

PILOT ACTION REPORT

PILOT 1

Ptuj pilot action report:

D.T3.1.5

PP2

SRC BISTRA PTUJ

05 2020



## 1. Summary description of the pilot action explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character

The arrangement of the renovation of the Turnišče Castle Park includes the regulation of the naturalistic educational path of all-natural values, which, despite the varied past and thus different social regimes, are still preserved in large numbers through the representativeness of the park and their elements, especially trees.

Thus, pilot action presents the trees in the role of their owners over time and through a series of potential visitors such as kindergartens, schools, close residents, recreationists and other visitors. Through investment, we revitalised the castle park and also presented the prepared EOT (which was designed within the project).

Investment contributes toward a better understanding of historical and environmental characteristics of castle park Turnišče. With investment within the pilot project, we wanted the public to be aware of the importance of historical castle parks. With informations on info boards, we presented the history of the castle complex, and we presented the EOT, which is spread all over the castle complex and is focused on magnificent trees and its natural characteristics. With a walk through EOT, called "TURNišče", a person gets an insight into reach castle and castle park history.

Investment is focused around developed EOT - benches are placed in places that offer a view onto the park and enables us to understand the content written in EOT. Bike standings are placed at the entrance to the park, which allows visitors to proceed through the park by foot and get the feeling like historical residents - castle parks were planned to enable relaxing walks.

Narrow terrestrial paths were widened and arranged in hardened sand paths, with a curb slightly raised above the terrain (designed to guide the blind and partially sighted through the park). The trails are arranged according to the existing ones, only extended to usable widths for walks in couples or small groups (families) and disabled persons

Castle complex Turnišče has information boards on the type of tree, its role in history and its present scale and its meaning are placed along a walking path, at the point where the tree with the description is best seen in its role. On the board are a word description and graphical comparison over the years of growth. (note: these boards are not part of the project pilot action, but the walking path was planned among those boards, so that description of the park's characteristics is more visible and approachable)

At the beginning of the trail, we placed an information board. It shows the historical data, the form of the park and the castle is erected throughout all its existence. The board also presents information for the blind and partially sighted.

The benches were installed at the locations of the existing three and complemented by two new areas.

Trash cans are placed next to the bench about a meter away.

All urban equipment is selected from the urban equipment catalogue of the Municipality of Ptuj. The catalogue was approved in 2019, so the chosen construction worker had quite a challenge to find the producer of the equipment. Within the investment, we placed first benches, trash cans and bike standings in Municipality of Ptuj that were per new catalogue of urban equipment.

Part of the investment was also planting the trees in castle park Turnišče. Castle Park is full of ancient, magnificent trees. A massive storm, with a fierce wind, in July 2019, undermined 24 trees in castle park Turnišče, so to plant new trees was very appreciated also from that point of view. We planted tree sorts that were approved by the Institution for the preservation of cultural heritage. Also, places where they can be planted was approved by the same Institution. We produced an elaborate with all necessary description for planting the trees.

## 2. Describe stakeholder engagement and involvement during the whole process

During the implementation of the pilot project, we cooperated with various important stakeholders. Municipality of Ptuj (the owner of the castle park Turnišče) - with them we discussed the diameter of the entire investment, what kind of investment is needed in the castle park, they also gave their consent to the investment. After the investment was finished, they overtook the maintenance. Institution for preservation of cultural heritage was an important co-operator. We needed their approval for every part of the investment. We gained two cultural protection consents, one for investment and one for planting the trees. We engage groups of people with disabilities to regard their suggestions for the width of the trail, for "helper" along the trail as a guidance for people with visual disabilities. Experts for preparation of

Revitalisation concept, EOTT and detailed technical plan were chosen - those were the documents upon which we implemented the pilot action. We pursued knowledge developed within HICAPS project.

We also involved the general public because we wanted residents to revive the importance of castle park Turnišče. We wanted for residence to find in castle park Turnišče a relaxing opportunity to have a walk in nature.

In investment, we also included schools. After the investment was finished elementary schools in Ptuj enlisted the EOTT in castle park Turnišče on their school programme for the school year 2020/21 as an environmental day.

The implementation of the investment allowed us to strengthen the cooperation between local and national stakeholders.

### 3. Investment location (NUTS 3 region(s), address, postal code, city, country)

NUTS 0: SI

NUTS 2: SI01, Vzhodna Slovenija

NUTS 3: SI032, PODRAVSKA

Castle Park Turnišče, Zagrebška cesta , 2250 Ptuj, Ptuj, Slovenia

### 4. Description of the investment, including technical characteristics

The investment was formed out of implementing new walking path (distance 270 m and width 1,25 m), to set 5 sets of urban equipment (benches, trash cans, bike standings), to put lightning in the park and to put the informational board.

For the implementation of the pilot project, we selected constructional worker for implementation of investment in the walking path, urban equipment (benches, trash cans, bike standings and lightning) and informational boards. The basis for the public call was prepared detailed technical plan.

At the beginning of the trail, an information board is placed. On the board, the form of the park and the castle is erected throughout all its existence. The board also presents information for the blind and partially sighted.

The benches were installed at the locations of the existing three and complemented by two new areas. The benches are of metal construction and wooden seat and backrest.

Trash cans are placed next to the bench about a meter away. The baskets are made of metal.

Metallic bicycle stands are placed at the entrances to the park. All urban equipment is selected from the urban equipment catalogue of the Municipality of Ptuj.

Part of the investment was also planting the trees in castle park Turnišče. Castle Park is full of ancient, magnificent trees. A massive storm, with a fierce wind, in July 2019, undermined 24 trees in castle park Turnišče, so to plant new trees was very appreciated also from that point of view. We planted ten trees. We planted tree sorts that were approved by the Institution for preservation of cultural heritage. Also, places where they can be planted was approved by the same Institution. In spring 2020, we selected the external expert/service to produce an elaborate with all necessary description for planting the trees and plant the trees according to the prepared elaborate.

Investment followed as much as possible the first appearance of the park in the past.

Walking path was arranged upon the existing walking path. It was widened and arranged in hardened sand (width and material are suitable for invalid wheelchairs and also for children prams), with curbs slightly raised above the terrain (designed to guide people with visual disabilities).

New benches were placed on the spot of old ones (only three, two benches we placed on new places).

Next to the benches, trash cans are placed.

Bike standings are placed at the beginning of the path, with that we enabled the visitors to put bikes here and continue walking.

Lightning was placed by the informational boards, bike standings and by each bench. Lights are ground standings.

## 5. Which horizontal principles did you take in consideration during preparation and implementation process (equal opportunities, non-discrimination, economic aspect, barrier -free accessibility,)

We have taken into consideration the principal "accessibility for all". We eliminated all possible barriers for wheelchairs and used materials for the path that is suitable for wheelchairs and also children prams (before young families were not able to visit the park because the path was not appropriate for children prams). Principles equal opportunities and non-discrimination were ensured by providing that entrance to the park stays free of charge and accessible for all.

## 6. Duration and process of investment implementation

The preparation for the investment started in spring 2019 with the preparation of the detailed technical plan. In summer 2019, we chose the construction worker for infrastructural works and equipment and signed the contract on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2019. Work began in October 2019. All infrastructural works and setting of equipment were finished by November 2019. In spring, we continued with the second part of investment - planting the trees. In spring 2020, we chose the company for planting the trees and preparation of elaboration plan for planting the trees. All works regarding the planting of trees were finished in May 2020. With that, we completed the activities within pilot action.

## 7. If applicable, compliance with relevant regulatory requirements

Through the whole process, we cooperated with the Institution for preservation of Cultural Heritage. We needed to obtain cultural protection consent for complete pilot action. We received two consents - one for investment in path and equipment, one for planting the trees. We were careful not to impact on the environment during works. During works, an on-site meeting was performed to make sure the environment is not harmed in any way.

## 8. Major milestones of investment

Significant milestones of investment:

- Signing the contract with the construction company in August 2019
- Obtaining the cultural heritage consent for investment works
- Finishing the investment works in November 2019
- Choosing the external expert for the preparation of the elaboration plan and for planting the trees
- Obtaining the cultural heritage consent for planting the trees
- Finishing the planting of trees in May 2020

## 9. Investment costs (BL5, BL6: including break-down of main costs items) in EUR

Total investment cost: 52.214,63 €  
ERDF 53.515,43 €  
BL5 Equipment total: 27.016,21 €  
    BL 5 Equipment: 22.642,88 €  
    BL 5 Equipment - trees: 4.373,33 €  
BL6 Infrastructure and works: 25.198,42 €

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## 10. Ownership and durability of the investment (e.g. maintenances, financing)

The owner of the pilot site is Municipality of Ptuj. The maintenance is in the responsibility of the Municipality. Also, financing of the costs for maintenance is part of the municipal budget. The ownership of the investment has the investor - SRC Bistra Ptuj, but all maintaining costs are in the responsibility of the Municipality of Ptuj.

Within the project HICAPS we prepared the Local action plan for castle park Turnišče where we presented long term possibilities for further development of castle park and castle Turnišče. We showed possible contents (all in accordance with Institution for preservation of cultural heritage), possible funding, time frames for the concepts ready to use, possibilities for public-private cooperation.

The durability of the output is ensured on three levels:

- the solutions tested in the course of the pilot actions on a small scale in one city, can (and in most case will) be repeated and even upscaled to the entire city;
- HICAPS partners and local authorities have immediate access to a wide range of good practices tested in their partner cities, so they can easily and quickly adapt the pilots delivered in their partner cities.
- The detailed documentation of the pilots and their results guarantees that any local authority in the Central Region (and even beyond) can easily use the experiences its city.

**Thus, this output can multiply its effects and contribute to results that do not disappear over time; on the contrary, they will extend well beyond the project's lifetime as well as the partnership.**

## 11. Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups

Benefits of the pilot action are revitalisation of castle park Turnišče, which during the past 50 years wasn't adequately maintained. Different owners and users arranged park to their expectations and needs. Therefore, the original structure of the park was lost. With pilot action we try to give focus on the original design of the park and also, we want to present rich botanical features of the park.

The implemented investment is appropriate to different target groups but most important is, that is approachable to the public - residents. With the investment we wanted for residents to get the feeling of the importance of castle parks - they offer a relaxing opportunity to have a walk in nature. Castle park Turnišče does not have a firm destination of development by its owner. Even though it is and was frequently used by residents. Within project HICAPS we presented the possible revitalisation concept, and upon that prepared EOTT that was close to the residents. And it is also appropriate for schools and tourists. With the implemented investment, we approached the prepared documents to the public. Unfortunately, current epidemic situation does not allow to organise tours for school children or tourists. Still, schools in our Municipality put presented EOT on their school program for the school year 2020/2021 - they will visit the park within an environmental day.

Arranged paths, lightings, bike standings are also a great benefit for residents to have the possibility for a walk in the park. Informations we put on info tables enables residents to know the history of the castle. We expect a higher number of visitors in the park.

We hope that implemented pilot action will encourage the owner to implement further investments into the castle park and make to the visitors even more approachable.

## 12. Lessons learned from the implementation of the pilot action

Although the pilot actions are local interventions, are implemented and having direct benefits in the partner cities, the whole process and methodology of pilot action delivery have been designed in a way that facilitates any interesting town in the CENTRAL area to use/learn from the experiences of the pilot actions.

We learned that good cooperation with Institute for preservation of cultural heritage could be of enormous time value. Because we cooperated with them from the beginning, we got their consents quickly. Before we gained their permission, we incorporated their suggestions in the detailed technical plan. From transnational cooperation, we gained some excellent suggestions on how to prepare reliable documents and which steps are essential to do. Site visit, that we had within the project, gave us some good implementation ideas (for example form of the info boards, lightning). We also learned that the modern approach is not always welcomed in historical castle parks (for example - we wanted to install one smart bench, but the idea was not approved).

### 13. Transferability to other territories and stakeholders

For pilot action, all documents were prepared with the cooperation of the Institute for preservation of cultural heritage. We considered all applicable laws, and we cooperated with the Municipality of Ptuj, the owner of castle park Turnišče. All documents can be used in further investments in castle park Turnišče and can also be used in similar projects. The investment is under the maintenance of the Municipality of Ptuj, and with that agreement, we made sure the investment will be well cared off even after the project end.

Within project HICAPS we prepared Local action plan which describes possibilities to develop in castle complex Turnišče. The implemented investment is part of the development of the castle park and environmental area that is next to the park. The environmental park is also a protected area of the complex, but in high interest for walkers. Investment within HICAPS project enables the owner to further invest in castle park within prepared documents. An important document for sustainable project result is prepared EOT, around which the investment was implemented.

The prepared documents for implementing the investment in castle park Turnišče are prepared with the tight collaboration of Institution for preservation of cultural heritage. Also, suggestions within LAP have their consent. Therefore stakeholders (the owner or possible renters) have listed possibilities that are appropriate for development in the castle complex.

When preparing the documents for investment within pilot action, we gained the knowledge of necessary steps, when investing in cultural heritage protected area. Within prepared documents, all those steps are described, and therefore investors from other territories can have an insight on how to prepare similar investments. Development of ready documents includes acceptable practices from a similar project in the region, state and Europe.

We believe that investment we implemented in castle park Turnišče is an example of good practise on how to revive a castle park. Prepared documents and implemented pilot action are good foundations for further development of castle park Turnišče.

The pilot action constituting this output has been implemented in practice by the partner and collaboration with local authorities. Pilots addressed real-life cultural heritage challenges, many of which are very common in areas of Central Europe. Combined with the extensive and thorough documentation (summary description, slide deck, evaluation) of the pilot, this ensures a very high level of applicability. Replicability is also very good, and can be present on two levels:

1. Pilots are small-scale actions focusing on certain parts. Based on the experiences of the pilot action, the local authority in question can:
  - a. repeat the steps in other parts of the city facing similar challenges;
  - b. expand the intervention from a specific park to the entire city;
2. Cities (within the partnership and beyond) can learn from this pilot: identify and adapt cultural heritage practices that have already been tried and tested by other local authorities.

The immediate geographical coverage of this output involves the partner city where pilot actions have been delivered. However, since the experiences of the pilot actions have been thoroughly documented, they can serve as good practices to be adapted and implemented in other cities. Thus, this output has potentially much broader geographical coverage: the experiences from the good practices can be applied by cities in the entire Central Region and even beyond (in the Member States of the European Union).

Regarding transferability, this output also meets HICAPS project's all transferability requirements:

1. the pilot actions address a challenge that is present not only in the partner organisations and local authorities but also beyond - the challenge the pilot actions address (sustainable protection) is current and increasingly pressing in most urban and rural areas;
2. the outputs of pilot action are not specific to a small number of beneficiaries, but applicable on a wider scale (by any cities). While the pilot actions tackle specific problems in the partner cities, through their detailed documentation, they offer good practices - tried and tested solutions to challenges faced by many other local authorities;
3. the output should be presented in a format that is easy to use and adapt by others - as all the pilots are well documented (summary description, slide-deck and evaluation), the output meets this requirement as well.

#### 14. Added value of transnational cooperation

The added value of this output is present on two levels:

- On the local level through this output, the partner city can demonstrate to their citizens the importance and the multitude of benefits of protection of the natural and cultural heritage. On top of that, while HICAPS is primarily a transnational project that has created a complete toolkit and methodologies that enable local authorities to improve heritage protection and the conditions of sustainable development significantly, the pilot actions provided immediately visible tangible benefits to the residents of partner cities.
- On transnational level, the added value is ensured by the fact that all pilot actions delivered are thoroughly documented (in English) using a standard structure and methodology, facilitating easy and risk-free adaptation by any other interested local authorities in the Central Region.

#### 15. References to relevant deliverables and web links

All our deliverables are presented in eMS and partly at the:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HICAPS.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnDElrZr4uU>

- D.T1.1.2 Analysis of national legislation
- D.T1.1.3 Good practices analysis report (GPAR)
- D.T1.2.1 Report on most appropriate location
- D.T2.2.1 Socio-historical Report on Historical Parks
- D.T2.2.2 Report on plant diversity and their value
- D.T2.2.3 Transnational EOTT
- D.T3.1.1 Revitalisation concept
- D.T3.1.4 Pilot2/Ptuj/Detailed technical plan



## 16. Pictures and some images



















