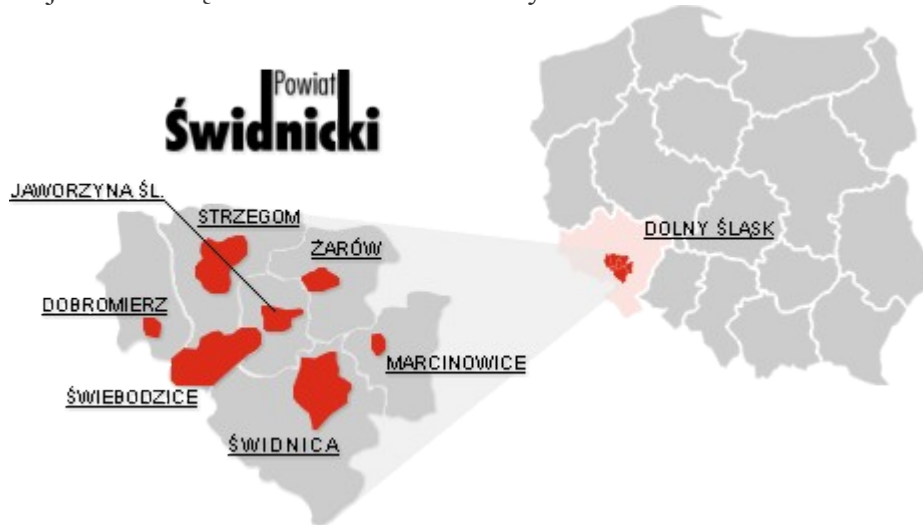


Situation of the District

The District of Świdnica lies in the south-western part of Poland in the Lower Silesia Province (województwo dolnośląskie). The picturesque Sudety Foreland (Przedgórze Sudeckie) lying at the foot of the Wałbrzych Foothills (Pogórze Wałbrzyskie) and the Owl Mountains (Góry Sowie) covers the larger part of the region. The southern edges of the district border on the mountains, rising to the height of 600m above sea level. The landscape is dominated by agricultural land, with hill slopes of Wzgórza Strzegomskie, Imbramowickie and Kiełczyńskie above it. The dark bulk of the Sudetan ranges and the majestic Mt Ślęza can be seen from every corner of the district.



The area of 743 km² in the District of Świdnica is inhabited by the population of about 168 thousand people. There are 8 communes within the district's borders - the Town of Świdnica, the Town of Świebodzice and the following communes: Świdnica, Strzegom, Jaworzyna Śląska, Marcinowice, Żarów and Dobromierz.

Thanks to fertile soils, mineral resources and regional traditions the district's basic branches of economy are: trade, electromechanical industry, farming, mining for granite and fireclay. The region has great communications with the rest of the country, and also with the Czech Republic and Germany. What is interesting, it is closer from here to Prague, Berlin and Vienna than to Warsaw. With the enlarged European Union, new attractive prospects for development open up for our district.

The tourist attractiveness of the District of Świdnica and its neighbourhood is determined in equal measure by the beauty of nature and the numerous high-class monuments from different epochs. Traces of human settlements here count among the oldest in Poland.

In the 13th and 14th centuries these lands were included in the Duchy of Świdnica and Jawor (Księstwo Świdnicko-Jaworskie), stretching from Łużyce to the region of Niemcza. Skilfully ruled, the duchy had no equals in Silesia (Śląsk). It owed its intense development to trade, craft, production of beer, whose renown reached the whole Europe, and extraction of minerals. The castles on the peaks of the Sudety Mountains and the oldest churches such as those in Wierzbna, Strzegom or Świdnica originate from this period. In 1392 the lands of the duchy passed under the Czech rule; it was the time of

their further development. The subsequent sovereignty of the Austrian Habsburg dynasty meant flourishing of, among other things, Baroque arts; on the other hand it brought the most tragic for this part of Europe Thirty Years' War (1618-1648). The region needed the next 150 years to recover from the war damage. In the middle of the 18th century Prussia took over the rule in Silesia. At the beginning it was a period of economic stagnation and militarization; the second half of the 19th century, however, witnessed a great growth in civilization. Factories were set up in cities, parks were created and new streets were marked out. Landowners' residences flourished in the country. World War II did not cause too much damage to the land of Świdnica. Its tragic upshot was, however, the concentration camp Gross-Rosen in Rogoźnica, raised by the Nazis in 1940. Until February 1945 as many as 120 thousand people were put there - 40 thousand were killed. In May 1945 the land of Świdnica became part of Poland.

Stamps of all the intriguing historic turbulences, often of European significance, of Lower Silesia have been left on our district and its neighbourhood. With the natural curiosities of the Ślęza Massif, the Wałbrzych Foothills, the Owl Mountains or the valley of the Bystrzyca River, the region appears an extremely interesting collection of rarities. It is not easy to point at another place in Poland where on such a small area so much can be seen, learned and experienced.

ROADS:

Small distance from border crossings and a dense network of transit and local roads ensure fast and efficient supply of materials and goods from all over the world to every corner of our district.

MOTOR TRANSPORT

Several large and several dozen small companies dealing with transport and freight forwarding function in the district's area. They guarantee delivery of any kind of material to any place in the world.

BUS SERVICE

Two large and a few small communication companies are located in the district. They manage local transport between all the towns which serve as administrative and industrial centres, providing bus service for about 200 thousand people in up to 25 minutes.

RAIL TRANSPORT

The main railway line connecting Jelenia Góra and Wałbrzych with Wrocław, the rest of Poland and Europe passes through the district. The line is a communication route linking Lower Silesia with the Czech Republic and Austria. A dense network of railway tracks and numerous sidings in existing and closed-down industrial plants allow supply and receipt of goods.

AIR TRANSPORT

The international goods-and-passenger airport "Wrocław" can be reached in about 60 min. (50 km) and the passenger airport of the Flying Club in Mirosławice - in about 20 min. (30 km).