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Pläne zur Bewahrung des Quecksilberbergbaues Idrija nach der geplanten Schließung im Jahr 2006

Nach 500 jähriger Bergbautätigkeit ist nun die Schließung des berühmten Quecksilberbergbaus Idrija eine Tatsache. Entsprechend den gesetzlichen Vorlagen müssen alle Archivalien, wie technische Dokumente, Personalien, Pläne und Karten geordnet und gesichtet sowie dokumentiert werden. Durch die weit verstreuten Unterlagen, die z. T. im ehemaligen Österreich in Archiven oder Bibliotheken verwahrt werden, erweist sich dies als z. T. recht schwieriges Unternehmen. Bevor 2006 die Schließung erfolgt, sollten alle den Bergbau betreffenden Dokumente digital entsprechend geordnet sein und dies wurde mit dem Teil von 1945 bis heute begonnen, da dieser in einem sehr schlechten Zustand war. Geplant ist ein Zentralarchiv in Idrija, das als Zweigstelle des Ljubljana Staatsarchivs geführt wird.

Preservation of mine archives after the shutdown of the Idrija mercury mine in 2006

After five hundred years of excavation and extraction of mercury, the Idrija Mercury Mine today faces its final shutdown. Given the immense size of the mine facility and its five hundred years of operation, extensive technical documents relating to the mine have been preserved (exist). Archives from older periods can be found in various administrative centers of the former Austrian-Hungarian Empire, whereas documents from more recent history are more or less adequately stored in the archives of various mine facilities.

Paragraph three of Article 61 of the Mining Act UPB-1 (*Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 98/04*) stipulates that mine drawings, surveying books and documents on the state of mining works related to investigation and exploitation are to be delivered, prior to the cancellation of mining rights, into safekeeping at the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, i.e. *the Ljubljana Historical Archives, as set forth in the Decision on Entitles of Public Law and Associations whose archival materials will be assumed by the Ljubljana Historical Archives (Official Gazette of SR Slovenia, no. 24/81)*.

An extensive part of the Mine's historical archives from 1700 onward is kept by the Idrija Branch of the Ljubljana Historical Archives, which began to operate in the early 1960's. Documents on the history of the Idrija Mercury Mine are also kept in Ljubljana and in archives in Venice, Cividale del Friuli, Vienna and Graz. (numerous archives in Slovenia as well as in many reputed archives abroad (J. PIRC, Idrijska obzorja) - the archives of Venice, Cividale del Friuli, Vienna and Graz).

Owing to the extensiveness and valuable contents of the mine archives, which mostly comprise technical documents, we have begun to systematically arrange the archive fund prior to the mine's final shutdown in 2006. From the Second World War to the present, the management of these archives has been quite unmethodical and disorganized.

The technical archives (mining–surveying, geological and environmental departments), which will be kept in the quarters of the main administrative building after the mine's shutdown, would have to comprise certain technical documents which should be available for activities related to the mine and which will continue to be organized after its shutdown. The mining-surveying department of the archives would comprise mining projects (technology, pit areas, devices and installations, projects for shutdown works), graduation theses, theses for professional examinations, trainee theses, etc., drawings (various networks, tools, devices, ...), documents on machines and devices in the mine, mine

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surveying and surveying books, original mine maps on cardboard, various mine and land maps, working drawings, notes, reports. The Idrija ore deposit was geologically investigated in detail after 1960, which is why the existing geological documents are extensive. The basic geological documents include geological maps of all levels and across 20 sections through the entire ore deposit. A special file was opened for each ore body, containing all relevant surveying and geological documents (level geological maps, forecast maps, analyses of investigative drillings, calculations of ore stores, documents on ore deposit quality, etc.). The geological archives also contain data on hydrogeological and engineering-geological conditions in the mine and on the surface, as well as maps of mercury investigations in the broader region. The Environmental Department would comprise research projects, reports, literature, etc. dealing with environmental issues resulting from five centuries of pollution of the narrow and broader Idrija region.

