

Output factsheet: STIMULART - CCI Repository Handbook

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Lead partner	Municipality of Jászberény
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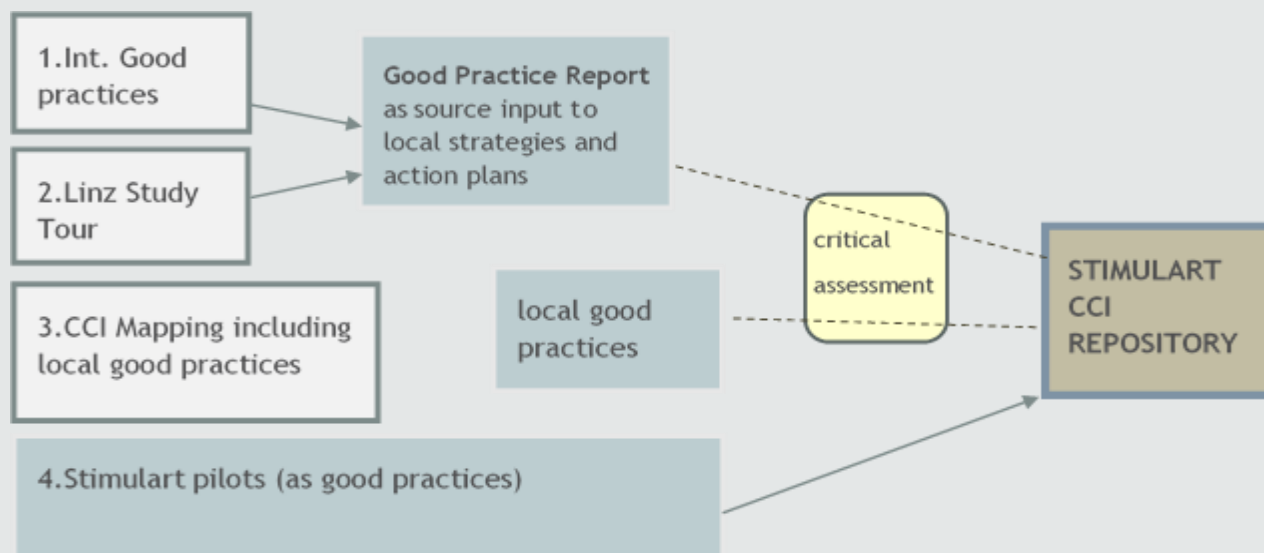
Summary description of the key features of the CCI Repository Handbook and of its transnational added value

The challenge of the Handbook was to capture and transmit the most important experiences, insights, and results of the StimulART project about how to develop strategies, action plans, and pilot projects to set up an operable framework to stimulate the growth of the CCI sector and to initiate a cultural led-urban development tailored to the specifics of Central European mid-sized cities. The Handbook presents the project results in a way that encourages learning, knowledge transfer, and replication across different national contexts. Thus, the Handbook is a knowledge management tool that serves the sustained capacity development of the project partners and their CCI stakeholders as well as of interested 3rd parties external to the project - by way of collecting tried & tested & successfully implemented methods & tools to improve key CCI conditions in mid-size cities. For this purpose, it has revisited inputs from different sources, critically assessed them, and presented them in a coherent and well-structured way for easy access. (See Illustration below) The collection of applicable good practices and transnational methods and guidelines, demonstrated by case studies, come from different thematic areas such as innovative CCI management schemes, alternative policy instruments and financial schemes and models, smart cross-sectoral organization, and collaborative management and business models.

Target groups addressed:

- Project partners and CCI stakeholders;
- General public;
- Municipalities of mid-sized cities in Central Europe and beyond;

- Experts and practitioners in urban and regional development, in cultural policy in mid-sized cities, and in economic development in mid-sized cities.



NUTS region(s) where CCI Repository Handbook has been developed and/or implemented (relevant NUTS level)

The Handbook contains good practices of pilot projects and local good practices of the StimulART medium-size partner cities:

- Amberg (NUTs 3)
- Jászberény (NUTs 3 region Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok)
- Kamnik (NUTs 3 region Osrednjeslovenska regija)
- Naumburg (NUTs 3 region Burgenland)
- Vittorio Veneto (NUTs 3 region Treviso)

The Handbook also contains local good practices from other medium-sized cities from the Central European countries Hungary, Slovenia, Germany, and Italy, mostly below NUTs 3 level.

Expected impact and benefits of the CCI Repository Handbook for the concerned territories and target groups

The Handbook supports the buildup of capacity in the target groups of local administration representatives and CCI stakeholders in Central European mid-sized cities. Local administrations can develop a more sophisticated understanding and awareness of CCI and of its potential to create value-added jobs, innovation, and spill-over effects such as cross-innovations for the local economy and to contribute to a cultural-led urban development. The creatives from the local stakeholder group are supposed to enhance their entrepreneurial competencies.

Thus, the Handbook's beneficiaries are CCI stakeholders in Central European mid-sized cities and their inhabitants by way of enhanced conditions for economic and urban development.

The Handbook is a collection of good practices which have already been implemented in the StimulART partner cities where they were embedded in local CCI sector strategies and action plans aimed at improving the operating conditions for the CCI and cultural urban development.

Sustainability of the CCI Repository Handbook and its transferability to other territories and stakeholders

The Handbook captures the most important experiences, insights, and learnings made during the StimulART project which prepares for knowledge transfer to secure the sustainability of project results.

The StimulART project results are sustainable because they are the outcome of a general strategy-building methodology for the cultural development of Small and Medium Sized Cities (SMSC) on the one hand, and of a firm project management methodology on the other. The general strategy-building methodology is a project result itself and has been based on best practices in Germany, developed in the context of integrated urban development strategies. It suggests a participatory, open, and flexible strategic control circuit that consists of seven distinctive steps defined for iteration after the project ends. In this way, the StimulART project results are not only embedded in a firm strategizing process but also aligned with the local Integrated Urban Development Strategies that were already implemented in the partner cities. Thus, the partner cities are well endowed to gradually build up a sustainable development trajectory in their cultural development using the Strategy Building Methodology for Cultural led Development of Small and Medium Sized Cities implemented during StimulART.

Besides the project-specific tested good practices, the Handbook contains national good practices which have stood the test of time and, thus, have shown their sustainability. Particular attention has been paid to selecting only those national good practices which are still running, thus, demonstrating their potential for sustainability. When national good practices did not pass a background check they haven't been included in the Handbook even when they were propagated and marketed as a best practice. In addition, the background check also included the deliberation at which level the national best practices have been operating. Only those national best practices are included in the Handbook that has been operating in small and medium-sized cities, making sure that they were based on the very particular conditions for cultural development specific to this city size type.

Because the CCI Repository Handbook incorporates both leading-edge practitioner knowledge and tried and tested best practices, made in different national contexts on a local level as well as the latest scientific insights based on universal knowledge, it can provide a suitable fundament for the StimulART project results' replicability under different local circumstances and transferability to different national territories. The local and national good practices contained together with the proposed universally applicable strategy framework provide embedded actionable knowledge, inspirations, and an action framework and they encourage comparisons across contexts and, thus, a reflection which, in turn, are preconditions for the sustainable implementation of the StimulART project results under different local conditions.

A specific focus in the design process of the Handbook was on easy knowledge approachability and transferability. Particularly the user-centric criteria of low barriers to access, readability, and usability as well

as of high levels of engagement-ability and attractivity of the good practices have been a priority in its design. For these reasons, the Handbook was developed in cooperation with an external agency for “storytelling”, to make the good practices an enjoyable, inspirational, and engaging read, encouraging replication, and motivating for action. For it is not only important to graphically design the booklet, but also to design the good practices as actionable stories that are easy to read with the latter based on universal storylines. Hence, any 3rd party interested in the cultural-led urban development of SMSC can easily use the Handbook for its future capacity building, can easily understand its content, can easily identify with the stories, and can easily become captivated and motivated to replicate the best practices or to become inspired by them - no matter location or nationality.

These considerations about the content and form of the CCI Repository for Small and Medium Sized Cities taken together, we believe that this specific output can be sustained and continued after the project end in the StimulART partner cities and be used in other territories and by other stakeholders in the future.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links
If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

The CCI Repository Handbook is one of the main outputs of the StimulART project and its last publication in the form of a well-designed booklet as a PDF document.

The publication is under the Deliverable D.T1.5.3.

It can be downloaded at the project’s website:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/STIMULART/CCI-handbook-stimulart-FINAL.pdf>