

ENHANCING
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES
FOR SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE
NATURAL HERITAGE OF
CENTRAL EUROPEAN
SPA TOWNS AND REGIONS
AS THE DRIVER FOR LOCAL AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



WHAT WE DO

HealingPlaces intends to support the sustainable development of SPAs while protecting the unique natural resources constituting their basis. Partners cooperate to extend the knowledge and awareness regarding the influence of various factors on mineral and thermal water resources and building multi-level and multi-territorial governance models to enhance the management of valuable natural SPA resources.



7
COUNTRIES

10
PROJECT
PARTNERS

10
REGIONS

2.1
MILLION EURO
PROJECT BUDGET

1.7
MILLION EURO
ERDF

TAKING
COOPERATION
FORWARD

WHO WE ARE

Partners from seven Central European countries join their forces to improve the integrated environmental management capacities for the protection and sustainable use of natural heritage and resources.

Austria

- Business Upper Austria - OÖ Wirtschaftsagentur GmbH

Croatia

- City of Križevci

Czech Republic

- Mendel University in Brno

Hungary

- BORA 94 Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Development Agency Nonprofit LLC
- Hajdú-Bihar County Government

Italy

- LAMORO Development Agency
- Polo Tecnologico di Pordenone SCPA



Poland

- Central Mining Institute
- Dolnoslaskie Region - Institute for Territorial Development

Slovenia

- Development Centre Novo Mesto, Counseling and Development Ltd.

Through cooperation of partners representing different levels and sectors, widely applicable methodologies, lessons learnt from several pilot actions will strengthen environmental considerations during spa-related interventions and support efficient reduction of conflicts between economic, social and environmental aspects.

Who funds us

Our project is funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme that encourages cooperation on shared challenges in central Europe.

With 246 million Euro of funding from the European Regional Development Fund, the programme supports institutions to work together beyond borders to improve cities and regions in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT HEALINGPLACES

www.interreg-central.eu/healingplaces

Contact Us

HealingPlaces

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SHIFTING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE SPAS

Innovative approaches reflecting multi-stakeholder and cross-boundary interactions to link nature conservation, environmental management and health benefits

www.interrreg-central.eu/healingplaces

FACTS AND FIGURES



10

Project partners



17

Outputs planned until March 2022



04.2019 - 03.2022

Project duration



Outputs

The well-structured process to achieve project goals is based upon the development of common tools for an integrated assessment of existing as well as future threats and pressures on mineral and thermal water resources in SPAs across Central Europe.

Proceeding step-by-step, pilot actions will support the practical implementation of sustainable thermal water use in SPA, understood primarily as ensuring effective and rational use of identified resources and protection of ecosystems while realizing social and economic functions.

The pilot action experiences are planned to affect the jointly formulated strategy for sustainable SPA management.

As a final joint action, partners establish a shared Integrated Strategy for sustainable management of SPAs natural resources, building on tools application and pilot actions results, which bring practical elements for Integrated Strategy development.



STRATEGIES AND HANDBOOK

Integrated Strategy for sustainable management of SPAs natural resources

One common Integrated Strategy will be compiled focusing on how to improve sustainable management capacities of Central European SPAs, including innovative and responsive decision making processes built upon partnerships between local and regional authorities, thermal business sector, environment and health management organisations.

Additionally, transnational Handbook on best practices in environmental and socio-economic pressures mitigation and conflict solving will be developed.

03.2022



TRAINING

Transregional and cross-sectoral capacity building by trainings

Specific partners' expertise will be shared during training activities with the aim of improving understandings and technical skills with regards to HealingPlaces tools.

This output is intended to act as key-factor for solid and collective contributions from all partners.

This approach will result in much stronger capacity building within the partnership and beyond through multiplying activities along the stakeholder groups.

11.2020



TOOLS

GIS Internet based tool and tool for integrated assessment

GIS Internet based tool with spatial database on mineral and thermal water resources in partner countries will be constructed and disseminated. It will include also the data acquisition tool on mineral and thermal water resources.

The tool for an automatic impact assessment and assessment of environmental capacity in scenarios of further development of SPAs will be designed and tested as a support for sustainable management of mineral and thermal water resources.

01.2022



PILOT ACTIONS

8 pilot actions supported by an Expert Panel

Different themes are concerned by pilot actions:

- environmental assessment of thermal water sources
- development of tools supporting environmental impact analysis and implementation of product environmental footprint method in SME
- preparation of plans contributing to regional water ecosystems protection and management policies
- creation of a partnership and dialogue platform for the sustainable use of water in the SPA through social participation and task force work
- strengthening the awareness of SPA users (patients and tourists) in the field of environmental protection and sustainable use of SPA resources

01.2022