka) coexists with avant-garde art forms (Katowice Street Art Festival, the so-called Silesian design) and bold architectural solutions (on the one hand Spodek Arena and the new home of the Silesian Museum built underground on the site of a former coal mine, and on the other hand the new seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra - NOSPR).

Katowice. For a Change is a city of an inspiring "crash", a merger of history with the present, tradition with modernity, proudly alluding to its industrial and Silesian identity.

Katowice is a city of multidimensional transformations and, consequently, it is open to searching for and developing innovative solutions, new concepts, unconventional projects:

▶ *The phrase "for a change" stresses the character, significance and functions of the city which is the center of a specific, unique metropolis and which integrates other cities.*

▶ *Katowice is inspired by what is best in the city's tradition and heritage (multicultural, multi-national, Silesian, industrial).*

▶ *Katowice follows in the steps of all those places in Europe which have made a distinctive trait out of their uniqueness and originality.*

▶ *Katowice is a city of active and creative people searching for new ideas. It is vibrant with life, dynamic, and it makes people want to live, work and create there. It is a city of people who are young at heart.*

▶ *Katowice's distinctness is also determined by a novel approach to environmental problems.*

05 Katowice. For a Change



***Katowice. For a Change** should also be understood as an invitation to a city characterized by a “genetic” capability to undergo constant transformations, being in step with modernity as well as dynamism and momentum – features so detached from the still prevailing stereotypes pertaining to Upper Silesia.*



Academic Katowice

Katowice's higher education institutions educate **approx. 130 thousand students**, producing **over 30 thousand graduates** each year. If we compare these data with the number of Katowice's residents (approx. 300 thousand), we arrive at **the highest percentage of students in Poland**. Because of this, Katowice is a city of young, very well educated people fluent in foreign languages. If we add to this the potential of the Silesia Metropolis, statistics will reveal Katowice to be the heart of one of the largest academic centers in Poland.

The city is an important investment area for the public as well as the private sector. A network of services ranging from banking to commerce and entertainment determines the pace of economic growth of the Silesian province's capital. The most important assets of Katowice and the Silesia Metropolis include its central location in Europe, **access to highly qualified staff, a well-developed transportation network** within the city and outside of it, access to office spaces, investment incentives (offered by the city as well as by the Katowice Special Economic Zone), attractive business surroundings and **high quality of life**.



The modernization of the railway station in Katowice serves as an example of the many changes occurring in the city. The renewed railway station is a friendly and functional facility integrated with a shopping and service mall. The underground part of the complex holds a modern public transportation station.



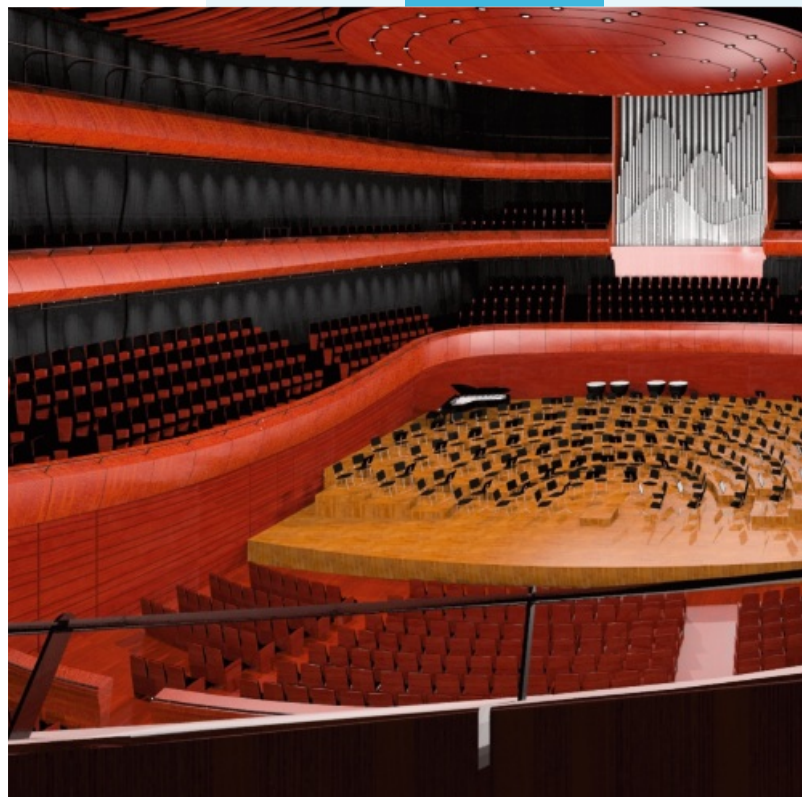
The Katowice International Airport in Pyrzowice (Katowice Airport, KTW), located 30 km to the north of the city center, offers flights to several dozen cities in Poland and Europe. This is the third airport in Poland in terms of the number of handled passengers (over 2.5 million in 2011). Thanks to convenient connections with important European stopover centers (Frankfurt, Munich, and Dusseldorf, among others), travelling to the USA is also made easy. Thanks to the **advantageous location and great atmospheric conditions**, the airport has the lowest number of days per year in Poland without the possibility of landing. Moreover, two other international airports – the Kraków Balice Airport and the Ostrava Airport in the Czech Republic – are located within less than 100 km from Katowice.


The Silesia Metropolis is one of the largest road and rail hubs in Poland. International communication routes intersect here, providing convenient connections with the network of Western Europe freeways. Rail routes connect Katowice with numerous cities in Poland and with the capitals of neighboring countries: Vienna, Berlin, Prague, Bratislava and Kiev. A separate note should be made on the well developed system of public transportation within the Silesia Metropolis which allows its residents to travel quickly from one city to another.

Very large investments are being made in Katowice which aim at transferring the city on a metropolitan scale. The redevelopment process includes a large area of Katowice's downtown and is **currently the largest undertaking of this type in Europe.**

In the vicinity of Katowice's Spodek Arena, one of the most spectacular venues in Europe, three other facilities are being constructed on the revitalized sites of the former „Katowice” mine: the new seat of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (NOSPR), the International Congress Center (MCK) and the Silesian Museum, blended in with the postindustrial heritage of Katowice. They mark the birth of the Katowice Cultural Zone.

*The new building of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra in Katowice will be a special place for Katowice and the Silesian Province – **the first facility on such a scale, characterized by the highest acoustic standards.** It will surely become the most important venue related to the rich musical tradition of the region. The concept of the new seat, created by Konior Studio, is a development of a design which was awarded first prize in an international architectural competition in December 2008. **The building's structure is inspired by the Nikiszowiec housing estate.** The new seat will house two concert halls. The larger one, the so-called grand concert hall, will be the most important room of the new building. Made from birchwood, it is to be the best concert hall in Poland in terms of acoustics. This will be possible due to Katowice architect Tomasz Konior's cooperation with the famous Japanese company Nagata Acoustic, whose achievements include projects in Los Angeles, Helsinki or Copenhagen and evoke admiration among music lovers all over the world.*





The building, with a total area of 25,450 m², will hold 116 rooms, including a grand concert hall with a capacity of 1,800 seats, a small hall with 300 seats and a recording studio. The grand hall will be used for presenting all types of symphonic music, including music with an expanded line-up, a 120-person choir and organs.

Museum exhibitions several and several dozen meters underground, a restaurant in the former machine room, a vantage point at the top of the no longer operational „Warszawa” shaft – such will be the new seat of the Silesian Museum to be opened to the public in 2014. The main building of the museum is being erected on the site of the former Katowice coal mine, while the historic post-mining facilities are currently being adapted for exhibition spaces. Moving around the new museum will be made possible by means of underground and overground passes. All we will see above the ground will be the glass towers providing additional illumination for underground exhibits. The thousands of square meters of exhibition space will present, among other things, the history of Upper Silesia, Polish painting of the last centuries and domestic scenography.

The exhibition space in the new main building, covering an area of 6,068 m², was planned for two levels. In addition to the exhibition space in the main building, the underground level will also hold lecture and conference rooms, a reading room, collection archives, art and conservatory studios, photography studios, workshops as well as social and sanitary rooms. The three-storey administration building is already visible above the ground level.



Katowice is developing infrastructure for business tourism. Convention Bureau Katowice was created to promote the potential of business meetings in the metropolis. Another facility of this type, the International Congress Center (MCK) is being constructed next to Spodek Arena. This will be a multifunctional premium class facility with a total floor space of

36,000 m², located in the heart of Katowice, logistically connected with Spodek Arena. 15 thousand people will have the possibility of participating in domestic as well as international events such as congresses, conferences, concerts, sports events or small banquettes, all in one place and at the same time.

The International Congress Center (MCK) will be connected with Spodek via an underground passageway. Thanks to this, the MCK/Spodek complex will become the only congress and conference facility in Poland capable of housing almost 15 thousand people at the same time and place.

Katowice ranks first in terms of the forest area in the Silesian province and second in all of Poland. Particularly precious areas include two nature reserves and one nature and landscape complex. Katowice's forests are predominantly places for relaxation and recreation, especially thanks to numerous walking and bike trails.

Old beech and oak trees protect the Las Murckowski forest reserve. Some of them are over 230 years old. The forest complex also includes the Ochojec floral reserve. **Another place worth visiting is the historic Kościuszki park** whose character alludes to English parks and classic gardens. The park grounds the wooden Michael Archangel church, a statue of Tadeusz Kościuszko and a legendary parachute tower. One cannot miss the **Katowice Forest Park** (Katowicki Park Leśny), which encompasses municipal, park and forest areas in the Muchowiec district. In it, we will find 11 ponds, the largest of which lie in the Valley of Three Ponds (Dolina Trzech Stawów).

13 Green Katowice

A distinguishing feature of today's Katowice is its alternative, underground cultural potential. This is mainly due to the city's festivals (Off Festival Katowice, Tauron Nowa Muzyka, Rawa Blues Festival, Cult Films Festival, Ars Independent International Film Festival, Katowice Street Art Festival or the metropolitan Ars Cameralis Silesiae Superioris Festival), artistic experiments in urban and postindustrial zones (concerts at the Wilson Shaft gallery, Golden Vision Music & Art Festival in the buildings of the former Uthermann Steelworks), the success of alternative sports (the 2012 spring-summer editions of nightskating in Katowice attracted large numbers of participants) and the path which was selected when Katowice competed for the title of the 2016 European Capital of Culture.

High culture

konkursfiteberg.pl, /October/

nospr.org.pl; cameralis.art.pl, /November/

Katowice is the perfect city for enthusiasts of high culture. Each year, the **G. Fiteberg International Competition for Conductors** attracts over 200 young masters of the baton. The patron of the competition was the creator of the orchestra which is now seated in Katowice under the banner of the **Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra (NOSPR)**. Its team have given numerous concerts with Katowice's celebrities such as **Wojciech Kilar** and **Henryk Mikołaj Górecki**. The work of Silesian artists is also promoted by the Ars Cameralis Culture Institution which, for several years now, has been organizing the **Ars Cameralis Silesiae Superioris** in November – a unique combination of musical, theater, literary, artistic visual and performative art events, taking place in many cities of the Silesia Metropolis at the same time.



Off Festival Katowice

off-festival.pl /August/

The festival, created in 2006 by Artur Rojek, leader of the popular Polish band Myslovitz, is a review of alternative performers from all over the world. This unique event has been present in Katowice since 2010. Apart from music performances including bands such as Dezerter, Iggy Pop, Kamp!, Mazzy Star, Mogwai, Primal Scream, Swans, the festival is accompanied by many cultural events such as art workshops, film reviews, meetings with artists, contemporary art exhibitions. All of this takes place in an underground atmosphere – for a change.

Tauron Nowa Muzyka

festiwalnowamuzyka.pl /August/

The postindustrial scenery of the former Katowice coal mine, as well as contemporary alternative music from all over the world are the two key elements which create the festival's fantastic atmosphere. Electronic music, jazz and dance rhythms are the musical reasons for which Katowice has been willingly visited by enthusiasts of original sounds from all over Europe since 2006. Artists who have performed on the Nowa Muzyka stage include, among others, Bonobo, Jamie Woon, Lamb, Moderat, and Wojtek Mazolewski Quintet. Twice – in 2010 and 2012 – the event received an award for the Best Small Festival in Europe organized by the European Festival Awards.



Katowice

15

- A City of Festivals

Let's meet on Mariacka Street – the coolest street in Katowice!



In 2011 a popular Katowice mural showing a chicken (by Aryz) was awarded first prize for the best mural of the year, granted by the French *Graffiti Art Magazine*.

Mariacka Street

Until 2008, Mariacka Street was just like other typical streets in Polish cities. Its name comes from the Katowice Church of the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary, commonly referred to as the Mariacki Church, which stands at the very end of the street. After 2009, as a result of a complex redevelopment based on a competition design, Mariacka street has become the most popular pedestrian street in Katowice.

Mariacka Street has a life of its own and entices people with unforgettable shows, unique events, exceptional music and pubs. There is always something going on here! Everyone is welcome to participate in concerts, the summer movie theater, theater plays, attractions for children, large format games, Hawaiian parties and many more. Set your course for Mariacka Street because it is the place to go if you want to have fun! Observe how the street comes to life during the various events turning into a colorful cascade of people.

Katowice Street Art Festival

katowicestreetartfestival.pl /April/

This is an event which engages those whose "studios" are the crowded city streets around the world. Over a period of dozen or so spring days, Katowice's city space is crowded with artists creating large format murals, slightly smaller "pieces", surprising sculptures and installations, inviting children and adults of all ages to participate in numerous workshops. Accompanying events include concerts, exhibitions and film screenings.

Among artists who have visited Katowice so far are stars like Aryz, ROA, Dan Witz, M-City, Swanski, Mentalgassi or Escif.

Among Katowice's biggest tourist attractions are the historic Giszowiec and Nikiszowiec mining estates, developed at the beginning of the 20th century by the Georg von Giesche's Erben concern for the employees of the new mine. In times when the city is dynamically changing, trying to rely on branches of economy other than heavy industry in terms of its growth and development, they remain an interesting memento of the past times as well as a place of meeting with the still living Silesian tradition and culture.

*The older of the two estates – Giszowiec – got its name from the Giesche concern and was created between 1906 – 1910 according to the design of two architects from Charlottenburg – Georg and Emil Zillmann. It comprises picturesque, mostly single- and two-family houses with gardens, built in the tradition of Upper Silesian rural cottages. There are also public utility buildings located around the central square of the estate – the Pod Lipami square. There is a school, preschool, inn, concert hall and stores there. **As the housing estate alludes to the design of a garden city, there is a lot of greenery here, and the idea behind the entire concept is to provide residents with the best possible living conditions.** However, only 1/3 of the original development remains because in the 1970s the majority of the estate was demolished in order to build 11-storey slab block buildings. Today Giszowiec is under the care of a heritage conservator and has become a popular destination for tourists as well as Katowice's residents themselves.*

*The second housing estate, Nikiszowiec, whose name derives from the nearby Nikisch shaft, was created in two stages – between 1908 – 1915 and 1920 – 1924. Despite having been designed by the same architects as Giszowiec, it represents a different type of architecture – it is a much bigger municipal estate and comprises compact quarters of 3- and 4-storey buildings. **The Zillmanns created an almost self-sufficient city** which, apart from residential buildings, also features a church, hospital, schools, preschool, stores, inn, and even an electric laundry and dry*

*cleaner's facility. **The inhabitants of cozy, spacious apartments could enjoy all the achievements of civilization in those times such as electricity, running water or sewage systems;** some of the buildings even had central heating. Nikiszowiec was lucky to survive the stormy 20th century without any significant damage, and as a result we can admire its original development in an almost unchanged state.*

*Interesting architecture is matched by interesting people – it is the residents of the district that make for its unforgettable atmosphere! Until this day, **you can hear the Silesian dialect spoken in the streets of Nikiszowiec.** A lot of people have been living here for generations, and work in the nearby mine still sets the pace of life for many families. It is a place worth visiting, especially during the fairs in July and December. Other events worth taking part in are the June Industriada – festivities celebrating the Industrial Monuments Route – as well as the Art Naif Festival in August.*

*A trip to Nikiszowiec may prove to be an interesting meeting with art. **The historic interiors of the former Wilson Shaft hold the largest private art gallery in Poland** while the museum, arranged in the building of the former mangle, provides an opportunity for people to admire paintings by non-professional artists from the famous Janowska Group or to learn about their original, esoteric ideology.*



The unique charm and value of Nikiszowiec has been appreciated on numerous occasions. In 2011 the housing estate ranked fourth in the 7 New Wonders of Poland competition organized by *National Geographic Traveler*, while on 14th January of this year the President of the Republic of Poland included it on the prestigious list of Historical Monuments.

Acknowledged architecture is a great showpiece of Katowice. This was the reason behind creating the Modernism Trail which, over time, will become one of the many stages of the Katowice tourist route. Introducing guests as well as the city's residents to 16 gems of modernist architecture, the route shows the true, inspiring face of the Silesian Province's capital.

The Modernism Trail is an area marked by 16 buildings characterized by a unique, prewar modernist style of architecture, thanks to which Katowice was referred to as "Polish Chicago".

Modernism in Katowice started with the construction of a significant public facility, namely the monumental Silesian Provincial Office and Parliament building. The structure, built in the modernized neoclassical style, was completed in 1929.


The first entirely modern facility in Katowice, both in terms of structure, as well as expression of functionalist architecture was the 7-storey high-rise at 23 Wojewódzka Street. The building was erected as the **House for Professors of the Silesian Technical Research Facilities**. It was the first iron framed structure in Poland, created by the United Royal and Laura Steelworks. This experiment later allowed for the construction of the famous **60-meter "skyscraper" in Katowice**.

The modern functionalist architecture of Katowice created in subsequent years by Polish architects enjoyed a heyday, which was incomparable with any other region of our country apart from Gdynia. **Thanks to this, Katowice can pride itself on the largest and most interesting group of monuments of such remarkable value on a national scale.**

In the 1920s and 1930s a housing complex of high-standard tenements and houses was erected in Katowice in the functional modernistic style of architecture, located predominantly in the so-called southern historical district, mainly to the west of Kościuszki Street. Walking through the city, one can still come across numerous examples of this style, like the seat of the Katowice Polish Radio on Ligonja Street.

Works of modernistic architecture from the interwar period, not yet fully discovered nor functioning in the social consciousness as noteworthy, constitute a very valuable part of Katowice's heritage.




An aerial photograph of Katowice, Poland, featuring a prominent church tower with a cross on top. The city is densely packed with buildings, and a construction crane is visible in the distance. The image is overlaid with a large pink rectangular box containing text. The background is a collage of various city scenes, including a modern building with a curved facade and a street view.

The Modernism Trail system constitutes 16 interactive kiosks located in the immediate vicinity of buildings, containing a multimedia presentation with numerous bits of information about specific facilities and the history of modernism as well as a dictionary of specialist terms and historical photographs. A single press of a button takes us back 80 years. The above information may also be found at www.moderna.katowice.eu – a website created for the purpose of the project, available in numerous languages – as well as in the presentation. very convenient solution for visitors is also the possibility of listening to the material included in the multimedia presentation. A specially prepared folder containing basic information about the facilities, numerous photographs and a map of the trail constitutes an additional aid. Materials are available at the Center of Tourist Information in the city square (Rynek).

In addition to being an economic, as well as strong cultural and entertainment center, Katowice is also a great place for shopping. The capital of the Silesian Province has a sufficient number of places catering for various needs. There are several large shopping malls and centers conveniently located for people with their own vehicles as well as for those using public transportation.

The 3 Stawy Shopping Mall, located in the picturesque surroundings of the Valley of the Three Ponds (Dolina Trzech Stawów), which houses over 60 stores of well-known brands, is within walking distance from the city center.

However, currently the most popular place for shopping is Silesia City Center – one of the most frequently visited commercial and entertainment centers in Poland. 15 million customers per year – impressive! SCC also stands out thanks to its architecture. The entire complex has been embedded in post-mining buildings with a mine shaft and is a direct reference to the region's identity.



Another shopping and service center is Galeria Katowicka connected with the railway station as well as the underground bus station on its premises. The entire complex is an interesting combination of original architecture from the 1970s and the newest trends.

21 Shopping



KATOWICE

for a change



KATOWICE

for a change

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Sources of photos: archiwum UM Katowice, IK Katowice – Miasto Ogródów, GTL SA, University of Economics in Katowice, The Silesian Museum.

www.katowice.eu
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