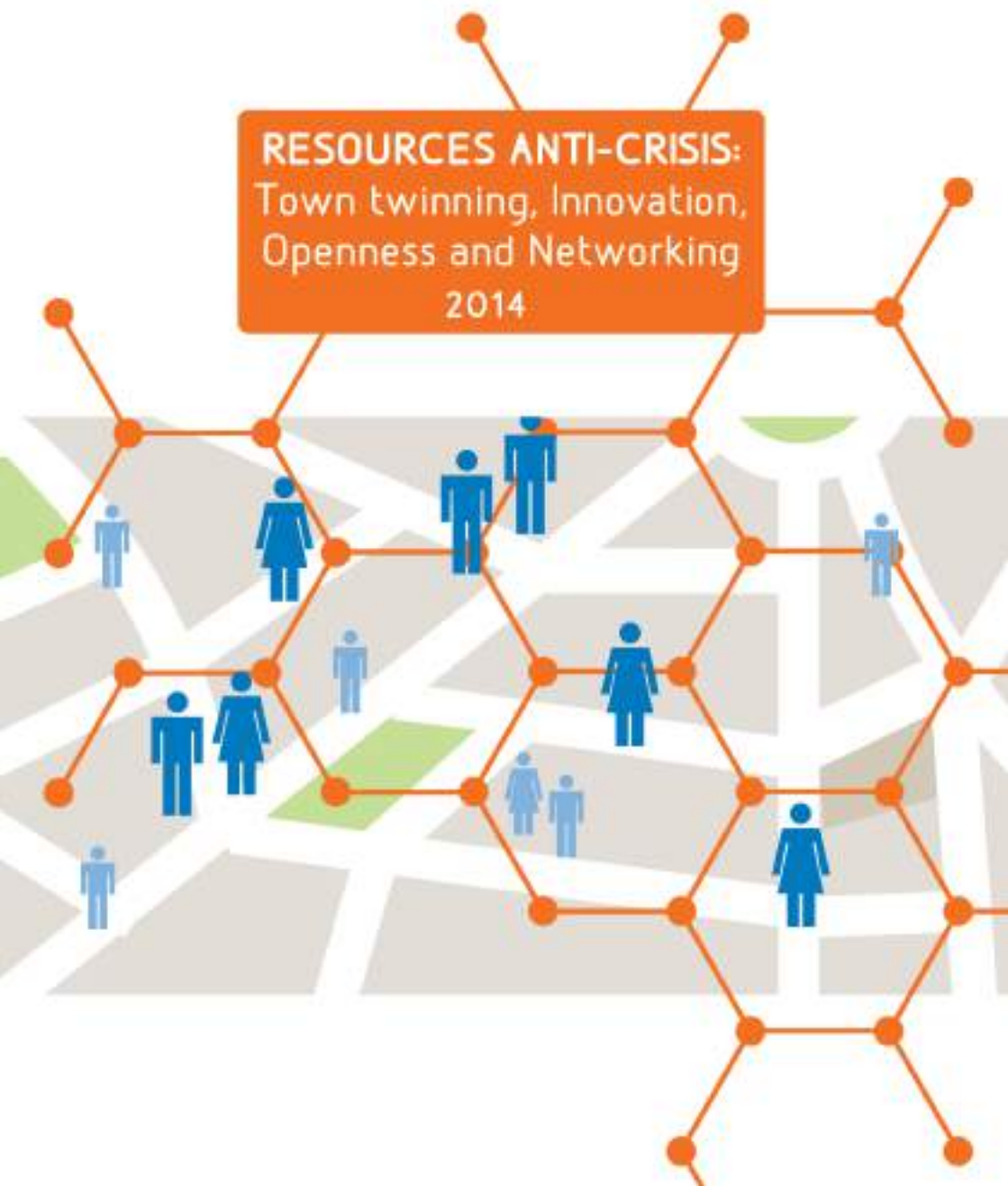




Europe  
for Citizens

reaction

**RESOURCES ANTI-CRISIS:**  
Town twinning, Innovation,  
Openness and Networking  
2014



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# ABOUT THE PROJECT

## **Project REACTION - REsources Anti-Crisis: Town twinning, Innovation, Openness and Networking**

**01.01.2013 - 31.10.2014**

Funded with the support of the programme “Europe for Citizens” of the European Commission, under the measure “Networks of Twinned Towns” the project REACTION started from the core topic of the project WEL-COME, which was focused on the resource “water”, and opened the horizon to other resources that local authorities should base their action on, particularly in times of crisis. Thus, the project aimed to reinforce the networks between municipalities by strengthening their cooperation on thematic axes, all linked by the key word “resource”.

REACTION focused on specific elements, which the municipalities should consider as resources and appropriately activate, in order to promote the citizens wellbeing and the good development of the community. Therefore, the project was structured around three different thematic events, each of them developing and debating around one specific resource deemed essential for the good development of the European citizenship:

### **FIRST EVENT: "THE LOCAL RESOURCES FOR WELL-BEING AND DEVELOPMENT" - SPITTAL AN DER DRAU (AUSTRIA)**

It offered the opportunity to reflect and promote the cooperation and synergy among the relevant stakeholders at local level, such as Local Authorities, Civil Society Organizations, the business community and so on, in the perspective that the multisectoral and multiactors strategy can be a winning solution to overcome the crisis. For instance, the role played by the municipalities in the field of local development

and in the establishment of Public-Private Partnerships has been revealed.

### **SECOND EVENT: "CITIZENS AS A RESOURCE" - MARGHITA (ROMANIA)**

Citizens should represent the main resources for the well-being and the development of the local communities. This event rotated around on the core role of the citizens in EU and promoted those participatory mechanisms that help citizens to be real protagonists in building up of Europe (i.e volunteering).

### **THIRD EVENT: "EUROPE AS A RESOURCE" - SACILE, BRUGNERA, PORCIA (ITALY)**

Nowadays nobody in Europe can live without Europe. The rationale of the final event was to reflect on Europe and promote the positive impact that the EU has at the local level, as well as on the promotion of the quality of the life of all the citizens of the EU. In order to ensure a wide impact of the action, besides the international events, each partner will activate in its territory awareness and networking paths, aimed to mobilise local citizenship on the topics of the project. This publication collects the best practices and specific resources used by the project partners, identified and shared during the three international events held. It is therefore a useful multiplying tool for other interested local authorities, and for the development of further projects, enhancing the effective use of traditional and less traditional resources at the local level in the enlarged Europe.

Town centre view



# MUNICIPALITY OF SACILE

## (LEAD PARTNER)



Italy

Sacile is a municipality in the province of Pordenone, in the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. The city has a population of more than 20.000 inhabitants. The Municipality of Sacile is part of an Inter-municipal Association, together with the other municipalities it engages in the management of activities and services. As part of this Association Sacile is also place for the Territorial Marketing Planning and European Policies Inter-municipal Department and deals with large-scale european and local development projects. About 120 persons work for the municipality, which is divided into 9 departments and provides services to the people. These services include a nursery, two municipal chemists and a rest home. In Sacile there is also a Tourist Information Office, the I.A.T., run by the Livenza Servizi Mobilità SRL whose sole member is the Municipality of Sacile.

For more tourist information, please see [www.altolivenza.eu](http://www.altolivenza.eu)

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Social measures like “Sacile Model” and “Healthy Cities Network”, manufacturing excellence, water and tourism as anti-crisis resources and tools for the improvement of the quality of life of its citizens.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The city of Sacile can count on different resources: Livenza rivers’ water is a tourist, industrial and sports resource, also very useful for rescue purposes. Tourism is a further resource for business and accommodation facilities, in particular thanks to the artistic and historical heritage and the excellent manufacturing, such as Fazioli’s pianos. The “Healthy Cities Network” to which Sacile belongs and the “Sacile model” are an example for the entire region. Mention should also be made of the significant number of dynamic volunteering associations in the city, like the municipal group of Civil Protection.



**Livenza river, tourist and sport resource.**

Historical and artistic heritage preservation and sustained care of the town are a guarantee of success: guests and visitors discover unique city views becoming direct promoters of the territory.

The Livenza river runs through Sacile offering a wide range of benefits: spectacular rescue demonstrations are performed by various delegations of the network of European twinned towns and coordinated by the municipal group of Civil Protection.



**Town twinning, partnership activity (Town Twinning - water)**





Castle

# MUNICIPALITY OF PORCIA

## Italy



Mission of the Municipality: to provide services for citizens, to improve standards of living and to enhance local, cultural and environmental goods as economic and natural resource.



**Villa Correr Dolfin**

## **NAME OF THE RESOURCE**

Natural resources – historical and artistic resources – widespread volunteer network – agricultural production economy towards independent commercialization – living ma-  
nufacturing economy.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

The local resources. Porcia is a city of arts, history, culture and environmental beauties (plenty of waters springs create an evocative landscape). The office has worked together with local organizations to prepare promotional material necessary to the partners' Fair exhibition space opened to visitors. The aim is the promotion of local territory to make tourism a real economic development tool.

Citizens as a resource. Porcia's volunteer network and associations were represented in Marghita by " Il GIGLIO O.N.L.U.S." This association worked together with the municipal administration to create a dvd summarizing the long journey - still in progress - towards disability independent living.

Europe as a resource. Porcia was involved for Europe as a resource both from a municipal and from an associative point of view. During working meetings close attention was paid to European funding. A significant event was the making of a visit to a private company benefiting from EU funds. Meetings succeeded in creating a favourable climate for open dialogue among entities and citizens - so different in terms of culture and traditions.





Bookcrossing at the Public Library of Villa Varda



## MUNICIPALITY OF BRUGNERA

### Italy



The Municipality of Brugnera implements its social policies involving a network of local voluntary associations and social promotion associations. With the support of the municipal administration, many groups of elderly people, belonging to the associations, perform cultural social and leisure activities aimed at maintaining their psychophysical functioning and fostering social relations among local seniors.



**Daily Senior Center - Laying of the first stone**

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Social, sports and cultural activities

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

With regard to actions in favour of elderly and, more in general, of people in need there are many associations like Brugnera Solidale, primarily active in the field of seniors' health care, providing them a transport from and to the hospital, helping them get home delivered drugs, etc. Last year a daily Senior Center for not self-sufficient old people was opened. The Center can accommodate up to 20 people and provide many services from people care to leisure and social activities. Younger people education and learning is supported by the Parents Associations which collaborate with the Office of Cultural Affairs and the local educational institutions. Besides, the Attivamente Association operates in favour of children, organizing kids activities at the Public Library of Brugnera. Every year the municipality publishes information materials on the resources provided for citizens, families and associa-



**Bicycle racing promoted by the Association Team Orogildo**

tions: in particular an overview of the social measures taken for families and citizens and a public timetable of the cultural, leisure, sports initiatives held to increase social ties within the community. The initiatives were published in the free insert of the Municipality of Brugnera's bulletin and widely distributed, thus reaching the entire community. A big number of copies was delivered through municipal departments offices and associations.

Millstätter See Lake



# MUNICIPALITY OF SPITTAL AN DER DRAU

## Austria



The Municipality of Spittal an der Drau - Tourism and Culture Office of Spittal an der Drau. The Tourism and Culture Office is situated in the famous Renaissance Porcia castle located in the centre of the city of Spittal an der Drau. The staff has the main task to promote tourism and - with regard to the cultural sector - to organize cultural activities. Spittal is well known for its cultural opportunities not only in Carinthia, but also in Austria, and in particular for its international Competition for Choirs and its summer theatre “Komödienspiele” performances. The city is part of the regional tourism organization “MGT” and enjoys a great location, being very close to lake Millstatt, an important tourist centre of Carinthia. Besides tourism and cultural activities, the Office plays a fundamental role as Ticket Office selling every kind of event ticket and manages Spittal twinning exchanges with twin towns of Porcia, Pordenone and Löhe in Germany.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Simply “water”

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Water is an important local resource not only for life but also for the development of tourism in Spittal and the surroundings.

The entire territory enjoys the Millstätter See, the deepest lake of Carinthia providing drinking water which is also a tourist centre provided with beach properties.

In winter water is essential, in particular for properties like Ice rink or Goldeck mountain ski area (snow-making equipment). Spittal has also an extremely modern and new indoor swimming pool. Lastly, we should not forget the variety of lake and river activities supporting tourism.

The example of artificial snow-making on ski slope (falling down from the top to the bottom of the piste) on Goldeck mountain clearly shows the value of water as a resource.



**Water tank**

Without the element of water the snowfall system, much loved by winter's guests, would be impossible. That is to say that water guarantees – even in low-snow winters – snow-covered pistes. Fortunately Spittal is a water-rich region.



**Spittal Ice rink**



City of Novigrad

# MUNICIPALITY OF NOVIGRAD CITTANOVA

## Croatia



The Municipality of Novigrad – Cittanova is a local public authority. Novigrad is a small town situated in the north western part of Istrian peninsula on the coast of the Adriatic sea just 20 km from the Slovenian border. Main activities of the city administration: organization of settlements and housing, spatial and urban planning, municipal services and the economy, children and youth care, social welfare, primary health care, preschool and primary education, sport, protection and improvement of the environment, fire and civil protection, traffic, and other activities in accordance with special laws. The city administration is responsible for funding and management of public institutions like the museum, gallery, library, kindergarten. The municipality also co-finances and supports several NGO's. So far the city has been/is involved in several projects financed from EU funds like IPA Adriatic CBC, IPARD, Europe for Citizens Programme and plans to continue to participate in EU projects and to involve its citizens.



## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Proactive city administration; active NGOs, cultural and sport associations and citizens initiatives.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

City administration initiatives: development of the industrial zone in order to enable the economic growth and employment; development of public infrastructure (sewage system, roads, kindergarten, sport facilities etc.); spatial planning; development of urbanistic plans; interest rate subvention for the entrepreneurs; co-financement of the project documentation for the entrepreneurs; subventions for the citizens/households (green energy and energy efficiency projects); organization of workshops and lectures for the citizens and entrepreneurs (EU funds, energy efficiency, volunteering etc.). NGO's initiatives: ECO DAY, an event that takes place each year where citizens and volunteers clean the city, beaches, the sea etc.;



**Citizens initiative "Andemo tutti in piazza - Let's all go to the square". The purpose of this traffic polygon is to educate children in traffic safety**

lectures and workshops organized for citizens and young people by the NGO Novigrad – healthy city and for children, young people and all the citizens by the city library. EU initiatives: several EU project implemented within the Europe for citizens programme (VIT, Reaction, Welcome); several infrastructural projects implemented with EU funds (IPA Adriatic CBC – Adria.MOVE IT!-Support to sustainable mobility in coastal towns,

IPARD - Sewage system construction in the settlement Bužinija). The implementation of the REACTION project has been successful for our municipality because we expanded contacts with new partners. During the project we have exchanged best practices, like the experience of implementation of environmental/educational projects in schools (Spittal an der Drau - Eco detectives). Also this was a great opportunity to involve our citizens in three international events and to gain valuable experience of participation in such EU projects. We believe that the cooperation between these partners will continue and that we will with joint efforts implement other initiatives and projects.



**Children's creativity workshop "Primavera cittanovese - Novigrad spring"**

ORF\_ Home façade before and after renovation



# COMITÉ DE JUMELAGE LA RÉOLE France



Comité de Jumelage - La Réole is a non-profit association created in 2000 and committed to the promotion and realization of exchanges in the fields of economy, tourism, society and culture in the interests of the people involved, according to the European recommendations related to citizenship, integration and international peace.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

RER Association, Facades renovation policy



Aerial view of La Réole.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The local resources

In the frame of a municipal policy on mandatory facades renovation and with the help of local communities, this project has enhanced the employability of local entrepreneurs and allowed to develop their revenues during this difficult economic period.

Citizens as a resource

La Réole has also created the RER association, an enterprise network of Reoleians including 40 enterprises aimed at facilitating local economic development.

Thanks to the RER, the enterprises can benefit from a qualified and trusted source of information and establish working links among local companies. The facades restoration policy has prominently increased the revenue of entrepreneurs and, as a consequence, their financial results. It has also contributed to improve the look of town districts. With regard to RER, enterprises are able to mutually help each other and can develop faster thanks to the communication network created within the association. All the members frequently interact with each other and are constantly kept up to date about construction works and social development projects.

View from Rouergue bridge



Children with special needs receiving gifts from volunteers



# MARGHITA MUNICIPALITY

## Romania



The objective of the Public Administration is to achieve the values which express the interests of the state or of a certain community acknowledged by the state, values which are expressed in the acts drawn up by the legislative power. Marghita Municipality is a budgetary institution, represented by the Mayor of the municipality. The Mayor is the Head of the Local Public Administration, he is responsible in front of the Local Council for its working and he is the representative of the municipality in its relations with other public authorities, with physical or juridical persons, Romanians or foreign, as well as in the law court, in accordance with the provisions of the Law no. 215/2001 about the Local Public Administration, with the changes and the completions made by the Law no. 286/2006.

The priorities of the Local Administration are the improvement of people's life standard, of infrastructure, of services, the increase of job security, the creation of more facilities to spend free time and Marghita's integration in the regional, national and European structures.



## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Civil society

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Social problems inherited from the Communist era such as abandoned children, lack of care for people with special needs, have generated sentiments of solidarity from our towns citizens towards the helpless. Therefore several associations were born out of concern for these problems, with the aim of responding to the needs of the poor.

The problems of these categories are real and can not be delayed further more, thus the implication of these volunteers represents the real salvation.

These organizations employ several categories of volunteers (young, old, business men, institutions) to contribute all alike to the same purpose.



Two friends



Volunteers from high school spending some hours with Roma abandoned children





# LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF TOWN BERETTYÓÚJFALU

## Hungary



The Local Government of Town Berettyóújfalú deals with those public affairs of local interests that belong to its duty and authority, which can be mandatory or voluntary duties and authorities touching a very wide range of public matters. The leader of the municipality is the Mayor, he is responsible for the democratic municipal work and its wide range of publicity. The Mayor manages his municipal and state administration and authority with the help of the Mayor's office. The Mayor governs the office in accordance with the decisions of the assembly and on his own authority through the town-clerk. The municipality holds an annual public meeting announced in advance, where the electors can present suggestions, express opinions about the work of the municipality and the Mayor's office and question the representatives. The municipality also cooperates with many NGOs and non-profit organisations to solve local problems, to create strategies, and to develop the city through joint organised events, or through joint financed programs. It is very important for the municipality to support the local youth organizations dealing with cultural life or environment protection of the city, because their activity contributes to the enhancement of the local identity of young people.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

The community; non-profit organizations; cultural, traditional, environmental and sport events



**The renewed Main Square**

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The citizens of Berettyóújfalu are the most important resource that the community can count on. The municipality holds an annual public meeting announced in advance, where the electors can present suggestions, express opinions about the work of the municipality. Berettyóújfalu also cooperates with many NGOs and non-profit organisations to solve local problems, to create stra-

tegies, and to develop the city through joint organised events. The jointly organized cultural, traditional, environmental and sport events contribute to the wellbeing of the citizens strengthening the relationship between them and enhancing their local identity. Other cities and twin towns are also an important resource of the community, because any kind of good practices learned by other European cities can be useful and applicable also in Berettyóújfalu. The cooperation of the municipality with local economic operators or with potential investors is also determinative for the community.

The city has many NGOs, which can count on the municipality and vice versa. The municipality provides them place and subsidy to their operation, and the NGOs assist the municipality providing cultural, sport events all year round, which is important for the young people. With other European cities and with our twin towns we want to show our citizens that the freedom of movement and the mobility of the EU citizens offer a good possibility to explore neighborhood and the strength and weakness of our town. Moreover a good possibility to develop good contacts, thereby strengthening city's tourism and economy.

## Shops



Beaches as a tourist resource, Malvarrossa



# CITY COUNCIL OF BURRIANA

## Spain



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The Municipality of Burriana is the corporation formed by the Mayor or Mayor and Mayor in charge of the political administration of a municipality. The Mayor is the Head of the Council, who is in charge of local government. Councillors for their part, have regulatory power within the municipality. City Hall is the closest to the city administrative body. The City Council, meanwhile, is in charge of each of the areas of municipal government: culture, tourism, social services, economy and public finances, sport, police and public security, urban sanitation, agriculture and environment etc.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Cultural, natural and historic resources



**Arts Center of Viciana Rafael Marti de Viciana**

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The community of Burriana has public resources to effectively serve its citizens. The cultural resources directed to children, young and old people play a great role in shaping and instilling values that make them grow as people. This role is emphasized by the community.

A good example is the Arts Center of Viciana Rafael Marti de Viciana ([www.cmeviciana.es](http://www.cmeviciana.es)) combining education spirit with leisure time. In Burriana there is also a Specialized Center of Care for Elderly, the center of preventive care is designed to help older people maintain

independence and stay physically and mentally active, living in their family home and getting involved in the community. As a result, their entry into nursery home and hospitals is delayed. One of the City Council main tasks consists also in making the most of municipal resources to promote economic growth. Therefore, we try to give importance to both natural resources, such as beaches and natural landscapes and historic and monumental resources to enhance tourism in town as much as in the region. For more information please visit <http://turisme.burriana.es>.

Participating in this project has been very rewarding for us, as we have been able not only to share our actions with the other members of the project, but also to learn from other countries first-hand experiences, which can be easily exported to ours. Thanks to the good relationship established during the project, we will continue to share experiences with each other and this will result in a continuous improvement of our community.



**Specialized Center of Care for Elderly**





# ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPING VOLUNTARY WORK NOVO MESTO

## Slovenia



Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto (Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto) is a non-governmental and humanitarian organization, working in the public interest in the area of social care, youth and culture.

Its mission is to contribute to more inclusive and open society for all. Društvo Novo mesto's two leading programs therefore deal with the inclusion of socially excluded groups and with the stimulation of the NGOs development and civil dialogue. Its activities within the programs are performed by expert and voluntary work. The Association fosters the values of solidarity, tolerance, voluntarism, active living, clean environment, citizenship awareness, social entrepreneurship and inter-cultural dialogue. Promotion and development of voluntary work is the common feature of all of its programs and activities.



It promotes voluntary work and youth empowerment in the areas of social work, education, culture, art, sport, intergenerational cooperation, human rights, migrations, migrants, advocacy, gender issues, active citizenship, international NGOs cooperation, health, environmental issues, social entrepreneurship, NGOs consulting, development and support, etc.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Društvo Novo mesto (The Novo mesto Association)



Slika

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Novo mesto Association as the promoter of public interest and of cultural and social activities at the local community seeks to give effect to the public interest before narrow benefits. In order to do this, The Novo mesto Association is organizing round tables and discussions, issuing newsletters and publishing, engaging in public debates and cooperating with related CSOs.

As the examples of good practice there are some successful cases of preventing harmful

interventions and contributing to better regulation and tidiness (construction of new walkways). Through its 20 years organizing round tables and discussions, issuing newsletters and publishing, engaging in public debates and cooperating with related CSOs The Novo mesto Association has gained the trust of the population and has become an important stakeholder in the decision making process and in the promotion of a good local governance.



Before and after

Meeting of the Municipality with the town citizens



## TOWN OF MICHALOVCE

### Slovakia



The Town of Michalovce is the centre of the Zemplin region, the centre of the local state and Public Administration, as well as the centre of financial and commercial institutions. It is situated in the eastern part of Slovakia and its location provides ideal conditions for building communication links and roads between east and west direction with international importance (Route E50). Michalovce is situated on the most important thoroughfare leading to Ukraine (border distance is 30 km).

The distance to the borders with Hungary is 54 km, and the distances to the important Slovak centers are - 60 km from Košice, 500 km from Bratislava. Michalovce is a modern city and still working on improving life conditions for the citizens. Michalovce has 40 000 inhabitants. The municipality tries to emphasize the importance of its history but also new modern technologies and innovations which help people make their life better.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

The Town of Michalovce is celebrating its 770th Anniversary this year. This is a really important anniversary and also a great opportunity to engage people in discussions about history, culture heritage and current affairs closely connected with European Union, European citizenship and civic and democratic participation at Union level.



**Communication within culture, sport and social events**

Michalovce is twinned with 7 towns and always tries to participate to international projects and activities which raise awareness on the richness of the cultural and linguistic environment in Europe and on the development of the common European identity. The municipality exploits local potential especially in the field of tourism.

It organizes many different events in the context of historical anniversaries and special occasions. The Town of Michalovce regularly supports cultural events and typical Slovak traditions. But the most important thing is communication - communication with citizens is an essential element of the next direction of the Town Michalovce. The Mayor and his colleagues use many different ways of communication with citizens and always try to make progress.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Methods of communication: 1. Face to face communication - public meetings (Yearly meetings of the municipality with the town citizens and Citizens' questions answered on the spot or by a written reply) 2. Electronic communication (Questions - Answer Forms, E-mailing, Questionnaires and public research with the publicized outcome) 3. Communication through representatives of the target groups (Seniors' Council, Private sector Council, Religious Council, Roma Council, Sports Club Council, Youth Council, Municipal Youth Council, Operative meetings with special target groups based on particular needs) 4. Tourist Information Centre - First contact point - in-office communication.



**Communication within culture, sport and social events**



## AJUNTAMENT DE VILA-REAL

### Spain



The municipality (Town Hall) is the local institution that has the functions of government and is entrusted with the administration of the interests of the city's neighbours. Nowadays it has an elective character. The principal organs of the Town Hall are: the plenary session of the Town Hall, formed by the councilmen / councilwomen; the Mayor, who presides the Town Hall and is the maximum political representative; the Meeting of government, formed by the Mayor and the Vice Mayors.

In Vila-real the municipal corporation is formed by the Mayor, eight Vice Mayors, four councilmen / councilwomen in the government and twelve councilmen / councilwomen in the opposition. The government team is formed by four parties in coalition, and the opposition contains only one political party. The areas of the Municipal Government of Vila-real are: Economy, Linguistic, Traditions, Estate and Modernization of the Administration, Human Resources, Civil Security, Youth, Civil Participation and Neighbourhoods, Local Administration and Proximity, Institutional Relations, Woman, Social Services, Territory, Tourism, Culture, Solidarity, Integration and international Cooperation, Public Services, Sports and Health, Communication, Innovation, Sustainability, Festive local events, Education, Hermitage and Cemetery.



## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Social Services, Economy, Civil Participation and Neighbourhood

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

With regard to the local resources in Vila-real, we want to highlight three priority municipal areas:

1) The municipal area of Social Services, across the family departments, Elder People and Health, aimed to facilitate the access of the citizenship to the municipal resources and the systems of social protection, to foster the inter-family relationships and the processes of social inclusion, as well as to anticipate the situations of uprooting and call mayor and community's attention to medical issues concerning functional diversity. The prevention and treatment of addictive conducts is also a responsibility of the councillorship.

2) The municipal area of Economy including two basic fields for the growth and development of the city and its economic agents: first the support to trade and to all those initiatives that help improve the possibilities of employment, vocational training, vocational guidance and development of the city, achieved through the establishment of new companies, second the collection resources to set in motion projects and the cooperation with the local managers' associations.

The Agency of Local Development.

3) The municipal area of Civil Participation and Neighbourhood which is entrusted with the task of promoting the participation of the society in local matters and offers the channels to make this participation effective. The principal instrument of this area is the Meeting of Civil Participation, a consultative organ principally composed of representatives

of social, civic and cultural organizations. Participating to the project has been a good experience for us, as we took part to a global meeting with our European neighbours. We had the opportunity to get to know how other cities develop their local government in favour of the society.



**Classroom of assisted search of work  
(The municipal area of Economy)**

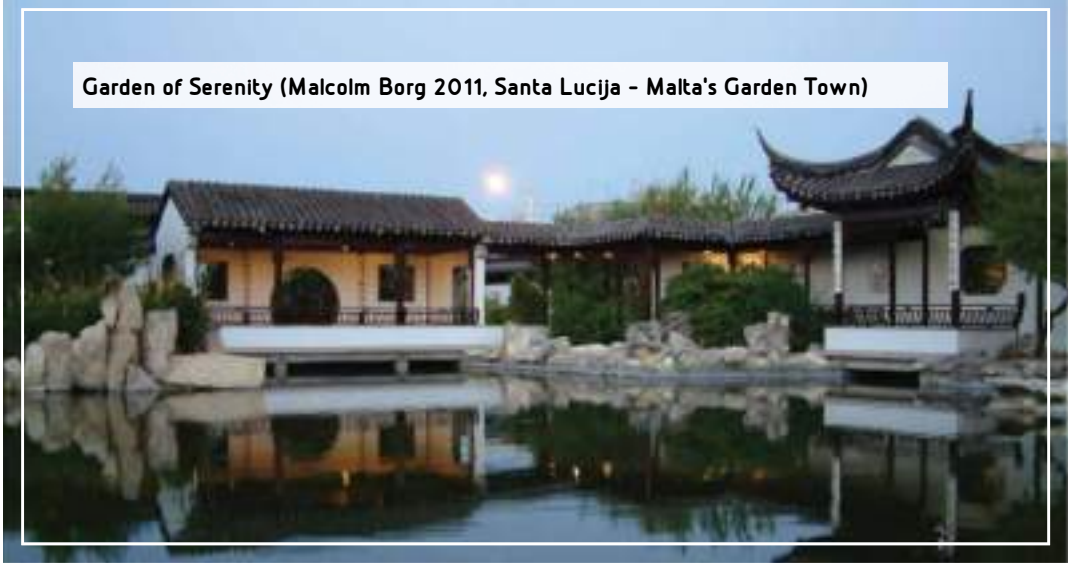
Thanks to this project we have met with our twin cities, which are Burriana and Michalovce. Finally, we feel the need to highlight that this kind of experience has a key role in demonstrating the importance of the citizens in the construction of a new global and advanced European Union.



**One session of Meeting of Civil Participation  
(The municipal area of Civil Participation and Neighborhoods)**



Garden of Serenity (Malcolm Borg 2011, Santa Lucija - Malta's Garden Town)



## SANTA LUCIJA LOCAL COUNCIL

### Malta



The Santa Lucija Local Council is a modern town designed in the 1950s as a 'Garden Town'. The Garden Town has been developing since the 1960s into neighbourhoods with an annular garden system. The latest developments of the system include a Trim Train, an olive garden, a sculpture garden and a Chinese Garden known as the Garden of Serenity. The town is relatively small with 2790 population but with one of the highest population densities in the Southern District. In modernist architecture the origins date back to the Temple Period (Hal Saffieni Hypogeum, Tarnien Temples). Other significant landmarks include a Roman cistern, punico-roman tombs and other medieval farming estates. The Santa Lucija area is divided between a highly urbanised system and a rural area dominated by the Garnaw Valley system. The Chapel of Santa Lucia dating back to 1532 is one of the earliest in the area. The Council was established in 1993 with jurisdiction over the whole delineated area. In the past 10 years Santa Lucija has developed a mission to spur a greener future through eco-friendly measures based on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources. The Council has in fact become signatory to the Covenant of Mayors and the UN Global Cities Compact Programme. An Action Plan with sustainable conservation and regeneration as main targets was compiled in 2013.



**Horticulture in Wied Garnaw (Malcolm Borg 2011, Santa Lucija – Malta's Garden Town)**

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

The basic resource to develop in Santa Lucija is its human capabilities. Its development should be based on higher education, skills development and adult education. With an ageing population the investment across the generations is vital. However the Council is also investing in Renewable Energy Sources i.e. an investment in solar energy which is a growing and significantly important asset in the Maltese Islands. The mission and policy is also directed at wind energy and currently alternative lighting systems are being installed. After signing the Covenant of Mayors the Local Council commissioned an audit and a Sustainable Energy Action Plan in 2010. The Council is currently promoting eco-friendly living and the rehabilitation and sustainable conservation of the Garnaw Valley. Another pillar of investment based on its human resources but also its historical and heritage assets is tourism. Tourism is growing in Santa Lucija especially based on its landmark monument “The Garden of Serenity”. The Council is currently investing further in its green spaces especially the olive garden, the sculpture garden and the Trim Trail to promote a healthier and greener town in the Southern Region of the Maltese Islands.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The strategic commitments of the Council are very similar to the planning commitments listed in the Local Plan that is the following targets:

1. encourage the dual or multi-purpose use and impact of existing educational facilities;
2. consolidate the provision of additional social and community facilities;
3. facilitate the ‘aging in place’ concept;
4. improve health facilities.

The success of such a plan lies in its citizens and their civic pride which needs to be supported and developed further. This is an essential part of education and awareness raising but fundamentally it could improve further through green skills development and applications on a neighbourhood level.



**Chapel of Santa Lucija 1532 (Malcolm Borg 2011, Santa Lucija – Malta's Garden Town)**



# UNION OF BULGARIAN BLACK SEA LOCAL AUTHORITIES



## Bulgaria

The Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA) is an independent non-governmental, voluntary, self-governing and non-profit organization established as a juridical person in 1992. At the moment, the UBBSLA brings together 21 municipalities bordering the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, located in three administrative regions – Burgas, Varna and Dobrich. UBBSLA is an organization promoting the interests of all member municipalities and encouraging strong and effective local self-government and active citizen participation in the Black Sea Region. UBBSLA coordinates the activities of its members in the sphere of local government, energy efficiency, tourism, culture, transport, environmental and sustainable development. The Association organizes the efforts of its member-municipalities in solving common problems in the Black Sea region. For more information please visit the UBBSLA website ([www.ubbsla.org](http://www.ubbsla.org)). In 2005, UBBSLA is certified to provide services under the ISO 9001:2000 standard for quality management. Since 2009, UBBSLA is a supporting structure of the European initiative “Covenant of Mayors” to achieve common goals in energy efficiency and environmental protection.

## NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Conferences and international events; cross-border and interregional cooperation; technical assistance; information campaigns; project management and implementation; innovative practices in the field of professional training and education.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

UBBSLA has a significant experience in the organization and implementation of conferences, discussion forums, campaigns and seminars of regional, national and international level. It conducts cross-border activities oriented to the establishment of open civil society, exchange of successful social development practices, encouraging the citizen participation in the process of economic, political, social and cultural dialogue.

UBBSLA provides trainings as direct response to the specific professional needs and problems of the municipal servants and enhan-

ces professional initiative and opportunities for professional development, supporting the national policy for life-long education.

In 2007, UBBSLA created the Black Sea Social Network, putting together NGOs actively working in the social sector of the region. Moreover, UBBSLA is the main initiator in the establishment of the Black Sea Energy Cluster, which incorporates business companies from the region and non-profit associations.

The last two large initiatives of UBBSLA – establishment of the Black Sea Energy Cluster ([www.bsecluster.org](http://www.bsecluster.org)) and the Black Sea Social Network, achieved great success and evolve over time.

The cluster, created with a clear vision to promote good business relationships in benefit of environment, climate and green economy is a good example of public - private partnership and cooperation.

### Black Sea Social Network - Study visit in Italy





Lake Ohrid - aerial view



# MUNICIPALITY OF STRUGA

## Republic of Macedonia



The Municipality of Struga is situated in the Struga Valley which lies in the extreme southwest of the Republic of Macedonia. It occupies an area of 103 000 hectares. The valley basin lies 695 meters above sea level. The water mass of Lake Ohrid, the area of which is 348 km<sup>2</sup>, occupies the southern part. The town of Struga is located on the north shore of Lake Ohrid, where Drim River flows from the lake through the heart of the city.

The municipality has 50 villages, some of them bigger than 5000 inhabitants as Labunista, Delogozda, Radolista and Veleshta. Struga is a multi-ethnic town. Tourism, trade and building construction are its core businesses activities. Lake Ohrid is among the largest European lakes, its depth is 289 m. It is characterized with unique eco-system, rich with endemic species of flora and fauna. Thanks to these characteristics, in 1980 the Lake Ohrid and region around it, including Municipality of Struga were announced to be World Culture Inheritance, protected by UNESCO. The Municipality of Struga has several interesting pioneer examples in area of PPP (Public-Private Partnership).

One of them is the establishment of the main pipeline to provide Struga with drinking water from mountain springs. All projects were financed by private partners who were using watering pipelines to produce electricity. The Municipality of Struga and neighbor municipality Debarca invited their citizens to opt for investing joint fund from municipal budgets together with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in the solid waste management field. At 5th session – in which more than 100 people participated - it was decided to run as priority project the Establishment of primary selection of waste in households. The Municipality of Struga (Macedonia) and the Municipality of Thessaloniki (Greece) have started a project within the IPA CBC programme about organic waste treatment and establishment of composting unit in both municipalities.

### NAME OF THE RESOURCE

Lake Ohrid cross border boat line.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Lake Ohrid is the oldest lake in Europe and one of the oldest lakes in the world. Formed tectonically between 4 and 10 million years ago, the lake is situated in karstic, or limestone bedrock. It is located in the southwest part of the Republic of Macedonia, on the border between Macedonia and the Republic of Albania. Approximately two-thirds of the lake surface area belong to Macedonia and one-third belongs to Albania. Lake Ohrid is probably unique in the world in that its water is supplied mainly through spring water from numerous surface and underwater springs. Through this ferry line Struga-Ohrid-Pogradec the expansion of cross-border cooperation between Macedonia and Albania not only will be possible but it also will facilitate the promotion of tourism during the summer season on both sides of Lake Ohrid shores. The size of the lake and the quality of the fish fauna give Lake Ohrid a significant impor-

tance as fishery in both the Macedonia and Albania. The quality and the economic value of the fish populations of Lake Ohrid are much higher than in other Balkan lakes.



Lake Ohrid



A perspective of Lake Ohrid

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reaction

