

THE CASE OF HUNGARY: SIMILAR PROBLEMS, JOINT ACTIONS

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Problems in the identification, protection, conservation, re-use and interpretation of the industrial heritage seem to be very similar in ex-communist countries. The four international workshops on industrial archaeology organised in Romania as well as conferences organised in Russia, Poland, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Hungary all contributed to a better understanding of the industrial heritage in our region, and were of much help to discover problems common for all of our countries, and somewhat special compared to other parts of Europe.

Most experts and enthusiasts of industrial archaeology in Hungary, including members of TICCIH Hungary adopted the aim of TICCIH as to promote international co-operation in the investigation, conservation and presentation of the industrial heritage focusing on the specialities of not only the Hungarian industrial heritage but also that of the whole East Central European region.

Some examples of our activities to achieve this aim:

- In 1999, under the auspices of TICCIH, we organised an international conference on the conservation of the industrial heritage of mining and iron metallurgy in the East Central European

region, with study tours to special sites not only in Hungary but in Slovakia as well.

- In 2001, with the support of the Open Society Foundation, we made a special common inventory of the industrial heritage in Silesia in Poland and the Borsod industrial district in Hungary.

- Also in 2001, with the support of the Phare CBC programme, a common industrial heritage route was elaborated in the northern part of Hungary and the eastern part of Slovakia based on the industrial heritage of mining and metallurgy.

- In 2002, also with the support the Phare CBC programme, a common industrial heritage route was elaborated in the southern part of Hungary as well as in Austria and Croatia on the industrial heritage of the oil industry.

- In 2005, a common declaration was signed in Prague to express the joint interest of Czech, Polish and Hungarian TICCIH committees to improve the level of international cooperation relating to the conservation, documentation, promotion and interpretation of a common European industrial heritage in conformance with the TICCIH Nizhny Tagil Charter.