MINE STORY

Innovative solutions for interpretation, revitalization and tourist promotion of mining technical and cultural heritage in the cross-border area of SI-HR



CALL FOR PAPERS

MINE STORY: International Conference on Sustainable Valorisation and Interpretation of Mining and Industrial Heritage

Dates: 23 – 25 September 2027
Location: Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Pula, Croatia
Organised by: Juraj Dobrila University of Pula

Conference Overview

The **MINE STORY International Conference on Industrial and Mining Heritage**, organised by the **Juraj Dobrila University of Pula**, invites researchers, academics, heritage professionals, urban planners, and digital innovators to submit their latest research, case studies, and project results.

Mining and industrial landscapes are more than remnants of the economic past; they are spaces of strong transgenerational identification for communities and a source of collective memory that transcends national borders.

The project is co-funded by the European Union from the European Regional Development Fund under the Interreg Programme Slovenia – Croatia 2021-2027.

Increasingly, the relic landscapes of mining and associated industries are sites of regeneration and are catalysts for sustainable regional development and cultural cohesion.

This international, cross-disciplinary conference will examine the issues surrounding the sustainable valorisation of industrial sites, the fostering of international networks and the development cross-border cultural routes. It also seeks to explore how digital solutions and innovative technologies can reframe historical narratives and enhance the modern interpretation of mining heritage.

Key Themes and Topics

We welcome abstract submissions addressing the following core thematic tracks:

- **Sustainable Valorisation of Industrial Landscapes:** Revitalization and regeneration of mining regions and industrial sites, brownfield redevelopment and community-led heritage management.
- **Cross-Border Cultural Routes, Tourism Development and Networking:** Transnational industrial heritage trails, cultural routes and cross-border tourism product development.
- **Governance, policies and management of industrial heritage**: Policies for the protection of industrial/mining heritage, institutional and legal frameworks, models of governance and cooperation among local communities, public institutions, and the private sector, participatory approaches to heritage preservation.
- **Industrial Cultures**: The historical and contemporary impacts of mining and industry upon societies, communities and their environments, including labour organisation, the influence of trade unions, cooperatives and political associations, everyday life in mining communities, workers' housing, social welfare and the environmental consequences of industrialisation.
- **Industry and Gender**: Gender-based divisions of industrial labour, gender solidarity in the workplace and in mining communities.
- **Mass-media Representations of Mining and Industrial Production: Large and small screen depiction of mining**: From documentaries to fiction, stereotypes and iconography, literary representations, artistic interpretations of industrial life and journalistic reporting withing the industrial and postindustiral eras.
- **Digital Interpretation and Smart Heritage:** The role of VR/AR, 3D digital modelling, interactive archives, digital storytelling, and AI applications in visualizing and communicating mining history and heritage.
- **Memory, Community and Tangible/Intangible Connections:** Connecting the physical architecture of mining with oral histories, identity, and the intangible heritage social fabric of labour communities.
- **Post-industrial Readjustments:** Processes of industrial closure, worker and settlement relocation, environmental degradation and remediation, landscape renewal and adaptation, stories of decline and renaissance.
- **Green Transition:** Balancing the preservation of industrial heritage with contemporary goals of environmental sustainability and renewable energy integration.

The topics listed above are indicative rather than exhaustive. Contributions addressing related themes and offering interdisciplinary, comparative or innovative perspectives on mining and industrial heritage are also welcome.

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The conference will be followed by **a study visit** to mining sites in the Labin region and the **Mining Heritage Festival**.

About the **MINE STORY Project**: **MINE STORY** is an INTERREG Slovenia – Croatia cross-border project (2026–2028) aimed at revitalising and promoting the mining, technical, and cultural heritage of Labin region (Croatia) and Litija (Slovenia), bringing mining history to life through sustainable valorisation of transnational mining heritage, the development of cross-border cultural routes and innovative digital storytelling.

Submission Guidelines

Authors are invited to submit an abstract of a **maximum of 300 words**, written in English, along with a short biography (up to 100 words) and five keywords.

Please send your submissions (individual paper-panel) to conference organisers by March 10, 2027 at: **mine-story@unipu.hr.**. All proposals will undergo a peer-review process.

Important Dates

- **Abstract submission deadline:** March 10, 2027
- **Notification of acceptance:** May 1, 2027
- **Registration deadline:** July 1, 2027
- **Conference dates:** September 23 – 25, 2027
- **Paper submission:** October 31, 2027

Publication opportunities

Conference papers will be considered for publication in the peer-reviewed conference proceedings volume.

Contact information

For any inquiries regarding the conference and submissions, please contact the organizing committee at:

mine-story@unipu.hr

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