

## A4 Telling the whole story: New conceptual approaches to the understanding of landscapes and community development

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Landscapes – as the German language suggests: Landschaft (schaffen = create) – are the result of an ongoing creation process, influenced by both natural and human factors. They are also an expression of political choices taken over time in the social, economic and environmental fields. To understand landscapes properly, we have to ask: Who 'scaped' the land? why? and what was the context in which that 'scaping' process took place? Heritage is an interpretation by past and present generations on what part of history should be handed on to the next. What we preserve is a selection, depending on values that change through time, place and culture. It is a 'story' we tell, while others remain untold. Heritage work, therefore, should be a public interpretation process, (re-) defining the public value of tangible and intangible heritage and highlighting the active role of communities in the creation, interpretation and valuation processes of their surrounding landscapes.

The session aimed to become a permanent platform to exchange international experiences related to new approaches of landscape understanding. By bringing together people from different professions presenting their respective work and projects, we started a controversial debate on new conceptual approaches to a global understanding of landscapes and on the role heritage work can and should play in tomorrow's regional development strategies in order to contribute to the local community's sustainable development. We also focussed on public interpretation processes of industrial landscapes and on the role tourism on active sites can play to raise awareness for the concerns of an industrial culture. In order to deepen the discussion engaged during the session day in Freiberg, the following day we invited people from this session on a joint field trip to Welzow.

This Lusatian open cast mining community currently experiences a dramatic landscape transformation. In the morning, we enjoyed a trip through the active coal mine with an authentic miner's personnel carrier and experienced a walking-tour through the bizarre mining landscape. We saw that an active coal mine can work as a touristic event, and learnt that our perception of landscape strongly depends on the way we look at it. In the afternoon, invited by Vattenfall Europe Generation, we visited the Industrial Parc 'Black Pump'. The Chief of Energy Economics told us the social and economical story of the site during former GDR times and after the German reunification. We came to understand that Black Pump's Whole Story is in fact made up of two different stories – depending on the specific value systems of the two former German states. That was the culminating point of a really vivid, controversial and inspiring debate: How do different political and societal contexts influence on the public interpretation of industrial heritage?