

# Smart Revitalization of Historic Settlements

## “Smart Revitalise”

Indicative Project Fiche  
Interreg Central Europe

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### General information

<b>Programme:</b>	INTERREG Central Europe
<b>Priority:</b>	4. Improving governance for cooperation in central Europe (Integrated territorial development strategies, e.g. addressing demographic change, public services of general interest (such as health, education, social services) and tourism and culture).
<b>Budget:</b>	from 80 000 to 200 000 EUR per partner, based on level of involvement and regional specifics, 2mil EUR total, 20% co-financing
<b>Project length</b>	36 months
<b>Submission deadline:</b>	17.5.2023
<b>Expected start:</b>	1st half of 2024

### Indicative Workpackages:

- WP1** Strategy and Action plan development
- WP2** Capacity building, networking and collaboration platforms
- WP3** Pilot actions

### Project idea:

The idea of this project is a follow up on an already implemented project "Strategy for the development of social and economic activities - the fortress city of Terezín" (RFC Interreg Europe), i.e. several actors of the original RFC Interreg Europe will participate in the project.

Cities and specific locations, which are largely made up of historical or outdated buildings and infrastructures that can no longer be used in a city-creating way without extensive modifications, find themselves in a difficult situation. Management and preservation of extensive historical heritage can be a major challenge for these places. The solution far exceeds the capacity, knowledge and financial possibilities of local and often even regional governments. These cities and locations, their historic buildings and public spaces under their management therefore inevitably deteriorate. Neglected public spaces and buildings discourage potential new residents, service providers and developers. Localities and entire cities thus gradually lose the ability to provide basic functions and are unable to offer their residents the desired standard of living.

A large number of such places (such as former fortifications, or entire neighbourhoods made up of deteriorating historical buildings) are found in Europe mainly due to the construction practices and limitations of their reconstruction. Historic city centres, heritage-protected districts, castles and fortresses are one of the most valuable parts of European culture, bearers of memory and, in some cases, national identity, and are major tourist attractions. Such places often have national, often even global significance. There is strong genius loci.

Instead of searching for conceptual solutions, the locations are only able to deal with minor repairs, most often sidewalks, navigation signs etc. On the contrary, expectations of all stakeholders grow rapidly.

**The following setbacks typically occur in local government and planning:**

1. Local governments lack oversight, are not capable of a comprehensive approach in the development of the settlement and cannot ensure the revitalization of complex historical structures.
2. There is little or no involvement of experts who have the ability to help cities and localities, despite the fact that the places described are often of national importance and of incalculable historical value.
3. Absence of comprehensive long-term strategic planning.
4. Key development documents (e.g. strategic plan, regulatory plan) are not drafted, nor implemented.
5. Existing documents do not offer feasible solutions.
6. Conceptual documents offering feasible solutions fail to be implemented and local governments are unable to fulfil the visions described in them.

**The project will focus primarily on the holistic approach to revitalization of historic settlements (precisely in the “problem description”) within the following development issues:**

- I. Social level of development
- II. Urban planning and architecture (includes historic preservation)
- III. City management and governance (includes planning and multi-owner property management)
- IV. Nature and landscape
- V. Culture (includes tourism)
- VI. Transport
- VII. Technological level of development (includes smart city and environmental science)

**The main outputs will be:**

- Strategic and Action/Investment plans both on project and individual cities level, enriched by shared experience and lessons learnt from other European cities
- Series of tailored workshops related to the selected topics both on regional and international level including capacity building and best practice research
- Joint cooperating network of experts, policy representatives and other stakeholders devoted to the topic of revitalization of historical sites and cities
- Unique cooperation online platform supporting the network enabling communication, knowledge sharing, match-making and search for financing opportunities. The platform will be unique because it will focus on professional knowledge in fundamental disciplines for the revitalization of historic settlements.
- Pilot action – each region will specify its pilot action to test outputs in practice, e.g. small revitalization projects, (pre-)feasibility, architecture competitions, analytical/mapping digital tools etc.

**The project application draft has already been developed. However a final project application will be developed and finalised within the following months. We will use a co-creation approach and welcome all ideas and suggestions of our partners to shape the final application. In case of interest, please leave us a message.**