

Executive summary and report on the PILOT project of Creative quarter Barutana

DELIVERABLE NR:

03 2022



SHORTs:

Deliverable; title of the PILOT: D.T3.2.2; Creative quarter Barutana
Name of the institution: Institute for tourism and sports Kamnik
Purpose of the PILOT: Pilot objective was to transform the selected area/building (former gunpowder factory metal works building) into a creative area, which can host festivals, workshops and artists to exhibit and do the work.
Expected results: Establishment of a creative area to connect already present creatives in a new physical and also conceptual space. Trough that pilot project, an achieved objective was to support and convince local decision makers to invest public funds and their time into securing this area for future CCI usage.
Key activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• research of possible areas and negotiations with owners (several areas selected)• providing idea plan for the pilot (Architectural, urbanistic and logistical)• constructing the pilot (cleaning the area, providing the spatial requirements, securing the structure, working on logistics...)• running CCI program inside the building/area (CCI focused programs), with the help of local festival Kamfest• monitoring and analytics of CCI activites• presentations for municipality and public discussions• discussion and providing know-how and research to support the CCI strategy of the city
Key stakeholders/target group(s) involved: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kulturno društvo priden možic (NGO),• Dom Kulture Kamnik (part of the ZTŠKK),• Individual artists (for example: Nina Koželj, Tadej Droljc, Ilona Mrgole, ...)• Faculty of architecture University of Ljubljana,• Prostorož (NGO),• Youth centre Kotlovnica,• KIKštarter (start-up incubator).

1. Brief summary of the pilot project:

The pilot project is an excellent example of how an abandoned former industrial site can be filled with life within a short time through the initiative of cultural workers supported by professional architects and architecture majors. The Creative Quarter Barutana has achieved widespread attention and can serve as a model for the whole of Slovenia and beyond. The challenge addressed by the pilot project was the lack of appropriate places in Kamnik for creatives to create and start their work, already clear cluster of similar and familiar programs in that part of the city and big number of creatives in the city with no place to support independent and critically creative thinking and working.

Pilot objective was to transform the selected area/building (former gunpowder factory metal works building) into a creative area, which can host festivals, workshops, and artists to exhibit and do the work.

Trough that test/prototype pilot project, objective was to support and convince local decision makers to invest public funds and their time into securing this area for future CCI usage. In 2019 research of possible areas for the pilot project was conducted. Several sites were considered and, in the end, after considering various criteria and negotiations with owners, a tooling shop (Ključavničarstvo) in a former gunpowder factory was selected. Due to sites proximity to House of Culture Kamnik and a start-up incubator KIK-štarer the project was named Creative quarter Barutana, as the idea of cooperation between creatives is central to pilot project. The site was at least partly selected because it already had a ground roots support from interested stakeholders.

The work in the area began in earnest in 2020. Architecture group Štajn was active during this phase and started working on the idea for the creative center. In their research, they first reviewed refertial examples and statistics for urban - post-industrial areasThe research was conducted mostly from home, and the meetings were conducted in a virtual environment. In part, research and learning at this stage also took place in the industrial areas themselves, and for safety reasons, students and participants went there individually, taking into account all prescribed Covid-19 safety measures. They also reviewed urban legislation that may affect the course of such projects.

Pilot project in 2021: based on good preparation and prototype project in 2020, we have established operational creative area in the city. We have established infrastructure improvements and also managed to conduct many programs and events in Creative Quarter Barutana.

The operating site in and around the Ključavničarstvo building was firmly established, so that it could host events such as school lectures, exhibitions, festivals, and concerts. There were several improvements of surrounding of the area, for example a new central park was establish. Perhaps most importantly for the sustainability of the project, an informal setup of organisation board for program and organisational coordination was assembled, involving Architecture group Štajn, Youth centre Kotlovica, Cultural association Priden možic, Public institute for culture Kamnik, Kamnik scouts group, etc.

2. Linked activities (e.g. event(s)/workshop(s)), and summary of the activities performed:

Only during the most active phase of implementing the pilot project during the summer of 2021 the site could already boast with the following numbers.

- 6 events for cleaning the area
- 15 cultural events at Kamfest summer festival
- 5 cultural events during summer of 2021 (concert, gallery exhibitions)
- 3 education events (school visits/classes).

Additionally dedicated mentoring programs for CCI actors were constructed in the application and were followed up during pilot implementation. There were three main thematic focus areas of mentoring programs held “within the Pilot project”:

- Mentoring program 01: “field of architecture, design, interior design, sculpturing and industrial design”. This mentoring program was implemented through architectural workshop, with a specific focus on site improvements through temporary structures. Additionally several temporary art installations were presented during the festival.
- Mentoring program 02: “field of theatre, music and performing arts” - This mentoring program was implemented by testing the site with the help of art performances - concerts, plays and art performing installations.
- Mentoring program 03: “field of photography, graphic design and interactive media design” In this program, the mentoring was focused on graphic presentations of the area (and festival) and making video and photo materials of the venue (for future education and archiving purposes), which was later used as a material for promotion and archiving the process of redevelopment of the area.

Mentoring programs were held during the pilot implementation in the “Šlosarija” building in Creative district Barutana. Results of those mentoring programs were implemented directly into the area (architecture improvements of the site, graphical and design material, promotional video materials, concerts and events through festival period...).

3. Expected effects and benefits:

In the field of implementing the results of the pilot project, we designed a plan and procedure activity process, how to get to the following:

- Conceptual plan for the architecture of the area, which is consequently important for the preparation of emergency maintenance work and the maintenance projects.
- Design and development of communal equipment of the building.

- Preparation of starting points and acceptance of temporary use of the building, for the smooth implementation of cultural and creative events.

The proposals were presented in more detail to the municipality of Kamnik and were also partially inserted in strategy of the Municipality of Kamnik. Activities included active participation in the preparation of project tasks for the tender of the service provider who will implement the previously mentioned projects and objectives.

Due to the great interest from both Municipality, which bought the site during pilot implementation, and all of the relevant stake holders, there is a lot of optimism regarding the future of the project. Even in 2022 Kamfest will continue to hold events on the site. The management of the site was taken over by Public institute for culture Kamnik and a programming board for events was formed, which is led by Youth centre Kotlovnica. We firmly believe that the sustainability of the project has been assured and will continue to develop in the foreseeable future.

Several events already took place in 2022 after the project's conclusion in the newly established area as the relevant stakeholders such Public institute for culture Kamnik, YC Kotlovnica and Cultural association Priden Možic organized theatre and musical events, Photo club Kamnik organized an photographic exhibition, etc. We expect the CCI activities to even increase as the building and surrounding area is further developed, for which the municipality has already allocated funds.

4. Most important findings, results:

This project is a good example of how creative artists and architects can revitalize an industrial wasteland. Through their own initiative and worthwhile concepts, they persuaded the city to both acquire the site and support their cultural project.

The pilot project is an excellent example of how an abandoned former industrial site can be filled with life within a short time through the grassroots of very enthusiastic stakeholders.

The Creative Quarter Barutana has achieved widespread attention and can serve as a model for the whole of Slovenia and beyond.

The entire team formed by before mentioned stakeholders, which is reinforced by many enthusiastic friends, voluntarily cleaned up the site without any payment.

The exemplary project is also a call to action for city and municipality officials everywhere. It shows that giving young creative people space, to let them try things and experiment, can lead to astounding results. The project can be used as an example of a grass-roots initiative being used in an official setting to re-use deprecated spaces.

5. The main outcomes of the pilot action (in total):

20 events organised during intense pilot action implementation in august 2021.

Over 500 visitors during that time.

Revitalization of 650 m² large derelict industrial building; over 2000 m² of surrounding land cleared and prepared for use.

6. Budget table:

Planned budget for the pilot was as follows:

D.T3.2.1: Assistance in the preparation of a detailed pilot project concept, interim and final report of the pilot project: € 11.000,00

D.T3.2.2 Pilot project: € 40.000,00

- consultancy for establishing of the mentoring: € 2,000.00
- mentoring (3 thematic programs + marketing assistance): € 31,000.00
 - Mentoring program 01: “field of architecture, design, interior design, sculpturing and industrial design”. - 10.000 €
 - Mentoring Program 02: “field of theatre, music and performing arts” 6.000 € + 4.000 € redistribution from the rent (pilot area was owned by the municipality at the time of pilot project)
 - Mentoring program 03: “field of photography, graphic design and interactive media design” - 10.000 €
- rental of equipment and spaces for thematic sets: € 6,000.00
- "catering" for the final event: € 1,000.00

Summa: € 51.000,00

The budget was operated by Štajn Architect Group and was spent according to the plan. The only difference was occurred in rentals for equipment and spaces, since they were obtained for free and we used that. That part of the budget was spent on program activities.

7. Lessons learned and recommendations:

The Creative quarter Barutana pilot project offered a very valuable lesson in connecting and organising already present formal and informal groups of creatives into a productive networking of NGOs, institutions, and individuals to achieve resounding results. By seeking out an already existing grassroots movement and giving it a formal network and organizational support the Creative quarter Barutana quickly took off and cleaning actions, events, exhibitions, workshops, lectures, and many other activities were held during the project.

The main recommendation from the project is that already present creative potential in the form of cultural associations, youth organisations, students (for example architecture major from Štajn architecture group were crucial for the implementation of the project) should be sought out and given a production space where they can develop their ideas and potential. Furthermore organisational and educational support in form of workshops is also crucial that such projects can find

form a strong foundation, from which it can present the results to local decision makers and seek their support.

8. Follow-up activities:

Some of the follow-up activities were already mentioned as the area is actively used by the stakeholders present in the projects. Perhaps the most important activity is securing the proper administrative and bureaucratic preconditions for further and more extensive development. All current initiatives operate in a legal grey area. According to the zoning plan, the area is only approved for commercial or industrial use. A new master plan has yet to be created. Process of submitting changes into municipal spatial plan are in motion, but it will still take a few years to finish. These issues are being actively addressed by the stakeholders and the municipality at the time of projects conclusion.

Attachments:

1. Photo(s)
2. Event flyer/invitation(s)
3. Attendance sheet(s)
4. Media coverage, links (i.a)
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vogctTp11il>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbhwtZ7k1rM>
 - <https://outsider.si/mladi-arhitekti-v-kamniku-zacasno-odprli-novo-kreativno-cetr/>
 - <https://www.kamnik.info/v-barutani-se-je-treslo/>
 - <https://www.kamnik.info/moc-ki-omogoci-da-gobe-cez-noc-pridejo-iz-zemlje/>
5. Follow-up documentation (i.a)