

Czech Republic Mining Association (Tezební unie CZ)

Examples of the successful rehabilitations in the Czech Republic

David Póč

Situation in the Czech Republic

- Existence of a significant number of former mining sites (ongoing mining and extraction activities going on for centuries)
- Reduction of mining and extraction activities after 1990's
- Change of the industry's role both from the position of economic significance as well as from the society's one
- Question of how to handle with different sized mining sites either former or active by national agencies as well as local communities
- Former mining sites do have a significant potential being a positive factor for tourism, areas of higher environmental protection

Geoparks – National level of “Way to go”?

- Recent pivotal national project – system of geoparks; participation of governmental as well as NGO’s organizations (connected by National Geoparks Council of the Czech Republic)
- Geopark term refers to an area that provides a picture of geological development of the Earth and demonstrates the influence the local natural wealth has had on economic and cultural development of the society
- Different sites within particular park are interconnected by marked and publicly accessible trails
- Part of the European Network of Geoparks (established in 2000); some parks part of the UNESCO Geopark Network (Zlate hory)

Geoparks – National level of “Way to go”? (2)

- Outcomes – national coordination based on similar features; involvement of the national agencies; significant importance for tourism and education...
- More proactive role of the mining companies – cooperation with local authorities, with NGOs, with landscape architects
- Support for "Corporate Social Responsibility" as part of each undertaking, which is integral to the modern mining industry
- Participation in different rehaulitation projects' competitions like Green Bridge, Quarry Life Award etc.

Rehabilitation of Cebin quarry

- Excellent example of controlled succession and technical rehabilitation discussed as a way to reach sustainability and most significantly usability of the site; a possibility of direct use by the local community was debated
- Creation of natural amphitheatre with significant potential for use in the form of theatrical and musical performances
- Thanks to project there is an interesting area in the village of Čebín which can be used at any time for various social activities in the open air
- Key to successful project in Cebin – involvement of local community within the rehabilitation project, respect of the area's potential, sustainable development management

Rehabilitation of Cebin quarry (2)

*A theatrical performance natural in the amphitheater in Čebín;
Source: Čebín municipality*



*Bottom of the natural amphitheater in Čebín;
Source: Čebín municipality*

Rehabilitation of Ruzenin quarry

- Significant landscape element, former pit quarry in which limestone was mined mainly in the first half of the 20th century
- At the present “model example” of the fact that mining activities can have a positive impact on biodiversity within the area
- Simple landfill plan changed into new one based on several water surfaces creation and their immediate surroundings populated by a number of plants and animals linked to water habitats
- The site has a great tourist potential especially thanks to a short educational trail that was built in the beautiful quarry scenery
- Key to successful project in Ruzenin quarry – strong cooperation with local NGO (“groundkeeper of the area”); connection with local “education needs”; preservation of unique land mark

Rehabilitation of Ruženin quarry (2)

*Specialized excursion to the
Růženin lom quarry;
Source: Lipka.cz*



*Basic school excursion to the Růženin
Lom quarry;
Source: Basic school in Pozořice*

Creation of bike park in Zacler

- Change of the central mullock heap from the Jan Šverma mine in Žacléř was based on outputs from research centres that collaborated with the Gemec - Union a.s. company (owner of mine site)
- Central mullock heap had to be respected during the composition of the mixture for rehabilitation, but due to exposure to erosion on the pile slopes also during the practical implementation, and therefore it was recommended by the research team to use surface stabiliser for the hydro-sowing technology for the protection of grass seed grain on the soil surface from the water and wind erosion
- At present, the Bike park offers one cross country track, a dual slalom course and a pump track.
- Successful project in Zacler – interesting idea connected with local needs; technical solution; involvement of local partners from the sport clubs

Creation of bike park in Žaclér (2)

*Races on the Heap in
Žaclér;
Source: GEMEC-UNION*



*View of the cross-country track
to the Mound near Žaclér;
Source: GEMEC-UNION*

Tovacov and creation of a fishing “district”

- Four lakes where there still could be found active extraction of gravel sand (certain areas)
- Recultivation is based mainly in sloping the lake shores, grassing of the slopes or planting wood plants there
- Large part of the lakes is included at present to the locality of European significance in the NATURA 2000 system
- The current sandy lakes with the surrounding vegetation represent a significant secondary natural site in the surrounding, mostly intensively cultivated agricultural landscape (water beaver)
- On Tovacov III. and IV. creation of leisure time area (fishing, yachting etc.) – famous fishing region
- Successful project – use of locality potential, cooperation of investor with local and nation NGOs, sustainable management

Tovacov and creation of fishing “district” (2)

View of Tovacov – Troubky Lake;
Source: Českomoravský štěrk,
a.s



View of the nesting site at
Tovačov;
Source: Českomoravský
štěrk, a.s.

Conclusions

- Former as well as active mining sites could have significant benefits for local communities
- Several factors as a key to successful project with necessity to “interconnect” them – involvement of local authorities and NGO, use of the site’s potential, interesting idea, sustainable management etc.
- Situation in Czech Republic – more and more projects respect above mentioned principles

**Thanks a lot for your
attention!**

**Těžební unie
Slavičkova 827/1a
Brno 656 13
Česká republika**

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UNIE**