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PROPOSALS FOR THE URBAN POST-INDUSTRIAL AREAS REVITALIZATION ILLUSTRATED BY A FRENCH CITY

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Problem statement. The small communes with low population are the most widespread settlements in central regions of France. The social and economic decline has been observed in most of such settlements since the second half of the 20th century. The economic decline was triggered by the closure of industrial production facilities and a significant decline in mining activities caused by the low-quality raw materials, the changes in the technological characteristics of production, the lack of sufficient interregional transportation routes, and the lack of industrial facilities related to these industries. These regions have been facing a demographic crisis, with the average age of the population is more than 50 years old. The young people are leaving for more developed regions in search of better job opportunities and a more comfortable socio-cultural environment.

In 2000, the region prefecture decided to conduct a study to ensure the safety of the industrial zone and to chart a further course for the urbanization of post-industrial areas [1].

Purpose of the study is to assess and identify the main directions of economic development for depressed post-industrial regions and to propose the measures for their revitalizing.

Main results. The teachers and students from the PSACEA actively researched the town urban problems in the French towns with abandoned mining industries. They developed the proposals to preserve or restore the industrial heritage buildings and structures in small towns, to revitalize the urban areas, and to create the favorable and comfortable conditions for attracting new residents to the region. These proposals will help to enhance demographic stability and economic attractiveness.

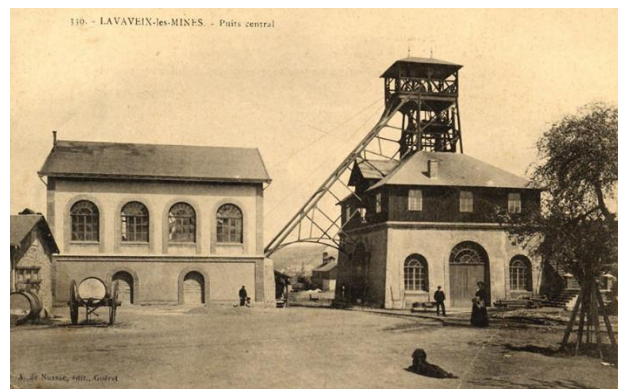


Fig. 1. Project proposals cover page for the revitalization of a post-industrial city [2].

Photo of a coal mine (late 19th and early 20th centuries)

The revitalization of a post-industrial urban areas includes measures which aimed to the organization or restoration of a lively social life in a settlement by the changing of functional purpose of buildings and structures in order to reveal and use their capabilities.

The small towns, that were formed around industrial facilities, have a rich heritage in the form of industrial buildings and structures. These objects can be attractive to organize

tourist routes, museum complexes, sports and entertainment centers. The spaces for meetings, festive events, library, office premises, laboratories, cafes, shops or workshops can be created in such buildings [3; 4].

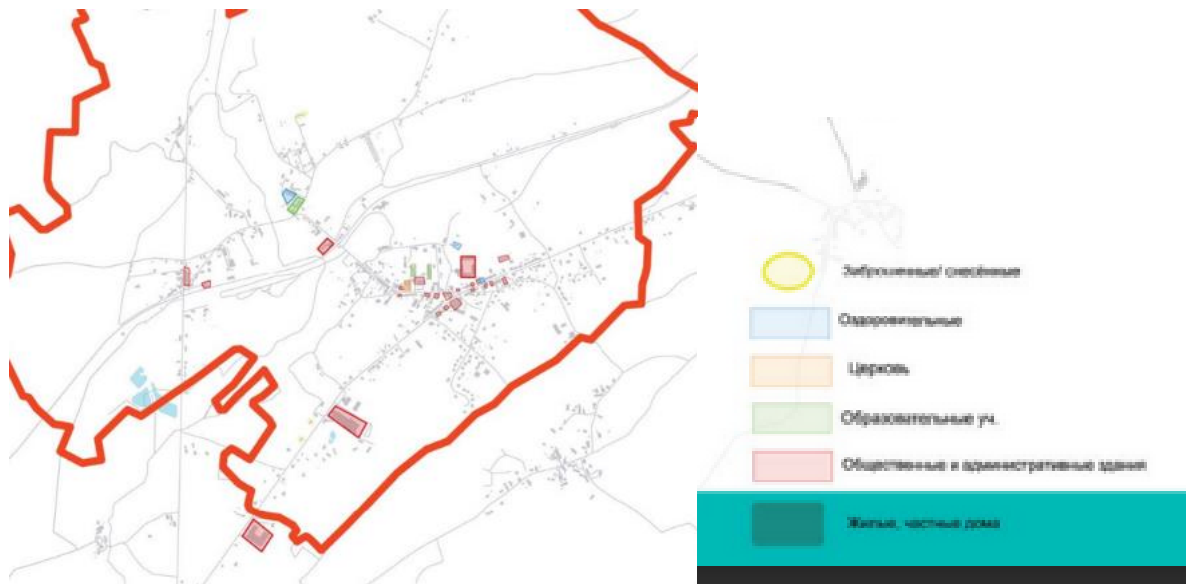


Fig. 2. The functional classification scheme of the existing buildings [2; 3]

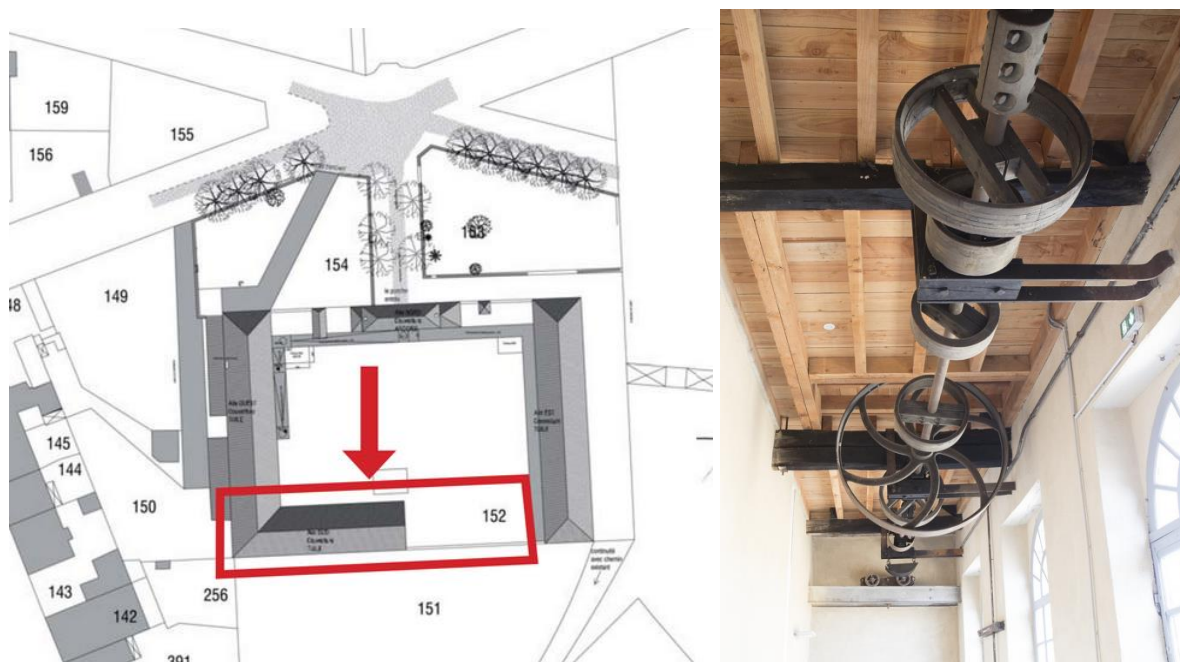


Fig. 3. Site plan for the reconstruction of a complex of workshops for the repair of mine equipment [2] and a fragment of the workshop interior

An equipment store, a second-hand goods shop, a library, an office space, a hall for various events and a café-bar were located in the old mine equipment repair workshops according to recommendations. A laboratory for testing the quality of agricultural products and a vegetable shop will be also planned in this location.



Fig. 4. Mine equipment and tool repair workshops

Conclusion. In the result of the internship, the demographic situation of French town with abandoned industrial infrastructure was studied. In addition, the main transport routes, territorial and geological possibilities for city development and place for leisure activities were identified. In compliance with the requests of the mayor's office and inhabitants, sketches of reconstruction and reorientation of existing commercial, public and residential buildings were proposed [2]. The project conception of a recreational space for organizing sports, recreational, entertainment and leisure activities was also suggested. The main directions for the tourism development in this region were identified.

References

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