

## VITO NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER: 2/2011

### DEAR READERS!

Now it is the half time of the ViTo project and we can look back to a fruitful transnational cooperation concerning the integrated urban development of the participating historic towns.

At the beginning we have discussed and compared the national policies and planning systems in South East Europe. Based on the findings we have jointly revealed and analysed conditions, opportunities and needs for revitalisation to support the integrated urban planning processes in our towns.

Now it is the time to implement our transnational elaborated methods and instruments on the local level to demonstrate visible results for our citizens of our work that we have developed thus far.

Although our towns and regions are still facing challenges either by the financial crisis or by the social and demographic change in our regions, we will carry on to work jointly on practicable methods and instruments of an integrated urban development for the common future of our towns and regions in a colourful South East Europe.

Enjoy your reading.

Jens Freudenberg, ViTo project manager

### ENJOY YOUR READING!

#### Focus Graz

Vito project partners are in expectation of the next joint meeting which will be held in the city of Graz on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> May.

The main topics of the meeting will be:

- management of an integrated urban development,
- transnational development of urban governance approaches.

We will see many examples of good practice in Graz also because the city of Graz was European Capital of Culture in 2003. They will present us with both positive and negative aspects of urban development in the period before and after the European Capital of Culture.

See you in Graz at 4<sup>th</sup> Transnational Partnership Meeting VITO.



*The City of Graz*

### PARTNERS

#### SLOVENIA

City municipality Ptuj

University of Primorska, Science and research centre

#### AUSTRIA

Municipality of Graz, Department of Urban Planning

#### SLOVAKIA

Banska Stiavnica Municipality

#### ROMANIA

Arad Municipality/Arad Local Council

Municipality of Oradea

#### GREECE

Chamber of commerce & industry of Xanthi

#### ITALY

Municipality of Teramo

SVIM – Sviluppo Marche S.p.A.

#### HUNGARY

Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Békéscsaba

#### REPUBLIC of MOLDOVA

Plai Resurse

## Transnational activities supported by the SEE ViTo Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

### The objectives the ViTo project in terms of transnational cooperation and exchange of knowledge in urban development:

In the framework of the ViTO project, an intensive *transnational cooperation* was planned to share and channel existing knowledge and best practices from earlier projects, to develop and exchange new ideas on integrated planning and implementation of revitalization, to adopt new ideas (tools, methods, approaches) locally, supporting urban development in partner towns, and contribute to a more dynamic and balanced spatial development throughout South East Europe.

### Preparing and planning revitalization in the ViTo area: transnational activities in 2010

To aim at project objectives, ViTo transnational activities were organised *at local and transnational scales* in 2010, in the framework of work packages WP2, WP3, and WP4. The Scientific Advisory Board (ViTO SAB) – including the CRS HAS, the University of Primorska, and the Technical University of Kaiserslautern – was responsible for the transnational flow and management of knowledge. Local actions were supported directly (bilateral consultations) and indirectly (spreading earlier experiences and project results) by the SAB. Transnational activities took place also in the framework of ViTo project conferences, of thematic working group discussions, and of other multilateral meetings involving PPS and other agents in SEE prepared, moderated and evaluated by the SAB. Moreover, the ViTo virtual network was used extensively for supporting the transnational exchange of ideas on integrated urban development.

(i) In the reparation and analytical phase, *local project teams were set up* and their organisational context was defined locally in partner cities. This process was *supported by transnational exchange* of planning experiences and ideas, discussing the partner cities approach, ideas and problems. To have a comprehensive view of the conditions of revitalization in ViTo partner towns, and support the exchange of ideas, national regional and urban policies and planning systems were analysed by the ViTo SAB. Moreover, local conditions, opportunities and needs for revitalisation were also identified, for which, SWOT analysis as a planning tool was introduced by the SAB and applied in ViTo towns. Results were reviewed, summarised and published as a transnational output on the ViTo website (<http://www.see-vito.eu/>). Regional embeddedness of local actions is also put in the focus of the SEE ViTo. Spatially integrated approach toward revitalization was supported by the SAB through discussing the needs, opportunities and obstacles for territorial cooperation at local face-to-face meetings, at a transnational workshop and also in the framework of transnational working group discussions.

(ii) Planning revitalization as an integrated process (WP4) was put in the focus of local and transnational activities during 2010. The planning process occurred locally; the SAB supported this process through local (bilateral) consultations, as well as by supporting the definition of integrated development concepts in the context of historical small and medium size town, and through stimulating transnational exchange of ideas and local experiences at working group discussions.

## Planned activities for the next three months

- A review of methods applied in the ViTo area will be completed, to support historical towns in SEE to adapt to changing social, economic, cultural needs of urban societies and also of non-local users of urban space.
- A draft for a transnational study on methods for capitalizing on tourism opportunities in historical towns in SEE context shall be prepared and discussed at the Graz project meeting.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> project meeting will be held in Graz, that is to be devoted to reviewing planning activities; to discussing management problems (funding and social involvement); moreover, to the development of new governmental approaches addressing sustainability.

Erika Nagy, ViTo SAB

(Centre for Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Békéscsaba)



*Project group at 3<sup>rd</sup> transnational meeting in Chisinau*



## *Project Status: Arad Municipality*

### **Together for the Cultural Arad in ViTo project**

The Pedestrian Zone Concept was developed for the future pedestrian street. In Arad Municipality this concept is important for the city of Arad for the following reasons: it connects the Water Tower to the historical squares and the Fortress of Arad, it can be used for leisure activities by the citizens, encouraging the inhabitants to spend more time outside. The walking routes measure up to 1.7 km, and spread across the city.

The pedestrian street would play an important role in the city life. It is a functional key, from both a historical and cultural point of view. The street is a connection of two historical squares. The design is based in the current issues of this street: easy access, lack of green area, lack of urban elements. The technical design offers solutions for pavement, three types of lighting systems, urban furniture, information panels, bike rack, tree boxes, waste bins. It can also serve as a good place for terraces, street decorations. The concept for the new pedestrian area was publically presented during a local seminar, on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

The facade survey for 35 buildings in the historical centre of Arad was finished. All gathered information: documents, designs, photographs of the facades, historical documentation and architectural details are all vitally necessary for the future rehabilitation.



*City of Arad*

### Transnational activities

Our third partner, the Bekescsaba Centre of Regional Studies organized a workshop in Bekescsaba in September 2010. Our team participated with five of its members. The topic was local and regional planning documents in each partner city. They also focused on a SWOT analysis. We found that revitalization management of our cities is very similar. The second meeting took place in Arad, Romania on December 2010. It was organized in Arad Municipality on the topic of Integrated planning and implementation of revitalization. Key issues discussed: socially integrated planning process, lessons, socially integrated implementation process: method used – results achieved; problems and barriers; regional context of revitalization – problems and possibilities perceived in the implementation process; questions on the financing revitalization; management problems; social and economic sustainability of the revitalized area. We also focused on finding suggestions for issues that should be discussed at the next ViTo meeting in Graz, Austria.



*Present situation in pedestrian zone*



*Planned situation*

### Projects results dissemination

The local seminar that took place on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 presented the results of the ViTo project. These included public surveys results, pedestrian axis, pedestrian street design conducted by engineering/architecture firm. Number of participants: 45 (local residents, owners, companies, architectures and designs companies, urban experts and the staff of the projects). On 13<sup>th</sup> January the ViTo project results were presented in the Board of the city. 23 participants were present (local business companies, universities, cultural and educational institutions). A lot of suggestions concerned parking spots around the city in connection to the pedestrian area. One of the key issues we will have to deal with in the future is the lack of legislation on the rehabilitation of historical buildings that are privately owned. The issues we focused in the ViTo project and their results were also mentioned in a talk show on a local TV station.

The next step of Arad ViTo project:

1. Arad Cultural Tourism strategy
2. Integrated revitalisation in the protected historical city centre
3. Cultural built heritage curricula for the local schools and colleges

**We find that collaborating with our partners is a very useful experience, and we hope the collaboration will last.**

Nora Grosan  
Arad Municipality