

WHV – Conservation and Valorisation of Industrial and Mining Heritage

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Niederzwönitz), Germany

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2019)

18 - 31 August 2024

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 - Niederzwönitz has been home to a Paper Mill since the 16th century. Since 2019, the museum has also been listed by Germany as an associated component to the UNESCO Mining Region. The innovative water management systems implemented in the Ore Mountains enabled the Paper Mill to efficiently distribute and utilise water resources, contributing to increased productivity and the establishment of a thriving industrial centre. As a result, the Paper Mill in Niederzwönitz stands as a testament to the successful integration of water system technologies into industrial operations, reflecting the region's rich legacy of technological innovation and industrial development. The Project aims to explore heritage conservation approaches addressing challenges posed by the coexistence of historical building structures and hydro-technical installations. The project encompasses various activities, including cleaning, documentation, and reinforcement of the Paper Mill's water canals' bottom, rehabilitation of the embankment of the canal, renewal of an access wooden bridge, and cleaning and documentation of the canal section between the historic water wheel chamber and the end of the above-ground canal's course. Additionally, support for conservation measures on the water wheel and mill technology indoors will also be carried out. All conservation efforts will be guided by experts affiliated with the museum, ensuring authenticity and sustainability through the reuse of existing materials wherever feasible

PARTNERS - Saxon State Office for the Conservation of Monuments, Saxon Ministry for Regional Development, World Heritage Association for the Ore Mountain Mining Region, Papiermühle Niederzwönitz Technisches Museum

European Heritage Volunteers

Dr. Bert Ludwig

info@heritagevolunteers.eu

