

## ESTABLISHING NEW MINERALOGICAL-MONTANISTIC EXHIBITION IN THE HISTORIC TOWN OF SMOLNÍK (SLOVAKIA)

WEIS, K.<sup>1</sup>, JELEŇ, S.<sup>1</sup> & NIKOLAJ, M.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geography and Geology, Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

<sup>2</sup> ESPRIT Ltd., Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia

E-mail: karol.weis@umb.sk

### The current presentation of history of mining activities in Spiš-Gemer region

Smolník (Schmöllnitz, Szomolnok) used to be an important mining locality and a former administrative center of the Upper Hungary mining, latter Eastern-Slovak mining – former residence of the Upper Hungary Mint Chamber and the Main Chamber of Commerce for the Spiš and Gemer regions. This mining center share similarities with Banská Štiavnica (Schemnitz, Selmezbánya) being relevant for mining localities in Central Slovakia. The end of mining in the region in the early 1990s resulted in a gradual disappearance of employment opportunities in the wider region and also left many important mining facilities to lapse.

The prosperous mining of precious metals, iron and especially copper in the regions of Smolník and Smolnícka Huta was well-documented for 800 years and forms a partial segment in the current museum exhibitions within the wider region – Historical exhibition and Gallery of Mining Museum in Rožňava and Mining museum in Gelnica. The latter is currently integrated within Gelnica municipal administration (WEIS *et al.*, 2021). Despite the enormous importance and rich history of Smolník, only the modern history was briefly presented at the small exhibition documenting, more or less, the last 100 years of the town's existence and local industry.

### The main purpose and establishment of the mineralogical and montanistic exposition presenting historical mining activities in the area of Lower Spiš

The establishment of the local exhibition presenting mineralogy, deposit conditions and mining activities in Smolník together with immersive elements of the underground of the so-called Elizabeth's house was the result of the joint initiative of civic association Geotour and the Department of Geography and Geology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences (Matej Bel University,

Slovakia). The mapping, research in archives and in the field within the territory of Smolník and nearby region resulted in the summary of the collections of ore samples (RYBÁR *et al.*, 2017), the most important minerals and various types of artifacts formed the basis for the creation of mineralogical-deposit, alchemical as well as montanistic exposition in the attractive underground (catacombs) of Elizabeth's house. The building currently belongs to the municipality of Smolník and the temporary operator (before handing over the expositions to the municipality) will be Geotour (Civic Association). In addition to the classic exhibits, the history of mining and the importance of Smolník will also be presented through modern audio-visualization technologies, 3D visualizations (Fig. 1) and holographic images (WEIS *et al.*, 2016). The exhibition spaces and surroundings will also be used for the activities of educational projects, which will be aimed at schoolchildren and the young generation in general.

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### References

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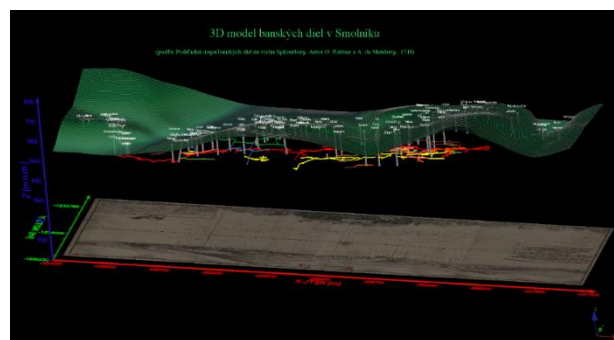


Fig. 1.: 3D virtual reconstruction and visualization of extinct mining works from the historical mining map from 1748