

Bio Paul Boutsen

COALMINES / post coalmines / regeneration strategies & projects / community development

Paul Boutsen (1962, Limburg Belgium) is experienced in hands-on regeneration practice and strategy development. Both as member of staff and as free-lance advisor / project manager he has worked closely with municipalities, reconversion companies, private investors and other planning structures in Belgium through the post coal mining redevelopment period, mainly with as task to generate creative scenario's to connect the former coalmines and the mining communities to a positive regional economic development. He worked in urban renewal, community development and regional economic planning in the Limburg Mining Area, the redevelopment of industrial heritage and landscapes, the restructuring of a producer of green electricity and he was the initiator of several big scale cultural productions. His main domain of action is the redevelopment of coalmines and mining communities.

Paul Boutsen works through several independent dedicated organisations, enabling his passion for prosperous and culturally rich mining communities:

- A free-lance practice through bvba 'ADACT' (advice and action), a Belgium registered company.
- 'Het Vervolg / COALFACE', a not for profit development organisation for mining regions. www.hetvervolg.org
- Transit_LAB, a cooperative company connecting and channelling mining related knowledge towards transition and reconversion practices. www.transit-lab.be
- IPAS, urban mining, applying coal-technology in valorisation of municipal waste streams to set off the circular economy. www.ipas.world

Paul Boutsen also has a network with other European mining regions with active coal mining operations or where similar operations of restructuring have been set up through the last 20 years: representing Belgium in EURACOM, the European network of local authorities; several EU funded INTERREG projects: PROSPECTS, SHIFT-X,...; as producer of international cultural productions between mining regions. Because working internationally is not only inspiring, but also transferring energy between and strengthening resilience in local communities.