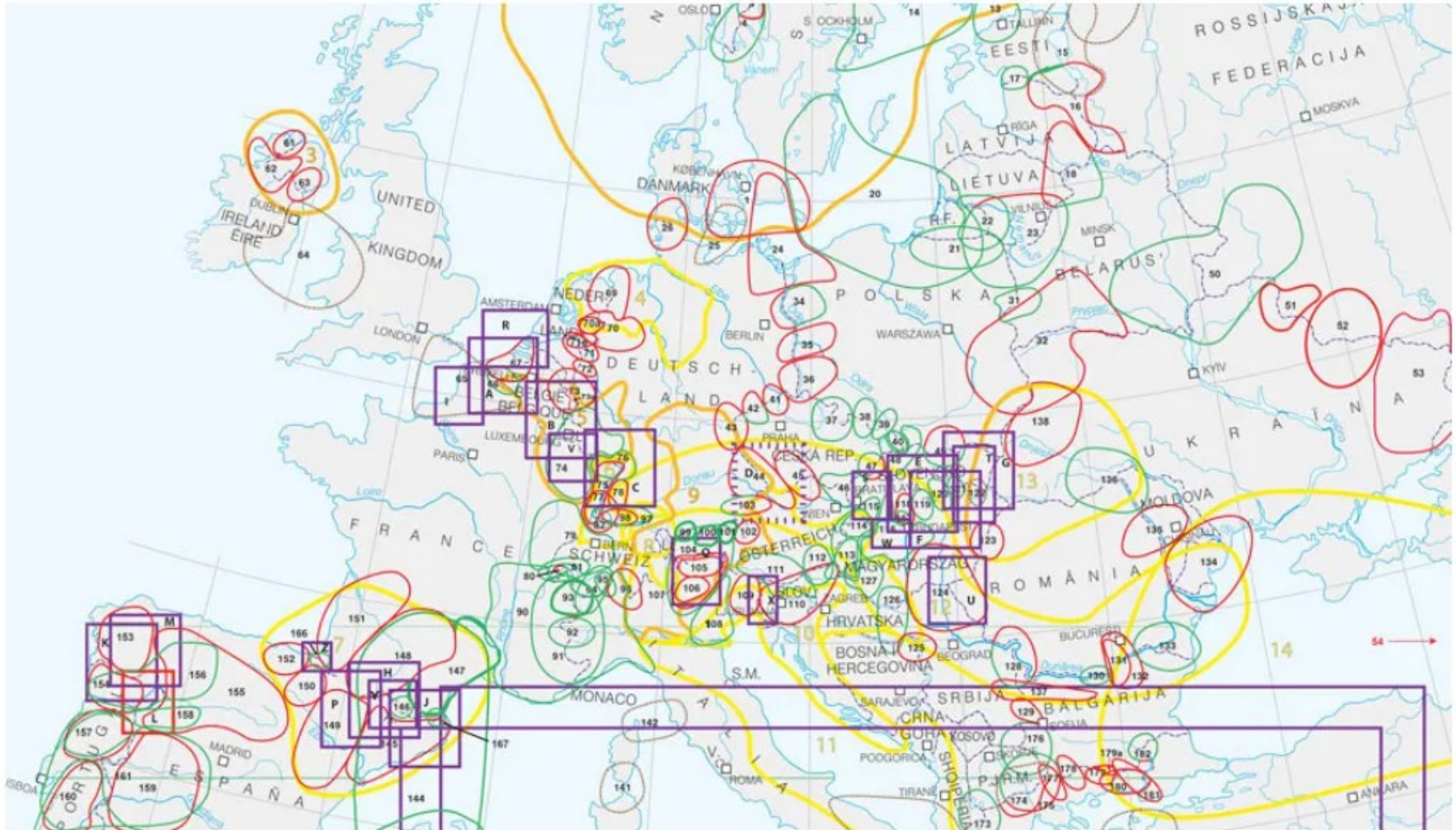


Cross-border cooperation in Europe

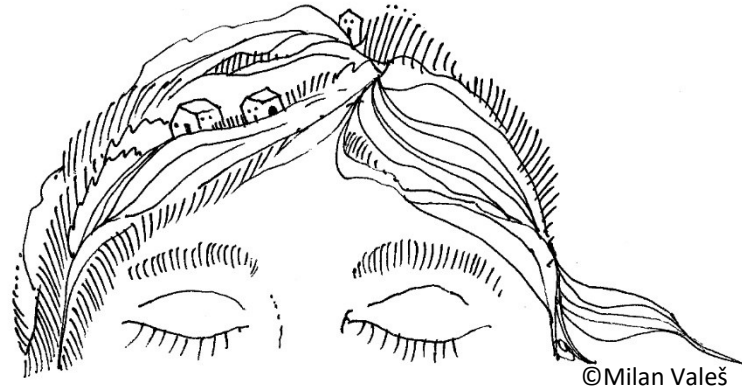


AEBR Cross-Border School

Governance of the Green Deal in the border regions

20th October 2021

Location: Radboud University, the Netherlands



Socio-cultural challenges for energy transition in border regions

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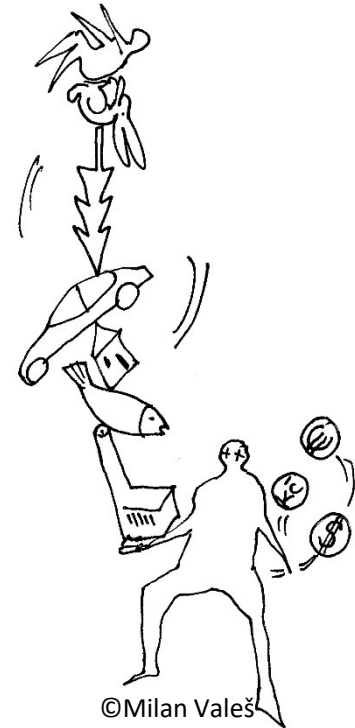


CESMINE: socio-economic rehabilitation after small-scale mining and quarrying in Germany, Denmark and Czechia

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

LOCAL RAMIFICATIONS OF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION

- Expected effects of the energy transition agenda are highly localized.
- Need to connect the development of global scale policy with the people and places that are most likely to be affected.
- The extent and nature disruptions on local settings depends on the efficiency of government interventions and the adaptive capacity of the communities.
- An understanding of residents' motivations behind their decisions to stay or to migrate is important for successful transition policy.
- Interactions between people and places (place attachments) critically shape people's decisions.



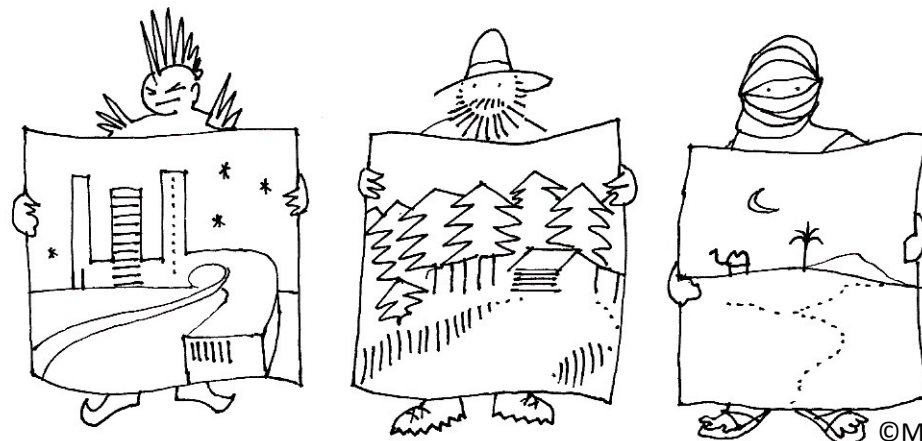
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PLACE ATTACHMENT: PEOPLE-PLACE INTERACTIONS

- Places as stable, bounded and historically continuous entities
- Attachments between people and places are dynamic and dialectic.
- Some place attachments can be formed as the result of an absence of life alternatives, rather than through some form of choice.
- All places, even the 'less pretty', have the potential to stimulate meanings and connections.

VS

Places as bundles formed through individual, community and cultural interactions



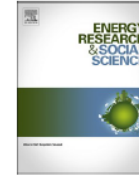
Energy Research & Social Science 71 (2021) 101831



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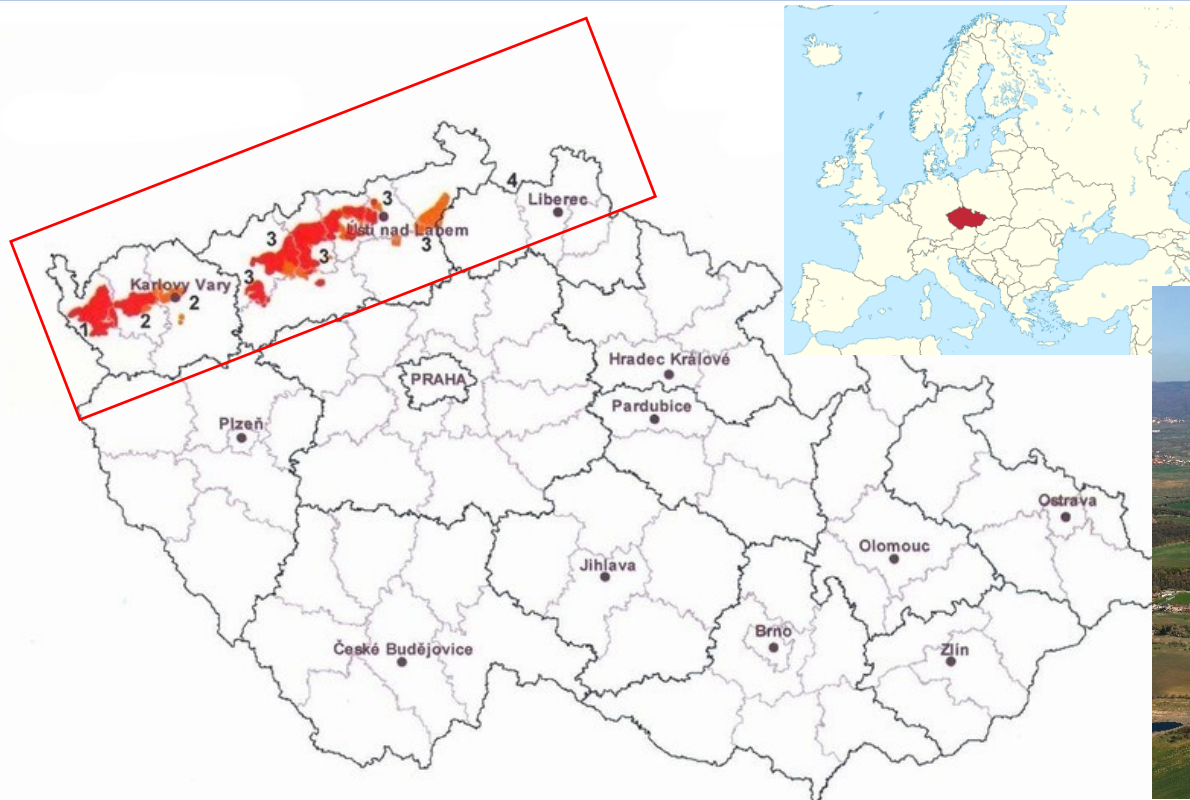
The global energy transition and place attachment in coal mining communities: Implications for heavily industrialized landscapes

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How is place attachment formed, expressed, localized, and transferred across the life of mine?

LIGNITE MINING REGIONS IN CZECHIA BORDERLAND



1960s – 1990s: Resettlement of over 100 villages and towns ~ 60,000 residents

Libkovice (~ 2,000 residents)



Most (~ 30,000 residents)

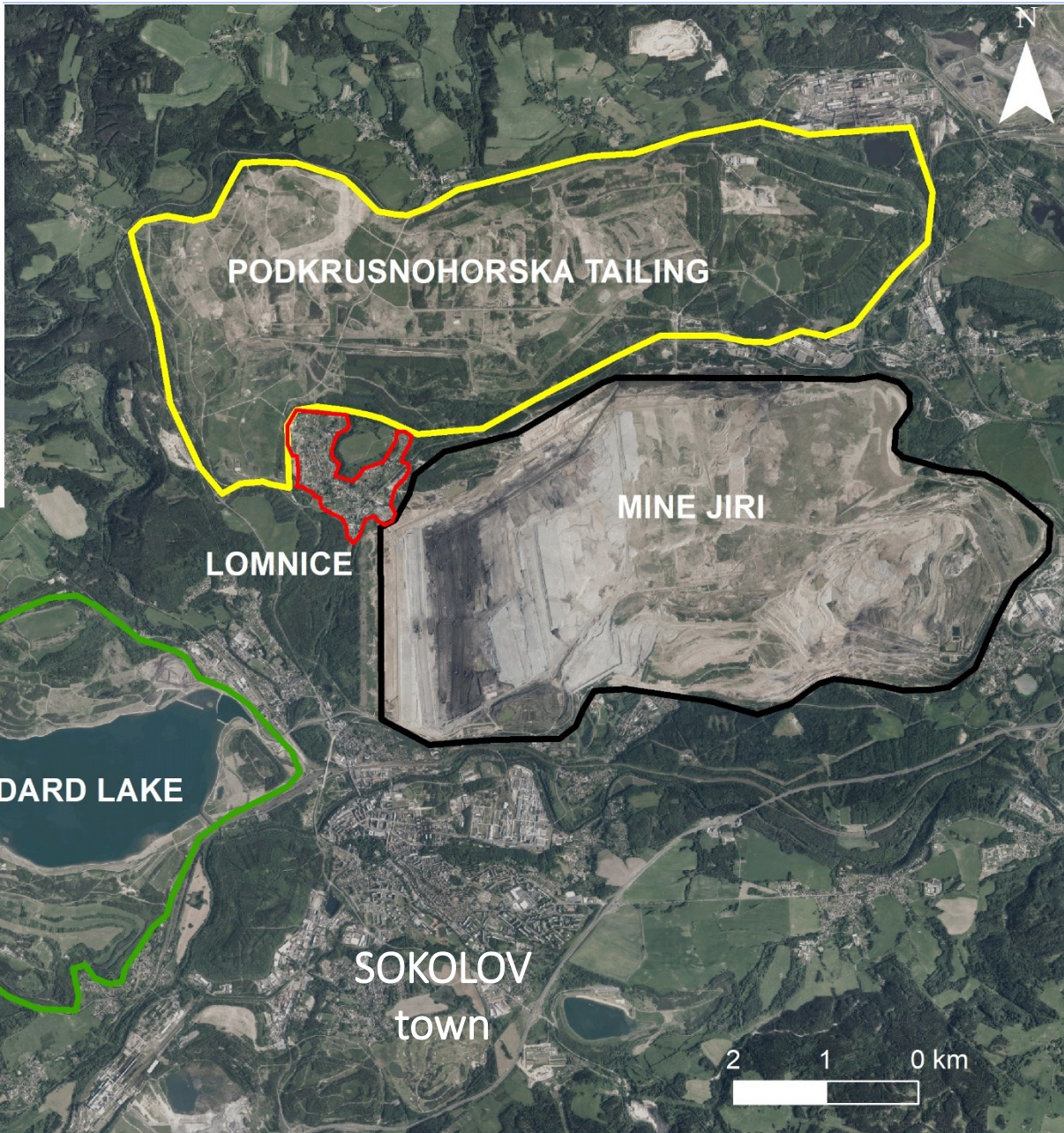


SOKOLOV REGION



Legend

- Community
- Early stage reclamation (less than 10 years)
- Older reclamation (more than 15 years)
- Mine

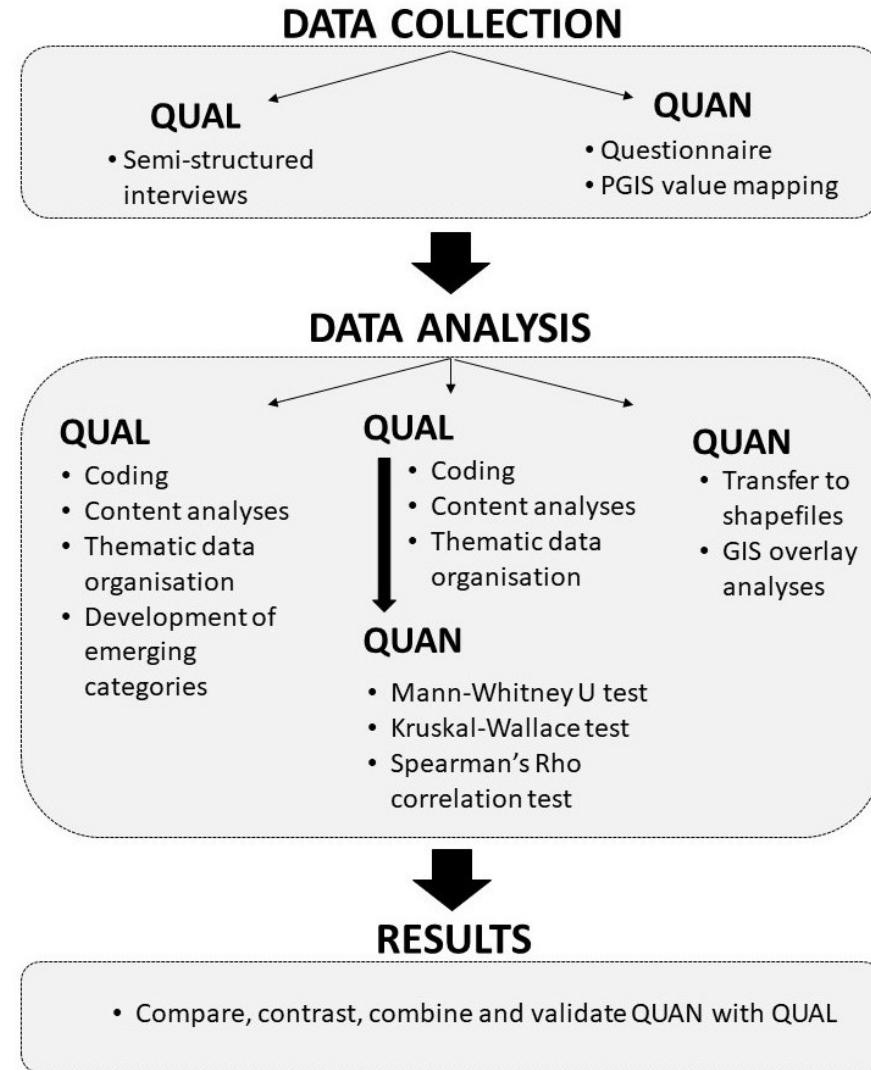




STUDY DESIGN

- **Mixed methods approach**
- Questionnaires, interviews, participatory value mapping
- 40 residents: 20 persons per town
- January - March 2017

	HABARTOV	LOMNICE
Men/ Women	10/ 10	10/ 10
Average age	49 years	48 years
Education level	University 6 High school 9 Lower 5	University 2 High school 13 Lower 5
Average time spent in the community	43 years	40 years
Job in mining	2 (10%)	6 (30%)



RESULTS

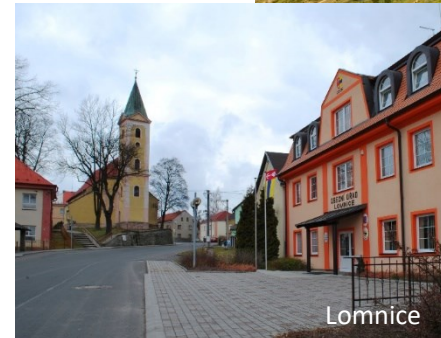
- All participants expressed some types of attachment. These attachments differed between the two study communities.

Place attachments differed with different determinants

- 22 determinants of place attachment – person and place related – were identified.
- Determinants had both positive and negative functions.
- Participants from Lomnice reported significantly more determinants of place attachment and more positive attachments than residents of Habartov.



Habartov



Lomnice



Habartov



Lomnice

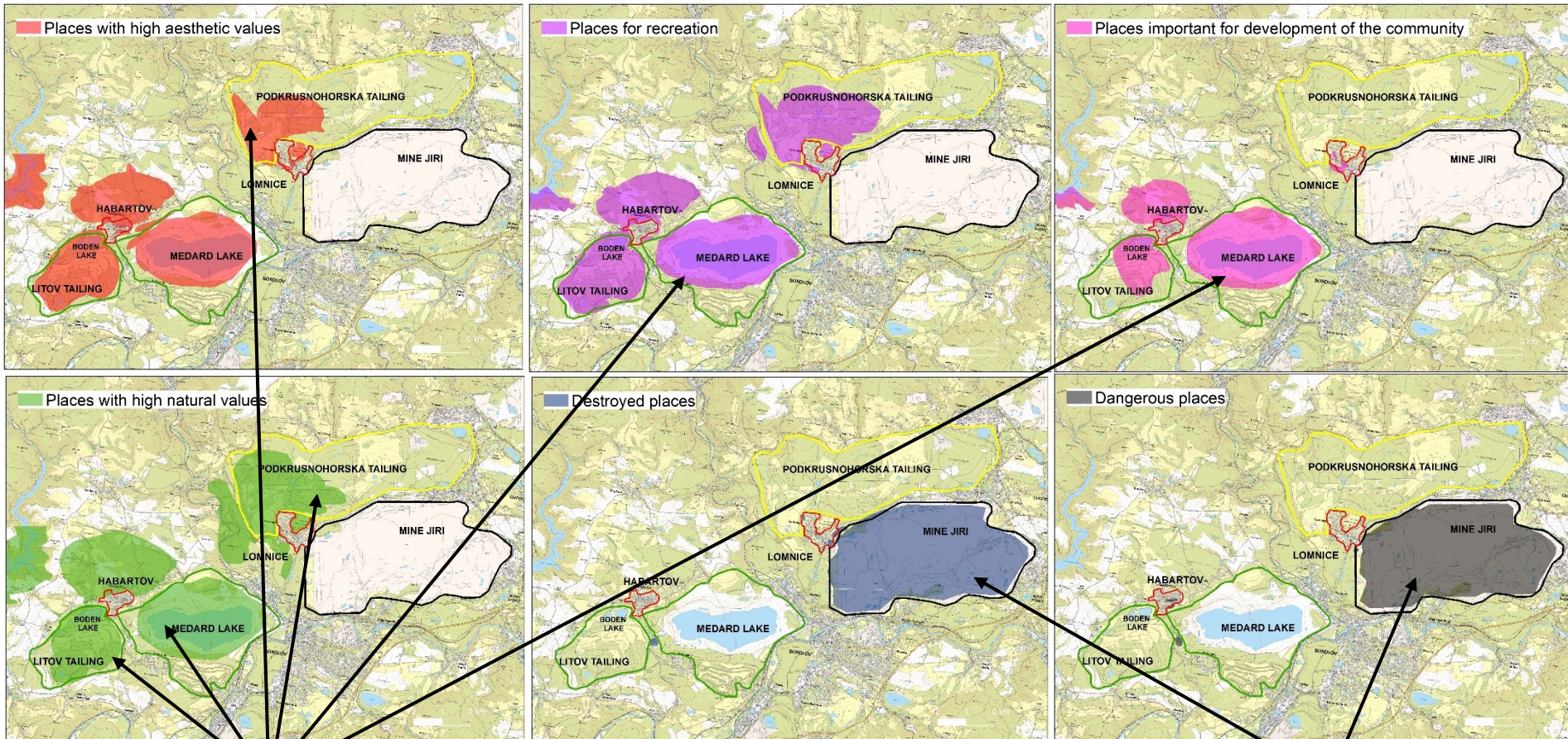
Historical disruptions affected place attachments

- Historical disruptions can affect attachment bundles by removing or changing determinants.
- When attachments are disrupted, individuals struggled to rebuild them.

A resident of Habartov: *“I don’t like the structure of our community. It is, to a certain extent, caused by its location and former mining, and especially displacement and forced immigration of mining workers and gypsies during the communist regime. We live in a new agglomeration that has absolutely no history. It all disappeared in the pit. This bothers me a lot. There is a maximum of two historical buildings in Habartov. Other towns can rely on their own history, but we can’t. ... Habartov has no traditions, no cultural centre, nothing ...”*.

A resident of Lomnice: *“This town is my life. It is close to my heart. I have loved it since my childhood. When Germans lived here before the war and then mine workers in Communism, we all got along very well. Most of them were displaced to other places in the region ... There have been huge changes in Lomnice, but I still love it so much.”*.

Place attachments were identified in heavily industrialized places



“oasis of peace and calm”
“nature”
“relax”
“beautiful”

“hole in the ground”
“dust” “dirty”
“depressive”
“ecological burden”
“lunar landscape”

Place attachments were dynamic and transferable

- Place attachments are transferable across different phases of the life of mine.
- Two mechanisms of the transfer were recognized: *direct* via participant's own experience and memories, and *indirect* through stories and shared memories.

HABARTOV	Pre-mining	Mining	Post-mining *
Own memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beautiful natural place - Lakes, Forests - Soccer field, Walking trails - Houses with fruit trees in gardens - Childhood memories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dust - Noise - Lunar landscape - Stopped going to the area when mined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Huge change - Beautiful - Nature - Landscape diversity - Clean water in lakes - Swimming, Fishing
Stories/ shared memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive memories - Visits of the places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life was uncomfortable - Destroyed area - Theft of a beautiful land and dwellings of people - Mining did not pay it all off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oasis of calm - Place to rest - Mine rehab fits well to the surroundings
LOMNICE	Pre-mining	Mining *	Post-mining
Own memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memories of villages and towns that have been demolished and activities related to them - Childhood memories - Walking trails - Safe place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jobs - Dust - Noise - Environment burden - Inevitability evil - Property loses value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belief in the return of their beautiful landscape - As soon as the mine rehab areas turn green, it will be nice again - Expectations for hydric reclamation and afforestation
Stories/ shared memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive memories - People liked visiting the place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appreciation of SUAS's work 	

CONCLUSIONS I



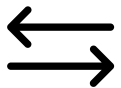
Place attachment is conceptualized as a bundle of positive and negative determinants. While some determinants can attract to the attachment, the same determinants changed in their shapes and functions can likewise detract from that attachment. This conceptualization allows for the content of that bundle and for the function of individual determinants to change over time.



All places have the potential to attract attachments or detract from attachments. This allows us to examine attachments in less idealized landscapes.



The configuration and balance of attractors and detractors in the place attachment bundles are essential for understanding the practical implications and limitations of place attachments.



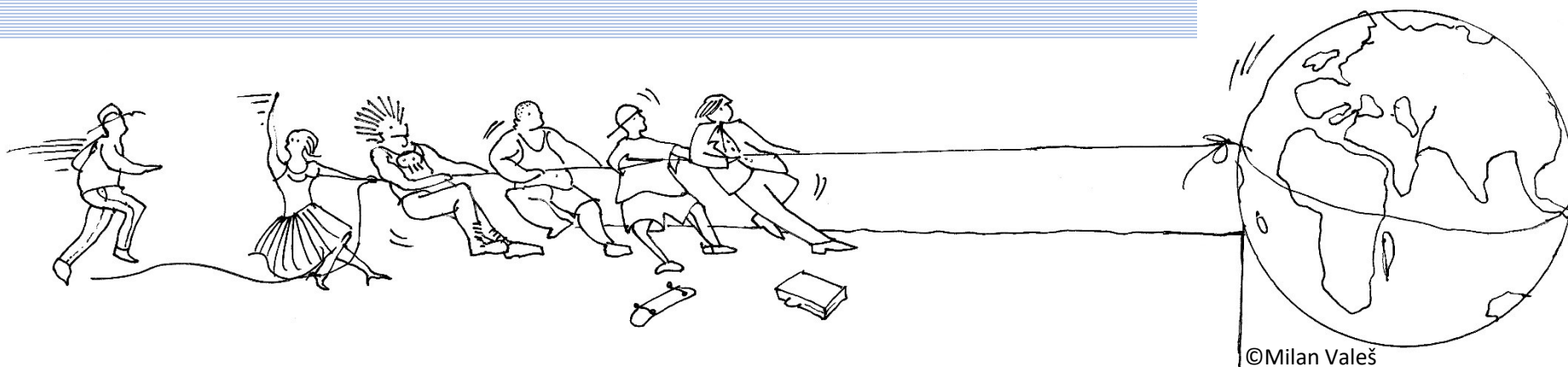
Determinants forming place attachment bundles may be transferrable in the sense that they can be re-established in another place. Transferability is highly contingent upon the place and the person.

CONCLUSIONS II

- The willingness and ability of people to move and re-establish their social and economic connections will be central to the success or failure of energy transition.
- By analysing local conditions and the attributes of individuals, it is possible to predict the character and composition of place attachment 'bundles', or in other words, estimate the balance of attractors or detractors that influence individual decision making.
- Disaggregating the attachment bundles will provide insights into critical questions, such as: who is inclined to stay and who will leave, and under which circumstances?



Thank you.



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