

Case 12

● PL-Józefów: Women's Valley Stone Mine & Geopark

Location: Józefów Roztocze Region, Poland

Type of site: Extractive landscape and geo-heritage site

Size: ~15 ha (active and abandoned quarries)

Ownership: Municipal and small private plots within Roztocze National Park buffer

Main legacy: Limestone and sandstone extraction for regional construction

Period of activity: 18th century - 2000s

Main challenges: Landscape erosion, limited economic alternatives, tourism pressure

Priority of cluster relevance: Green Development, Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

The “Women’s Valley” quarry has supplied stone for centuries, forming the identity of Józefów. After closure, it was incorporated into the Roztocze Geopark network as a geo-heritage and educational landscape. Stone carving festivals and tourism now replace industrial activity.

Present Condition

The site is partially renaturalised with lakes and exposed rock faces. Public paths and educational signage make it a popular destination for visitors and schools. Local craft workshops and eco-tourism provide seasonal income for residents.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Józefów - site management and event organisation
- Roztocze Geopark / UNESCO Network - heritage status and branding
- University of Rzeszów - landscape and heritage analysis
- Local artisans and schools - workshops and education

Key Insights

Józefów shows how extractive landscapes can evolve into learning and eco-tourism environments. Conservation and small-scale creative economies can coexist when managed collectively. It is a model for turning resource exhaustion into cultural and environmental value.

Leverage Points	Lessons Learned	Transferable Tools
Integration into Geopark network	Label adds visibility and funding	Geo-heritage partnership model
Art and craft events on site	Culture extends tourist season	Creative landscape festival toolkit
Co-management with schools	Education sustains heritage ethos	Eco-tourism learning module



The regenerating sandstone quarry in Józefów, transformed into a semi-natural recreational landscape with trails, panoramic viewpoints and geotourism functions.

Photo: Konrad Kosiorski