

WHV – Preservation and Valorization of Industrial and Mining Heritage

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region, Germany / Czechia

Cultural property inscribed on the List of World
Heritage since 2019

01/08/2021- 14/08/2021



Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains) became the most important source of silver ore in Europe from 1460 to 1560. Mining was the trigger for technological and scientific innovations transferred worldwide. At the end of the 19th century, the region became a major global producer of uranium. The cultural landscape of the Ore Mountains has been deeply shaped by 800 years of almost continuous mining, from the 12th to the 20th century, with mining, pioneering water management systems, innovative mineral processing and smelting sites, and mining cities.

Project objectives:

The project aims to expand the volunteers' understanding of mining heritage and explore the mechanisms that allowed the crushing of massive rocks and subsequently forged the nature and history of this cultural mining landscape. It also aims to introduce them to the tools and traditional techniques of processing rocks and extracting ore in this region.

Project activities:

The project will be carried out in two phases, focusing on two different components of the Mining region.

In the first phase, under the guidance of a master carpenter, the volunteers will repair the main support structures over the hammers of the wet stamping process developed in the Ore Mountains in the 16th century, which are located at the ore crushing and concentration facility. They will then help extend the underground museum that is dedicated to the illustrations of unique mining techniques from the Middle Ages, in order to allow more space for the exhibition.

In the second phase, the volunteers will work on the reconstruction of arches supporting the remnants of the VII. Lichtloch's construction, which provided a way of ventilation in old mines. In addition, they will clean the area around the boat lifting system on the Churprinz mining canal, which it is one of the oldest of such structures in the world. The volunteers will remove the debris and silt surrounding the area, repair the damaged walls, and fill the gaps in the structure, with mortar.



Partners:

Saxon World Heritage Coordination, the Association for the Mining Region Erzgebirge/Ore Mountains, the World Heritage Association for the Ore Mountain Mining Region, and the VII. Lichtloch Association.

European Heritage Volunteers

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