

# Case 11

## ● PL-Ustrzyki Dolne: Fanto Oil Refinery & Cultural Heritage Centre

**Location:** Ustrzyki Dolne, Bieszczady Region, Poland

**Type of site:** Industrial heritage complex - oil refinery

**Size:** ~3 ha

**Ownership:** Municipal

**Main legacy:** Early 20th-century petroleum processing (Fanto company)

**Period of activity:** 1885 - 1980s

**Main challenges:** Structural degradation, partial contamination, limited economic base

**Priority of cluster relevance:** Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse

### Historical Overview

Located in the heart of the Galician oil region, the Fanto Refinery was once part of Europe's oldest petroleum network. After closure, the site was abandoned until municipal authorities and EEA Funds initiated a revitalisation project (2021-24).

### Present Condition

Several brick warehouses and processing buildings have been restored and converted into the Bieszczady Cultural Heritage Centre, hosting exhibitions, educational programmes, and craft markets. Remaining structures await funding for reuse.

### Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Ustrzyki Dolne - lead applicant and owner
- University of Rzeszów - research and documentation
- European Grants - main funding
- Local NGOs - volunteer programming and heritage promotion

### Key Insights

Ustrzyki Dolne proves that industrial memory can be a driver for rural revival. Adaptive reuse builds cultural capital and tourism while preserving technical heritage. The project illustrates how international funding can support local identity and function change.

## Leverage Points

Cultural reuse  
of industrial site

Community events at site

## Lessons Learned

Tourism and education  
sustain heritage

Participation creates  
continuity

## Transferable Tools

Heritage reuse models for  
small towns

Heritage based cultural  
programming



The former cooperage building in Ustrzyki Dolne, now renovated as the Bieszczady Cultural Heritage Centre.

Photo: Łukasz Bajda / Bieszczady Cultural Heritage Centre

Part of the project **Revitalizing Postindustrial Peripheries** (PAD Foundation, 2025)

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