

COAL HERITAGE

RFCS Accompanying Measure Project

NEWSLETTER

Issue No.

3

December 2023



CoalHeritage project has received funding from the Research Fund for Coal and Steel under grant agreement No 101112138



Work accomplished so far

Report on the coal transition strategy is ready

by Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór

Status quo of coal mining heritage in Europe, the Report on the coal transition strategy of the European Countries (D2.1) has been issued. It includes a summary of the comparative analysis of national reports, delivered by Coal Heritage project partners and best practices that will provide the information about coal heritage in Europe.

The main goal of the Report is to help describe and understand the current state of the mining heritage in Europe. Within WP2 the project partners has to determine the processes needed to declare coal sites as national heritage areas with emphasis on legislative considerations of the coal sites and estimation of the national heritage value to explore its potential. First step has to be identification of the transition strategy in each collaborate country and its status with transformation process analysis.

Each partner (Greece, Germany, France, Poland and Slovenia) prepared a study of their country's transition strategy from coal mining. They indicated actions taken and processes undergone until now. The partners also presented the status of coal transition in their countries.



Fig. 1: Guido Coal Mine, Zabrze (<https://www.kopalniaguido.pl>)

Internal workshop to determine the categories for the inventory

by Kamil SzeWERda

The 2nd CoalHeritage Internal Workshop on December 5, 2023, marked a significant milestone in our project journey (6th month). It was held online and hosted by Kamil SzeWERda from the KOMAG Institute. The workshop, a crucial part of WP3, was open internally, welcoming

representatives from all partners. The primary focus was to gather ideas and suggestions on classification of coal heritage within the project. Each participating project partner delivered a presentation during the workshop to define categories and groups of objects considered as heritage for the mining industry, in their respective countries. Our collective goal was to reach a consensus on the categories and groups of objects considered worthy of preservation and protection.

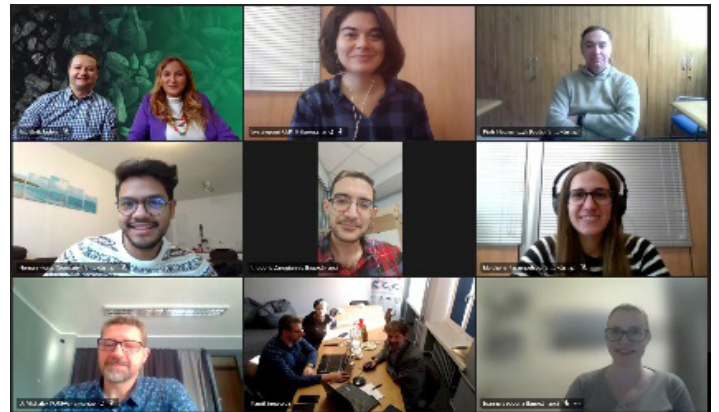


Fig. 2: CoalHeritage members attending the Internal workshop - part of Milestone MS5

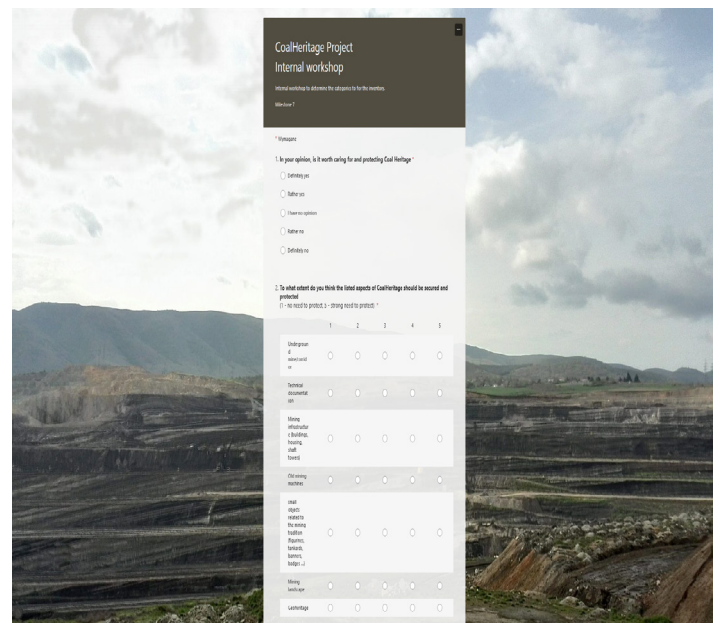


Fig. 3: CoalHeritage workshop – survey

At the end of the workshop, all participants were asked to complete a survey. This survey summarized and detailed the discussed issues. At the same time, each workshop participant had the opportunity to express their individual point of view. Fruitful discussions took place.

This survey included 14 questions related to coal mining heritage and its categorization.

The survey is still active and if you wish, you can access it by following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/jjPjPazccc>

Groups	Categories	Subcategories	Descriptions
Group 1: Material Heritage	Category 1.1: Immovable heritage	Company Towns and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Communities: Preservation of towns and settlements built around coal mines Miners' Housing: Recognition of housing and living conditions for miners and their families
		Industrial complexes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing plants: Preservation of facilities for coal processing, including washing, crushing, and sorting plants Transportation Infrastructure: Recognition of infrastructure related to the transportation of coal, such as railways, canals, and ports
		Mining sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collieries and Mines: Identification and preservation of historic coal mines and collieries, including shafts, tunnels, and associated structures Headframes and Pit Structures: Preservation of structures used for mine access and ventilation Reclaimed Sites: Recognition of efforts to rehabilitate and reclaim former mining sites
		Environmental Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geological and Ecological: Outcrops, geological units, and consideration of the impact on local ecosystems and efforts to restore biodiversity Geoheritage
	Category 1.2: Movable heritage	Mining Equipment and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mining Machinery: Preservation of historical mining equipment, including drills, haulage systems, and ventilation devices Tools and Implements: Recognition of tools and implements used by miners in the extraction process
		Technical Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical drawing Maps and plans Other mining documentation
		Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific papers related to the mining history Photo albums
Group 2: Non-material Heritage	Category 2.1: Mining knowledge and practices	Mining technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of mining technologies characteristic of individual mining sites Old legal documents Others
		Mining law	
	Category 2.2: Cultural and Social Heritage	Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral Histories: documentation and preservation of oral histories from individuals connected to the coal industry and others
		Events and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Practices: Recognition of cultural practices and traditions associated with coal mining communities Traditions, Traditional events, Mining lifestyles, Traditional Craftsmanship/skills, Festive events, Cultural artifacts eg. music

Fig. 4: The category of the heritage that will be applied in the project.

As a result of the workshop, survey, and previous activity, we've defined the categories of the coal heritage that will be applied in our project.

Report on Progress Meeting

by Tadeja Jegrišnik

CoalHeritage (Conservation and promotion of the Coal Mining Heritage as Europe's cultural legacy) is an RFCS Accompanying Measure European Project with main goal: development of an interregional network for the promotion and protection of coal mining heritage in mining regions.

Most coal mines in Europe are starting to cease operation leaving large areas unexploited and untapped coal resources. The closure of the mines will lead to high rates of unemployment at the regions.

Main objectives:

- identification processes needed to declare the coal sites as heritage areas supporting the just transition of the coal sector and regions;
- enhanced management in the coal regions in transition supporting the just transition of the coal sector and regions, improving health and safety and minimising the environmental impacts of coal mines in transition;
- design and develop a European Visual Map Journal (EVMJ);
- dissemination and network development supporting the just transition of the coal sector and regions.

First Progress Meeting of all leaders of Work packages took place on 11 December 2023.

Project Officer Dr. Vasiliki Kosiavelou from European Research Executive Agency presented new dissemination and exploitation opportunities for COALHERITAGE project.

Participants discussed the following agenda items:

- project management;
- status quo of coal mining heritage in Europe;
- inventory of assets and management of sites;
- creating a European Visual Map Journal for coal heritage;
- development of a network for the promotion and protection of mining heritage.

CoalHeritage will showcase post-mining coal heritage sites through an interactive platform and network to increase awareness and tourism opportunities. The partners of our project will identify the processes needed to declare the coal sites as national heritage



Fig. 5: Participants of the first Progress Meeting

areas, identify the best practices by exchanging information, define the characteristics that an inventory of assets should have, using partners knowledge on existing coal mine museums or other mine activity, visualize the gathered data in a EVMJ platform to motivate stakeholders to explore and potentially visit coal mining heritage sites or even encourage them to plan the transformation of mines in regions in transition into this concept.

Project communication and dissemination tools

Partnership with the Association of Mining Communes in Poland

by Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór



Fig. 6: Partnership with the Association of Mining Communes in Poland

The Management Board of the Association of Mining Communes in Poland assigned a partnership with The Central Mining Institute-National Research Institute, a partner in the CoalHeritage project. The scope of partnership covers project information regarding the implementation of the project and results.

The Association of Mining Communes in Poland (SGGP, Stowarzyszenie Gmin Górniczych w Polsce <https://sggp.org.pl>) is the most important NGOs in Poland connected with mining, associating 28 mining communes, representing by its local authorities. The most important objective of the Association is protection interests of local societies and supporting their economic development.

One of the objectives of CoalHeritage project is dissemination and network development supporting the Just Transition of the coal sector and regions, which requires involvement of relevant stakeholder groups. SGGP partnership is an important step in development of a network for the promotion and protection of the mining heritage. It also supports for the overall goal of CoalHeritage Project, which is to support local communities in transition and their residents by making them less dependent on the mining industry through repurposing of coal mines.

Project consortium is pleased to welcome polish SGGP partnership for boosting successful promotion of the project and strengthening the Coal Heritage network.

Webpage functionality, capabilities and new features

by Dan-Cezar Dutuc

The visual identity of the CoalHeritage Project is a fundamental key aspect for its successful promotion. The project's website (<https://coalheritageproject.eu>) (Fig. 7) will play a crucial role as it is one of the main tools that will be used for the successful promotion of its results and actions during the communication and dissemination process.



Fig. 7: Main page of the CoalHeritage RFCS website

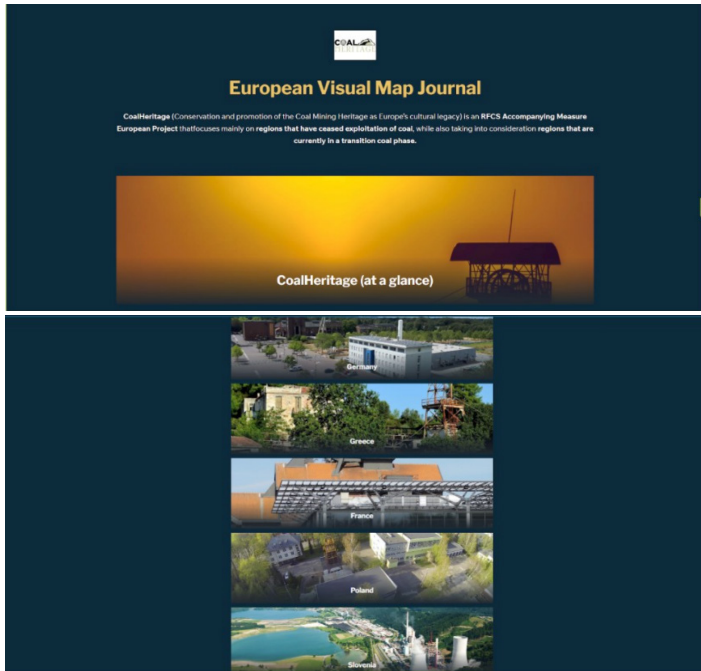


Fig. 8: European Visual Map Journal (EVMJ)

Its main goal is to provide open access to general information, the aims, actions and deliverables of the project in digital form. In addition, it will provide with the opportunity to promote its presence on social media platforms, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) which will make it easier and more efficient to connect to other relative projects and partners. The website has a live format, meaning that it will constantly be updated regularly with topics and news about the progress of the project. Project Coordinator, CERTH, was responsible for creating the website and will continue to be in charge of managing and updating the website until the end of the project. The main feature of the website is the European Visual Map Journal which provides the user with the opportunity to have access and to view selected post-coal mining information graphically and geographically, throughout GIS created interactive maps.

European Visual Map Journal

by George-Orion Marias

The European Visual Map Journal (EVMJ) consists of an interactive tool that intends to provide better knowledge of post-mining coal heritage on selected territories in Germany, France, Poland, Greece and Slovenia is dedicated to the implementation of an online geographic information system (web-GIS) which will be illustrated through innovative and friendly-user storytelling maps by providing: i) custom interactive maps, via which every user will have access to view selected post-coal mining information graphically and geographically (Fig. 9), ii) visual appeal (Fig. 10) and iii) strong sense of coal heritage place, on specific case studies corresponding to post-mining areas with different geographical, spatial and descriptive characteristics.

Moreover, (EVMJ) will allow users to have access to the coal mining history (technological) and will facilitate local authorities and stakeholders have access and navigate the database, which will be maintained for the duration of the project (2 years) and, in order to ensure its maintenance, as well as the maintenance of the network, the consortium will seek additional funding that will involve and maintain the results of CoalHeritage and their impact. Project Coordinator CERTH, was responsible for creating (EVMJ) platform (<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/987904b97d664cedb2ea4c161fb0f31e>), which constitutes the main outcome of Work Package 4 of CoalHeritage RFCS AM Project.

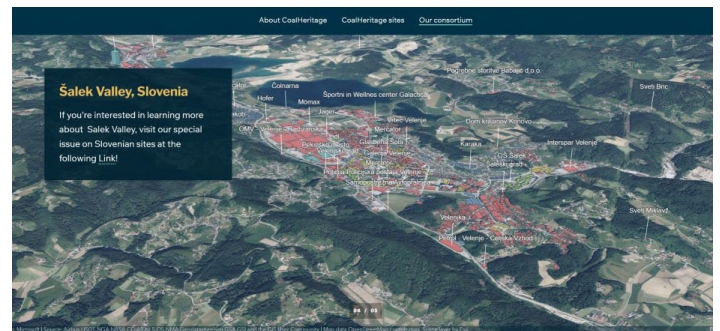


Fig. 9: Presentation of The Šalek Valley in Slovenia on the EVMJ platform

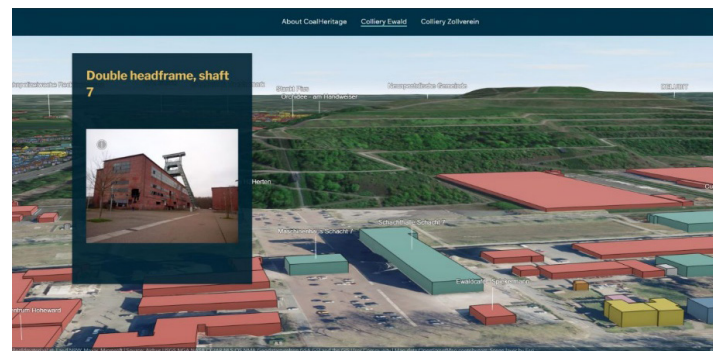


Fig. 10: Colliery Ewald, Germany, 3D demonstration of CoalHeritage on the EVMJ platform

Participation at the KOMTECH Conference 2023

by Kamil Szewerda

The international Scientific and Technical Conference KOMTECH 2023

The International Scientific and Technical Conference KOMTECH, organized by the KOMAG Institute, took place on 7-9 November, 2023, in Szczyrk, Poland. KOMTECH serves as a global platform for the exchange of ideas and showcasing the latest innovations in the field of mining. Recently, it has also become a space for discussions on the transformation of coal mining, its consequences, and future plans in this regard. This conference provided an excellent opportunity to present the goals of the CoalHeritage project and initiate discussions on the future of the closed

mines. Our representative, Kamil Szeverda, delivered an interesting presentation during the conference, addressing the project's issues and introducing participants to the challenges of preserving of coal heritage. Additionally, during the conference the first CoalHeritage project newsletter was distributed and a demonstration of VR material showing reconstructed historical mining machines was carried out. The presentation was jointly prepared and conducted by Kamil Szeverda, Dariusz Michalak, and Jarosław Tokarczyk from the Laboratory of Modeling Methods and Ergonomics at KOMAG. We hope that we've manage to attract interest that will result in another interesting realizations presenting coal heritage.

The meeting with Dr. Simon Wright from Australia in KOMAG

KOMAG had the pleasure to host Dr. Simon Wright from Australia, Senior Research Fellow for Energy & Circularity at the Gulbali Institute, Charles Sturt University, and Mr. Dariusz Stankiewicz from the Department of Regional Development and Transformation from the regional authorities of the Silesian Voivodeship. Dr. Wright came to Poland to explore the topic of mining transformation. In KOMAG he took part in a meeting on this subject with the institute's specialists. Preservation of coal heritage was among the topics discussed, and CoalHeritage project was presented as bringing important contribution in this matter.

After the presentation, our guests received CoalHeritage project's Newsletters No. 1 and No. 2, providing additional insights into the project.



Upcoming events

SAVE THE DATE: Stakeholder Workshop on Coal Heritage is coming

by Hernan Flores, Tansel Dogan

Embracing the multiple shades of industrial heritage, encompassing technical-historical, artistic, architectural, scientific, cultural, and social facets, the Coal Heritage Project is dedicated to assessing the perception and awareness of diverse stakeholders across various societal and generational spectra. Exploring into the decision-making process regarding the preservation of industrial relics, the intricate steps of conservation, and the perpetual monitoring involved, this initiative converges people, technical innovation, and cultural identities.

The focal point of our upcoming workshop in February 2024 is to delve into key themes, including an exploration of the history of coal mining, perceptions surrounding coal mining heritage, the resonance of cultural heritage, acceptance of preservation measures, financial support mechanisms, and more.



To ensure a holistic and inclusive array of perspectives, we've extended invitations to a spectrum of stakeholder groups. These include national and local authorities, industry representatives, local community members, and students from Germany.

Our goal is to navigate the intricate interplay between heritage, innovation, and societal values, fostering a collective commitment to the preservation of our coal-mining legacy.

Coal Heritage Partners and Members

ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS (CERTH, Greece)

Dr. Nikolaos Koukouzas: koukouzas@certh.gr
 Dr. Theodoros Zarogiannis: zarogiannis@certh.gr
 Ms. Ioanna Badouna: badouna@certh.gr
 Ms. Eleonora Manoukian: manoukian@certh.gr
 Ms. Rania Karametou: karametou@certh.gr
 Mr. George S. Maraslidis: maraslidis@certh.gr
 Mr. Stratos Giouvanidis: ef.giouvanidis@certh.gr
 Ms. Eleftheria Karampetsou: karampetsou@certh.gr
 Ms. Evangelia Zygouri: zygouri@certh.gr
 Mr. Pavlos Krassakis: krassakis@certh.gr
 Mr. Andreas Karavias: karavias@certh.gr
 Mr. Dimitris Karapanos: karapanos@certh.gr
 Dr. Georgios-Orion Marias (author): g.marias@certh.gr
 Mr. Dan-Cezar Dutuc (author): dutuc@certh.gr

INSTYTUT TECHNIKI GORNICZEJ KOMAG (KOMAG, Poland)

Dr. Kamil Szewerda (author): kszewerda@komag.eu

Dr. Dariusz Michalak: dmichalak@komag.eu
 Dr. Jarosław Tokarczyk: jtokarczyk@komag.eu

PREMOGOVNIK VELENJE (PV, Slovenia)

Ms. Tadeja Jegrišnik (Editor): tadeja.jegrisnik@rlv.si
 Mag. Matjaž Kamenik: matjaz.kamenik@rlv.si

BUREAU DE RECHERCHES GEOLOGIQUES ET MINIERES (BRMG, France)

Dr. Laurent Beccalotto: l.beccalotto@brgm.fr
 Dr. Nicolas Charles: n.charles@brgm.fr
 Dr. Gaël Bellenfant: g.bellenfant@brgm.fr

GLOWNY INSTYTUT GORNICTWA (GIG, Poland)

Dr. Robert Hildebrandt: rhildebrandt@gig.eu
 Dr. Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór (author): sjaroslawska@gig.eu

DMT-GESELLSCHAFT FUR LEHRE UND BILDUNG MBH (DMT-THGA, Germany)

Dr. Tansel Dogan (author): tansel.dogan@thga.de
 Mr. Hernan Flores (author): Hernan.Flores@thga.de

CONTACT AND CONNECT

E-mail: coalheritageprojecteu@gmail.com

QR codes
for Social
Media
Channels:

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