

# COAL HERITAGE

## RFCS Accompanying Measure Project

### NEWSLETTER

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## Successful Progress Meeting in Velenje

by Tadeja Jegrišnik



Figure 1. Participants of Congress Meeting in Velenje in front of The Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia

Velenje, Slovenia – Velenje Coal Mine, a partner in the CoalHeritage project, hosted a significant event on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to discuss the development of an interregional network for promoting and protecting coal mining heritage in mining regions.

The event began with a warm welcome from hosts: **Janez Rošer, Director of Velenje Coal Mine, and Tadeja Jegrišnik, Manager of the PR Department and Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia.**

**Project Officer Vasiliki Kosiavelou** provided key insights into the project's progress and future dissemination and exploitation opportunities, emphasizing the importance of protecting and promoting coal mining heritage.



Figure 2. Tatjana Dizdarevič, Director of Idria Mercury Mine Ltd. – in liquidation, delivered an insightful presentation on their experience with preserving mining cultural heritage in Idria

**CERTH** presented the progress of **Work Package 1 (WP1)**, informing colleagues that by the 1<sup>st</sup> progress meeting, 3 deliverables and 4 milestones were achieved, and by the 2<sup>nd</sup> progress meeting, 4 deliverables and 3 milestones were completed. They also discussed the interactions between Project Management and the Project Officer, ensuring the project aligns with the EU RFCS framework.

**Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór, Laurent Beccaletto and Hernan Flores** presented **Work Package 2 (WP2)**, highlighting deliverables on coal mining heritage transition strategies, site identification, transformation stories, and public perceptions of industrial heritage. The GIG survey, which includes interviews and questionnaires, revealed key insights into heritage management challenges, community involvement, and the importance of cultural preservation. Sylwia Jarosławska-Sobór also detailed dissemination actions engaging international experts in promoting CoalHeritage.

**Kamil Szezerda** presented **Work Package 3 (WP3)** Progress, including the development of coal mining heritage classification and record cards. The upcoming deliverables and stakeholder interviews were discussed. Kamil Szezerda also highlighted the 177 developed record cards and provided examples and statistics summaries. Deliverable 3.1, "Catalogue of the collected assets from the partners' country," was presented, along with upcoming actions for September.

**Andreas Karavias** presented **Work Package 4 (WP4)**, showcasing the EVMJ platform's updated structure, functionalities, and integration of geospatial data. Interactive tools and virtual tours were demonstrated, using data collected from WP2 and WP3 to create the EVMJ geodatabase.

**Work Package 5 (WP5) and Dissemination** were presented by **Tadeja Jegrišnik**, focusing on the development of a network for mining heritage promotion. The presentation covered dissemination actions, including newsletters, website updates, and social media activities. Key statistics on website and social media engagement were provided, along with a review of past and upcoming events, particularly in Velenje.

**Stakeholder Engagement** Idrija, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2012, showcased its history, cultural heritage status, and ongoing preservation efforts. **Tatjana Dizdarevič, Director of Idria Mercury Mine Ltd. – in liquidation**, delivered an insightful presentation on their experience with preserving mining cultural heritage in Idrija. The Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia, as presented by **Tadeja Jegrišnik**, emphasized its role



Figure 3. The Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia was presented by Tadeja Jegrišnik



Figure 4. During their working visit, guests also visited the Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia, the subsidence remediation area, and the Velenje Museum.

in preserving Slovenia’s coal mining history, promoting education, and supporting sustainable development.

The promotion, dissemination, and exploitation of the CoalHeritage project are not merely activities but pivotal strategies that ensure our project leaves a lasting, positive impact. Together, we can protect and celebrate the rich heritage of coal-mining sites, transforming them into sources of pride and prosperity for generations to come.

The event concluded with a collaborative discussion on the next steps and closing remarks from all participants, reaffirming their commitment to the project’s goals.

## Tourism Forum of the Šalek Valley

by Tadeja Jegrišnik

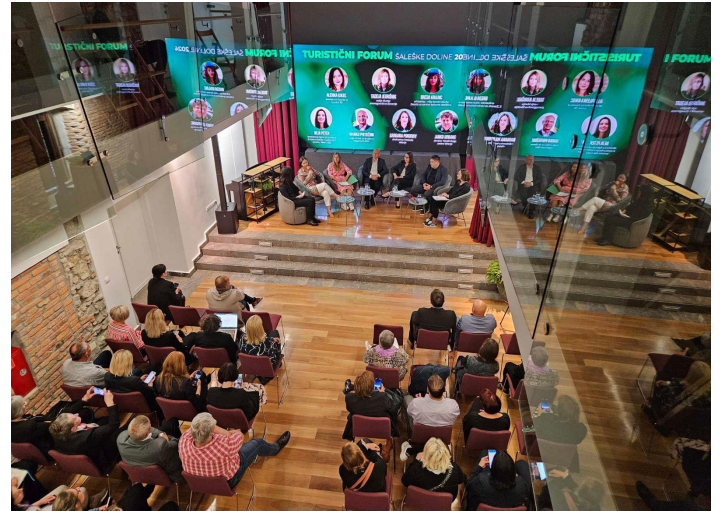


Figure 5. A round table discussion focused on coal mining as an opportunity for cultural tourism in the region

In May the 2nd Tourism Forum of the Šalek Valley was held at Vila Bianca in Velenje. The forum discussed the potential of industrial cultural heritage for tourism development, focusing on preserving the tangible and intangible heritage of coal mining in the Šalek Valley. Key guests from local and national contexts shared their views on coal mining heritage and its tourism potential. The round table highlighted the importance of developing cultural tourism in the coal mining region during economic restructuring.

### Round Table on Coal Mining as an Opportunity for Cultural Tourism

A round table discussion focused on coal mining as an opportunity for cultural tourism in the region. The discussion explored how tourism can enhance cultural heritage and ensure its survival post-coal phase-out and economic restructuring.

Round table participants included Alenka Kikec, Director of the ŠD Tourism Institute, Marko Pritrznik, Head of the Office for Social Activities of Velenje, Janko Urbanc, Director of the Velenje Youth Center, Barbara Pokorny, Director of the Velenje Festival, Breda Krajnc, Senior Conservator at the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage, and Tadeja Jegrišnik, Head of the Coal Mining Museum of Slovenia.

## Premogovnik Velenje at the 6th International Conference EnRe – Energy & Responsibility

by Tadeja Jegrišnik

The Faculty of Energy Technology at the University of Maribor organized the 6th International Conference EnRe – Energy & Responsibility on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in Velenje. The conference focused on finding pathways to climate neutrality and sustainable green transition. At the international EnRe conference, experts, researchers, policymakers, and businesspeople, including representatives from Premogovnik Velenje, shared their experiences,



Figure 6. Matjaž Kamenik gave presentation "Preservation and Promotion of Coal Mining Heritage as Europe's Cultural Heritage".

research, and visions. Through interactive discussions, round tables, and presentations, they showcased the latest achievements and strategies for an effective transition to sustainable solutions. In Section 4 on Hydropower, Thermal Power, and Nuclear Energy, experts from Premogovnik Velenje presented three projects: mag. Matjaž Kamenik discussed the Preservation and Promotion of Coal Mining Heritage as Europe's Cultural Heritage, dr. Sergej Jamnikar introduced the Hybrid Energy Storage System using post-mining infrastructure (HESS) and dr. Gregor Jeromel presented the NOP II Ventilation Station: A New Step for Safe and Reliable Mining Operations.

## BRGM visited various players involved in the promotion and conservation of France's coal mining heritage.

by Laurent Beccaletto



Figure 7. BRGM Team & Parc Explor Wendel Staff

BRGM team met the director and colleagues of the Parc Explor Wendel (<https://parc-explor.com>) based in Petite-Rosselle, Lorraine, as well as the director and colleagues of the Lewarde Historical Mining Center ([www.chm-lewarde.com](http://www.chm-lewarde.com)) in the Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin, and the director of the UNESCO mission for this coal mining basin, which has been a World Heritage site since 2012 ([www.missionbassinminier.org](http://www.missionbassinminier.org)).

Passionate discussions addressed the governance of these interpretation and exhibition spaces, the management of built and documentary heritage, the financial resources and the legal framework for conserving and promoting this rich cultural and natural heritage, all of the utmost importance for the CoalHeritage project.

Thanks a lot for their warm welcome! (P. Kusior and L. Gigault - Parc Explor Wendel - L. Piralla,



Figure 8. 9-9bis coal mining shafts, headquarter of the UNESCO mission of the Nord-Pas-de-Calais coal mining basin

V. Malolepszy and K. Sprimont - Lewarde Mining Center - and C. Bertram (UNESCO mission). Greetings from the BRGM team (L. Beccalotto, N. Charles and G. Bellenfant).

## Promoting Coal Mine Heritage via New Museum Exhibition

By Hernan Flores

Bochum, Germany - The special exhibition "Doppelbock auf Museum" brings the eventful history of the headframe above the German Mining Museum Bochum to life. Members of the THGA team participated in the inaugural event on May 14th. The exhibition will be open to the public until May 2025.

Around 300 invited guests attended the opening event, including many colleagues, cooperation partners, media representatives, and state and local politicians. Numerous individuals from business and science also joined to celebrate the opening night.



Fig 9. Opening night of the Special Exhibition "Doppelbock auf Museum" (© Hernan Flores)

This exhibition is the product of an intensive collaboration between all departments of the Mining Museum and colleagues from the Georg Agricola University of Applied Sciences. "Doppelbock auf Museum" is more than just the title of the new exhibition; it is a motto representing the collective effort that brought this project from concept to completion in less than a year.

The most important of these headframes from the Ruhr region has been the largest object in the German Mining Museum Bochum since 1974. At over 70 meters high and weighing 650 tons, it is also an unmistakable landmark of the city of Bochum. Originally, the headframe developed by Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer stood at the Germania colliery in Dortmund Marten from 1944 onwards. The colliery was shut down on May 14, 1971. Exactly 53 years later



Fig 10. Opening night of the Special Exhibition "Doppelbock auf Museum" (© RAG)

to the day, a special exhibition on what was once the largest headframe in the world is being opened.

The exhibition immerses visitors in the working environments of the past and highlights the technology, culture, memories, sounds, and smells associated with



Fig 11. Interactive drone flying around the Headframe at the new museum exhibition (© Hernan Flores)

the coal mining industry. It demonstrates the threats posed by rust to industrial heritage and showcases how science can help preserve these important industrial monuments as cultural artifacts for future generations.

Interactive stations, an "audio shower," and numerous media displays convey the rich history of the Doppelbock in an engaging manner. The headframe is linked to various aspects of mining history, the evolution of industrial culture, and the conservation and restoration of large museum objects like the headframe. A special feature of the exhibition is the 360-degree panorama, which simulates the breathtaking view from the headframe at a height of over 70 meters.

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