

PERFECT: Study Tours, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Wednesday 13th September 2017

Table of contents

Attendance list	1
Introduction	2
Site visit 1 - Šmartinski Park	2
Background	2
Lessons learnt	3
Site visit 2 – River Sava Recreational and Educational Centre.....	4
Background	4
Main features	4
Lessons learnt	4

Attendance list

Partner	Individuals	
	Partners	Stakeholders
TCPA	Jessie Fieth Diane Smith Henry Smith	
Cornwall Council	Rob Lacey Philip Mason	Emma McMaster
SASD	Gabor Béres	Árpád Nagy Ákos Molnár
STMK	Johannes Leitner Christine Schwabegger	Barbara Koinegg Dieter Fleck Theresia Heigl-Tötsch
City of Amsterdam	Rob Bakker Age Niels Holstein Imke van Moorselaar	Geertje Wijten Wouter vd Veur Anjo Reussink
RRA Ljubljana	Gaja Trbizan	Maja Simoneti Urška Kranjc Martin Maček
Bratislava Karlova Ves	Zuzana Hudekova Lenka Nemcova	Michal Sutriepka Silvia Halkova
Municipality of Ferrara	Antonio Barillari Silvia Mazzanti Cristiano Rinaldo Marco Lorenzetti Monica Zanarini	Manfredi Patitucci

Introduction

On the final day of the project meeting, PERFECT partners visited two sites that showed the approaches being taken to green infrastructure investment in Ljubljana, and which had helped to achieve the European Green Capital Award in 2016.

Partners were given tours of the sites by cross-sector stakeholders involved in the design and development of the projects, and by stakeholders who had helped secured investment in the green infrastructure so that they could learn about practical implementation through working collaboratively. The stakeholders who attended from the partners Managing Authorities were able to discuss how to achieve implementation in their own areas, using the lessons learnt from these projects.

Site visit 1 - Šmartinski Park

The group was guided round Šmartinski Park by two designers, Maja Simoneti, PhD (IPoP) and Urška Kranjc (LUZ). PERFECT partners had the opportunity to ask questions about how the project was developed, to learn about what was achieved and to discuss whether the lessons could be transferred to their own areas.

Background

This area was previously degraded and covered in illegal allotment sites. The clearing of the land began in 2008 and the area has now been renewed as a city park for the existing and new residential neighbourhoods. It sits next to the UNESCO heritage site, *Plečnikove Žale cemetery*. It is part of the strategic green infrastructure plan by the City of Ljubljana, which envisages several



PERFECT partners and stakeholders in Šmartinski Park.

green wedges connecting the surrounding landscape with the city.

The project was the result of strong political backing by the Mayor of Ljubljana who secured the funding required. New development has taken place in the area since the park was built, which has benefitted from the recreation and health benefits that the park has brought.

Main features

One of the main features of the park is a playground and water park for children. Here, the high-quality playground equipment includes markings for the blind and visually impaired and adaptations for movement-impaired children in order to ensure accessibility for all.



The park is very well used by local families which justifies the high maintenance costs of the park.

Lessons learnt

- The effectiveness of strong political backing in completing a project.
- Ideas for innovative and inclusive used of open green spaces, for example the water park and access , and how to overcome issues with their ongoing maintenance.
- Benefits to the regeneration of an area that green infrastructure investment can bring.

The playground and water park.



PERFECT partners and stakeholders hear from Maja Simoneti and Urška Kranjc.

Site visit 2 – River Sava Recreational and Educational Centre

The group was guided along the banks of the River Sava by Martin Maček, Department of Sport, City of Ljubljana.

Background

The recreational and educational area along the Sava river stretches from Tomačevo to Sneberje, in the north-east outskirts of Ljubljana. It has been restored from a degraded zone prone to fly tipping to a recreational area of 144,618 square metres. It is intended for children, people with disabilities and other residents of the region, visitors and tourists. The focus of the area is on equestrian sports, and on promoting a responsible attitude towards nature and the environment.

The regeneration of the area was co-financed by Structural Funds.



PERFECT partners and stakeholders hearing from Martin Maček.

Main features

- There are extensive equestrian facilities, including several ménages, a gallop track and a cross country course. There are opportunities for everyone to come and ride and be around horses;
- Cycle paths and bridleways along the river;
- Children's playground;
- There are lots of picnic areas plus barbeques which can be hired out;
- There is a small City Farm, which contains a variety of farmyard animals. This aims to educate the public and allow access to animals.



There are extensive equestrian facilities.

Lessons learnt

- The role of green infrastructure investment in unlocking access to the riverside – bringing benefits from natural assets.
- The opportunities available to secure investment in green infrastructure through focussing on the recreational benefits and accessing funding available for this.
- There are problems faced in the wider area as a result of a lack of enforcement of the planning system which has brought unregulated development. For green infrastructure investment to be

effective, planners must be aware of the needs of an area (for instance, how many families live in an area and consequently how much play space is required).

- Funding for the next phase of the project is proving difficult to obtain, which shows the challenges for the project to influence operational programmes by showing the multiple benefits of these types of projects.



Some of the picnic facilities along the banks of the River Sava



PERFECT partners and stakeholders in the City Farm.