

REMIX

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU



Action Plan Czech Republic



MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRY AND TRADE



Research &
innovation

Leading the European policies
towards more sustainable mining
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1. General information

Project: REMIX – Smart and Green Mining Regions of EU

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<https://www.interregeurope.eu/remix/>

2. Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument:
State Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic

3. Action:

Update of the State Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic into the regions

3.1. Background of the policy instrument and the action planned

The main output of the project Remix for the Czech Republic

One of the important benefits of the implementation of REMIX project is the possibility of comparing the technological level of mining in all participating regions. This implies an important benefit for the Czech Republic in the application of new tools for promoting principles of Green Mining in the Czech Republic. Efforts to apply Green Mining as widely as possible will apply both in legal instruments and in practical requirements for the introduction of environmentally friendly mining technologies. Last, but not least, it will also apply the Green Mining principles in the Czech Raw Material Policy, which will not allow any method of mining other than those that can be described as Green Mining.

The action planned

The main objective of the participation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (further MIT) as the Project Partner is stated in the Application Form that comparison and utilization of experiences of other member states not only with State Raw Materials Policy, but also with Regional Raw Materials Strategies and their cohesion to land use planning will be very useful both for modernization of State Raw Materials Policy and Regional Raw

Materials Strategies. Updated Regional Raw Materials Strategies are obliged to be in accordance with State Raw Material Policy. Furthermore, the REMIX project is to involve Czech Stakeholders in personal contact with other regions throughout Europe and to enable them to exchange experiences. Distribute new ideas and practices capable of creating new jobs and business opportunities and improving public opinion on mineral extraction. The MIT and Czech Stakeholders translate the gained experience into regional raw materials strategies.

The Czech Republic wants to be at the forefront of the sustainable use of natural resources. The realization of the vision begins with building a strong domestic base with effective cooperation of regional participants. The main objective is to maintain consistency, interconnection and ideas of the State Raw Material Policy also in the regions and ensure their observance during the subsequent updates. This is a very good example for other countries / regions, as there are often differences between central and Regional Raw Material Strategies.

Background of the policy

Modernized State Raw Materials Policy was approved by the Government of the Czech Republic on July 14, 2017, therefore there was no much possibilities to take advantage from REMIX experience. However, the document is obliged to be updated every five years. It means that next update can exploit all useful pieces of knowledge from REMIX project. Currently, our action is focused on the implementation of the updated State Raw Materials Policy into the regions: modernization of Regional Raw Materials Strategies in line with the State Raw Materials Policy, which is a second step planned after the Governmental approval of the State Raw Materials Policy of the Czech Republic.

The implementation of the State Raw Materials Policy into the regions is based on:

- the need to create the basis for the sustainable mining industry and business development
- the need to have better communication / interconnection with the overall land use planning
- the need of better use of the RDI capacity

The implementation/modernization of State Raw Materials Policy into regions started in Liberec region (North of Bohemia). Good Practices and other experience obtained in REMIX are already included into that process. Methodology for the formation of standards for creation of the periodical actualization of Regional Raw Materials Strategies and use it for other regions has been done and also includes Good Practices and other experience obtained in REMIX. The MIT is leading the development the new integrated mining policy on the national level, it stays in an advisory role for the regional level (through the Methodology). Other regions will continue in implementation/modernization of Regional Raw Materials Strategies

Good practices

Relevance to the project – inspiration for this action comes from the good practices from REMIX partners in Finland, Austria, Poland, United Kingdom, Greece and Spain.

Ascertainment and comparison of experience of the other REMIX Project Partners and their stakeholders is of great value. Even more, some of European regions already have their Regional Raw Materials Strategies and has to solve similar questions and challenges, which Czech regions are facing. Continuation of above described task of Action Plan is to spread Good Practices acquired during REMIX working meetings both in the Project Partner´s countries and in the Czech Republic to the Czech Stakeholders, involved other companies and public in the form which could be forwarded to all other bodies interested in it. Hereby, the profit obtained from Peer Review meetings and conferences of REMIX will be advantaged by very wide group of bodies from mining and Land Use Planning sectors.

MIT, as a partner of the REMIX project, studied geological exploration, mining, processing and liquidation of the consequences of mineral extraction during their foreign visits. The Czech participants were very interested in communication of mining companies with local municipalities and the general public. This experience is regularly transferred to the mitigation of the consequences of mining activities. In April 2018, the Ministry of Industry and Trade approved the factual plan of actions ensuring the development of enterprises for 2018, which specified priorities for economic development of enterprises with the aim of securing societal interest (exploitation and protection of deposits). Co-operation

with the Czech Geological Survey was started to reassess the forecast resources and deposits of strategic mineral resources in the Czech Republic. Research work in the area of North Bohemian and possibilities of uranium and ore deposits in the Czech Republic started. As part of the new concept of disposal of waste dumps on the uranium deposit in Příbram town, a preliminary feasibility study was prepared and presented to local municipalities with a positive response. In the area of investments, a system of laboratory grinding and crushing of rock samples (disc mills and grinding set, jaw crusher) was purchased and a tubular furnace at 1,600 ° C was purchased for thermal processing of rock samples.

In 2018, a feasibility study was completed for the action “Geothermal Use of Mine Water Energy” and work on a feasibility study was underway on the action “Pumped-storage hydroelectric power stations in the sites of current and former open-pit lignite quarries.

In 2019 and 2020, in the area of liquidation works, work and activities related to the operation of pumping and treatment stations to ensure decontamination of mine and surface waters, as decided by the water management authorities and the operation and maintenance of tailings ponds, will be ensured.

Companies from the Sev.En group (Czech stakeholder) started to organize excursions for public. Coal Safari offers excursions to operating mines and re-cultivated areas of old mining sites serving to learn about technology of mining and recovery of nature. Mining industry has often a negative image among the general public, the young generation hardly understands its importance. The purpose is to offer visitors a very close view on the technology of an operating quarry extracting brown coal as well as on the re-cultivated natural areas of closed mining sites, which are nowadays rich in their fauna and flora. The excursion represents an exceptional source of knowledge and experience for the visitors and becomes an important communication tool for the company (<https://www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning/good-practices/item/2557/coal-safari/>).

REMIX offers the Czech Republic an international platform for the development of mining regions and cities. All Good Practices presented by Project Partners during the rounds on Peer Review meetings were considered as very useful for actualization of Regional Raw Materials Strategies and for future update (in 2023) of the State Raw Materials Policy.

Experience from the first Finland Peer Review meeting in Kemi and particularly from nearby Outokumpu chromite mine was very inspirational. Man can see in real that practically all process of primary ore treatment is located in the underground. Enriched ore is extracted on the surface only and transported to the smelting plant. There is no surface mining waste heaps, because rubbish is used as filling in the underground mined space. It was good idea for methodology of Regional Raw Materials Strategies and also for our stakeholder Czech Mining Authority that is responsible for all Mining Projects approval in territory of the Czech Republic.

Austria offers good practices in a protected landscape area. Mining can be carried out with a huge surface dump of mining waste. The aim was to create a clear map of mineral deposits in order to better discuss their protection. In the case of sand and gravel, the individual deposits can be divided according to their quality, conflicts with land-use planning, protected areas, etc. Austrian experience from Peer Review meeting was the surprise due to coexistence of huge open pit mine Erzberg in the centre of nature-protected Schwabische Alpen or excellent good practices in the case of Mittersil tungsten, which is also mined without environmental impacts in the national part. It is good example for our Czech State Raw Materials Policy and also for Regional Raw Materials Strategies of peaceful coexistence of the nature and mining industry.

Experience in Poland from their planning document of national nature was that the protection of deposits is continued in an optional manner in the documents such as a Regional raw materials policy - very similar to the Czech situation. This kind of study, until adopted as local act, is not mandatory for the protection of deposits – this is opposite to the Czech Republic situation. Planning documents such as the spatial development plan of the voivodeship and the local spatial development plan, which are the source of universally applicable law, are of particular importance in protecting the deposits as they are acts of local law. Revitalization of old mining/industrial areas was a good signal for us that this approach is used also in other country for promotion and improvements of PR of the mining sector.

In Valladolid, establishment of the International Centre for Advanced Materials and Raw Materials, which aim is to attract the most modern mining and processing technologies into the region of Castilla y Leon was very inspirational. We found out that they are also trying to extract critical and modern minerals from ancient heaps in the Spain like in the Czech Republic.

British Cornwall was inspirational in the fact of revitalization of mining sector including relatively high number of new students in the Camborne School of Mines. We found that they have similar problems with very complicated legislative regarding environmental protection as we are facing in the Czech Republic.

Greek Peer Review meeting was inspirational in the way to can see that very dirty process of bauxite ore smelting factory of Aluminium Greece located on sea shore aside of small village of Agios Nikolaos has no influence on the air nor on the see in the bay of Aspra Spitia. They start to reprocess the ancient “red slug” from bauxite processing.

Finnish Peer Review meeting in Joensuu was inspirational in green mining. While in the Czech Republic and in most European countries and regions, the mining of minerals is currently in decline or in a deep downturn, the situation in Finland is different. In the Czech Republic, the issue of mining and quarrying is associated with environmental protection issues and generally encounters disagreement with environmental organizations and public opposition, even when it is potentially economically viable. In Finland, mining has a different dimension. Above all, these are innovations focused on technology and automation of mining and subsequent processing of mineral resources directly in the mining region. Another group consists of innovations aimed at environmental protection. Due to the very low population density of Finland and the aforementioned high standards of environmental protection, the social acceptability of mining is different and the fulfillment of environmental criteria is not as complicated as in the Czech Republic, where mining takes place generally near human settlements.

In 2019 we have started negotiations with the Finnish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment on the project Green Mining. In April 2020 we will organize conference with participation of Finish experts (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Finish geological service, Regional Government of Lapland). Goal of the conference will be how to defence green mining in according to the Finnish model. Revitalization of old mining/industrial areas was good signal for us that this way uses also other country for promotion and improvements of PR of the mining sector.

We share the same issues with the Saxon Regional Government. We negotiate on the exchange of information regarding the exploration, extraction and processing of lithium and other raw materials.

4. Action: The use of the outputs of REMIX project in activities of the Ministry of Industry and Trade

4.1. What was / will be done during the 1st phase of REMIX project in the Czech Republic

The MIT formed Stakeholder group and organized its regular meetings according the plan in Application Form. Results and Good Practices from every international Peer Review meetings were presented on Czech stakeholder group meetings by the MIT and some stakeholders, because not everybody could travel abroad.

We analyzed the interests and needs of our stakeholder group and as following steps we carried out / will carry out:

- Detailed overview of the Best practices from the REMIX project in Czech language with a special focus on innovations - as it is also the central topic for State Raw Materials Policy (spreading of Good Practices acquired during REMIX working meetings both in the project partners countries and in the Czech Republic to the Czech Stakeholders and relevant public in the form which could be forwarded to all other bodies interested in it. Translation to Czech language is a crucial point as the language barrier is significant among our stakeholders and professional public, a brochure in Czech language was published and is spreading among our Stakeholder group, the Project Partner will also use several brochures to disseminate REMIX Good Practices and results of the project on its´ events for professionals (for example Minner´ s Day in September).
- Fulfilment of the modernization of the State Raw Materials Policy and its approval by the Government of the Czech Republic was done in June 2017. Project of SRMP implementation to the first region (Liberec) started at the end of 2017. Overview of the process of implementation of the Regional Raw Materials Strategies – in the Czech Republic as well as in Europe.

Liberec region was invited to join our stakeholders group, even though it is not a mining region, to share the experience with the First implementation of Regional Raw Materials Strategy to our stakeholders who are actively interested in the process. Liberec region actively is going to use their Regional Raw Materials Strategy for purposes of Land Use Planning. The publication prepared by the MIT is the transfer of information and experience to the general public.

4.2. What will be done during the 2nd phase of REMIX project

Nature of the action: Description of the specific activities to be

implemented: The main aim of the 2nd phase is utilization of experience and Good Practices obtained in REMIX for modernization of Regional Raw Materials Strategies as well as dissemination and building awareness about Remix outputs.

The current problem of the Second Phase remains that the Government of the Czech Republic has not yet approved an amendment to the State Raw Material Policy, which result is the lack of a methodology and regions cannot implement the State Raw Material Policy by elaborating their Regional Raw Material Strategies.

The first estimations were that the amendment should be approved in the end of 2019. Unfortunately, the approval process takes longer time than expected and the new date of approval is postponed to 1st half of 2020. Therefore we expect that the first Regional Raw Materials Strategy will be completed and implemented in the Liberec Region at the beginning of next year (2021) and will be followed by the implementation of the Regional Raw Materials Strategy in other regions (for example Ústí nad Labem Region).

The main objective is to maintain consistency, interconnection and ideas of the State Raw Material Policy also in the regions and ensure their observance during the subsequent updates. These parameters will be set when processing the first two pilot regions. This is a very good example for other countries / regions, as there are often differences between central and regional raw material policies.

To support that activity Czech Project Partner will organize a platform for discussion, sharing experience and information on the actualization of the

Regional Raw Materials Strategy. The information studied, discussed and shared will come from the regional, national and international level. Answers to the questions, challenges and problems will be actively shared across the mentioned documents and their authors (institutions).

Steps that will be taken at policy level to modernise the Regional Raw Material Strategies in line with the State Raw Material Policy are as follows.

The Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade has asked all Czech Region´s Governors to write how they use existing Regional Raw Materials Policies. If they have updated Regional Raw Materials Policies at their expenses? Which parts of Regional Raw Material Policies they use most in exploration and extraction opinions. If there are any signals on the regional level that there might be a lack of available building materials in their region.

When we receive all the answers, we will arrange meetings with representatives of all regions. We will provide (introduce) them a newly study prepared for the Ministry by the Czech Geological Survey on reserve of building stone and sand and gravel. We will agree with them a timetable for updating Regional Raw Materials Policies (there is no capacity to update all 14 regional raw materials policies at once, it will be 4 regions each year).

As far as knowledge share is concerned, one of the inspiration for the MIT in the field of mineral resources is a very well developed system of issuing exploration of mining permits and mining technologies in Finland. One of the right professional connections between the relevant stakeholders for green mining is the organization of professional companies and universities in the Finnish Mining Cluster. Since 1989, no new open quarry or deep mine has been opened in the Czech Republic. The mining of gold and other metals were banned (because it seemed uneconomical at that time), and a number of mining areas and protected deposit areas were abolished, so that mineral resources could be balanced without hopeless loss. The reasons for the ban on mining were generally constructed or fabricated and had no racial reasons because they were politicized. Comparing the approach to mining in the Czech Republic and Finland, which is considered a model in the area of environmental additives for mining and processing of minerals, must be in wonder. In the last 5 years, Finish authorities have allowed exploration and extraction of raw materials such as: diamonds, precious metals (gold, silver, platinum), non-ferrous metals (Ni, Co, Pb, Zn, Cu) rare elements, other commodities (phosphates, chromite, limestone, mica).

In the respect of Green mining it seems crucial for the Czech state to amend some legal standards and decrees to explicitly declare what is and what is not green mining and which principles must be followed to implement the principles of green mining. On the basis of the above, the Ministry is going to organize a special event with the participation of Finnish REMIX stakeholders in April 2020.

The idea is as follows: Finnish REMIX stakeholders will participate in a project "Implementation of Green Mining Technology in the Czech Republic and education in the field of mining and processing of mineral resources". Speakers will be Finnish experts of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Environment, Local Government of Lapland, Finish Geological Survey. Czech Participants will be Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Environment, Czech Geological Survey, Czech Mining Authority, The Czech Mining Union, The Czech Extraction and Mining Technology, producers of mining equipment, NGOs, REMIX stakeholders.

Costs of 3000- EUR (including: a flight tickets for 3 Finnish experts, 1-2 nights in the hotel, interpreter, snack for 50 persons, transfers airport – hotel – airport for experts). Cost will be covered by the own financial resources of the MIT.

In respect of building awareness of REMIX outputs, following two events could be appropriate:

EXPO Lesní lom 2020 – 13th International demonstration exhibition of machinery and equipment for mining, mineral processing, and construction

This exhibition will take place in June 2020. The scope of the exhibition is very wide. It covers the whole chain of processing raw materials from mining, through processing, to its final use in the construction industry. A wide range of machinery and equipment is every year on display. E.g.: mining, loading and transportation technology; machinery and equipment for mineral processing; machinery and equipment for recycling of construction materials; facilities for green mining operations; spare parts etc. More than 10 000 visitors and 100 exhibitors attend this event in previous years. The exhibition is sponsored by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Sponsorship consists in promotion and in participation of ministry representatives. This event could be good opportunity for dissemination of Remix knowledge and experience. **Sponsorship is provided by the Ministry's internal resources. Any extra financial resources are not needed.**

25th Conference Recycling 2020

This conference is going to be held in April 2020. The organizer of the conference is Association for Recycling of Building Materials of the Czech Republic. The conference is patronized by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Environment and The Czech Chamber of Authorized Engineers and Technicians in Construction. A key topic for discussion in context of Remix project is update of the Raw material policy of secondary raw materials in the period from 2019 to 2022 in the construction sector and its impact on the development in recycling of construction and demolition waste. It is intended that representative of Ministry of Industry and Trade will be actively take part in conference panel. Any extra financial resources are not needed for carrying out this activity. Costs will be covered by the Ministry's internal resources.

4.3. Players involved

Regional Raw Material Strategy will be done for all regions of the Czech Republic with the exception of the Capital City of Prague. Regional Governments, particularly their Land Use Departments will be involved on the side of regions and the MIT, the Czech Geological Survey and possibly some private geological companies for acceleration of the process on the side of Central Government.

From REMIX point of view we want to involve all our stakeholders, not only the two regions, because all our stakeholders will be influenced by the updated Regional Raw Material Strategies for their regions. They all will contribute by their experience and interconnecting State Raw Material Policy with practice and land use planning on regional policy level. Stakeholders have experience from policy implementation, permission processes and integration of regional policies.

We have enlarged the stakeholder group with Liberec region and its´ updated Regional Raw Material Strategy.

Our REMIX project partners – Montanuniversitaet Leoben and Lower Silesia are important as a source of information. The MIT stays the main organizer of the platform.

4.4. Timeframe

The actualisation of Regional Raw Materials Strategy has already started and will continue according to the plan described above until all regions of the Czech Republic will have their own Regional Raw Material Strategy approved.

For REMIX the creation of the First Regional Raw Materials Strategy (for Liberec region) is relevant and the start of following regional strategy with the focus on Ústí nad Labem region (our active stakeholder).

Monitoring and sharing should take place until 4 - 5/2021 so that our stakeholders could gain as much information on the process (which is very long and complicated) as possible and solve the upcoming challenges together.

As was stated above, practically all regions of the Czech Republic have to establish their own Regional Raw Materials Strategy. It means that even though both phase of REMIX project will finish, exploitation of REMIX results and experience will continue further.

4.5. Costs / funding

Cost of actualization of State Raw Materials Policy is about 4,000,000 CZK (approx. 160,000 EUR), cost of actualization of each Regional Raw Materials Strategy is about 2,000,000 CZK (approx. 80,000 EUR). That budgets are/will be covered by state budgets with a participation of national budgets.

Costs of the special event with the participation of Finnish REMIX stakeholders will be fully covered by the own financial resources of the MIT.

Costs regarding EXPO Lesní lom 2020 and 25th Conference Recycling 2020 are fully beared by the MIT as well.

Annex

GEMEC - UNION a.s. according to the rules of cross-border cooperation it could not be an applicant, therefore joint projects were solved with our partners from Poland and our mine Jan Šverma o.p.s. Our o.p.s. (open public society) has been cooperating with the Polish towns Kowary, Old Walbrich and Nova Ruda since 2011.

Mining in our region ended on both sides (Czech and Polish) after 1990. In Kowary even earlier. There was the mining of iron ores and uranium. Black coal has been mined and has been burned on the Czech side (from town Žacléř to Hronov) and on Polish side (from Nowa Ruda to Walbrich) since the 15th century. Mining in the 19th and 20th centuries gave rise to industrial production, but of course to considerable air pollution and devastation of the landscape. This is what we have had from the past. Beautiful traditions are associated with the mining profession (mining uniform). Czech and Polish sides have it almost identical. Both sides celebrate the Day of St. Barbara (4th December) as a Mining Day. Mining traditions include mining songs. On both sides of the border, it was necessary after coal mining to replace coal. It was mostly gasification; on the Polish side, even poor quality mined coal sludge, as well as brown and black coal from other districts, were still burned. Waste management is on both sides of the border, while in the Czech Republic only the amendment to the Waste Act and the reduction of landfill disposal are being addressed; in Polish side they have had a law already since 2012. It is an exchange of experience in the field of protection, promotion of mining monuments and traditions, documenting the common past.

The Czech side organized 2 seminars for students from Žacléř. University of Ostrava (VŠB) and Technical University in Bielsko Biala (Poland) organized student's excursion at former mines in Žacléř and Kowary. Both sides celebrated together mining day and Day of St. Barbara in Žacléř and Kowary. The project cost both sides approximately EUR 15,000 - purely from own resources. More than 1,000 people participated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

On the Czech side we organized a seminar to familiarize with national waste management legislation, possibilities of cross-border transport. As part of the project, a book on the history of the Krkonoše mines was published on the Czech and Slovak side in the amount of 1000 pieces. The book was allocated free of charge to mining municipalities and towns, museums and associations.

During the preparation of the book, we managed to find the oldest written document on coal mining in Žacléř region from 1570 - it was stored in the archives in Wroclaw. More than 3,000 people participated in the preparation and implementation.

In the new subsidy period since 2016, we submitted another five applications under the Interreg V-A Program Czech Republic – Poland. We succeeded only in the application for a microproject “Tourist promotion of mining targets”, registration number CZ.11.2.45 / 0.0 / 0.0 / 16_008 / 000949. Our partners were Nowa Ruda and Old Kopalnia of Walbrzych. The scope of the project was about EUR 50,000, of which the EU subsidy was again 75%.

Together we organized a conference for representatives of information centres, travel agencies, to whom we also showed our mining monuments in Žacléř, Walbrzych and Nowa Ruda, created joint promotional materials, new websites, as well as new elements to increase the attractiveness of our monuments. More than 1,500 people participated in the preparation and implementation. Throughout the time of our cooperation, we visit each other. We participate in our events, not only mining.

We can see this as difficult to evaluate - we certainly perceive the increase of interest in our sights by guests from Poland. I think it is also the other way around, but I do not know the exact numbers. We do not keep statistics of visitors from Poland and other countries.

I certainly know that our seminars for students in 2011 were perceived and evaluated by both Universities very positively. Czech government highly praised Waste management conference. Everybody could look at modern waste recycling lines in Poland already in 2012. Published summary book was very positively evaluated, is in both languages – Polish and Czech. Thanks to our joint mining projects, we still live in our region, even though mining has ended long years ago.

Number of visitors in 2018 (qualify estimation)

- microproject “Tourist promotion of mining targets” – 15 000 persons
- project diving centre in former iron mine in Hraničná in Czech Silesia – 1500 divers

Here we could talk for a long time and write about our dissatisfaction and annoyance with the way of evaluation, administration etc. in town Olomouc, but also Rychnov. You prepare the application of five partners (on the Czech side Vrchlabi and Rtyne, on the Polish side Kowary, Stara Kopalnia and Nowa Ruda) and they will receive 5 days to correct the text otherwise. It is too little. I think there should be more support for projects with more participants, there should be a longer time to address the shortcomings etc. - but that probably isn't what we want now.

In any case, even failed projects meant new friendships, exchanges of experience, new perspectives on common problems, new ideas.

We think we have already mentioned above for individual projects – even without subsidies. What we do it brings a different benefit - it was once a lesson for students how to clean up after mining, how abandoned mines can be used after mining, at other times exchange of experience from waste management. We think this is a clear benefit and a source of lessons for other regions as well.



MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Pavel Kavina
Director General of State Raw Material Policy Department

REMIX Interreg Europe Project

Prague, 21st August 2019

Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic as the Lead Partner REMIX Interreg Europe Project is committed to delivering and monitoring this Action Plan.

Yours faithfully,

