

PROJECT INFORMATION

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Radiation protection and overcoming the consequences of mining in the Polish region Jelenia Góra



The Jedlica river wears away large amounts of contaminated material during flooding

Foto: G.E.O.S. Freiberg Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH

Background

After the mining of uranium ore in the Jelenia Góra region in southwestern Poland ceased in 1971, shut-down plants were rarely secured. Therefore, many of these sites are in a condition which is dangerous for human health and the environment. In addition to these ecological risks, the contaminated sites have a negative influence on regional development by impeding the development of regional infrastructure, industry and housing, thus affecting the living conditions of the population.

Project

The goal of the project was to identify and evaluate ecological risks to help overcome barriers to development and foster a sustainable and self-supporting development of the region Jelenia Góra.

Through transfer of know-how, especially from the project "contaminated sites registers" initiated by the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS), Polish experts were enabled

to deal with the regional problems independently.

Based on research of historical, ecological and economic data and radiological measurements an analysis of the potential for risks, conflicts and development was conducted and on this basis a concept for sustainable development prepared.

One of the results was a prioritised list of concrete rehabilitation and development measures. The realization of these measures shall lead to a reduction of ecological risks and barriers to development, and support sustainable regional development.

Based on experience gained during the project, an English-language manual providing methodological guidance was elaborated. The manual may be used as a basis for similar investigations in other former mining regions world-wide and is available at <http://www.geosfreiberg.de/news.php>.

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- Project Management: Federal Environment Agency
- German Project Partner: G.E.O.S. Freiberg Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH, www.geosfreiberg.de
- Local Project Partner: Wroclaw University of Technology (WUT)