

Using past to secure future



Short Name

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Formal Name

Using past to secure future: tackling small town brain drain through industrial heritage regeneration

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Tame brain drain: Stayin's not a shame



Summary

With open borders and free mobility of labour within the EU being much praised, their downsides tend to be underestimated. While mobile labour force can solve shortage in one region, it may cause even more serious problems in another, often disadvantaged region. An economic disparity between inland and border regions is visible across EU countries. Research on how to strengthen border regions which mostly show rural - but often unique - characteristics is needed.

Acknowledging benefits of free mobility of labour, we aim to diminish its negative impact. We approach the town of Domažlice squeezed between more urbanised regions to the east, and neighbouring Bavaria to the west. Both offer arguably more attractive job opportunities, better living conditions or health care. Yet, Domažlice's position is not hopeless as it features a number of assets including the stunning natural beauty of the surrounding area, determined local activists, active secondary students and an assemblage of old industrial heritage sites and brownfields awaiting regeneration