**SHORT MEMO**  
of the 4th Round Table on Coal Regions in Transition  
held in Wakefield, UNITED KINGDOM  
**6 March 2019**

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**ATTENDANCE LIST**

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| Ms Lucie STUDNIČNÁ |
| Ms Renata EISENVORTOVÁ |
| Mr Dumitru FORNEA |
| Mr Jacques GLORIEUX |
| Ms Dana SAKAŘOVÁ |
| Ms Diana INDJOVA |
| Mr András EDELÉNYI |

**CCMI Secretariat**

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| Mr Adam PLEZER |
| Ms Magda PELKOVÁ |

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The fourth Round Table on Coal regions was held on 6 March 2019 in Wakefield, United Kingdom. Besides our members, Mr Steve Fothergill (National Director, Industrial Communities Alliance, Professor, CRESR, Sheffield Hallam University), Mr Alan Carter (Director of Portfolio Management, The Land Trust) and Mr Tom Stannard (Director of Regeneration, Wakefield City Council) took part in the discussion.

**Mr Steve Fothergill** – The UK economy is the first industrial economy in the world what was funded on coal. The coal production peaked just before the First World War: 292 million tons per a year with more than 1.1 million miners in 3024 coal mines. In the last decades the coal consumption in the UK has been falling dramatically and there was a huge reduction in employment between 1980 and 1990 (from 237,000 to 49,000). According to the latest statement 500 employer works in the coal industry. What happened to redundant miners and have the jobs been replaced?

The older worker tended to leave, but the younger hung on. Those, who wanted to stay in the industry, could move from one colliery to another. For those, who left the industry, the job loss was softened by relatively generous redundancy payments and access to pensions and welfare benefits and the state helped with retraining and employment advice. The number of jobs lost from the UK coal industry since the early 80s has now been replaced by a similar number of new jobs for men in the same areas.

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Lessons from the UK experience: it is possible for a large, mature economy to move away from coal; electricity markets can be structured to deliver this shift; redundancies can be managed to ease the pain (even if that hasn't always happened); rebuilding the economy of the coalfields is possible, but takes a long time.

**Mr Tom Stannard** – Collieries were the main employers in Wakefield District, there were 15 mines in Wakefield in 1984, employing approximately 20 000 people. The last pit in Wakefield was closed in 2002. The intervention in the 90s comprised the following: infrastructure opened up land for investment, regeneration of colliery sites for a range of uses, skill development came later. Wakefield like many areas of the north of England is not suffering from substantial unemployment problem. Lot of the residents are employed, but a lot of them are overemployed, what means they have 3 jobs, across 2-3 shifts. The council runs educational services what collect people who are most distant of the labour market, including people with disabilities. The most important interventions are not landing programmes, funds or infrastructures – but the necessity of interventions around adult skills and reskilling, upskilling the existing labour market.

**Mr. Alan Carter** – There was established 15 years ago a charity to deal with some of the issues around the coalfield regeneration program, The Land Trust. Their vision is to improve the quality of people's lives by creating, improving and maintaining sustainable, high quality green spaces. They create well managed, publicly accessible, sustainable places, where people want to live, work and play. Their model seeks to create a management structure to support and enable local delivery, allow for emotional ownership of spaces and assets, utilize targeted investment to deliver benefits around health, the economy, social cohesion, the environment, and education training, uplift area and creating jobs and reduce long term costs. In particular, they deliver significant physical and mental health benefits. Inactivity carries the same risk for CVD (= cardiovascular disease) as smoking and twice as deadly as obesity.

They promote the use of the green spaces for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the communities surrounding the sites. What is important is not just the design, nor just the maintenance; it is about managing the spaces to maximize the social and economic value which can be created from them. 9 out of 10 people feel that their green spaces play a positive part in their happiness and well-being. For every £1 spent P.A. by the Land Trust, society benefits on average £30.30 in health care provision because people using their sites feel fitter and healthier. The Land Trust's green spaces contribute the equivalent of £53.2 million p.a. of benefits to the health and welfare sector.

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