

# 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

Integration into Geopark network

Art and craft events on site

Co-management with schools

## Lessons Learned

Label adds visibility and funding

Culture extends tourist season

Education sustains heritage ethos

## Transferable Tools

Geo-heritage partnership model

Creative landscape festival toolkit

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

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