Visual quality of mining and post-mining landscapes

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Mine rehabilitation provides opportunities to create an environment which can produce essential ecosystem services for local communities and other stakeholders. Particularly cultural ecosystem services like aesthetic, spiritual, and recreational services have experienced higher importance in last decades. Peoples’ perception of the landscape changed from a ‘source of materials’ to a ‘space for leisure’. The need for a visually acceptable landscape is a strong motivation for people to visit a specific place for recreation, to live or work there. This need is even more evident in a post-mining landscape where the visual amenity and the community’s connection with a familiar area has been reduced. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the visual quality issue in post-mining landscapes, and show the results of selected visual preference studies in the Czech Republic.

Kamila Svobodova is currently an Endeavour Research Fellow within the Faculty of Engineering at Monash University. Her expertise is in understanding the visual preferences for the environment and how important is the ‘environmental psychology’ when designing a post-mining landscape. Kamila holds a PhD from Czech Technical University where she studied at the Faculty of Architecture. She also earned a Master degree in Landscape Engineering at Czech university of Life Sciences. Beside her academic career, Kamila has worked as an urban planner, and participated in various regional development planning projects.