CZECH REPUBLIC

Education of Children in Heavily Industrialised Landscapes, Elementary School in the city of Most

The project involves the comprehensive, long-term approach of a school to educating children in heavily industrialised and completely transformed landscapes. The city of Most, where the school is situated, experienced a very difficult period in its history when, following a government decision in 1964 to prioritise surface coal mining, the town was, with the exception of a small part, entirely demolished. Its residents were relocated to the newly built town just a few hundred metres from the original municipality. The immediate landscape was badly affected by surface coal mining; much of the surrounding landscape was composed of large opencast mines and slag heaps (spoil tips). But it also included reclaimed and re-cultivated areas and newly created landscapes, home to the autodrome, hippodrome, aquadrome and aerodrome, as well as the Benedikt and Matylda recreational zones, which are the pride of Most. The elementary school teaches children to understand and solve environmental issues and to comprehend the interrelationship of the sustainable use of natural resources, the landscape and a healthy environment, and to see them in their historical context. The school also raises children's awareness of how they can contribute to the care of the landscape in which they live.



The Committee of Ministers acknowledged and praised the great value of each project presented for the 5th Session 2016-2017 of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention and recommended making it well-known to the general public for its exemplary value, and as a source of inspiration. "Education of Children in Heavily Industrialised Landscapes" is an exemplary model of education and awareness raising of pupils living in highly industrialised areas. The achievement makes it possible to develop a sense of belonging to a landscape and a responsible attitude towards the environment and future generations. Founded on awareness and active participation, this educational approach encourages children to act as citizens who care for the future of the landscape.