

Regenerating Places, Reimagining Futures

International Conference on Investing in Heritage Revitalisation

When: 23-25 April 2026 **Where:** The Multifunctional Centre, Reșița, Romania

Language: English | Romanian interpretation available

Conference Agenda

Wednesday, 22nd of April	Arrival of participants
Thursday, 23rd April	<p>09.00 -10.30 Tour around the Mociur-Triaj-Valea Țerovei industrial site - A Living Laboratory for BBG Reindustrialisation</p> <p>The Mociur-Triaj-Valea Țerovei area is a 174ha site once occupied by several factories part of Reșița's steel making and processing value chain: the forgery, the iron ore agglomerator, the chemical factory. Completely demolished over the past two decades, this brownfield exemplifies the spatial and governance complexity that the Interreg Danube ReInd-BBG project set out to address: how can degraded post-industrial land be revitalized for new economic activities - following the principle that Brownfield is Better than Greenfield - without consuming new land, while anchoring economic and social renewal in affected communities?</p> <p>The tour offers participants a first-hand encounter with the transformation vision of this ample site and the ongoing public and private investments in mobility, production facilities, public infrastructures and mixed-use retail and residential planned developments.</p> <p><i>Meeting point for tour departure: Multifunctional Center, 40-42 Revoluția din Decembrie Bd, Reșița. Tour details to be communicated by email to all conference participants. Group transport will be provided by the organizers.</i></p>
	<p>10.30 - 11.00 Arrival of participants at the conference venue Multifunctional Center, 40-42 Revoluția din Decembrie Bd, Reșița.</p>
	<p>11.00 - 11.30 Conference Opening by Ioan Popa, Mayor of Reșița Reșița's Challenges of Urban Regeneration</p>

	<p>11.30 – 13.00 Panel #1: Policies and Funding Tools Enabling Visions for Urban Regeneration and Brownfield Reindustrialization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simona Mureșan, Commercial Director, Romanian Bank for Investments and Development: From PPP to Private Equity - How Private Investment Instruments Can Finance Urban Regeneration; • Sorina Răducanu, Commercial Director FEPPRA: Innovation in Funding for Public Investments - Green Bonds and PPPs; • Sorin Dumitru, coordinator of Banat Mountains Integrated Territorial Investments Association; <p><i>Moderator – Marina Batog, co-founder and director of MKBT</i></p>
	<p>13.00-14.00 Lunch break</p>
	<p>14.00 - 15.30 Panel #2: Impact Leadership & Finance - Making Reindustrialization and Brownfield Revitalization Feasible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primož Šporar, High Impact Designer and CEO FUND 2740: Building an impact investment ecosystem to support industrial transition; • Andrei Cosmin Munteanu, Co-Founder and Programs Manager Director Vest Venture: Vest Venture Fund; • Svetlana Kirova, Project Manager The Collective Foundation: The Urban Culture Fund; • Kyle Wiebe, Unleash.org Ambassador: Raising a new generation of changemakers and entrepreneurs for leading feasible regeneration processes. <p><i>Moderator - Zdravko Kozinc, Iskriva</i></p>
	<p>15.30 - 15.45 Coffee Break</p> <p>15.45 - 17.30 Panel #3: Transformation Stories - Industrial Heritage Revitalization Across the Danube Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Adam Hajduga, Vice-president European Route of Industrial Heritage: Transformation story of the “Pokój” steelworks blast furnace, scheduled to open to the public in 2027. • Łucja Zawadzka, Deputy Director for Development at the Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze and Board Member of ERIH: Development of the Coal Mining Museum in Zabrze, Poland • Ilinca Păun Constantinescu, President of Ideilagram Association: The Transformation Story of Petrila Coal Mine, Jiu Valley • Daniela Copaci, Executive Director, Department of Local Development and Investment, Reșița Municipality: Reșița Industrial Heritage Appropriation and Revitalization <p><i>Moderator: Ana-Maria Elian, MKBT</i></p>

	<p>17.30 - 17.40 Closure Remarks & Communication of Programme and Logistics for the Next Day</p> <p>18.00 - 19.00 Guided Tour at the Funicular Bridge Landmark New European Bauhaus project, EU funded investment, inauguration planned for 2028 / 1h. Guided by arh. Bogdan Demetrescu, D Proiect & Daniela Copaci, Reșița Municipality.</p> <p>19.00-21.00 Networking dinner</p>
<p>Friday, 24th April</p>	<p>09.00 - 09.15 Opening: From Pilot Actions to Lasting Change - commentary on New European Bauhaus on the Danube impact and future challenges <i>Mateja Softić and Zdravko Kozinc, Iskriva</i></p> <p>09.15 - 10.45 Panel #4 Multi-Stakeholder Governance Effective brownfield reindustrialisation and heritage revitalization cannot be delivered by public authorities alone. It requires the active involvement of civil society, the business community, academia and citizens - the four pillars of the quadruple helix (4H) approach that underpins the ReInd-BBG methodology. This panel examines how multi-stakeholder governance models have been built, tested and institutionalised in communities across the Danube Region and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mateja Softić, Co-Founder of Institute Iskriva: On the Restored Old Ironworks in Ravne na Koroškem, Slovenia • Ana Schlupp, Executive Director of Banat Mountains Community Foundation: Co-Revitalizing the Factory Glasshouses. Civic Stewardship and Community Governance in Post-Industrial Sites • Andreea Jager Tako, Co-founder of the PLAI Cultural Center and Trans Halle Europe Executive Committee member: Civic and Cultural Activation of Industrial Spaces as a Pathway To Broader Transformations. On AMBASADA • Georgiana Mihailova, Vice-President of CR.EU Metacluster - Beyond the Project Cycle: CR.EU Metacluster as a Model for Lasting Creative-Public Collaboration • Dr. Adam Hajduga, Vice-president of ERIH: On Multi-level Stakeholder Coordination for Regional Routes <p><i>Moderator: Bogdan Suditu, MKBT</i></p>
	<p>10.45 - 11.00 - Coffee break</p>

	<p>11.00 - 11.15 - A vision for Moving Forward - Presentation of the working group sessions.</p> <p>11.15 - 12.45 Workshops WG1 UNLEASH Innovation Workshop: Exploring Revitalization and Regeneration Through Innovation, moderated by Kyle Wiebe and Nina Soraq, UNLEASH.ORG</p> <p>This interactive, innovative workshop provides participants with a glimpse into UNLEASH’s user-centred design methodologies, and the engaging, hands-on activities participants undertake while part of UNLEASH programming. Centred on the themes of revitalization and regeneration, participants will work in teams to learn how to reframe complex problems, identify root causes, and generate bold ideas. By the end of the session, participants will walk away with practical tools for problem framing and ideation, a deeper understanding of how to collaborate across perspectives, and insights into how UNLEASH can help drive your organizations’ strategic goals.</p>
	<p>WG2 Insight into Impact Finance and Investment Readiness - moderated by Fund 2740/Primož Šporar</p> <p>Drawing on the ReInd-BBG and NONA work on financing instruments and PPP models, this group explores practical pathways to improve investment readiness in brownfield sites and reduce the financing barriers that perpetuate land conversion pressure. The workshop will explore pathways to building local impact investment ecosystems to support investments with social impact. The workshop will provide an insight into impact investing and provide tools and steps for impact design and how cities and regions can use them to build local ecosystems supporting socially and environmentally sustainable business models for supporting urban regeneration processes.</p>
	<p>WG3 Cooperation Networks - moderated by MKBT and ERIH</p> <p>We trust that consolidating ecosystems of support is more so important to authorities of smaller constituencies. In this working session we will brainstorm and explore partnership ideas across sectors – public administration, businesses, civil society and academia – inspired by work presented in prior conference sessions. This workshop will build on the Reșita 250 LAB ecosystem experience and ERIH network facilitation example to draw concrete follow-up actions for this conference.</p>
	<p>13.00 - 13.30 Conclusions and Closing Remarks</p>
	<p>13.30 - 15.00 Lunch break & networking</p>

	<p>15.00 Departure to Guided Tours (organized transport, by bus)</p> <p>15.30 - 18.00 Sparking Inspiration! Guided tours. Walk through discoveries of Reșița’s remarkable industrial heritage sites undergoing transformation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group 1: A guided discovery of the old UCMR site - a 30-ha estate including historical warehouses, factory management protocol villas, bunkers, and the factory glasshouses in process of being reclaimed and opened to the community in a public-civic effort. ● Group 2: A dive into Reșița’s steelworks and blast furnace site. Reșița is proud to be one of just two steel production centres in nowadays Romania, with steel being produced here continuously since 1771. This tour offers a unique opportunity to an otherwise active production site to discover Reșița’s outstanding history of steel production, currently operated by Artrrom Steel Tubes SA. The Blast Furnace No. 2, a listed heritage monument, is prospected for a major industrial heritage restoration and functional conversion project, envisioned to be kicked off with ITI support. <p>Tour details are communicated via email to all those that filled in the conference registration form. Those who participate in Group 2 can opt to continue the tour to the old UCMR site (following the same route as Group 1).</p>
<p>Saturday, 25th April</p>	<p>09.00 - 13.00 Sparking inspiration! – Guided Tours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Group 1: Exploring the coal mining heritage of Anina – guided visit hosted by Mr. Gheorghe Românu, Mayor of Anina and former coal mine director, to the coal mining museum under development - an ongoing EU funded project that will open Anina’s eldest mining shaft to visitors. This visit will imply transfer to Anina (<i>aprox 1h drive from Reșița</i>). ● Group 2: A glimpse into the hydrotechnical system surrounding Reșița – The steel-making value chain developed over centuries on water harvested from the mountains around Reșița across an intricate network of dozens of km of canals, water shutes, underground tunnels, metal and stone aqueducts, as well as several water dams. This hydrotechnical system, remarkably under operation, currently produces hydropower. The tour, hosted by PPC, will kickstart from Grebla Hydropower Plant, and lead to the water canals crossing the old-growth beech forests next to Crăinicel Hydropower Plant.

- **Group 3: A guided discovery of the old UCMR site** – a 30-ha estate including historical warehouses, factory management protocol villas, bunkers and the factory glasshouses in process of being reclaimed and opened to the community in a public-civic effort. The site is located Reșița, walking distance from the city centre.

More background information and logistical details on tours will be sent by email to all conference participants prior to the event.

All tours proposed will have limited seats. Car/minibus transfers will be arranged for those interested to participate, if needed. Subscribing to tours will be done before and during the conference days.