

Industrial heritage in a United Europe

Law and practice in the protection of industrial heritage in european countries

18-20 / 10 / 2026 WARSAW

About conferece

United Europe does not have a common policy for the protection and preservation of industrial heritage. In European countries, the process of protecting industrial heritage is based on local practices and legal regulations.

Experiences in preserving the most important testimonies of industrial development vary. Eastern Europe is undergoing deindustrialization later than Western Europe. The state of preservation of technical monuments varies, as do experiences with the preservation and reuse of technical heritage.

For many years, projects to preserve and reuse technical heritage have been co-financed by European funds. Implemented with the support of European grants, they have varying degrees of preservation of monuments, maintaining their authenticity and structure.

An important element influencing the preservation of historical monuments is European-wide environmental protection regulations. Plans to completely phase out the use of fossil fuels for energy generation by 2050 impact the continued use of movable technical monuments. The cessation of fossil fuel distribution will result in the decommissioning of historic locomotives, steam engines, historic cars, motorcycles, and airplanes.

The planned conference aims to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices regarding the preservation of technical monuments. Learning about local experiences can become a platform for establishing common principles for the research, inventory, and reuse of technological monuments.

The discussion aims to formulate principles for the protection of technological monuments at a European level, as well as identify best practices for adapting technological monuments to new functions.

Synchronization of national policies for the protection of technical heritage is important; it will help preserve and utilize technological monuments based on best European practices.

Discussing European experiences in the protection of industrial heritage, we will return to the topic of establishing an organization that will strengthen European integration efforts in the protection of industrial heritage.

In addition to presenting the legal regulations applied to the protection of technological heritage in various European countries, we expect presentations discussing projects for the protection of railway, mining, and machinery heritage.

In Poland, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Polish State Railways (PKP), we would like to present the most interesting projects completed to preserve historic railway lines and railway infrastructure (bridges, viaducts, traffic control devices) in Europe and Poland.

Programme

Sunday // 18th October 2026

15:00–18:00 Guided tour of Warsaw's technical monuments: Railways, energy, waterworks *

Monday // 19.10.2026

Warsaw Gasworks Museum
ul. Ignacego Prądzyńskiego 14A, 01-220 Warszawa

MAP

08:30–09:00 Participant registration

09:00–09:10 Conference opening: Minister of Culture and National Heritage*,
General Conservator of Monuments*, NID Director, TICCIH President

PANEL I : Law and practice in the protection of industrial heritage in European countries

Moderators: Andrzej Siwek, Piotr Gerber

09:10–09:30 Legal regulations vs. practical protection of industrial heritage in Austria
Christian Hanus

09:30–09:50 Legal regulations determining the protection of industrial heritage in Poland
Jacek Dąbrowski

09:50–10:10 Industrial heritage and the art of thoughtful protection in the Netherlands
Hildebrandt de Boyer

10:10–10:30 Shaping legal regulations supporting the preservation of technical monuments in Germany
Milena Karabaic

10:30–10:50 Law in the protection of monuments in Portugal
João Estevão

10:50–11:10 Law in the protection of monuments in Sweden
Roine Wiklund

11:10–11:30 Legal principles of protecting technical monuments in France
Florence Hachez-Leroy

11:30–12:00 Coffee break

PANEL II : European support in financing projects for the protection and utilization of European industrial heritage

Moderator: Julian Kołodziej

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| 12:00–12:20 | Projects for the protection and development of technical objects realized with the participation of European funds
Massimo Priete |
| 12:20–12:40 | Revitalization of the industrial city landscape on the example of Łódź – achievements and challenges
Bartosz Walczak, Mateusz Grabowski |
| 12:40–13:00 | Project for the preservation of the historic Ignacy Mine complex in Rybnik
Marek Gołosz |
| 13:00–13:20 | Revitalization of technical museums in Jaworzyna Śląska and Žamberk – an example of international cooperation in preserving industrial heritage
Katarzyna Szczerbińska-Tercjak / Michal Bednař* |
| 13:20–13:40 | Revitalization of the ČSA mine in Ostrava
Miloš Matěj* |
| 13:40–14:40 | <u>Lunch break</u> |

PANEL III : Discussion on the establishment of an organization dealing with European industrial heritage

Moderator: Massimo Priete

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| 14:40–16:40 | The discussion will include individuals associated with national organizations focused on the idea of protecting industrial heritage in Europe; the most important goals set for the planned organization will be discussed. |
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Massimo Preite, Milena Karabaic, Miles Oglethorpe, Roine Wiklund, Hildebrand de Boer, Bartosz Walczak, Francesco Antonio, Edoardo Curra, Florence Hachez-Leroy

16:40–17:00	<u>Coffee break</u>
17:00–18:00	Tour of the Warsaw Gasworks Museum exhibition and the historic gas tanks planned for adaptation.
20:00–22:00	Evening reception at the Warsaw Gasworks Museum

Tuesday // 20.10.2026

Warsaw Gasworks Museum
ul. Ignacego Prądzyńskiego 14A, 01-220 Warszawa

MAP

PANEL IV: Good practices in the protection and utilization of railway monuments

Moderator: Piotr Gerber

09:00–09:20	Railway heritage – subject of protection Maciej Mądry
09:20–09:40	Methodology of the revitalization process of historic railway infrastructure in Switzerland Reto Bieli
09:40–10:00	Historical rail tourism in the Pardubice Region Martin Netolicky

10:00–10:20	Revitalization of historical railway lines in Lower Silesia Wojciech Zdanowski
10:20–10:50	<u>Coffee break</u>
10:50–11:10	Cooperation between monument protection authorities of the Czech Republic and Czech Railways Alena Borovcova
11:10–11:30	Forth Bridge in Edinburgh on the UNESCO World Heritage List Miles Oglethorpe
11:30–11:50	Preservation of railway heritage in Sweden's modernizing railway system Mimmi Mikkelsen
11:50–12:10	Discussion on the preservation of the Vyšehrad Bridge in Prague Pavel Ryjáček

PANEL V: Revitalization of railway lines in Poland. Experts' discussion

Moderator: Robert Kola

12:10–13:10	The discussion will include individuals involved in the revitalization and modernization process of railway lines in Poland – representatives of conservation services, investors, and the public side. Janusz Rymśa, Damian Sawko*, Piotr Kalbarczyk*, Grzegorz Sokołowski*, Jakub Lewicki, Grzegorz Chmiel*, Mimmi Mickelsen, Miles Oglethorpe, Reto Bieli, Christian Hanus
13:10–13:30	<u>Coffee break</u>

PANEL VI: Proposal from Silesia – preservation of mining heritage in operation

Moderator: Piotr Gerber

13:30–13:50	European initiatives aimed at the continued use of movable technical monuments Tiddo Besters
13:50–14:10	Silesian coal mines support the maintenance of technical monuments in operation in Europe Piotr Gerber
14:10–14:30	Case study – the historic Marcel mine in Rybnik Ewa Mackiewicz
14:30–14:50	Progress of work in the European Parliament on introducing solutions enabling further operation of movable technical monuments in Europe Łukasz Kohut (online)
14:50–15:50	Discussion on the project for the preservation of an active hard coal mine in Poland to ensure coal supply for movable technical monuments in Poland – including steam locomotives. Leszek Pietraszek*, Tiddo Bresters, representative of the Ministry of Infrastructure, representative of the Ministry of State Assets, and the self-government of the Silesian Voivodeship
15:50–16:20	Presentation and signing of the charter of good practices in the protection and utilization of industrial heritage in Europe.
16:20–17:20	<u>Refreshments</u> End of Conference

* TBC

The conference languages are Polish and English. Translation is provided.