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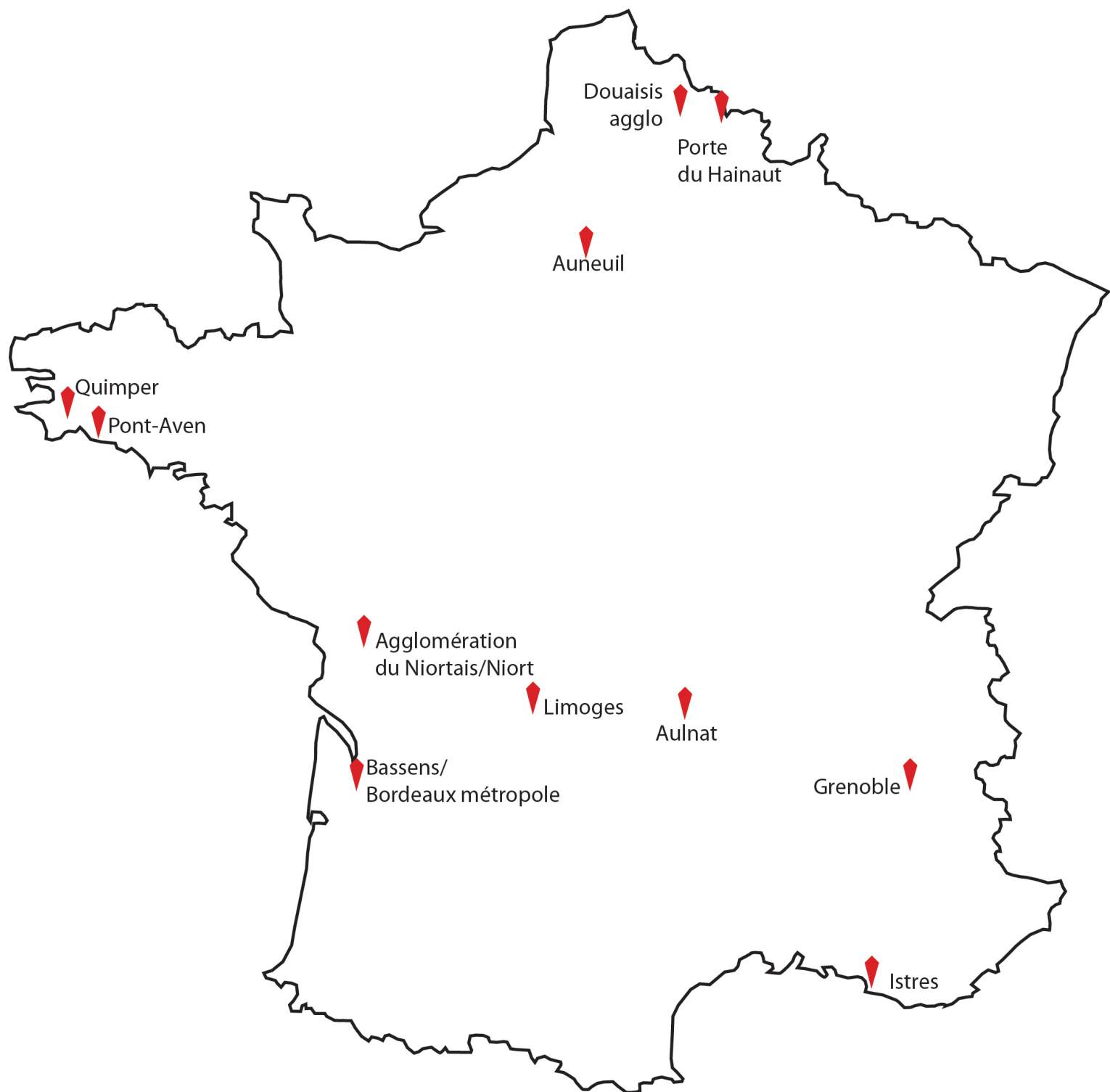
E16 - Living Cities

LA PORTE DU HAINAUT

THE MINING VINE, AN INCLUSIVE ORGANIC HERITAGE

Site brief





Quimper

Pont-Aven

Douaisis
agglo

Porte
du Hainaut

Auneuil

Agglomération
du Niortais/Niort

Limoges

Aulnat

Bassens/
Bordeaux métropole

Grenoble

Istres

SITES, IDEAS, AND MORE!

Europan is once again presenting 11 sites in France for the 16th session, based on the theme Living Cities, Metabolic and Inclusive Vitalities.

For more than 30 years, European has provided an opportunity to experiment with new ways of thinking and creating cities, and the themes regularly address major issues at the heart of their relevance.

It left nobody in any doubt that the word LIVING is at the center of debates, works, research, and that considering the progressive extinction of this world, little by little reached by a dominant human civilization of exhaustion of the resources and the otherness. And as soon as we position ourselves in this thematic, the horizon of the revitalization is huge, and the work to be carried out on the scale of these perspectives.

We often use the term European « competition » when we should be mentioning the overall original process which continues to demonstrate its capacity to adapt. First of all, the sites are identified and then analyzed in collaboration with the various players, starting with the theme and exploring these themes in situ. The meetings, visits and films, and the proposition of articulation between site and theme allow the candidates to reexamine and question them.

The proposals submitted by the teams are once again part of a long and very rich process that will lead in one way or another to a recognized experimentation, that of ideas, encounters, expressed possibilities, and re-expressed questions. The follow-ups will continue the elaboration of a living urban and architectural thought, in evolution and in active transformation.

The theme Living Cities reflects the urgency of thinking differently about human lifestyles, with a heritage that is sometimes fraught with consequences but also very rich: the prospects for renewing, recycling and transforming modes of production associated with a thought of the living are immense.

The European process makes it a unique ongoing event because, like a philharmonic narrative, it allows young generations of architectural and urban designers to speak out and then to be commissioned. European allows them to tell us that we are sometimes wrong, that there are other ways of thinking, of doing things, and of projecting themselves into the future.

This theme Living Cities, after such a particular year of pandemic, is dedicated to them.



EUROPAN 16 THEME: LIVING CITIES

CREATIVE PROCESS-PROJECTS TO REGENERATE INHABITED MILIEUS

In the conditions of the Anthropocene –a new bio-geological period where human activities on the global scale have a destructive impact on life on earth– how to face climate change and inequalities? How to imagine other possibilities to inhabit the planet Earth?

The European 16 topic focuses on living cities as a new paradigm, in which new kinds of synergies can be considered between the environmental, biological, social, economic, cultural and political dimensions. This paradigm leads us to think the space in terms of co-evolution and interactions, and to work with regenerative project dynamics, combining metabolic and inclusive vitalities.

METABOLIC VITALITIES

Metabolic vitalities go beyond the nature-culture combination, allowing the European projects –mixing architecture, urban design and landscape architecture– to identify and to negotiate with an ensemble of transformations taking natural elements into account –like water, material flows, energy...– which are all part of the life cycles. These new relations generate inhabited milieus. These milieus are considered as complex ecosystems generating flows (with entries and exits) and in constant evolution. Developing such cyclic processes leads the design process to minimize the environmental footprint and the consumption of non-renewable energy, and to promote new forms of dwelling.

Metabolic vitalities encourage design processes on different scales. The recycling competence, the enhancement of organic or energy material, the adaptation to climate change, the integration of nature and biodiversity are as many metabolic vitalities that European 16 sites should trigger to allow their own transformation into ecosystems between nature and culture. To be rewarded, the projects should translate this metabolic dynamic in their proposals.

INCLUSIVE VITALITIES

Urban environments are facing increasing inequalities and conflicts produced by invisibility, exclusion, marginalization, and inaccessibility to housing, to work, to education and to public services. To fight against these social fractures, inhabited milieus should become places where new inclusive policies and practices are supported.

Inclusive vitalities put on the foreground modes of doing that can support territorial justice articulating social and ecological concerns. Issues of accessibility to public infrastructures and to housing should get a predominant role, promoting conviviality. Taking care of living environments could promote inclusion by transforming marginalised spaces into places of exchange, co-learning and biodiversity. This could allow new inclusive narratives of inhabited environments across scales and generations, promoting new forms participatory democracy.

When choosing the sites, when defining the programmatic frames that come with their evolution, and when judging the participants' proposals, European 16 will emphasise on the consideration of the inclusive dimension of the inhabited milieus.

CONCLUSION

If we want to face these social and environmental emergencies, we have to address new creative and responsible project dynamics, which should be able to reconnect with the cycles and rhythms of the living nature, associating metabolic and inclusive vitalities.

The European 16 sites should therefore consider these two dimensions in their transformation goals. How can the project spatialize and, at the same time, spare resources, common goods, recycling processes, hybridisations, sharing and the different temporalities ?

This is the question raised for European 16.

EUROPAN EUROPE

*See also : Contributions to the theme Living Cities :
<http://www.euopanfrance.org/publications/single/38>

GENERAL INFORMATION

SITE REPRESENTATIVE: Communauté d'Agglomération La Porte du Hainaut

ACTOR(S) INVOLVED: Communauté d'Agglomération La Porte du Hainaut, CAUE du Nord, Mission Bassin Minier, landlords Maisons&Cités and SIA

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: Architect, Urbanist or landscape architect

EXPECTED SKILLS REGARDING THE SITE'S ISSUES AND CHARACTERISTICS: architecture, urban planning, landscape, ecology and any other skill of the candidates' choice

COMMUNICATION: Promotion of the projects after the competition: publication of a catalogue of the results and national exhibition

JURY – 1ST EVALUATION : With the participation of the site representatives

JURY – PRIZE SELECTION:

Selection of three projects per site. With the participation of the site representatives

Reward: the rewards are granted by the jury independently of the sites: Winner (12.000€), Runner-up (6.000€) and Special Mention (no reward)

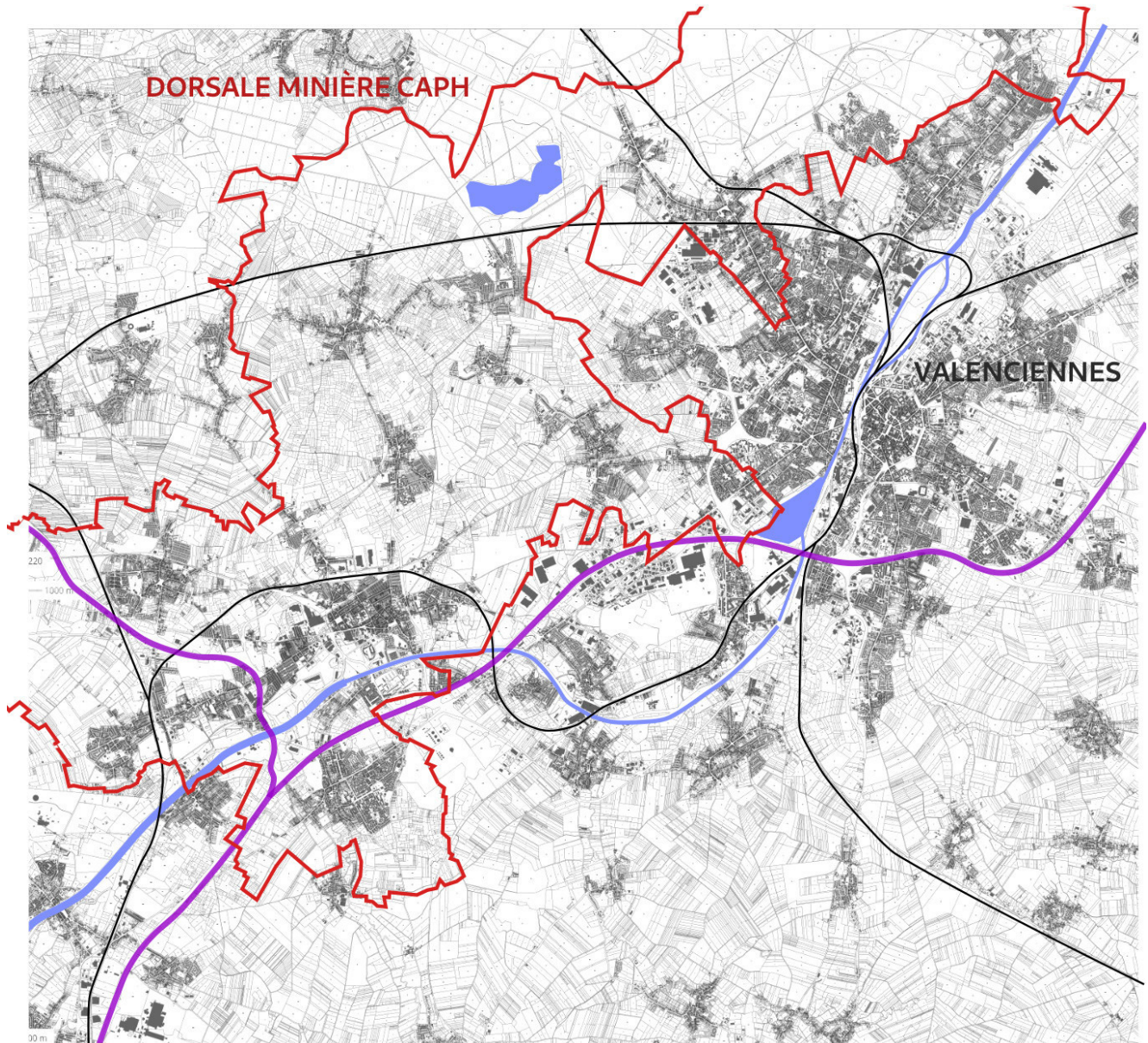
POST-COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE PROCEDURE:

- Meeting with sites representatives and 3 selected teams, organized by European France in Paris at the beginning of 2022
- On-site meeting with sites representatives and 3 selected teams organized by cities and partners from January 2022
- Assistance and consultancy to the cities and partners, also their collaborators, for the implementations processes, by European France.

MISSION GIVEN TO THE SELECTED TEAM(S) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION:

urban studies in collaboration with the Cities and the Communauté d'Agglomération, architectural contract.

Encouraging an operational and/or architectural contract with associated clients.



URBAN CONTEXT OF THE URBAN
COMMUNITY OF LA PORTE DU
HAINAUT (CAPH)

TERRITORIAL CONTEXT

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF LA PORTE DU HAINAUT

La Porte du Hainaut is a Communauté d'Agglomération, a greater metropolitan area of 47 municipalities in the department of Nord in the region of Hauts-de-France (158,754 inhabitants in 2017, 366 km²). It is close to European Metropolis of Lille (regional capital, 1,146,320 inhabitants in 2017), Valenciennes Métropole (departmental sub-prefecture, 192,594 inhabitants in 2017) and the Belgium border.

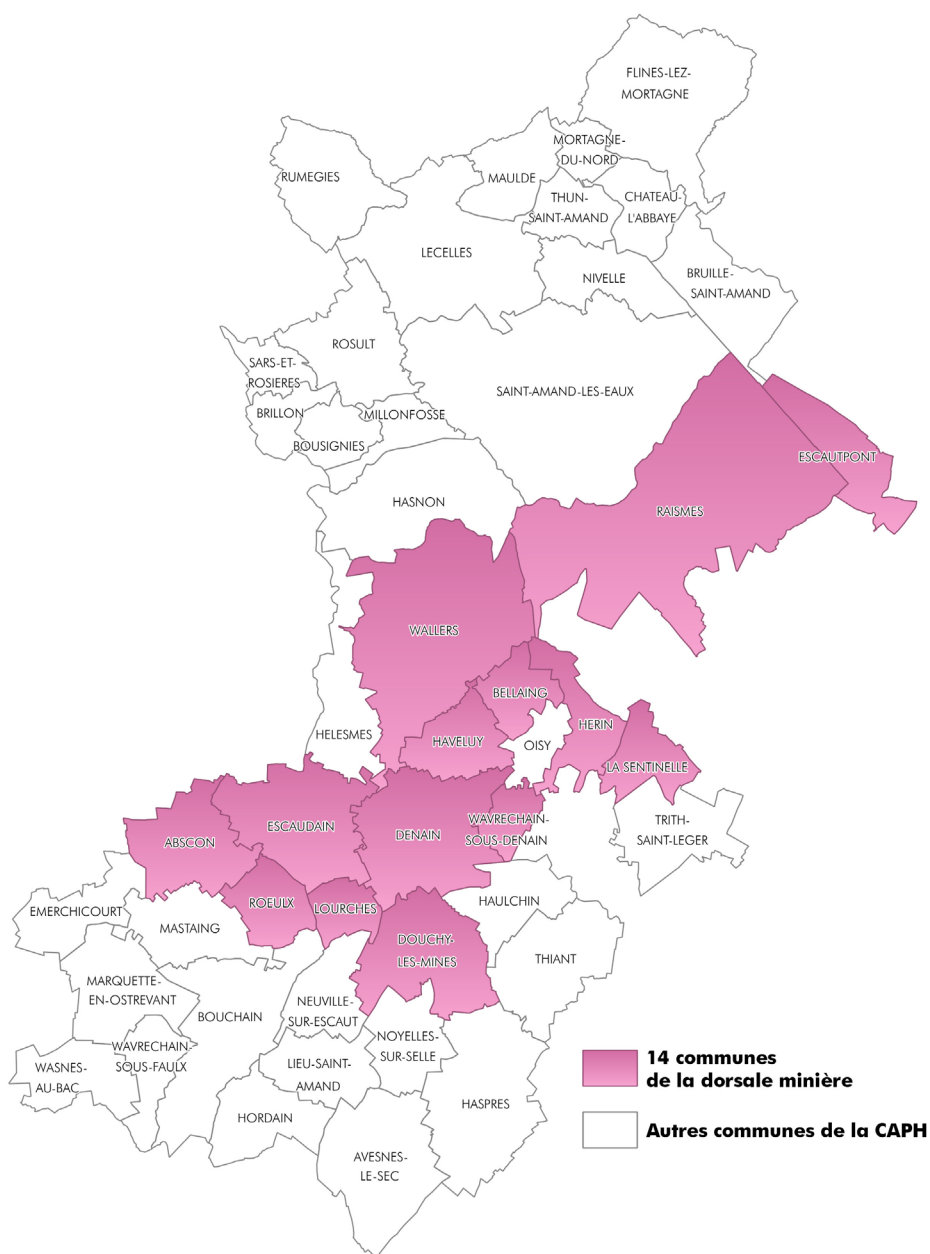
Four municipalities in the Communauté d'Agglomération of La Porte du Hainaut (CAPH) have more than 10,000 inhabitants: Denain (20,549 inhabitants), Saint-Amand-les-Eaux (16,653 inhabitants), Raismes (12,682 inhabitants) and Douchy-les-Mines (10,964 inhabitants). CAPH and Valenciennes Métropole together make up Valenciennois, one of the region's most populated areas.

CAPH has major transportation infrastructures:

- the motorways A1/A2 (Paris-Brussels-Antwerp), A23/A25 (Valenciennes-Lille-Dunkerque) and A21 (Béthune-Denain);
- the Escaut River provides a wide-gauge link to major seaports to the north (Ostend, Ghent, Zeebrugge, Antwerp, Rotterdam);
- a regional rail system (Bouchain, Denain, Louches, Raismes, Saint-Amand-Les-Eaux, Rosult, Trith-Saint-Léger and Wallers stations), high-speed national and international rail lines (Valenciennes and Lille stations) and freight railways (northeast Dunkerque-Lorraine corridor, Paris-Lille axis).

The municipalities of the greater metropolitan area offer a wide range of natural and cultural landscapes:

- On the one hand, there are remarkable natural environments with aquatic (the Scarpe and Escaut rivers, the waters of the Saint-Amand-les-Eaux thermal baths, wetlands rich in biodiversity, etc.) and forest resources (approximately 6500 ha, of which the Raismes/Saint-Amand/Wallers state-owned forest is classified as a Natura 2000 site, extends over 4,838 ha and constitutes one of the most remarkable elements of the Scarpe-Escaut Regional Nature Park ;
- On the other hand, cultural environments, the best-known being from the industrial era and particularly the Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin designated a UNESCO Living and Evolving Cultural Landscape in 2012.



**THE 14 MINING MUNICIPALITIES OF
THE AGGLOMERATION COMMUNITY
OF THE PORTE DU HAINAUT**
(crédits CAPH)

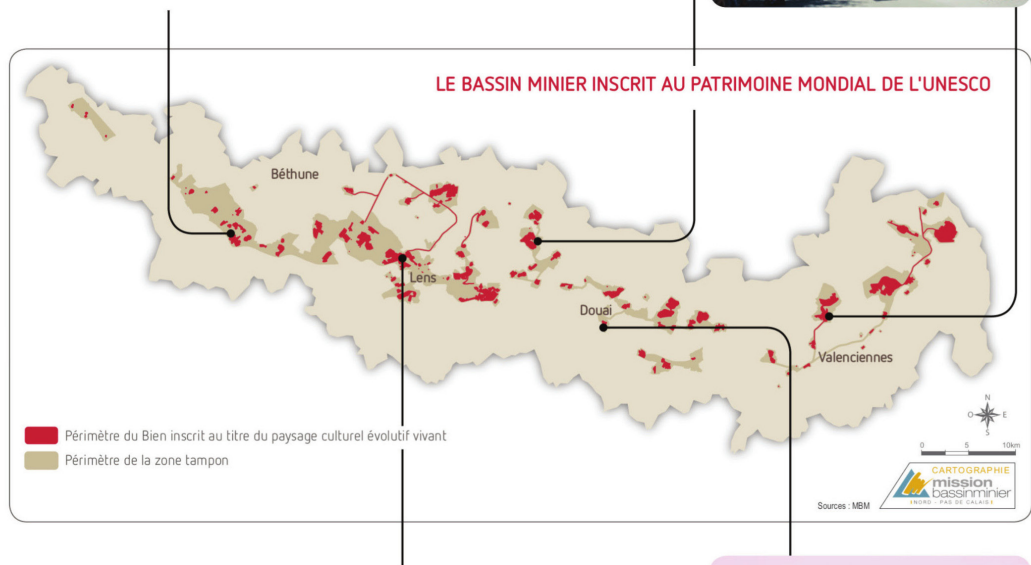
The Communauté d'Agglomération de la Porte du Hainaut (CAPH) is hoping the European competition will provide an opportunity to examine the development of 14 municipalities along the «mining ridge» (see map) that present similar transformation issues to those found throughout the Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin. This area is named after the two departments (251 municipalities) and its rich coal deposits; which were extensively exploited from the end of the 17th to the end of the 20th century. After closure of the mines (from the 1960s to 1990s), the area experienced several decades of decline. Its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List has recently allowed territorial representatives to start rebuilding a new local identity based on the industrial past but also looking towards the future.

THE MINING BASIN, ALIVE AND EVOLVING

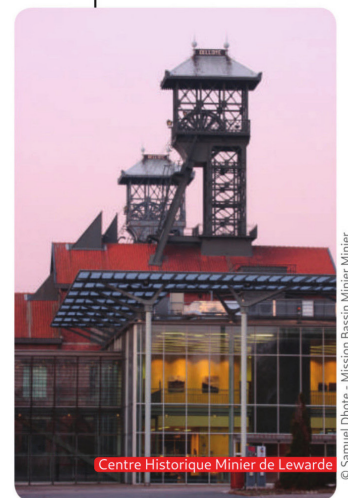
The Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin covers an area approximately 120 km long and 12 km wide with a relatively flat topography dominated by slag heaps, man-made mounds of waste material from coal mining.

The mining basin currently has a population of around 1,200,000. It is a densely urbanised and densely inhabited area (650 inhabitants/km²), characterised by an urban infrastructure of strong historical centres, surrounded by large rural areas, as well as by substantial urbanisation linked to mining activity. The main metropolitan areas are (from west to east) Béthune, Lens, Douai and Valenciennes. The regional railway network covers the territory quite extensively, however, multi-modality is not yet very well organised. The four central cities are also served by the high-speed TGV. The main motorways of the north (A1 and A2, from north to south; A25, A26 and A27 from the coast to the interior) connect the mining basin to France and Europe (Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam).

The economy of the Nord-Pas de Calais Mining Basin was almost exclusively based on coal mining. Although this mining legacy is still perfectly legible, this territory has since the closure of the mines (1960s-1990s) been facing a structural crisis that undermines its economic and social fabric. The mining basin has been defined as a «productive area actively seeking change» (Navarra and Talandier, 2017).



THE PERIMETER OF THE
UNESCO PROPERTIES
(crédits Mission
Bassin Minier)



Since the 2000s, the Mining Basin Mission (Mission Bassin Minier <http://www.missionbassinminier.org>) has been working together with local authorities of the mining basin on common problems. Made up of architects, town planners and historians, the Mining Basin Mission manages the UNESCO label and provides support to the communes and intercommunalities in territorial engineering (sustainable town planning, project structuring, transport, environment, communication, etc.). A number of reports by the Mining Basin Mission are recommended reading for a better understanding of the territory (see annexes):

- UNESCO heritage press kit;
- technical booklet on miners' housing;
- summary of the report on the mining basin landscape.

PRESERVING AND ADAPTING THE ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN PLANNING HERITAGE FOR AND WITH ITS INHABITANTS

As the UNESCO label indicates, this is a living and evolving territory that is seeking to address the results of an unsustainable exploitation of its resources and to complete the transition to a post-mining era. To achieve this, the natural and built heritage of the mining basin is being rehabilitated and developed in fields as diverse as tourism, ecology and culture to attract people. Still a large part of this heritage remains to be developed and the UNESCO label represents a strong catalyst for territorial development and a source of pride for the inhabitants of the mining basin, whose identity has suffered since the collapse of mining. Several new uses of the heritage are becoming established. The major historical sites, flagships of the mining period, are destined to become economic and cultural centres. The sites of Loos-en-Gohelle (eco-industry), Oignies (logistics) and Wallers-Arenberg (visual creation) host training, development and research centres representing the transformation of the old industry past to the knowledge economy of the future. The historical mining site of Lewarde and the Louvre-Lens museum completes this list of exceptional facilities. Some elements of the man-made landscape such as slag heaps and cavaliers (railways linking pits) are to be exploited as biological corridors or footpaths, others for sports and leisure activities.

One of the most remarkable architectural heritages of the mining basin is the more than 550 workers' towns (of which 124 are classified as architectural heritage) with typical town planning and a variety of architectural styles.

**CITÉ ARENBERG À
WALLERS**
(crédits F. Delferiere)



**CITÉ ARENBERG À
WALLERS**
(crédits F. Delferiere)



Built first by private mining companies and then by the state-owned coal mines, these housing estates are innovative examples of 19th and 20th century town planning, especially compared to the deplorable living conditions of workers at that time as denounced by hygienists and socialists all over Europe. The UNESCO label has not changed the nature of the housing in the mining basin, which remains largely social rental housing. The world heritage designation has raised awareness of the need for a higher architectural and environmental standard for the mining heritage.

An outstanding rehabilitation of five so-called «pilot» towns was carried out by local authorities and landlords assisted by the Mining Basin Mission. The architecture (detached houses with gardens, typological and stylistic diversity) and urban planning (particularly the town/nature ratio) of these estates have been improved by restructuring to make the interior spaces more comfortable (grouping together small dwellings, reorganising functions, adding on spaces) and insulating the dwellings, as well as by redeveloping public spaces and neighbourhood facilities.

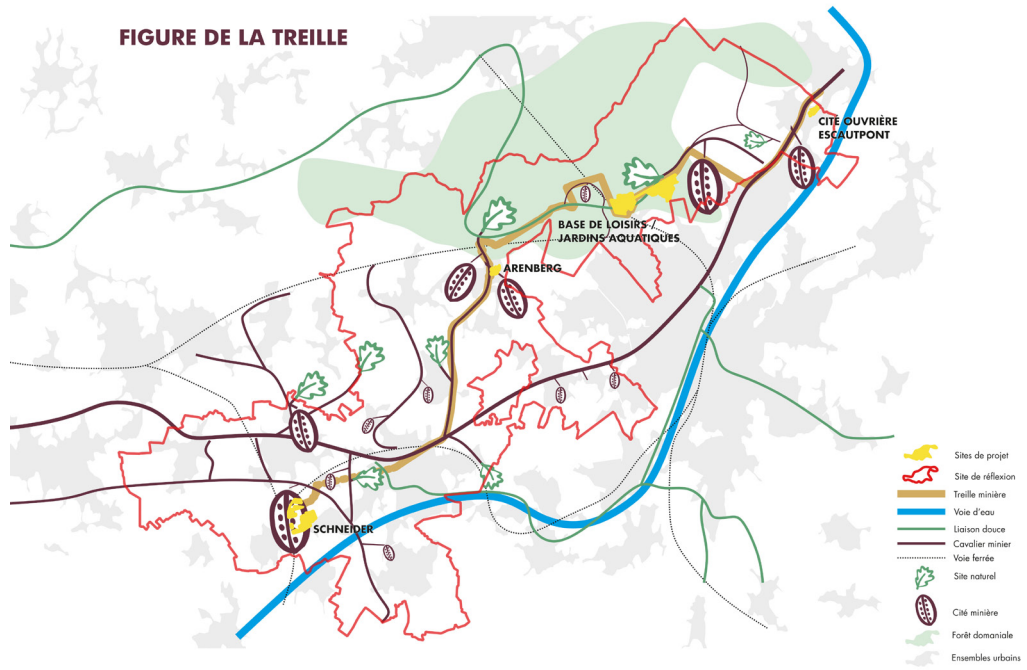
Since 2017, the territory has also been eligible for the Commitment to the Renewal of the Mining Basin (Engagement pour le Renouveau du Bassin Minier - ERBM) national fund, which enables the state and local authorities and landlords to implement a ten-year urban renewal plan.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS

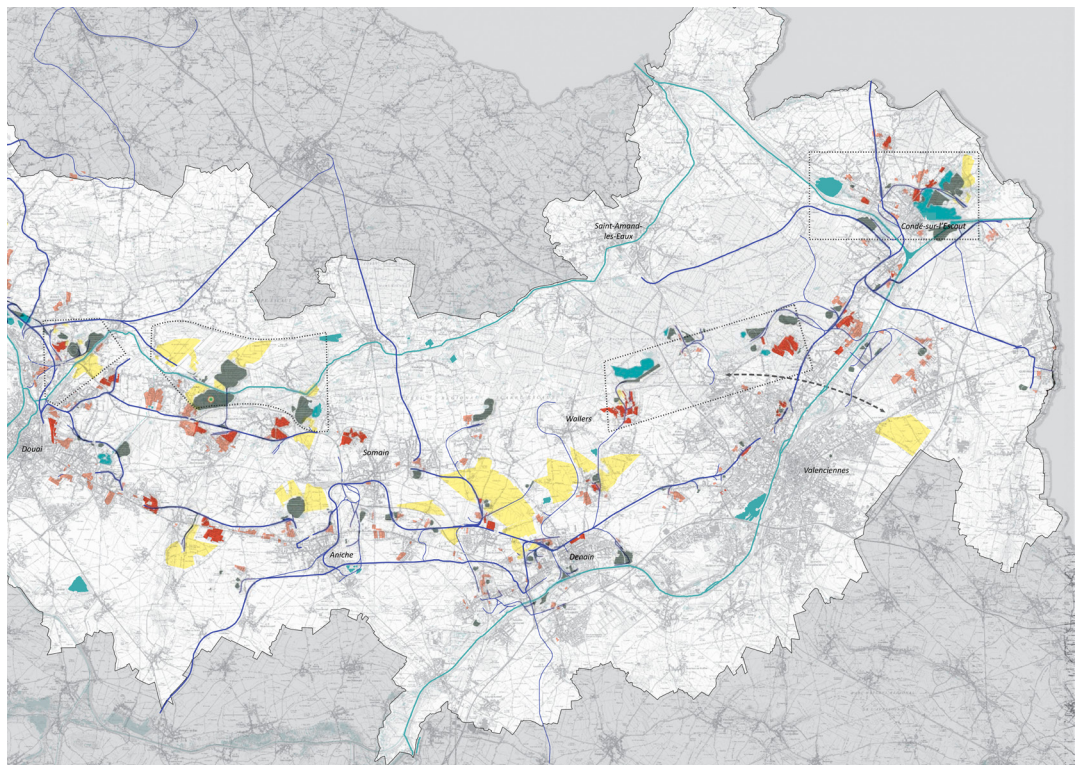
The CAPH territory is representative of the interplay of natural and built landscapes typical of the mining basin. A rich built heritage (mining, religious, military, etc.) is complemented by natural environment that is excellent for tourism and outdoor sports (Saint Amand Les Eaux thermal baths; water sports on lakes and along the Escaut, Scarpe and Sensée rivers; hiking trails in the national forest of the Scarpe-Escaut Regional Nature Park; sports and cultural events).

The mining industry is an important part of the La Porte du Hainaut territory: the 14 municipalities of the mining ridge are home to 88,346 inhabitants (more than 50% of the CAPH population), the entire mining built heritage, but also 76% of the district's social housing stock. Local socio-economic indicators follow tendencies in the rest of the mining basin and highlight dangers to which the population is still exposed (poverty, unemployment, health, education, etc.).

If this territory continues to pay the heavy price of its mining past, this history has also left future generations with an exceptional architectural, urban, cultural, and landscape heritage. The challenge is to consider this heritage not as a scars to be removed but as a resource to be valued, a decent living environment to be reinvested by its inhabitants.



THE FIGURE OF THE MINING VINE AT THE SCALE OF THE CAPH
(crédits CAPH)



MAP OF THE LANDSCAPE FRAMEWORK OF THE COALFIELD
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-C-M2
(crédits Mission Bassin Minier)

RELATIONSHIP TO THE THEME

While the UNESCO label aims to highlight the history of a territory where «the impact and legacy of mining are still perfectly visible and clearly understandable» (www.bassinminier-patrimoinemondial.org), emphasis is also placed on the «living» and «evolving» nature of this territory. Thus local actors are encouraged to find new territorial development methods to overcome economic, social and environmental problems and enter fully into the «post-mining» era.

The living city can be visualised as a «mining vine». This concept, a visual guide created by the Mining Basin Mission to help rethink and restructure the area according to historical, urban planning and landscape realities and to revive its attractiveness and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants. Potentially made up of places (mining towns, pit head frames, old mining buildings, natural sites) and links (old rail tracks or cavaliers, tree-lined avenues or drèves), this «vine» could on a local/intermediate scale complete the framework of major territorial infrastructures (waterways, railways, roads) and improve the organisation, use and image of a network of urban centres, residential areas, public spaces, public facilities, etc., that serve the needs of the inhabitants.

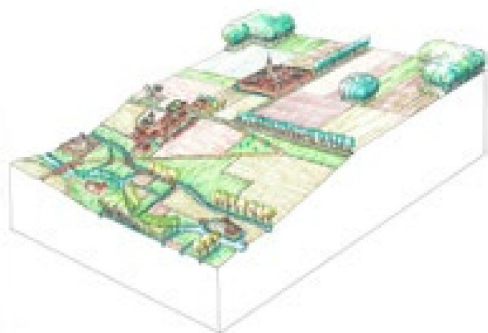
The organic image of a mining vine that guides the structural evolution of the mining basin territory on various scales makes it possible to rethink mining towns and new districts as clusters; nature areas, slag heaps and old mining wastelands as leaves and mining rail lines, forest avenues and canals as branches, etc.

This figure takes into account the territory's structural evolution from a barely anthropized, essentially rural landscape to a gradually more urbanized environment created for and by mining. At present, the territorial framework specific to the mining basin can be reconstructed from the existing elements into an ecosystem capable of expressing new synergies between man and nature that can enhance heritage elements (human and non-human) and «graft on» current and future projects.

The botanical analogy also recalls the fragility of this territory and the necessity to take care of it as one would take care of a grapevine. So that the structure of the vine can continue to ensure its functions (solidity, protection, nourishing production, etc.), and qualities (aesthetics, use, etc.), it is necessary to intervene regularly and skilfully, guiding the development of the plant, anticipating growth to avoid deformation at the base or the supporting structure, cutting off the right branches so as not to lose large bunches of grapes and replanting when necessary.

Evolution du paysage minier du XVIII^e siècle à nos jours

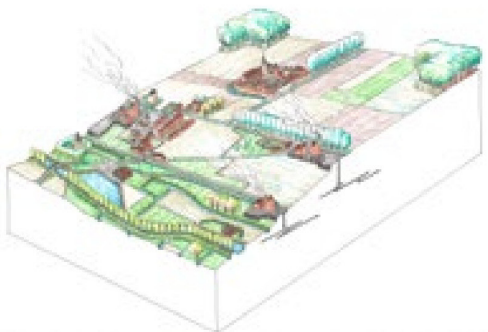
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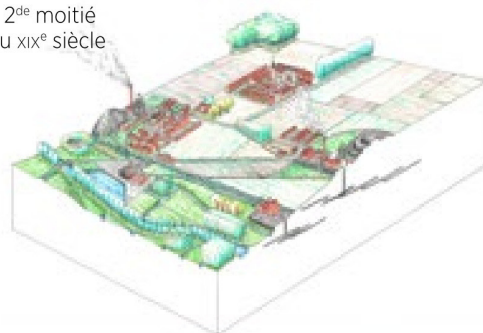
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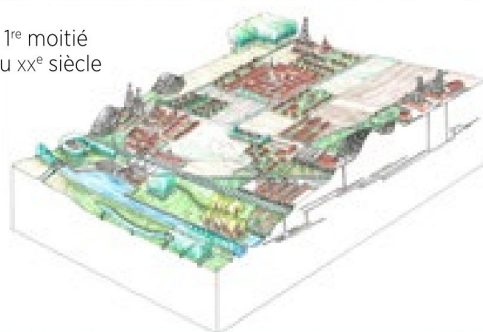
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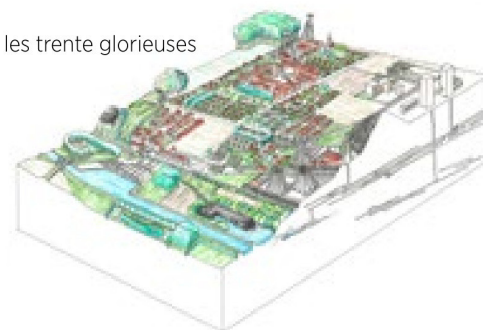
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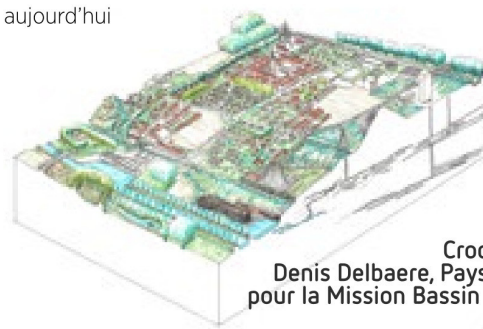
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> les trente glorieuses



> aujourd'hui



Croquis de
Denis Delbaere, Paysagiste
pour la Mission Bassin Minier

EVOLUTION OF THE MINING SITE LANDSCAPE

(crédits Mission Bassin
Minier)

METABOLIC VITALITIES: TO REGENERATE AND BETTER MANAGE TERRITORIAL RESOURCES

This area of 14 mining towns of the CAPH, as with the whole Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin, has been shaped by man and a local geologic distinction from which an economic, urban and human identity emerged. The impact of mining has been so significant that it is still visible in the landscape and in the socio-economic characteristics of the area. After mining ceased, this territory was left with a vast and diversified heritage, but also with the effects of a mono-industry that plundered the land and exploited human resources without providing for their renewal. Production logic and urban planning have long permitted a scattered poorly designed urbanisation and this territory is facing the environmental, societal, economic and ethical results today. The revitalisation of this territory should therefore start from a more balanced equitable use of its resources, both material and human.

Thus, soil can be considered a living resource since it is both medium and product of life composed of both organic and inorganic matter. Soil contains 50% of the planet's biodiversity (and slag heaps are a unique example) and plays a significant role in life cycles and carbon storage processes. In a territory with a significant hydrographic network, the soil helps regulate water flow and temperature. It can become once again a source of food, as it was in the era before mining. Finally, the soil of the mining basin is a support for various means of transportation and the existing grid is able to accommodate new sustainable innovative forms. Of course, soil also represents a physical and cultural heritage as well as a shared asset that can be used to create sociability.

The natural and cultural landscapes of the (post) mining area offer a potential for developing complex ecosystems and synergising the human and non-human for the well-being of the inhabitants.

INCLUSIVE VITALITIES: TO RECONNECT, FOSTER SOCIABILITY AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF INHABITANTS

In the CAPH mining communities, the urban design from mining and the growth of the iron and steel industry disrupted the existing rural landscape. The mining industry (initially private, then nationalised in 1946 to help rebuild the country) increasingly provided housing and services for the miners. While the intention to offer better living conditions to workers particularly through affordable and innovative housing for the time is commendable, from the point of view of the transformation of the inhabited territory and the urbanities produced, it is not without question today.

WALLERS MINING SITE
(crédits F. Delferiere)



WALLERS MINING SITE
(crédits F. Delferiere)



Housing estates were located to serve the mines, often turning their back on existing urban centres in the area. The urban design grouped housing around public facilities and services for the miners' families (health clinic, café, festival hall, sports facilities) allowing them to become autonomous small towns with their own identities. However, with the end of mining, public services and leisure activities disappeared and the towns found themselves isolated and no longer functioning. There has been a significant loss of population and community revenues. A large number of public facilities have become obsolete and no longer usable. There has also been a significant deterioration in socio-economic indicators, including those relating to health (access to healthcare, ageing population, more sedentary lifestyle, poor nutrition, etc.).

An inclusive revitalization of the area raises issues of public policy in regional planning, social cohesion and health. Projects for an inclusive lively city could rely on a knowledge of the history and a reappropriation of heritage to forge dignity and collective pride, encourage sociability, participation, citizen initiatives, a circular and solidarity economy and healthy living that can be encouraged by an improvement of the image, increased attractiveness and development of territorial networking.

PARTNER EXPECTATIONS

As in the CAPH mining basin urban renewal undertaken since 2016, which has resulted in the renovation of miners' housing and requalification of public spaces, the European competition partners (CAPH, Mission Bassin Minier, CAUE du Nord, the landlords Maisons&Cités and SIA), wish to underline the significance of inhabitant participation. This inclusive and shared approach to renewal is backed by economic revitalization and social cohesion programmes that should ensure the long term viability of this joint project.

The mining basin has already undertaken initiatives in several fields to change its image. Obtaining the UNESCO label is the most obvious result, but the inhabitants have yet to fully embraced this new identity. The European competition will give local actors a welcomed impetus to rethink the living city of tomorrow, sustainable and inclusive. At the same time it will show that heritage recognition does not block territorial development, quite to the contrary, it encourages participative projects.



**WALLERS MINING SITE
BY NIGHT**
(crédits F. Delferiere)

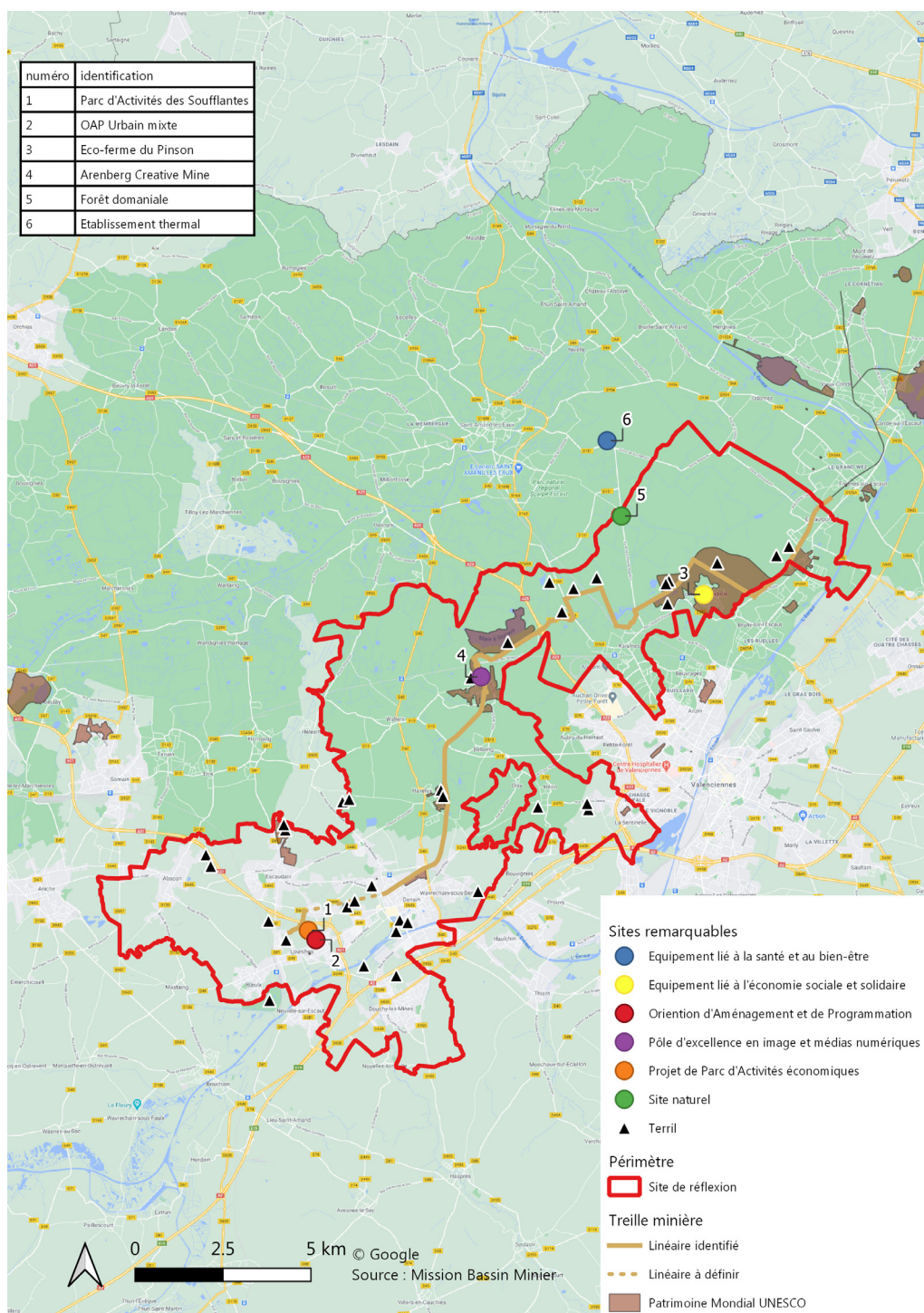
Candidates are expected to adopt the vision of local actors while questioning the place of inhabitants in their ecosystem and reinventing ways of living together.

COMPETITION FOLLOW-UP

The European process should produce proposals for development and spatial organization based on the identified opportunities. The CAPH, the Mining Basin Mission and the CAUE partnership promises their expertise throughout the European process and communication assistance with any initiatives.

Projects likely to be entrusted to the selected teams include: in-depth studies of the strategies resulting from the competition, assistance with partnership project management, leading working groups (study site); feasibility studies and/or urban/landscape and architectural project management (project site).

**LOCATION PLAN
STUDY SITE SCALE**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-
SS-Po
(crédits CAPH)



STUDY SITE

COMPONENTS OF THE MINING VINE

The study site extends over the 14 CAPH mining communities and particularly the elements (natural and man-made) that are to structure this territory and clearly reveal the mining vine, giving it a recognizable identity. As this is an area of dispersed urbanization originally organized solely on the basis of mining activity, non-hierarchical and often disconnected from the main urban centres where shops and services are concentrated, it is necessary to reweave and link to the vine places of living and of sharing, the urban and rural, man and nature in order to deploy along that vine clusters of facilities, to imagine the branches of public space and to reinforce the foliage of natural spaces.

At the moment there is a partial territorial structure extending about thirty kilometres from the northeast to the southwest. However, it is neither clearly legible nor continuous, but rather elements (connections and places) that need to be coherently tied together.

Links (alternatives to roadways)

- The network of old mining cavaliers or railways that transported workers locally and more importantly coal all over France and now abandoned (see map Mining Basin Mission)
- Forest roads and non-motorized routes for soft modes of transport (including the mining basin bicycle route project)
- Waterways.

Sites (remarkable and/or with potential)

- Raismes-Saint-Amand-Wallers state forest: nature reserve of 4838 hectares (the state purchased 316 hectares from the coal mines between 1987 and 1997) located in the Scarpe-Escaut Regional Natural Park (first regional natural park in France, established in 1968);
- The nature and leisure park of the CAPH in Raismes;
- Arenberg Creative Mine in Wallers: a center for image and digital media (film studios, education, events, spaces for other activities) located on a reconverted mining site that has preserved the main buildings and three pit head frames;
- The series of slag heaps: reclaimed by nature, the slag heaps of Raismes, Wallers, Haveluy, Denain, Escaudain have become areas of exceptional biodiversity as well as excellent vantage points to view the mining landscape;
- Pinson organic farm: an example of a neighbourhood centre being established by working together with local inhabitants on abandoned land creating economic activity and developing work places at the heart of the Sabatier housing estate in Raismes;
- The renovation of the mining housing of the landlord SIA (which has begun in Sabatier);
- Town centres, housing estates and the four European project sites (see below).



AERIAL VIEW OF THE STUDY SITE
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-AP1
(crédits CAPH)

ROOTING THE VINE IN ITS TERRITORY: ISSUES, QUESTIONS, OVERALL PROGRAMME SUGGESTIONS

Certification of the mining basin emphasizes both the human (cultural landscape) and environmental (living landscape) capital of this territory, as well as its evolving character. The richness of its history must be seized upon to imagine ambitious projects and transform constraints into resources.

1/ Reconnecting places: accessibility and inclusiveness

The living city puts its inhabitants at the heart of daily life and activity in the area. For populations that are not very mobile such as those of the mining basin, connections on a scale with the residential basin and the city are synonymous with access to employment, services, urban and countryside amenities.

How to provide access to services in a territory of scattered urbanization? How can we bring mining housing estates, which are often very far apart, closer to each other and to local centres? How can we ensure mobility for diverse groups of inhabitants (young people without cars, elderly people, etc.) and encourage sustainable mobility (i.e. soft modes of transport)?

How can traffic areas be transformed into real public spaces? How to encourage greater appropriation through diversity of interconnected public spaces (large and small, built and natural, etc.)? How can mobility become also a form of sociability (i.e. community walks), appropriation of the territory and access to culture (i.e. heritage walks)? How can we reinvent the local often considered as ordinary and banal and make it attractive again?

2/ Recreating links between inhabitants: sociability and solidarity

The living city puts its inhabitants at the centre of projects building their own living environment. In a territory marked by big business (mining and metallurgy) and the effects of its decline, a return to more a local supportive and resilient micro-economy presents an opportunity for revitalization.

How to help the inhabitants become partners of economic development in their own neighbourhood or territory? How can we encourage citizen initiative, sociability and solidarity? How to help create businesses especially in the ecological, circular and equitable domain (agriculture, food, forestry, etc.) in order to revitalize the territory by diversifying and replacing heavy industry?

**THE GORIAUX POND
(SUBSIDENCE POND)
RAISMES**
(crédits P. Clément, CAPH)



**THE THERMAL BATHS OF
SAINTAMAND- LES-EAUX**
(crédits CAPH)



What role can spatial organization play in the community and how to reinvent shared and public spaces, third places, work places, local public facilities, etc. to meet new needs? Where would they be located along the mining vine? How to design multifunctional hybrid spaces to optimize use (i.e. multimedia libraries that can host initiatives or educational activities, digital services to fight illiteracy, cooking classes, day care services, etc.)?

How can we reinvent housing, taking advantage of the qualities of the garden cities/detached housing already present in the territory and yet promote shared identities, inclusive, collective and participative practices? How to involve residents in the designing and building their living environment so that they are able to appropriate their territory, their history and remain involved in the life of their neighbourhoods?

3/ Reconnecting man and nature: wellbeing and leisure

The living city places the inhabitants at the heart of their ecosystem and is concerned with their well-being. If, in the mining basin, the green and blue network is composed of watercourses (rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands), forests, slag heaps, large agricultural areas, etc., mining urban development has also fostered the garden city, which has integrated city and nature and left space for biodiversity.

How can this territory be redesigned as a green archipelago, a network of parks and a living urban development? What role should countryside and nature play in the daily lives of the inhabitants from their garden to the forest? How can the unconstructed spaces, the spaces «for living» in the cities, be developed to change the image of the city? How can the city be brought to the forest allowing inhabitants to benefit from the environment for sports, health and leisure? How can the ecosystem of the forest help cope with the local impact of climate change (heat waves, pollution, increased use of energy and drinking water, etc.)?

More broadly, how to minimize the environmental footprint and consumption of non-renewable resources in projects? How can waste become a resource? How can the water cycle be better managed? How can the soil be viewed as a living element and not solely in terms of land value? How can nature participate in the city's economy (i.e. urban agriculture, local food)? How can wastelands be developed into real places without losing the biodiversity?

**THE SABATIER
HEADFRAME**
(crédits CAPH)



**THE MINING SITE
ARENBERG
CREATIVE MINE À
WALLERS**
(crédits CAPH)



EXPECTATIONS FOR THE STUDY SITE

In order properly take on this loosely hierarchical territorial structure without an established centre nor periphery but made up of several (micro-) centres whose structure must above all be identified and reinforced, the candidates are expected to draw up a general guide plan on the scale of the study site. The guide plan will identify the places (local centres, nature reserves, project sites) to be reconnected, indicate priority interventions to be carried out and propose innovative processes for landscape, urban and architectural design management based on possible short, medium and long term cooperation between inhabitants, local authorities, landlords, business partners, etc.

The guide plan will seek to meet three main objectives:

- Ensure territorial relations at multiple scales: linking the the forest and Escaut environments and identifying points of connection with other major territorial systems (in particular the green and blue grid, soft mobility and heritage discovery routes on scale with the Nord-Pas de Calais mining basin as well as connections with small, medium and large urban centres);
- Recompose the local spatial structure: address the «main branch» (in orange on the map), «secondary branches» (to be identified by the teams) and links to the existing and planned centres and residential neighbourhoods;
- Suggest programme initiatives aimed at making the vine dynamic and lively: new public spaces, public facilities, activities (economic, service, recreational, etc.).

Each team is expected in the plan guide to address connections between the four proposed project sites below and then present detailed proposals for one of the sites of their choice.

SITE 1 – ESCAUPONT
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS1- APo1
(crédits CAPH)



**SITE 2- ESCAUDAIN-
LOURCHES**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS2- APo1
(crédits CAPH)



PROJECT SITES

Located along the mining vine, the four project sites have different urban and landscape characteristics and offer various potentials for transformation. Two sites address in particular the issue of 'alternative' types of housing as opposed to the usual real estate products while the two others concern innovative design of public facilities and spaces. The sites chosen for architectural projects are readily adaptable in the short term since they have already been studied (to a greater or lesser extent) for development and are publicly owned or in the process of being acquired.

FROM MINING URBANISM TO THE LIVING CITY: LIVING DIFFERENTLY?

The sites are excellent opportunities for innovative housing projects that could become references for the mining basin. In this area, mining urbanism developed a densely built large variety of detached houses with gardens. However, there is a certain compartmentalisation of the mining housing estates, an absence of communal spaces and sometimes a lack of transition from public to private space. The housing has deteriorated and no longer meets contemporary standards (thermal, energy, size, functions). Despite the original quality of these dwellings, as well as the innovation that they represented at the time of their construction, the question arises today of their transformation, as well as the typological and usage mix to be designed for the living city of the 21st century.

Should individual or collective housing be favoured in these projects, or «hybrids» that preserve qualities of the «home» while encouraging sharing and solidarity? What shared spaces (public, communal, neighbourhood) should there be and for which purposes? What lessons can be learned from the health crisis for the design of a desirable living environment (dwelling size, spaces for working, for children, an extra room, outdoor space and contact with nature, contact with others during the crisis, etc.)?

At issue is the renewal of housing stock and the introduction of typological, social and generational diversity in order to enrich an urban life that has become somewhat standardised by industrial production methods. In order to offer a relevant typological diversity and a choice of new high-standard housing forms, both current needs and the eventual preferences of new populations attracted to these municipalities need to be taken into consideration.

**SITE 1 – ESCAUPONT,
SEMI-AERIAL VIEW**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS1- APo2
(crédits CAPH)



**SITE 1 – ESCAUPONT,
SEMI-AERIAL VIEW**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS1- APo4
(crédits CAPH)



Finally, consideration should be given to innovation in the project process and its implementation:

- Consider the housing issue from the dwelling to that of the territory and vice versa;
- Design housing that is rooted in the local environment and capable of linking local and regional resources;
- Imagine more sustainable environmentally responsible housing: accessible to all, energy efficient (or autonomous), recycling waste, fostering solidarity, promoting local production and short supply chains, etc.
- Imagine ways for residents to participate in the design and management of their neighbourhoods, ways of cooperating with institutional, economic and community partners, etc.

Project site n°1: Revitalisation of the central square of Escautpont

The town of Escautpont (4,173 inhabitants in 2018) is part of the Scarpe-Escaut NRP and is blessed with a very beautiful countryside. The project site is centred around the central square (Roger Salengro Square), with the town hall and park to the north and Saint-Amand church to the south. This grouping of public facilities and spaces is at the intersection of the departmental road D935A (rue Jean Jaurès with the tram line running from Valenciennes to Vieux Condé) and a route running west to the forest and east to the Escaut River.

The available land belongs to the region (établissement public foncier or EPF) and the municipality. The sub-standard workers' housing estate northeast of the site is to be demolished in order to create housing favouring functional typological diversity and reinforcing the site's centrality while relying on local services and shops (nursery school, supermarket, etc.) and accessible public transport.

Expectations for this site mainly concern:

- Reconfiguration of the system of public spaces, existing and to be planned, by reconnecting them with the mining vine to the west and the Escaut and the environmentally friendly path known as «des gueules noires» to the east;
- The design of mixed and innovative housing on available land;
- Possible additional programming of public facilities and third places.

**SITE 2 - ESCAUDAIN-
LOURCHES,
SEMI-AERIAL VIEW**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS2- APo6
(crédits CAPH)



**SITE 2 - ESCAUDAIN-
LOURCHES,
SEMI-AERIAL VIEW**
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS2- APo7
(crédits CAPH)



Project site n°2 : Urban boundary between the Cité Schneider and the town centre of Louches

The Cité Schneider housing estate straddles three municipalities (Escaudain, Roeulx and Louches). Site development coherency between the Soufflantes business park planned to the north and Louches town centre to the south is the main urban issue. This neighbourhood (3,959 inhabitants in 2018) has in fact gradually increased in density as opportunities occurred and now needs to be stitched together in order to create the right conditions for new housing and/or business projects. An overall renovation of the housing estate is planned.

An Orientation d'Aménagement et de Programmation (OAP) of the Plan Local d'Urbanisme Intercommunal (document provided to applicants) concerns the easternmost part of the site. Directions are given as to the significance the Parc du Terril will have to play in connecting the surrounding urban fabrics (existing and in transformation), as well as their connections to the city centre.

Expectations for this site mainly concern:

- Overall coherence of series of public spaces developed to link various areas around the town centre, with particular attention given to the reorganisation of the Schneider housing estate, which currently ends in a cul-de-sac;
- Integration of the Terril Park project into the green and blue network (connecting to the mining vine, access to the Escaut, etc.) and landscape, urban and architectural treatment of the edges and interfaces;
- Design of a neighbourhood public facility (location to be established) to strengthen the bond among the local inhabitants;
- Design of one or more innovative housing projects on indicated sites.

SITE 3 - RAISMES
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS3-APo1
(crédits CAPH)



SITE 4 - WALLERS
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS4-APo1
(crédits CAPH)



PUBLIC SPACES, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND THIRD PLACES: REVITALISING THE TERRITORY BY REINVENTING SHARED ENVIRONMENTS?

In the mining era, life outside of work and home was for a long time taken care of by the mining companies. In addition to essential services (education, health), the companies built public facilities and organised the events (festive, sporting, cultural). Later, public authorities took over at different levels. However, with the economic crisis and the ensuing loss of inhabitants, local authorities had fewer resources and the facilities often became too expensive to manage and maintain. These spaces, which are sometimes dilapidated and unsuited to contemporary use, need to be transformed by rationalising space and reinventing programmes so they once again become places of sociability on scale with the neighbourhood, city and territory.

Project site 3: The «expanded» leisure centre, nature close by

Porte du Hainaut Recreational and Nature Park is a major asset of the CAPH territory. It is located in the commune of Raismes (12,468 inhabitants in 2018) on the edge of the national forest and attracts visitors from the entire greater urban area including Valenciennes and Métropole de Lille. The park (covering 29 hectares) includes a nautical centre, as well as recreational areas (children's playgrounds, sports fields, hiking trails) and restaurants. On the outskirts of the park are the Maison de la Forêt, an accrobranche park and equestrian centre.

The population of the municipality of Raismes is low-income and the city is in need of both social and economic revitalisation. For this municipality, as well as for the CAPH territory, the recreational and nature park is already an important economic activity (annually between 150,000 and 190,000 visitors). It could be developed into a real economic powerhouse allying recreational activity and tourism, nature and health.

In order to transform this ecological heritage into an economic resource for the area, the current recreation area needs to be expanded and its uses increased and/or supplemented with other types of activities yet still maintain an eco-responsible programme managed in a spirit of solidarity and open to a wide public. A large area of land to the east, the Aquatic Gardens, linked to the existing site by Avenue de l'Étoile could be included in the park.



SITE 3 – RAISMES, SEMI-AERIAL VIEW
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS3- APo1
(crédits CAPH)



SITE 3 – RAISMES, SEMI-AERIAL VIEW
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS3- APo1
(crédits CAPH)

Expectations for this site mainly concern:

- Intensify activity on the site: evaluate the possibility of increasing and/or reorganising activities on both parts of the site, propose additional uses, continue exploring activities in the solidarity economy (e.g. the Pinson eco-farm), local high-quality agro-forestry production and the health and well-being sectors (fitness facilities, awareness of healthy eating, fighting obesity, etc.) and build on existing activities (thermal baths and the pharmaceutical industry in Saint-Amand-les-Eaux);
- Develop public spaces: lay out a series of spaces that strengthen links to the forest, the vine (connecting both locally with the «improved» recreational centre and with the surrounding area), the housing estates and the other project sites;
- Highlight the built (Sabatier slag heap and Sabatier mining pit no. 2) and natural heritage (pond, forest): provide clear access to the slag heap and mining pit, make the link defined by the vine clear and accessible (via Maurice Sabatier Street, the path leading to the slag heap or other connections);
- Design the interfaces: work on edges, interfaces and points where the recreational centre, urban areas and the forest interact. Make the Pinson housing estate more open and accessible.

Project site 4: École Bosquet-Maison d'ingénieur, an outstanding educational prototype

The site is in the town of Wallers (5,568 inhabitants in 2018) near the Arenberg Creative Mine. The École Mixte Bosquet, a nursery school and the Maison d'Ingénieur with its wooded park (former quarry) are on the site. It is surrounded by several mining housing estates and completes a remarkable heritage ensemble.

The issue here is not specific to this site alone: several schools in the CAPH, are faced with a lack of space in their beautiful although sometimes dilapidated mining buildings, which often means shared facilities (sports, computer technology, art, multimedia library, etc.) have to be converted into classrooms. This site therefore offers an opportunity to develop an add-on modular «prototype» that could be produced locally at an affordable price and that can be redeployed to other sites in the mining basin.

Expectations for this site mainly concern:

- Layout of public facilities and spaces that interconnect locally and at the scale of the mining vine, with particular attention being paid to promoting the Arenberg Creative Mine;
- Extension and improvement of spaces in the school group via on-site consolidation and development of prototype modules as classrooms
- Development of suggestions for the Maison d'Ingénieur and access to its grounds.



SITE 4 – WALLERS, SEMI-AERIAL VIEW
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS4-APo1
(crédits CAPH)



SITE 4 – WALLERS, SEMI-AERIAL VIEW
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_
HAINAUT-PS4-APo1
(crédits CAPH)

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR DOWNLOAD

CONNURBATION - TERRITORIAL SCALE

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-C-AP1.jpg	Aerial photo of the agglomeration
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-C-M1.dxf	Plan of the agglomération
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-C-M1.pdf	Plan of the agglomération
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-C-M2.pdf	Map of the lanscape framework of the mining basin

STRATEGIC SITE - URBAN SCALE

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-AP1.jpg	Aerial photo of the study site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-Po.png	Location map at the scale of study site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-Po1.png	QR-code for access to the location map on google maps
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-M1.dxf	Plan of the study site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-SS-M1.pdf	Plan of the study site

PROJET SITE - ARCHITECTURALE SCALE

Project site N°1 - Escautpont

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS1-APo1 à 05.jpg	Semi-aerial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS1-M1.dxf	Project n°1 site map
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS1-M1.pdf	Project n°1 site map

Project site N°2 - Escaudain-Lourches

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-APo1 à 07.jpg	Semi-aerial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-Po.pdf	Location map at the scale of study site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-Po1 à Po6.jpg	terrestrial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-M1.dxf	Project site N°2 map
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-M1.pdf	Project site N°2 map

Project site N°3 - Raismes

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS3-APo1 à 09.jpg	Semi-aerial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS3-Po.pdf	Location map at the scale of study site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS3-Po1 à Po4.jpg	Terrestrial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS3-M1.dxf	Project site N°3 map
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS3-M1.pdf	Project site N°3 map

Project site N°4 - Wallers

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-AP01 à 05.jpg	Semi-aerial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-Po.pdf	Location map at the scale of project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-P01 à P10.jpg	Terrestrial photo of the project site
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-M1.dxf	Project site N°4 map
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-M1.pdf	Project site N°4 map

ANNEXES

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-T-ANNEXE1.pdf	UNESCO heritage press kit
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-T-ANNEXE2.pdf	Technical Paper on Mining Habitat
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-T-ANNEXE3.pdf	Study on the landscape of the coalfield
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-T-ANNEXE4.pdf	Cycle route project in the coalfield

Project site N°2 - Escaudain-Lourches

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-ANNEXE1.pdf	Development and Programming Guidelines Lourches
FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS2-ANNEXE2 et 3.pdf	Urban study of the district Schneider in Escaudain, Roeulx and Lourches

Project site N°4 - Wallers

FR-LA_PORTE_DU_HAINAUT-PS4-ANNEXE1 et 2.pdf	Socio-economic and heritage diagnosis of the Aremberg district
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The coalfield, a living and changing area

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Socio-economic indicators

THE RELATIONSHIP TO THE THEME p.16

Metabolic vitality: regenerating and better managing territorial resources

Inclusive vitalities: reconnecting, encouraging sociability, promoting the health and well-being of inhabitants

Partners' expectations

Follow-up of the competition

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Components of the mining vine

Anchoring the vine in its territory: issues, questions, overall programmatic suggestions

Expectations for the reflection site

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From mining urbanism to the living city: living differently?

Public spaces, facilities and third places: revitalising the territory by reinventing places for sharing?

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N FR

