

## **METROPOLITAN AREA**

**Katowice is not only a home to approx. 300,000 inhabitants, but also the heart of Metropolis GZM (Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia) comprising 41 cities and communes, inhabited by over 2 million people. The metropolitan area created in July 2017, is a sign of joint commitment and care for region's prosperity, which gives a real opportunity for accelerated, dynamic development.**

Exactly the same kind of development that Katowice, the capital of Metropolis GZM, has been going through for several years now. The city, which has always been associated with mining and heavy industry, is today the heart of the region that aspires to be a leader in innovation and new technologies. Katowice has transfigured itself into a thriving economic centre, a friendly place to invest and live. IBM, Unilever, Fujitsu, Rockwell Automation are just some of the global brands that create jobs here. It is not without a reason that Katowice is a perfectly connected city, near which the A1 and A4 motorways intersect, enabling comfortable travel in all directions within Europe. Major cities of the Metropolitan Area are connected by the city thoroughfare traversing the centre of Katowice, and the dense network of railway lines makes it possible to comfortably reach Prague, Vienna, Budapest and Berlin in just a few hours. The capital of the Metropolitan Area is connected with the capital of Poland by the most modern railway line, on which state-of-the-art trains travel at speeds of up to 200 km/h. Katowice international Airport is one of the largest and most dynamically developing airports in Poland. Within a radius of 100 km there are two other international airports in Kraków and Ostrava.

Metropolis GZM is an unlimited human, intellectual and infrastructural potential. It is Poland's centre of the automotive industry, which for a long time has contributed to the GDP more than that the mining traditionally associated with the region. It is a region with a huge economic zone and many sub-zones. It is an organism that reduces developmental barriers, where the richest cities like Katowice, Gliwice, Tychy and Sosnowiec consistently work also for the development of smaller cities. Finally, it is a significant and constantly improving quality of life for the residents and the pride in being a part of Metropolis GZM.