

Our (World) Heritage: The Mining Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří

Project Background and Aims

Background

There is an increasing need to strengthen public identification, especially among young people, with the cross-border region of the Ore Mountains (Erzgebirge). Educational projects involving cultural heritage would contribute considerably to this end. These projects would call for the active engagement of young people and the general public to protect and utilize their cultural heritage. The content of these educational projects would complement the region's World Heritage nomination and the region's key institutions. It also would take into account the requirements of the World Heritage Convention that call for an integrated approach to World Heritage. Communicating cultural heritage requires a unified approach, sound expertise and qualitative educational offerings, and these would be developed and implemented within the parameters of a management program of this World Heritage.

Project Aims and Purport

Next to protection and utilization, education is the third pillar of heritage. It is anchored both in the World Heritage Convention (Article 27) and in the strategic objectives for the implementation of the Convention. As such, this educational project complements the purpose of the [Archaeomontan](http://www.archaeomontan.eu/archaeomontan.html)¹ and [Glück Auf!](http://www.montanregion-erzgebirge.de/welterbe-aktuell/aktuelles/neuigkeiten/glueck-auf-welterbe-grenzuebergreifendes-interreg-5a-projekt-ermoeeglicht-ueber-drei-jahre-umfassende-kommunikations-und-praesentationsmoeglichkeiten-beiderseits-der-grenze.html)² projects and significantly contributes to a unified approach to World Heritage. This project consolidates cross-border educational programs that encompass not only the potential components of this World Heritage Site, but also its entire historic, mining cultural heritage, which in itself incorporates the region's educational institutions that ready the implementation of UNESCO guidelines.

Consequently, the synergies of the World Heritage nomination drive sustainable development for the region. Historically, the area had been closely linked to mining activity since the 12th century. Given this common history of the mining heritage sites, their story can be easily conveyed. Educational programs embedded in this shared cultural heritage are a catalyst for people, especially youth, to coexist peacefully, to maintain their cultural heritage cooperatively, and to develop the border region in a sustainable manner.

¹ <http://www.archaeomontan.eu/archaeomontan.html>

² <http://www.montanregion-erzgebirge.de/welterbe-aktuell/aktuelles/neuigkeiten/glueck-auf-welterbe-grenzuebergreifendes-interreg-5a-projekt-ermoeeglicht-ueber-drei-jahre-umfassende-kommunikations-und-praesentationsmoeglichkeiten-beiderseits-der-grenze.html>

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Target Groups

Institutions, such as schools, universities and the historic mining sites (i.e. visitor mines, museums) on the one hand can inform people, especially the young, about the significance of the cultural heritage of the Ore Mountains. Conveying the significance of this heritage to young people and encouraging and empowering them to protect the region is essential to its preservation. Young people thereby become multipliers, who communicate their understanding indirectly to other groups in the population.

On the other hand, in this project, teachers, educational professionals, associations, and skilled craft enterprises on both sides of the border need to be qualified to implement educational exercises on cultural heritage to young people. Through training programs, these actors would acquire the appropriate skills that enable them to implement educational offerings independently over the long term, well beyond the project period.

Specific Project Objectives:

1. Development of a uniform, cross-border educational concept for the Ore Mountains:

As a foundation to the cross-border educational program, a joint educational concept is to be developed, which will include best practice examples drawn mostly from the national and international contexts of World Heritage sites. These will translate into concrete recommendations for the content development of the cross-border educational offerings. The recommendations themselves will be collaboratively worked out, taught didactically, and mediated by all of the identified actors from institutions such as schools, universities, and the historic, mining heritage sites.

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2. Cross-border content concerning the (World)Heritage of the Ore Mountains:

Building on an inventory of existing educational offerings in the Ore Mountains, cross-border content will be developed to integrate the communication of the historic, mining heritage. This content can be used in the educational offerings of the historic heritage sites and other educational facilities on both sides of the border.

3. Implementation of educational offerings:

The educational concept will pertain exclusively to cross-border content and be applied accordingly. Once again this process is to be carried out in collaboration with all of the actors involved in the drawing up of the concept, and with those who are involved in conveying cultural heritage to young people. Special attention will be paid to teachers, educational professionals and associations, as well as agencies dealing with the skilled crafts of the region. Consequently, the project also anticipates a need for the further training of actors from the schools and the heritage sites (e.g. visitor mines, and mining museums).

Project Outcomes

General project outcomes:

- a cross-border educational concept that conveys the shared history within the mining heritage applicable to both sides of the border
- cross-border educational offerings for people, especially young people in schools, universities and at the historic, montane sites
- qualified actors (teachers, educational professionals, agencies for the skilled crafts, and associations) who are capable of making the history of mining accessible and visible across borders through targeted education

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Specific project outcomes:

- guidelines for project partners and regional actors that include concrete recommendations—a basis from which the implementation of the educational concept can be directed
- bilingual educational materials that include:
 - guidelines with recommendations for action
 - worksheets for students on historic, mining monuments and topics
 - a teacher's book with lesson components
 - working materials for specialists and associations to gain professional skills
 - an e-learning tool comprising of a digital map of the German and Czech heritage sites with access to worksheets
 - a self-study guide to 60 historic mining monuments

The topics of mining and World Heritage are anchored in a syllabus and are thereby secured in their implementation. The proposed sustainable, cross-border school collaboration (primary to post-secondary) will deepen working relationships. Based on the inventories and guidelines and respective of the cross-border content, educational programs at the historic, montane heritage sites will be developed in cooperation with educational professionals and associations. Tailored educational offerings for young people will be thereby created for each site. At the same time requirements for the preservation of the sites will be met and the experience of on-site actors made use of in developing, for example, children's tours, project days, workshops, etc.

Further Training Programs

Further training programs for the relevant actors to gain professional skills will be designed and implemented during the project. In addition, this training will facilitate the preparation of required materials for the project programs and ensure their sustainable anchoring. Teachers, educational professionals and volunteers in associations will thereby become qualified to communicate the significance of their cultural heritage in a regional and global context, as well as become qualified to develop and implement target-group-specific educational offerings.

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Public Outreach

Through events and media the wider public will be informed about the project. By making use of digital media, cross-border public outreach will be fundamentally realized. The project content will be made available to the public through an e-learning portal, flyers, brochures, and on the websites of project partners and participating institutions. In the Czech Republic an educational center will be established for cross-border events among other things. A conference marking the launch of the project, as well as events involving regional, national and international professional circles, will be held in order to network participating actors and to facilitate an exchange of expertise.