

WHV – Analysis and conservation of wall paintings from Renaissance and 19th century

Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region (Schloss Lauenstein), Germany

PROJECT DATES

Cultural property inscribed on the World Heritage List (2019)

21 July - 03 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 - The project is a continuation of the work that began in the previous year's World Heritage Volunteers action camp 2023 in Castle Lauenstein, and it aims to combine practical interventions to rehabilitate elements of a building complex that served as an important administrative centre which was focal to the historical development of the Ore Mountains, with awareness-raising actions that will provide an opportunity for heritage education to the volunteers, while promoting volunteering for heritage to the general public.

ACTIVITIES - The project will take place at a historical castle that belonged to the von Büнау Family, who made their fortunes through the wealth of mining in the region. The castle, which has a long history of significance in the mining region since at least the 13th century, today hosts the Eastern Ore Mountains Museum and is a component belonging to the World Heritage property. The volunteers will be assisting to carry out urgently needed interventions involving research, fixation and conservation work on Renaissance wall paintings and research and fixation of deteriorated 19th century wall-paintings. The work will be guided by expert restorers that will provide a responsible overview while allowing for any volunteer to learn and practice the process. The volunteers will in addition take part in guided tours, lectures and an excursion where they will engage with members of the local community and further explore the historic progress and developments that made this landscape a World Heritage site.

PARTNERS - Saxon State Office for the Conservation of Monuments, Saxon Ministry for Regional Development, World Heritage Association for the Ore Mountain Mining Region, Eastern Ore Mountains Museum Schloss Lauenstein

European Heritage Volunteers

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