BETTER COMMUNICATION: ENGAGING THE CITIZENS

WILL YOU JOIN US?

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engaging the citizens

Will you join us?

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LET THE STARS SHINE
BETTER COMMUNICATION:
ENGAGING THE CITIZENS
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The selection of projects is initiated by the nine Members of the EPP Group.

For more information on the debate on better communication, see our analysis in the booklet 'LET THE STARS SHINE' (June 2017)

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Content

Let the Stars Shine

From morning till dawn, Europe is making the lives of European citizens simpler and safer. But because Europe's achievements are everywhere, they have become unnoticed. Brexit's anti-EU sound, the rise of Eurosceptic populists, the unpredictability of US president Trump are all we hear about the past couple of months. Good news does not sell. Out of sight, is out of mind, so it seems. Even though Europe had offered a lot and still has so many good things to offer.

The European Union has to reinvent itself and its communication with the citizens. Therefore, I very much welcome the « Let the Stars Shine-initiative » from the nine EPP-members. It shows the positive side of Europe, the side that perhaps does not receive the attention that it deserves. In the EPP Group our priority has always been the people. We take our role in the European Parliament as directly elected representatives of the citizens very seriously. We are always happy to hear about your input, ideas and feedback.

MEP Manfred Weber, chairman of the EPP Group

Europe lacks a modern communication strategy that highlights its positive sides. Due to this lack of visibility we have come to perceive the added value of the EU as self-evident. Especially in the light of Brexit we have heard many accounts of fake news and exaggerations, while Europe's positive results remained underexposed. It is not just that Europe is used as a scapegoat for everything that goes wrong.

Therefore, I, with eight colleagues in the European Parliament, have launched the action "Let the Stars Shine". It is our goal to improve communication about and by the EU. We want to encourage partners that worked with the EU-investments to share their experiences with the EU programmes. There are countless of examples: companies who were able to develop innovating new technologies thanks to EU support. Thousands of students who can study in other European countries due to the Erasmus-project.

In 2018 the European Parliament will vote on a new approach for communication on the regional (ESI)-funds. From 1-1-2019 onwards, thanks to my amendments, projects can obtain EU-support for communication after the closing of an EU-project. Till now there was a legal blockade to European contributions for this communication. A breakthrough on an important part of the EU funds, close to citizens. What is next? Let us know.

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

C3PO: co-creation, 3D printing with companies

Flemish construction sector will be able to experiment with 3D-printing at Kamp C

The building sector is often viewed as dirty and unattractive, work that physically demands a lot of their employees. With traditional building methods progress is often slow. But chances in this sector are in abundance and it's beginning to evolve towards a high-tech environment. With a 3D-printer a cutting-edge production technique is integrated in the building process. 3D-printing in the construction sector is on the rise in the rest of the world, in Flanders there aren't any developments yet. The C3PO project wants to change this and accelerate the implementation of 3D-printing in the Flemish construction sector.

In the C3PO project 8 organisations bundle their forces under the direction of Kamp C, the provincial centre for sustainable building and living. These organisations are: University of Ghent, Thomas More Kempen, Van Roey, Beneens, Trias Architects, ETIB nv/CONCRETE HOUSE and ViCre. The C3PO project is a ERDF funded project and gets €668.320 of support from Europe. The provincial government of Antwerp makes an additional investment of €723.495. The province wants to ensure that the sector is involved in high-tech opportunities and thinks more and more about sustainable building.

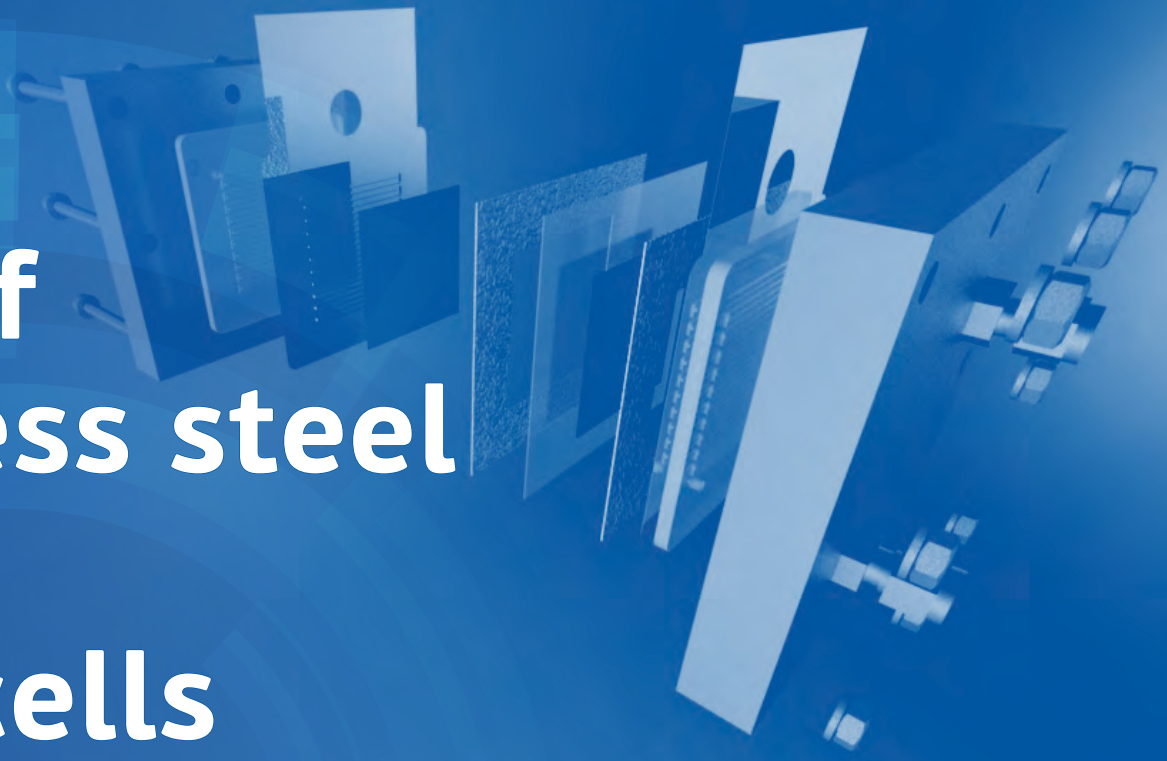
To stimulate 3D-printing in the construction sector and maximum knowledge exchange all partners are brought together in the project. C3PO needs to inspire and convince them to get on board in the innovative changes.

Both the construction sector and education and knowledge institutes need a location where they can experiment. For this reason Kamp C will place the needed 3D-printing infrastructure. Once this is thoroughly tested, it will be opened to companies and educational institutions to experiment and co-create.

MEP Pascal Arimont, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

INOXYPEM: Prototyping of coated stainless steel bipolar plates for PEM fuel cells



A fuel cell is an electrochemical generator able to directly transform the chemical energy of a fuel (e.g. hydrogen) into electricity, with high yield and without any pollutant emission. Solid polymer electrolyte fuel cells (or 'Proton Exchange Membrane' (PEM) cells) are particularly adapted to transport and portable applications, as well as to stationary electricity generation. These cells are constituted of a Membrane-Electrodes Assembly (i.e. an electrolyte made of a polymer membrane with high ionic conductivity sandwiched between two Pt/C electrodes); this assembly is placed between two bipolar plates, which act as both electron collectors and gas distributors towards the electrodes. Finally, several cells are stacked together to reach the desired voltage and power.

The main hurdles to PEM fuel cell development remain (i) their high production costs, due to the costs of the various components themselves and to the (still) small scale fabrication as well as (ii) their too short lifetime. Therefore, all the cell elements are still subject to intensive research in order to improve their performances while decreasing their cost. In particular, bipolar plates can be made of stainless steel foil coated with a conductive, corrosion-resistant material. The choice of the coating nature and manufacture process will enable manufacturers to propose competitive bipolar plates.

The goal of the INOXYPEM project is to develop **a platform dedicated to the prototyping of coated stainless steel bipolar plates for PEM fuel cells via the buildup of manufacturing equipment** of these plates from coated stainless steel foils, as well as **design (modelling) and physico-chemical/electrochemical characterization tools**. The proposed research concerns thus the development of a manufacture process of these stainless steel plates protected with an innovative coating; this development will take into account the constraints linked to the material processing (deformability) and to the design/performance of the assembled cell.

The prototyping platform will gather the expertise required for the solving of an extremely multidisciplinary problem: the building of PEM fuel cell stacks. This platform must indeed include very different skills: development of new materials (conductive coatings deposited on stainless steel by PVD), physico-chemical characterization of coatings and interfaces, metal shaping, thermal and fluidic modelling, ageing study, validation of these new coated plates on PEM fuel cell test bench, etc. In addition, the tools and skills initially developed for PEM fuel cells could be used for other research and development projects requiring protective coatings deposited on metallic substrates subjected to significant deformation upon processing.

- **FEDER** – 'FMF' (MultiFunctional films, topic 'Energy') portfolio
- **Financing** cofinancing FEDER – Wallonie/FWB – public bodies
- **Total budget** €1.832.256,97
- **Partners** ULiège, CRM-Group, UNamur, Cenaero

MEP Pascal Arimont, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Interreg IV-A ‘Vennbahn-Route’, Area of activity: Tourism

Extending over 125 km, the Vennbahn is Europe’s longest cross-border cycle path on a former railway line. It stretches between two points where three countries meet and runs across East Belgium from Aachen through the matchless high Moorland region of the Hohes-Venn-Eifel nature reserve to Troisvierges in Luxembourg.

Right from the start, the aim was to create an extensive cross-border network of greenways in which the Vennbahn would play a key role as the backbone of the North-South axis. As a

result, there is now a direct link to the cycle infrastructure of the Netherlands in the north and Luxembourg in the south, while it meshes seamlessly with the German cycle path network in the east and the RAVeL network in Wallonia in the west. The process of consolidating this network is still ongoing and makes a steady contribution to the improvement in quality of the cycle tourism infrastructure in this European border area.

Right from the start, the Vennbahn was designed as a complete product for tourists with its own branding. The branding runs through all the Vennbahn's marketing, from a website in four languages and a practical touring app to its own publications, online campaigns and PR through to specialist trade fairs, merchandising, a brand image film and specially designed travel packages.

Since the project was implemented, the main beneficiaries of the increase in visitor numbers have been SMEs in the service sector, alongside accommodation providers and the restaurant industry. Accommodation providers in the vicinity of the cycle path showed an increase in occupancy rates of up to 20% in the first two years after opening, and, according to surveys, their satisfaction has continued right up to the present day. Between January and December 2015, the five measurement points along the cycle path registered their highest ever numbers with a total of 350,000. The Vennbahn continues to be very popular with tour operators from Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

And prioritising quality is now a key principle, because quality creates a positive image for the product and, in turn, fosters the ideal climate for investment. That is why the East Belgium Tourism Agency brought in partners during the project phase who have been jointly responsible for marketing and for guaranteeing this quality directly on and next to the cycle path right from the start. Evidence of this success is the introduction of the bed+bike label, which identifies accommodation that is particularly bike-friendly. As a result, the Vennbahn has developed into a real tourist attraction over the years and made all parties aware of its economic significance.

The close cross-border cooperation, which has made a key contribution to positive progress on the project, continues right up to the present day. This is evidenced by regular meetings and the constant communication between the partners on all sides of the borders, which are hardly noticeable any longer. Valuable contacts have been made, which may be very valuable for future projects, and friendships have even developed. The emergency services on all sides of the border are working hand in hand, and the quality of the infrastructure is also ensured across borders.

Proof and recognition of the ongoing work of the last few years can mainly be seen in the recent accolade awarded by the largest German cycle club (ADFC), which rated the Vennbahn as a 4-star quality cycle path. This had already been preceded by other awards and accolades at the European level.

From a funding perspective, the Vennbahn project was executed via two Interreg projects, namely that of the Euregio Maas-Rhein and of the Greater Saar-Lor-Lux Region.

MEP Pascal Arimont, EPP Group

Investment from European funds totalled €14.616.750,00

and can be broken down as follows:

- Wallonia region of Belgium €5.609.875,00
- EU INTERREG FUNDING €3.972.250,00
- Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia, district of Aachen. municipalities) €3.214.125,00
- Luxembourg road building ministry and municipalities of Luxembourg €1.465.000,00
- Belgian municipalities €16.550,00
- EWIV Eifel-Ardennen Marketing €186.750,00
- German-speaking community of Belgium €152.200,00

After the end of the official implementation phase of the project, the partners have still had to expend further significant resources to carry out selective improvements to the infrastructure and to ensure the continuation of efficient marketing.

epp group in the european parliament

Building new demonstration equipment for the development of Industrial Biotechnology

Scope of the project

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEPP)

is a pilot facility for the development of the biobased economy. The biobased economy uses renewable instead of fossil resources, enabling the shift to low-carbon and sustainable industries.

BBEPP assists companies with the development of new products such as bioplastics, biodetergents, biosolvents, biomaterials... It helps enterprises with the risky and expensive scale-up of lab scale processes to industrial scale processes, the so called 'valley of death' for innovation projects. For most companies, building a pilot plant of their own to test production at industrial scale is far too expensive and time consuming. Shared facilities such as Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant offer a solution. Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant was founded in 2008 and has grown into a European front-runner attracting many enterprises worldwide for the development and scale-up of their innovation projects.

MEP Pascal Arimont, EPP Group

In this project, new research infrastructure specifically for Downstream Processing at high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) and for gas fermentation will be build up.

Downstream processing equipment at high TRL

Downstream Processing (DSP) comprises the isolation and purification of a product after a biotechnological or chemical conversion step. Recently two 15.000L fermenters were deployed at the Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant. These fermenters were extremely well received by industries looking for scale-up and demonstration equipment for their innovativefermentative processes. Unfortunately, the DSP equipment currently owned by BBEPP was designed to fit smaller fermenter volumes, and thus was not fully compatible with these large-scale fermenters, hampering as such the full deployment of the large classic fermenters and the new-to build gas fermenters.

This investment will enable Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant to enlarge its Downstream Processing capacity at high TRL, allowing the pilot facility to use the full potential of its 15m3 fermenters and its gas fermenters. Furthermore, as the innovative projects BBEPP is performing are often close to the market, products and processes must meet the highest quality standards. To realise this, the new high TRL equipment will be stationed into a new process hall for Downstream Processing.

Gas fermentation

Gas fermentation is an innovative and sustainable Carbon Capture and Usage (CCU) technology with enormous potential in terms of carbon footprint reduction. It uses micro-organisms to convert waste gasses such as CO2 and syngas (H2/CO) into a wide spectrum of chemicals. This technology is based on industrial biotechnology and offers the possibility to turn waste gasses into an opportunity. Open access scale-up facilities for gas fermentation currently do not exist in Europe. Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant wishes to fill this gap by building a unique scale-up facility for gas fermentation, become a global reference for gas fermentation, and make Flanders thé testing ground for this promising technology.

For More information: www.bbepp-impact.eu

This project has received funding from the **European Regional Development Fund***

- *ERDF (€3.742.800),
- Flanders (€1.248.224),
- the Province of East-Flanders (€311.588),
- the City of Ghent (€311.588) and
- the Bio Base EuropePilot Plant (€3.742.800).
- DURATION: 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019
- **BUDGET €9.357.000**

epp group in the european parliament

Ljubljana Regional Waste Management Center RCERO Ljubljana *(central Slovenia)*

Key person

Director Janko Kramžar

MEP Franc Bogovic, EPP Group

Goals of the project

- the long-term regulation of waste management issues for one third of Slovenia;
- the best and most modern waste processing system in Slovenia;
- the use of the most modern and sustainable waste management technology on an European scale;
- an example of good practice in networking and cooperation between municipalities and regions;
- green jobs.

The advantages and benefits of the project

The Ljubljana Regional Waste Management Center (RCERO Ljubljana) is the largest cohesion project in the field of the environment in the country. It started operating at the end of 2015 and takes care of waste of one third of Slovenia. The regional center consists of an expanded landfill, a treatment plant for leachate and waste treatment facilities. The new disposal field has been in use since 2009, the leachate treatment plant has been in operation since 2011, and the construction of mechanical and biological waste treatment facilities, which was the most demanding part of the project, was completed at the end of 2015.

The key part of the regional center are the three objects in which mechanical and biological processing of waste takes place. In these facilities, two types of waste are processed: separately collected bio-waste and the rest of mixed municipal waste. Bulky waste is also accepted and sorted. The RCERO Ljubljana timetable has foreseen pilot operation in 2016 and a guarantee period in 2017, in January 2018 the RCERO Ljubljana project was completed.

RCERO Ljubljana, which was in the 61% of the funds co-financed by the European Cohesion Fund, is an example of good practice in the area of networking and cooperation between municipalities and the connecting element of waste management in Slovenia between municipalities and regions. At present, 49 municipalities are included in the RCERO, so, as has already been pointed out, RCERO takes care of waste of one third of Slovenia.

Financing

The RCERO Ljubljana project was extensive and demanding from the financial point of view, since the Regional Waste Management Center Ljubljana is the largest cohesion project in the field of environment in the country. In 2009, the European Commission approved 77.5 million EUR, remaining funds to the total project value of 155 million EUR were provided from national and municipal budgets, as well as from the environmental tax on environmental pollution caused by the disposal of waste.

epp group in the european parliament

The Land of Hayracks, Šentrupert
(Dolenjska region)

Key person

Rupert Gole, Mayor of Šentrupert Municipality

MEP Franc Bogovic, EPP Group

Goals of the project

The Land of Hayracks is an innovative project by the Municipality of Šentrupert, which connects the all-round value of the hayracks heritage with modern forms of tourism and the economy. The project includes a municipality, local societies and businesses, educational and scientific institutions and numerous individuals.

The advantages and benefits of the project

The Land of Hayracks has the ambition to eventually become a model of ecomuseum.

The Land of Hayracks consists of:

- Outdoor museum with transported hayfields, which were renovated according to conservation principles;
- Center for the preservation of cultural heritage for research, professional and educational activities in the field of architectural heritage, in particular hayrack and related forms of intangible heritage;
- The network of "in situ" preserved wooden buildings and devices from the Mirna valley, which connects the preserved architectural heritage in the original environment to a comprehensive presentation of economic and cultural life and the improvement of the tourist offer of Dolenjska Region and Slovenia.

Through the comprehensive presentation of the Land of Hayracks, the Municipality of Šentrupert emphasizes the concern for the protection and preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and strengthens the awareness of the wise use of wood for economic purposes.

Financing

The outdoor museum was partly funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The operation was carried out in the framework of the Operational Program for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials for the period 2007-2013, the development priority of "Regional Development" and the priority guidelines "Regional Development Programs".

The entry point of the museum and the Cultural Heritage Conservation Center were partially co-financed from Leader funds, 4th axis of the EAFRD. The Managing Authority for the Rural Development Program of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2007-2013 is the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment.

epp group in the european parliament

Complete renovation and reconstruction of the Castle Rajhenburg, Brestanica

(Posavje region)

Key person

Mag. Miran Stanko, Mayor of Krško Municipality

MEP Franc Bogovic, EPP Group

Goals of the project

In 1999, Rajhenburg Castle was proclaimed as a monument of national importance. After the completion of the denationalization procedure, the Municipality of Krško became its owner in 2004. Already in 2005 Krško Municipality started working on a demanding project of the complete renovation and reconstruction of the castle, being aware of the importance of the castle and its revitalization. Together with the carefully planned renovation, special attention was paid also to the purpose of the castle, thus improving the existing content as well as creating new ones. The main starting point of the renovation was to keep the formation of the castle, i.e. with the quality renovation and reconstruction of all its outside and inside parts. The only exception was the Renaissance area in the first floor of the eastern wing, which was completely renovated already in the 1990s. In the summer of 2012, the whole renovation of the castle was completed, which presented the end of more than three decades of efforts by the local community and experts for proper presentation and revitalization of one of the oldest and most important castles in Slovenia.

The advantages and benefits of the project

The renovation most radically influenced the image of the spatial perception of the castle. By clearing the banks of the viewing pier, the castle was revealed in all its excellency. By removing the embankment and two buildings that were built in the 20th century at the entrance area of the castle, and with the restoration of a defensive ditch together with a stone bridge, the old image of an impregnable fortress was returned to the castle.

Major reconstruction took place also in the ground floor of the western wing and in a residential tower. That area is now transitional and connected with the sightseeing terrace and used for catering activities.

The restoration of the Romanesque chapel, discovered in 1979 was the most complex operation within the context of the overall restoration of the castle. Through the restoration and presentation, the chapel – which in terms of design, quality and workmanship is among the most important examples of Romanesque architecture in Slovenia – has once again become a place of spiritual significance which awakens in visitors a deep respect for past generations and their achievements. Together with the south-east tower as a whole, which is now presented in its original Romanesque appearance, the chapel is also the heart of the renovated castle building.

Financing

Under the signed co-financing contract, the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport has allocated little less than EUR 3 million for the project, in the framework of which the share of the European Regional Development Fund presented 85% of eligible costs and the share of the state budget of the Republic of Slovenia presented 15% of eligible costs. The total value of the whole project amounted to little less than 5 million EUR.

Amount of funds allocated: 2.978.625 EUR; of which EU funds amount to 2.531.831 EUR, and national founds amount to 446.794 EUR.

epp group in the european parliament

The Palace of Trebnik first dispersed hotel in Slovenia

Key person

Miran Gorinšek, Mayor of the Municipality of Slovenske Konjice

Goals of the project

The main purpose of the investment was to reconstruct the decaying building with all the necessary interventions in such a way, that it will preserve the image of the historic castle with its appearance, while at the same time allow independent use of its surfaces for all users in accordance with the objectives of the concept "Tourism for All". The facility is fully accessible also for disabled persons. On the ground floor of the renovated building the Restaurant "Mali grof" is located. Next to the restaurant is a coffee shop, with a summer terrace looking over the beautiful city park and city centre. On the first floor, which consists of four business premises, the following activities are carried out: dental practice; oral hygiene; natural treatment at Trebnik Castle and therapeutic-beauty services. On the first floor the "Christiana Room" is also available, measuring 90 m2 in total, being suitable for 40-60 persons and being used especially for lectures, conferences and business meetings.

On the second floor (mansard), the first dispersed hotel in Slovenia was introduced in December 2017. The hotel is managed by the social enterprise Kooperativa Konjice. A dispersed hotel offers six standard double rooms and two superior double rooms. As the name implies, the hotel is dispersed, with various types of rooms and suites and different local offers in the whole region, together with one common reception and one reservation system. The dispersed hotel is shifting the general weakness of the destination (which is lack of accommodation and a low visit of the city cores) into new opportunities. It represents an innovative form of organization in tourism and supports the concept of sustainable development and circular economy. In this sense City of Slovenske Konjice has become the starting point or entrance gate for exploring Rogla Pohorje with exposed beautiful diversity of nature, culture and gastronomy.

Within the destination and the facility, alternative medicine and health-care activities are also carried out with additional herbal parks and gardens. Moreover, a new project of Wine and culinary academy was also introduced, with centre for aromas, to support and expend wine tourism in the region and also for the purpose of education.

Furthermore, within a facility a suitable space for the needs of the municipality, societies and seminar tourism is available as well.

MEP Franc Bogovic, EPP Group

The advantages and benefits of the project

The project presents an important step towards the preservation of cultural heritage in Slovenia, and towards the extension and upgrading of the cultural-touristic possibilities and infrastructure, therefore greatly impacting economic growth, development and increase of touristic attractiveness in the local area and whole region. The impact of the project is shown especially through the establishment of the concept "Tourism for all", furthermore in the creation of new jobs and higher environmental care. Facility, with a gross area of 1.600 m2, on three floors and therefore has a great economic, social and touristic impact on the wider regional environment.

Financing

The funds were raised through a public call for a priority "Regional development programs" within the framework of the Operational Program for Strengthening Regional Development Potentials for the period 2007-2013, development priorities "Development of Regions", published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 34/2012 of 11.5.2012.

The total value of the investment amounted up to 1.470.879,32 EUR, of which 84% (1.230.337,81 EUR) were provided by the European Union, 14% (209.485,10 EUR) were provided from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia and the missing 2% (31.056,41 EUR) were provided by the Municipality of Slovenske Konjice.

Since the opening in January 2018 and a slow start we managed to accommodate in total 198 guests with 327 overnights till 20th of May 2018. Out of 198 guests, majority of 116 were foreigners and 82 domestic tourists. We already have bookings for late autumn and supporting packages for summer and winter on the way. With around 300 local companies and Educational Centre we support business accommodation and exchange programs for teachers and students. As a unique fully dispersed accommodation unit, we are expanding tourism product on this segment as well. Still lots of opportunities are on horizon and with the cooperation of local services, we are establishing a great synergy and sustainable tourism and overall growth of city Slovenske Konjice and Rogla Pohorje. In June 2018, we will start the process of connecting another city within the destination, namely Vitanje and hopefully we will proceed slowly to the next level, i.e. Slovenian net of dispersed hotels.

epp group in the european parliament

Multifunctional Sports Hall in Podčetrtek

Key person

Peter Misja, Mayor of the Municipality of Podčetrtek

Goals of the project

The new multi-functional sports hall, which is located near Podčetrtek, with a total area of 3.400 m2, is designed as a sports hall, but can be used also as a venue for cultural and other events. The surface of the sports hall allows organization of sports competitions at the international level, especially in handball, basketball or volleyball and can accommodate up to 450 visitors in seats on the stands.

At major events, the hall can host up to 3.000 visitors. For exercising tennis and badminton, it is possible to separate an extra area from the main hall. In the building there is also a squash court and a 7.4 m high climbing wall.

The advantages and benefits of the project

The multi-functional sports hall in Podčetrtek brings great potential, large promotion and important assistance to the economy. Due to various sports preparations and competitions and all other events taking place in the sports hall, a large number of people is using accommodation facilities in the municipality of Podčetrtek and from this perspective, the multifunctional sports hall is a great promoter of the Municipality of Podčetrtek.

Financing

The construction of a multifunctional sports hall in Podčetrtek means fresh, new and important story in the development of sports tourism in the area. The total value of the investment was 3.9 million EUR. The Municipality of Podčetrtek was successful in gaining funds in amount of 1.323.626 EUR for the investment from the European Regional Development Fund.

MEP Franc Bogovic, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Modernization of educational and medical infrastructure in Cluj-Napoca

Rehabilitation of Municipal Hospital CLuj-Napoca

The ambulatory of the Cluj-Napoca Municipal Clinical Hospital was upgraded and expanded through the REGIO program, and the total project value exceeds 5 million euro.

The project aimed at improving the infrastructure of healthcare services by modernizing the hospital ambulatory, refurbishing its space in order to increase the diagnostic and treatment capacity, endowing with specialized medical equipment and increasing the number of persons benefiting from the equipped health infrastructure with about 20%. This project also aimed at increasing the services provided to patients by creating new medical offices: nephrology, radiology and medical imaging, rheumatology and medical analysis.

The Modernization of the specialized ambulatory within the Municipal Clinical Hospital aims to offer complex and quality services to the patients. The outcome of the project: a modernized and bunked hospital outpatient clinic with 3,144.18 square meters (useful surface) outpatient clinics modernized by the project (3,263.21 sqm total useful area); four new medical offices: a nephrology cabinet, a radiology and medical imaging cabinet, a rheumatology cabinet, a medical analysis cabinet; 174 purchased pieces of equipment, of which: 15 functional consultation / treatment systems, 17 pieces of IT medical equipment, 142 pieces of medical equipment.

Over 51000 patients benefiting annually from Cluj-Napoca Municipal Clinical Hospital services.

Education at European standards in pre-university education in Cluj-Napoca

The project aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of the educational process in 3 pre-university education units, namely: Ion Agârbiceanu School, Abram Iancu Theoretical Lyceum and Mihai Eminescu Theoretical High School, by rehabilitating and equipping them. 10 building for educational use were rehabilitated, upgraded and expanded. 2 gymnasiums were rehabilitated, extended, upgraded and equipped, and 2 sports fields were rehabilitated and upgraded (1800 sqm). 3000 sqm courtyard were rehabilitated and 11,500 sqm of green spaces were arranged.

It is also provided the proper equipping of the 3 units of the pre-university education as follows: Ion Agârbiceanu School with grades I-VIII - 158 IT equipments; “Avram Iancu” Theoretical Highschool - 209 IT equipment; The “Mihai Eminescu” Theoretical High School - 119 IT equipment.

The project has also improved the access to the educational infrastructure for people with disabilities, as a result of the increase of 13 facilities for them in the 3 school units, benefiting more than 3,000 Cluj pupils.

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

Total
project value:
€19.000.000

98%
from
EU funds

Projects financed under the ROP 2007-2013

epp group in the european parliament

Investments in the modernization of the tram line and the rehabilitation of the public space in Cluj-Napoca

The overall objective of the projects was to improve transport infrastructure related to heritage or tourism objectives and to increase the mobility of the population, with an impact on the sustainable development of Cluj-Napoca.

Projects aimed at rehabilitating the city's 11.5 km tram line, modernizing street infrastructure, rehabilitating side roads, parking lots, bus stops and alleyways, pavement and green areas, traffic safety measures - signs and markings, vertical signaling, pedestrian traffic measures. Dedicated bicycle tracks and new pedestrian areas, public spaces, squares, etc. were also built. The project also included the rehabilitation or construction of new bridges, the planting of tree alignments, the casting of urban furniture and the modernization of public lighting with LED technology.

Funding amount:
€32.000.000

98%
co-financing from non-reimbursable **funds**

Projects financed under the ROP 2007-2013

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Modernizing and expanding the public transport system in common — e-ticketing and share biking

The ticketing project aimed at the sustainable development of the public passenger transport system in Cluj-Napoca was achieved through:

- Modernization of 87 public passenger transport stations in the municipality and their alignment with the international standards in the field (in terms of technical and operational parameters) in order to ensure a higher degree of comfort and safety; making an attractive design of the stations and equipping them with benches, trash cans and display panels.
- Installation of an automatic ticket issuance system; the placement of 61 automatic machines for issuing non-stop travel passes in areas with significant passenger flows; the placement of 136 validators of station travel tickets and 327 validators in public transport.
- Ensuring the lighting in 35 of the modernized stations, in order to ensure safe and efficient traffic;
- Mounting of display panels to provide information on the estimated time of arrival of the public transport.
- Increase passengers' comfort by implementing the hourly pricing concept and the possibility of using travel titles on any public transport and for a certain period of time, regardless of the route they have travelled.

E-ticketing
project value:
€5.500.000
98%
co-financing from
EU funds

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

The Self-service bicycle stations project aimed at establishing a network of 50 self-service bicycle rental stations

and the development of a coherent network of bicycle paths and routes in Cluj-Napoca, and the neighbouring communities Floresti and Apahida.

The project involved the following investments: 50 bicycle stations - 3 stations in Apahida, 4 stations in Floresti, 43 stations in Cluj-Napoca. Approximately 52 kilometres of bicycle routes.

The average of daily users is over 1,500 per day, with a significant impact on reducing the number of cars in the city and pollution.

The integrated approach to the urban public transport aimed at the implementation of environmentally friendly solutions through modern technical solutions, compatible with environmental regulations, with the effect of reducing urban pollution. Bicycle use for urban mobility provides a clean environment and provides a model of good practice, stimulating initiatives to align urban public transport service to European standards in order to increase the quality of life for the inhabitants.

Share biking service
project value:
€2.000.000
98%
from
EU funds

Projects financed under the ROP 2007-2013

epp group in the european parliament

Rehabilitation of the district heating system in Oradea

Starting in 2013, Oradea City has made the largest investment in a centralized heating system in Romania, worth 112 million euros, of which 94 million come from European-funded projects.

The investment emerged from energy inefficiency of the district heating and distribution network, an outdated technology, over 50 years old, which hasn't been modernized since then. Due to the advanced state of degradation, the centralized system had to be urgently rehabilitated to ensure the safety of heating supply, since 70% of the city dwellers are connected to the hitting system.

The EU funded project aimed to reduce the costs of heating and minimise the losses and emissions by replacing the old coal-fired heating plant with a new cogenerated technology, consisting of a General Electric turbine with an installed capacity of 45 MW electric and 50 MW thermal power, recovery boiler, two hot water boilers and a heat accumulator.

In order to reduce heating losses of the district heating network, the project consisted in the rehabilitation of 37.7 km of heating network of the 86,2 km total network. In addition the another 23 km of heating network are planned to be replaced by 2020. As a result of the completed investments, network losses have reduced by almost 20%, and emissions have decreased threefold.

Also, technological improvements to the thermic points have been done in 27 units, out of the 148 existing ones. The municipality plans to update more than half of the thermic points, to fully automatic technology and to rehabilitate secondary networks by 2020. Furthermore, the municipality will pursue to increase the share of geothermal energy of the total heating consumption in order to reduce energy costs.

The project was funded by SOP Environment 2007 2013 and LIOP 2014 2020 and the total investment 78 million euros.

Total investment

€78 million

The project was funded by SOP Environment 2007-2013 and LIOP 2014-2020.

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Restoration of the Alba Carolina Citadel in three stages

The scope of the project "**Restoration of the Alba Carolina Citadel in three stages**" was to bring back to life the Alba Carolina Citadel through the conservation and rehabilitation of the urban heritage.

The aim was to conserve and enhance the local heritage of Alba Iulia Municipality by implementing several projects during the years of 2009-2014, meant to bring back to life the history of the Romanian Nation and to valorise the stage where the Unification of Romania took place on the 1st of December 1918.

The rehabilitation and conservation works carried out within Alba Iulia Municipality were sophisticated from the points of view of the complexity of the building and monuments restoration procedures carried out, the complexity of actions developed meant to rehabilitate the walls of the Citadel, having as an outstanding result the opening of the Citadel's trenches for the first time to the public.

The most important **stages** of the **Restoration of the Alba Carolina Citadel** were:

- "The restoration of all 7 Gates of Alba Carolina Citadel's";
- "The Rehabilitation of the Historic Center of Alba Iulia, the Vauban Citadel – Access Routes, External Lighting and Urban Furniture-the interior Area";
- "The Reconstitution and enhancement of the Western side of the Vauban Citadel Alba Carolina Citadel, Alba Iulia Municipality".

The results of the project is having the Alba Carolina Citadel opened to the public and restored at European standards, the local heritage conserved and valorized, and all the necessary infrastructure and technical details provided for facilitating the access to the Alba Carolina Citadel. At the end of the project the Citadel Alba Carolina is proud to have a complete rehabilitation and conservation of all its seven gates, the complete rehabilitation and conservation of the Roman Castrum Gate, a modern cultural - historic infrastructure of the Vauban Citadel, a local heritage valorised in accordance with the competitive and sustainable criteria and a competitive tourism product recognized at national and international level meant to stimulate the economic development of the local community of Alba Iulia Municipality.

The rehabilitation project was one of the most important projects developed by the Alba Iulia Municipality also due to the complexity of funds and human resources invested. The project, together with more than other 60 projects developed and implemented over a period of 5 years, had a total value of more than **70.000.000 euro**, over five times the amount of direct revenues in the City budget. The main funding came from the Regional Operational Program financed through the European Regional Development Fund, but also from other funding sources, such as the UNDP for the application of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 administered by the Kingdom of Norway, and from the Romanian Ministry of Culture.

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Rehabilitation of the Old Casino monument and Simion Barnutiu Central Park, Cluj-Napoca

The ensemble of the Central Park "Simion Bărnuțiu" has a history of almost two centuries, being one of the first urban public parks in Central Europe. The park was opened to the public in the early 1830s. In its current form, the Central Park is the result of materializing the project developed by Samuel Hermann in 1840. The works spread over a long period until the 1870s. Along the central axis, quasi-parallel with the small river bed Somesul Mic. To the south of this axis, in the vicinity of the lake, are the "Chios" and "Casino" buildings, built by the architect Pakey Lajos in 1897, marking the main point of interest of the park. The architecture of the two buildings is eclectic, and they are being built at the same time.

Total
project value:
€4.700.000

98%

from
EU funds

The project was financed through ROP 2007-2013

The urban complex represents one of the emblems of Cluj-Napoca. Rehabilitated by REGIO Programme through EU Structural and Cohesion Funds, the Casino is currently a cultural destination, having the mission to create a buzzing cultural environment specific to big university cities. As a result, Cluj-Napoca Central Park and the Casino building became again a location where local community reunites home.

One year after its inauguration in 2013, the historic ensemble of the Simion Bărnuțiu Central Park and the Casino building received the Trip Advisor Award of Excellence, following the positive reviews of thousands of impressed visitors.

MEP Daniel Buda, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Atlantic Bio GMP

Prepare today the medicine of tomorrow

MEP Marc Joulaud, EPP Group

Atlantic Bio GMP is the first public pharmaceutical facility for the production of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMP) to fight diseases which are today often incurables.

Located in Saint-Herblain, near Nantes, Atlantic Bio GMP is acting under the operational direction of the French Blood Centre (EFS) Centre- Pays-de la Loire and under the common governance of the EFS, the National Health and Medical Research Institute (Inserm), and the Nantes University Hospital Centre.

Since 2011, alongside French and European research teams, Atlantic Bio GMP is involved in projects of gene therapy and cell therapy. Its objective is to provide researchers and clinicians with ATMP intended for stage I/II of clinical trials in order to allow their rapid use for the largest number of patients.

Recent or ongoing projects led by Atlantic Bio GMP aim to treat or cure myocardial infarction (heart attack), chronic heart failure, some cancers such as hepatocarcinoma and retinal pathologies.

Atlantic Bio GMP benefited twice from the FEDER support: during its building (1.300 m2) in 2009, and its extension (800 m2) in 2017 designed for increasing the activities, in particular in the field of cell therapy. The funding and the accompanying of the European Union were above all instrumental to launch Altantic Bio GMP, but also to establish its reputation thanks to the reliability of the European funding system that offers to selected projects an international visibility and bestows considerable trust.

Today, thanks to the expertise of its teams, Atlantic Bio GMP is strongly anchored at the core of the regional, French and European biotherapies landscape. The intensification of its development and communication strategy should boost its internal influence, but also the influence of the region Pays de la Loire which now possesses one of the first conventional cell therapy platforms in France.

epp group in the european parliament

Project ‘Ideal 72’

TDL SAS is a start-up capitalised by a group of 21 local producers.

Sharing the same values and having a common vision of a local agriculture, these people have imagined an "agro-artisanal" project that allows, through transformation, to take the control of the direct valorisation of their productions.

"Hold the product to commercialise differently"

This is due to its ideal vision of an agriculture allowing to make a decent living that we named this project "IDEAL 72".

Concretely, it consists of the implementation of a series of workshops enabling on the one hand, to transform **artisanally** animal and vegetable productions into marketable products, in particular by the producers themselves, and on the other hand to select locally genuine and quality farm products, then proposed in a global offer to out-of-home catering, particularly for establishments of accommodation for dependent old persons and school catering.

This is the implementation of the second part of development, with an educational and environmental perspective:

"Eat local, directly from the production, quality products"

This will of the group, true DNA of the project, of implementing this aspect relies on the shared belief that a "pleasure" nutrition goes through healthy, fresh and delicious products.

Give back the taste of real food is a struggle against food wastage. An empty plate is better than a full bin. This is giving back appetence for good things regarding the adults and the elderly. This is educating the youngest to discover true and authentic products coming from the territories where they live and will live tomorrow.

As a result, making the link from the ground to the plate takes on its full meaning:

"produce always better, respecting the seasons, at the fairer price, eat directly and local, without more than one intermediary to separate the producer from the consumer".

IDEAL-72 gives quality in all its products. Some with a "BIO" label, other, conventional, are guaranteed without GMO, without irradiation, without colourings and artificial aromas.

"Preserve from the good farm products their values of authenticity"

The investment programme of our project would not have been possible without the property participation of the Community of Communes Sud-Sarthe, PONTVALLAIN sector,and the Pays de la Loire Region through the programme ARIAA co-financed by the European Union through the EAFRD.

MEP Marc Joulaud, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

City of Šibenik *project* ‘Revitalization of St. Michael’s Fortress’

"Revitalization of Fortress Sv. Mihovil" is the project of the City of Šibenik with a total value of EUR 1.7 million spent from April 2012 to July 2014 and funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project was based on the construction of the fortress Sv. Mihovil as a new tourist attraction that aims to create innovative cultural, artistic, educational and other contents.

Apart from the decoration of the subterranean part of the fortress, a summer festival stage with 1077 seat places was built featuring top Croatian and foreign performers from the world of music and stage art such as: Maksim Mrvica, 2Cellos, Ensemble Lado, The National, NouvelleVague, Arsen, Gabi and Matija Dedić and many others. During the project of Revitalization, promotional materials have been developed for the needs of the fortress Sv. Mihovil and the city of Šibenik in six languages as long with the promotional videos and multimedia presentations. There are also panoramic telescopes on each tower of the fortres, replicas of medieval weapons and twenty medieval costumes have been designed and created for fortress staff.
All of these activities resulted in excellent results in 2014, measured by the number of visitors (more than 110,000) as well as fortress revenues. St. Mihovil is one of two fortresses in Šibenik, whose renovation and revitalization is financed by the EFRR funds, Barone and the fortress of Sv. Ivan.

Documenation that is in the preparatio is for the fourth Šibenik fortress of Sv. Nicholas at the very entrance to Šibenik, which was included in UNESCO's list of protected world cultural heritage last year. Promenade from the fortress of Sv. Nikola by the canal to Sv. Ante to the entrance to Šibenik has been built with EU funds and so in a small area we can see several very valuable interrelated projects. Precisely because of this systematic and integral approach to the preparation and implementation of the projects, one of the whole - "Revitalization of the Fortress of St. Mihovila "was chosen as an example to present interesting facts about Croatia in Brussels.

Total value

€1.7 million

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

MEP Ivana Maletic, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

City of Petrinja *project* ‘Znanjem do toplog doma’

Petrinja's project "Znanjem do toplog doma", was run from February 2015 to April 2016 and it was initiated in cooperation with Youth Association "Novi svijet" Luščani and the Society for the Formation of Sustainable Development from Zagreb, totalling 103 thousand HRK and financed from the European Social Fund (ESF). Energy poverty is one of the major problems of today and is caused by an unfavourable socio-economic situation that drives an increasing number of citizens into general and consequently in energy poverty. Along with the continuous rise in energy prices, more and more households are faced with the inability to meet the cost of energy due to which they have no secured health, social and culturally acceptable living conditions.

Socially endangered citizens who are most at risk of energy poverty and are largely unable to acquire the knowledge and help needed to prevent and mitigate this phenomenon. This kind of households were visited during the project where simple energy saving measures were installed as well as energy consulting was provided. Through household education and the installation of inexpensive energy efficiency measures (light bulbs, perlators, sealing strips, reflecting foils behind the radiators, etc.), households made significant energy savings with greater comfort of living: more light, smaller, less heat loss etc. helping the most vulnerable households in Sisačko-Moslovačka county.

Furthermore, through the establishment of co-operation between public sector and civil society organizations engaged in the provision of social services and local and regional self-government units in the Sisačko-Moslovačka county, the project contributed to the awareness of the problem of energy poverty in the county and directed representatives of both sectors to address the problem of energy poverty cross-sector cooperation.

It is a small project, but of great significance as it derives from the needs of the people and the most vulnerable people improve the living conditions. That is why this unique solution for the ever-present challenge of energy poverty across the European Union.

Total value

103 thousand HRK

Financed from the European Social Fund (ESF)

MEP Ivana Maletic, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

City of Zadar *project* ‘Coworking Zadar Innovation through Collaboration’

The project „Coworking Zadar cooperation to innovation“ was approved for funding at tender for the construction of small business infrastructure from the Regional Competitiveness Operational Program 2007-2013. The overall value of the project, which began on 14 June 2014 and has been running for 18 months, was higher than 5 million kuna, with 85% of the EU co-financing. The City of Zadar is the coordinator and the holder of the project in cooperation with the Zadar County, Zadar County Chamber, the Zadar County Development Agency - ZADRA and the Association of Craftsmen Zadar. The project enabled the construction of the first space for coworking in Zadar and the development of the Zadar coworking community. Project activities have promoted the concept of coworking, which involves networking and performing independent freelancers, startup projects, and entrepreneurs sharing work infrastructure, ideas, beliefs, and resources. Numerous workshops were organized where users of coworking space from other cities shared their experiences and thus helped to plan the Zadar concept of coworking.

Even after two years after the completion of the project, first Zadar space for coworking COIN Zadar, has been successful, while capacity is at almost 100% for months. The space occupancy is slightly higher during the summer months due to the large number of digital nomads visiting central Dalmatia and choosing Zadar for their temporary stay. Nevertheless, the modernly furnished and fully equipped space for coworking enables the development of the tourist component of the City of Zadar, it extends the tourist season to the whole year. This project demonstrates how important it is to create an environment that will bring people together with ideas and wishes to start a business, give them impetus and enable joint work, exchange of knowledge and experience.

Higher than
5 million kuna

85%

co-financing from
EU funds

Regional Competitiveness Operational Program 2007-2013

MEP Ivana Maletic, EPP Group

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Sisačko-moslavačka County *project* ‘Sisačko-moslavačka županija Središte gaming industrije’

The Development Agency of Sisak-Moslavina County SI-MO-RA Ltd. is the holder of the project "Sisačko-moslavačka county - Gaming Industry Center "funded by the European Regional Development Fund (EFRR) with a total value of HRK 3.5 million.

The aim of this project is to turn Sisačko-moslavačka county (SMŽ) into the center of the industrial video industry, a new branch of industry that has been expanding in the last few years and employs a large number of people. The project is aimed primarily at young and unemployed people who are interested in acting in the area.

An Integrated Learning Program was established in all kindergartens from Sisačko-moslavačka county for all children of kindergarten funds were provided in the Sisačko-moslavačka county budget for the procurement of educational applications.

A training program was prepared (Machina Academy) for the implementation of six months of education per year of project implementation. A program of implementation for workshops in primary and secondary schools of Sisačko-moslavačka county was also prepared (three times a week in nine months of the year of the implementation of the project). Here they learned about the development of videogames on concrete examples - an initiative for the creation of educational materials was launched through video games and the construction and equipping of entrepreneurial incubator with all the necessary equipment for successful operation.

In addition, a curriculum is being developed in cooperation with Sisak Technical School, which includes a new course in secondary schools - a video game technician.

The project will create a model for professional orientation of children at an early stage that can be replicated in other regions of the Republic of Croatia facing the same challenges - high levels of unemployment (especially young people who have completed high school) and lack of IT professionals with emphasis in the field of video game development.

The experience gained in this project involves relevant stakeholders working in the same or similar field by sharing information and, more importantly, examples of good practice, linking key organizations and institutions to partnership. Also, an established incubator will be available throughout the region. This innovative project connects local units, schools and entrepreneurs, and opportunities for learning future jobs are opened to young people. One of the biggest challenges is to respond today to the needs of employers in the future, and this project provides the solution precisely for this reason

Total value

3.5 million HRK

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

MEP Ivana Maletic, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Faculty of Medicine, University of Zagreb *project* ‘OSTEOGROW’

OSTEOGROW

OSTEOGROW is a 54-month collaborative project aimed at small and medium-sized businesses with funding of 6 million euros to finance the second phase of clinical trials of a new drug “Osteogrow” from the Seventh Framework Program of the European Union for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (FP7). A few years ago scientists from the Faculty of Medicine in Zagreb from the Mineral Laboratories discovered the drug “Osteogrow” that helps in bone regeneration and healing. “Ostegrow” proposes a clinical trial of regenerative medicine of the OSTEOGROW Therapy System for bone regeneration by utilizing a new bone enhancer for accelerating and improving bone repair. Clinical trials were conducted in cooperation with 11 partner institutions from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, England, Germany and Sweden.

The results of the clinical trials show that the first drug created in the Croatia could become an unavoidable aid for patients with bone healing problems and those who need to replace the missing bone for two to three years.

“Osteogrow” is the first medication created in Croatia that has been brought to the stage of clinical trials with all the obtained permissions, not only in Croatia (from the Central Ethics Commission and the Ministry of Health), but also in Austria, which is very rigorous. The medicine was administered in Vienna to patients who have so- rounded legs.

Obtaining funding from the Framework Program in competition with the best European universities and scientists deserves special recognition, when it comes to this exceptional invention that completely changes the present and all that we have so far known about regeneration and bone healing. Finding that we have exceptional scientists who break the barriers and create the future, we can only say that beyond all categories and competition this project deserves to represent Croatia not only in Brussels but also in the whole world.

Total value

€6 million

Funded by the Seventh Framework Program of the European Union for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration (FP7)

MEP Ivana Maletic, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Water in Historic City Centers (WIHCC)

Water in Historic City Centers (WIHCC) is a European collaborative project of the cities of Breda (NL), 's-Hertogenbosch (NL), Ghent (B), Mechelen (B) Chester (UK) and Limerick (IE) under the Interreg IIIB NWE program.

After years of neglect, we have seen a clear revaluation of water in inner-city redevelopments over the past decades. Inner cities are after all centers of economic life and bearers of the cultural identity of the city and its habitat. The significance of inner-city water is growing and offers opportunities for sustainable redevelopment.

The WIHCC project reflects the increasing role that water plays in the spatial and economic transition of old city centers that have a historical relationship with water. Not only because of the spatial quality or inner economy, but also the significance of water for inner city water management in relation to the effects of climate change.

Lead partner Breda and partner cities have worked closely together on this subject for four years (2003 - 2007). This has resulted in six tangible water projects. Projects that are more than worth the effort! And ten years later, the added value of each of the projects is still increasing for residents, visitors and inner city entrepreneurs.

In order to stimulate the debate in Europe about the role and significance of water in inner city transitions, the cities have recorded their experiences and local projects in an informative book in an accessible manner. Those interested can obtain this book for free via lead partner Breda mt.dekker@breda.nl. It is available digitally in four languages: English, Dutch, German and French.

In addition, a documentary film was made, entitled 'Reflections'. This shows the local task and added value of water reduction in city center redevelopment per city. This project would not have been possible without the EU. As a thank you, each of the six cities has placed a plaque 'Europe united by water' with the local project.

Total eligible cost:

€9.4 million

Programme: Interreg Flanders-Netherlands

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Triple F, food from food, Eindhoven

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Food waste can not be justified from an ethical and sustainability perspective and should therefore be minimized. In the food industry there is increasing awareness in the (re) evaluation of plant residual flows in order to prevent further food waste, but the sector is still faced with various difficulties such as the large volumes to be processed and strict hygiene requirements. Food waste is often lost because no suitable re-use is found for it.

'Triple F' focuses on various residual flows from consumption, such as carrots, beets and potatoes in the Netherlands and leeks, tomatoes and chicory in Belgium. An 'opportunity map' of the border region is elaborated with an overview of supply and demand at companies regarding plant residual flows, including the various technologies that can be used to reuse residues such as drying, freezing, heating. On this basis, 20 new value chains will be created. Agro, food, food processing or technical companies will be able to submit project proposals to be eligible for support in elaborating their innovative proposal. Brainport Development, the Food Tech Brainport Foundation, Flanders' FOOD and the Boerenbond Innovation Support Center assess the value chain projects.

Interreg pays
€1.240.324,42
(48.08%)
on a total budget of
€2.579.618,64

Programme:
Interreg
Flanders-
Netherlands

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

epp group
in the european parliament

PITCH Van Gogh Europe Project

The PITCH Van Gogh Europe Project connects the many Vincent Van Gogh locations (eg in Amsterdam and Nuenen), museums and tourist services (mainly SMEs) with the aim of valorising the European Van Gogh heritage through the development of tourism. People mainly visit the famous locations, for example the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, but are not familiar with the smaller locations, such as the Vincentre in Nuenen. Vincent van Gogh spent a period of his life there and produced many paintings. Through these projects, the various locations can reinforce each other in order to offer a visitor experience of high quality.

For this project, a thorough market research was carried out to learn more about the behavior of visitors to Van Gogh. The visitor survey focused on the expectations and experiences of visitors to existing Van Gogh sites. By measuring the expectations regarding Van Gogh as a person and other Van Gogh sites, but also as experiences of the research location, this research was able to compare the potential of different visitor profiles.

In addition, several Van Gogh routes have been designed, which are then promoted at all Van Gogh locations. In this way, cross-selling of the Van Gogh regional offering was made possible by providing comprehensive and practical information about Van Gogh's offering to visitors, tourism companies and cultural heritage organizations. As an output of the project, an online platform was developed in which the various Van Gogh locations and routes are presented:

http://www.routevangogheurope.eu/

Funding:

€249.966

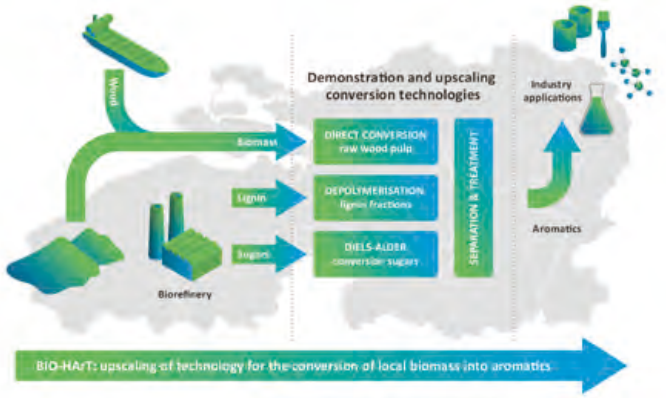
Programme:
COSME

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

BIO-HArT

Aromatics are one of the most important raw materials for the chemical industry. At present, aromatics are extracted from petroleum and that leads to CO2 emissions. Shared Research Center, Biorizon, within the BIO-HArT project, collaborates with partners to scale up technology for the production of aromatics from biomass. This offers a profitable and sustainable perspective for the European chemical industry.



BIO-HArT, Green Chemistry Campus Bergen op Zoom

Many European brand owners have the ambition to replace fossil resources in their products with renewable sources. In addition, they want to develop innovative products. By using biomass as raw material, CO2 emissions are reduced and unique functionalities can be used that are lacking in fossil raw materials. This creates superior green building blocks that increase the competitiveness of European industry.

As many as 40% of all chemicals are aromatic in nature and the potential to green the European chemical industry is huge. The aim of Shared Research Center Biorizon, an initiative of TNO, VITO, ECN and Green Chemistry Campus, is to enable the commercial production of bio-aromatics in 2025. The BIO-HArT project is an important step in this.

BIO-HArT stands for ‚Biorizon Innovation and Upscaling of Renewable Aromatics Technology'. Since 2016, Biorizon and its partners in this cross-border project have been working on scaling up technology for the production of aromatics from biomass. By the end of 2018 this should result in working process set-ups to be able to produce kilos of test samples for the industry. In addition, the processes for the production of bio-aromatics are further optimized.

Consortium

Developing and scaling up technology for the production of bio-aromatics is a major challenge that requires a lot in terms of knowledge, experience and facilities. That is why Dutch and Flemish companies, governments and knowledge institutions join forces. Project coordinator TNO collaborates with VITO, Avantium, Chemelot InSciTe, University of Antwerp, KU Leuven, Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant, Eindhoven University of Technology, Maastricht University and DSM Materials Science Center. In addition, there is close collaboration with suppliers of raw materials, producers and processors of aromatics, end users, knowledge and educational institutions and the private sector. The project results of BIO-HArT will be further developed together with the industry to eventually be implemented in new value chains. How beautiful would it be if products were on the market in 2025 in which these bio-aromatics were processed?

Funding

On a total budget of €6.085.445,38

Interreg contributes €3.042.722,69 (50%)

Programme: Interreg Flanders-Netherlands

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

DEMI MORE Interreg Project

The DEMI MORE interreg project (Demonstration of Energy efficiency by Measurement and Innovation MORE) recognizes that energy efficiency is an important item in the exploitation of architectural heritage. Until recently, however, the immovable heritage policy in the border region was mainly aimed at preserving the architectural-historical value of a building. This led to the restoration of vacant protected historic buildings without a permanent economic re-use.

Gradually one has come to realize that this does not offer a sustainable solution for the preservation of architectural heritage. Buildings, monumental or not, will only exist if they are

permanently redeployed. In other words, if they are embedded in the contemporary economic fabric. Here often the shoe pinches. Many projects relating to the redevelopment of architectural heritage stumble over the very low energy efficiency of heritage complexes. The recurring annual costs of energy are a big stumbling block for every form of exploitation.

This problem, in combination with the ambitions of Europe 2020 - including the commitment to at least achieve the 20% CO2 reduction target by the EU by 2020 - means that the monument sector in the Netherlands and Flanders can not lag behind in promoting energy efficiency and use of renewable energy. Making our immovable heritage patrimony sustainable will be the major challenge for the coming years

Now decisive decisions will have to be taken to not mortgage the future of our heritage.

However, in view of the cultural-historical value of monuments, energy policy in, among other things, housing can not be extended linearly to monuments. They demand a very personal approach that deserves more attention than just the national level. After all, both the Netherlands and Flanders are faced with the same problems.

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

DEMI MORE contributes to better cooperation within Europe

Promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure, including architectural heritage, is a challenge for the entire border region. In the Netherlands as well as in Flanders, objectives have been formulated for this. Subsequently, at the provincial level the energy policy was laid down by the province of Noord-Brabant in the Energy Agenda 2010 - 2020. The province of Antwerp has also set an equal agenda in its Climate Plan.

In the DEMI MORE project, the provinces of North Brabant and Antwerp can thus reinforce each other internationally in each other's knowledge about energy saving in monumental buildings. The present project is complementary to these studies by providing insight into the possibilities for implementing various innovative techniques and energy-saving measures through the realization of various demonstration projects in different typologies of heritage complexes. The importance of striking examples can not be underestimated. This is why Dutch and Flemish organizations are joining forces to make the knowledge effects on a large scale tangible for all stakeholders through demonstration projects. An international expert group supports this process.

In addition, the DEMI MORE project responds to a gap in BREEAM certification. BREEAM certification is the most widely used system in Europe to measure and assess the sustainability of buildings. For the renovation of monuments, a BREEAM quality mark is being developed in cooperation between the Netherlands and Flanders for both parts of the country, whereby the knowledge and experience is shared across borders. This also promotes cooperation within Europe.

DEMI MORE was not possible without participation in a European initiative or fund

The DEMI MORE project promotes the application of highly innovative energy-saving measures in monumental buildings. These techniques are often very expensive and the application of these techniques can not get off the ground without subsidies from Europe. Some highly innovative techniques are still insufficiently market-ready and test formats can be paid with subsidies from Europe.

Funding

Interreg contributes €1.895.189,53 (50%) to a total budget of €3.790.379,06

Programme: Interreg

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Tussenheid Hilvarenbeek

Intermediary Hilvarenbeek is a network

of involved residents from the municipality of Hilvarenbeek who voluntarily use their knowledge and expertise to strengthen the local organizing capacity in the municipality of Hilvarenbeek. The network has started with about 30 volunteers who give content to the approach and the number of volunteers is still growing. Intermediate relationship Hilvarenbeek does not carry out any projects itself, but works under the umbrella of social initiatives and organizations in the municipality. Intermediate Hilvarenbeek does this through five platforms: Hilver Advies & Ontwikkeling, Hilver Academy, Hilver Communications, Hilver Werkt and Hilver Euro. These platforms connect relevant professionals with initiatives and initiatives among themselves. We call it under umbrella because Tussenheid wants to support Hilvarenbeek, and does not want to take over activities or initiatives.

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

The origin of Tussenheid Hilvarenbeek

Do-democracy, participatory society and civilian power are on the rise. Hilvarenbeek has a growing number of citizens' initiatives; from local museums to village cooperatives; from d'n Flaestoren to energy cooperative Hilverstroom. In practice, this creates the necessary challenges to adequately manage matters that transcend daily practice. A survey carried out in 2014 among some 400 foundations, associations and initiatives showed that the local organizing capacity needs to be strengthened; there appears to be a growing need for support in finance, promotion, legal affairs and administration, involvement of young people and advice & development.

In order to meet the ambitions of the municipality and local initiatives, the network organization Tussenheid Hilvarenbeek was founded by village cooperatives Esbeek, Biest-Houtakker and Diessen, cooperative Hilverstroom & Gas and the municipality of Hilvarenbeek. Rabobank Hart van Brabant has indicated that it wants to participate as a strategic partner.

Joining EU initiatives

Since the turn of the century, in connection with the transition from the original agricultural and artisanal countryside to a multifunctional environment (industry, transport, leisure), connections have been found with all kinds of contemporary international markets and developments. In this way, a link was made with EU initiatives relating to local development, sustainability, leisure, cultural heritage etc. (Rural Alliances, Leader +, Interreg, ESF). Here, the contemporary EU ambitions have had an influence on local thought developments among policymakers.

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UNIIQ: Proof of concept fund for Zuid-Holland

UNIIQ

UNIIQ is a proof of concept investment fund that was set up by a consortium consisting of Erasmus MC, TU Delft, Leiden University and InnovationQuarter.

UNIIQ focuses on providing guidance to capital and providing proof of concept financing to which market parties do not. Attention is paid to technical validation (including further development and testing of prototypes) and market validation (including creation and verification of commercial concepts, market research and launching customers).

UNIIQ is a unique concept because the consortium brings together expertise in both areas. By bringing market expertise, launching customers and (follow-up) financiers as early as possible into the process, the chances of an innovation succeeding greatly. The joint ambition of the consortium partners is therefore to bring products to the market more quickly and to speed them up for subsequent financing phases.

Semiotic Labs

one of the companies that received support from the UNIIQ fund

Based on sensors and smart algorithms, Semiotic Labs predicts when and why motors and rotating equipment fail. By carrying out timely maintenance, unscheduled downtime is prevented

In the first phase of the project, several hundred sensors were placed in the field and the measurement technology was further developed. It is now possible to signal an impending failure up to a few months in advance. There are about 100 million electric motors in Europe; the workhorses of the economy. On average 7% of the engines fail annually. This results in a loss in production capacity of 7 to 14 million hours per year. But a failing engine also uses 10% - 15% more energy.

By preventing failing electric motors, 20 - 30 million households can receive electricity for a year.

Funding

€6 million

Programme: Interreg

MEP Lambert van Nistelrooij, EPP Group

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Struma motorway

Situated in south-west Bulgaria, the Struma motorway is providing motorists with a fast and safe trans-European connection. Its construction is benefiting over half a million local residents by cutting travel times. For example, the journey time between Sofia and Kulata is reduced by 40 minutes.

The project is also diverting traffic away from towns and villages, halting the noise and air pollution that previously affected residents. The engineering feat is essentially completing the motorway connection between Sofia and the border crossing with Greece at Kulata.

The project is divided into four lots and encompasses the construction of a 68.5 km stretch of motorway (lots 1, 2 and 4) and the preparation works for lot 3, the remaining 63 km, which comprises tunnels crossing the ecologically sensitive Kresna Gorge. These preparations include preliminary design, environmental analyses and overall project management.

The Struma motorway is 29 m wide with two traffic lanes in each direction - each 3.75 m in width. The motorway has two asphalt-surfaced lanes in each direction, two 1.25 m hard shoulders, and a 3.5 m central reserve. The speed limit is 120 km/h.

It is estimated that 694 jobs will be created during the implementation of the project and construction of the Struma motorway.

Under which programme the project received funding/the amount (co-financing):

The project is part of the European Union's initiative to improve the trans-European network for transport, the so-called TEN-T programme. This particular stretch of road lies in Corridor 4 of the TEN T Priority Project 7 which aims to improve the road and rail network of South-Eastern Europe.

- Total investment for the project "Struma Motorway, Lots 1, 2 and 4 and preparing lot 3" is EUR 342.549.725,
- with the EU's Cohesion Fund contributing EUR 274 .039.780.

The project is funded through the priority "Development of road infrastructure along the Trans-European and major national transport axes" of the "Transport" Operational Programme for the 2007-2013 programming period.

MEP Andrey Novakov, EPP Group

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Raising the standard of water infrastructure in Gabrovo

The project focuses on improving drinking water distribution and treatment, as well as wastewater collection and treatment for Gabrovo, thereby raising infrastructure to the standard required by the EU Drinking Water and Urban Wastewater Directives.

Expected to benefit around 63 000 people, the project will deal with the two distinct parts of the water system – water supply and treatment and wastewater collection and treatment.

In order to tackle problems relating to the water supply system, the drinking water treatment plant will be reconstructed, one new pumping station will be constructed and four will be rehabilitated, and 76 km of water supply system will be upgraded. As well as raising the system to the standards prescribed in the Drinking Water Directive, this work will improve the security of supply and decrease operation and maintenance costs through reduced physical water losses.

As regards wastewater collection and treatment, 21.6 km of the existing sewerage network and nine creek crossings will be rehabilitated. The current wastewater treatment plant will be reconstructed and approximately 18.5 km of the sewerage network will be extended. These actions will significantly increase the quality of treated wastewater and therefore the quality of water in the Yantra River and the Danube River. They will also raise the system to the standards required by the EU's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

Some 63,000 inhabitants living in the project area will enjoy an improved quality of life thanks to the project. Safer drinking water will contribute to reducing health risks for the population while improved wastewater disposal and treatment will raise hygiene standards. Technical water losses in the water supply network will be reduced by 34% and a further 17% of the population will be connected to the sewerage system (up from 79% to 96%).

From a financial perspective, reliable and compliant water services will make the Gabrovo area a more attractive place to invest in and 400 jobs will be created during the implementation phase of the project. In terms of environmental impact, organic and nutrient pollution will be reduced while the quality of water in the Yantra and Danube rivers will be improved. Significant environmental benefits will also stem from the elimination of groundwater and sub-soil contamination.

Under which programme the project received funding/the amount (co-financing):

- The total investment for the project is EUR 63.164.582
- with the EU's Cohesion Fund contributing EUR 48.039.861.

MEP Andrey Novakov, EPP Group

epp group in the european parliament

Sofia Tech Park creates a unique environment for innovation

Sofia Tech Park is a state-owned company working to boost innovation, research and technological development through various projects for which it creates partnerships with private and public institutions.

This is the first science and technology Bulgarian park, which is set to host national, regional and global researchers and innovative companies, thereby showcasing and strengthening the knowledge economy of Bulgaria and the Balkans.

The park's main focus areas are information and communication technologies, life sciences and green energy. It should foster knowledge exchange between academia and business while supporting start-ups and innovative ideas, thus providing a catalyst for commercialisation of research and making Bulgarian science and entrepreneurship more competitive.

This complements Sofia Tech Park's overall aims of creating and managing a unique environment for innovation and supporting the marketing of new technologies, products and services.

For the development and management of the park, Sofia Tech Park has established partnerships with leading universities, the Bulgarian Academy of Science, business clusters, multinational companies, SMEs, local and national authorities, NGOs and other bodies. The Sofia Tech Park company is responsible for overall project development and additional activities such as marketing, financing, leasing and construction. Partner institutions will help to compile a common scientific equipment database, establish contacts and partnerships with third parties on topics of mutual interest and participate actively in Sofia Tech Park initiatives.

The park is to cover 40 000 m2 and include new and renovated building space. It will house fully-functional scientific infrastructure, applied research laboratories, an incubator, facilities for lectures, training, discussion and demonstration of new technology, and an interactive science centre, as well as car parking and green spaces for pedestrians.

Under which programme the project received funding/the amount (co-financing):

- Total investment for the project is EUR 42.688.354,
- of which the EU's European Regional Development Fund is contributing EUR 36.285.101 from the Operational Programme "Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy" for the 2007 to 2013 programming period.

MEP Andrey Novakov, EPP Group

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Social and economic stimulation: city of Jaworzno

New roads and lighting
Copyright: city of Jaworzno

Main square in city of Jaworzno
Copyright: city of Jaworzno

Cities which participated in the project: Będzin, Czeladź, Jaworzno and Sosnowiec. The aim of the project was to increase investments in the attractiveness of the region by creating infrastructures for the development of new enterprises and services. All are geared towards economic growth and employment in new enterprises, technological and innovative development, restructuring and diversification of economic activity, development of areas of various origins and nature (greenfield and brownfield type) in the vast majority of former post-industrial and post-mining areas, for which it was necessary to find new functions.

As a result, the project was prepared for welcoming new economic functions through the construction of infrastructures (roads, sewers, lighting, energy networks) of 127.20 ha of post-industrial areas. One part of the project was buildings' adaptation for the Sosnowiec Science and Technology Park. It creates favorable conditions for enterprises, institutions supporting entrepreneurship, scientific and research as well as educational and educational institutions, providing appropriate infrastructure together with the necessary technical facilities and substantive support. Its mission is to stimulate the economic development of Sosnowiec and the Silesia Voivodeship by attracting, supporting and developing innovative enterprises operating in the modern technologies sector.

- Project: Economic Gate to Silesia - stage I: Launching the Zagłębie Economic Zone;
- Leader: City of Jaworzno;
- Total value of the project: PLN 143.69 million, co-financing from the RPO WSL: PLN 103.45 million;
- Implementation: 2008-2013.

MEP Jan Olbrycht, EPP Group

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Innovations in cities: city of Bielsko — Biała

Bielsko–Biała
Development of tourist infrastructure in city of Brenna

Bielsko – Biała
New tourist infrastructure in city of Bielsko–Biała
Copyright: city of Bielsko–Biała

The Southern sub-region of the Silesia Region is developed in a traditional tourist environment, such as mountain and bicycle trails, viewpoints, walking promenades, etc. However, such infrastructures are in poor technical conditions. There is also a lack of professional infrastructures and a sports and recreation base. This problem is particularly severe outside the summer season, when weather conditions make it impossible to practice mountain hiking and walking. Meanwhile, the southern sub-region is not only an area attracting tourists from all over Poland and abroad. Above all, it is a leisure facility for the residents of other - more urbanized and industrialized - sub-regions of Silesia.

Specific goals of the project:

- creating tourist and tourism-related infrastructures,
- improving the quality of existing infrastructures and tourism-related infrastructures,
- creation and development of sub-regional sports products. The sub-region of the Southern Silesian Voivodeship is composed of the city of Bielsko-Biala, Bielsko-Biała county, Cieszyn county and Żywiec county.

The material scope of the project, among others, includes: demarcation and construction of ski slopes and bicycle paths and routes linking the Beskidy areas, demarcation and construction of car parks with accompanying infrastructure at the facilities and touristic routes. The implementation of the project will also allow a full use of natural resources in the form of unpolluted forests, rivers and mountains. Well-thought-out and prepared infrastructure-related infrastructure will allow for greater development of enterprises that will increase the socio-economic level of the entire region.

The project consists of 27 tasks (subprojects).

- Project: Development of urban infrastructure of the Southern Sub-region;
- Beneficiary - project leader: City of Bielsko-Biała;
- Project value: PLN 206.43 million Value of co-financing from the ROP WSL: PLN 137.73 million;
- Implementation: 2007-2013.

MEP Jan Olbrycht, EPP Group

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Green city: city of Myszków

Solar installations on the roof in city of Myszków
Copyright: city of Myszków

Solar installations on the roof in city of Myszków
Copyright: city of Myszków

The City of Myszków is located in the north-eastern part of the Silesian Voivodeship. Part of the city area is surrounded by the Complex of Jurassic Landscape Parks. Despite the attractive natural surroundings, there is a high degree of degradation of the natural environment in the city. The main threat to the atmosphere in the city is the emission of dust and gases from local central heating boiler rooms. Therefore, the City of Myszków has taken action to improve the quality of atmospheric air, through the effective use of renewable energy sources to heat utility water in residential buildings. This action has become the city's strategic goal in reducing gas emissions. The subject of the project was a purchase and assembly of solar collectors on 661 residential buildings located in the area of the City of Myszków. The amount of energy generated using solar energy is 1,404 MWh / year; the amount of primary energy saved as a result of the project is 7 167 GJ / year, the project's effects include a reduction of SO2 emissions to the atmosphere by 0.3 T / a and a reduction in CO2 emissions to the atmosphere by 557.92 T / year.

The detailed objectives of the project include:

- Reduction of atmospheric air pollution;
- Reduction of costs for heating the heat source;
- Increase in the use of modern technologies related to renewable energy sources;
- Reducing the use of conventional heat sources.

- Project: Reduction of gas emissions through the use of renewable energy sources in the form of solar installations in the city of Myszków;
- Beneficiary: City of Myszków;
- Value of the project: PLN 6 008 453.25. ROP co-financing: PLN 4.648.206,66 Co-financing level - 85%;
- Implementation: 2007-2013.

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Public transport: city of Tychy

Revitalized railway station
Copyright: city of Tychy

Railway station during the investment process
Copyright: city of Tychy

- Project: Fast regional rail Tychy - Dąbrowa Górnicza - stage I: Tychy Miasto - Katowice;
- Beneficiary - project leader: City of Tychy;
- Total value of the project: PLN 35.20 million, co-financing from RPO WSL: 24.30 million PLN;
- Implementation: 2009-2010.

The aim of the project is to increase the share of rail transport in people mobility on the Tychy-Katowice route. The subject of the project was the reconstruction of the existing "Tychy Zachodnie" stop in the vicinity of Harcerska Street and the construction of 3 new railway stops: "Tychy Grota Roweckiego", "Tychy Bielska" at Bielska Avenue, "Tychy Lodowisko" at Wyszyński Street. During the investment preparation, a variant using the existing station of Tychy Miasto was considered, however, due to the high financial outlay necessary to adapt the stop to the current standards and passenger expectations, it was decided to build a new stop "Tychy Grota Roweckiego".

The new infrastructure has been implemented for all travelers. In order to facilitate access, individual stops have been connected with the following streets: Harcerska, Bielska, Grota Roweckiego and Wyszyński by stairs and slipways. In addition, glazed elevators for passengers with reduced mobility were installed. In order to allow cyclists to reach the platforms at the "Tychy Zachodnie" stop, special bicycle ramps and shelters have been installed. All stops have two platforms (except for the final stop "Tychy Lodowisko", which is one-stop). The platforms are equipped with lighting, passenger sheds, a monitoring system, on-line passenger information, megaphones and ticket machines.

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Urban revitalization: city of Czerwionka-Leszczyny

Fountain in city of Czerwionka - Leszczyny
Copyright: city of Czerwionka – Leszczyny

Revitalization of the Historic Estate of the Patronage Mine Dębieńsko in Czerwionka- Leszczyny
Copyright: city of Czerwionka – Leszczyny

The project envisages the improvement of the land development conditions (internal roads, pavements, paved squares) and the creation of a public space in the form of a "mini market" with an accompanying recreational infrastructure. The public space is primarily a recreation and relaxation area along the pedestrian and roadway with elements of the health path, educational path and skate park as well as the Tourist Information Center (with a traditionally furnished Silesian apartment serving as the Chamber of Tradition) and a center of non-governmental organizations. In addition, the House of Culture will be subject to thermo-modernization. In addition, it is assumed to build an underground garbage dump, access to which will be for each of the residents by an individual chip card. The whole will be complemented with elements of small architecture, greenery and lighting.

The main goals of the project:

The immediate goal of the project is to restore the historic patronage of the city center and the city, and the recreational, tourist, social, educational and cultural values.

The general objectives of the project can be defined as:

- Transforming functional elements of the housing estate for social, cultural, recreational, educational and tourist purposes,
- Obtaining the ecological and aesthetic effect,
- Adapting objects accompanying monuments to the nature of surrounding buildings,
- Preserving and displaying the cultural values and tourism of the area,
- Satisfying the needs and ambitions of the residents through the necessary changes, consistent with modern life,
- Social activation of deprived urban areas and increasing the attractiveness of zones of development in the city,
- Developing and restoring the loss of socio-economic functions of the City of Czerwionka,
- Increasing the quality of life of the local community,
- Increasing the quality and accessibility of public facilities in the City of Czerwionka,
- Creating a place to organize projects aimed at counteracting negative social disruptions on the estate and in the Czerwionka district,
- A new offer of attractive leisure time opportunities for residents of the housing estate and district,
- Inhibition of the suburbanization process.

- Project: Revitalization of the historic estate of the patronage mine Dębieńsko in Czerwionka-Leszczyny;
- Beneficiary: City of Czerwionka-Leszczyny;
- Value of the project PLN 12.174.877,98, co-financing of RPO WSL is PLN 9.965.272,48.
- Implementation: 2007-2013.

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eXplorarium
Workshop for Learning

Learning through discovery is the concept for success

Total costs
€2.595.375

ERDF funding
€1.063.372

Further information:
www.explorarium.de

Keypoints

To survive in today's knowledge-based society, it is essential to regularly check knowledge already held and to update it. 'Learning through Discovery' offers stimulus to the learning process and also events aimed at learning, motivating people to learn on their own initiative.

Built in less than a year, with ERDF's financial support, the eXplorarium multi-media learning workshop was set up in Neukölln District's Hans Fallada School, as a generously-dimensioned area, flooded with light and with access to its own school garden.

The learning workshop enables the children to explore the world in a playful way and to learn about it through discovery, with small natural-science experiments.

MEP Joachim Zeller, EPP Group

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Berlin Heart

Berlin's hearts save lives

Total costs
€3.760.794

ERDF funding
€1.831.140

Further information:
www.berlinheart.de

Keypoints

This medium-sized company is a specialist for artificial hearts. It develops, produces and sells innovative systems that provide mechanical support to the heart.

Not only in developing blood-pumps for infants and small children, Berlin Heart is market-leader Europe-wide. In a project currently being supported by ERDF, the challenge is to develop even smaller devices for rendering support in the treatment of terminal heart failure. This project alone made it possible to create five new highly-qualified jobs at Berlin Heart, which by now employs 220 people.

In an exemplary way, ERDF's support strengthens -research and experimental development in Berlin companies, thereby boosting their competitiveness world¬wide.

Innovative,
no-fuss, indestructible
– typically Berlin!

MEP Joachim Zeller, EPP Group

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Hürdenspringer

Samira fled from Syria and has been in Germany for one year now. Starting anew in Berlin was anything but simple for her. She had neither relatives nor friends, could not speak German and the culture was very foreign to her. She found a volunteer mentor through the Hürdenspringer.

Neukölln project of Unionhilfswerk Berlin, and the mentor is helping her along the way to working life. With her help, Samira is coping with daily school life in Neukölln and has a good chance of starting successfully into professional life - and with that comes prospect for an autonomous life in Germany.

The European Fund For Regional Development (ERDF) made it possible for the project to start in April 2016. Thanks to the grant from the ERDF the Hürdenspringer Neukölln youth mentoring project is supporting teenage refugees in their struggle to cope with daily school routine and to start their professional lives. Hürdenspringer secures companies for the project, which offer apprenticeships for the young people. A wide network of supporters is working for the success of the project: apart from employees of Unionshilfswerk, language mediators, asylum experts and other cooperation partners (among others the district office in Neukölln) and adult education centres are involved.

The mentoring program

Hürdenspringer Neukölln is promoting goal orientation of young asylum seekers aged between 18 and 35. The precondition for the mentoring is a good prospect of staying in the country and a place of residence in Neukölln. Depending on their age, interests and language proficiency, they are brought into direct contact with a mentor. This creates a tandem which tackles tasks together and can set goals for themselves. This special care is a unique feature of the project. Mentors work voluntarily and are accordingly trained for that purpose. Most of the mentors come from Germany and know the education system as well as the job market. After the training they are well equipped to offer continuous support to their mentees during the orientation period. During that process care is taken to build upon the resources and skills that the refugees already have. With the freshly acquired knowledge, the mentees will be able to connect better with training programs, university education or an occupation.

The ERDF ensures in concrete terms, that

- refugees can integrate themselves quickly.
- mutual prejudices are removed.
- refugees get training and further education, establish themselves professionally and find an occupation which matches their competence

Grant amount
approx.
€376.600,00

Project term
01.04.2016
>31.12.2019

MEP Joachim Zeller, EPP Group

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We took the first step, Will you join us?

LET THE **STARS SHINE**

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Presented on the 19th of June 2018 during the 'LET THE STARS SHINE'-exhibition in the European Parliament (mezzanine Yehudi Menuhin, 2nd floor PHS)'

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