

**BUILT HERITAGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY INTEGRATED
TOOLS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HISTORIC URBAN AREAS**

3RD ISSUE / NOVEMBER 2018

Dear all! We are in the middle of the project and it is setting a **good foundation** to build tools for the implementation of **developing approaches** for the management of HBA after the project's lifetime. In the 3rd issue we are **gathering impressions** from the **Mid-term conference** and project meetings in **Karlovac** and **Bratislava**, we are **sharing views** on the project development, as well as **presenting upcoming events** and **our partnership**.

Happy reading!

**Mid-term conference and
project meeting in Karlovac**

Hosted by REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency and the Municipality of Karlovac in Karlovac, September 2018

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The Bratislava meeting

Hosted by the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of the EU, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Bratislava, November 2018

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Mid-term conference and project meeting in Karlovac

Hosted by REGEA - North-West Croatia Regional Energy Agency and the Municipality of Karlovac in Karlovac, September 2018

BhENEFIT project key challenge is related to the development of a multi-disciplinary and holistic approach to the management of historical city centres: we aim to improve and to innovate it. The project wants to reunite different disciplines (e.g., urban planning, public works, commerce, urban regeneration, tourism, events), methodological and participatory approaches in a coordinated way with all stakeholders involved: public and private institutions/companies and citizens. The mid-term conference in Karlovac was therefore part of this changing process: the involvement of public and private local stakeholders is the starting point to share information and raise awareness about project topics. The mid-term conference was held in the Great Town Hall of the City of Karlovac on 11 September 2018. During the conference, several lecturers gave their presentations: dr. sc. Emanuela Medeghini, architects Michela Mauriello and Francesca Painsi from Italy, professor Maroš Finka who is the director of SPECTRA and Martin Baloga from Slovakia, dr. sc. Ulrike Pröbstl-Haider from Austria, and the domestic expert in civil engineering, Srećko Vrček from Croatia. In addition to the eminent experts, the mayor of the City of Karlovac Damir Mandić, the Assistant of the Minister of Culture Davor Trupković, the Deputy Prefect of Karlovac Martina Furdek Hajdin, as well as representatives of the North-West Regional Energy Agency, one of 12 partner institutions from central Europe, attended the conference.

After the conference, Mayor Mandić said: *“Today’s conference is really a great opportunity to exchange knowledge and experience with our European partners, but also an appeal to revive the concept of revitalization. Namely, it does not only imply the restoration of the façade or the trim of the roof. It is necessary for objects of historical value to “inbreathe life” by acquiring new roles in the everyday life of the city. Our “Karlovačka Zvijezda” (Karlovac Star) is a unique historical area and therefore we will continue to intensify the efforts of its reconstruction - and not only this one but also other historical buildings that the city of Karlovac abounds.”* Srećko Vrček from the North-West



Images by BOKU, MUK, REGEA

Regional Agency emphasized: *“By the end of 2019, the BhENEFIT project, the total budget of which amounts to nearly 2 million EUR, will develop a common strategy for managing the area of heritage buildings for Central Europe, which will improve the management system and reduce the gap between regulation, responsibility and implementation. In other words, we want to develop an integrated package of innovative software that will improve the management of these areas. We are glad that the Karlovačka Zvijezda has been selected as a Croatian representative in this EU project and that the North-West Regional Energy Agency will participate as an operational partner in this praiseworthy venture.”*

Project Development

Considering general project development, we can say that the first work package (Improving the Governance) and its main objective, the development and adoption of a general strategy for a sustainable management of Historic Built Areas (HBA), is almost finished: by the end of the month, the strategy and the related guidelines will be locally presented and accepted. The work package T1 activities: the analysis of single country’s context in the governance of HBA and the development of a synthesis at the Central European level; the design and adoption of a common participatory and multidisciplinary approach in HBA management thanks to local support groups creation, the definition of a shared strategy and local guidelines, have helped actors involved to better focus the challenges that the Central Europe countries are facing in the development of sustainable historic city centres and to consequently start thinking about heritage in a different and more effective approach. This is the first step to help administrations and communities to envision a new future of historic city centres.

We have registered initial postponements in the start of the activities (change in the partnership). As a consequence, the GIS and BIM tools implementation and the related deliverables are slightly delayed but now we are proceeding with the goal to close pilot actions in Mantova, Poprad, Bad Radkersburg and Karlovac as planned. The last macro-activity (corresponding with the third work package starting this month), i.e., the involvement of institutions, technical stakeholders and citizens, is crucial for the connection of new governance and management strategy with local context and for the sustainability of the interface platforms we are creating. Specifically, we must avoid tools to become an instrument only used for some time at the beginning and then disconsidered; more broadly we have to maximise efforts in connecting the BhENEFIT project to local peculiarities in order to really make a difference in our communities.

by REGEA an Municipality of Mantova



Images by ICRA and BOKU

The Bratislava meeting

Hosted by the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of the EU, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Bratislava, November 2018

The 5th Consortium Meeting took place between 5th and 7th of November 2018 in Slovakia’s capital. Organised by SPECTRA CE EU at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, all partner institutions participated at the meeting which contributed to the general development of the project focusing on work packages T2 (Deployment of instrument and tools) and T3 (Increasing awareness and capacity building). There was also the opportunity to confront directly a representative of the Joint Technical Secretariat and an external evaluator in regards with the progress of the project.

Due to the positive response from the JTS, the clarification of ambiguous issues regarding the formal side of the project and the fruitful discussion within the consortium about the progress of the project and the planning of the next phase, we consider the meeting successful. The activities of the WP T2 are ongoing and culminating and the WP T3 activities are being launched this November. The meeting was, additionally, enriched by the presence and the presentation by one of the members of the project’s Advisory board Dr. D. M. Lalitha Dissanayake, senior lecturer at the University of Peradeniya from Sri Lanka: she shared the experience from working on a strategic plan for the UNESCO cultural heritage city of Kandy.

During the meeting, the project partners finished an instructive GIS course in which PP13 and PP7 guided partners through the theory and practical part of GIS in general for the HBA and GIS system. The course was based on the data and the system developed for Poprad, one of the pilot areas of the project. The overall productive discussion regarding upcoming activities can be regarded as another highlight of the meeting in Bratislava.

Project Development

PP7 Spectra had been in close contact with activity leaders of the WP T3 before the Bratislava meeting and the works on the WP had been practically launched during the Bratislava meeting. The objective of the



Images by ICRA

WP T3 is to define and test tools aiming at increasing the awareness and capacities of all subjects hopefully involved in HBA’s management. During the second day of the meeting, there were three short sessions dedicated to the WP T3 activities with three points in mind. Firstly, to clarify the objective of the work package, the time schedule and the deliverables with all PPs. Secondly, to start brainstorming about the potential formats for the involvement of the stakeholders while keeping in mind the crucial point of why we are doing this involvement and how to produce effective and efficient formats. This part was done in the form of discussion with all PPs sharing their ideas and experience as many had been actively involved in similar activities before. Finally, the WP T3 session was concluded with a discussion among the partner countries where country representatives discussed when and how the planned events will take place so that WP leader can better coordinate them. At the moment, we are in the beginning of the work package, but it is important to make sure all PPs are familiar with the objectives, requirements and time schedule so that works can continue as planned. In the upcoming months, the plan is to start outlining the guidelines for the involvement of different stakeholder groups (general public, decision makers, technicians, entrepreneurs) into the processes of HBA management, distributing the materials to the PPs for review and alternations and, last but not least, to start working on organizing the events in the pilot areas according to the developed guidelines.

The biggest challenge waiting for us in regards to WP T2 is related to the implementation of the pilot actions, because we should reach two different goals through this activity: 1) offer to the pilot areas a really effective tool able to support the local initiatives; 2) from the pilot actions gather useful data and suggestions in order to adapt and correct the tools and open them to all partners.

Continuative and cooperative exchanges between partners will be the key element to successfully step up to the challenge.

by SPECTRA and Politecnica



Images by ICRA

In each issue, we present some of our partners...



Szabolcs 05 (Hungary)

Szabolcs 05 is an association of 44 municipalities in the Szabolcs-Szatmár sub-region in the North East of Hungary representing all settlements in this area of the county. Our role as a project partner is to implement project activities in the area and to ensure an efficient communication and cooperation of all local actors involved in Szabolcs 05 region in order to support the further development of historic places and cultural heritage of our region. The association contributed with BP analysis and the development of guidelines for strategy implementation. Project team: Anett Bauer, project manager; Botond Felföldi, dr., project coordinator; Anna Hirschmanné Marosi, financial staff; and Sándor Kovács, Steering Committee member.



Idrija-Cerkno Development Agency (Slovenia)

ICRA works as a connector of public interest and different knowledges and skills to favour the local development, support entrepreneurship and also spatial and environmental development in the two municipalities. In the projects, ICRA is responsible for communication management and implementation of projects outcomes in local environment. Jožica Lazar is the financial manager and Steering Committee member, with various experience in different national and EU project and the firm's long-standing director position, Ana Brdnik is a landscape architect covering spatial projects and is responsible for a communication and project management in the Bhenefit project.



Emilia - Romagna Region (Italy)

The Emilia-Romagna Region is a regional government located in Central-North of Italy. Within the BhENEFIT project, the RER has shared its experience related to the management and coordination of financial aids and targeted interventions to support the recovery of a wide regional area hit hard by an earthquake in 2012. As project partner, RER will tackle HBA governance's problems at regional level, by supporting strategies for a more sustainable governance for an integrated HBA management. The RER management team is composed of Eng. Attilio Raimondi, the Senior Energy expert and Coordinator of the project; A. Tiziana De Nittis as the Project Manager; and Laura Galli as Financial Manager.

Interesting Reads

- [Connected cultures, connected citizens \(klik\)](#)
- [GIS form a cultural heritage perspective \(klik\)](#)

Upcoming Events: May-September

- **November 2018 - 2nd scientific article issue**
GIS Monitoring system, case study Poprad by SPECTRA PP7
- **March 2019 - 3rd scientific article issue**
Implementation of BIM technology on HBA in Karlovac City by REGEA PP10
- **8-10 April 2019 - Project meeting in Hungary**
Next consortium meeting will take place in Hungary, where we will have a chance to debate on the project development and challenges again.

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