



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

HealingPlaces

NEWSLETTER #2

YEAR 1 | March 2020





Dear Reader,

You are reading the 2nd Newsletter of **HealingPlaces** project.

In this issue we want to give you an overview of what happened in the life of the project during the second semester (1 October 2019 - 31 March 2020). As you may know from the 1st issue of our Newsletter within the next three years HealingPlaces project is and will be working on:

- construction of a common, innovative and web-based tool for assessment of threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in partners regions
- implementation of pilot actions in each region
- development of an integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development
- elaboration of an 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.

In the 2nd semester the focus was mostly on the first two of points mentioned above.

Stay with us and enjoy reading!

You are also welcome to our website for more project news and there you can subscribe to our Newsletter as well.

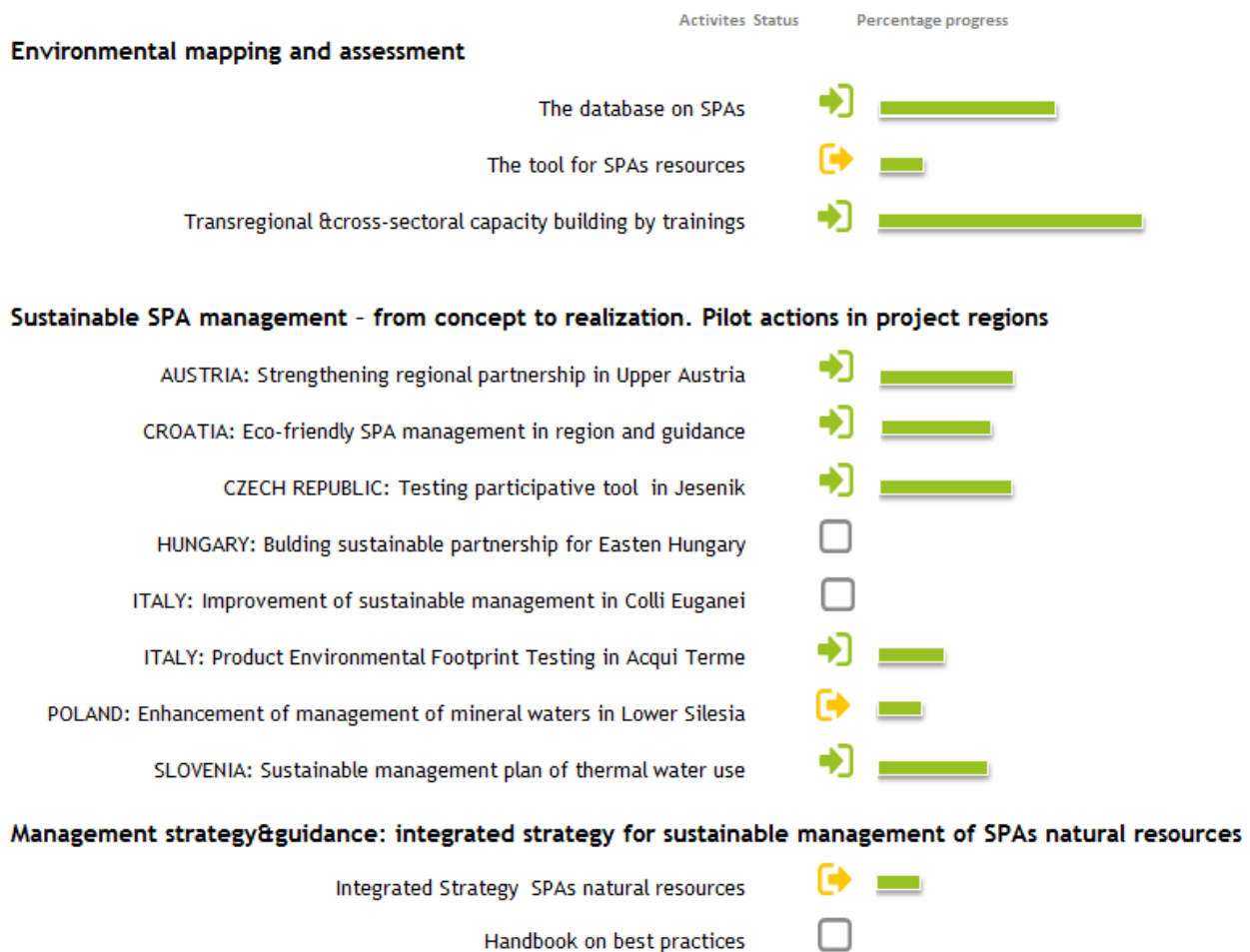
Visit: www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html

Your sincerely,
Healing Places Team



PROJECT PROGRESS

Check out the chart below showing activities status. Great progress continues to be made across the project.



Planned in future

Just starting

On going

Finished



PILOT ACTIONS

In the second period of Healing Places, activities in the pilot areas have been started and are at the beginning currently. For some partners, the main focus of this period in the pilot actions is on including stakeholders and establishing cooperation with project partners. There have been several activities in addressing relevant stakeholders.

For instance, in **Slovenia** partners have established further contacts with relevant stakeholders for their inclusion into the regional working group. Furthermore, the partners established contact and joined a Regional Working Group from project AQUARES* where the stakeholders deal with water reuse in Slovenia (more about cooperation - can be found under “events”).

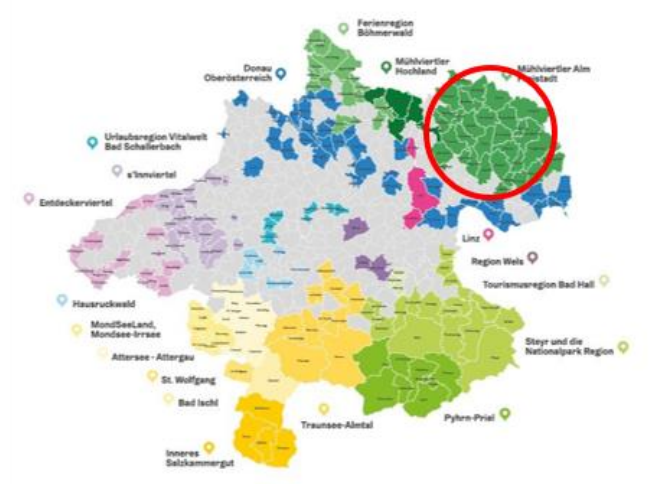


In addition, in November 2019 the project team attended a conference of Regional Development Agencies where project activities with other regions in Slovenia and identified key stakeholders, sources and best practices for better implementation of project activities were discussed. Finally, the

Slovenian partners have also presented and discussed project activities with one spa municipality in their region and motivated them to involve actively in the project.

*Interreg Europe project,
see: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/aquares/>

Also in **Austria**, presentations and meetings with regional stakeholders took place. The Austrian partners met with representatives of a SPA municipality, the health resort and several tourism associations. In addition, the project was presented to various regional and local entities (Chamber of Commerce, county of Upper Austria, regional providers).



Furthermore, two more regions in Upper Austria have been contacted to be part in the Healing Places project.



Czech Republic started first actions regarding their pilot action. In a first step, the geographical extension of the potential area of influence for pilot mineral water deposit was determined.



Work is currently underway to identify the most important actors and social groups for these regions and to diagnose and describe the influence and decision-making powers of the administration, business and public sector.

The Italian partners have concluded preparations with the local stakeholders and associates to share the purpose of the immersive room and to start the process of jointly finding the best location for the immersive room. The aim is to locate the immersive room in Abano or Montegrotto in cooperation with two local municipalities and Consortia of Municipalities and Municipality of Padua.



Currently the creation of immersive room/museum of thermal baths connected with the national Museum of Padua to be able to attract a wider number of visitors/stakeholders is under discussion.

The Hungarian project partners have also started to organise the pilot actions in their regions by identifying and shortlisting the potential members of the Regional Working Groups in both counties. In order to build sustainable partnership on shifting towards nature-focused development of spa water potential, the right and most relevant stakeholders were selected and consulted.



To ensure that all key players are invited, several occasions are used to communicate and engage the relevant actors. On 11 December 2019 the Hungarian partners participated in the regional stakeholder platform meeting of InnovaSpa project* where HealingPlaces Hungarian pilot action objectives have been introduced and shortly discussed with participating stakeholders (most of them were also invited to be member of HealingPlaces regional working group).

*Interreg Europe project, see: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/innovaspa/>



KNOWLEDGE

One of the very important activities within HealingPlaces project implementation has been collecting and systematizing the knowledge about existing good practices and - especially - about possible synergies with other - past or on-going European projects founded from public funds, to ensure exchange of knowledge, when possible.

The results of the screening of existing good practices and approaches to solving SPA needs for sustainability - including solutions on international scale, as well as regional or trans-national examples of cooperation has been structured in the form of

a short database - accessible to all project partners - and divided into 4 main catalogues, such as: **Valuable sources**, **Projects**, **Literature** and **Tools**.

The “**Projects**” catalogue presents information about thematically related projects implemented on a national and international scale. About the cooperation with on-going project, you may see more under “**events**”

The next **database catalogue “Valuable sources”** contains a list of valuable and reliable sources from which HealingPlaces project, as well as all people interested in SPAs sustainable development and resources protection can benefit from. For example, we would like to encourage you to read the results of a very interesting study prepared in 2017 for Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) - *Health tourism in the EU: a general investigation**.

The study defines and explores SPA tourism as one of main components of Health Tourism (together with medical and wellness tourism), presenting interesting case studies and showing how increasing the share of health tourism may reduce tourism seasonality, improve sustainability and labour quality, and may help to reduce health costs through prevention measures.

*Health tourism in the EU: a general investigation, available under link: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/S/TUD/2017/601985/IPOL_STU\(2017\)601985_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/S/TUD/2017/601985/IPOL_STU(2017)601985_EN.pdf)





EVENTS

2nd - 3rd of
October 2019

Poland (PL)
realized by
Central Mining
Institute (GIG)

Presentation of HealingPlaces at Program dla Śląska

Representatives GIG presented HealingPlaces project during the congress "Program dla Śląska" (Program for Silesia Region) in Katowice (PL). It was an opportunity for both project promotion and clustering with other INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE projects, such as LUMAT, SALUT4CE and AMIIGA.



Slovenia (SI)
realized by
Development
Centre Novo Mesto

16th - 17th of
October 2019

Study visit in Łódzkie Region (PL) - project AQUARES



Representatives of Development Centre Novo Mesto started cooperation with project AQUARES - *Water reuse policies advancement for resource efficient European regions* - ongoing project, realized within INTERREG Europe, aiming at efficient water management through water reuse, profit from the opportunities in the water market, and secure the protection of water bodies. Representatives of Novo Mesto Development Center participated - among others - in the workshop and site visit in Łódzkie Region (PL) in October 2019.

More info about the event [here](#).



**5th - 7th
of November
2019**

Austria (AT)
organised by
Business Upper
Austria - OÖ
Wirtschaftsagentur
GmbH (BIZ UP)

2nd HealingPlaces project partners' meeting in Linz

Almost thirty people, representatives of project partners and one associated partner, took part in three days discussions and workshops. During the three day workshop the following topics were discussed:

- Workshop on possible synergies of existing knowledge for project realization - Implications for tool development and testing
- Environmental mapping and assessment
- Sustainable SPA management - from concept to realisation. Pilot actions in project regions
- Management strategy & guidance: integrated strategy for sustainable management of SPAs natural resources
- Administrative issues (management, communication and finances).



More info about the meeting [here](#).

Slovenia (SI)

realized by
Development Centre
Nowo Mesto

**26th
November
2019**



Representatives of Development Centre Novo Mesto attended a round table on the topic of water reuse in Slovenia. During the consultation, experts from different fields presented how to achieve sustainable management of water resources. More than 45 participants, together with the lecturers, discussed the needs for water reuse, what are the main obstacles to circular water management and where are the opportunities for more sustainable water management in Slovenia.

More info about the event [here](#).



27th
of
November
2019

Austria (AT)
organised by Business
Upper Austria - OÖ
Wirtschaftsagentur
GmbH (BIZ UP)

Italy (IT)
organized by
Technology Park of
Pordenone (POLO PN),
supported by Venetian
Cluster

22nd
of **January**
2020

Meetings day:

1) Work meetings with the state of Upper Austria - Department of Statistic

The HealingPlaces Project and in particular scope and aims of work package “Environmental mapping and assessment” was presented. Professional input was obtained and country support for the project was assured. The further procedure - especially regarding the provision of data - was discussed.

2) The round table with the important stakeholders of the region

Participants were from the following institutions:

- Bad Zell health and wellness centre Lebensquell
- Tourism association Bad Zell
- Mühlviertler Alm Tourism Association

Representatives of Business Upper Austria (BIZ UP) and thus the HealingPlacesProject.

Coordination meeting in Italy

A coordination meeting for HEALING PLACES activities to be carried out in Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia Italian regions took place in Abano Terme, a thermal destination in the province of Padua (Veneto, Italy), surrounded by the landscape of the Regional Natural Park of Euganean Hills. The *HealingPlaces* Italian partner Technology Park of Pordenone, supported by Venetian Cluster (cluster of the productive supply chain in cultural and environmental heritage), met the representatives of the Associated Partners that are involved locally to participate in the project and the specific pilot action foreseen by project plans.

More info about the meeting [here](#).



2019-
2020

Poland (PL)/ Czech Republic (CZ)
realized by Dolnośląskie Region - Institute for Territorial Development (PP2) and Mendel University in Brno (PP9)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the present European situation (COVID-19) the 3rd Partners' meeting will be held on-line between 22-23.04.2020.

The unexpected situation with SARS-CoV-2 disturbed the organization of face to face meetings.

Cooperation with Spa4Development (Spa treatment on the Czech-Polish border and its contribution to regional development) project

Strictly cooperate with Spa4Development project (implemented within Interreg VA Poland- Czech Republic), which is focused on health resort treatment on Czech-Polish border and its contribution to regional development. IRT and MENDELU representatives have participated - among others - in the number of thematic workshops concerning various development and management issues such as:

- environmental management (May, 2019),
- legal status of certified spas (September, 2019),
- development pressure (Nov. 2019)
accessibility of SPA resorts (February, 2020).



More information: <https://spa.euwt-novum.eu/> (Polish and Czech language).



PROJECT IN MEDIA



HealingPlaces project was introduced in Italy in the Platinum magazine through our Italian partner Polo Tecnologico Pordenone.

You can find the article here:

https://view.publitas.com/platinum-online/2020-marzo_ing/page/92-93

The magazine is published in Italy by national economic newspaper "Sole 24 ore" every 4 months. The Italian/English versions of Platinum is automatically distributed to the network of Italian Chamber of Commercies abroad (Assocamerestero) and so within Italian Embassies/consulates abroad where often Italian Chambers are hosted.

The Italian/English version of the magazine can be downloaded from: <https://platinum-online.com/>

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