

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