

Polish Geological Survey – shale gas and public affairs



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Gas from shale formations – this medium, although so fleeting, has long been raising a lot of different emotions and even more expectations. There is hope for us, the Poles, for our Government, local authorities, politicians and the busi-

ness community to achieve economic, energy, political and social benefits. And despite the fact that research leading to the exploration of shale gas is still ongoing and we are still waiting impatiently for the next incoming data, we can already speak of a tangible profit. Because no matter how much gas the Polish shale formations contain and how great its economic value is, the beneficiaries of the operations carried out within the framework of more than 100 issued licenses are geologists along with the entire public. For us, geologists, very important is the unique opportunity to carry out many, often very costly and sophisticated, geological research and the new knowledge gained from it: new light shed on the knowledge of deep geological structure of Poland, and new data that would still be in our dreams for many years, without the "shale boom".

We need to be aware that such an exceptional opportunity to explore so many and so deeply situated rock formations cannot be repeated over the next decades. After the times of gas-bearing shale exploration, Polish geology will never be the same geology. Moreover, if we succeed in gas production, we will be doubly happy.

To meet the expectations of many stakeholders, with a great pleasure we have the honour to inform the readers of *Przegląd Geologiczny* about intensification of the activities of the Polish Geological Survey in the information campaign on the studies of shale formations, carried out in Poland. By releasing this thematic issue of *Przegląd Geologiczny*, we inaugurate a project supporting the information, analytical and implementation actions concerning hydrocarbons from shale formations for Poland's energy security and environmental protection, including public participation in the licensing process. The project is financed by the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, and will run until 2018. Its aim is to raise awareness among various sections of society, especially those living in the prospective regions, on

hydrocarbons from shale formations, in particular environmental protection issues related to exploration and future production of hydrocarbons from unconventional deposits of Poland.

The project will be implemented by the systematic collection of information on the progress and results of geological, geophysical and environmental studies, and then by efficient transfer of the results to all those concerned. A very important element will be to launch a special web portal wholly devoted to the various aspects of shale gas. The portal will be not only a source of information for users, but also the "contact point" for all who are looking for answers to more specific questions about shale gas – the answers will be given by experts.

In the project, we intend to prepare many reports and thematic publications to be distributed mainly in the regions covered by the exploration of hydrocarbons from unconventional deposits, most of which will also be available in digital versions on the website. We also plan to organize meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops and competitions, including educational, addressed to the younger generation: children, young people and students.

The project is also an opportunity for further development of cooperation with representatives of foreign institutions conducting research on unconventional hydrocarbon deposits, exchange of experiences, and joint work on the creation of a system of best practices in exploration and future production of gas from shale formations.

We hope that the activities carried out under this project will contribute to building an open platform for dialogue and exchange of information related to the process of exploration and planned extraction of gas from unconventional hydrocarbon resources between scientific communities, government and local authorities, representatives of the mining industry and the public. Made available quickly and directly by the Polish Geological Survey, the research results and reports of PGI-NRI experts as well as representatives of cooperating organizations, i.e. data that are based on facts, not myths and emotions, will certainly benefit the creation of the true face of the prospecting process, and will provide a solid foundation for the well-planned future production of hydrocarbons from shale formations of Poland. Let it be our contribution to the public debate!

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