

**NEMOLAND - ZIEMIA NICZYJA - MINE OF LIVING LEGENDS
EXPLORING TREASURES IN THE BORDERLAND OF CENTRAL EUROPE
NEMOLAND - STARA KAMIENICA - POLAND**

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Nemoland is an international meeting point for travellers and visitors who want to experience the unspoiled nature, historical landscapes and find hidden treasures. Nemoland presents its region as a treasury of local legends and road map for ramblers and explorers. Lying in the borderland of central Europe, Nemoland is a crossing point for exchange and education activities focused on local culture and nature. By offering this, Nemoland wants to contribute to the appreciation and the development of the region by means of projects for conservation, protection and promotion of its culture and ecological activities. Nemoland is a non-profit organization, managed by the Polish Fundacja Nemo, run and financed by volunteers and members of the Dutch Nemo-association. Since May 2003 the existence of Nemoland was threatened by the plans to open a mine in the nearby area. However, thanks to the firm attitude of the local community, local government (gmina) and regional authorities (wojewoda) these plans were rejected. Since the mining company can appeal from this decision to the ministerial level, it is important to gain support for the project of Fundacja Nemo which offers an alternative to the mining plans.

Facilities and activities

1. Nemoland offers facilities and workshops to travellers and visitors who want to participate in volunteer-activities, educational, art and health-programs. Nemoland is *not* a commercial camping or hotel. The facilities are situated on a estate of 32 hectares, with gardens, orchard, creeks, meadows and woods, near nature reserves.
2. Activities: walking trips, workshops, excursions, programs for children, working holidays for volunteers who help to protect the countryside, to restore footpaths and monuments.

Stara Kamienica

The county of Stara Kamienica is located at a point where a large mountainous area borders on hills with old farms, with densely grown small valleys and many little picturesque villages. Just the place for endless roaming! It lies hidden between the Isermountains (Góry Izerskie), Giant Mountains (Karkonosze) and the Bóbr Valley Park (Park Doliny Bobru) in the Sudety area of Polish Lower Silesia. It is situated in the borderland of central Europe (Euregio Nysa), just between Prague, Dresden, Berlin and Wrocław, in the Jelenia Góra district. The area offers a unique combination of unspoiled natural agrarian landscape, many monuments, castles, archaeological sites, nature reserves and beautiful old villages. Because the region of Stara Kamienica is situated in a borderland which was strongly dominated by the Polish (there are also early traces of Celtic, Walloon and Sorb settlers), the Bohemian/Austrian, the Prussian/German, the Russian and finally again the Polish, the region has always been a crossing point of cultures and traditions, and as borderland in fact a “nobody’s land” (literal meaning of Nemoland). In 2003 this valuable cultural en natural landscape is threatened by mining plans, which might affect the landscape forever.

Nemo: from Holland to Poland

Nemo is a Dutch association of nature-oriented walkers with around 1300 members that was founded in 1988. Aim of Nemo is promotion of rambling and sustainable tourism, and to protect the countryside. Nemo means “nobody”, a nick name for travellers, ramblers and explorers, called after Jules Verne’s Captain Nemo, and Windsor Mckay’s cartoon-character Little Nemo. In Holland the association organizes weekly walks supported by own minibuses, publishes magazines and brochures and has developed into a national pressure group that works for the interests of walkers. Nemo is commissioned by regional and local authorities to produce plans for walkways and promoting of sustainable tourism. The association has an office in Amsterdam with three fulltime staff members and many volunteers. Nemo is a non governmental, non-profit organization financed by its members and receives no subsidies. Nemo does’nt have commercial activities. In 1998 Nemo has opened an information- and visitors' centre in Miedzylesie, Stara Kamienica, Poland for its members. The centre should be a part of a broader project for rural development in the district of Stara Kamienica. For the administration of the centre Nemo has founded a separate organization: Fundacja Nemo. This Polish legal body owns and manages the centre and the execution of the projects. Nemo intends to improve recreational facilities in the region from this centre. Nemo expects this project in Poland to produce experience, knowledge and possibilities that can be applied at a later stage in other parts of Poland, in the Netherlands and in other European countries. Nemo aims to develop a practical model, in which realizing facilities for walkers is the catalyst for an integral development involving protection of landscape and cultural heritage, and improvement of socio-economic aspects. There is strong support of the members of Nemo for this Poland-project. Initiators and coordinators are Peter Spruijt and Mathilde Andriessen.

NEMO PROJECT FOR EMPOWERMENT AND MOBILIZATION OF LOCAL CONDITIONS FOR RURAL TOURISM IN STARA KAMIENICA, POLAND

The district of Stara Kamienica is situated in the foothills of the Sudety mountains (Karkonosze / Giants' Mountains and Góry Izerskie / Iron Mountains) of the province Lower Silesia in the south-west of Poland, near the Czech and German border. This district is an extreme example in Poland having the best and most suitable opportunities and resources for rural tourism, and being threatened by economical depression, social problems, destruction of local culture and nature by mining plans and neglect of social resources for sustainable development. This project offers a feasible route map to sustainable development by empowerment and mobilization of local conditions for rural tourism.

The keywords of this project are: awareness raising; tailor made plans; based on local conditions and possibilities; international exchange; connected to existing development plans; concrete and practicable projects.

Motivation for the project

Why a project for sustainable tourism and rural development in Stara Kamienica, Poland?

Apart from the well-known areas of natural beauty, Poland can offer tourists an agricultural landscape with high natural values, that is very attractive and often completely unknown. Moreover the regions around the Karkonosze and Izerskie Mountains offer a landscape and culture that could easily attract extensive nature oriented recreation and rural tourism next to the sufficient possibilities for intensive recreation nearby in places such as Jelenia Góra/Cieplice and Szklarska Poreba/Karpacz. Both types of recreation complement and strengthen each other. This naturally beautiful region of Stara Kamienica was threatened by the plans to open a mine. However, thanks to the firm attitude of the local community, local government (gmina) and regional authorities (województwo) these plans were rejected. Still, it is important to gain support for the project also on the higher state level in case the mine would like to appeal from this decision. The project aim is to create an alternative to mining plans.

The project involves the building of tourist facilities closely related to conservation of nature and culture initiatives and agricultural activities in the area. This integral approach suits to much needed regional development. The project offers a perspective on the development of new means of existence and new means of production. Furthermore it benefits the local populations directly.

The idea is guided by local development plans such as "Strategy for sustainable development of Stara Kamienica district (Stara Kamienica December 2000)" drawn according to Agenda 21 recommendations. Polish people themselves want co-operation and exchange on the basis of equality and are very resourceful. This project offers a pragmatic base for diverse form of participation. It is also in line with current EU policy especially in linking tourism to rural development. There is a specific interest in regions near borders (Euregions). This project also joins up with other initiatives present in the Euregion of Neisse to which it belongs (Czech North-Bohemia, German/Polish Lower Silesia). Co-operation with German and Czech partners is part of the project. The project focuses on integration and exchange. For that reason local non-profit organisations, private enterprises, artists, schools and authorities are invited to participate. Although the region is distinctly Polish, the project gains a character that goes beyond borders because of the proximity of Germany and Czech Republic.. Stara Kamienica is in fact situated in the heart of Europe, between Prague, Warsaw, Dresden and Berlin. The project can contribute to contacts and an exchange between East and West.

1. Aims

Project-aims are: economic development, employment creation, innovation of tourism programs, empowerment of local NGO's and interregional and international cooperation. The project strives to realize this by creating local conditions for sustainable tourism through:

1. Empowerment and community building activities, like consultancy, events, cultural exchange, new economic activities targeted at the local inhabitants.
2. Appreciation, upgrading and preservation of the local ecological, cultural and historical heritage, emphasizing the value of local culture, landscape, traditions and crafts.
3. Building understanding and awareness of different cross border cultures.
4. Generating new concepts and trends for promotion and corporate identity of sustainable tourism.
5. Promoting sustainable economic activity, offering alternatives for the Pol- Skal mining plans.

2. Target groups

Locals, inhabitants of the Polish, Czech and German Euregio, German heritage tourists, students, disabled people, nature and culture oriented tourists from Poland and abroad.

PLAN OF ACTION

1. Coordination of the project

Setting up coordination structure for the project for planning and finding funds, subsidizers and private investors (coordination team, office, training). A local steering-committee consisting of representatives of the participating organizations will coordinate this project.

2. Research by Dutch and Polish students on:

- a. soil/water/climate and local social/economic conditions.
- b. policies aimed at the region and European laws, Polish agricultural policies and legal frameworks
- c. market research for sustainable tourism and new agrarian activities.

Students from different countries and disciplines could perform the research to the preconditions of this project. Conditions for research are 1. Products and methods must be well defined. 2. Products must contribute to the project. 3. Working in project teams, exchange of information, regular evaluation. 4. Identifying Polish students and partners. The aim is to form a project team of students who could do research in different fields of the project, regarding preconditions and facilities, a marketing plan, business plan, finding partners and finance for:

1. landscape protection, land use and land planning
2. health/care tourism, reintegration activities, therapeutic activities
3. educational tourism, volunteer activities, school exchange, courses
4. new agrarian activities, product development, transport and sale
5. attraction park for local legends and history, visitors' centre, tourist programs
6. PR and Internet facilities (web page)

3. Empowerment of local NGO's and municipality of Stara Kamienica focused on sustainable tourism

Finding financial and legal support for the tourist-promotion program 'Izerska Wies' of the Board and District council of Stara Kamienica as well as support for local non governmental organizations (Stowarzyszenie Kopaniec, Stowarzyszenie Izery, Sudeckie Towarzystwo Turystyki Wiejskiej), local protest committees against the Pol Skal mining plans, institutions which coordinate archaeological research in the region (Muzeum Karkonoskie), local schools for cultural programs. Cooperation in the preparation of landscape and spatial plan to protect the historical landscape and the monumental village

4. Developing and organizing programs for tourists and visitors

1. Education programs for school exchange, tourists, students, locals (green school)
2. Reintegration activities for youth with social, mental or health problems (learning by experience)
3. Programs focused on local culture and artists (workshops, events)

5. Employment creation projects

1. In the area between Chromiec and Mala Kamienica: building an attraction park, village museum and cultural centre for local legends and history. Theme is "continuity in history", with a focus on the local history and legends which are specific to the landscape and the inhabitants. The attraction park will present the whole district of Stara Kamienica, its landscape and attractions, as 'land of stories and legends'. The park will develop tourist arrangements and tourist conditions as part of the existing program 'Izerska Wies'.
2. Integrated in the activities of the attraction park: a model farm with production unit for agrarian products run by local women, offering facilities and training, developing regional products and practical support for new private initiative. Aims are: the introduction of effective and sustainable agricultural activities, selling and exporting of regional dairy products, cultivation of traditional crops that suit the landscape such as buckwheat, extending the orchards and to production and export of fruit products.

Possibilities and opportunities of the region Stara Kamienica

1. Strategic location in the Euregio Neisse/Nysa, between the main cities in Middle Europe and in proximity of motorways to Wrocław, Dresden, Görlitz, Prague, Berlin.
2. The asset of its valuable landscape, cultivated and still intact.
3. Added natural value through important biodiversity due to the proximity of natural parks (Karkonosze and three local natural parks).
4. A dramatic historical background, (changing borders, a history that is Polish but also Bohemian, Austrian and German), as shown by many monuments and landscape structure.
5. Great potential for rural tourism as well as intensive tourism (spas, skiing) in the region.
6. Great economic potential for good quality regional products and ecological agriculture and horticulture thanks to excellent soil conditions, limited use of fertilizers and a healthy environment.
7. The shared Polish-Bohemian-German history could form the basis of German-Bohemian-Polish exchange activities and friendship around the theme of continuity in (rural) history.
8. The region offers excellent conditions for new trends in tourism. These new trends should be the guiding principles for developing sustainable tourism in the region, following the dialectics of progress.

Problems and obstacles of the region

1. In the era of communism the region has suffered greatly from air pollution (The Black Triangle) and little was invested in employment and tourist infrastructure.
2. The landscape is marked by a double negative identification. The Germans suffered a traumatic exodus in 1946, the Poles a forced transmigration in 1945/46.
3. Agrarian enterprises were dominated and suppressed by traditional communist economy since the end of II world war. Therefore farmers hardly dare to take risks and the concept of cooperation is suspicious and has a negative connotation.
4. After the fall of communism free market economy and the expansion of big scale farming in the middle of Poland has all but pushed aside traditional small-scale agriculture in the region.
5. Because the area is situated in a hilly transitional zone close to natural parks, it is economically isolated, most fields are untilled and farms stop their agricultural activities.
6. Many people are unemployed and there are hardly sufficient social facilities to cope with the problems. Community feeling is weak after the forced transigrations and 45 years of communism and grows even weaker.
7. Now tourism mainly focuses on some monumental towns, the Karkonosze and the spas. There is hardly any rural tourism around these tourist areas. That is why they are often threatened by mining industry.
8. Western influence grows at the cost of the cultural identity of the region.
9. There is hardly any development of tourism or other regional products that could procure protection of the typical character of the region and to insure new income.
10. There is an absence of sufficient regional instruments to bring about positive development: there are no possibilities for education and practical training focusing on rural development. Local organizations and authorities don't know how to fund and put into use possibilities of development (expertise, marketing, subsidies etc.) The opportunities the EU could offer in the form of subsidies are one more cause of fatalism and passivity whereas in the current situation investment is necessary.
11. Existing initiatives and (subsidized) development projects do not take into account the character of the region; the Polish context and the way the local population experience and see their region and its potential. Most projects are based on West European concepts of rural development and sustainable development. Because of the Polish context their intentions and effects are not in line.

The district of Stara Kamienica

The district of Stara Kamienica is situated in South West Poland in the Sudete area of Lower Silesia, not far from the German and Czech border close to the monumental Jelenia Góra and the winter resort of Szklarska Poreba, in the foothills of the Karkonosze Mountains (Giants' Mountains) and the Góry Izerskie. The district covers an area of 11.050 hectares, has approximately 8000 inhabitants who live in the villages of Stara-, Nowa- and Mała Kamienica, Chromiec, Antoniów, Kopaniec, Miedzylesie, Rybnica, Barcinek and Wojcieszycze. The district lies on the outer limits of an extensive mountainous area with a lot of forest, and an old, small-scale, agricultural landscape with many small fields, woods and villages with monumental farms. There are walkways everywhere. Apart from cultivated fields and grassy areas, the area consists of densely forested valleys. Wooded banks, millstreams, fords, walls and terraces testify to agricultural patterns of cultivation dating from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century that are still in a remarkably perfect condition. Before the World War II the district was a very popular "Luftkurort" (health resort). Most inhabitants rented out rooms to tourists. After the war this "village tourism" disappeared completely. As in other European transitional areas the land is not cultivated any more and forest slowly takes over. There are still many possibilities to maintain the old small-scale agricultural landscape and conserve its natural and cultural values.

Recently the area is threatened by a mining company who wanted to explore a 75 ha. open granite mine in Mała Kamienica. The mining plans are directed towards exploitation of natural resources with inevitable destruction of landscape. Thus the issue of landscape conservation becomes vital for the local community. In this situation it is necessary to develop a vision of sustainable economic development integrated with the environment and community friendly measures as alternative to short-term profit-oriented solutions like mining. The vision needs to offer a wider scope of economic perspectives for the local community rather than just exploitation of earth resources with consequent environmental damage to be paid by the next

generation. The present project can be part of this vision for the area offering development with long-term profit approach in which also the future generations can enjoy unspoiled qualities of local landscape and environment. *There is a lot of support for plans to protect the landscape and to develop the district. The local authorities and political leaders support the principles of sustainable development. There are also many local artists, new entrepreneurs, ecological farmers, teachers, historians, designers of exhibitions and others who would like to get involved.

The region

From the beginning of the Polish nation in the 10th century the region has been Polish under the rule of the Silesian Piast dukes. The ruins of a Piast stronghold in Stara Kamienica testify to this. From the twelfth century onwards the Silesian dukes invited German colonists to the area. Under the rule of the Schaffgotsch family these colonists founded towns and villages around the Karkonosze and Izer Mountains. In the 14th century the Piast dukes came under Bohemian rule and Austria inherited the region in 1526. In 1741 the Prussian Frederick the Great conquered the area and the protestant majority gained freedom of religion. Until 1945 Stara Kamienica was part of Germany, known as Alt Kemnitz. After the war the Germans had to leave the area, as a result of the Yalta Conference in 1945. Most Poles who now live here originate from former East Poland that is now a part of the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Lithuania. There have been few recent investments in employment and (tourist) infrastructure because of the fear that Germany would reclaim the area. In 1991 both countries have fixed the borders in a final treaty. After the collapse of communism unemployment has even increased because many large industries and agricultural enterprises shut down. In the cities there is relative prosperity but the rural areas hardly benefit from this. There are many problems with unemployment and social services are insufficient. Large-scale tourism is limited to some monumental cities, the Karkonosze Mountains and the health resorts in Cieplice and Swieradów Zdrój; there is almost no rural tourism. There is no recognition of the typical cultural-historical and ecological value of regions like Stara Kamienica. This neglect lessens its attraction to tourists. Furthermore there is substantial environmental damage caused by surrounding heavy industry. Not long ago the area was known as the “black triangle”. In the meantime there has been a lot of investment in cleaning up polluting factories and reforestation.

Polish authorities as well as the European Union are of the opinion that sustainable development of the region should be approached integrally. Also social, ecological and economic problems should be solved in a coherent way. Therefore there should be support for “sustainable” recreation and tourism in which the tourist as well as local people contribute to preservation of nature and culture and benefit from these efforts. A specific project such as this one sets an example and provides the necessary instruments for facilitation of a profitable development. Sustainable tourism is an amorphous term that is difficult to define. In short, sustainable tourism shows rather than describes; it allows the tourist to be an active participant in the experience. Nature tourism, resource-based tourism, adventure tourism, eco tourism, agro tourism, educational, health and heritage tourism have all been applied to this field. People want to “experience” nature and culture as an active, not an idle, participant on their adventure. Personal health, enrichment, enlightenment, stimulation, and engagement are among the primary motivators for these travelers. The top five motivations for them are: To be outdoors. To experience the sights, smells and sounds of nature and culture. To see something new. To learn new skills.

If the Polish community and the local authorities are able to stop the landscape destroying mining plans, and invest in sustainable tourism, the region of Stara Kamienica will soon have profit of this development by new economic activities and employment.

Local people fighting for their landscape

DESTRUCTIVE MINING PLANS THREATENING UNIQUE LANDSCAPES IN KARKONOSZE AND IZERY REGION IN POLAND

North of the Giants’ Mountains (Karkonosze) and Iron Mountains (Góry Izerkie) in the Jelenia Góra district in the south-west of Poland, you will find an unique combination of nature and culture. In this relatively unspoiled agrarian landscape there is an huge quantity of cultural and natural monuments as: historical landscape elements, castles, palaces, mills, archaeological sites, old picturesque villages and nature reserves. For European standards this area is an important and monumental center of European history with high touristic potentials, and the European Union should interfere when this area will be seriously damaged. In the region and abroad there is a big support to protect this landscape by a combination of improvement of the local economy and the promotion of cultural-, health- and agro-tourism. But recently these untouched cultural and natural landscapes are threatened by mining plans which are able to destroy all sustainable developments to protect these most valuable landscapes and use them in a proper way. Three examples are illustrative.

1. Kłopotnica near the city of Mirsk. The whole area around Kłopotnica is extremely damaged by several mines. And still more are coming. People have been fighting by all kinds of juridical procedures, but unsuccessfully.
2. Karpniki, in the Nature Park Rudawy Janowice. The mining company Pol-Skal got a permission to start a mine. But a local group managed to stop the plans of the company for a while.
3. Stara Kamienica. Between Chromiec and Mala Kamienica Pol-Skal want to start a 80 ha mine. Local protest groups managed to change the mayor’s opinion. But they are afraid for the decision of the Province in favor of the mining company.

Effects of mining industry mean catastrophe for village life

The Polish company Pol Skal want to dig stones in open-air mines. They don't look for special stones; they need granite for new roads and some industries. They will blow up granite rocks, and this will cause enormous clouds of dust. Day and night the noise of pulverizing the stones will be heard all around. Big trucks with stones will drive through the villages all the time. One mine will effect a whole region. Recent research proves that mining industry does not improve the employment and the local economy. In the contrary, the region will impoverish much more. The locals are very much afraid the mining industry will lay open the dangerous uranium, which was exploited here many years ago.

Local people fighting for their landscape

New in this situation is that people from the region started to protest against the demolition of their homeland. Even in small villages in the countryside, far away from the towns, locals organize protest meetings and have emotional debates. They realize that mining industry takes away all aspects of sustainable development. They don't believe anymore the official stories about more employment and money for the region, because the case of Klopotnica is an example that mining industry becomes a catastrophe for the village. They also realize particularly this region is in danger, and in absolute need of sustainable development, because the vital functions of their valuable agricultural landscapes near nature reserves and around national parks, fall victim to economic and ecological catastrophe. The emerging free market in Poland and the agricultural expansion associated with it, has all but pushed aside the traditional small-scale agriculture that was typical to the region which succumbs to economic isolation. Most agricultural land lies waste, firms stop their activities and factories are empty. There is a lot of unemployment and there are hardly any social services to deal with the problems. Community spirit, vulnerable after the forced migrations in 1946 and 45 years of communism, evaporates steadily. And so the region deteriorates visibly and no tourist- or other regional products are developed that could generate new income and protection of the regional character. Because of the geographical and economic isolation of the district and the growing influence of the West, the cultural identity of the region disappears and dissolves in favor of an international focus. This identity will be damaged completely by the harmful mining industry. Recently residents become aware of the special cultural-historical and ecological value of their district.

But times are changing. In the last five years many initiatives rose: farmers developed accommodation and tourist arrangements, ecological farming started, foreigners started together with locals new enterprises, artists organized workshops and galleries, schools created programs about local history and legends, monuments have been restored: something of a new spirit woke up. People started to care about their environment, after years of neglect. They expected that the entrance to the EU would give new opportunities and support for environmental and sustainable development. Since the threats of the mining companies they unite themselves in protest committees and associations. They don't want only to protest, but also develop alternative projects.

Although Polish authorities and the European Union recognize that sustainable regional development should be approached integrally (social, ecological and economic problems should be solved in relation to each other) they offered no sufficient instruments to support the locals, and their protests against the mines and their alternatives. There is a lack of possibilities for schooling and practical training aimed at employment. A combination is called for of rural development that benefits local population and sustainable recreation, in which tourism contributes to preservation of culture and nature. The Nemo-project in Stara Kamienica did not manage to gain enough financial support. This project was a combination through setting up an education center and an experimental farm in which local people should participate and be integrated so as to promote community building. An important part of the project is therefore co-operation and exchange with local and (inter)regional non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, farmers, artists, schools and authorities. And by accident it happened that the mine is planned right on the place where the experimental farm was planned..

Background information

Introduction

If you want to find the cultural and natural heritage of Poland, you should look for the old unspoiled agrarian landscapes at the borders of nature reserves. They are unique in Europe. You will find there monumental villages in a most natural environment, undiscovered by mass-tourism, traffic and industry. The landscape is an open museum of agrarian history and multi cultural legends. You can feel, see and smell there the history of ages. Walking or cycling is a way of reading the legends of the landscape, and you will be fascinated by the magic of nature in this area. It is also a breeding place for new activities, because many artists live there and pioneers who find out new ways of living. For centuries it was a borderplace, forgotten by history, and many myths of history could survive here. Even the big war and the communists did not affect these landscapes and villages. The unbroken Polish

people were able to survive through oppression and economic crisis. But the new politics of the free market are now able to enter and hurt these border areas. Big companies affect these pure areas, which can offer no resistance, and they are ready to explore and destroy the beauty of the place. Especially mining companies now occupy the landscape, and destroy the cultural and natural heritage of centuries. Destroying the landscape is a way of killing history: you kill the traces and stories of many people. In the area of Karkonosze and Izery mountains you will find the traces of Kelts, Sorbs, Polish, Bohemian, Jewish, Bohemian and Ukrain people; the way they lived and worked. These traces will be swept away forever by the mining companies. A landscape without history, is like man without memory. He will be a robot, an automat, without culture and nature; ready to buy his bread, milk and eggs in the supermarket and having his holidays in exotic tourist resorts, exploited by some big company. Preserving and protecting these old agrarian landscapes, is a way of giving meaning to life: realizing the origins of human life.

Mining industry destroys unique Polish natural village landscape

A great disaster is threatening the unique landscape in Izery mountains in south-west Poland. The Dutch organization Nemo is developing in this region for 5 years, together with Polish locals, many projects for sustainable tourism and local development. Some mining company bought here about 70 ha. of land in Antoniów and Mala Kamienica. They misled the farmers by saying they wanted the land for breeding horses. They want to have permission from the province to dig big holes to find out which ground is the best to make big mines and quarries. Of course they will make also new roads, lamps etc., all day big trucks will drive around here and everywhere will be dust. All plans for sustainable development in this region by mixing agrotourism, ecological farming, protection of nature and culture, can be thrown away and will be useless.

These plans will destroy nature and landscape forever. The village landscape in Izery region is unique because it lies on the edge of different nature parks, and it contains many natural and cultural monuments. Because of the economic crisis in Poland the place needs sustainable development. There are many plans worked out for promotion of tourism together with Polish farmers. Nemo made a plan for protection of this special type of agrarian landscape and brought Dutch farmers to here to develop ecological farming. Every year there is more support in the village for these plans. And now everything will be useless. It is unbelievable that some Polish industrials can spoil and destroy their most beautiful landscape. Mining industry spoiled already the landscape around Mirsk. It is coming nearer and nearer, even if the landscape is officially protected here. The local people are very worried and angry. But they also fear that they can do little against corrupt government. In this area there were some uranium mines for some years right after the war. Nobody who worked there is still alive. If somebody begins to dig in this place the uranium starts to be dangerous. Another argument is the employment. Other mines in the region prove that the mine does not offer any employment to locals.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLISH REGION OF GÓRY IZERSKIE / ISER MOUNTAINS

Localization and reach

Góry Izerskie (Iser Mountains) form the western member of Sudety mountain range. From east and south-east they border the Kotlina Jeleniogórska (Jeleniogórska Basin) and Karkonosze, from south and south-west through the basin of Nysa Łużycka they are contiguous to Łużyckie Mountains and in the north they connect with Iser Foothills (Pogórze Izerskie). The eastern border forms the lowering of Zimna Przełęcz (525 m), the south-east border follows the Kamienna basin from Piechowice to Szklarska Poręba (886 m) and continues south along Mielnica, Mumlava and Izera till Rokytnic and Jizerou. The south border is conventionally following from Vysokeho nad Jizerou in the west through Pencin and Dlouhy Most till Liberec. The western border is a tectonic fault following from Liberec in the north through Mnišek, Detřichov to Frydland. The northern border follows from Frydland northwest through Dolni Řasnice to Jindřichovic by Smrek and follows till the national Polish border. From there towards east through Pobiedna, Krobica along Stary Trakt Handlowy Zytawsko-Jeleniogórski (Old Commercial Route) through Gierczyn and Przecznica till Kwieciszowice and on the border of Stara Kamienica Basin to Kromnów at the foot of Zimna Przełęcz.

Góry Izerskie create an expanding and branched orographic system reflecting the complex geological structure of the entire mountain complex with granite central part and metamorphic aureole. The mountain ridges and massifs forming this system are mostly laying evenly with a parallel of latitude. They are characterized by wide, sometimes concave hilltops with domed tops, covered by peat lands and often grown with forest. They constitute fragments of old tertiary surface planation which in earlier tertiary period underwent tectonic partition and irregular, askew up thrust till the present height, seldom exceeding 1000-1100 m above sea level.

Geological structure

The Polish part of Góry Izerskie belongs to the unit named Iser metamorphit which constitutes the north western shield of Variscan granite intrusion of Karkonosze-Iser block. It is composed of different types of metamorphic rocks: gneiss, clusters of granite and mica slate, created mainly during the Caledonian orogenesis. There are three basic types of gneiss categorized according to structural and textural features: gneiss, fine grained gneiss, and gneiss*. A separate category is composed of rumburski granite (called iser granite) occurring as lenses in gneiss. Locally leuko granite occurs as well. Within gneisses and granite-gneiss parallel narrow ranges of metamorphic mica slate occur. These ranges include: range of Szklarska Poręba constituting the eastern part of Wysoki Grzbiet and the range of Stara Kamienica extending from Wojcieszycze to the east through Kromnów, Stara Kamienica, Kwieciszowice, Gierczyn, Krobica till Czerniawa Zdrój in the west, constituting the northern slopes of Grzbiet Kamieniecki. Metamorphic slates occur in several varieties. Typical medium and coarse-crystalline mica slates occur in Grzbiet Kamieniecki. These are grey, silver grey and green grey slates muscovite-sericite-chlorite, locally enriched with biotite, garnet, rarely turmaline and disten*. Also cassiterite and sulphide minerals can be found here. Nodules and lenses of quartz and fluorite were discovered. Massive, thermally transformed and very resistant slates called hornfels* can be found in Wysoki Grzbiet in contact with Karkonosze granite, in a range 6 km long from Izerskie Graby till Zbójeckie Skały. The occurrence of veined quartz is connected to the complex of metamorphic rocks, mainly in the area of Świeradów Zdrój (Rozdroże Izerskie) and cassiterite in the area of Gierczyn-Krobica and cobalt in the area of Przecznicza-Gierczyn. At the northern foot of Grzbiet Kamieniecki a tectonic fault follows (fault Kamienica-Rębiszów), active in the later Tertiary (neogea). The occurrence of basalt, mainly in the form of dikes is related to the fault.

Mineral resources

Precious but few mineral resources can be found in Góry Izerskie. In the whole range of Grzbiet Kamieniecki from the state border till Stara Kamienica area in the ore-bearing areas 1-5 m wide stannum ore occurs (Sn). These are mainly cassiterites (stannum oxide SnO) containing 0,15-0,6 % of pure metal. The traditions of stannum ore extraction in Gierczyn date back to the XV century. The mines were active with intervals till the end of XVIII century and in the most favourable period (end of XVII century) the production amounted to about 20 tons of stannum per year. In the beginnings of XIX century cassiterite was extracted also in Krobica. After the II World War an evaluation was made confirming the possibility to resume extraction. These deposits are connected also to cobalt ores. These are cobalt and arsenic sulphides (smaltyn and safloryt*) and cobalt-manganese compounds extracted in the area of Przecznicza and Krobica since the half of XIX century for ceramic manufacture.

Among rock minerals only gneiss, leuko granite and mica slate deserve attention. Gneiss with practically unlimited deposits was extracted earlier locally to be used as road metal and for construction materials. Leuko granite occurring in the southern side of slate range, mainly in the area of Kopaniec can be used in ceramic industry to produce technical porcelain and faience. Mica slate extracted in the region of Krobica can be used after grinding as carrier of chemical substances for agriculture and as powder for building (roofing) paper.

In the area of Świeradów Zdrój veined quartz occurs. It is used in ceramic industry and in metallurgy. The biggest quartz vein extends with a range of about 10 km long and 10-80 cm wide. It is extracted in the mine Stanisław in Izerskie Garby.

In the area of tectonic displacement by Świeradów-Czerniawa medicinal water occurs. These are acidic waters, acid carbonate, calcium-magnesium and ferruginous, considerably radioactive (10-50 nCi/l) and with different grade of mineralization. Since a long time they are used in balneotherapy. Balneotherapy uses also peat from Iser peat bogs extracted for THE precious therapeutic mud. These are extracted in two deposits: Jakuszyce in the area of Szklarska Poręba and Izera in Hala Izerska. Sporadically occurring jeweller's and decorative stones: garnets, amethyst, rock crystal (quartz), turmaline and others do not have economic importance.

Climate

The climate conditions similarly like in Sudety mountains are formed according to global radiation and atmospheric circulation, depending on the local factors: mountain barrier orientation, altitude and topographic features. In the lowest belt of Góry Izerskie, at the altitude of 450-600 m the average annual temperature is 6,5°, the growing season (with average temperature above 5°) lasts about 200 days and begins half April. The thermic summer (with average annual daily temperature above 15°) is short and lasts only 20-25 days. The belt of 600-800 m is characterized by average annual temperature of about 5,5-6°. The growing season lasts about 190 days and begins at the end of second decade of April. There is no thermic summer. The highest belt above 800 m covers the plateau of Góry Izerskie. The average annual temperature amounts to only 4,5°, the growing season is shortened to approximately 175 days beginning at the end of April, and average daily temperature of this period does not exceed 10°.

A distinguishing feature of Góry Izerskie climate is the high level of precipitation whose annual total in the top belts exceeds 1200 and even 1500 mm, with maximum peak in July and minimum in February.

The snow mantle on the northern plateaus and slopes remains longer than on the same altitude in other parts of Sudety, on the average above 110 days.

The dominant winds are south-west, with the exception of May, June and July when northern winds prevail. In the course of the year there are over 5 times more cloudy than sunny days. Fogs and mists are frequent, especially in October. The least misty month is June. The most sunny days are in September.

Water

Through the central part of Góry Izerskie runs the European watershed, dividing the basins of the Baltic and North seas. The main rivers dewatering Góry Izerskie and discharging into Odra are: Nysa Łużycka with the tributary Smeda and Bóbr with Kwisa and Kamienna. The rivers Izera and Ploucnice discharge into the river Łaba. The sources of rivers and brooks flowing from Góry Izerskie are alimented by underground waters, mainly of fissure and debris type as well as the rainwater stored in high peat bogs on plateaus. The high level of precipitation occurring irregularly during the year and a considerable inclination of the slopes with weak soil permeability favour violent flow of waters, causing catastrophic floods in the valleys and intermontane basins. These floods occur as a result of violent snow melting in spring, and because of torrential rains in the summer. After a series of big floods at the end of the XIX century most of mountain brooks were regulated and built up with various constructions regulating the water flow.

Flora

From geobotanical point of view Góry Izerskie are included in the mountain province as part of the western Sudety area. The major part of the area is occupied by a belt of lower mountain region (401-1000 m). A small part covering Wysoki Grzbiet over 1000 m and the area extending south has upper mountain region flora and occasionally subalpine.

As in the past, woody complexes prevail here which however, as a result of economic activity in the XIX century turned artificially from broadleaved forest with big share of European beech (*Fagus silvatica*) and sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) or mixed forest in the lower mountain region into black coniferous acid forest. It is composed of densely growing Norway spruce (*Picea excelsa*) on acid soil, strongly shadowed and for this reason does not allowing the development of bushes and green undergrowth. This monoculture of spruce trees (*Piceetum*) and weakened resistance resulting from strong air pollution in the last period was the cause of frequent wind blows and catastrophic disaster of dinghy larch bell (*Zeiraphera griseana*) (from 1979) which consumed hundreds of hectares of Izery forests.

The broadleaved species constitute presently only a small addition, with several complexes of maintained beech wood (*Fagetum*): on the southern slope of Wysoki Kamień, at the road from Świeradów Zdrój to Czerniawa (close to Pobiedna) and on the slope of the Czarny Potok valley. In those complexes richer undergrowth developed in which dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*), squinancy (*Asperula odorata*), (*Galeopsis tetrahit*), yellow archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), violet (*Viola silvestris*), bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*) and Turk's cap lily (*Lilium martagon*) occur.

In the upper mountain region coniferous forest Norway spruce (*Picea excelsa*) is the almost exclusive species, with rarely occurring small patches of mostly bilberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), wavy hair grass (*Deschampia flexuosa*) and tufted hair grass (*Deschampia caespitosa*) and crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*). By the brooks Carpathian birch can be found (*Betula pubescens* v. *carpathica*), silesian willow (*Salix silesiaca*), monkshood (*Aconitum callibotryon*), (*Mulgedium alpinum*), buttercup (*Ranunculus platanifolius*), meadow rue (*Thalictrum aquilegifolium*).

Small top parts of Wysoki Grzbiet belonging to the mountain pine belt (*Pinus mughus*) are situated on the altitude of 1000-1100 m. Subalpine meadows dominate here with undergrowth similar to the meadows in the Izera valley. Especially prominent are: garden angelica (*Archangelica officinalis*), rock cress (*Arabis Halleri*), milkweed gentian (*Gentiana asclepiadea*), hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), and (*Hieracium prenathoides*), cinquefoil (*Potentilla aurea*), (*Meum anthamanticum*), narcissus anemone (*Anemone narcissiflora*) and (*Pencedarium ostruthium*).

Thanks to high precipitations and concavities of the land on different altitudes highmoor peat bogs formed, as well as suspended peat bogs situated on flat areas and occurring more often on slopes. Bigger ones can be found on Hala Izerska and close to Swieradów Zdrój. The following rare species in its rich plant complex attract attention: longleaf pine (*Pinus uliginosa*), dwarf birch (*Betula nana*), mountain juniper (*Juniperus communis*), sundew (*Drosera*), deerhair bulrush (*Trichophorum caespitosum*), cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*). A great peculiarity is rarely spotted glistening moss (*Schistostega osmundacea*).

In the area of Góry Izerskie two nature reserves are situated. These include: "Izery Peat Bog" and "Crocuses in Górzyniec". But practically entire area of Góry Izerskie is worth of protection, especially the Izera valley and numerous, dispersed rock forms with very diverse shapes. By the decision of WRN in Jelenia Góra in 1986 the area of Protected Landscape Karkonosze-Góry Izerskie was created. It covers entire Góry Izerskie constituting a buffer zone for Karkonoski National Park.

Fauna

The fauna composition in Góry Izerskie does not differ considerably from the remaining parts of Sudety even if more species of Atlantic origin can be found here. Bigger mammals such as bears, wolf, wild cat, and beaver were killed off in XVIII century. Presently game species such as deer (*Cervus elaphus*) and roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) and closer to the fields wild pigs (*Sus scrofa*) feeding on mixed forest and on cropland can be found in bigger numbers thanks to weak land development. Sometimes mouflon (*Ovis musimon*) arrives from Karkonosze area – wild mountain sheep from Sardinia, brought into Karkonosze in the years 1912-1913.

Small mountain mammals like shrew (*Sorex*), vole (*Microtus agrestis*), bank vole (*Clethrionomys glareolus*) are numerous. As for birds capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*) should be named and black grouse (*Lyrurus tetrix*), and among smaller species Alpine accentor (*Prunella collaris*), water pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*), dotterel (*Eudromias morinellus*), black redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*), nutcracker (*Nucifraga caryocactes*), ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*), dipper (*Cinclus cinclus aquaticus*), wood lark (*Lullula arborea*), red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), grey-faced woodpecker (*Picus canus*), three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*), which is a great rarity.

The waters of brooks, in most cases too small for fish habitats and peat bogs are inhabited by different types of invertebrates, including quite rare crustaceans. A big national peculiarity was pearl oyster (*Margaritifera*) fished for precious pearls from at least XVI century. Because of robbing fishing practices in the XVIII century and progressing pollution of the river Kwisa and its upper tributaries, the pearl oyster became extinct probably in the beginning of the XX century. In 1965 an attempt of regeneration took place in the upper Kwisa with individuals from Czechoslovakia but without positive outcome.

History and settlements

Occasional news about Sudety mountains appeared already in the ancient times, although the mountains were named different then. Together with contiguous areas for many centuries Sudety constituted a border between Silesian and Czech-Moravian tribes. The role of the border was facilitated by vast, difficult to cross primeval forests. In the areas around the river Bóbr north of Góry Izerskie one of the Silesian tribes - Bobrzanie has been living since centuries. The western neighbour was the Lusatian tribe of Bieżunczanie. This country was called Zagost. Already in the medieval ages permanent settlements reached the Depression of Stara Kamienica.

Przedgórze Rzębiszowskie and Kotlina Mirska – somewhere on the altitude of the village Rybnica, Stara Kamienica, Grudza and Kamień, in broadly understood foreland of Grzbiet Kamieniecki. Farming on woody, submontane and montane soils required hard effort, great energy and perpetual care of entire generations.

About the year 900 a powerful state of Przemyślidzi grew in Bohemia. Its influences reached Odra and included the forest areas of Góry Izerskie. In the second half of the X century the Polish state was born. During the reign of Mieszko I the entire area of Silesia was incorporated into Poland. Bolesław Chrobry incorporated the southern part of Lusatia – Milsko. This land was occupied by the emperor Konrad II in 1031. Then probably for the first time the river Kwisa functioned as border between Silesia and Lusatia; Góry Izerskie were located within the borders of Bohemia, Lusatia and Silesia. In the XIII century, especially in its second half after a terrible Mongol invasion a big settlement reform begun, based on western models. New settlers arrived from the west, including the German lands. A part of them begun to settle in Góry Izerskie. The villages located between the foot of Góry Izerskie and Gryfów Śląski with time grew into so called gryfowski estate, belonging for centuries to the noble Schaffgotsch family.

In the XIII century Silesia was fragmenting into a growing number of independent duchies. In that time świdnicko-jaworskie duchy was founded. Also the Silesian part of Góry Izerskie was included in its territory. The independence of this duchy ended with the death of duchess Agnieszka, widow after the last Świdnica duke, Bolek II. The duchy passed under the Czech reign. For long centuries also the kwiski region located at the left bank of Kwisa river belonged to Bohemia. Only in 1635 the region became incorporated within Saxony.

In the years 1740-1741 most of Silesia was seized by Prussia. The same happened to the Silesian part of Góry Izerskie. In this time administrative district lwówecko-bolesławicki and jeleniogórski were created. They formed part of głogowski cameral department and from 1809 of a newly created Legnica regency.

After Vienna congress in 1815 a piece of Góry Izerskie belonging up till now to the Saxon part of Łużyce was incorporated into Silesia. In the same year changes were introduced to the administrative division of Silesia. The hitherto existing administrative district lwówecko-bolesławiecki was divided into two districts: lwówecki and bolesławiecki. In 1819 lubański district was reshaped, including the western part of Góry Izerskie. This administrative division remained in force with minor modifications till 1973.

A major turning-point for the described area – similarly as for the entire Silesia – was the year 1945 when the land after long centuries became incorporated again to our state, initially in dolnośląskie district, since 1950 in wrocławskie voivodship, and from 1975 in jeleniogórskie voivodship.

Economy and land use

Difficult climate and soil conditions account for the fact that almost entire area of Góry Izerskie is covered with forests (over 70%). Because of this forestry is of utmost importance. As a result of many years' irregularities and forest damages occurred in the last years caused by air pollution and subsequent attack by dinghy larch bell, forestry struggles with big difficulties related to maintenance and exploitation. Huge tracts of forest in Wysoki Grzbiet and partially in Grzbiet Kamienicki are dead, and additionally destroyed by xylophages.

Agriculture is significant only on the peripheries, mainly in the northern part of the region. Taking into consideration the surface within administrative borders of localities, there is 13 137 hectares of arable land (45,3% of the entire area). These are mainly *soils with high content of rock frame, classified as mountain complex: cereal-potato and oat-pasture. Only at the border with Pogórze Izerskie and Kotlina Jeleniogórska mountain cereal complex can be found and even more rare wheat mountain complex. The possibilities to achieve higher crops are considerably limited and for this reason a gradual egress of population occurs from higher situated villages. In the remaining ones stock-breeding is important, less frequent is sheep breeding. Green land, mostly weak cover over 70% of arable land.

Industry is limited to towns situated on the fringe of the region. Only quartz exploitation advanced high in the mountains (Izerskie Garby). Apart from those, sericite slate are exploited in Krobica and therapeutic mud in Izerska Hala. More important is wood treatment in sawmills (Piechowice and Świeradów Zdrój) and furniture factory (Piechowice). The tradition of centuries is continued by Cristal glass works Julia in Szklarska Poręba and its workshop in Piechowice. There the only plant of machine industry is situated and in Pobiedna a textile plant. For economy as a whole most important is recreation and therapeutic services. The recreation infrastructure is well developed; apart from FWP (Workers' Holiday Fund), companies recreation facilities and sanatoria there is a vast network of pensions. They are mostly located in Szklarska Poręba, Świeradów Zdrój and Czerniawa Zdrój. The tourism infrastructure is much weaker, limited to PTTK facilities in Szklarska Poręba and in Stog Izerski. Accommodation facilities are to be found only in Szklarska Poręba and Świeradów Zdrój, as well as ski lifts.

Material culture and art

Material culture of the part of Góry Izerskie belonging to Poland did not create individual features but forms a mix of many elements characteristic to the whole Sudety area. The cause can be attributed to the fact that Góry Izerskie are mostly northern, once densely wooded slopes of difficult to access mountain crests, which since centuries constituted a natural barrier and a border of Silesia. As a result settlements in this area occurred very late. Originally shepherds' huts and forest settlements appeared. Till half of the XV century the region was explored to recognize its natural resources. Exploitation of discovered gold, silver and copper ores and glass melting constituted the main reasons for settling in this area. The XVI and XVII centuries belonged to mining and glass period. In that time almost all of the present villages and settlements located in the lower ranges of Grzbiet Kamieniecki were founded. The settling action was supported by groups of Bohemian colonists settling mainly in the neighborhood of Unięcice following religious persecution in Austria.

The oldest known monuments of the area date to this period. These are mostly churches, partially built on the spot of earlier, wooden predecessors. They possess gothic features but in their present form underwent considerable reconstruction. These include a church dating from the end of the XV century in Proszowa and churches from the XVI century in Kopaniec (original from the XIV century), Kromnów and Kamienica Mała. In spite of development of mining, metallurgy, crafts and later weaving craft, not many material monuments remained due to war destruction in the XVII and XVIII century. The most durable trace of development is the settlement network from that time preserved till today, consisting of 40 units: 2 towns, 15 villages and several hamlets. The older villages are characterized by a concentrated form. These are mostly chain villages located along river valleys. Younger villages and hamlets were founded on mountain slopes.

The second phase of activity in Góry Izerskie dates from the moment of incorporating Silesia to Prussia. In this time development and reconstruction took place. Many new processing workshops were founded, crafts and trade developed. Efforts were undertaken to reconstruct agriculture meant to support weaving craft through flax crops and increase in sheep breeding.

In the beginning of the XIX century a considerable development of industry and craft took place. The existing villages became centers of crafts and manufacture. A new surge of natural resources exploitation took place related to dyeing trade and glaziery. At that time numerous houses were built and the main occupation of its dwellers was weaving craft. These were wooden buildings of characteristic construction* which allowed to use the attic not only for flax storage purposes but also to contain a higher number of weaving looms in one room. This type of dwelling houses apart from dwelling and farming buildings of similar construction constitutes the most numerous and characteristic groups of maintained architectural objects in all villages of the region. The oldest buildings of this type date from half of the XVIII century and the most numerous group constitute XIX century objects dominating in the area. The most interesting are complexes in the following villages: Krobica, Kopaniec, Chromiec, Antoniów and many groups of buildings within Szklarska Poręba, Świeradów, Czerniawa and Pobiedna. Another

characteristic element of the culture are specific features of sacral and palace architecture appearing from half of the XVIII century and realized according to the Prussian trend. The best example is the church and palace in Pobiedna. In that time many protestant churches were built as well as houses for clergymen and chanters. Simultaneously attention was drawn to the useful values of many mineral springs whose therapeutical properties were known previously. In the XIX century further springs were discovered and as a result change occurred in the direction of the region development. It happened after the natural resources were exploited and forests devastated. Since that time the region became oriented towards rest and therapy function. Health resorts in Szklarska Poręba, Świeradów and Czerniawa developed. As a result of railway and road network development these centres grew and begun to dominate in the region.

At the turn of the century numerous spa resorts, baths, sanatoriums, well-rooms were built. One of the most interesting from architectural point of view is Dom Zdrojowy (Spa Resort) in Świeradów built in 1899 with the longest in Poland roofed wooden walk gallery. Many pensions were built then, mostly in Secession style. But the spa style is shaped mostly by pensions in Norwegian-Swiss style with many wooden porches and galleries. The most interesting include complexes of spa resorts: Odrodzenie, Zacisze, Perła and Szarotka in Szklarska Poręba and Narcyz, Wrzos, Neptun in Świeradów Zdrój.

Currently further industrial activity is pursued in the region as well as rest and therapy function development. Apart from a number of investments new spa houses and sanatoriums of interesting design were constructed followed by many pensions. New sport and recreation objects were built as well mainly for skiing purposes.

Because of peripheric location of the area, low population density and lack of bigger urban centres on the one hand and with a developed rest and therapy function on the other, artistic life did not develop here. Only Szklarska Poręba has attracted distinguished writers and painters in the past. Cultural initiatives are undertaken for visiting spa guests for whom lectures, exhibitions, artist performances and presentations are organized. For them also the Days of Blooming Rhododendrons are organized in Świeradów Zdrój. At the end of the year military artistic groups meet here as well. The only cultural center of the region has its seat in Świeradów Zdrój. In Szklarska Poręba tourist song festival takes place.

The local inhabitants, mainly the older generations originate from different region of the country.

For this reason there is no local folklore which did not develop after 1945 and the vernacular culture of the immigratory population is not cultivated. The region lacks marked folk artists, amateur groups and folk customs.