

REVITALIZING POSTINDUSTRIAL PERIPHERY

- Visegrad Fund

- **A collaborative research project co-funded by the International Visegrad Fund**, bringing together partners from Hungary (PAD Foundation), Slovakia (Spolka), Poland (University of Rzeszów), and Czechia (University of Ostrava).
- The project investigates **how postindustrial territories—once central to mining, metallurgy, and manufacturing—can evolve toward socially just and ecologically resilient futures.**
- Combining field research and case analysis, the project explores how local communities, municipalities, and experts can co-create new models of regeneration that balance heritage, environment, and economy.
- The **outcomes include a comparative regional database, four analytical clusters, and a knowledge sharing online platform** highlighting transferable approaches to postindustrial regeneration in the region

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Analytical Framework: Four Clusters of Postindustrial Regeneration

The project's research and case studies are organized into four interconnected clusters:

Public Space & Housing

→ Everyday life, informal use, and inclusive regeneration of industrial neighbourhoods.

Green Area Development & Environmental Assessment

→ Ecological restoration, climate resilience, and multifunctional reuse of brownfields.

Heritage & City Image

→ Industrial identity, collective memory, and adaptive reuse in urban branding.

Economy & Resource Use

→ Circular economy, material flows, and the reactivation of local production networks.

Each cluster connects social, ecological, and economic dimensions — together forming a socio-ecological lens for understanding regeneration in postindustrial territories.

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Heritage & City Image: Reframing Industrial Identity

This cluster explores how **industrial heritage** shapes contemporary urban identity and how cultural memory can become a driver of **inclusive and sustainable regeneration**.

Main Case: Ostrava (CZ)

Once the “*steel heart*” of Czechia, Ostrava embodies multiple layers of postindustrial transformation:

Ostravice Riverfront: a renewed green corridor connecting former industrial zones, public spaces, and university campuses — merging blue-green infrastructure with urban culture.

Liberty Steel Plant and Vicinity: active industrial area in transition, facing the challenge of balancing “green steel” innovation with heritage preservation and community wellbeing.

Ostrčilova Street High-Rise: a modernist residential tower under adaptive reuse, linking architectural heritage with new housing solutions.

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Other examples across the region:

HU *Miskolc Ironworks (Hungary)* – regeneration of a former ironworks and workers’ colonies connecting heritage with social inclusion.

PL *Ustrzyki Dolne (Poland)* – conversion of the “Fanto” refinery into a cultural and educational heritage center.

SK *Veľký Šariš (Slovakia)* – transformation of a 19th-century steam mill into a community and cultural hub.

Key message:

Postindustrial heritage is not only about preservation — it’s about **reconnecting memory, identity, and sustainable reuse** to create more inclusive, future-oriented cities.

The project is co-financed by the governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from the International Visegrad Fund.

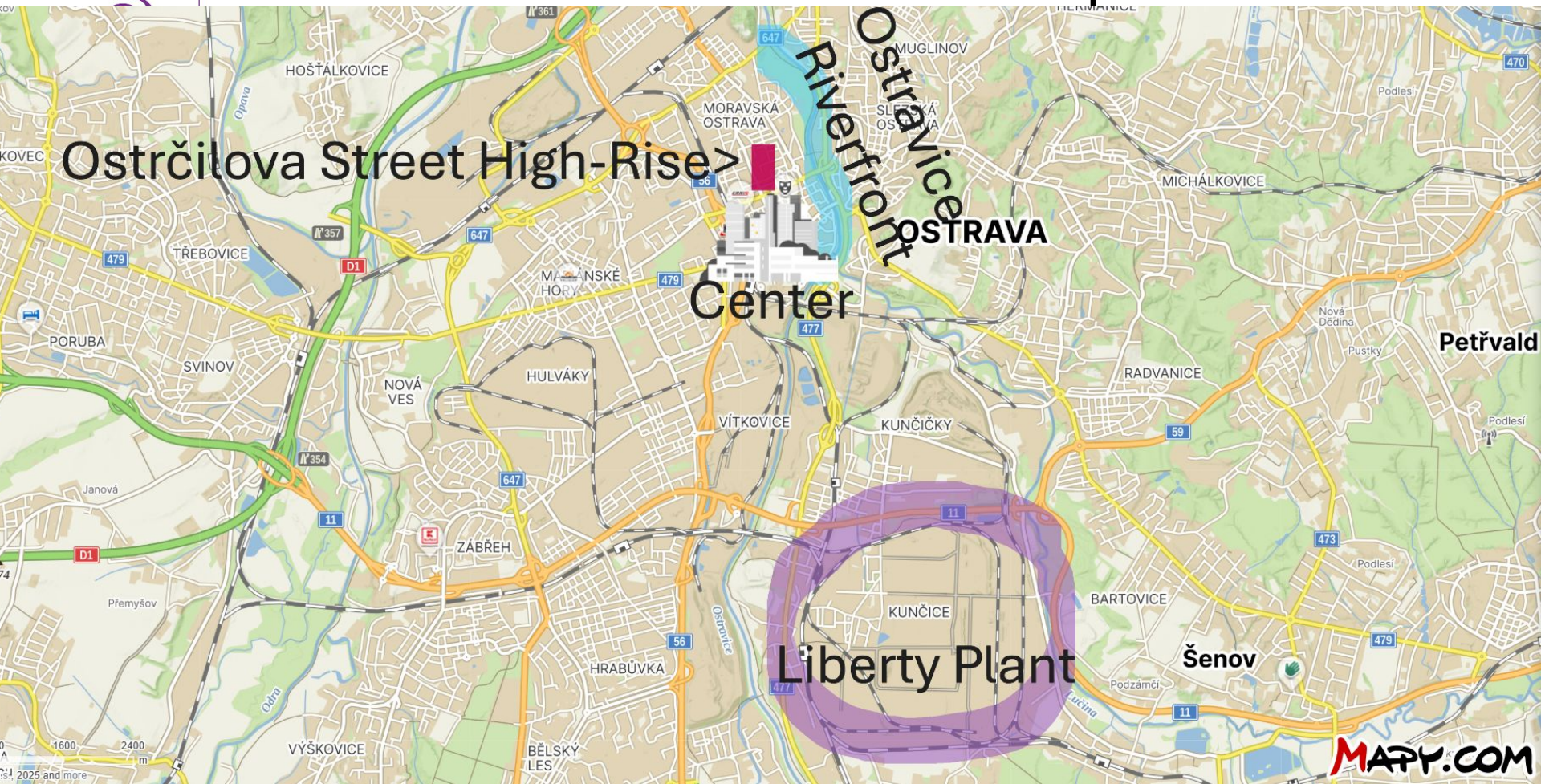


UNIVERSITY OF OSTRAVA
FACULTY OF ARTS

Viktor Pál, Róbert Balogh



Ostrava cases on the map



Thematic Cluster

Present Condition & Barriers

- Contaminated, derelict industrial sites; heritage at risk of demolition
- Barriers: ownership fragmentation, insolvency, costly remediation

Reuse Plans & Functional Intensity

- Multifunctional reuse emerging (cultural riverfront, housing, heritage halls)
- Mono-functional legacies still dominate land use

Governance & Policy Context

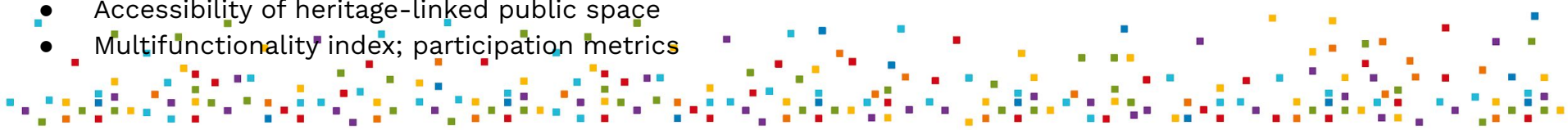
- City strategies stress heritage-sensitive reuse and blue-green links
- Weaknesses: insolvency, low investor confidence; Strength: participatory tools

Identity & Memory

- Ostrava as “steel heart” – pride vs. trauma of deindustrialization
- Need to reconcile memory with inclusive regeneration

Indicators for Database

- % heritage reused vs. demolished
- Land-use intensity in regenerated zones
- Accessibility of heritage-linked public space
- Multifunctionality index; participation metrics



Thematic direction opportunities

- Urban regeneration, creative industries, and green infrastructure (Ostravice riverfront)
- Urban regeneration and spatial integration (Liberty Plant area)
- Urban regeneration, community engagement, urban shrinkage, green infrastructure (Ostrčilova Street High-Rise)



1. Ostravice Riverfront

- The corridor along the Ostravice River, connecting Lower Vítkovice and Karolina.
- The area offers potential for green infrastructure, sustainable mobility, and public space projects to link regenerated sites and improve urban connectivity.



2. Former ArcelorMittal/now Liberty Plant and its vicinity

- The plant is still operational, and the surrounding areas and older facilities present opportunities for gradual regeneration and integration into the urban fabric.



3. Ostrčilova Street High-Rise

- A vacant, deteriorating high-rise in the city center slated for redevelopment into a residential complex with public amenities.
- The project aims to preserve architectural heritage while introducing sustainable building practices and community engagement.



Thank you!

Děkuji!

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1301-7517>

e-mail: viktor.pal@osu.cz