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KRAKOW HAS ITS OWN ECOLOGICAL CEMETERY A UNIQUE CONCEPT OF ECOLOGICAL URN BURIAL IN KRAKOW AND THE SOLEMN OPENING OF A UNIQUE INSTALLATION SHOWING THE PASSAGE OF TIME

On September 20, 2024, the first ecological urn plots called "Trees of Remembrance" were officially opened at the municipal cemetery in Podgórze Tynieckie. A special section has been designated at the cemetery, which houses a total of 135 urn graves intended for ecological burial. This is a unique place created for those who want their burial or the burial of their loved ones to take place in harmony with nature, fully ecologically and with respect for the environment.

Together with the ecological section of the cemetery "Trees of Memory", a unique geodetic installation "Tempus Fugit" will be available to visitors, showing the passage of time over the centuries.

The cemetery in Podgórze Tynieckie was built as part of the Public-Private Partnership with the Municipality of Kraków by the Grupa Klepsydra, a leader in the Polish funeral market, which has been associated with Kraków for 15 years.

*„Kraków is a unique place for the Grupa Klepsydra, close to our hearts. We have been present in Kraków for 15 years, introducing a range of new funeral services to the city, such as a crematorium. This time, we are launching the first ecological burial grounds in the city, the concept of which has been carefully thought out and executed by us. We are very proud of this project and hope that in the future, the ecological quarter at the municipal cemetery in Podgórze Tynieckie will be expanded” – said **Rafał Cichewicz, CEO of the Centrum Pogrzebowe Klepsydra**, the company which implements the construction investment and manages the cemetery in Podgórze Tynieckie.*

„This project is an example of a successful partnership between a public institution, represented by the City of Kraków, and a private entity. The city provided the land and built and reconstructed parts of Podgórze Tynieckie and Wielogórska Streets. A parking lot for 89 cars has also been created. Additionally, over 200 trees have been planted. Meanwhile, the Klepsydra company is responsible for constructing the crematorium, the Farewell House, the administrative building, and the cemetery with columbarium niches. By 2027, the final stage of the investment will be completed, allowing for approximately 10,000 burials in the Podgórze Tynieckie cemetery. Importantly, the deceased of various faiths or those without

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religious affiliation can rest there," informed **Barbara Grudzień, Deputy Director of the Municipal Investment Board** in Kraków (**Zarząd Inwestycji Miejskich w Krakowie**).

THE UNIQUE CHARACTER OF THE ECOLOGICAL URNAL SECTION

The ecological section "Trees of Remembrance" at the municipal cemetery in Podgórk Tynieckie is a place that respects nature and ecology from the very entrance. It was created in a natural setting among large trees, adding a sense of natural sanctity to the place. It is fenced off with a yew hedge from the rest of the cemetery, creating a green barrier that ensures silence and tranquility. The entrance to the section is through a wooden gate with a tree of life motif, giving the area a unique and ecological atmosphere.

In front of the section, there is a large boulder with the inscription "Trees Of Remembrance," serving as a symbolic point referencing the idea of eternal life. This boulder also functions as a memorial place where visitors can lay fresh flowers, solar candles, or light ecological candles, connecting tradition with a modern, ecological form.

The entire section is covered with a special sedum mat, the vegetation of which is also used on green roofs. The mat not only provides an aesthetic appearance but also absorbs rainwater, supporting the ecosystem and minimizing the need for additional green space maintenance. This way, the section becomes a living place in harmony with nature, and each urn grave remains in sync with its surroundings.

Individual burial places

Each urn grave is individual. It is not a communal grave – each allotment holder has the right to their ecological grave for a period of 20 years, with the option to extend it upon payment of the extension fee. The design of the section ensures that each grave has its own place, allowing for individual care and memorialization of the deceased.

Ecological memorial plaques

Behind the place for laying flowers and candles, there is a wooden frame to which jute strings with plywood plaques are attached, engraved with the names of the buried individuals. These ecological plaques are an excellent symbol of respect for nature and remembrance of the deceased. Each plaque is carefully crafted, and the jute string linking it to the frame emphasizes the natural and minimalist style of the section.

Sustainable memorialization

The "Trees of Remembrance" section is a unique place that combines traditional values associated with burial with a modern, ecological approach to commemorating the deceased. The products offered in the section, such as solar candles, soy candles, and biodegradable candle inserts, are carefully selected to minimize the negative impact on the environment while providing a beautiful backdrop for remembrance.

THE UNIQUE INSTALLATION "TEMPUS FUGIT"

The Municipal Cemetery Podgórk Tynieckie in Kraków is exceptional due to its location. It is surrounded by beautiful Tynieckie Forests, which are part of the Bielańsko-Tyniecki Landscape Park, and the 50° N

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parallel runs through the necropolis.

Based on the position of the 50° N parallel, an extraordinary monument to the passage of time and transience has been created at the Municipal Cemetery Podgórze Tynieckie - the timeline "TEMPUS FUGIT." This is a unique project of worldwide significance, combining the symbolism of the place with an unexpected geodetic object – the parallel itself. The monument also has a unique educational value due to the geological phenomenon known as continental drift.

According to geodetic calculations, after 10 years, the 50° N parallel will be located 15.5 cm to the south of its current position. After 100 years, the difference will be 1.55 meters; after a millennium, it will be as much as 15.5 meters... In this way, the parallel traces a kind of timeline on a geological scale, and the monument "TEMPUS FUGIT" illustrates this eternal movement – like the passage of time itself, eternity itself...

The steel rail installed in the monument is 1.5 cm wide, representing the distance of the annual drift of the parallel, while the surrounding dark band, 119.4 cm wide, corresponds to 77.3 years of continental drift, which is the average lifespan of a typical Pole.

The dates that we can find in this unique installation include:

- **1918** - on November 11, 1918, World War I ended, and after 123 years of partitions, Poland regained independence as the Republic of the Second Polish Republic.
- **1609** - on May 24, 1609, King Sigismund III Vasa, due to a fire at the royal palace in Wawel, moved the court from Kraków to Warsaw, having previously lived in the palace in Łobzów.
- **1410** - on July 15, 1410, combined Polish, Lithuanian, and Ruthenian forces defeated the Teutonic Knights at the Battle of Grunwald.
- **966** - on April 14, 966, the first ruler of Poland, Mieszko I, was baptized (a year earlier, the traveler Ibrahim ibn Jakub first mentioned Kraków in his account).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVESTMENT: MUNICIPAL CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM PODGÓRZE TYNIECKIE IN KRAKÓW

The Municipal Cemetery and Crematorium Podgórze Tynieckie – an investment carried out under a public-private partnership with the City of Kraków – is one of the most modern facilities of this type in Poland. The project is being developed in four stages:

- **Stage I:** completed in March 2016 – the construction of the first crematorium in Kraków.
- **Stage II:** completed at the end of 2020 – construction of an administrative-service complex with a ceremonial chapel and expansion of the cemetery by 2 hectares, including the construction of the columbariums in Kraków.
- **Stage III:** covering another 2 hectares of the cemetery, is currently under construction, with completion planned for the end of 2024.
- **Stage IV:** further expansion of the cemetery by an additional 5 hectares; the planned completion is by the end of 2027.

The total value of the investment amounts to 24.5 million PLN gross.

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ABOUT GRUPA KLEPSYDRA

Grupa Klepsydra S.A. (WSE: KLE) is the leader of Poland's funeral market and the only company in this industry listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE). Grupa Klepsydra is a provider of comprehensive funeral services in Poland – it is one of few providers of funeral and cremation services in Poland at more than one location as well as a provider of international transport of the deceased.

The strategic objective of Grupa Klepsydra is to become a leader in the funeral market in Poland through consolidation of the domestic funeral services market. Grupa Klepsydra expects to build a strong group of companies over the next 5 years with about 20 entities operating in significant local markets in Poland, and aims to hold up to 10% share in this highly fragmented market in terms of number of services.

Grupa Klepsydra is a holding company which holds six companies: Firma Pogrzebowa "Klepsydra", which provides funeral, cemetery and cremation services; Bongo Funeral Services, which specialises in cross-border transport of the deceased and their ashes; Centrum Pogrzebowe "Klepsydra", which is running an investment project to build and manage a municipal cemetery in Kraków; Przedsiębiorstwo Usług Komunalnych in Kraków (PUK), Sotor from Toruń, and Przedsiębiorstwo Usług Komunalnych 'USKOM' from Szczecin which provide funeral services. The last of these companies will formally join the Grupa Klepsydra after registration in the National Court Register.

Grupa Klepsydra is a modern, family-owned company with traditions. It has more than 60 years of experience in the funeral industry in Poland, and its success is created by managers with several decades of experience in the business.

With its extensive range of services, broad in-house infrastructure and many years of experience, Grupa Klepsydra provides services for both individuals and business customers (cemetery management and cremations).

Grupa Klepsydra's revenues were close to PLN 35.2 million in 2023, and net profit PLN 4.6 million. The Group's companies currently employ over 130 people.

Follow us at:

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