

Case 2

● HU-Salgótarján: Steelworks, Acélgyári út & Jónástelep

Location: Salgótarján, Nógrád County, Hungary

Type of site: Industrial complex and housing colony

Size: Approx. 100 ha (steelworks zone + adjacent neighbourhoods)

Ownership: Mixed public-private; several industrial parcels under intractable ownership

Main legacy: Steel production (Rimamurány-Salgótarján Works)

Period of activity: 1868-1993

Main challenges: Contamination, social exclusion and decline, ownership fragmentation

Priority of cluster relevance: Economy & Reuse, Public Space & Housing, Green

Development, Heritage & City Image

Historical Overview

The Rimamurány-Salgótarján Steelworks shaped the city's identity for more than a century. At its peak, the plant employed thousands and gave rise to two key neighbourhoods: Acélgyári út (avenue of workers' block of flats) and Jónástelep (traditional workers' neighbourhood). Following closure in 1993, the once vibrant industrial heart became a brownfield void - a physical and social gap within the city.

Present Condition

Large factory halls stand derelict or partially reused for storage. Public spaces along Acélgyári út are degraded; former service buildings and cultural halls lie empty.

Jónástelep's housing suffers from poor maintenance, energy poverty, and limited municipal investment. Social exclusion, particularly among low-income and Roma residents, reinforces territorial stigma.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Salgótarján - responsible for urban planning and brownfield regeneration strategy.
- Local NGOs & cultural institutions - organize micro-events and community activities.
- Regional Development Agency - coordinates potential Just Transition funding alignment.

Key Insights

Salgótarján exemplifies how social and spatial inequalities intersect in postindustrial settings. Reintegrating housing and public space with ecological corridors and cultural reuse offers a path toward inclusive recovery.

Community participation and small-scale interventions could demonstrate that regeneration starts with reactivation – turning neglected courtyards and parks into

Leverage Points	Lessons Learned	Transferable Tools
Housing renewal linked to green corridors	Environmental and social repair are interdependent	Socio-ecological regeneration models
Temporary cultural reuse of industrial halls	Culture reconnects citizens to identity	Industrial heritage mapping methods
Micro-grants for resident-led projects	Local ownership reduces stigma	Participatory public-space co-design models



Former industrial buildings of the Salgótarján Steelworks, framed by overgrown vegetation and disused rail tracks

Photo: Gergely Papp / PAD

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