

# PRESS RELEASE





## **Europe's intellectual heritage lives on in communities**

The way between Szombathely and Veneto is a lengthy one, yet the cities and regions of this part of the world are connected to one another by much stronger links as the common cultural and intellectual heritage forms a bond even closer than geographic proximity. It was the aim of the NewPilgrimage project to draw attention to this fact, creating new connections between 7 regions in 4 countries along the route of Saint Martin.

But who was Saint Martin, and why should he merit attention? His humanity is probably best expressed by the anecdote in which he challenged his military commanders to go to the battlefield unarmed in a bid to oppose worldly power. Whence he was eventually elected bishop in his later years, he modestly tried to hide from the glorious assignment in a barn full of geese. Tales of his righteousness have lifted Saint Martin to symbolic status in the history of humanism, and his views on the human condition and on communities have remained exemplary until our time.

It is for this reason that the events of the NewPilgrimage project focused on community development as well as the preservation and reinterpretation of the common intellectual and cultural heritage with the inclusion of as many community members as possible, and based on the heritage of Saint Martin. The participants demonstrated in workshops and trainings, along with position papers the relevance and creative force of communities, the best practices of inclusion, the processes of community development and the steps necessary for real change. The 3-year project consisted of thematic periods which also represented the phases of community development, from the creation of a vision to concrete implementation.

The persistence of the participants did not fail to produce results. In order to facilitate the inclusion of the younger generation, infocommunications tools such as mobile apps were developed, with the participation of the younger generation incentivized in particular by setting up a competition. Various materials now document the experiences accumulated and exchanged by the partners, from animation videos to zine magazines to sites enabling virtual tours. Participant organizations held two meetings each year, whereas an international festival provided an opportunity for grand knowledge exchange and the playful inclusion of the communities. All the output created during the project is accessible at the official NewPilgrimage site, all bearing testament to the fact that the intellectual and cultural heritage of Europe continues to live on in local communities.

Due to COVID-19, the final event of the 3-year project will take place in the online sphere on 28 May at 2 PM. Participants will have a chance to listen to short debriefs on project results and at the end of the event will get a chance to impersonate Saint Martin who out of pure coincidence, will appear at the scene. The organizers will be delighted to welcome all interested parties at the event!



The NewPilgrimage website:

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

Registration for the NPA online closing event:

<https://my.demio.com/ref/ZNacAJe7SMT0jaBN>