

Plastics Valley

Tarnów (with a population of some 110,000) is the second largest city in the Malopolska region of Poland. It is located in south-eastern Poland (near the Slovakian and Ukrainian borders). It is a strong centre for chemicals (especially basic forms of plastics), precision engineering and glass-making. The private sector accounts for virtually all jobs in services and trade (almost exclusively SMEs), as well as many in production. Tarnów had a strong private enterprise culture, which survived even under the former communist government.

The fact that Tarnów is most frequently associated with chemicals and plastics, led to the decision to focus regional development on this particular sector, and to establish the first formal industrial cluster in Poland.

The Tarnów cluster is now a key element of the Tarnów municipality's strategy document (2000-2015) and a major "strength" in the SWOT analysis of the city. It also plays a significant role in the development strategy at the regional ("powiat") level (180,000 inhabitants) and at the Malopolska voivodship level (3.2 million inhabitants).

Many basic polymers for processing can be acquired from the local chemical company, Zakłady Azotowe w Tarnowie S.A., namely polyvinyl chloride (PVC); polyamide 6 (PA6); polyoxymethylene (POM); polyvinyl acetals (PAC) granules and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE).

The precision engineering company, Zakłady Mechaniczne w Tarnowie S.A., can supply machinery and equipment for the processing of plastics.

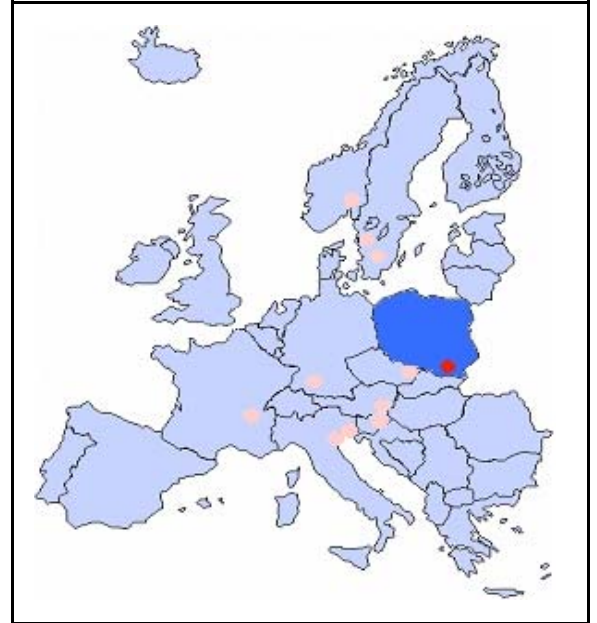
Two major international corporations have recently invested in Tarnów: Invensys Brook Crompton purchased the electric motor manufacturer - Fabryka Silników Elektrycznych "Tamel" S.A. and the tyre producer, Firma Oponiarska Dębica (part of the Goodyear group), has built its Central European Logistics Centre in Tarnów.

Research Institution :
Central Plastics Laboratory, Tarnów

Education (universities and colleges) :

- Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa, Tarnów (Vocational University)
- Małopolska Wyższa Szkoła Ekonomiczna (Business school)
- Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu (Business school)
- Akademia Ekonomiczna w Krakowie, Filia w Tarnowie (Economic University, Kraków, Tarnów Branch)

	Tarnów	Poland
area	1,334 km ²	312,700 km ²
population	180,000	38,500,000
Unemployment rate	~ 14 %	~ 17.4 %



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“Plastics Valley” cluster profile

The 'Plastics Valley' Tarnów Industrial Cluster has created the conditions allowing enterprises that are focused on plastics processing to locate and thrive in Tarnów, based on the strengths of the local economy and coupled with a system of national and local tax incentives.

The Tarnów Industrial Cluster is managed by a joint stock company (founded in June 1999). The main functions of the managing company are:

- a) Providing technical, financial, legal and organisational advice;
- b) Operation of a 'one-stop-shop' for investors (to overcome bureaucratic barriers to entry);
- c) Real estate sales, rent and management;
- d) Giving assistance in obtaining equipment and materials for production;
- e) Providing specialist training courses;
- f) Providing help in promotional activities and marketing.

The Cluster makes use of 'industrial use' designated land in Tarnów, part of a Special Economic Zone in which large scale investors can obtain a rebate in their corporate income tax up to 50% of their initial investment and SMEs can obtain a rebate of up to 65%. The tax can be deducted until the year 2017.

The Cluster also offers industrial premises in and around Tarnów.

The managing company "Plastics Valley S.A." is a unique organisation as its owners are local government (69.0%), large State owned enterprises (12.2%) and SMEs (18.8%). The local government in Tarnów understands its supporting/nurturing role in the promotion of SMEs, however, the control and management of the project has been entrusted to people with first hand experience in running SMEs.

