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THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTING A STRATEGY TO DEVELOP THE JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE MINING

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Last year, 2013, was a time of significant change for the Editorial Office in charge of the journal of the Central Mining Institute (GIG), Katowice. We devised and implemented a development strategy aimed at introducing the *Journal of Sustainable Mining* to the international community of science. The biggest changes concerned the title, layout, form of publishing, language, as well as beginning cooperation with foreign reviewers.

We changed the title from *Prace Naukowe GIG. Górnictwo i Środowisko* (English title: *Research Reports of the Central Mining Institute. Mining & Environment*) to the *Journal of Sustainable Mining*, which better reflects the content of the papers published in the journal. It also increases international recognition of the journal, which follows the main aim of the adopted development strategy. In 2013 we launched an English-language online version of the journal aimed at the international scientific community. Papers are published on the website of the journal on a daily basis, once all the editorial work on a given text has been completed. This publishing formula guarantees that the content of the journal is up-to-date, relevant and seen by the scientific community immediately. The accuracy of language is monitored and checked by a Language Editor – a native speaker of English. The online version is described as the original (reference) version of the journal, which will be evaluated by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland¹ and specialist databases. The journal is financed by funds granted to the Central Mining Institute for its statutory activities, thus we provide open access to every issue. We firmly believe that open access to this publication will increase its influence.

We have designed and implemented a layout for the new website for the journal, the address for which is jsm.gig.eu. With consideration to our pre-existing users we retained the option of using the previous address: www.kwartalnik.gig.eu.

¹ The Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland evaluates scientific journals, as a result the papers published in the journals receive marks. The marks, in turn, are used as parametric representation of scientific units in Poland. The latest evaluation was conducted in 2013 and concerned the years 2011–2012. The results were published on the Ministry's website on 17 December 2013 in the form of a list of ranked journals. For Polish authors interested in the marks for the papers in our journal they are listed under the previous title – *Prace Naukowe GIG. Górnictwo i Środowisko*.

The website is in English and its artwork uses the same motifs as the new cover of the journal (Figure 1).



Fig. 1. Cover of the previous title *Prace Naukowe GIG. Górnictwo i Środowisko* (2002–2012), the cover of *Journal of Sustainable Mining*, and the banner of the Journal's website

Since May 2013 we have run website statistics for jsm.gig.eu. Approximately 80% of the traffic on the website of the quarterly journal comes from Poland. Other users were mainly from India, Germany, the USA and China. For most of the visits to the website the link used is the direct URL address. In addition, we observed a number of hits from the main website of GIG (www.gig.eu), from the BazTech² database and internet browsers. More statistics are presented in Table 1. On the website there is an academic paper search

² Our journal is indexed in BazTech – Polish Technical Journal Contents. It is an open access bibliographic database which registers papers appearing in Polish journals on technical science, exact science and environmental protection. According to the agreement signed in 2013 between the Central Mining Institute and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling (ICM), full issues of both the previous title and the *Journal of Sustainable Mining* are also available in BazTech.

engine, which enables the user to search the content of the *Journal of Sustainable Mining* by author, title, year or key words. Currently it is not possible to search for the content of our previous title (*Prace Naukowe GIG. Górnictwo i Środowisko*, years 2002–2012) with the engine as the issues are only available as .pdf files. However, in 2014 we will add the papers published in the previous journal to the archive. We have also introduced the option of subscribing to a newsletter with information on the published papers, their full versions and updates under the “NEWS” bookmark.

Table 1. Statistics of usage for the *jsm.gig.eu* website in 2013

No.	Parameter	Value
1	Number of page loads, yearly	13.136
2	Average number of page loads, monthly	1.642
3	Number of unique visitors, yearly	2.697
4	Average number of unique visitors, monthly	337

We have designed each page with a layout in A4 format which include the following information:

- The heading of the first page with bibliographic data, publisher’s details and website address.
- DOI (Digital Object Identifier).
- Information concerning when the text was received, revised and published online.
- Copyright details.
- Details concerning the author to allow for correspondence, such as, a telephone number, fax number and e-mail address, as well as information regarding the authors affiliations, e.g. department, institution, city and country.
- Information on the source of funding for the piece of work.

In 2014 we are planning to make a few finishing touches to the layout. We will indicate the type of paper (original paper or review paper) and the abstract of each paper will have the following structure: purpose, methods, results, originality/value, practical implications. We will also work on implementing the American Psychological Association (APA) style 6th edition, which will be used in order to format references.

To introduce the quarterly journal to the international scientific community we have started cooperation with a number of overseas reviewers. Although it was a new experience for us, we have managed to collect an extensive pool of reviewers, which we can truly call multinational (Figure 2).

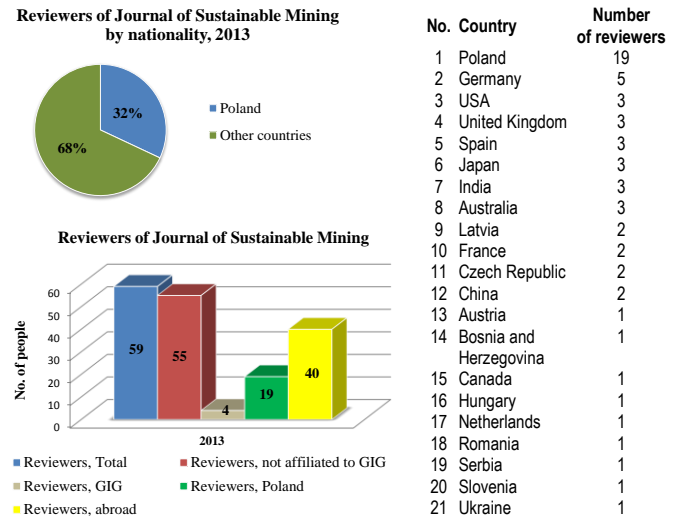


Fig. 2. Reviewers who cooperated with *Journal of Sustainable Mining* in 2013

In 2014 we will continue to improve the quality of our journal. We are facing numerous challenges and we relish these challenges. We would like to thank all of the authors and reviewers who cooperated with us in preparing the *Journal of Sustainable Mining* in 2013. We believe that our joint efforts will enable us to become one of the leading international journals in the field of mining sciences. In future we would like to receive more papers written by authors from abroad. So, if you want to cooperate with us, you are more than welcome!