

# PILOT ACTION REPORT

# PILOT 5

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Varaždin pilot action report:

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MUNICIPALITY OF VARAŽDIN

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11 2019



## 1. Summary description of the pilot action explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character

As the main objective of the pilot action was the improvement of benefits for the citizens and public administrations involved, we decided to focus on issues of better accessibility of the historical garden in Stari grad in Varaždin for physical impaired people. City of Varaždin conducted revitalization of walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer located in front of Old castle in Varaždin, connected with Uršulinska Street and Miljenko Stančić Square.

Works consisted of renovation and reconstruction of stone wall, renovation of pedestrian paths, planting of new flower beds (buxus, indigenous herbs).

Existing pedestrian access and paths were kept and renewed to increase the accessibility of this area to physical impaired people.

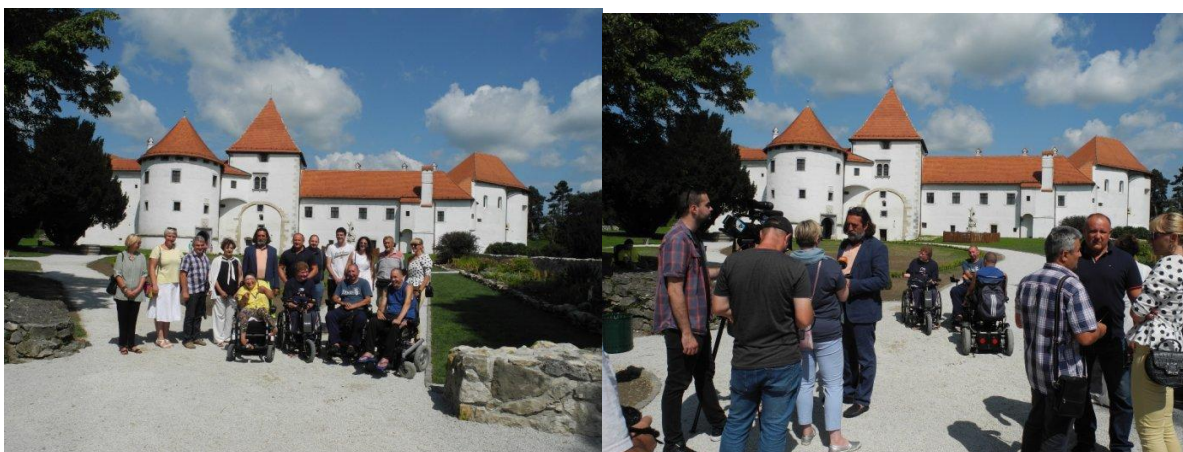
On border of paths granite cubes (dimensions 8x8x8 cm) were placed to prevent unravelling of the gravel and obtaining clear directions of pedestrian movement. The grassy areas were arranged next to the curbs. This is the solution based on the heritage conservation office as the proposed experimental idea to consolidate the floor surface from stone crusher with the chemical binder was rejected.

Furthermore, the stone wall 85 cm thick, which surrounds the eastern edge of the walk lane towards the trench and a part of the southern edge of the walk lane towards Uršulinska Street, as well as lower wall (50 cm thick) that fences the flower beds was preserved, and follows the historical line of the wall of former commercial buildings on the outer walls of the fort, all in accordance with the rules of conservation profession.

Along the eastern side of the pedestrian path leading to the entrance to the Old Castle is a flower bed that borders the above mentioned walls and which was restored with new plants.

Alongside the western edge of this pedestrian path, a border of buxus was planted that follows the edges of the green area bordered by pedestrian paths. Bordures with pointy end were complemented with spherical buxus. Two more buxus bordures were planted - both at the Old Castle. The bordures have flowers in its closed surface, and in rounded areas spherical buxus. These two bordures emphasize the entrance to the Old Castle.

In spite of the fact that due to conservationists' decisions, we were not allowed to use the experimental approach for the firming the paths, the pilot project was successful as the physical impaired people are able to use the path, we executed in the way described above.



Citizens on the wheelchairs using the new arranged pathway.

## 2. Describe stakeholder engagement and involvement during the whole process

Stakeholders were involved in the project on several levels, first ones were presentations of the project on the municipality web site, the second ones were prepared lectures and third the interactive collaboration with interested stakeholders in our workshops.

Important was cooperation with the local group of impaired citizens, who supported us with the information on the needs of impaired people.

## 3. Investment location (NUTS 3 region(s), address, postal code, city, country)

The revitalization of walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer is located in:

Country (NUTS 0): HR, Republic of Croatia

Region (NUTS 2): HR04, Continental Croatia

Sub-region (NUTS 3) HR044, Varaždin county

Šetalište Josipa Juraja Štrosmajera

42000, Varaždin

Croatia

## 4. Description of the investment, including technical characteristics

City of Varaždin's investment is revitalization of walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer located in front of Old castle in Varaždin, connected with Uršulinska Street and Miljenko Stančić Square. Revitalization was be carried out on cadastral particle No. 1496, 1551, 1553, 1554, 1555, 3100, Cadastral municipalities Varaždin.

Works consisted of renovation and reconstruction of stone wall, renovation of pedestrian paths, planting of new flower beds (buxus, indigenous herbs).

The whole complex consists of the fortress Old Castle (1), a tower (2) with a chain bridge, a former granary (3), i.e. weaponry, ramparts, well and Baroque pill of St. Ivan Nepomuk. (see picture in chapter 16).

The main access to the walk lane is from Uršulinska Street on the south and from Miljenko Stančić Square on the east. Side accesses are from Vrazova Street on the west and from another side of Uršulinska street on the north. Above mentioned works did not change any location conditions nor had affected the mechanical stability of the neighboring buildings.

The purpose of the entire space is public, exclusively used for walking for citizens and for hosting public events (Varaždin City Museum, Tourist board) and for hosting numerous thematic events (festivals, music etc.) all for the purpose of revitalizing that part of the city's space.

**Construction works were divided in following groups:**

### Preserving the stone wall

The aim of this action was the preservation of a 85 cm thick stone wall along the entire eastern edge of the walk lane and at the southern edge (from the south-east corner to the passage/footpath leading to the entrance to the Old Castle) and to a lower edge wall of 50 cm thick that fences the flower beds, and it follows the trail of the historic wall of former commercial buildings.

Unfortunately, during construction works on the wall it was detected that the wall is much worse state than anticipated in Detailed technical plan. The quantity of binding material for renovation of wall has exceeded the planned quantity and this was additional cost. The walls were examined first and carefully cleaned from grass, ivy, moss and other vegetation. After the wall was carefully washed with clean water using a pressure nozzle, the process of immurement with mortar of all the ruined parts, slits, openings, holes and other damage with the existing stone blocks or new stone blocks processed and shaped in the same way as the original ones started. Cleaned existing interstices were filled and lined with lime mortar to prevent water retention and absorption from rainfall and further decay of the wall. The final action was coating or spraying the base part of the wall with impregnating agents against penetration of moisture into the stone and the interstices.

### Renovation of pedestrian paths

Existing pedestrian access and paths are kept and renewed to increase the accessibility of this area to people with reduced mobility and with disabilities. Renovation included the removal of the layer of an existing surface and layer of grit ca 10 cm thick; necessary to level the entire surface of the path from the existing holes. On border of paths granite cubes (dimensions 8x8x8 cm) were placed to prevent unravelling of the gravel and obtaining clear directions of pedestrian movement. It was necessary to excavate the strips for the concrete flooring for placing the granite cubes, base of the border for granite cubes were concreted with concrete (class C 12/15) while at the same time granite cubes were pressed in to the concrete and mortar will be filling the interstices. The next step was raising the level of paths with layer of grit of about 10 cm thick, forced down with 60 MPa. The upper surface is even with the planned slope for draining water with a thin layer of white gravel and on top of it final layer of white gravel (2 cm thick) was impressed. The grassy areas were arranged next to the curbs.

### Planting bordures of buxus

The bordures of buxus (latin *Buxus sempervirens Suffruticosa*) were planted within the above mentioned walls in the area of the Old Castle.

The geometry of bordures follows the rounded walls of the Old Castle and the straight lines of the paths and walls. Per one meter of length there were planted 8 seedlings (*Buxus sempervirens Suffruticosa*), and in the rounded parts a total of 6 spherical shaped buxus and another one on the grassy surface at the entrance to Old Castle.

### Planting of flower-beds

Flower-beds were planted within bordures of buxus „B“ and „C“ and within the flower-beds framed by the above mentioned stone walls.

Within bordures of buxus „B“ and „C“ seasonal flowers were planted. Within flower-beds framed by the above-mentioned stone walls perennials were planted.

There were changes in sorts of plants according to instructions from Conservation Department in Varaždin for the areas of the Varaždin and Međimurje Counties in regards plants listed in Revitalization concept.

## 5. Which horizontal principles did you take in consideration during preparation and implementation process (equal opportunities, non-discrimination, economic aspect, barrier -free accessibility,)

Project has taken in to the consideration also the accessibility for all in areas of cultural landscape and heritage. By providing transnational handbook of the most appropriate tools for providing accessibility, we tried to address people with disabilities and improve accessibility in cultural landscape and also improve quality of life for them. Participation of different stakeholders (local government, NGO's, experts in field of landscape architecture, Ministry of Culture Conservation department, Varaždin City Museum) in meetings while implementing the project, ensured taking into account different opinions and views on the matter while honouring equal opportunities and non-discrimination principles.

## 6. Duration and process of investment implementation

Revitalization concept was prepared in November 2018, detailed plan was finished in March 2018. Works on site started on 5 June 2019 and were finished on 3 August 2019.

During investment implementation major activities were carried out according to Detailed Technical Plan:

1. Conservation and renovation of stone wall 85 cm thick, which surrounds the eastern edge of the walk lane towards the trench and a part of the southern edge of the walk lane towards Uršulinska Street. The wall was cleaned from grass, ivy, moss and other vegetation.
2. Revitalization of garden was performed in order to restore the original, typical renaissance appearance of the garden. Flowers, flowerbeds and bushes were planted. Next to the plants, plates with plants names were placed.
3. Existing pedestrian accesses and paths are kept and renewed to improve accessibility. Removal of surface and layer of grit 10 cm thick in order to level the surface of the path from existing holes. The level of paths was raised with layer of grit of ca 10 cm thick, forced down with 60 Mpa. On the top white gravel was applied and on top of it final layer of white gravel (2 cm thick) was impressed.

## 7. If applicable, compliance with relevant regulatory requirements

The works were carried out without obtaining a building permit in accordance with the Rulebook on Simple and Other Buildings and Works (Official Gazette No. 112/17, 34/18), but subject to the prior approval of the special conditions for the protection of cultural goods by the Ministry of Culture, Conservation Department in Varaždin and engaging in permanent supervision of archaeologists during the execution of earthworks, as defined by the GUP of the City of Varaždin and the Memo received from Conservation Department in Varaždin on 20th of December 2018.

The works carried out during revitalization had no significant impact on the environment, so it is assessed as acceptable and no additional environmental protection measures were prescribed.

## 8. Major milestones of investment

Milestones of the investment were related to the preparation of the documentation for the revitalization concept November 2018, detailed plan: March 2018, start of the works on site: 5 June 2019 and end of the works 3 August 2019.

## 9. Investment costs (BL5, BL6: including break-down of main costs items) in EUR

Total investment cost: 62.198, 52€  
ERDF 43.232,54 €  
BL 5 Equipment: 22.615,80€  
BL6 Infrastructure and works 39.582,72€

The costs exceeded planned amount in the project proposal in AF.

## 10. Ownership and durability of the investment (e.g. maintenances, financing)

The owner of the walk lane is Municipality of Varaždin, the Municipality exercises the full right but also obligation to undertake investments and maintenance of the walk lane. In this respect, the ownership of the investment after the end of the project will be withheld by the Municipality of Varaždin. Municipality will secure sufficient funds in its yearly budgets which will ensure the durability and sustainability of investment. The walk lane will be free and available to public and will be promoted by the municipality as a tourist attraction and a historical green oasis for healthy educational walks for families and children. Preparation of the LAP will be in the process of the approval by municipality governing body.

## 11. Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups

The expected impact and benefits of the pilot actions for the Revitalization of walk lane of Josip Juraj Strossmayer surrounding Old Town will be the strongest in fields of tourism, economy and social interaction. The improvement of physical condition of paths and wall and new attractiveness of Old Town will improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. The revitalised walk lane offers to spend quality time in historic landscape to all, regardless of their origin, social status, age and reduced mobility. Due to the fact that the area of the Old Town is national heritage and that the part of the landscape has been renovated through HICAPS project, it is realistic to expect more visitors and also tourists to visit the walk lane J. J. Strossmayer.

Effects of the investment on the environment, especially on cultural heritage and landscape are positive. With this investment we enhanced and restored landscape making it more accessible for all. Renovation was made in agreement with range of experts paying attention to importance of this unique historical cultural and landscape heritage.



## 12. Lessons learned from the implementation of the pilot action

Although the implementation of pilot action was going according to our Detailed Technical Plan, we faced some unexpected delays due to weather conditions (many rain days) which were not foreseen during the planning phase. Lesson learned; for the implementation of pilot action always plan longer timeframe. Also, there is always the question of money. No matter how good your estimation of any cost, especially construction costs is on the beginning of the project or during submission of application are, after three or four years of implementation of the project economy is changing, the prices (mainly) rise. Hence, reported and granted funds often are not enough to perform compulsory activities.

Transnational cooperation brings many advantages; exchange of knowledge, learning from good practices, discovering new innovative solutions for common challenges used by other partners in the transnational network. All this saves time and at the same time enhances capacity of local government.

## 13. Transferability to other territories and stakeholders

During HICAPS project Municipality of Varaždin has gained new, additional knowledge about management of green areas and implementation of modern technical solutions for maintenance of walk lane Josip Juraj Strossmayer. Local government and stakeholders that took part in project gained a new perspective on challenges, solutions and methods. Staff that was involved in transnational exchanges shared experience and benefited from learning about new educational tools about the parks, plants, history, heritage and cultural diversity gaining opportunity to develop European mode of thinking.

The walk lane Josip Juraj Strossmayer is well known green area in the city; however due to lack of information about the appearance of the garden around the Old Town castle, history of the walk lane is quite unknown to our citizens and visitors. Our goal is to raise awareness amongst schools and citizens about historical significance of this heritage site by improving physical conditions of the site and securing additional information via different communicational channels.

Additional funds made possible renovation of the walk lane that was not executed in years. This renovation and new appearance of the walk lane made it more attractive for citizens and tourists that spend more quality time there.

Acquired knowledge is very important and we will transfer and share it among partners in our future project - the new territories on national and international level, beside that cooperation with different stakeholder and interested public enabled us to disseminate the knowledge also among them and it is expected that they will sheer gained knowledge further. For transferability is also important on-line publishing of our publications which are available to all.

## 14. Added value of transnational cooperation

The diversity of the partners' experience provides a transnational added value supporting a wide diffusion of the project results in many other Central European regions. Transnational added value besides revitalization and testing on site the new developed transnational tools will be the transfer of findings/experience through Transnational strategy in other parts of Central Europe.

Transnational cooperation has significant effect which brings many advantages; exchange of knowledge, learning from good practices, discovering new innovative solutions for common challenges used by other partners in the transnational network. All this saves time and at the same time enhances capacity of local government. Undoubtedly, partners will benefit from stronger involvement of local authority and participation of different stakeholders in shaping strategic documents and pilot actions. Added value will also derive from adopting strategic short and mid-term planning which will provide stable financing and enable implementation of set goals.

## 15. References to relevant deliverables and web links

All our deliverables are presented in eMS and partly at the: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HICAPS.html>

## 16. Pictures and some images



April 2019: Walls before works



May 2019: Temporary panel announcement of works





May 2019, wall works in progress



June 2019, reconstruction of paths



July 2019: Preparation for garden flower



July 2019: Reconstruction of the path



July 2019: Garden - works in progress



July 2019: Wall and landscaped green area around the wall





August 2019: Opening day



August 2019: Opening day



Ortofoto posnetek območja