

Interreg Europe RFC

Interregional Thematic Workshop 3 REPORT

Name of the reporter	Name of the reporter's organisation
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Event name	Name of the event organiser (organisation)
Interregional Thematic Workshop 3 – on-line meeting, ex-Terezín, CZ	Ústí Region, CZ
Date of the Event	Location of the event
3/12/2020	Partner offices

Interregional Thematic Workshop Agenda

 <p>European Union European Regional Development Fund</p>	 <p>RFC Interreg Europe</p>
<p>RFC Interregional Thematic Workshop 3</p>	
<p>Topic</p> <p>Nature and environment management and maintenance</p>	
<p>Objective of the TWS</p> <p>Interregional Thematic Workshops represent the specific part of project interregional learning, i.e. exchange of experience among project partners that contributes to individual, institutional and stakeholders learning by exchange of experience among partners. The Interregional session is targeted on sharing the experience within the partnership on preservation, development and exploitation of cultural heritage with the aim to support the policy improvement /change in partner areas.</p>	

Agenda

Presentation 1 *Introduction of TWS topic, green spaces solutions* – Mr. Patrik Kotas

Presentation 2 – *Interreg 2 seas project “Walls and Gardens” - green management on fortifications* – Mr. Ewald Wauters, BE, INTERREG 2 SEAS project manager

- Partner contributions – experience, burdens, wishes:
- LP Ústí, CZ
- P2 Antwerp, BE
- P3 Komotini, EL
- P4 NWRDA, RO
- P5 Prešov Region, SK
- P6 Teruel, SP
- P7 Magdeburg, DE
- Comments, Recommendations, Discussion
- Final evaluation of the session, definition and approval of the main issues to be included in the TWS report

Summary of the event

3rd Interregional Thematic Workshop of the RFC project was held again as on-line event, due to the persisting restrictions related with COVID_19 epidemic. Taking on mind this situation, partners decided to invite stakeholders, experts and colleagues to share with number of interested participants the experience and know-how, and to give to this wide plenary the chance to contribute with opinions and recommendations, to discuss the issues tackled.

The workshop has been open by introductory presentation of architect Patrik Kotas, giving participants the examples from praxis, proved designs and techniques. The importance of quality Master Plan was stressed, inclusion of the green and water spaces into the overall design of the area.

Mr. Ewald Wauters, representing the already completed Interreg 2 seas project “Walls and Gardens” focused on the topic Environmentally friendly management of fortifications, continued with presentation of this ambitious project - cooperation of 22 partners of different levels. Mr. Wauters stressed the importance of development of the concept – programme of the monument further utilisation, project provided number of workshops, lectures, philosophy, and knowledge network was established. The different approaches are related with the size of the city, specific solutions on separated issues is necessary to do – as on trees, lighting, but the decisions is not possible to make separately, but with view of the overall concept. Mr. Wauters offered the possibility to share the manual developed under the project with RFC partners, where number of specific solutions is described. All participants welcome this possibility and it was approved to provide the link on this document in English on the project websites.

The workshop continued with project partner contributions:

PP1 - Representative of the Terezín Fortress board in CZ introduced the green spaces maintenance of this huge, 400 hectares occupying monument – mentioned uncut places, mosaic cutting, animals – especially sheep keeping and the importance of involvement of local NGOś and different interested groups into such activities.

PP2 - An excellent example of the green management system was presented by Antwerp on the plan of the City of Herentals. The basic step represents development of the management plan for the fortress city, this is the vision document – guidelines to be followed next 24 years.

The management plan contains 31 measures, the basic chapters are:

- Identification analysis
- Historical note – description of the fortress city
- Inventarisation - trees, species, fauna and heritage items, condition of trees to make a good vision
- Connection with infrastructure inside and outside the forts
- Water management of water works
- Digital mapping – involvement of schools and students

Development of such management plan is based on very good communication among City Mayor and stakeholders involved.

Partner also mentioned that existence of such plan provides also base for searching for further funding possibilities – regional, national, EU, private sources.

Ms Sabine Eling-Saalman - stakeholder representing Investment Bank of Saxony-Anhalt, DE, mentioned the ongoing climate change, the necessity to keep water in landscape and stressed, this is the challenge for the follow up funding applications.

PP3 - Contribution of Greek City of Komotini shows the problems with green spaces the City is facing. The greenery in the City does not almost exist, despite the landscape around Komotini is green – forests and nice agricultural area. Partner introduced the revitalisation efforts of the City board, the reconstruction and revitalisation of the park in the City centre and the specific measures, which are to be anchored in future master plan – as appropriate taxis, free services and the campaign focused on children.

PP4 - Partner from Romania presented an interesting and unique example of the restoration of the fortress castle Bologa established in 1252, reconstruction realised in 2015, investment of nearly 500 000 EUR, financed from SF.

The aim was to reduce the aggressiveness of the new reconstructed structure and integration of the complex into the landscape, so minimal reconstruction works realisation while the monument is appropriately protected. The complex and professional team was set up, the examples of such “minimal reconstruction” in the EU and Balkan countries were studied and applied to keep the balance between environment and the historical castle. The obstacles to be overcome were mentioned, as legislation, a “conflict” between environmental solutions and needs of historical construction – big task for architect, long-term searching for the solutions, because vegetation and structures interaction represent a problem, especially lawns maintenance in heights.

The castle is used for events, but also for educational activities – students studying fortress archaeology, and landscape students, the big advantage is the big transport axis only 1 km far away.

PP5 - Slovakian partners from Prešov shared with participants a unique example of utilisation of the monument by strong involvement of residents and local NGOs, volunteers, cooperation with local schools, local community. All these local people have strong feeling of necessity to keep the local cultural values and that they are part of the local history.

The site is used for educational activities – bee keeping, which is closely connected with water management and green management of the site, research activities – educational activities for citizens, religious events, free time and cultural events – playing on historical instruments.

There is not any financing for the reconstruction or maintenance of the site, all actions are based only on voluntary work.

PP6 - Partners from Teruel, SP, presented the big project of reconstruction of Albarracín castle walls–cultural landscape project, designed and financed by regional government. The aim of the project is the reconstruction respecting the original landscape, revitalisation to reduce the nature loss. The problem of the green vegetation and protection of historic al monument was raised. Support of archaeological research, which is the base for the reconstruction and revitalisation plan.

PP7 - Magdeburg (DE) colleagues explained the Green Belt Project – gradual development and connecting of green spaces - open spaces of the old fortification are converted into the parks.

The aim is to connect these green spaces with gardens and other green sites in the city – Magdeburg is thus one of the greenest German cities. The green spaces serve for natural tourism, biking, leisure and relax.

The second example shared by Magdeburg was presented the ecology centre Magdeburg – the plan for specific utilisation was developed, as the precondition of the successful realisation. The centre is utilised for different activities - educational, children playground, yoga and relax, and projects suitable to be realised in such environment - bees keeping, creative industries, handicrafts, creative designs, Hussites games. The project is financed from different sources – City budget is used for investments in reconstructions, other activities are financed by state budget, membership fees, sponsor´s gifts.

Conclusions:

- Green spaces, water systems, sensitive solutions historical monument x landscape are to be anchored in overall plan solving the historical space as one complex – master plan covering the whole fortress structures
- Good quality plan has to be adopted by policy makers and stakeholders to be followed
- Involvement of local community is important – bottom up approach
- Digital tools utilisation represents support of the success
- Research and educational activities involvement
- Individual approach to each specific site is necessary

