Walbrzych is an old mining city located in the Polish Lower Silesian province. By the 19th century, it was already a significant industrial centre. However, after the Second World War, the city's population grew significantly, mainly due to immigration from former German territories. By the mid-19th century, it had grown into an important industrial centre for coal mining and coking.

In the 1990s, the city was faced with insolvency due to the unprofitability of the Lower Silesian Coal Basin. The extreme situation of the city and its region revealed that restructuring was necessary. In 1990, the Lower Silesian Coal Basin, as of the early-90s, was the main cause of shrinkage, as seen in all dimensions, i.e. demographic, economic, social, and spatial (both physical structures and aesthetic features).

The intense crisis resulted in the city's ongoing restructuring so difficult. The one-dimensional character of the former local economy, was the main cause of shrinkage and made restructuring the city's population development more complex. In the face of social apathy, it is necessary to stimulate the activity of the local community, to increase the role of the "bottom-up" type of initiatives.

Despite improved living conditions and the completion of many projects, Walbrzych is still unable to rid itself of the negative image it has in the media. The city requires long-term and flexible policies which are oriented towards the promotion of new sources of growth and reversing the trend of shrinkage. Policies adopted in Walbrzych are oriented towards the promotion of tourism, culture, and sport.

Walbrzych is seeking to promote and develop tourism and sport. The city is attracting tourists to visit the Wałbrzych Agglomeration, which includes the city and its surrounding area. The city is striving to improve its transport accessibility and treat it as both a challenge and an opportunity.

Walbrzych is an example of EU-supported revitalisation: the transformation of the former Julia coal mine into the Old Mine Multicultural Park. Example of foreign investment: in the Wałbrzych Special Economic Zone (WSEZ), in 1997. Example of grass-roots revitalisation by inhabitants: the revitalised Market Square in Walbrzych. Example of alliances with neighbouring towns in the Czech Republic: close cooperation has been established between the city and its neighbouring communes as part of the so-called Wałbrzych Agglomeration.

The city is facing the challenge of attracting new businesses, especially in the fields of culture, tourism and creative industries. The city is seeking to promote and develop tourism and sport. The city is attracting tourists to visit the Wałbrzych Agglomeration, which includes the city and its surrounding area. The city is striving to improve its transport accessibility and treat it as both a challenge and an opportunity.