

# FACING CHANGE WITH A COMMON VISION

ENGAGIERTE STADT FORST & ENGAGIERTE STADT WEISSWASSER FORST & WEISSWASSER, GERMANY

## STRUCTURAL CHANGES CAUSE POLARISATION

The Lausitz is a rural region **formerly dependent on the coal mining industry**. The end of this sector is causing structural changes and societal fractions. The economic development divided society into those who are benefitting from new prospects and those who have lost their jobs and fear the changes.



## LEARNINGS FROM THE PROCESS

Structural changes can be managed when all parts of society are included in regular exchange. To create a vision together, **citizens need to be included from the start—as well as those who think differently**. Therefore, it is crucial to act in a transparent way and lead constructive and inclusive debate.



## CROSS-SECTORAL DIALOGUE

Together the towns of Forst and Weißwasser foster collaboration between all parts of society and create a positive vision for the future. In diverse dialogue formats representatives of civil society, the municipality, the private sector and citizens discuss the structural changes that can be beneficial for all.



**E** Joint local engagement for the common good