

# FOKS results presented in extra session at international conference

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference: “Innovative Solutions for Revitalisation of Degraded Areas” on 5-7 October 2011 in Ustroń / Poland started with a special session on the FOKS project. More than one hundred scientists and practitioners from Poland, Italy, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic and Colombia came to Ustroń.

The aim of the Conference organised by the Research and Supervisory Centre of Underground Mining Co. Ltd and the Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas was to present achievements and scientific outcomes, practical technical and organisational solutions supporting sustainable development of degraded areas. During the conference 40 papers presented results of applied research conducted in

- former mining areas (coal, lignite, non-ferrous metal ores)
- former metallurgical areas
- brownfields located in urban areas

Further details are available in the Conference Program. -

[http://www.ietu.katowice.pl/eng/News/Ustron\\_2011/!!\\_Program\\_szczegolowy\\_Ustron\\_1\\_ang.pdf](http://www.ietu.katowice.pl/eng/News/Ustron_2011/!!_Program_szczegolowy_Ustron_1_ang.pdf)

The Conference started with a Special session during which research results of the FOKS project - **Focus on Key Sources of Environmental Risks** (co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Transnational Cooperation Operational Programme for Central Europe 2007-2013) were presented. The project focused on groundwater protection is aiming at an optimal procedure for identification, ranking and assessment of groundwater contamination in large industrial and urban areas. Respective strategies, tools and technologies have been demonstrated and applied on several pilot sites in four European countries: Poland, German, Italy and the Czech Republic.

The **FOKS Special Session** was focused on the progress of works carried out in Jaworzno site degraded by the activity of the ORGANIKA AZOT Chemical Plant. The presented papers contributed to the development of a “recipe” specifying both the water contamination level and the relevant treatment methods. Within the coming months the project team is designing an action plan for the remediation of the site. This action plan will be the basic document for the efforts of Jaworzno to obtain funds for future activities to clean-up and revitalise the area.



Participants of the FOKS session were informed that the activities in other pilot sites would be presented at the final conference, which was planned for 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Jaworzno. More information can be found on the [www.projectfoks.eu](http://www.projectfoks.eu).



Further **regular sessions** were held on the topics:

- Natural and landscape aspects of revitalisation of degraded areas
- Techniques of soil-water environment monitoring and survey
- Remediation technologies for degraded areas
- Social and economical aspects of revitalisation of degraded areas
- Spatial planning strategies, management and implementation of the revitalisation process

What participants of the Ustron conference appreciate the most are the issues addressed in the delivered presentations, interesting discussions and the atmosphere of the event. According to Dr. Jan Skowronek - Director of the Institute *“the Conference has become an integral part of the scientific events calendar, which is reflected in the increasing number of participants, a large group of young scientists, as well as in the interest shown by economic entities and public administration”*.

