

Between Opencast Mining and Solar Energy – Energy Policy in the Center of Europe –

*n-ost research-journey to the border triangle
for 12 media representatives from Poland, Czech Republic and Germany*

Date: September 13th to 17th 2010

Application deadline: 30th June 2010

The debate around climate protection and finite resources has raised the future of energy supply as a central question of our time. For the people in the border triangle between Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic, energy policy is more than just theory.

All regions have intensively used brown coal since the times of the socialist economy. In Germany, new and controversial technologies such as carbon capture and storage are being justified as climate friendly. In Poland and the Czech Republic, where coal is by far the number one source of energy, billions are invested in the development of power plants and opencast mines. Villages are still threatened by the excavators. Protests against opencast mining are now organized across borders.

Growing investments in the use of alternative energy from wind, sun and geothermal heat show on the other hand that the Czech Republic and Poland are no longer exclusively reliant on coal. It is also a merit of the local inhabitants, that communities are willing to substitute their entire energy supply with renewable sources.

Which opportunities the renewable-energies-branch provides for underdeveloped regions has been recognized in the neighboring federal states of Brandenburg and Saxony. These states have invested massively in the development of alternative energy technologies in the recent years.

Also new to Poland is the use of nuclear energy. While in Germany the decision to exit from nuclear energy production is still in place, its neighbors plan to invest in it. Communities even compete as sites for future nuclear power plants.

The five day program of the research journey includes visits of coal mines and resettlements, alternative energy sources and technical pilot plants. Politicians, members of the energy industry, scientists, members of citizens' groups and other persons concerned in the three countries will be available for talks and discussions.

Program

The program starts on the 13th September 2010 at 12pm in Frankfurt/Oder.

From there we will visit the stations of the trip (Legnica, Usti nad Labem, Schwarze Pumpe a.o.) with a chartered bus. The trip ends on the 17th September in Frankfurt/Oder.

Costs

	Participants from Germany		Participants from Poland and Czech Republic	
	n-ost member	Others	n-ost member	others
Employees	270 EUR	290 EUR	130 EUR	140 EUR
Freelancers	180 EUR	200 EUR	100 EUR	110 EUR

The participation fee includes five days of bus transportation, four overnight stays, catering and translation.

A refund of transportation costs from subsidies is possible.

Application

Journalists from Poland, Czech Republic and Germany working for print and electronic media or radio may apply. Since the working language of the trip will be English, sufficient language skills are expected.

Applications should include:

- a letter of motivation for the participation in the trip (max 1 page), including which medium publications are planned
- a short curriculum vitae
- 1 or 2 work samples (for radio a written summary of the broadcasting is sufficient)

For questions and further information:

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