

COAL HERITAGE

RFCS Accompanying Measure Project

NEWSLETTER

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Milestones achieved

Forging a sustainable future: Successful Stakeholder Workshop on Coal Heritage Preservation in Germany

by Hernan Flores and Tansel Dogan

The stakeholder workshop, held on February 8th, marked a significant success, aligning with Milestone 4 of the Research Center of Post-Mining in Germany. The workshop, a collaborative effort among various stakeholders from the Ruhr Area, aimed to pool perspectives and experiences related to the preservation and conservation of coal heritage. Emphasis was placed on ensuring the safety and socio-economic acceptability of post-mining sites.

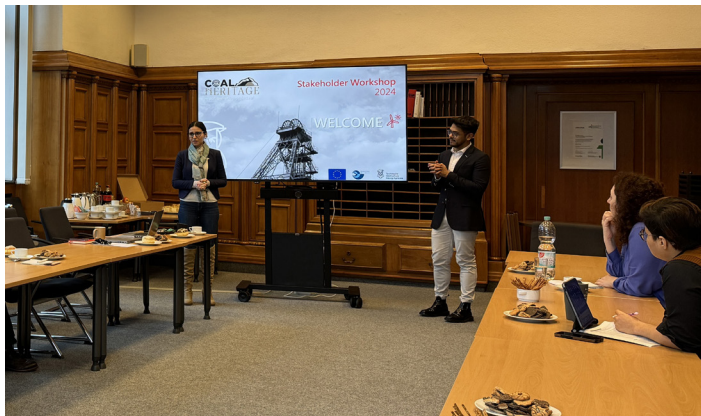


Figure 1. Julia Haske (Head of Reactivation and Transition Department) and Hernan Flores during the introduction session of the Stakeholder Workshop (©FZN/ Myat Myo Han)

The first session provided participants with insights into the project’s concept, specific plans, objectives, partner countries, and ongoing tasks for the RFCS Accompanying Measure European Project. During a working session, attendees actively engaged in discussions about a draft questionnaire. Different groups contributed their opinions, suggestions, and comments, enhancing the questionnaire’s accuracy and ensuring a comprehensive and realistic approach to survey opinions during the application phase.



Figure 2. Group work and suggestion forum at the Stakeholder Workshop (©FZN/ Myat Myo Han)



Figure 3. Group work and suggestion forum at the Stakeholder Workshop (©FZN/ Carmen Tomlik)

Beyond the immediate project goals, the workshop facilitated the development of an interregional network dedicated to conservation and preserving coal mining heritage. This initiative aligns with current energy transition plans, contributing to the broader goal of a more climate-neutral economy.

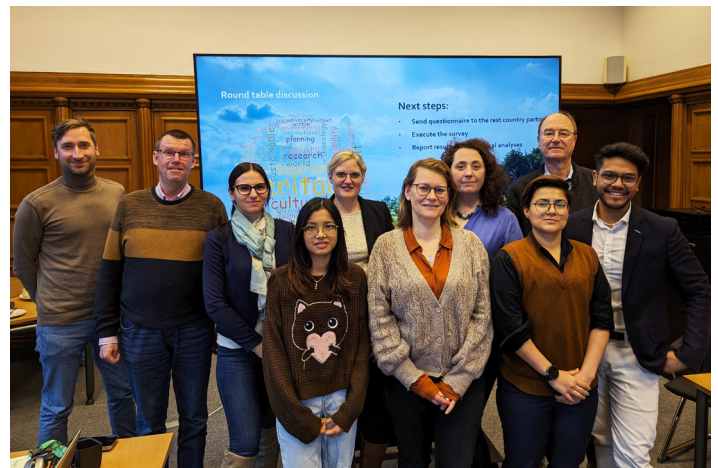


Figure 4. CoalHeritage Stakeholder Workshop Participants (©FZN/ Carmen Tomlik)

Diverse stakeholders, including national and local authorities, industry representatives, researchers, local society members and students from different institutions such as the German Mining Museum Bochum (DBM), German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Ruhr Regional Association (RVR), and Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), actively participated in the workshop.

Looking ahead, the finalized questionnaire will be unveiled in the coming months and made accessible to the public in EU participant countries. This step aims to gather data on stakeholder awareness and engagement, furthering the project’s commitment to transparency and inclusivity.

Project Communication and Dissemination Tools

THGA welcomes international collaboration: Knowledge-exchange on post-mining transition with Mr. Xinghua Han from China

by Hernan Flores and Tansel Dogan

THGA had the honor of hosting Mr. Xinghua Han, Deputy Managing Director responsible for the safety and technology department at Shanxi from Jinyu Coal Industry Group Co in China. Mr. Han's visit to Germany is part of looking at the practices for the transition from mine closure to post-mining, focusing on the reutilization of sites. This aligns with Shanxi Province's ongoing transformation towards a green economy.

In a productive meeting organised by specialists from the Department of Reactivation and Transition at the Research Center of Post-Mining, evolving strategies from the Ruhr area were introduced. These strategies aim to contribute to a climate-neutral economy while ensuring a safe transition for all parties involved in the structural changes of post-mining areas.

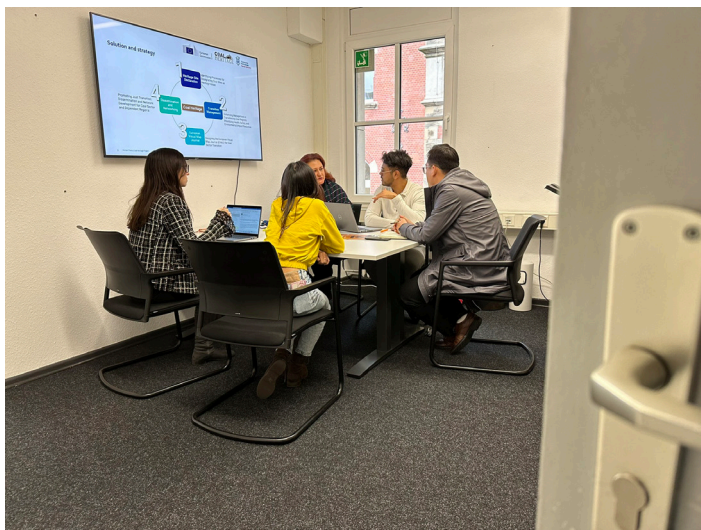


Figure 5. Reactivation and Transition Team met Mr. Xinghua Han, Deputy Managing Director at Shanxi Jinyu Coal Industry Group Co., Ltd China. (©FZN/ Anne-Kathrin Weber)

Discussions with Mr. Han, an international expert, covered not only the objectives of the CoalHeritage Project but also ongoing activities and future strategies within the department. Additionally, Mr. Han mentioned successful examples of mine closure and resource utilization in China, such as the ecological management of the abandoned Kailuan Mine, the ecological rehabilitation of the South Lake Subsidence Area, and the Kailuan National Mining Park.



Figure 6. Round table discussion about heritage places in Ruhr Area in Germany and Shanxi Province in China (©FZN/ Anne-Kathrin Weber)

This collaborative effort enhances not only the global exchange of ideas but also strengthens relations between Shanxi and NRW, Germany. Mr. Han's primary areas of interest include structural change, the transition from mine closure to post-mining, and the reutilization of sites. The engagement promises valuable insights and paves the way for a sustainable future in the post-mining landscape.

THGA disseminated CoalHeritage during REMINDNET Meeting in Ostrava

by Tansel Dogan

Within the dynamic framework of COST (European Cooperation in Science & Technology), a platform fostering networking opportunities for researchers and innovators, Dr.-Ing. Tansel Dogan participated in the Meeting of Introduction to the Action of the Project REMINDNET (REcovery MINing District NETwork, Project number CA22138). Launched in October 2023 and set to conclude its impactful journey in 2027, REMINDNET brings together 74 scientists and practitioners from more than 50 organizations across 32 EU countries. The project focuses on legislation, governance, and management of mining legacies, as well as financing, rehabilitation, and monitoring techniques to improve implementation and minimize post-closure mining impacts.



Figure 7. Participants of Introduction to the Action of the Project REMINDNET Meeting at Dolní Vítkovice in Ostrava, Czech Republic (©VSB/ Jindřich Šancer).

Recently, the CoalHeritage Project took center stage during this meeting at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic in January. This provided an excellent opportunity to disseminate the project. Notably, THGA, GIG, and BRGM are active members of this collaborative initiative, collectively contributing to the advancement of sustainable solutions within the mining industry.

The REMINDNET stands as a testament to the commitment of these organizations to collaborative efforts that transcend borders, fostering innovation and addressing the complex challenges in mining districts. Together, they form a powerful network dedicated to shaping a resilient and sustainable future for mining communities across Europe.

Working Industrial & Mobile Heritage Group spotlight on CoalHeritage Project

by Sylwia Jarostawska-Sobór

CoalHeritage project has drawn special attention of international experts involved in the preservation of industrial heritage. 13.02.2024 we had pleasure to present project goals and activities at the Working Industrial & Mobile Heritage Group Meeting.

WIMH, Working Industrial & Mobile Heritage Group is a consortium of European umbrella organisations representing the industrial and mobile heritage sectors. The meeting participant were distinguished representatives i.a. Jaap Nieweg, President of the European Federation of Museum & Tourist Railways, Hildebrand de Boer, ERIH Board Member, Miles Oglethorpe, TICCIH President and Head of Industrial Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland and Piotr Gerber, President of TICCIH Poland.

ERIH, the European Route of Industrial Heritage, is the tourism information network of industrial heritage in Europe. The network is managed by the ERIH association, which has around 350 members in 27 countries.

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage TICCIH, is the world organization for industrial heritage. Its goals are to promote international cooperation in preserving, conserving, investigating, documenting, researching, interpreting, and advancing education of the industrial heritage. Members of TICCIH come from all over the world and include historians, conservators, museum curators, architects, archaeologists, students, teachers, heritage professionals and anyone with an interest in the development of industry and industrial society. TICCIH is recognized by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) as a designated consultant in all matters related to the study and preservation of industrial heritage. In particular, ICOMOS' network of experts counsels UNESCO on properties to be added to the World Heritage List. Therefore, TICCIH advises on historically significant industrial sites for the World Heritage List.

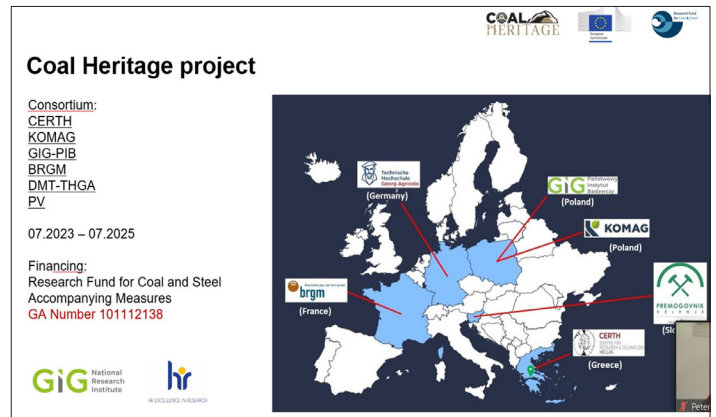


Figure 8. Working Industrial & Mobile Heritage Group Meeting on 13.02.2024 (Online)

Discover our Coal Mining Heritage: Explore Through Video

by George-Orion Marias

CoalHeritage Project Youtube channel contains a wide range of videos, provided by project partners, demonstrating a unique coal mining sites heritage. Scan the QR codes below to start a magnificent journey in Poland, Germany and Slovenia.

Experimental Mine Barbara (Mikołów, Poland)



The Experimental Mine Barbara was founded in 1925, based in Mikołów city. The Experimental Mine Barbara constitutes the sole research and scientific center both in Poland and in Europe, with an experimental range for testing devices, equipment, materials and procedures in real underground conditions. For more than half a century, Experimental Mine Barbara operated as one of the main components of the project of the Central Mining Institute. In the relevant QR CODE, there is a video with the history of Experimental Mine Barbara and some astonishing highlights with large scale gas and dust explosion tests.

Colliery Zollverein (Essen, Germany)



In 1851, Zollverein became the first underground coal mine in the Ruhr Area and in 1932 mining operations were started, making Zollverein the then largest coal mining facility worldwide. The Colliery Zollverein operated for more than 50 years ceasing its operations in 1986. During the 90's, construction works were carried out turning Colliery Zollverein into an international cultural center. In 2001, it was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the relevant QR CODE, there is a video with some splendid highlights with view from above.

Velenje mining method (Velenje, Slovenia)



Velenje Coal Mine played a crucial role in region's development. In this context, a new extraction method emerged, the 'Velenje mining method' which constitutes a method of extraction of coal, particularly from thick coal seams. More specifically, through this method, an expansion of the extraction site above the protected area is made, exploiting the natural forces of breaking and crumbling of the coal layer. In the relevant QR CODE, there is a video referring to the evolvement of Velenje mining method as well as unique highlights of coal extraction.

Upcoming events

Mark your calendars: CoalHeritage in the spotlight at EGU 2024 and IMWA 2024

by Hernan Flores

Get ready for an exciting April! CoalHeritage is set to take center stage at two prestigious international conferences. At the European Geoscience Union (EGU 2024), Hernan Flores will lead as a convener for the session on "Mining and Post-mining Innovative Solutions for Mining Waste, and Risk Assessment for Sustainable Development." This session promises deep dives into crucial topics like post-mining use of mine waste repositories, heritage conservation, and geo-tourism.

The activities do not stop there—our extended abstract has been accepted for a poster presentation at the International Mine Water Association (IMWA 2024), providing an opportunity to showcase the progress of CoalHeritage Project and the German examples on heritage preservation and reactivation. Stay tuned for insightful discussions and a glimpse into the future of sustainable post-mining and heritage conservation solutions!

Polish conference School of Underground Mining 26-28.02.2024 in Cracow Poland

by Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór

Presentation intangible heritage of the mining industry will be giving on conference School of Underground Mining. It will take place on 26-28.02.2024 in Cracow, Poland. Conference School of Underground Mining, SEP is one of the largest and the most important conference in Polish mining industry. Every year it gathers about 500 participants, authors and guests, including board members of biggest polish mining enterprises. The conference presentation will discuss the concept of intangible heritage in the Polish hard coal mining industry, along with the preservation of



Figure 9. One of the Polish Mining Group marching band (©PGG/ Polska Grupa Górnicza S.A).

cultural heritage the Polish Mining Group (Polska Grupa Górnicza S.A.) marching band case study.

The organized musical movement and the custom of making music in the miners' marching band in Silesia dates back to the second half of the 19th century. Miners' orchestras are an important element of St. Barbara's Day traditions, which have become a permanent element of the landscape of Upper Silesia. Their contribution to regional and national culture is a musical and visual phenomenon.

As a result, on March 3, 2023, by the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, the "Cultural Traditions of Mining Marching Bands from Upper Silesia" were entered into the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage. More info at: <https://szkolaeksploatacji.pl/sesja/branza-gornicza-liderem-zrownowazonego-rozwoju-wyzwania-interesariuszy-oraz-wytycznych-dyrektywy-csrd-i-standardow-esrs/>

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