In the last two hundred years, the landscape of Europe has been dominated by actively exploited hard coal deposits. The largest of them were located in Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain, and also in the European part of the USSR (Donetsk Coal Basin). Hard coal mining and related industry enabled the global modernization of the continent and the emergence of a high-energy civilization powered by coal. Moving away from coal creates the opportunity to take a new look at the history of mining as a whole. In the project, we propose to study the cultural history of the last operating coalfield in Europe. In this way, we want to show that the decarbonization process must include, in addition to the sphere of economy, economics, and politics, the sphere of culture, and the phasing out of coal should be preceded by explaining the network of connections between the environment, the need for its exploitation and the need to end it. The deep mapping we propose is intended to capture these relationships, visualize them, and then become a supra-regional example of how to effectively carry out the decarbonization process based on digital humanities, databases, and cultural history.

Our research aims to capture the relationships between the natural environmental conditions prevailing in the Upper Silesian Coal Basin (GZW) and its culture about the geology of hard coal and heavy industry. We believe that these compounds are, on the one hand, very strong and have a long tradition, but on the other hand, they are still untested using interesting and modern methods. We consider capturing these compounds to be crucial in the process of decarbonization of the coal mine, which is why one of the most important goals of the project is to develop a model of this decarbonization, based on understanding the specificity of culture shaped by the close influence of hard coal seams exploited by humans.

The map that we want to prepare thanks to these reconnaissances will be the world's first map of the coal basin, which will include all past and present coal-related industrial plants, all active and exploited coal seams, and all the corresponding literary texts and artifacts that can be found. connect with these points. Such a map will not only help restore the memory of coal and understand the scale of its impact on culture but will also reveal the scale of the industry's impact on the environment, because it will also contain traces of anthropopressure and the Anthropocene, such as heaps or dumps thrown out of their beds, regulated or turned into canals. rivers-sewage.

The project will involve a 14-person team (7 people from PL, 7 people from CZ) of literary and cultural historians, anthropologists, geographers, and photography experts from the University of Ostrava and the University of Silesia in Katowice. The team will work on material in three languages (Czech, Polish and German). Part of the team will work at individual stages: stage 1 - 13 people, stage 2 - 10 people, stage 3 - 10 people, stage 4 - 8 people. The project is planned to achieve four specific objectives: developing the concept of the GZW culture in the decarbonization horizon, determining the role of decarbonization in collecting the coal heritage of individual post-mining/mining regions, developing the concept of the environmental history of coal and the history of coal culture/environmental literature, inventorying and mapping the widest possible archive cultural GZW.

The result of the work will be a publicly available digital map of GZW culture, an issue of the environmental magazine prepared by the entire team, and three articles written by both PIs, Marta Tomczok and Jan Malura.