



ReSource Resolution

**Post-mining Policy Requests for Pro-active
Development of Post-mining Regions in Europe**



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Specific Policy Requests

In the transnational project ReSource, Central European mining regions supported by competent scientific institutions investigated selected aspects that can be relevant for pro-active post-mining development. We would like to draw attention to following specific policy requests derived from studies, seminars, and conferences within ReSource:

Fostering Post-Mining Renewable Energy Production

Our investigations – in accordance with related EU projects, e.g. MINEWATER (INTERREG IIIC), Remining LOWEX (FP6-CONCERTO), Ben (IEE) – suggest significant potentials for geothermal energy from mine water and biomass cultivation on mining affected land in Central Europe, which is so far exploited only rudimentary. Even though these mining-specific types of renewable energy have to be regarded as niche products from a national point of view, they can obtain great local or regional importance. Mine water can become a worthwhile additional or alternative source to conventional geothermal energy. Former mining areas and industrial brown fields can supplement or replace agricultural land used for biomass cultivation and thus contribute to de-escalate the ‘food-fuel’ discussion.

However, these sources of renewable energy have received only little attention by policy makers yet resulting in shortcomings in terms of funding, reflection in policies, organisational and legal support. Given this background, we request that following measures are taken up on national and European levels:

Post-mining renewables in general

1. **Increasing public awareness** of the energy resources ‘mine water’ and ‘biomass on mining and industry affected land’ through intensified publicity by the European Union and countries in Central Europe, including integration in European and national energy policies and action plans;
2. **Funding of research efforts** for improving efficiency of geothermal energy production from mine water and of biomass cultivation on areas affected by mining as well as industrial brown fields;
3. **Promotion of post-mining renewables** through national and European programs which explore options of and specific conditions for regenerative energy production or energy storage in former mining areas, e.g. biomass, geothermal energy, wind power, solar energy, pump storage;

Geothermal energy from mine water

1. **Establishing suitable legal and institutional framework conditions** in the Central European countries as a basis for wider geothermal use of mine water;
5. **Installation of appropriate funding structures** for investments in pilot mine water geothermal energy plants and related infrastructure;

6. **Establishment of a competence centre** for mine water geothermal energy in Central Europe, preferentially at a designated research institution in the vicinity of existing pilot plants;
7. **Initiation of a survey and economic evaluation** of mine water locations potentially usable for geothermal energy extraction in the countries of Central Europe, e.g. within the program 'Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE)';

Biomass production on land affected by mining

8. **Clarification of the legal and funding status** of biomass cultivation on land affected by mining or industries, including recognition of minimum equal eligibility compared to agricultural land;
9. **Creation of suitable legislative framework conditions** for the utilisation of biomass cultivated on contaminated soils;
10. **National support in coordinating the utilisation of biomass** from industrial brown fields and from areas affected by mining;
11. **Collection and exchange of experiences** on national and European scales regarding cultivation and utilisation of biomass from areas affected by mining or from industrial brown fields.

Valorising Cultural Post-Mining Potentials

Our investigations – in accordance with related EU networks, e.g. European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) – suggest that material and immaterial mining heritage such as railways, museums, and traditions can be used for shaping attractive tourist destinations as well as for changing image and perception of post-mining regions.

However, basic infrastructures for exploiting tourism potentials are often missing. Moreover, regional attitudes towards tourist service and quality are difficult to adapt; finally, lacking financial resources are hindering respective development. One of the major problems is the image of mining regions as places of pollutive industrial production, which is a distinct disadvantage in the highly competitive tourism market.

Removing these obstacles and developing the mining cultural heritage to its full tourist potential needs a strong regional determination. However, advancing the reputation of post-mining areas and creating jobs in the tourism sector can only be successful with appropriate support from European and national political levels. In that respect, existing funding policies have to be regarded as still inadequate. Conceptual, organisational, and legal deficits remain. Therefore, we call on national and European policy makers to implement following transnational relevant measures:

1. **Promotion of transnational networks, routes, and festivals of mining culture** by the European Union and Central European countries, including their integration into European and national tourism policies;

2. **Tailor-made support to establish a common European platform** for mining routes and festivals in Central Europe aiming at image change of mining regions;
3. **Support of projects through national and European programs** which investigate innovative and experimental ways of mining-related tourism;
4. **Installation of procedures to overcome obstacles** such as property rights, insurance issues, or rival interests with actors outside of tourism, which hamper full exploitation of selected post-mining potentials for tourism.

Applying Integrative Approaches in Post-mining Development

As the challenges in post-mining regions are usually complex, large, and long-term, integrative approaches comparing respectively utilising different potentials have proved more successful than sector-based policy making.

Different integrative planning modes were tried out in ReSource. It has shown that a deliberate choice can bring creativity and innovation into regional development processes, and at the same time provide tailor-made solutions for each place. Such tested approaches were amongst others scenario workshops, master planning, and architectural competitions.

Based on the project results, we recommend implementation of following measures:

1. **Improving legislative framework conditions** of planning laws for former mining land, e.g. by compulsory master plans that describe development and rehabilitation objectives - to be set up jointly by all relevant regional stakeholders ideally already before active mining ends;
2. **Privileged access to funds** for post-mining regions, particularly for supporting application of integrative development and rehabilitation approaches including implementation of investments derived therefrom;
3. **Strengthening organisational capacities** in post-mining regions through setting up of management bodies that facilitate networking processes and pursue coherent, long-term, and innovative planning;
4. **Clear identification of roles and responsibilities** among stakeholders involved in the post-mining transition process; especially ensuring that land owners cooperate with local and regional authorities not only regarding rehabilitation aspects, but also revitalisation initiatives;
5. **Involving affected communities** already in early stages to achieve transparency in creating and implementing post-mining visions and plans;
6. **Fostering transnational exchange** on post-mining issues among affected regions through European and national funding programs.