

WHV – Conservation and Valorisation of Industrial and Mining Heritage

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Seiffen), Germany

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2019)

PROJECT DATES

15 July - 29 July 2023

THE SITE - Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří (Ore Mountains) spans a region in south-eastern Germany (Saxony) and north-western Czechia, which contains a wealth of several metals exploited through mining from the Middle Ages onwards. Due to the longevity and intensity of mining, the entire cultural landscape of the Ore Mountains is largely impacted by its effects, and is anchored by the mines themselves and by the mining towns that developed spontaneously with, and adjacent to, the silver bonanzas of the 15th and 16th centuries, their original urban layout and architecture reflecting their importance as administrative, economic, educational, social and cultural centres and retained as the basis for embellishment in the 18th and 19th centuries.

OBJECTIVES - As a follow-up project to World Heritage Volunteers action camps organised by European Heritage Volunteers in the region since 2018, the project aims to combine practical interventions to rehabilitate elements from the site, and awareness-raising actions which will provide a heritage education opportunity to the volunteers, while promoting volunteering for heritage to the general public.

ACTIVITIES - The project takes place at the Ore Mountains Open-Air Museum in Seiffen, which will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2023. There, the volunteers will be doing conservation work on the roof construction of one of the historic buildings, and will help manufacture and place the traditional wooden shingles to close it. The educational programme will include an immersive experience into the mining landscape's tangible and intangible heritage, offering workshops, interactions with members of the local mining associations and of the community of traditional craftsmen, in addition to lectures, guided tours and an excursion visiting the Czech side of the transboundary World Heritage site. The region is famous for its manufacture of wooden toys; therefore, the volunteers will be invited to visit the local museum and experience first-hand the process of traditional hand-craftsmanship. The programme is designed to provide a holistic experience that will enable the volunteers to fully appreciate the cultural wealth of this World Heritage cultural landscape.

PARTNERS - Saxon State Office for the Conservation of Monuments, Saxon Ministry for Regional Development, World Heritage Association for the Ore Mountain Mining Region, Seiffen Municipality, Ore Mountains Open-Air Museum, Ore Mountain Toy Museum Seiffen

European Heritage Volunteers

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