



European Route of Industrial Heritage

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Zabytkowa Kopalnia Ignacy w Rybniku
Mr. Marek Gołosz
Dyrektor
ul. Ignacego Mościckiego 3
44-273 Rybnik
Poland

Letter of recommendation for Ignacy Historic Mine in Rybnik

Dear Director Golosz,

The Ignacy Historic Mine in Rybnik is a member of ERIH since 2021. For ERIH the site is an outstanding example for the “Conversation and Adaptive Reuse” of former industrial sites.

“Ignacy” is one of the oldest coal mines in Upper Silesia, founded in 1792. After coal mining ceased, the colliery has been open to visitors since 1999. Nowadays „Ignacy” combines the functions of a museum in a modern way with the organisation of cultural events. After the revitalisation works in 2022, the Kościuszko engine room and shaft building have been converted into the core multi-active exhibition “Age of steam”, devoted to steam engines as a source of energy that revolutionized the world.

The most important exhibit is a hundred-year-old steam machine, which visitors can see in action. Another attraction of the mine is the former water tower, which now has turned into a viewing point, offering a panoramic view of the city. The interactive education center is open in the Głowacki engine room. It is the initiative of Copernicus Science Center in Warsaw. The site was not only made attractive for guests and tourists, but also became an important socio-cultural centre for the local population. Here, intergenerational meeting, educational and cultural opportunities are created. There is also a very large recreational area next to the mine with a playground, a garden of experiences and a steam fountain.

Völklingen, 10.10.2023

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All this has led to a high level of identification and appreciation of the location by the population. The restoration and adaption project saved an outstanding above-ground mining complex from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries as well. In our view, the project is not only backward-looking, but has developed a sustainable utilisation concept for future generations.

During the ERIH Board meeting in September 2022 we had the chance to visit and experience the site personally and were deeply impressed by the concept and its implementation.

We fully support the application of the Historic Ignacy Mine for the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards and can highly recommend the site for this award.

Best regards

Prof. Dr. Meinrad Maria Grewenig

President



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