PAD

Visegrad Fund

POSTINDUSTRIAL REGENERATION

IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE

→

Case Studies:
A Comparative Assessment
of 13 Sites Across the Region

University of Rzeszów

Spolka

UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA
FACULTY OF ARTS

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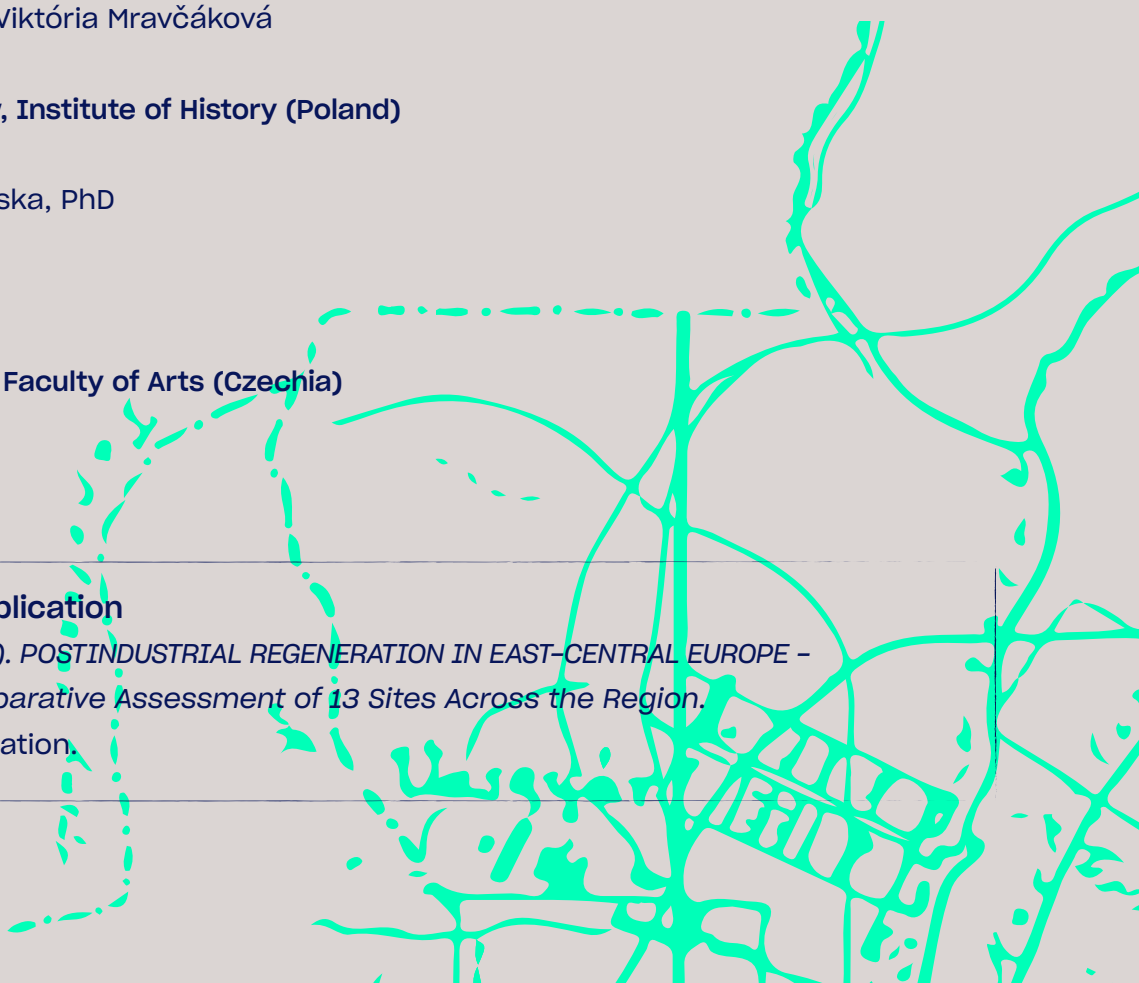
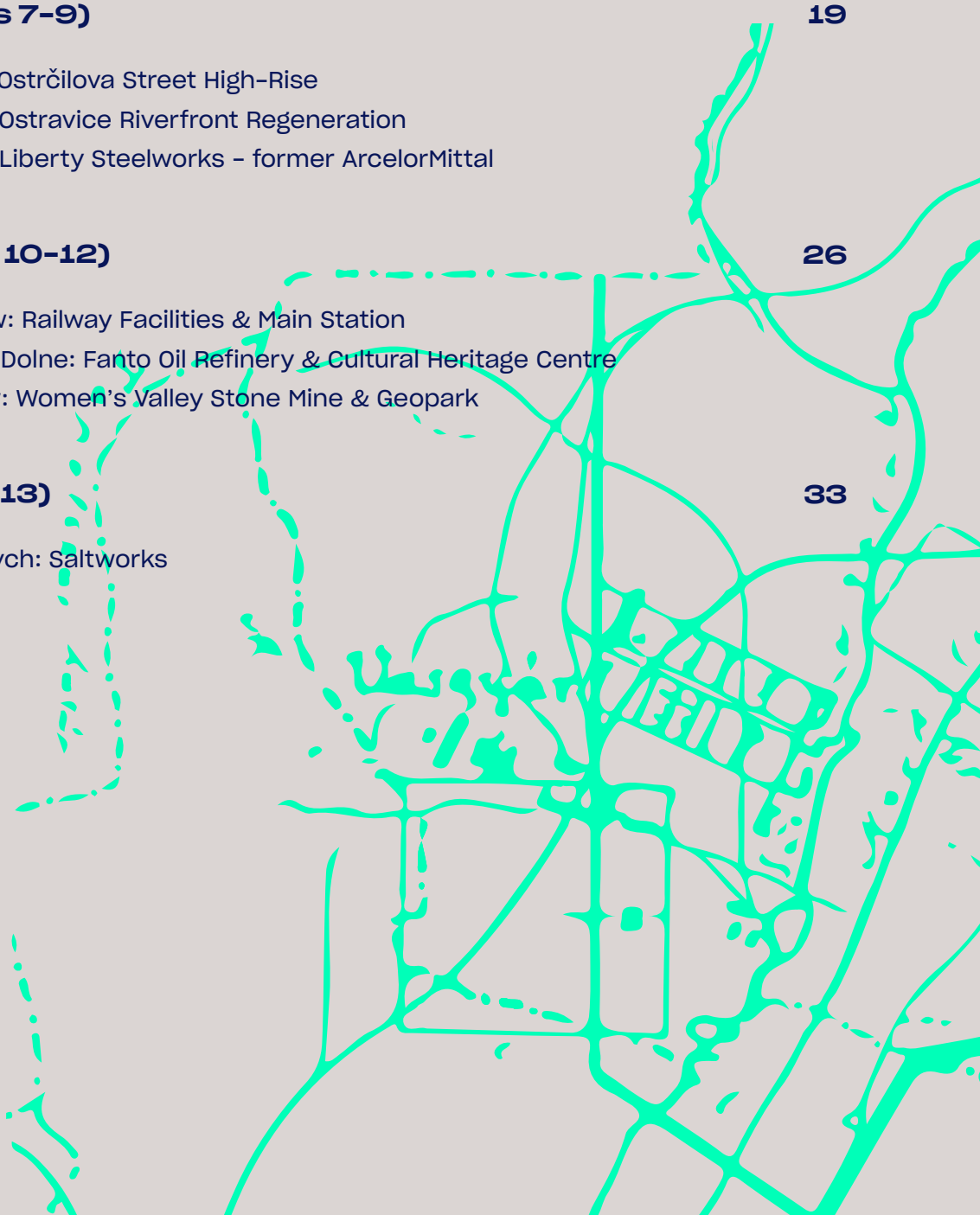


Regional Cases



About the Case Studies

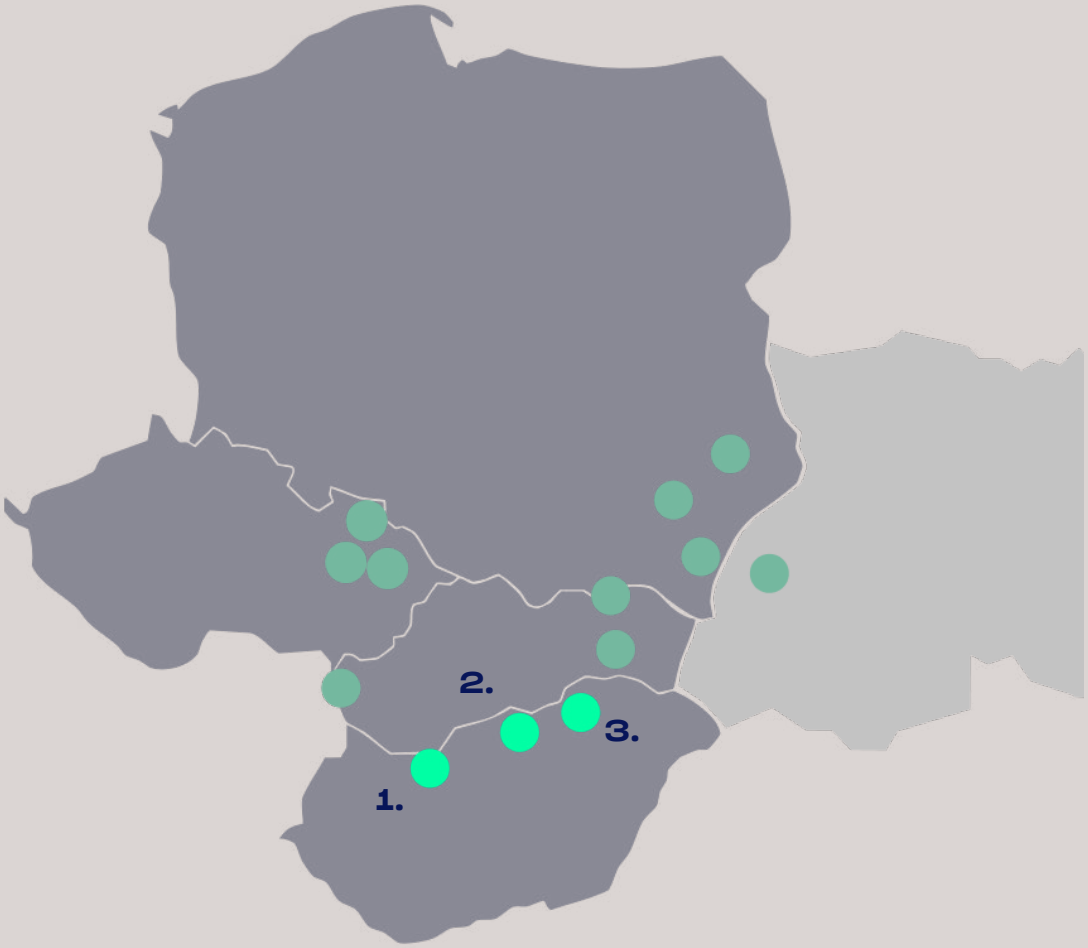
This publication brings together a selection of postindustrial case studies from across East-Central Europe, spanning former mines, quarries, steelworks, industrial districts, and associated housing areas. The cases document diverse local conditions shaped by industrial legacies, environmental pressures, and changing governance contexts.

Rather than presenting finished solutions or best practices, the case studies highlight ongoing challenges, emerging trajectories, and site-specific potentials for regeneration. They are intended to be read comparatively and selectively, as reference material supporting the framework and methodological reflections developed in the accompanying publication *Adaptive Regeneration: An East-Central European Framework for Postindustrial Transformation.*

For the full framework and methodology, see:
Adaptive Regeneration: An East-Central European Framework for Postindustrial Transformation
Available at: www.postindustrial.network

HUNGARY

1. Tatabánya: Stone Quarry & Mésztelep Neighbourhood
2. Salgótarján: Steelworks, Acélgyári út & Jónástelep
3. Miskolc: Diósgyőr Ironworks



Case 1

HU-Tatabánya: Stone Quarry & Mésztelep Neighbourhood

Location: Tatabánya, Komárom-Esztergom County, Hungary
Type of site: Extractive landscape + social periphery
Size: Approx. 60 ha (quarry area + adjacent neighbourhood)
Ownership: Public housing, global companies' owned local factories and existing quarry sites
Main legacy: Former stone quarry, miners' housing, industrial infrastructure
Period of activity: 1900-1990s
Main challenges: Environmental degradation, social segregation, fragmented land, stigma
Priority of cluster relevance: Public Space & Housing, Green Development, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

The Tatabánya quarry formed part of Hungary's twentieth-century mining and heavy industry landscape. Adjacent to it, Mésztelep developed as a miners' neighbourhood with simple housing, lacking services and green infrastructure.
After industrial closure, both areas faced abandonment: the quarry reforested spontaneously, while Mésztelep became one of the city's most deprived Roma-majority neighbourhoods.

Present Condition

The quarry edge today is a patchwork of brownfield parcels, informal dumps, and spontaneous vegetation. Mésztelep is one of the city's most deprived segregated neighbourhoods, marked by substandard housing, poverty, and increased environmental exposure. Environmental exposure and social exclusion overlap, making this site emblematic of "double deprivation."

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Tatabánya - urban planning authority, responsible for brownfield regeneration.
- Economic facilities - industrial park and small manufacturing companies on site.
- Charity organisations - social work and community space provision, actors necessary for participatory processes.

Key Insights

The site demonstrates how environmental and social challenges can be tackled together through design-led methods.
Socio-ecological regeneration models, e.g. community forest-garden concept could connect ecological regeneration with community well-being: creating a multi-layered

landscape for food production, recreation, and microclimate improvement. Tatabánya's case shows that low-cost, participatory approaches can deliver tangible climate and social benefits even where large-scale investment is absent.

Leverage Points

Municipality-NGO partnership enables innovation

Small-scale actions unlock systemic impact

Integration of housing and green planning

Lessons Learned

Ecological repair can also repair social wellbeing

Participation creates ownership

Multifunctionality increases funding potential

Transferable Tools

Community forest-garden regeneration concepts

Postindustrial neighbourhood participatory mapping methods

Socio-ecological regeneration models

Workers' housing at the foot of the Tatabánya quarry, where everyday residential life unfolds in the shadow of the mined escarpment
Photo: Barnabás Neogrády-Kiss / PAD

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

Housing renewal linked to green corridors

Temporary cultural reuse of industrial halls

Micro-grants for resident-led projects

Lessons Learned

Environmental and social repair are interdependent

Culture reconnects citizens to identity

Local ownership reduces stigma

Transferable Tools

Socio-ecological regeneration models

Industrial heritage mapping methods

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

Case 3

HU-Miskolc: Diósgyőr Ironworks

Location: Miskolc, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Hungary
Type of site: Heavy industrial complex and workers' neighbourhood
Size: Approx. 120 ha
Ownership: Mixed - private industrial parcels owned by small local companies, municipal areas
Main legacy: Steel and armament production (Diósgyőr Ironworks)
Period of activity: 1868-1990s
Main challenges: Contamination, social exclusion, fragmented reuse, degraded infrastructure
Priority of cluster relevance: Green Development, Economy & Reuse, Public Space & Housing, Heritage & City Image

Historical Overview

Founded in 1868, Diósgyőr Ironworks was one of Hungary's major metallurgical centres, symbolising both monarchic and socialist-era industrial pride.
After 1990, economic restructuring led to massive job losses and partial demolition.
Only small metallurgical and mechanical workshops remain, scattered among derelict structures.
Adjacent to the plant, the workers' neighbourhood – once a model settlement – now faces poverty and marginalisation.

Present Condition

The area is characterised by large brownfields, fenced parcels, and informal green zones emerging through natural succession. Illegal dumping and soil contamination persist.
The Szinva stream, flowing near the site, offers ecological potential but requires remediation. Residents of the former workers' neighbourhood depend on informal networks and lack access to quality public space.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Miskolc - manages integrated urban development and climate strategy.
- NGOs with regional focus - conducted research on postindustrial inequalities and ecological justice, focusing on structural changes.
- University of Miskolc - plans of an urban knowledge centre on site, with corporate collaborations.
- Small local private owners - partially reuse halls for logistics and small production.

Key Insights

Miskolc demonstrates that brownfield regeneration is an ecological process as much as an economic one. Integrating river restoration, green infrastructure, and small-scale

industries could transform the site into a productive ecological corridor.
The neighbourhood's experience underscores the need for multi-functional land-use planning linking circular economy, climate adaptation, and social equity. circular economy, climate adaptation, and social equity.

Leverage Points

River corridor as regeneration spine

Partnership between companies & university

Small-scale reuse of industrial halls

Lessons Learned

Environmental recovery attracts investment

Data-driven planning builds credibility

Incremental redevelopment avoids displacement

Transferable Tools

Blue-green infrastructure strategies

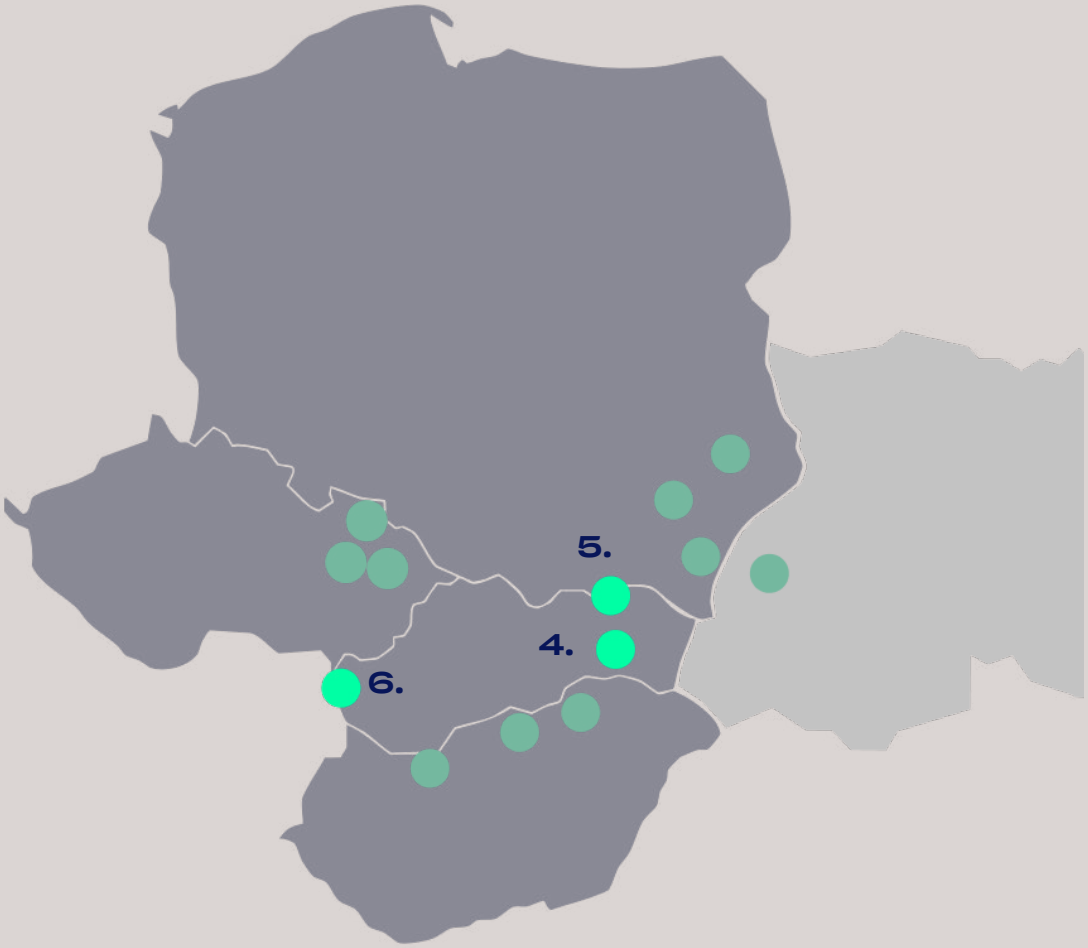
University-corporate partnership models

Participatory planning supported by iterative feedback cycles

Abandoned structures of the Miskolc Ironworks, with cooling towers and disused industrial halls gradually overtaken by scrub and pioneer species
Photo: Gergely Papp / PAD

SLOVAKIA

4. Košice-Šaca: Steel District Transformation
5. Veľký Šariš: Steam Mill Regeneration
6. Bratislava: Istrochem plant & Žabí Majer Garden Community



Case 4

SK-Košice-Šaca: Steel District Transformation

Location: Košice-Šaca District, Eastern Slovakia
Type of site: Heavy industry + socialist housing estate
Size: approx. 800 ha industrial zone + 100 ha residential area
Ownership: Mixed - U.S. Steel Košice (global company), municipal land, small private plots
Main legacy: Integrated steel production, socialist model settlement
Period of activity: 1959-present (privatised 2000)
Main challenges: Air and soil pollution, derelict infrastructure, fragmented ownership, low civic inclusion, peripheral stigmatization: industrialised suburbs with poorer amenities.
Priority of Cluster relevance: Green Development, Public Space & Housing, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

The Šaca district evolved from an agricultural landscape into Slovakia's largest steel-production complex, built as a flagship of socialist industrialisation.
The creation of the VSŽ Steelworks (now U.S. Steel Košice) in the 1960s reshaped local geography – new prefabricated housing estates, transport corridors, and service centres emerged. After 1990, production declined, and privatisation brought partial modernisation but also fragmentation and contamination.

Present Condition

Today, Šaca remains an active but shrinking industrial area surrounded by partially neglected and gradually declining industrial areas and their unused spaces and infrastructures, as well as ageing housing estates and hotels
Only a fraction of land is reused; most remains vacant or underutilised.
Residents experience environmental exposure, limited mobility options, and decaying public spaces once designed for the socialist workforce.
Community life still revolves around the "Steelworkers' Square" and informal green zones near the plant.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Košice-Šaca - local authority for planning and environment.
- U.S. Steel Košice - major landowner and employer as a global extraction company's local plant.
- Regional NGO (Spolka) - project partner coordinating local research and civic engagement.
- Local schools and communities - small-scale cultural and green initiatives.

Key Insights

Šaca demonstrates the double identity of many V4 industrial districts: simultaneously active and declining.
Integrating industrial ecology, housing renewal, and participatory public-space design can turn environmental burden into an opportunity for green transition.
This case highlights how micro-level participation – such as community gardening, informal recreation, and school-based projects – can anchor long-term environmental recovery.
The Šaca district offers affordable housing for young people coming to work in the Košice region, who have the potential to develop this area alongside with locals.

Leverage Points

Cooperative projects with company + community

Participatory green mapping of housing estates

Lessons Learned

CSR partnerships can fund public improvements

Citizen data improves planning legitimacy

Transferable Tools

Public-private stewardship models

Community green audit practices

Everyday life in a housing block courtyard in Saca, where informal practices and shared outdoor spaces reflect the social textures of a postindustrial neighbourhood.
Photo: Diana Kakara Dobrescu

Case 5

SK-Veľký Šariš: Steam Mill Regeneration

Location: Veľký Šariš, Prešov Region, Slovakia
Type of site: Industrial heritage building (steam mill)
Size: ~20.5 ha plot, approx. 23 300 square meter floor space area
Ownership: Municipal (since 2020)
Main legacy: Grain milling and regional trade
Period of activity: 1868-1990s
Main challenges: Structural decay, lack of function, limited funding
Priority of cluster relevance: Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

Founded in 1858, the Veľký Šariš Steam Mill was among the most important industrial sites in Eastern Slovakia.
In 1984, when it became a national cultural monument, it had been one of the most important businesses in the region for almost 150 years.
The mill in Veľký Šariš went from ambitious beginnings through periods of boom and crisis related to fires and fierce competition from America to a gradual decline that even modernization and changes in ownership couldn't stop.
In 2020, the municipality purchased the building with plans to redevelop it into a multifunctional cultural and community centre.

Present Condition

The dominant seven-storey building, though structurally stable, remains closed due to safety risks. Surrounding areas serve mainly for transit; public access is minimal. Currently, some buildings in the complex are maintained from the outside, mainly the service buildings of the original mill near the entrance to the complex.
The project concept envisions combining cultural, social, and small-business uses – creating a local landmark and catalyst for urban revitalisation.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Veľký Šariš - owner and initiator of the redevelopment.
- Regional NGO (Spolka) - provided research on adaptive reuse and civic involvement.
- Regional heritage authorities - oversee conservation compliance.
- Community associations - involved in early consultations.

Key Insights

Veľký Šariš demonstrates that small-town heritage can anchor multifunctional regeneration when ownership and local vision align.
Municipal acquisition was a turning point: transforming a decaying industrial site into a civic asset. The challenge now lies in aligning cultural programming with economic sustainability

Leverage Points

Municipal ownership of heritage

Mixed-use cultural programming

Phased restoration funding

Lessons Learned

Public control enables integrated planning

Balance between tourism & community function

Incremental investment ensures continuity

Transferable Tools

Adaptive reuse for buildings checklists

Models for small-town cultural hubs

Municipality adaptive heritage budget allocation

Rural settlement near the former Šarišský Mlyn industrial site, where agricultural plots and residential houses coexist with the decaying multi-storey mill building in the background.
Photo: Viktoria Mravčáková / Spolka

Case 6

SK-Bratislava: Istrochem plant & Žabí Majer Garden Community

Location: Rača District, Bratislava, Slovakia
Type of site: Chemical industry brownfield and garden neighbourhood
Size: approx. 150 ha
Ownership: Fragmented (private local industrial firms + city parcels)
Main legacy: Chemical production (Istrochem)
Period of activity: 1948–1990s
Main challenges: Soil and water contamination, informal uses, unclear responsibility
Priority of cluster relevance: Green Development, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

Originally a wetland and garden landscape known as Žabí Majer ("Frog's Meadow"), the area was industrialised during socialism for chemical production by Istrochem.
By the 1980s, pollution levels were among the highest in Bratislava.
After privatisation, parts of the plant closed, while the garden neighbourhood survived along its edges, maintaining traces of the earlier landscape.

Present Condition

Today, Žabí Majer and Istrochem complex is a hybrid landscape – part derelict industrial area, and part thriving informal garden community, supporting informal social interaction and the everyday life of marginalised communities, alongside diverse species.
Despite contamination, residents continue to cultivate small plots, practice rainwater harvesting, and maintain informal paths.
The contrast between toxic legacy and everyday stewardship makes the site unique in Central Europe.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Bratislava – Rača District – planning and environmental supervision.
- Regional NGO (Spolka) – led documentation and engagement with local gardeners.
- Local gardening associations – active self-management structures.

Key Insights

Žabí Majer reveals how informal stewardship can coexist with contamination management. While technical remediation remains costly, recognising and supporting community adaptation creates immediate ecological and social value.

This case challenges traditional planning by showing that bottom-up resilience can complement top-down regulation.

Leverage Points

Recognition of informal gardens in policy

Integration of rainwater harvesting

Participatory mapping of contamination

Lessons Learned

Inclusion legitimises grassroots ecology

Small-scale adaptation lowers risk

Citizen science supports remediation plans

Transferable Tools

Community land stewardship frameworks

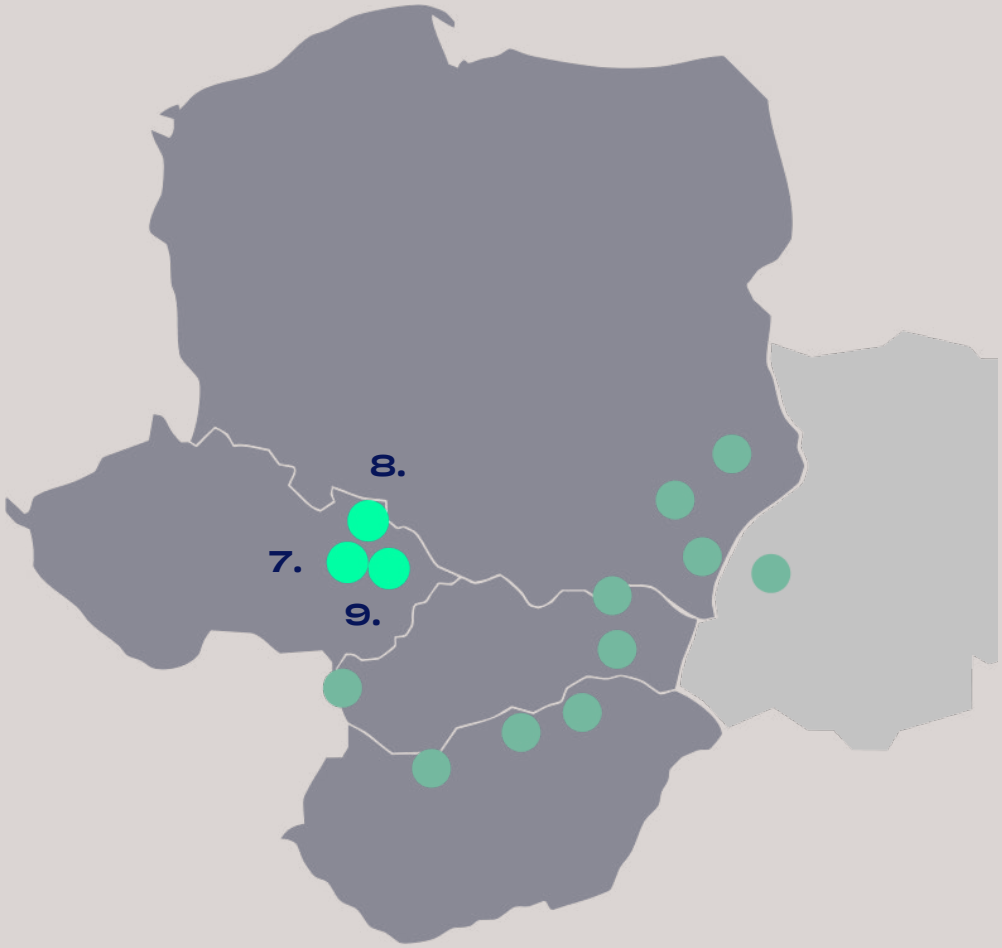
Nature based water retention strategies

Community environmental audit toolkits

Entrance to the former Istrochem industrial site, with disused structures and overgrown vegetation marking the area's postindustrial state.
Photo: Katarína Onderková / Spolka

CZECHIA

7. Ostrava: Ostrčilova Street High-Rise
8. Ostrava: Ostravice Riverfront Regeneration
9. Ostrava: Liberty Steelworks – former ArcelorMittal



Case 7

CZ-Ostrava: Ostrčilova Street High-Rise

Location: Ostrava, Moravian-Silesian Region, Czechia
Type of site: Modernist housing & architectural heritage
Size: Single 16-storey tower + immediate public space
Ownership: Municipal (housing company + city)
Main legacy: Socialist modernist housing (architect Vladimír Dedeček, 1960s)
Period of activity: 1967 - present
Main challenges: Obsolescence, stigma, technical degradation, social isolation
Priority of cluster relevance: Public Space & Housing, Heritage & City Image

Historical Overview

Built in the 1960s as a showcase of modernist living, the Ostrčilova Street high-rise became a symbol of progress and later of decline.
By the 2010s, technical problems, depopulation, and neglect created safety risks and social tensions.
The city initiated a rehabilitation programme in partnership with MAPPA (Municipal Studio of Urban Planning and Architecture).

Present Condition

Renovation transformed the tower into a mixed-use residential and community building, adding shared amenities, a rooftop café, and improved ground-floor public space.
Energy retrofitting cuts emissions by 60 %.
The project reframed the block from a stigmatized relic into a beacon of inclusive modernism.

Governance & Actors

- City of Ostrava - lead coordinator
- Municipality's urban planning company - design & supervision
- University of Ostrava - social research and evaluation
- Local housing cooperative - resident engagement

Key Insights

Ostrčilova proves that socialist-era modernist housing can be adapted, not demolished. Architectural heritage becomes a living asset when paired with energy efficiency, accessibility, and community use.

Leverage Points

Architectural retrofit with social upgrade

Public-private partnership

Lessons Learned

Heritage & inclusion can co-exist

Design quality improves social outcomes

Transferable Tools

Inclusive housing retrofit strategies

Participatory planning

The high-rise residential building in central Ostrava, overlooking a mixed urban fabric shaped by the city's long industrial development.
Photo: Lukáš Mižoch / Wikimedia Commons / CC BY 3.0

Case 8

CZ-Ostrava: Ostravice Riverfront Regeneration

Location: Central Ostrava, Moravian-Silesian Region, Czechia
Type of site: Urban brownfield and waterfront corridor
Size: ~50 ha along the Ostravice River
Ownership: City of Ostrava + private investors
Main legacy: Industrial waterfront + transport infrastructure
Period of activity: 19th - 20th centuries
Main challenges: Pollution, flood risk, disconnection from city centre
Priority of cluster relevance: Green Development, Heritage & City Image, Public Space & Housing

Historical Overview

The Ostravice once served as an industrial artery bordered by factories and rail lines.
Decades of channelisation and contamination severed it from urban life.
From 2015 onward, the city launched a long-term regeneration programme, integrating flood management, green corridors, and public access.

Present Condition

Sections of the riverfront are now rehabilitated with promenades, cycling routes, and cultural spaces reusing former industrial halls.
Biodiversity monitoring shows significant recovery of riparian species.
The project reconnects the city centre with nature.

Governance & Actors

- City of Ostrava - lead design and coordination
- Czech Technical University & University of Ostrava - hydrology and ecology research
- Private regional developers - mixed-use investment
- Local NGOs - community activation

Key Insights

The riverfront project demonstrates how blue-green infrastructure can drive urban identity change. It links climate adaptation, public space, and heritage reuse within one governance model.

Leverage Points

Integrated flood control + recreation

Cross-disciplinary governance

Lessons Learned

Climate resilience boosts liveability

Municipality's in-house design improves coordination

Transferable Tools

Blue-green development strategies

Municipality run urban lab ecosystems

The channelized Ostravice River in central Ostrava, a reminder of the city's industrial reshaping and a potential focus area for future ecological revitalization.
Photo: Csaba Lakócai / University of Ostrava

Case 9

CZ-Ostrava: Liberty Steelworks – former ArcelorMittal

Location: Vítkovice - Kunčice industrial zone, Ostrava, Moravian-Silesian Region, Czechia
Type of site: Heavy industry complex in transition
Size: ~700 ha
Ownership: Liberty Steel Group (private)
Main legacy: Iron and steel production (since 1830s)
Period of activity: 1830s - present
Main challenges: Decarbonisation, job loss, land contamination
Priority of cluster relevance: Economy & Reuse, Green Development

Historical Overview

Ostrava's steelworks anchored Central Europe's metallurgical economy for over 150 years. After privatisation and EU accession, production modernised under foreign ownership, but global market shifts forced restructuring.
Recent EU climate goals and the Green Deal Industrial Plan prompted a transformation toward low-carbon steel production.

Present Condition

The site remains active, employing roughly 2 500 workers.
Parallel initiatives explore circular material use, waste-heat recovery, and industrial symbiosis.
Peripheral brownfields are slated for adaptive reuse in logistics, innovation hubs, and education facilities.

Governance & Actors

- Liberty Steel / GFG Alliance - global steel and mining company
- City of Ostrava - land-use coordination and stakeholder engagement
- University of Ostrava - environmental, urban and labour studies
- Regional government (Moravian-Silesian) - Just Transition coordination

Key Insights

Liberty Steel embodies the region's shift from industrial dependence to industrial innovation. Decarbonisation and circular economy principles redefine production and employment, showing that climate goals can coexist with industrial continuity.

Leverage Points

Collaboration between plant & city

Workforce reskilling programmes

Lessons Learned

Shared planning reduces socio-economic shock

Human capital is key to decarbonisation

Transferable Tools

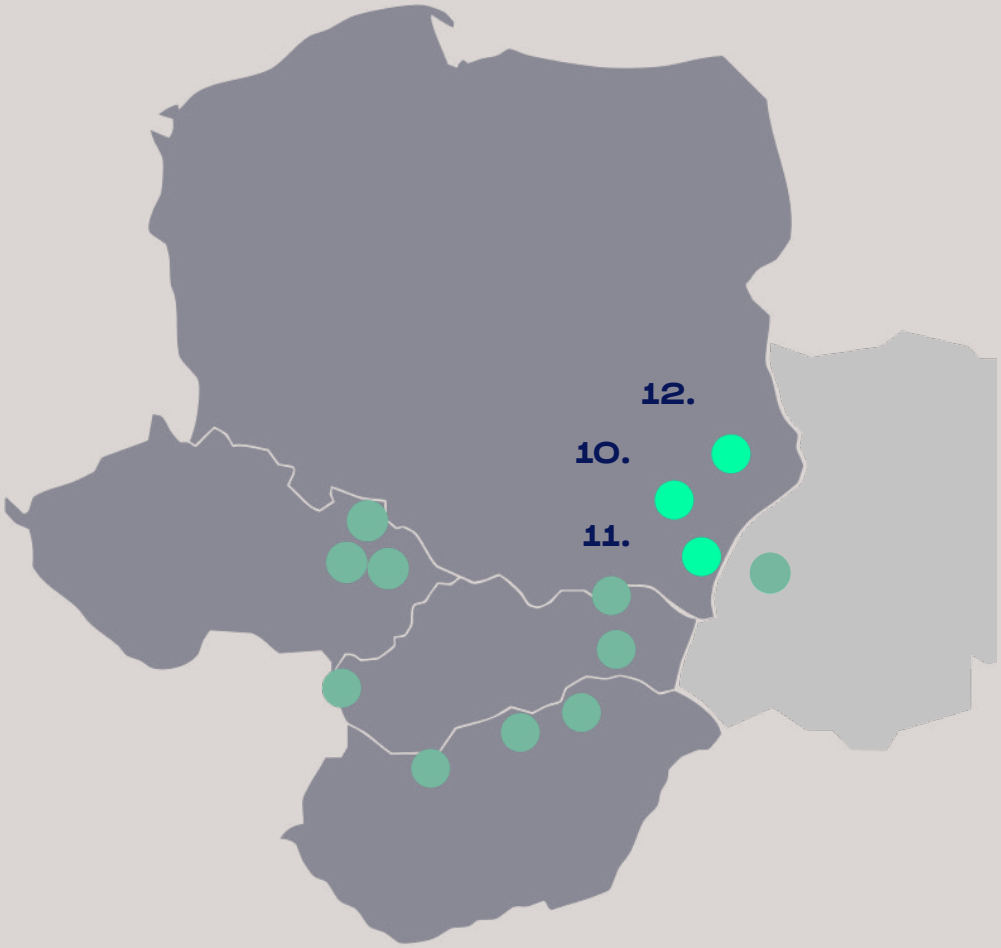
Just energy transition partnership models

Green skills training frameworks

The Liberty Steelworks in Ostrava, a landmark of the city's heavy industrial past and a key site in ongoing postindustrial and environmental transition debates.
Photo: Petr Stefek

POLAND

10. Rzeszów: Railway Facilities & Main Station
11. Ustrzyki Dolne: Fanto Oil Refinery & Cultura
12. Józefów: Women's Valley Stone Mine & Geopark



Case 10

PL–Rzeszów: Railway Facilities & Main Station

Location: Rzeszów, Subcarpathian Region, Poland
Type of site: Transport and technical infrastructure brownfield
Size: ~20 ha (station complex and rail yards)
Ownership: Polish State Railways (PKP) + municipal plots
Main legacy: 19th-century rail hub with workshops
Period of activity: 1858 – present
Main challenges: Fragmented ownership, heritage restrictions, low functional intensity
Priority of cluster relevance: Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse, Public Space & Housing

Historical Overview

Founded in 1858 on the Kraków–Lviv line, Rzeszów developed a dense railway district of workshops and depots. Post-1989 technological change left many facilities idle. Modernisation of the main station (2025) restored its historic fabric and added public amenities such as a library and exhibition spaces.

Present Condition

Core transport functions remain, while adjacent heritage buildings await reuse. Accessibility improved through new pedestrian routes, yet peripheral plots remain disconnected and underutilised.

Governance & Actors

- City of Rzeszów – urban integration and cultural reuse
- University of Rzeszów – heritage analysis
- PKP Real Estate – country-wide railway property management
- Local NGOs – volunteer-run Railway Heritage Museum

Key Insights

Rzeszów shows how mobility infrastructure can become a cultural asset. Integrated planning turns transport nodes into public places that bridge memory and modern use.

Leverage Points

Reuse of technical buildings

Volunteer museum

Lessons Learned

Multi-functionality prevents deterioration

Civic curation builds ownership

Transferable Tools

Manufacturing and repair hub based on local businesses

Community based cultural initiatives

In the abandoned facility complex next to the Main Station, where the former railway turntable and locomotive sheds stand amid rusting infrastructure and emerging vegetation.
Photo: Bartosz Korczyński / University of Rzeszów

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

Case 12

PL–Józefów: Women's Valley Stone Mine & Geopark

Location: Józefów Roztocze Region, Poland
Type of site: Extractive landscape and geo-heritage site
Size: ~15 ha (active and abandoned quarries)
Ownership: Municipal and small private plots within Roztocze National Park buffer
Main legacy: Limestone and sandstone extraction for regional construction
Period of activity: 18th century - 2000s
Main challenges: Landscape erosion, limited economic alternatives, tourism pressure
Priority of cluster relevance: Green Development, Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse

Historical Overview

The "Women's Valley" quarry has supplied stone for centuries, forming the identity of Józefów. After closure, it was incorporated into the Roztocze Geopark network as a geo-heritage and educational landscape. Stone carving festivals and tourism now replace industrial activity.

Present Condition

The site is partially renaturalised with lakes and exposed rock faces. Public paths and educational signage make it a popular destination for visitors and schools. Local craft workshops and eco-tourism provide seasonal income for residents.

Governance & Actors

- **Municipality of Józefów - site management and event organisation**
- **Roztocze Geopark / UNESCO Network - heritage status and branding**
- **University of Rzeszów - landscape and heritage analysis**
- **Local artisans and schools - workshops and education**

Key Insights

Józefów shows how extractive landscapes can evolve into learning and eco-tourism environments. Conservation and small-scale creative economies can coexist when managed collectively. It is a model for turning resource exhaustion into cultural and environmental value.

Leverage Points

Integration into Geopark network

Art and craft events on site

Co-management with schools

Lessons Learned

Label adds visibility and funding

Culture extends tourist season

Education sustains heritage ethos

Transferable Tools

Geo-heritage partnership model

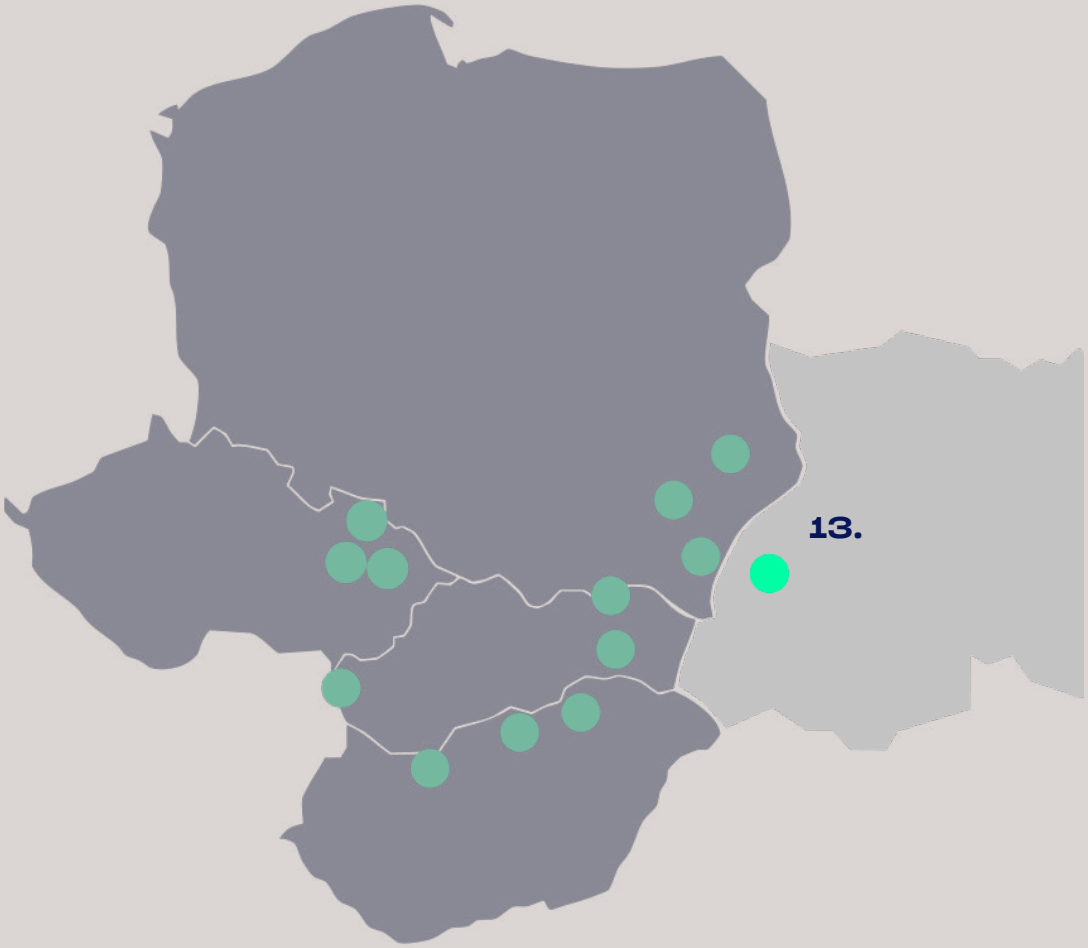
Creative landscape festival toolkit

Eco-tourism learning module

The regenerating sandstone quarry in Józefów, transformed into a semi-natural recreational landscape with trails, panoramic viewpoints and geotourism functions.
Photo: Konrad Kosiorski

UKRAINE

13. Drohobych: Saltworks



Case 13

UA-Drohobych: Saltworks

Location: Drohobych, Lviv Region, Western Ukraine
Type of site: Pre-industrial heritage industry and active production site
Size: ~4 ha (production complex and saline landscape)
Ownership: Municipal and cooperative ownership (community-managed enterprise)
Main legacy: Salt extraction and evaporation, continuous operation since medieval period
Period of activity: 13th century - present
Main challenges: Economic instability, outdated infrastructure, limited funding for preservation
Priority of cluster relevance: Heritage & City Image, Economy & Reuse, Green Development

Historical Overview

The Drohobych Saltworks is one of the region's oldest continuously operating industrial sites. Salt has been produced here since the 13th century using wooden evaporation halls, brine wells, and traditional furnaces.
Under the Austro-Hungarian Empire and later socialism, the saltworks became a regional economic pillar and symbol of identity.
After 1990, production declined drastically, and the site faced neglect, but local cooperatives preserved its unique craft-based methods.

Present Condition

The complex still produces salt using historic wooden infrastructure - a living example of intangible industrial heritage.
Buildings require urgent restoration, yet the craft-based production process remains intact. Community initiatives now link the site to eco-tourism, cultural education, and small-scale bio-energy innovation.
The saltworks attract visitors from across Ukraine and neighbouring countries as a model of sustainable cultural enterprise.

Governance & Actors

- Municipality of Drohobych - heritage protection and promotion.
- Local Salt Cooperative - manages production and employment.
- Cultural Heritage NGOs - develop educational and tourism programmes.

Key Insights

Drohobych demonstrates how continuity of craft can equal continuity of community.
It merges economic activity, cultural identity, and ecological sensitivity in one operational

system. While resources are limited, the site embodies a principle crucial to the broader region and beyond: heritage can still produce value without large-scale capital, when supported by collective efforts.

Leverage Points	Lessons Learned	Transferable Tools
Craft-based production continuity	Living heritage sustains identity	Heritage enterprise manuals
Cooperative governance	Collective ownership maintains viability	Community stewardship framework
Cultural tourism with ecological focus	Small-scale tourism stabilises rural economy	Sustainable heritage tourism toolkits

The deteriorating saltworks building in Drohobych, a reminder of the town's centuries-long extraction economy and the challenges of preserving industrial heritage.
Photo: Natalia Mykhalchenk

POSTINDUSTRIAL REGENERATION IN EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE – Case Studies: A Comparative Assessment of 13 Sites Across the Region.

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