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## Prospective copper resources in Poland

### Introduction

Considering the current state of knowledge and economic conditions – the resource base of the Polish copper industry may be evaluated preferably when referring to the following: (1) sediment-hosted stratiform Cu-Ag deposits of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline, the North Sudetic Trough and the Żary Pericline, and (2) porphyry and skarn Mo-Cu-W deposits of the contact zone between the Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks.

Given the possibilities of operation at depths previously unattainable in Polish copper mining, it is necessary to continuously analyse the prospects, not only in the direct vicinity of the mining areas, but also in the remaining part of SW Poland, in order to determine the prospective areas for copper industry. Because the demand for raw materials is continuously increasing, such systematic prospecting meets the reindustrialization trend in the EU, reflecting the importance of mining industry for economic growth (Galos et al. 2012).

The goal of the present paper is to determine the country's prospective resource base and to establish the directions of further prospecting and general exploration. Assuming clear criteria for demarcation of regions with potential prognostic, prospective and hypothetical resources in Poland (Smakowski and Szamałek 2011), the previous outlooks should be verified.

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## Sediment-hosted stratiform Cu-Ag deposits of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline and the North Sudetic Trough

These mineral deposits occur in the contact zone between the Zechstein and Rotliegend Groups and comprise the Zechstein copper-bearing series (Fig. 1). Mineralized rock is found in the Weissliiegend sandstones (Bs), the Basal Limestone (Ca0), the Kupferschiefer (T1) and the Zechstein Limestone (Ca1). They are sediment-hosted copper deposits, which contain mineralisation consisting mostly of fine-grained copper sulphides that occur as stratiform to stratabound disseminations in siliciclastic and carbonate rocks. They are polymetallic ore deposits, because silver coexists with copper, and significant amounts of lead, zinc, cobalt, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, rhenium, gold, and platinum-group metals may be also associated locally with copper mineralisation.

The Polish Geological Institute has conducted investigations of the Zechstein copper-bearing series in Poland since 1957, when the Lubin-Sieroszowice ore deposit was discovered as a result of a copper exploration project led by Jan Wyżykowski (Wyżykowski 1958). Subsequently, new mineral deposits were successively documented within the Lubin-

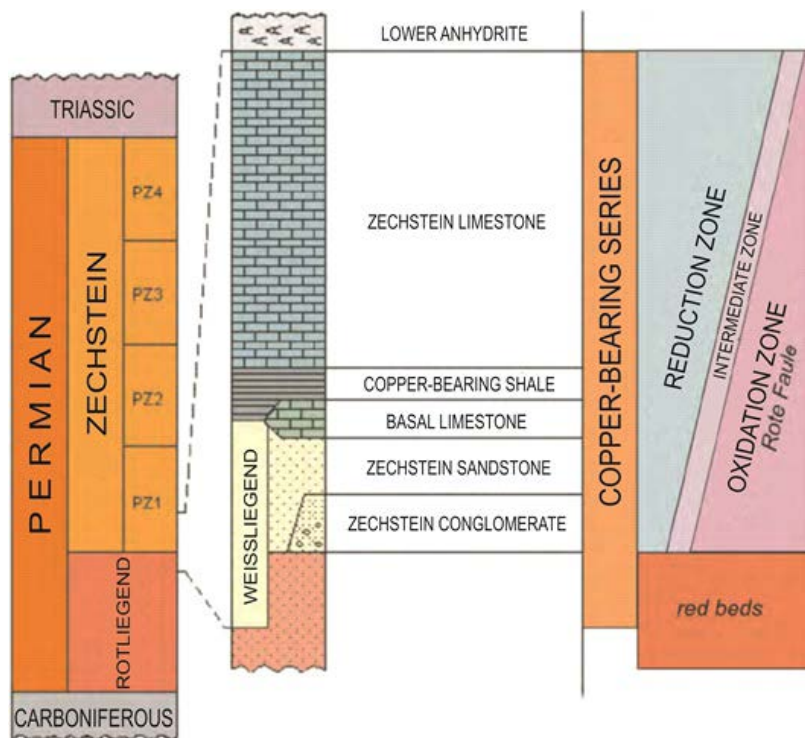


Fig. 1. Stratigraphic position of the Zechstein copper-bearing series and a distribution chart of geochemical zones

Rys. 1. Pozycja stratygraficzna cechsztyńskiej serii miedzionośnej oraz schemat rozmieszczenia stref geochemicznych

-Sierszowice mining district. At the same time, regional patterns in the distribution of mineralisation in the Lower Silesia and in the remaining parts of Poland were initially described (Rydzewski 1969; Wyżykowski 1971).

New prognostic evaluations were prepared after systematic examination of the boreholes of Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute (PGI-NRI) and the oil and gas industry (Gospodarczyk 1976; Bossowski 1982; Oszczepalski and Rydzewski 1993; Rydzewski et al. 1996; Oszczepalski et al. 1996). The most important exploration guide, the close spatial association of copper-silver orebodies with the Rote Fäule oxidised rocks, constitutes a basis for the applied exploration strategy for copper ore deposits (Rydzewski 1978; Oszczepalski and Rydzewski 1983, 1991; Oszczepalski 1989, 1999; Speczik 1995). With the gradual inflow of information, the ranges of prospective areas and resource estimates became more precise in subsequent evaluations (Oszczepalski and Rydzewski 1997, 2007; Speczik et al. 1998, 2007; Wirth et al. 2007).

In recent years, sampling of several dozen additional oil and gas boreholes significantly enhanced the database used to make prognostic evaluations. Current works were initiated by the Ministry of Environment and the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, as well as are part of the funded statutory activities of PGI-NRI (Oszczepalski et al. 2010b, 2012; Oszczepalski and Speczik 2011a, b). The other work was done in cooperation between PGI-NRI and KGHM Polska Miedź SA (Speczik and Oszczepalski 2011; Speczik et al. 2011), and between PGI-NRI and Miedzi Copper (Speczik et al. 2013, 2014). Additionally, a new assessment of copper resources in Poland have been published very recently (Zientek et al. 2015), which synthesizes available information on permissive tracts and estimates the location and quantity of undiscovered copper resources associated with the Kupferschiefer series. All those latest results form the basis for a new compilation map showing the distribution of the Rote Fäule oxidation areas (Oszczepalski and Speczik 2014), and for the present evaluation.

Until 2011, the cut-off criteria defined by the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment, issued on 20 June 2005 (Dz.U. 2005 nr 116, poz. 978) were crucial for the examination and evaluation of mineralisation and the formal definition mineral inventory (Table 1).

Table 1. Cut-off criteria for sediment-hosted stratabound copper deposits

Tabela 1. Kryteria bilansowości pokładowych stratoidalnych złóż miedzi

No.	Parameter	Unit	Threshold
1	Maximum depth of the ore deposit	m	1250 (1500)*
2	Sample cut-off Cu grade delineating the ore deposit	%	0.7
3	Minimum Cu equivalent grade in composite sample. Cu equivalent is calculated from the formula $Cu_{eq} = (\%Cu) + 0.01 (g/t Ag)$	%	0.7
4	Minimum productivity of the ore deposit	kg/m <sup>2</sup>	50 (35)**

\* The depth of 1500 m allowed for subeconomic resources.

\*\* Value for subeconomic resources.

These parameters constitute the basis for documenting mineral resources in copper ore deposits in the category of C<sub>2</sub> or above; the calculated resources were compiled in the yearly Balance of Poland's Mineral Deposit Resources.

Currently, based on the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment dated 22 December 2011 (Dz.U. 2011 nr 291, poz. 1712), the following threshold values of parameters defining a mineral deposit and its boundaries are in use (Table 2).

Table 2. Threshold values of parameters defining sediment-hosted stratabound copper deposit and its boundaries

Tabela 2. Graniczne wartości parametrów definiujących pokładowe stratoidalne złoża rud miedzi i ich granice

No.	Parameter	Unit	Threshold
1	Maximum depth of the ore deposit	m	1500
2	Sample cut-off Cu grade delineating the ore deposit	%	0.5
3	Minimum Cu equivalent grade in composite sample. Cu equivalent is calculated from the formula $C_{ue} = (\%Cu) + 0.01$ (g/t Ag)	%	0.5
4	Minimum productivity of the ore deposit	kg/m <sup>2</sup>	35

## 2. Operated copper deposits of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline

There are six mining areas within the Lubin-Sierszowice mining district of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline: Deep Głogów, Lubin, Małomice, Polkowice, Radwanice East, Rudna and Sierszowice (Fig. 2). KGHM Polska Miedź SA has the mining concessions for all of them. As of 31 December 2014 and according to the cut-off criteria valid until the end of 2011 (Table 1), resources are 1 446.38 Mt of ore containing 28.37 Mt Cu and 84.03 thousand tonnes of Ag (Malon et al. 2014). In 2013, KGHM, the sole producer of copper in Poland, mined 30.647 Mt of ore with 1.57% Cu, 57 ppm Ag, comprising 482 thousand tonnes of Cu and 1393 tonnes of Ag. In the same year, the company recovered 565.2 thousand tonnes of electrolytic copper, along with 1161.1 tonnes Ag, 431.3 kg Au, 26.7 thousand tonnes Pb, 2.8 thousand tonnes of nickel sulphate, 80.2 tonnes Se, 176.7 kg of Pt-Pd concentrate and 7.5 tonnes of Re, as well as sulphuric acid and copper sulphate. KGHM was the world's 10th leading copper producer and the top silver producer in 2011.

Furthermore, there are two ore deposits with inactive mines: Niecka Grodziecka and Nowy Kościół within the North Sudetic Trough, with 23.77 Mt of ore resources meeting the criteria, containing 0.26 Mt Cu and 1.08 thousand tonnes of Ag.

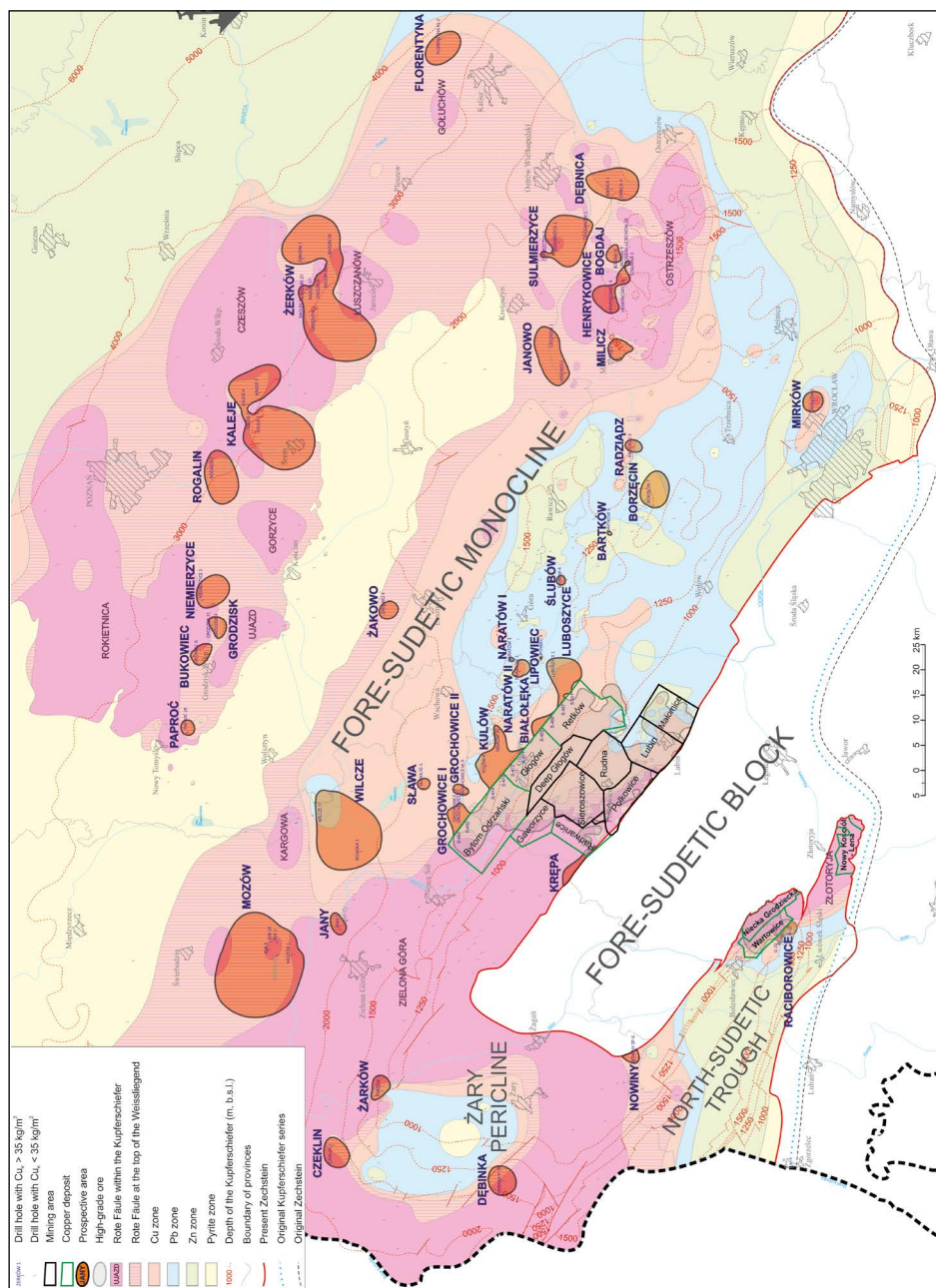


Fig. 2. Map showing prospective copper areas in relation to Rote Fäule areas and metal zoning patterns in the Zechstein copper-bearing series of SW Poland  
 w utworach cechsztyńskiej serii miedzionosnej SW Polski

### 3. Undeveloped documented copper deposits of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline and the North Sudetic Trough

Among the undeveloped copper ore deposits with identified resources are: Bytom Odrzański, Gaworzyce, Głogów, Radwanice and Retków in the Fore-Sudetic Monocline and Wartowice in the North Sudetic Trough (Fig. 2). As of 31 December 2013, the documented resources meeting the criteria in the undeveloped ore deposits of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline are 212.50 Mt of ore comprising 3.98 Mt of Cu and 13.81 thousand tonnes of Ag. In Wartowice, the only undeveloped ore deposit of the North Sudetic Trough, there are 79.32 Mt of ore containing 1.17 Mt of Cu and 4.26 thousand tonnes of Ag (Table 3). These resources are present at various depths, ranging between 500–700 m (Radwanice), 500–1250 m (Wartowice), and 1000–1250 m in the remaining ore deposits. Apart from those resources, subeconomic resources of 809.91 Mt of ore comprising 13.24 Mt Cu and 41.43 Mt Ag have been documented (Table 3); these resources are subeconomic because of their depth, which ranges from 1250 to 1500 m.

Table 3. Economic and subeconomic resources of undeveloped copper deposits in the Fore-Sudetic Monocline and the North Sudetic Trough (after Malon et al. 2014)

Tabela 3. Bilansowe i pozabilansowe zasoby niezagospodarowanych złóż miedzi na monoklinie przedsudeckiej i w niecce północnosudeckiej

Undeveloped deposits	Mean Cu content (%)	Economic resources			Subeconomic resources	
		Ore (Mt)	Copper (Mt)	Silver (tonnes)	Copper (Mt)	Silver (tonnes)
Bytom Odrzański	2.4–2.5	2.25	0.09	54	3.27	6 517
Gaworzyce	0.9–3.0	54.39	1.28	1 926	0.20	314
Głogów	2.0	–	–	–	4.78	19 550
Radwanice	2.5–2.7	18.57	0.46	795	0.09	11
Retków	1.8–2.9	137.29	2.15	11 031	4.70	14 451
Wartowice	1.2–1.5	79.32	1.16	4 260	0.20	582

The Radwanice and Gaworzyce copper deposits with indicated resources ( $C_1$  category) are adjacent to the mining concession area of KGHM, and are currently considered as reserve areas for copper industry (Wirth et al. 2007). All the remaining undeveloped copper deposits (Bytom Odrzański, Głogów, Retków), with inferred and indicated resources ( $C_1$  and  $C_2$  categories) adjacent to the northern margin of the mining areas are considered to be the most prospective resource base for copper ore mining. Because of this, KGHM has been granted concessions for detailed exploration of the Gaworzyce, Radwanice, Głogów and Retków-Ścinawa areas (Fig. 3). Leszno Copper, on the other hand, had been granted

concession for the detailed exploration of the Bytom Odrzański deposit; however, this decision has been withdrawn pending the outcome of the appeal by KGHM.

#### 4. Prospective areas outside of documented copper deposits

Prospective areas have been classified as prognostic, prospective, or hypothetical using several criteria including: their location in relation to the recognised copper ore deposits, their depth, and the number of positive boreholes with positive intercepts (Table 4). Resources immediately adjacent to the documented copper ore deposits are classified as prognostic. Resources distant from documented mineral deposits and identified by more than one borehole at with a mineralized intercept at depths <2000 m have been classified as prospective. Hypothetical resources include those areas identified by a single borehole with a mineralized intercept at depths <2000 m and all areas with resources at the depths >2000 m regardless of the number of positive boreholes.

Table 4. Criteria for classification of undiscovered resources within prospective areas

Tabela 4. Kryteria podziału nieodkrytych zasobów na obszarach perspektywicznych

Category of resources	Location of the area in relation to documented copper deposits	Depth of the ore-bearing series (m)	Number of boreholes with Cue productivity $\geq 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$
Prognostic	Proximal area	<2000	$\geq 1$
Prospective	Distal area	<2000	>1
Hypothetical	Distal area	<2000	1
		>2000	$\geq 1$

In the current evaluation, the edges of the mineral deposits are assumed to correspond to the  $35 \text{ kg/m}^2$  contour of  $\text{Cu}_e$  productivity (or Cu, if the Ag content was not examined) (Fig. 2). Based on the threshold values of parameters defining the mineral deposit and its boundaries (Table 2), the presumed copper and silver resources categorised as prognostic, prospective and hypothetical are estimated for the individual areas (Table 5). Due to the sparse and irregular grid of the examined boreholes as well as the geometric data interpolation, the boundaries of the prospective areas and the resource estimates should be considered tentative. New information, either from new examinations of historical boreholes or from new prospecting drillings, could significantly increase or decrease the estimated resources.

Table 5. Undiscovered copper and silver resources of the prospective areas

Tabela 5. Nieodkryte zasoby miedzi i srebra na obszarach perspektywicznych

Resource category	Prospective area	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Depth range (MBGL)	Average thickness (m)	Average Cu content (%)	Cu resources (Mt)	Average Ag content (ppm)	Ag resources (tonnes)
Prognostic	Białołęka	13.80	1 500–1 600	2.11	1.07	0.779	44	3 203
	Grochowice I	15.80	1 600–1 700	1.10	2.59	1.125	170	7 386
	Krępa	9.61	400–500	3.32	0.72	0.574	16	1 276
	Kulów	48.64	1 500–1 700	1.59	3.14	6.071	86	16 628
	Luboszyce	36.19	1 500–1 600	1.34	0.97	1.176	57	6 910
	Raciborowice	7.78	900–1 500	3.75	0.79	0.576	24	1 937
Total prognostic resources		131.82	400–1 700	10.30			37 340	
Prospective	Dębica	49.80	1 600–1 800	0.51	6.21	3.943	167	10 604
	Henrykowice	28.4	1 400–1 700	1.08	1.73	1.327	34	2 396
	Janowo	50.70	1 600–1 900	1.11	1.64	2.307	36	5 065
	Sulmierzyce	69.75	1 600–1900	2.13	2.18	8.097	26	9 657
Total prospective resources		198.65	1 400–1 900	15.67			27 722	
Hypothetical <2000 m	Bartków	0.52	1 300–1 400	0.32	4.18	0.017	71	29
	Bogdaj	7.50	1 400–1 600	1.58	1.52	0.450	34	1 007
	Borzęcin	31.70	1 400–1 600	0.51	4.91	1.984	–	–
	Czeklin	23.75	1 600–1 800	0.23	10.54	1.439	–	–
	Dębinka	25.64	1 400–1 600	2.30	0.69	1.017	44	6 487
	Grochowice II	2.35	1 600–1 700	1.52	1.60	0.143	23	205
	Lipowiec	0.12	1 400–1 500	0.60	2.06	0.004	64	11
	Milicz	13.60	1 500–1 700	1.86	0.89	0.563	26	1 644
	Mirków	12.84	1 100–1 300	1.17	1.56	0.023	–	–
	Naratów I	0.25	1 500–1 600	0.52	2.07	0.007	86	28
	Naratów II	7.88	1 400–1 500	0.55	3.99	0.432	319	3 456
	Nowiny	5.70	400–600	0.47	2.64	0.177	100	670
	Radziądz	6.25	1 600–1 800	1.65	0.93	0.240	7	180
	Sława	9.48	1 900–2 000	0.45	1.92	0.205	161	1 717
Ślubów	2.50	1 300–1 400	0.20	9.08	0.113	164	205	
Żarków	13.76	1 000–1 500	3.01	1.34	1.387	22	2 278	
Total hypothetical resources <2000 m		163.84	400–2 000	8.20			17 917	



Table 5. cont.

Tabela 5. cd.

Resource category	Prospective area	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Depth range (MBGL)	Average thickness (m)	Average Cu content (%)	Cu resources (Mt)	Average Ag content (ppm)	Ag resources (tonnes)
Hypothetical >2000 m	Bukowiec	12.17	2 700–2 800	0.60	2.87	0.524	89	1 625
	Florentyna	88.58	3 200–4 200	1.00	2.66	5.891	33	7 308
	Grodzisk	10.35	2 700–2 800	1.07	3.54	0.980	94	2 603
	Jany	44.43	2 000–2 200	1.34	2.13	3.170	–	–
	Kaleje	195.40	2 700–3 400	2.30	2.75	30.904	26	29 218
	Mozów	370.03	2 100–2 700	2.33	2.73	58.843	51	43 971
	Niemierzyce	32.74	2 700–2 900	1.00	4.16	3.405	21	1 719
	Paproć	6.39	2 500–2 700	0.10	17.27	0.276	421	673
	Rogalin	53.84	2 900–3 200	1.90	1.42	3.631	7	1 790
	Wilcze	162.21	2 000–2 500	0.49	5.15	10.233	537	106 706
	Żakowo	10.29	2 100–2 300	0.40	3.36	0.346	45	463
Żerków	263.80	2 600–3 700	1.75	2.29	26.377	58	66 932	
Total hypothetical resources >2000 m		1 250.23	2 000–4 200	144.58		263 008		
Total prognostic, prospective and hypothetical		1 744.54	400–4 200	178.75		345 987		

## 5. Recommendations and problems

Even though the Kupferschiefer underlies large areas of Poland, undiscovered economic deposits are likely to exist only in SW Poland, where many prospective areas are mapped (Fig. 2) and for which resources of copper and silver have been estimated (Table 5). These prospective areas can be differentiated into three groups based on the depth to the Kupferschiefer series and the number of holes available for examination.

The first group, with the shallowest areas, include: Krępa, Bartków, Lipowiec, Mirkow, Naratów II, Nowiny, Raciborowice, Ślubów, and Żarków. In these areas, the base of the copper-bearing series occurs above the depth of 1500 m. There are only single holes available for each area, apart from Raciborowice; therefore, these areas are classified as prospective areas with hypothetical resources.

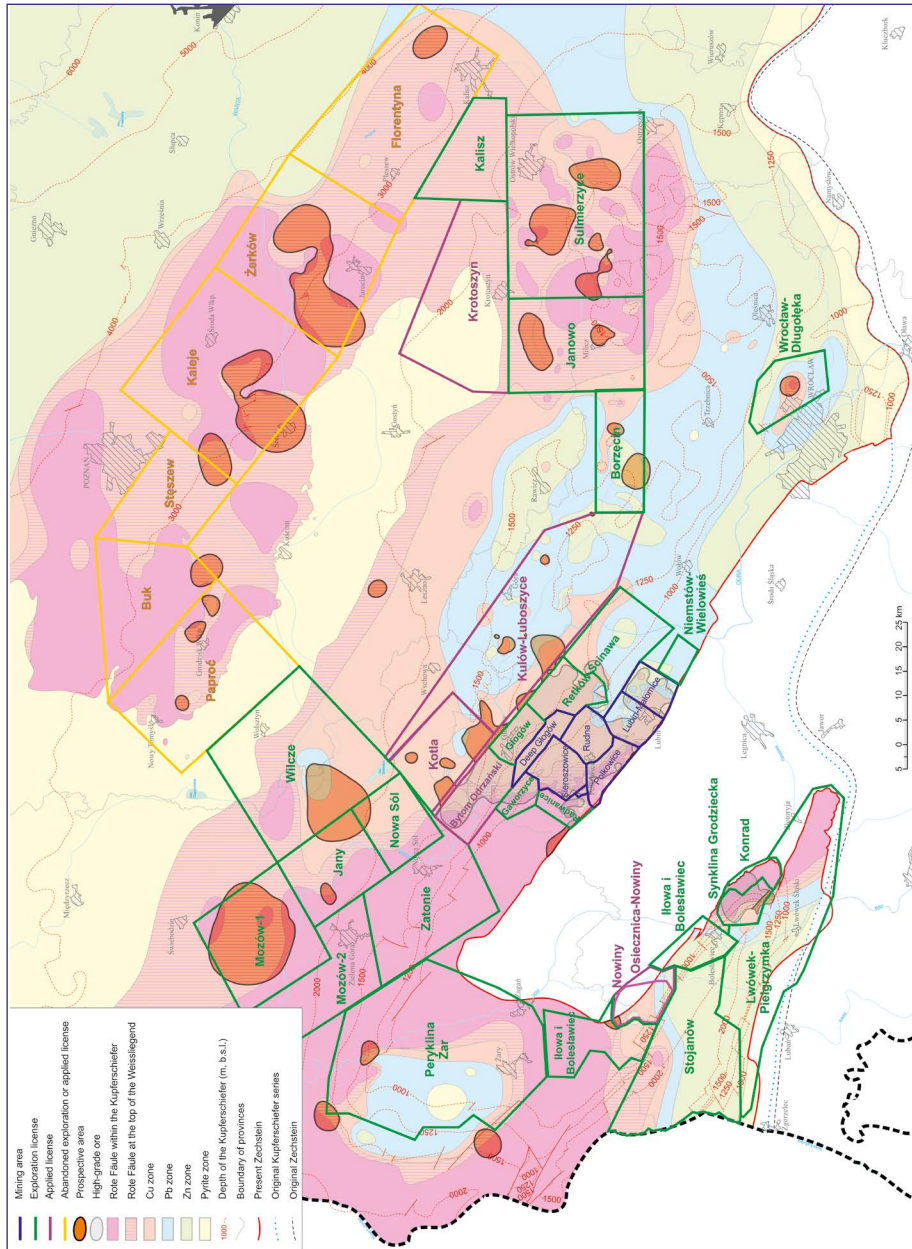


Fig. 3. Map showing exploration and mining license areas in relation to prospective copper areas, Rote Fäule areas, and metal zoning patterns in the Zechstein copper-bearing series of SW Poland (as at the end of December, 2014)

Rys. 3. Mapa koncesji wydobywczych i poszukiwawczych na tle obszarów perspektywicznych, utlenionych i strefowości metalicznej w utworach cechstyńskiej serii miedzionosnej SW Polski

The second group includes 17 prospective areas where the Kupferschiefer occurs at depths of 1500–2000 m. Only 4 areas, Dębica, Henrykowice, Janowo, Sulmierzyce, are recognized as having prospective resources. The remaining areas are classified as having hypothetical resources because mineralization was found in single holes.

The third group consists of areas with the mineralization horizon at depth below 2000 m, of which 5 areas (Grodzisk, Kaleje, Mozów, Wilcze and Żerków) have been drilled by more than one hole.

The most important prospective areas, recommended first for further exploration, are those areas of prognostic resource adjacent to the Lubin-Sieroszowice: Grochowice I, Kulów, Białoleka, and Luboszyce (Oszczepalski and Speczik 2014; Speczik et al. 2014). These areas, which extend over 114 km<sup>2</sup>, may contain 9 Mt of copper and 34 000 tonnes of Ag at depths of 1500 to 1700 m, with thickness ranging from 1.1 to 2.1 m, and with average grade in the range of 0,97–3,14% Cu and 44–170 ppm Ag. These resources are estimated for the areas with the limits of the geometric data interpolation constrained by 15 positive boreholes and a few dozen negative ones in the surrounding areas. Therefore, it should be noted, that irregular network of examined drill holes tended to simplify the ranges of prospects and to overestimate resource evaluation.

The trend of increasing copper concentration in the direction of the Lubin-Sieroszowice deposit allowed us to assume that prospective areas (Grochowice I, Kulów, Białoleka, and Luboszyce) tend to connect with Bytom Odrzański, Głogów and Retków deposits. In this area, continuation of Bytom Odrzański deposits is expected, not only towards the prospective area of Grochowice I (within present hypothetical limits), but also towards the north-west, in the direction of Wilcze, Jany and Mozów prospective areas. In order to delineate the predicted copper zone, continued research of available archival core drillings and continuation of drilling and geophysical exploration will be necessary.

This predicted continuation underlies several license areas: Kotla, Niechlów, Nowa Sól, Wilcze, Jany, Mozów-1, and Kulów-Luboszyce (Fig. 3). The first six concessions were applied by Leszno Copper, Zielona Góra Copper and Wilcze Copper companies. The Kulów-Luboszyce concession is requested by KGHM Polska Miedź SA Preliminary results of the first drilling completed in the area of Nowa Sól support the forecasts.

Near the areas with prognostic resources, there are small areas with hypothetical resources, such as: Borzęcin, Grochowice II, Naratów I and II, Lipowiec, Sława and Ślubów, known by single holes, with Zechstein base depth ranging from 1400 to 2000 m. The importance of the intercepts in these areas may increase if connections with areas of prognostic resources can be established.

The principal geological barriers constituting a potential threat to future exploration works within areas of prognostic and prospective resources and the possible future development of selected areas are: limited amount of geological information, rare and irregular drill hole network with available cores, drillings carried out in accordance with the methodology of gas and oil exploration and lower thickness of the ore interval. Unfavourable geological and mining conditions include: depth (1500–1700 m), high temperature of the rock mass

(45–55°C), and gas and oil threats (hydrocarbons, nitrogen, helium). In these areas, natural gas deposits have been documented (Grochowice, Kulów, Dębina and Lipowiec). For these reasons, the economic barriers may be the high cost of mineral extraction (including tax on the extraction), poor air quality, natural impoverishment of ore being produced, and the depth of its occurrence.

The Krępa area, located within the oxidized Zielona Góra Rote Fäule field at the border with Fore-Sudetic Block, has been defined by extrapolation of a trend determined by S-16 drill hole, located on the Radwanice concession (Fig. 2). The occurrence of copper mineralization high in the Zechstein Limestone in this hole and the presence of oxidized profiles in its surroundings means the chances of finding rich deposits in the Krępa area are relatively low, despite the possibility of occurrence of Au-Pt-Pd mineralization, very favourable depth to the mineralized series (400–500 m), low temperatures in the Zechstein base (20–30°C), and the lack of gas hazards.

An interesting prospective area is the Raciborowice area in the North Sudetic Trough, adjacent to the Wartowice ore deposit. According to the economic viability criteria in force until 2011, the holes southwest of the Wartowice deposit were considered negative as they do not meet the above mentioned criteria (Table 3). However, according to the recommended parameters defining the boundaries of deposit (Table 2), the drill holes from the Raciborowice area meet minimum  $Cu_e$  content parameter. In this area, 0.576 Mt of copper and 1,937 tonnes of Ag can be expected in an interval that averages 3.75 m thick, and has an average grade of 0.79% Cu and 24 ppm Ag. Due to the increased abundance (in the range of 8.22 to 18.72 kg/m<sup>2</sup>  $Cu_e$ ) of holes surrounding the area and the likelihood of its continuation in the southeast, an extension of the prospective area can be expected in the direction of the Nowy Kościół deposit, forming a Kupferschiefer belt of that could be 5–10 km wide, with mineralization at depth of 900–1500 m in favorable geological and mining conditions. It is likely that this hypothesis will be verified in the future, as the discussed area, located at the junction of three exploration licenses owned by KGHM (Synklina Grodziecka and Konrad) and Leszno Copper (Lwówek-Pielgrzymka), is already the site of an ongoing exploration drilling project (Lipień et al. 2014).

Of the prospective areas away from the documented copper deposits, but not lying at great depth, the prospective areas Nowiny (at a depth of 400–600 m), Żarków (1000–1500 m) and Mirków (1100–1300 m) deserve special attention.

The current extent of the Nowiny prospective area, located on the boundary between the North Sudetic Trough and the Żary Pericline (Bachowski et al. 2011), does not have great potential, but there is a possibility that the prospective area extends to the south east and west to the known Sprenberg-Weisswasser deposits in Germany. If true, the prospective resources would increase to nearly 2 Mt of copper. The geologic and mining conditions are very favorable for development because the depth of the copper-bearing series is insignificant, the host rock temperature of the mineralized interval is low (less than 40°C), and there are no gas hazards. Because this area is located on the boundary of the Ilowa-Boleslawiec exploration concession, granted to the Silesian-Cracovian Metal Mining Company, and the

Osiecznica-Nowiny and Nowiny concessions applied by KGHM Polska Miedź SA, verification of this prediction is expected shortly.

The Żarków prospective area, located at the transition from Żary Pericline to Fore-Sudetic Monocline, forms an embayment in Zielona Góra Rote Fäule area, open to the south. There is no gas hazard, but the host-rock temperature at the base Zechstein is quite high (50–60°C).

The Mirków prospective area (SE part of the Fore-Sudetic Monocline) is surrounded by holes, in which the Kupferschiefer series is characterized by lead-zinc mineralization. This area does not have gas hazards and the host-rock temperature is a reasonable 40–50°C. The proximity of Wrocław and its suburbs pose a significant limitation in land-use planning of the Mirków area. The Mirków and Żarków prospective areas underlie concessions granted to Amarante Investments Company.

Sulmierzyce, Dębica, Janowo and Henrykowice prospective areas, located in the eastern part of Fore-Sudetic Monocline, are the remaining prospects with resources at a depth <2000 m. The association of rich copper mineralization with the large Ostrzeszów Rote Fäule area and numerous small, nearby oxidized fields is comparable (in both the degree of concentration and the relative position of the redox boundary in the horizontal and vertical distribution) to known mineralization in the western part of the Lubin-Sieroszowice deposit. Even though mineralized intercepts is only known from 12 drill holes, the total mineralized areas is almost 200 km<sup>2</sup> and has prospective resources of 16 Mt of copper and 28 thousand tonnes of Ag at depths from 1400 to 1900 m. In seven drill holes, Cu<sub>e</sub> (or Cu) content significantly exceeds 50 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, with maximum values in the following drill holes: Sulmierzyce 1 – 224.94, Dębica 1 – 89.48, Henrykowice 4 – 83.66 and Chruszczyn 3 – 71.08 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The density of drilling allows the possibility that these four areas may actually be continuous and could be connected with neighboring prospective smaller areas, such as Milicz and Bogdaj (Fig. 2).

In order to delineate the extent of the potentially important parts of these prospective areas, these areas are currently being explored by drilling on Janowo and Sulmierzyce exploration licenses, granted to the Ostrzeszów Copper Company (Fig. 3). Geological and mining conditions that could limit the development of these areas include: the depth exceeding 1500 m, high host-rock temperature (50–60°C), and the presence of natural gas (Bogdaj-Uciechów, Brzostowo, Henrykowice, Janowo, Tarchały and Wierzchowice gas deposits).

In addition to the areas with a copper-bearing series lying at relatively shallow depths, several prospective areas were also designated at depths exceeding 2000 m. the most interesting are Mozów, Kaleje and Żerków areas, adjacent to large Rote Fäule areas at both sides of the Wolsztyn basement ridge (Fig. 2). These prospective areas are characterized by significant copper and silver hypothetical resources (Table 3).

The Mozów prospective area covers an area of 370 km<sup>2</sup> and could contain approx. 59 million tons copper and 44 thousand tonnes of Ag in an interval having an average thickness of 2.33 m and an average grade of 2.73% Cu and 51 ppm Ag. The depth of the base of Zechstein varies from 2100 to 2700 m. The boundary of this area and hypothetical resources

are based on intercepts in four holes (Mozów 1, and Kije 2, 9 and 10); the richest, Kije 9, has a  $Cu_e$  value of 274 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

The Kaleje area, covering 195 km, has hypothetical resources of 31 Mt of copper and 29 thousand tonnes of silver at depths between 2700–3400 m. The mineralized interval has an average thickness of 2.3 m and an average grade of 2.75% Cu and 26 ppm Ag.

Similarly, the Żerków area, covering 264 km<sup>2</sup>, amounts approximately 26 Mt of copper and 67 thousand tonnes of Ag in an averaged interval of 1.75 m and a grade 2.29% Cu and 58 ppm Ag, at depths between 2600–3700 m.

Despite favourable tonnage and grade characteristics, the mineralized rocks in the Mozów, Kaleje and Żerków areas would be difficult to development because the copper-bearing series is twice as deep as the active mines in the Lubin-Sieroszowice mining district. However, the Mozów area, at the shallowest depth, is still interesting place for the exploration of copper and silver, as a new drill hole, Mozów 1-C1, confirms the presence of extensive chalcocite mineralization. As in other drill holes of this area, the ore interval combines the upper part of the Kupferschiefer and the lower part of the Zechstein Limestone, lying on the gold-enriched oxidized portion of the lowermost Kupferschiefer horizon (Krzemiński and Speczik 2013).

Currently, on the prospective areas Mozów, Sulmierzyce, and Janowo, drilling is conducted on the exploration licenses granted to the Mozów Copper and Ostrzeszów Copper Company. Recently, a new drilling program was also recently started by the company Zielona Góra Copper in the Jany, Zatonie and Nowa Sól concession areas to confirm the continuation of the high-grade mineralization extending possibly from the Bytom Odrzański deposit towards the Mozów area.

Our discussion of the factors that would affect the development of Mozów area and other deep seated prospective areas reflects current economic and technological conditions. If global demand for raw materials increases dramatically and new technologies for deep mining are developed, the outlook for development will be quite different. Certainly, mining at depths greater than 2000 m will be hampered by high host-rock temperature (50–65°C), large rock pressure, and possible accumulations of nitrogen gas mixed with hydrocarbons in the Rotliegend and lowermost Zechstein sediments, and crude oil in the Main Dolomite (e.g. in the Kije and Mozów vicinity). These problems may be addressed when the automation technology and remote control of machines in air-conditioned rooms are feasible.

However, bigger obstacles to development for both shallow and deep resources may be taxation and the legal system. Tax burden imposed on the investor causes a delay in the return of investment. This can significantly affect decisions on mine construction. Certainly it is impossible to avoid the tax liability, but you can move the tax burden from the design of the plant to the operational phase of the mine. This solution would certainly encourage many investors to conduct drilling or invest in the development of copper mines.

## 6. Porphyry Cu-Mo-W and skarn prospective areas at the contact zone between the Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks

The first geophysical and drilling investigations along the NE rim of the Upper-Silesian Coal Basin were undertaken by the Geological Institute in 1954–1957, and subsequently by the Polish Geological Institute and the Geological Enterprise of Cracow. Dozens of geological conveys have been completed; their main goal during the first stages of work was to explore the MVT-type Zn-Pb ore deposits in the Mesozoic rocks. The preliminary results led to drilling the Myszków P-1 borehole in 1966, which penetrated numerous porphyry dykes cutting metamorphic slates and granitoids (Ekiert 1971; Piekarski 1971). These results encouraged geologists to drill down to the footwall rocks to look for the porphyry-related mineralization. As a result, porphyry Mo-W-Cu ore deposit was discovered in the Precambrian-Palaeozoic basement concealed under Mesozoic platform and Cenozoic cover sediments in the vicinity of Myszków, where category C<sub>2</sub> resources were delineated (Piekarski et al. 1993). Originally estimated resources in an area of about 0.5 km<sup>2</sup> at a depth of 1000 m were 380 Mt of ore containing 550 thousand tonnes of Cu, 230 thousand tonnes of Mo, and 180 thousand tonnes of W. Average grades were 0.152% Cu, 0.049% Mo (0.156 Mo<sub>e</sub>), and 0.041% W. Subsequent studies have enlarged the amount of known resources to be more than 550 Mt of ore containing 804 thousand tonnes of Cu, 295 thousand tonnes of Mo, and 238 thousand tonnes of W. Subeconomic resources amount to 771 thousand tonnes of Cu, 298 thousand tonnes of Mo, and 212 thousand tonnes of W (Malon et al. 2014). Its geology, mineral assemblages and metal zonation were examined in detail (Ślósarz 1982, 1993; Lason 1992; Markiewicz et al. 1993; Podemski et al. 2001; Buła et al. 2002; Karwowski et al. 2005; Truszel et al. 2006). The mineralization is fracture-controlled, typically consisting of veinlets containing copper sulphides (mostly chalcopyrite), pyrite, molybdenite and scheelite. Mineralisation occurs in both the intrusive and surrounding host rocks, tending to be confined to the alteration zones.

Subsequently, four prospective areas (Mrzygłód, Zawiercie, Pilica and Będkowska Valley) have been delineated (Harańczyk 1980; Górecka and Nowakowski 1979; Harańczyk et al. 1980; Piekarski 1983; Nieć 1988), but recompilation of the exploration data demarcated eight prospective areas with porphyry Cu-Mo-W mineralization and associated skarns: Mysłów, Nowa Wieś Żarecka, Myszków, Mrzygłód, Żarki-Kotowice, Zawiercie, Pilica, and Będkowska Valley (Habryn et al. 1994; Piekarski 1994a, b; Markowiak et al. 1994; Markowiak 2005; Oszczepalski et al. 2008, 2010a).

## 7. Recommendations and limitations

The current evaluation of the copper ore quality has been conducted in conformity with the threshold values of the parameters defining a mineral deposit and its boundaries for por-

phyry Mo-W-Cu, according to criteria approved by the Minister of the Environment (Dz.U., 2011 nr 291, poz. 1712). These criteria are summarized in Table 6.

The distribution of molybdenum as the significant metal co-occurring with copper is taken into account by using the equivalent molybdenum  $Mo_e$  content parameter for the prognostic copper analysis.

Table 6. Threshold values of parameters defining porphyry Mo-W-Cu deposits and their boundaries

Tabela 6. Graniczne wartości parametrów definiujących porfirowe złoża rud Mo-W-Cu i ich granice

No.	Parameter	Unit	Threshold
1	Maximum depth of the mineral deposit	m	1200
2	Minimum Mo equivalent grade taking into account the tungsten (W) and copper (Cu) content of the sample delineating the ore-bearing interval. Mo equivalent is calculated from the formula $Moe = (\%Mo) + 1.5 (\%W) + 0.2 (\%Cu)$	%	0.1
3	Minimum Mo equivalent grade in the profile of a demarcated part (block) of the deposit	%	0.1
4	Minimum Moe productivity of the demarcated part (block) of the deposit	m%	0.15

Several prospective areas with either prognostic or prospective resources have been selected for the region in question (Fig. 4, Table 7).

**Nowa Wieś Żarecka-Myszków-Mrzygłód area** surrounding the Myszków deposit (Piekarski et al. 1993; Podemski et al. 2001), covers an 27 km<sup>2</sup> area and hence has prognostic resources in a belt 10 km long and 1 to 3 km wide, extending from Mrzygłód subarea in the south east, through Myszków subarea, to Nowa Wieś Żarecka subarea in the north west (Habryn et al. 1994).

The strict spatial and genetic relationship between the Cu-Mo-W mineralisation and the emplacement of granitoids and porphyries and the location of the Myszków deposit in the centre of the belt indicate a possibility to document further ore deposits in this prospective area. Based on the small surface area of this deposit and on the low density of the borehole grid, numerous orebodies comparable to the Myszków deposit may exist. One factor advantageous for exploration within the region in question is the shallow depth of the ore-bearing intervals (approximately 170 m below the surface). The entire prospective area is currently located within the Myszków-Żarki license area of the Silesian-Cracovian Metal Mining Company (Fig. 4), which is conducting drilling program there. With a higher density borehole grid, the examined subareas may constitute a reserve area for the Myszków mineral deposit in the event it is mined.

**Będkowska Valley** – an area with prospective resources, situated in the SW side of the Małopolska Block. The mineralization is dominated by polymetallic ores of porphyry type (Harańczyk 1980; Koszowska and Wolska 2000; Mikulski et al. 2007, 2008). Stockwork ores have not been found. Although the mineralisation is interesting from a mineralogical



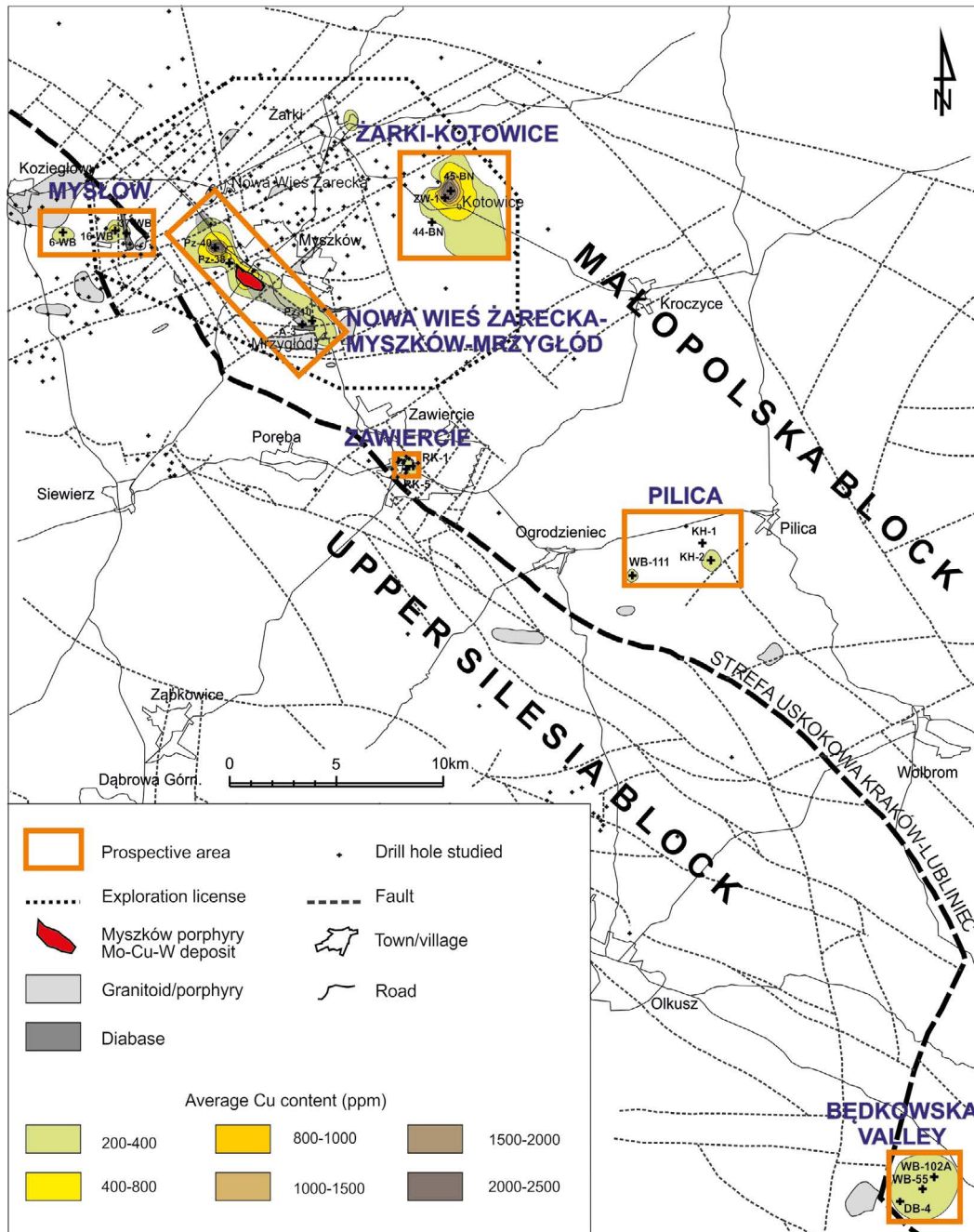


Fig. 4. Areas prospective with respect to the porphyry Mo-Cu-W and skarn deposits in the contact zone between the Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks

Rys. 4. Obszary perspektywiczne mineralizacji miedziowej związanej z porfirowymi złożami Mo-Cu-W i złożami skarnowymi w strefie kontaktowej bloku górnośląskiego i małopolskiego

Table 7. Characteristics of prospective areas in the contact zone between the Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks (after Oszczepalski et al. 2008)

Tabela 7. Charakterystyka obszarów perspektywicznych w strefie kontaktowej bloku górnośląskiego i małopolskiego (wg Oszczepalski i in. 2008)

General features and exploration guides	Nowa Wieś Żarecka-Myszków-Mrzyglód	Zarki-Kotowice	Zawiercie	Pilica	Będkowska Valley	Mysłów
Area	27 km <sup>2</sup>	20 km <sup>2</sup>	1,2 km <sup>2</sup>	19 km <sup>2</sup>	11 km <sup>2</sup>	11 km <sup>2</sup>
Granitoid intrusion	granodiorite	not penetrated	granodiorite, monzogranite	granodiorite	granodiorite	not penetrated
Subvolcanic and volcanic rocks	dacite, diabase, lamprophyre	lamprophyre, dacite	dacite, lamprophyre	dacite, lamprophyre	dacite, diabase, andesite	dacite, diabase
Associated rocks	Ediakaran	Ediakaran	Ediakaran, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian	Ediakaran	Ediakaran	Ordovician, Devonian, Carboniferous
Main ore type	porphyritic	porphyritic	skarn-metasomatic	porphyritic	porphyritic	skarn-metasomatic
Subordinate ore type	skarn	–	porphyritic	skarn-metasomatic	–	porphyritic
Principal metals	Cu > Mo > W	Cu > W > Mo	Cu > Mo > W	Cu > Mo > W	Cu > Mo > W	Cu > Mo > W
Associated metals	Zn > Pb	Pb > Zn	Pb > Zn	Zn > Pb	Zn > Pb > Au	Zn > Pb
Average Cu content of the richest interval	1 794 ppm	2 500 ppm	316 ppm	278 ppm	335 ppm	595 ppm
Max. Cu content of a sample	17 770 ppm	15 026 ppm	9 633 ppm	7 298 ppm	3 509 ppm	4 051 ppm
Average Mo content of the richest interval	593 ppm	92 ppm	45 ppm	200 ppm	50 ppm	225 ppm
Max. Mo content of a sample	18 220 ppm	453 ppm	770 ppm	8 858 ppm	1 477 ppm	887 ppm

Table 7. cont.

Tabela 7. cd.

General features and exploration guides	Nowa Wieś Zarecka-Myszków-Mrzyglód	Żarki-Kotowice	Zawiercie	Pilica	Będkowska Valley	Mysłów
Average W content of the richest interval	131 ppm	65 ppm	10 ppm	33 ppm	23 ppm	34 ppm
Max. W content of a sample	2 093 ppm	287 ppm	251 ppm	472 ppm	236 ppm	342 ppm
Max. Au content of a sample	106 ppb	27 ppb	24 ppb	79 ppb	15 000 ppb	5 ppb
Principal ore minerals	chalcopyrite, molybdenite, scheelite	chalcopyrite, sphalerite, galena	chalcopyrite	chalcopyrite, molybdenite	chalcopyrite, molybdenite	chalcopyrite
Texture/structure	impregnation, veins	veins	lenses, nests	veins	veins	impregnation, veins
Main type of alteration	biotitization, feldspathization, sericitization	sericitization, feldspathization	feldspathization, sericitization, chloritization	feldspathization, biotitization, epidotization	biotitization, feldspathization, sericitization	feldspathization
Intensity of alteration	very intense	intense	very intense	less intense	intense	very intense
Contact metamorphic rocks	hornfels, skarns	spotted slates	skarns, marbles, hornfels	skarns	hornfels	hornfels, skarns
Predominant vein minerals	quartz	quartz	quartz-chlorite, carbonate	quartz-chlorite	quartz, chlorite, feldspar	calcite
Distance from the Cracow-Lubliniec fault zone	2–4 km NE	12–13 km NE	0.5–1 km NE	3–6 km NE	0.5–3 km NE	1–3 km SE
Thickness of the overburden	170–210 m	430 m	70 m	380 m	100 m	350 m

point of view, it has no resource value given the current state of knowledge. It is possible that this mineralization continues to the east in the direction of the Cianowice-2 drill hole, in which poor mineralization was found in the Ediacaran rocks (Markowiak 2014).

**Mysłów** – an area with prospective resources located in the NE margin of the Upper Silesia Block, within the zone of overlapping tectonic fragments of the Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks. The Cu, Mo and W minerals are relatively scarce compared to the other prospective areas, however the region has not been yet sufficiently investigated in terms of drilling. It cannot be ruled out that this area constitutes a peripheral zone of a yet unidentified orebody, which may be expected to be found within the most heavily uplifted tectonic block in eastern subarea. Less rich mineralization was examined southwest of the area in question (Pańczyk et al. 2012).

**Pilica** – an area with prospective resources, demarcated by two boreholes with porphyry-type mineralisation (Harańczyk 1980; Piekarski 1994a). The sparse grid of boreholes drilled and significant core losses do not allow for a full evaluation. This mineralisation is irregularly distributed mostly in a form of veinlets crosscutting magmatic rocks and Ediacaran metasediments. Vast W and Bi anomalies as well as individual Cu, Zn, Ba and Sr anomalies suggest the presence of a magmatic intrusion near the Kraków-Lubliniec fault zone. Further exploration would be facilitated by the relatively shallow depth of the top of the Ediacaran (>195 m), but limited by the considerable depth of both the top of the ore-bearing intervals (ranging between 380 and 440 m) and the top of the granitoids (>419 m).

**Zawiercie** – an area with prospective resources that are located in the marginal part of the Małopolska Block, immediately adjacent to the Kraków-Lubliniec tectonic zone (Harańczyk et al. 1980; Piekarski 1994b). In spite of its small surface area (1.2 km<sup>2</sup>), it is the best explored region in terms of drilling, with over 40 boreholes, 9 of which are characterised by abundant ores. This area itself is interesting, however at the current stage of knowledge, it does not present any considerable value as a mineral deposit because the skarn and porphyry mineralisation form irregular orebodies and veins. Demarcating a proper concession area, conducting new drilling operations and possibly documenting the metal ore resources could lead to receiving an economic benefit from the potential mineral deposit, provided that mining is possible and profitable in the area of complex geological structure under the conditions of underground mining below urban areas.

**Żarki-Kotowice** – an area with prospective resources contained by Ediacaran rocks. It is located SE of Żarki, approximately 10 km from the Kraków-Lubliniec fault zone. In this region, drilled granitoid intrusions have not been found; however, due to the presence of high temperature mineralization and metasomatic alteration, the presence of granitoid intrusions is not excluded (Lasoń and Markowiak 2008; Karwowski and Markowiak 2012). Sparse boreholes and the small thickness of penetrated Ediacaran rocks do not allow for a full exploration prognosis. One of the factors limiting the understanding of this region is the considerable thickness of the Mesozoic overburden (400–500 m). This prognosis will be verified as a result of drilling program conducted within the concession area by the Silesian-Cracovian Metal Mining Company.

## Concluding comments

The potential of extending the resource base of mineral deposits puts Poland in the group of countries, which significance is crucial to European Union's reindustrialisation. Polish documented resources meeting the official criteria amount to approx. 1 761.96 Mt of ore containing 33.78 Mt of copper and 103.18 thousand tonnes of silver. It has been estimated that in SW Poland, apart from the documented copper ore deposits, there can be approx. 179 Mt of Cu and 346 thousand tonnes of Ag constituting resources that are prospective for future use in the mining industry, provided that geological and technological limitations (depth, temperature, oil and gas) do not pose barriers affecting the economic trends in the global market. For those reasons, it is extremely essential to verify the resource estimates for prospective areas by exploration drilling, which would make it possible in the future to make use preferentially of the prognostic resources in the nearest vicinity of the Lubin-Sieroszowice and Myszków deposits, as well as the most appealing prospective resources.

It should be noted that the irregular grid of examined boreholes results in simplification of the extents of prospective areas and in likely overestimation or underestimation of the presumed resources. Numerous very deep drilling programs are necessary to verify the resource potential within the areas of many exploration concessions – both granted and applied for. Prospecting activities including drillings have already commenced in some of the license areas. In order for those areas to be used for future mining, it is essential that they are first precisely identified and documented. The extraction from depths reaching 2000 m will require application of cutting-edge technology, provision of advantageous investing conditions and preparation of long-term mineral resource strategy with respect to both the country and the European Union.

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## PERSPEKTYWICZNA BAZA ZASOBOWA MIEDZI W POLSCE

## Słowa kluczowe

stratifikowane złoża miedzi, porfirowe złoża miedzi, eksploracja,  
obszary perspektywiczne

## Streszczenie

Najistotniejsze zasoby miedzi w Polsce umiejscowione są w stratoidalnych złożach typu łupka miedzionośnego, udokumentowanych w utworach strefy kontaktowej czerwonego spągowca i cechsztynu na monoklinie przedsudeckiej i w niecce północnosudeckiej. Wyniki najnowszych badań rdzeni licznych otworów wiertniczych wyraźnie wskazują, że permską serię miedzionośną cechuje znaczny potencjał zasobowy w postaci zasobów prognostycznych, perspektywicznych i hipotetycznych.

Wyznaczono 38 obszarów perspektywicznych (w tym 6 obszarów z zasobami prognostycznymi, 4 z zasobami perspektywicznymi i 28 obszarów z zasobami hipotetycznymi). Wśród obszarów perspektywicznych szczególną uwagę zwracają obszary z zasobami prognostycznymi (Białoleka, Grochowice, Kulów, Luboszyce), przylegające bezpośrednio do udokumentowanych złóż rud miedzi. Ponadto, obszary: Nowiny, Żarków i Mirków są interesujące ze względu na korzystną głębokość oraz obszar Mozów, który zawiera bogatą mineralizację rozciągającą się prawdopodobnie w kierunku południowo-wschodnim, poprzez obszary perspektywiczne Jany i Grochowice, aż do kopalń w obrębie złoża Lubin-Sieroszowice. Oszacowano, że około 179 mln t Cu i 346 tys. t Ag może znajdować się na obszarach perspektywicznych SW Polski dla przemysłu górniczego w przyszłości, pod warunkiem, że geologiczne i technologiczne ograniczenia (głębokość, temperatura, ropa i gaz) nie będą stanowić istotnych barier dla trendów gospodarczych światowego rynku. Spodziewany postęp w technologii podziemnego górnictwa na głębokości poniżej 1500 m (dopuszczalna głębokość dla zagospodarowania zasobów) pozwoli efektywnie wydobyć rudy z takich głębokości.

Następnych sześć obszarów perspektywicznych wyznaczono w strefie kontaktowej bloku górnośląskiego i małopolskiego, gdzie występuje mineralizacja Mo-Cu-W typu porfirowego (lokalnie ze skarnami) w obrębie skał systemu granitoidowo-porfirowego oraz w skałach metamorficznych i osadowych ediakaru, ordowiku, syluru, dewonu i karbonu.

Należy zauważyć, że nieregularna siatka zbadanych wierceń skutkuje uproszczeniem zasięgów obszarów perspektywicznych oraz prawdopodobnym przeszacowaniem przypuszczalnych zasobów. Liczne programy wiertnicze do dużych głębokości są niezbędne, aby zweryfikować potencjał zasobowy na obszarach wielu przyznanych i wnioskowanych koncesji poszukiwawczych. Długoterminowe wyzwania wymagają nowych rozwiązań dla górnictwa przyszłości i rynku gospodarczego UE, aby umożliwić reindustrializację Europy.

**PROSPECTIVE COPPER RESOURCES IN POLAND****Keywords**

stratiform copper deposits, porphyry copper deposits, exploration, prospective areas

**Abstract**

The most significant copper reserves in Poland are confined to sediment-hosted stratiform Kupferschiefer-type deposits that occur at the Zechstein/Rotliegendes transition in the Fore-Sudetic Monocline and North-Sudetic Trough. Gradual depletion of shallow reserves results in exploitation of deeper beds. Latest studies of numerous drill hole cores strongly indicate that the Kupferschiefer series in SW Poland (outside the Lubin-Sieroszowice Copper District) contains a very large volume of prognostic, prospective and hypothetical resources.

38 prospects have been delineated (including 6 areas with prognostic resources, 4 with prospective resources, and 28 areas with hypothetical resources). Among the prospective areas, particular attention is paid to the areas adjacent to the existing mines of Lubin-Sieroszowice copper district, with prognostic resources (Białoleka, Grochowice, Kulów, Luboszyce). Also the areas: Nowiny, Żarków and Mirków are interesting due to accessible depths, Sulmierzyce and Janowo areas due to considerable resources and reasonable depth, and Mozów area – because of high Cu-Ag grading mineralized body with credible continuation to south east through Jany and Grochowice prospects, towards the Lubin-Sieroszowice mining district. It can be estimated that approximately 179 million tons Cu and 346 thousand tons Ag concentrated as potential resources in prospects of SW Poland for future mining, which will be possible, when geological and technological barriers (depth, temperature, oil and gas) will meet economic trends in the world market. Expected progress in underground mining at depths exceeding 1500 m (a depth limit for economic categories) will make this approach effective and technically possible.

Additional six prospective areas have been delineated in the contact zone between Upper Silesia and Małopolska blocks, where porphyry-type Mo-Cu-W mineralization (locally with skarns) occurs within porphyry/granitoid rocks and Ediacaran, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian and Carboniferous metasediments and other sedimentary formations.

It should be noted, however, that irregular network of examined drill holes tended to simplify the ranges of prospects and to overestimate resource evaluation. Extensive deep exploration drilling is required to verify resource potential of granted and applied exploration licenses in several targets. The long-term challenges require new solutions for mining industry of the future and industrial market within the EU, to enable the reindustrialization of Europe.