



Traditional Manufacturing of Gypsum at High Temperatures - Revitalising “Historic Building Material and Craft” Looking for cooperation partners!



Gypsum rock



is traditionally fired at high temperatures.

Project Approach:

Gypsum is an ancient building material which has been tried and tested for several thousand years. Confidence in this building material was lost more than 100 years ago. Gypsum has ever since only been applied as building material in the interiors of buildings and for minor construction operations. Knowledge about the different characteristics of gypsum which result from high temperature firing has sadly been lost.

Knowledge about the sites of former and modern gypsum mining regions and about historical processing methods allow for rediscovering the types of use applied in former times. Regional specificities and the regional economy need to be taken into consideration in this context, for conventional knowledge cannot satisfactorily account for the housing stock found.

Together with European and regional partners we would like to bring the good properties of gypsum that has been fired at high temperatures back to people’s attention as a building material. This would allow for a more sustainable redevelopment and/or restoration of historic buildings with identical materials or components thereof. A European concern could thus be furthered through regional backing.

Hundisburger Baustoffmanufaktur (Hundisburg Building Materials Factory) at the Ziegelei Hundisburg (the Hundisburg Brickyard) - General description of the site -

The *Hundisburger Baustoffmanufaktur*, which is located in the LAG Flechtinger Hoehenzug in the Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt, is looking for european partners who collaborate in reviving the traditional manufacture of gypsum that is fired at high temperatures.

Ziegelei Hundisburg is a major tourist, cultural and economic attraction of particular local, regional and national importance. Culture, the preservation of historical monuments, ecology, social affairs and business, they all come together to form a symbiosis in this factory complex. The Association of Friends of the Technical Monument *Ziegelei Hundisburg*, bricks are moulded manually, and lime putty products and several types of gypsum fired at high temperatures are produced according to the respective traditional manufacturing technologies.

These products are to a large extent used for the preservation of historical monuments with the aim of preserving our historic buildings according to the state of the art.

A major objective of the association which supports the topic is the further development of the different production environments of the *Ziegelei Hundisburg*. The *Hundisburger Baustoffmanufaktur* manufactures building materials according to historical records. Our products (slaked lime, gypsum fired at high temperatures and clay products fired in historic zig-zag kilns) are marketed throughout Germany.

The parallels given between earlier regional building activities in many parts of Europe (e. g. Austria, Switzerland, France, Finland, etc.) and Germany are evidence of an analogous approach with respect to the use of these ancient building materials.

It can be assumed that in various regions of Europe differing experiences with and knowledge about the handling of these building materials existed and still exist. However, it has also become clear that earlier experiences and knowledge may well have been lost.

In order to protect the respective regional identities, this knowledge should be brought back to these regions again through regional exchange.

Hundisburger Baustoffmanufaktur would like to be a partner in this exchange in order to network the existing expertise in the manufacture and processing of different historic building materials, with an increased emphasis placed on gypsum which is fired at high temperatures. Further partners are sought who would like to contribute their experiences and knowledge about historic processing of gypsum, or who would like to learn more about the subject.

In this context a comprehensive transfer of knowledge will expand networking at a European level.

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