

Ernest Nagy

3RD READY WORKSHOP 'CONNECTING REHABILITATION&DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPEAN MINING REGIONS'

held 14-15 June 2005 in Chodov, CZ

Guarantors: The city of Chodov (CZ) and the Leibniz Institute of Ecological
and Regional Development in Dresden, (D)

READY project is part of INTERREG IIIB CADSES, Code: 3B054, Lead partner: City of Oelsnitz

Large-scale environmental impacts and urban development problems are a barrier to structural change throughout the mining regions of CADSES. In many cases a monostructured economy, the prevalence of paternalistic structures, the negative image and the persistence of environmental damages with a remaining element of risk require an integrated approach. In addition, mining cities have specialised infrastructures (technical infrastructure, education, health and culture facilities) which have to be adjusted to new requirements.

In structurally weak mining regions the effects of usual development programmes for industrial regions are therefore not sufficient. General problems of old industrialised (and, in most cases, peripheral) areas are increased by the specific problems of long-time mining. That is the reason why considerable external inputs which ought to trigger private follow-up investment are needed to achieve successful structural change in structurally weak mining regions.

READY aims to strengthen the competitive ability of mining cities and mining regions in Central and Eastern Europe by improving their ecological, social and economic situation. It addresses major planning and development issues with special consideration of the situation in Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Germany, Italy and Romania.

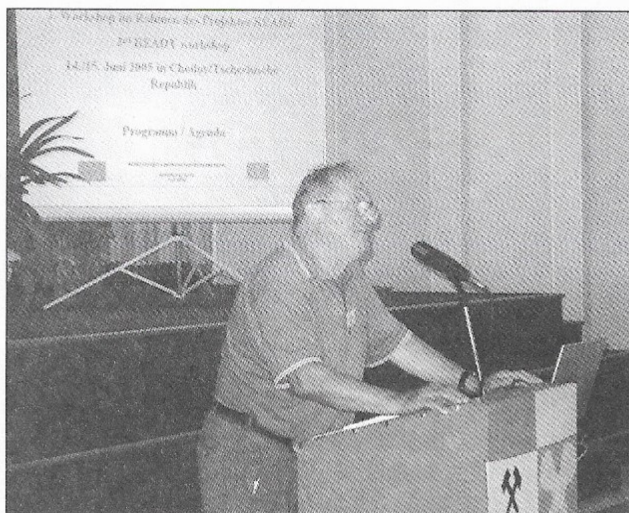
The three main objectives in support of this aim are: providing incentives for structural changes in former mining cities and regions by accomplishing new development perspectives, initiation of a new quality of trans-national mutual co-operation by establishing a high-performance network, and increasing the political attention for disadvantaged mining cities and regions by coordinated actions.

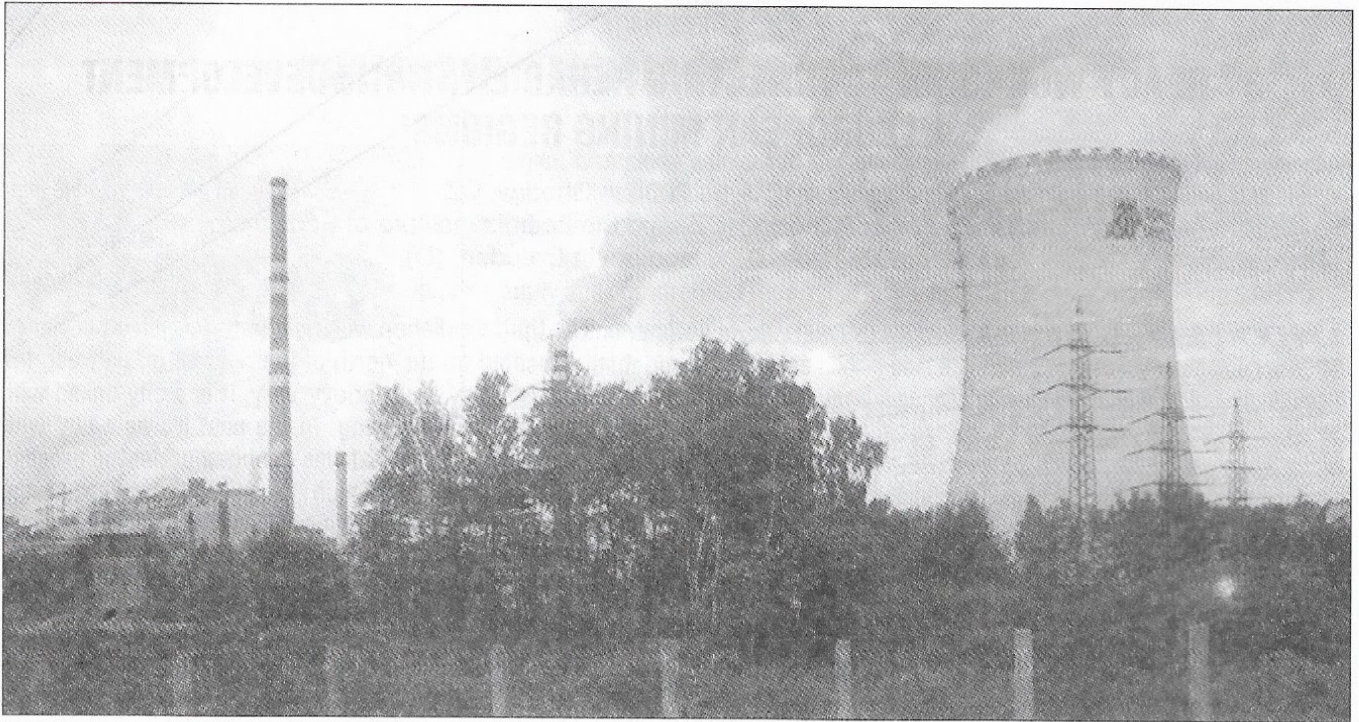
READY includes four types of activities: local activities in the participating cities (integrated development concepts, feasibility studies, small scale investment), intensive international networking (workshops, know-how transfer, discussion of strategies), foundation of a European network of mining cities (including the basis for a common lobby platform) and support for local implementation of strategies and measures through scientific monitoring and coaching by experts (analysis, process monitoring, recommendations).

The third workshop was held in the Czech city Chodov that is located on the north of the river Ohre, between the cities of Sokolov and Karlovy Vary. It is a city linked with mining and manufacturing. In the past it was a city with agricultural character that was changed under the process of industrialisation, which used rich raw material resources, mainly of brown coal and coalin. Mining was followed by china production (in 1811), then by manufacturing (1883) and in 1919 aslo by chemical production.

The workshop was attended by the project partners from the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Germany, Romania, Austria and its southern part of Tyrolia -Upper Adidza. The first day of the workshop was divided into two sessions. The first session was devoted to the problems of the both main participating cities (Oelsnitz, Chodov). The second session was the introduction of the project and its implementation in the participating mining regions of Arnoldstein/EURONOVA, Bad Bleiberg (A), the city of Bozen - Bolsano (I), Chodov and Horni Slavkov (CZ), Bad Schlemma, Hartnstein, Johannegeorgenstadt (D). At the end of this session the field trip to historical mining city of Horni Slavkov, which is in the north part of the nature reserve Slavkovsky les that belongs to Czech massive, rich for raw minerals as ore, wolfram, silver, cupper, gold, led.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to the problems and strategies in the European mining regions in the form of detailed analyses, elaborated in the country reports. The Slovak country report was elaborated by Maroš Finka, Ernest Nagy, Dagmar Petříková and Lubomír Jamečný from the FA STU in Bratislava and presented by





Prof. Maroš Finka. The main problem in Slovakia is that power in redevelopment of mining regions has been shifted from the ministries to municipalities which face major financial problems. A positive element is the establishment of regional associations with the joint requirements. The objective of the READY project is the mutual assistance between the participating organisations, the municipality of Žiar nad Hronom (Ing. P. Mužík), the company Banské projekty, Ltd. (Ing. P. Černík and Ing. N. Badíková), the regions of Upper Nitra and Veľký Krtíš and the regional associations VTÁČNIK (Dr. Ján Cipov) and REVITAL (Ing. Jozef Sauer).

At the end of the 3rd workshop the lead partner of the READY project, the mayor of the city of Oelsnitz/Erzgebirge assessed the significance of the meeting for the redevelopment of former mining regions. This devastated territory is of potential use (after its refurbishment and cultivation) for tourism and recreation, often using geothermal resources. This objective of the project was then discussed at the IV. READY workshop which was taking place 21-23 November 2005 in the Slovak Republic, in the Slovak spa Dudince and in the former mining region of Veľký Krtíš, where the participants have been taken for a field trip and have met with the mayors of the municipalities around to understand the situation in the region.