



HealingPlaces

Enhancing environmental management capacities for sustainable use of the natural heritage of Central European SPA towns and regions as the driver for local and regional development

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HEALINGPLACES PROJECT

Natural heritage, including natural deposits of mineral waters and hot springs are well known common feature of Central European countries. Their potential is widely used in large number of SPAs that constitute very important element of natural and cultural heritage and also local and regional economy in health care, wellness and tourism sectors.

The common challenge that Central European SPAs share is sustainable management of mineral and thermal waters deposits, especially reduction of pressures related to economic and urban development, mass tourism and careless sector policies became the basis for launching the HealingPlaces project.

Project focus is to support sustainable development of SPAs, while protecting unique resources that constitute their basis. This will be done by extension of knowledge and awareness regarding influence of various factors on underground water deposits and by building multi-level and multi-territorial governance models of management of valuable natural SPA resources.

Within the next three years HealingPlaces project will:

- construct a common, innovative and web-based tool for assessment of threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in partners regions
- launch pilot actions in each region
- develop an integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development
- elaborate environmental assessment tools, specifically dedicated to SPAs and easy to use, guidelines and trainings will improve the capacities of public authorities and other SPA decision makers to act more effectively on the existing SPA development problems and usage conflicts through integrated environmental management approach.

Ten project partners from Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and Italy will work on the improvement of sustainable use of mineral and thermal assets.

More info: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html>



KICK OFF MEETING

HealingPlaces project had its kick-off meeting in Katowice between 29-31 May 2019.

The project will be implemented by 2022 by local and regional authorities, development agencies and academic institutions from Poland, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Italy:

- Austria:

Business Upper Austria - [OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH \(BIZ UP\)](#)

- Croatia:

[City of Krizevci \(KZ\)](#) and [Toplice Sveti Martin d.d.](#)

- Czech Republic:

[Mendel University](#) in Brno (MENDELU)

- Hungary:

[Hajdú-Bihar County Government \(HBCG\)](#)
and
[BORA 94 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency Nonprofit LLC \(BORA 94\)](#)

- Poland:

[Central Mining Institute \(GIG\)](#)
and
[Dolnoslaskie Region - Institute for Territorial Development \(IRT\)](#)

- Slovenia:

[DEVELOPMENT CENTRE NOVO MESTO, Counseling and Development, Ltd. \(DC NM\)](#)

- Italy:

[LAMORO Development Agency \(LAMORO\)](#)





1st ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP IN CROATIA: “Current status and challenges of SPAs in Northwestern Croatia“

Project partner City of Križevci has hosted a round table discussion and also a workshop on September 30th, 2019. - as a whole-day event. This event aimed at encouraging brainstorming and discussion about the condition and challenges of SPA in NW Croatia. The objective of the discussion was to build a better understanding of SPA’s status and challenges and their role in developing local communities, in NW Croatia but also on a national level. After the round-table, the workshop started on the upper floor of the DCTP. Workshop was held by the Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar from Zagreb (a non-profit scientific institution owned by the Republic of Croatia). The most important conclusions of the workshop are:

- SPA which is held by local or regional public authority do not need concession, only private bodies
- Administration which need to be complete to obtain concession
- Presentation of the excel-table made by project partner IRT, PL - on the current status of the SPAs in NW Croatia





1ST REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING IN DEBRECEN AT HAJDÚ-BIHAR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

On 30 September 2019 the Hungarian project partners organized the 1st kick-off

The aim of the meeting was to present the project to the stakeholders and professionals.

The participants were from different fields: SPAs, local authorities, University of Debrecen and the Mining and Geological Institute of Hungary. After the presentation of the project a fruitful discussion developed about the current status of SPAs and their socio-economic potential as well as threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in Hajdú-Bihar County.



THEMATIC EVENTS

Participation of Development centre Novo mesto representative at Bled Water Festival 2019

A two-day event on 13th and 14th of June 2019 in Bled, Slovenia, exposed various topics and challenges for planning and management of water in the framework of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal nr 6 - clean water and sanitation.

During the event several international, national, local and Interreg programme projects were presented and discussed. The most interesting and similar for HealingPlaces project were projects AMIIGA, CAMARO-D and PROLINE-CE. Further discussions were based on extraction and use of water sources, their protection and management.

Participants came from different institutions, including Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Slovenian Water Agency, Slovenian Environmental Agency, business support organisations, municipalities and general public, and a connection WAS ESTABLISHED - including presenting and discussing HealingPlaces project activities.



Networking and discussing project activities with stakeholders on Development conference of East Slovenia

On the 12th of August 2019 three representatives of Development centre Novo mesto participated in the Development conference of East Slovenia, where discussion and presentation about project activities was made to stakeholders within and outside our region. Because thermal and mineral waters are present also in other regions, this event was a great opportunity to find synergies and conflicts in thermal water management.

Because of general needs for sustainable water management in all regions across Central Europe, it is important to keep updated what are modern challenges in neighbouring regions of Southeast Slovenia. Contact was established with 2 SPA municipalities and the representative of the Development region Savinjska where thermal water is also of strategic importance. With this information and contacts it is possible to analyse and understand cross-regional differences in managing thermal water use.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2nd Partners' meeting in Linz, 04-04.11.2019: to discuss the environmental mapping and assessment and the pilot action in each partner region.

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