

# **RESCUE**

**REGENERATION OF DISUSED  
INDUSTRIAL SITES THROUGH  
CREATIVITY IN EUROPE**



Co-funded by the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union

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**Gli Scarti**  
*Photo: Andrea Luporini*

ENG

## REGENERATION OF DISUSED INDUSTRIAL SITES THROUGH CREATIVITY IN EUROPE —

RESCUE is a smaller scale cooperation project co-funded by the EACEA Creative Europe programme. Partners from Italy, Germany, Slovenia and Austria invite artists and students from secondary schools to explore the history of abandoned industrial sites in the participant countries, with a view to re-defining them as sustainable cultural spaces. Local students participate in workshops to re-discover the selected space, its industrial history and its significance for the region and its inhabitants. Working together with artists, the students develop creative ways of portraying and using the space, with various artistic media ranging from stories and photography to sound, light and performance art.

In an ongoing transnational exchange between the curatorial partners, the project participants communicate with audiences across the RESCUE network. The complex relationship between history, industrial heritage, people and socio-cultural developments is reflected in a creative process that will result in a postulation of cultural strategies that might be useful towards a broader regeneration of disused industrial sites through creativity.

### CHAPTER 1

# RESCUE PROJECT SUMMARY



Working closely with students and their surroundings, RESCUE enables ongoing grass-roots cultural exchange between participants and local citizens, who will be invited to participate in the performances, presentations and exhibitions that the children and artists develop.

Project results include site-specific works from and for the selected locations; tools and analysis for cultural engagement with abandoned spaces; innovative models to reclaim disused industrial sites for the arts; dissemination of applied cultural engagement with the history of labour and industrial heritage; audience development in the sense of inclusion, interaction and engagement with cultural heritage and contemporary artistic practice; transnational mobility of cultural actors, artists and artworks.

ITA

## LA RIGENERAZIONE DEI SITI INDUSTRIALI DIS- MESSI ATTRAVERSO LA CREATIVITÀ IN EUROPA

RESCUE è un progetto di cooperazione su scala ridotta cofinanziato dal programma Europeo Europa Creativa. Partner provenienti da Italia, Germania, Slovenia e Austria invitano artisti e studenti delle scuole secondarie ad esplorare la storia dei siti industriali abbandonati nei paesi partecipanti, con l'obiettivo di ridefinirli come spazi culturali sostenibili. Gli studenti locali partecipano a workshop per riscoprire lo spazio selezionato, la sua storia industriale e il suo significato per la regione e i suoi abitanti. Lavorando insieme agli artisti, gli studenti sviluppano modi creativi di ritrarre e utilizzare lo spazio, con vari strumenti di comunicazione artistica che vanno dalle storie e dalla fotografia alla musica, alle luci e alle arti performative.

In un continuo scambio transnazionale tra i partner curatoriali, i partecipanti al progetto comunicano con il pubblico attraverso la rete RESCUE. La complessa relazione tra storia, patrimonio industriale, persone e sviluppo socio-culturale si riflette in un processo creativo che si tradurrà nella formulazione di strategie culturali che potrebbero essere utili per una più ampia rigenerazione dei siti industriali dismessi attraverso la creatività.

Lavorando a stretto contatto con gli studenti e l'ambiente circostante, RESCUE permette un continuo scambio culturale di base tra i partecipanti e i cittadini locali, che saranno invitati a partecipare agli spettacoli, alle presentazioni e alle mostre che svilupperanno ragazzi e artisti.

I risultati del progetto includono opere specifiche sul campo da e per i luoghi selezionati; strumenti e analisi per l'impegno culturale negli spazi abbandonati; modelli innovativi per il recupero attraverso l'arte di siti industriali dismessi, diffusione dell'impegno culturale applicato alla storia del lavoro e del patrimonio industriale; sviluppo del pubblico nel senso di inclusione, interazione e impegno con il patrimonio culturale e la pratica artistica contemporanea; mobilità transnazionale di attori culturali, artisti e opere d'arte.

SLO

## KREATIVNA OBNOVA ZAPUŠČENIH INDUSTRIJSKIH OBMOČIJ V EVROPI —

RESCUE je projekt sodelovanja manjšega obsega, ki ga sofinancira program Ustvarjalna Evropa Evropske unije. V okviru projekta partnerji iz Italije, Nemčije, Slovenije in Avstrije srednješolcem v omogočajo raziskovanje zgodovine zapuščenih industrijskih območij, da bi skupaj zasnova-li, kako le-te spremeniti v trajnostno naravnane prostore, namenjene kulturnim dejavnostim. Lokalni dijaki se udeležujejo delavnic, katerih namen je ponovno odkritje izbranega prostora, njegove industrijske preteklosti in njenega pomena za regijo in njene prebivalce. V sodelovanju z umetniki, dijaki z uporabo najrazličnejših medijev, kot so pripovedništvo, fotografija, zvok, svetloba in performans, nato razvijajo kreativne načine prezentacije in uporabe dotičnega prostora.

S transnacionalno izmenjavo mednarodnih partnerjev, ki projekt kurirajo, udeleženci komunicirajo na širšem območju mreže RESCUE. Zapleten odnos med zgodovino, industrijsko dediščino, ljudmi in družbenokulturnim razvojem se odraža v ustvarjalnem procesu, katerega končni produkt bo razvoj kulturne strategije, ki bi lahko pripomogla h kreativni obnovi zapuščenih industrijskih območij.

RESCUE prek tesnega sodelovanja z dijaki in njihovim okoljem omogoča kulturno izmenjavo med sodelujočimi in prebivalci na lokalni ravni; slednji bodo namreč imeli možnost sodelovati v performansih, predstavitvah in razstavah, ki jih bodo otroci razvili z umetniki.

Med rezultate projekta sodijo: prostorsko specifična dela, ki sama izhajajo iz izbranega območja in so mu obenem namenjena; razvoj orodij in analiz kulturnega udejstvovanja, ki ga omogočajo zapuščena območja; inovativni načini ponovne uporabe zapuščenih industrijskih območij za področje kulturne produkcije; javno širjenje in povezovanje uporabljenih taktik medkulturnega udejstvovanja z zgodovino delavskega razreda in industrijske dediščine; razvoj občinstva prek njihovega vključevanja, interakcije in udejstvovanja s kulturno dediščino in sodobnimi umetniškimi praksami; transnacionalna mobilnost kulturnih akterjev, umetnikov in umetnin.

DEU

## KULTURELLE WIEDERBELEBUNG STILLGELEGTER INDUSTRIESTANDORTE IN EUROPA

RESCUE ist ein kleineres Kooperationsprojekt, das vom Programm Kreatives Europa der Exekutivagentur Bildung, Audiovisuelles und Kultur (EACEA) mitfinanziert wird. Partnerorganisationen aus Italien, Deutschland, Slowenien und Österreich laden Künstler\*innen sowie Schüler\*innen der Sekundarstufe ein, die Geschichte verlassener Industriestandorte in den teilnehmenden Ländern zu erkunden, mit der Aussicht, sie so als nachhaltige Kulturräume neu zu definieren. Einheimische Schüler\*innen nehmen an Workshops teil, um die jeweiligen gewählten Orte, ihre Industriegeschichte und ihre Bedeutung für die Region und ihre Bewohner\*innen neu zu entdecken. In der Zusammenarbeit mit den Künstler\*innen entwickeln die Schüler\*innen kreative Möglichkeiten, den Raum darzustellen und zu nutzen. Die künstlerischen Ausdrucksweisen reichen dabei von Erzählungen und Fotografie über Ton- und Lichtinstallationen bis hin zu Performance-Kunst.

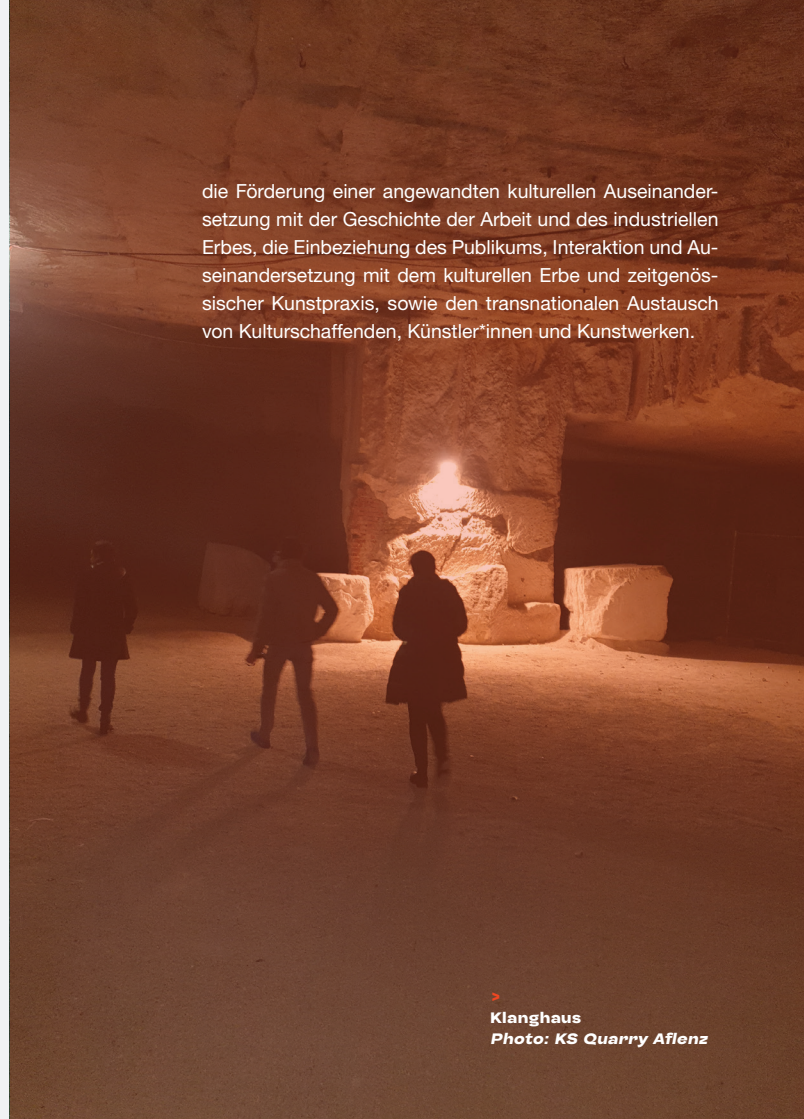
Im Rahmen eines kontinuierlichen Austauschs zwischen den als Kuratoren agierenden internationalen Partnerorganisationen kommunizieren die Projektteilnehmer\*innen mit dem Publikum innerhalb des RESCUE-Netzwerks.

Die vielschichtige Beziehung zwischen Geschichte, industriellem Erbe, Menschen und soziokulturellen Entwicklungen spiegelt sich in einem kreativen Prozess wider, aus dem eine Forderung der Kulturstrategie resultiert, die für eine breitere Regeneration stillgelegter Industriestandorte durch Kreativität nützlich sein könnten.

Durch die enge Zusammenarbeit mit Schüler\*innen und ihrer Umgebung ermöglicht RESCUE vor Ort einen kontinuierlichen und direkten kulturellen Austausch zwischen den Teilnehmer\*innen und Einheimischen, die eingeladen werden, an den von den Schüler\*innen und Künstler\*innen entwickelten Aufführungen, Präsentationen und Ausstellungen teilzunehmen.

Die Projektergebnisse umfassen ortsspezifische Arbeiten von und für die ausgewählten Standorte, Instrumente und Analysen zur kulturellen Auseinandersetzung mit verlassenen industriellen Räumen, innovative Konzepte zur Wiederbelebung stillgelegter Industriestandorte für Kunstprojekte,

die Förderung einer angewandten kulturellen Auseinandersetzung mit der Geschichte der Arbeit und des industriellen Erbes, die Einbeziehung des Publikums, Interaktion und Auseinandersetzung mit dem kulturellen Erbe und zeitgenössischer Kunstpraxis, sowie den transnationalen Austausch von Kulturschaffenden, Künstler\*innen und Kunstwerken.



➤  
**Klanghaus**  
**Photo: KS Quarry Aflenz**



## CHAPTER 2

# CONCEPT AND CONTEXT

## CULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE: HISTORIES AND FUTURES —

Industrial heritage in a cultural context refers to more than buildings. In RESCUE, we use “industrial heritage” to refer to sites, structures, building complexes, areas and landscapes as well as machinery, objects or documents that provide evidence of past or ongoing industrial processes. Processes might relate to production (e.g. of ceramics in Vaccari, Liguria) or to the extraction of raw materials (e.g. of sandstone in Aflenz, Styria) and their transformation into goods, as well as any associated consumption of resources such as energy or transport.

Industrial heritage includes tangible, material assets – both movable and immovable – as well as intangible dimensions such as expertise, the organization of work and workers, and also, importantly, the complex social and cultural legacy that shapes the life of communities and influences major shifts in entire societies and all aspects of public and private life.

Industrial heritage is embedded in a shared European identity.

Industrial heritage includes definitions of work and labour, the processes of teaching and transferring skills, expertise, and technology across national boundaries.

Industrial heritage is also vulnerable and not prominent in the social consciousness, often remaining undocumented or only accessible in hidden archives.

RESCUE contributes to upholding the memory and meaning of forgotten and disused industrial spaces through cultural interaction.

## RESCUE 2020-21, OR: THE CORONA SHIFT

RESCUE was developed and launched shortly before the outbreak of Sars Covid-19 in Europe.

Originally, the plan was to launch the project with live workshops for children led by artists in the abandoned spaces, and to develop layers of interactive activities and analysis across the RESCUE network over the course of the project. We have naturally been forced, and inspired, by the “new normality” to find new solutions and ways of achieving our shared cultural aspirations.

RESCUE is a border-crossing initiative that focuses on disused industrial spaces to tap into creative energy across social and political boundaries. The project is inherently participative, bringing artists, children, curators and local communities together in a series of interactive initiatives that forge new and sustainable cultural relationships between people from different fields and social strata but also between inhabitants and architectural spaces.

Through art, culture and creativity, participants are encouraged to take part in a collective regeneration of empty spaces, to discover their potential and to use the spaces as shared platforms and meeting places.



By examining their history, participants are invited to consider better, more ethical social solutions for the present and the future.

Originally, RESCUE was intended to start with artist-led workshops for local schoolchildren in each participant country. They would explore the respective space, its history and shape, its light and sounds, and create artworks together – both of and for the space.

These artworks would then be presented in the other partner countries, creating experiences to be shared and built upon, developing a living and dynamic creative network across European borders.

Corona restrictions meant that the realization of the first workshops was hindered or rendered impossible in the planned form.

**ibug, 2020**  
Artwork by Eusepia Lehe  
Photo: Thomas-Dietze

The RESCUE curatorial team, committed as we are to the relevance and full realization of the project, has embarked on a learning curve, working together to develop hybrid means to attain our shared goals.

Through regular online meetings, we have developed new, feasible strategies for RESCUE across the partner network. Combining new media and traditional communication methods, we are developing audio-visual tools to enable children and artists to explore the abandoned spaces and use them as a stage, a platform, a backdrop and ingredient for new interdisciplinary artworks.

RESCUE projects will thus grow from local sites into an online exchange of spaces and creative reactions to them, a network of art, culture and communication that will continue beyond the length of the project.

RESCUE, focusing on industrial heritage, looks into the significance of and differentiation between concepts such as work, labour, forced labour, incarceration and obverse reflections of these including volunteering, collectivism, social exchange and freedom.

Space and buildings are being explored as historical sites and ecologies, sonic and luminant spaces, as stages for cultural and social interaction.

RESCUE proffers participative artistic exchange as a socio-cultural model. Even in times of Covid restrictions, art is reflection and communication beyond borders.

RESCUE is a microcosmic distillation of an extensive Europe, where the curatorial diversity of partners and the geographic scope is symbolic of a broader continent. We approach Europe as a shared space, where identities can co-exist and enrich one another, built upon a common ground that recognizes, respects and fosters diversity.

RESCUE zooms in on abandoned spaces, dissects various aspects that are revealed in the emptiness of the spatial structures, and provides a metaphorical roadmap for participants and visitors to navigate creative spaces through learning and exchange.





Area Vaccari  
Photo: Giordano Benacci

## CHAPTER 3

# RESCUE TEAM AND PARTNERS

## COORDINATOR

## MUNICIPALITY OF SANTO STEFANO DI MAGRA

The **Municipality of Santo Stefano di Magra** is a public body in the Province of La Spezia in the Italian Levante, located close to the border with Tuscany. The city has a total area of 14 km<sup>2</sup> with approximately 10.000 inhabitants. The main aim of the administration is to overcome the real existing differences between the modern growth of urban peripheries and the medieval historic centre by improving the general quality of life. The municipal administration aims to increase its resources and develop cultural spaces, especially the cultural assets that can contribute to a valorization of the territory like the millennial historical memory, the music traditions integral to local families, historical representations and celebrations, and events related to social transformation throughout history. The perfect showcase of these objectives is the “Progetto Nova” which aims to revitalize local industrial heritage through the regeneration of brownfields as multi-functional and multimedia centres, cultural and artistic enterprises, and museums.

[www.comune.santostefanodimagra.sp.it](http://www.comune.santostefanodimagra.sp.it)

[www.progettonova.it](http://www.progettonova.it)

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### TEAM

**Project Manager:** Claudia Pagni

**Scientific coordinator:** Simone Venturini

**Technical Committee Nova Project:** Massimo Biava, Mario Commone, Lara Conte, Mario Giannoni, Juri Mazzanti, Michela Passalacqua

## PARTNER

## KLANGHAUS

**Klanghaus** is an Austrian platform for contemporary art and culture outside urban centres and across borders. It is a meeting point situated in South Styria near the Slovenian border, a location dedicated to forging dialogue, cultural exchange, and new encounters and networks. Regularly occurring projects include the Klangzeit performance events, children's workshops and artist residencies. Klanghaus offers artists and audiences the opportunity to exchange new perspectives in the context of a shared aesthetic moment. Klanghaus brings contemporary art to rural surroundings and creates an exchange between artists, audiences, and local inhabitants, who have the opportunity to meet the visiting artists and talk to them in a dynamic creative atmosphere, transcending boundaries between performers and recipients. Local communities ranging from music groups to elderly inhabitants or asylum seekers participate directly in our activities, enhancing a sustainable sense of cultural society. Klanghaus is supported by the Austrian cultural ministry BMKOES and Land Steiermark Kultur amongst other public and private sponsors.

[www.klang-haus.at](http://www.klang-haus.at)  
[www.schormani.com](http://www.schormani.com)

## TEAM

Zahra Mani, Karin Schorm

**Klanghaus Artists:** Mia Zabelka, Beba Fink, Jaka Berger,  
 Roberto Paci Dalò, amongst others

## PARTNER

ASSOCIATION FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ART X-OP

**Association for contemporary art X-OP**, based in Maribor, Slovenia, is a transnational platform for the production of contemporary art and culture. X-OP operates at the crossroads of contemporary visual and intermedia art as well as literature and music in relation to technology and digital culture in their socio-political context. It focuses on generating connections and exchanges between various artistic discourses and environments, encompassing a wide range of audiences. X-OP fosters the ideas and mobility of artists, researchers and producers by gradually connecting various cultural operators and professionals working in other scientific disciplines. This is done through a diverse array of activities such as exhibitions, readings, lectures, residencies, conferences, concerts, performances and workshops. By doing so, we aim to contribute to the pluralization of cultural production, experimentation in various mediums and manners of expression, intensive production and exchange of different types of knowledge and audience development.

<http://www.x-op.eu/sl>  
<http://www.x-op.eu/en>

## TEAM

Peter Tomaž Dobrila, Živa Kleindienst, Irena Borić, Jernej Stergar

**X-OP Artists:** Maja Hodošček, Tomo Podstensek,  
 Toni Soprano, Simon Žlahtič, amongst others

## PARTNER

**ibug**

**ibug** was founded 15 years ago as a collective. Since then, **ibug** has been negotiating a balance between culture, internationality and dialogue, and between urban and rural areas. The *Industriebrachenumgestaltung* – **ibug** in short - has become a world-famous urban art festival. Until 2011, the **ibug** took place at abandoned brownfields in Meerane, Saxony. It was then organised in Glauchau in 2012, in Zwickau in 2013, in Crimmitschau in 2014, in Plauen in 2015, in Limbach-Oberfrohna in 2016, in Chemnitz in 2017 and 2018 and in Reichenbach/Vogtland in 2019. The team includes artists, art historians, art educators and employees of public cultural institutions, who are deeply committed to providing rural areas of Saxony with colour and internationality. The involvement of the regional population and the reappraisal of the towns' industrial history are an important part of the initiative. Meanwhile there is a lot of experience in the sensitive dialogue between local people and international audiences.

<http://ibug-art.de>

**TEAM**

Klara Charlotte Zeitz, Christin Haupt, Marcus Heinke

**ibug Artists:** to be announced

## PARTNER

**ASSOCIAZIONE GLI SCARTI**

**Associazione Gli Scarti** is a cultural association and a contemporary theatre production and company, based in La Spezia and founded in December 2016, that fosters and carries out different activities in the theatrical field, such as artistic direction and management of theatres; production of contemporary theatre shows and performances, touring in the national contemporary theatre network of festivals and theatres; organizing festivals and events; managing cultural projects in La Spezia and surrounding areas, involving particular groups including: people with different abilities, detained people, teenagers, neet (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) and drop-outs, elderly people, kids, etc. We conduct theatre courses and workshops for non-professionals and professionals, and provide technical service for setting up festivals, shows, events, and conventions, providing professional equipment and professional staff. Gli Scarti is recognized and supported by Italian Ministry of Cultural heritage, among other public and private supporters.

<https://www.associazionescarti.com/>

<https://www.fuoriluogoteatro.it/>

<https://www.teatroimpavidisarzana.it/>

**TEAM**

**Project Managers:** Giulia Moretti, Andrea Cerri

**Artistic director:** Enrico Casale

**Gli Scarti artists:** Enrico Casale, Alessandro Ratti, Alessandro Pallecchi Arena, Emanuela Serra, Michela Lucenti, Balletto Civile





Workshop by Oleg Kulik,  
Portal, 2019  
Photo: Gregor Salobir/  
Archive X-OP

## PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

### Comune di Santo Stefano di Magra

Piazza Matteotti Snc, 19037 Santo Stefano Di Magra (SP), Italy

### Klanghaus Untergreith

Untergreith 216, 8443 Sankt Johann Im Saggautal, Steiermark, Austria

### Drustvo Za Sodobno Umetnost X-OP

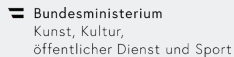
Tyrseva Ulica 20, 2000 Maribor Podravska, Slovenia

### Ibug e.V.

Werk II, Kochstraße 132, 04277 Leipzig, Germany

### Associazione Culturale Gli Scarti

Via Aurelia 61, 19020 Beverino, La Spezia, Italy



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Area Vaccari  
*Photo: Giuliano Venturelli*

