

NEWSLETTER

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PROSPERA Interreg Europe

Editorial

PROSPERA to prosper

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fourth edition of the PROSPERA newsletter! PROSPERA is the acronym of 'PROmoting Sustainable development and regional attractiveness through PERi-urban Areas'.

The COVID-19 has been still affecting the project implementation, but we got used to this new situation and we have organised two other study visits; one to Reggio Emilia and the other one to Debrecen. These non-travelling meetings could be hold totally virtually or a hybrid way, when the local stakeholders could meet and deliver the information online to the foreign partners. In this newsletter you can read about the outputs of these meetings.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

PROSPERA project is funded by the Interreg Europe programme of the European Union to promote attractiveness and sustainable development in peri-urban areas.

Activities implemented during Semester 4

Study visit to Reggio Emilia (3rd and 9th of March)

The second study visit was organised in March 2021 in Reggio Emilia, Italy.



"In particular, Reggio Emilia's good practices demonstrate how peri-urban areas are real strategic areas, in which to develop experiments and innovations for the territory on two different sides: On the one hand, the enhancement of natural heritage, such as parks, green areas, spaces between residential and rural areas, greenways, and the productive fabric, therefore the 0 km farms linked to local supply chains which can be strategic assets for the development of the surrounding areas and of the entire "green" belt of the city. On the other hand, the possibility of experimenting with new partnerships between the Municipality and private actors in the area, therefore companies, civil society, research centers, to set the design of innovative practices as a common goal such as the Edible Park project, which I will talk about shortly, or the urban forestry action that is carried out by the Municipality together with local businesses." /Carlotta Bonvicini, Councillor for sustainability policies of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia with responsibility for sustainable mobility, environment and agriculture/

Urban strategies for planning and regeneration

"The urban planning and regeneration strategy is the territory management strategy within which many different good practices are inserted." /Carlotta Bonvicini/

Urban Forests and biodiversity action

"There is the Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Strategy which aims to plant more than 50,000 trees by 2024 involving citizens, businesses, third sector actors. This is precisely to encourage the fight against climate change, atmospheric pollution and protect the biodiversity of our territory." /Carlotta Bonvicini/



Reflection

"This good practice about urban afforestation in the City of Reggio Emilia is also very interesting because besides improving air quality, the primary objective is to help the city adapt to climate change. It proves that the Italian afforestation sites were based on a study by the University of Venice that maps the urban heat islands." /Katalin Nagy, Environmental Protection Officer of the Municipality of Debrecen/

Greenways in Reggio Emilia

"For a long time, our city has been working on the concept of Greenways, which are green paths that embrace the consolidated city and are proposed as real connections among hamlets and peri-urban areas through the use of rural paths, rivers, streams, our city is characterized by 3 main streams that embrace the urbanized area, so these paths also run alongside these waterways, the carriage roads of the farms and other existing paths and tracks are used." /Carlotta Bonvicini/

Edible Park

"Edible Park offers the experience of a multifunctional agricultural production model, promoted by the private sector together with the public and allows to provide local neighbourhood consumers with quality agricultural products, promoting awareness and education activities, practices of social inclusion and animation of those

who live in this neighbourhood that surrounds this park which is cultivated in synergy with the residents.”
/Carlotta Bonvicini/



Reflection

“The most inspiring points of our last experience have been the vast amount of public engagement which has been used in Italy in the project where the public has both been engaged in planting trees, vegetables, even selling the vegetables, and one has also used public paths on private land as hiking paths. The usage of public in the vast amount is maybe not something we have done so much before and so, I think it has been very inspiring for us to see that maybe we think how we plan projects in the future by involving the public a little bit more. I think it is trusting to use the public because you both get experiences and form the public, you get new points and at the same time you can get also engaged in the project and a bit more effort and this is a very good way to work. It is also cost-efficient because you save the resources and can use instead of public workforce or even public land as they have done.” /Tanja Barrett, Community Ecologist/Nature Conservationist withing City Planning Department of Municipality of Varberg/

Study visit to Debrecen (22nd and 28th June)

The third study visit was organised by EDC Debrecen, Hungary in a hybrid way, when the local stakeholders physically met, and they shared their good practices online to the foreign partners. Debrecen is the second largest city in Hungary by population (202,214 people) and it is the economic, cultural and knowledge centre of the Eastern part of Hungary with a fast-growing economy. The area of the city is 461.7 km² of which 169 km² are woodlands, 194 km² are agricultural lands and 100 km² are urban lands.



Green wall establishment (Parkertech Ltd.)

The company's establishing green walls is a good way to increase green spaces in the inner urban areas and it provides healthier living conditions for the citizens. The Municipality of Debrecen used this technology to increase green spaces in the new open-air bath.



Reflection

“In the City of Ghent, we are familiar with the green walls, we know what their value is in the City, we know how to applicate them, but we do it in a different way until now. We don't start with pre-cultivated plants as you do with the Parkertech green walls. And that was the most interesting thing about it, the fact that the plants in the green walls are locally grown in a greenhouse in the environment of City of Debrecen. We also wondered if we could applicate those green walls on street furniture such as bus shelters or bicycle sheds.” /Ann Coussement, Landscape Architect, Urbanism Department of the City of Ghent/



[Hortobágy National Park](#)

The Hortobágy National Park is an exceptional surviving example of a cultural landscape constituted by a pastoral society and maintains intact and visible traces of its traditional land-use forms over several thousand years and illustrates the harmonious interaction between people and nature. This outstanding universal value was acknowledged by UNESCO in 1999 with inscription of the site in the World Heritage List. Hortobágy has several cultural and natural values; managing/maintaining these values and touristic attractions will contribute to natural heritage protection and to promote regional attractiveness.



Reflection

"We don't know if it's very applicable, but we were very impressed by this good practice and we were enchanted by the vastness and the quality of this National Park, the cultural heritage, the natural heritage. We don't have those things anymore in Belgium. So, it's really something to cherish and we wanted to say this to you, who still have these qualities, please stay cherishing them continue searching instruments to make the park survive in a sustainable way, because you do have so many qualities in your country and around Debrecen."/> /Ann Coussement, Landscape Architect, Urbanism Department of the City of Ghent/



Reflection

"I thought the introduction from Hortobágy was interesting mostly the different activities they do for young people when it comes to local traditions. We are trying to work with young people to engage them because if they do not have the interest, it is very difficult to preserve this kind of sites for the future."/> /Cornelia Magnusson, Business Developer, World Heritage Grimeton/



[Zsuzsi narrow-gauge railway](#)

Zsuzsi narrow gauge railway is a good practice for transforming an existing brown infrastructure to another type of using, in this case for (eco-)tourism. Now it is used for awareness-raising purposes among the visitors (primarily for young pupils) in order to draw their attention to the natural values of Debrecen's woodlands.



[Remote sensing \(Envirosense Ltd.\)](#)

Based on remote sensing technology developed by Envirosense Hungary Ltd., the GIS system supports fact and data-based policy decision making to get an accurate picture of the state of green areas, urban spatial structure, building density, road networks etc. of a city.

Stakeholder meetings



Reggio Emilia, online, 12/02/2021

The main goal of the meeting was to sum up and deepen the good practices presented by the City of Ghent in the framework of the study visit. Particular attention was dedicated to highlighting the links between Ghent and Reggio Emilia, in terms of both local challenges and strategic priorities for the sustainable development of the territory.



Debrecen, personal, 22/06/2021

One of the goals of the next LSG meeting organised by EDC Debrecen was to present their good practices showed during the study visit to Debrecen. On the other hand, they could provide an overview of the current situation of the project in a personal environment again.

Intra-organisational meetings



Reggio Emilia, online, 30/04/2021

The workshop represented an important moment of discussion on the Municipality's priorities in the different policy areas and, consequently, an occasion to share the cross-sectorial opportunities provided by PROSPERA project.

Forthcoming activities



Study Visit IV. in Varberg (SE)



Stakeholder meetings



Next study visit to Varberg

Next semester the following study visit is planned to take place in Varberg in September-October. Varberg's good practices will cover the followings:



[Hop on Hop off Åkturen](#)

Åkturen is a public hop on hop of bus to rural tourism hot spots. It's a new way of using public transport for promoting rural business to develop without increasing car traffic and emission. You can reach several of Varberg's nature reserves and an outdoor area with 12 hiking trails and 10 tourism destinations on the tour.





EMC – Energy and Environmental Centre

EMC is a Public and Private partnership to support environmental sustainability of the local business community: 1.) Support as „in-house consultants” for companies. 2.) Organizing events and training around sustainability, environment and climate. 3.) Managing development projects that promotes the members work with climate, environment and sustainability. 4.) A platform for sustainable business development.



Peri urban meadows

"Peri urban meadows" is a joint nature conservation project to inventory natural values in meadow environments close to urban areas, to identify what need to be done to maintain or develop these values, and how to restore meadow environments that previously showed higher natural values.



Lassabacka landfill

The practice is an example of how to design a development plan of the previous landfill area. The process has involved a multitude of stakeholders that could support the identification of values and potential that builds upon a perspective aligned with their organisation core activities.

How can you get involved?

- Participate in our local stakeholder groups
- Participate at study visits
- Let us know about your own project or event related to PROSPERA
- Reach out to us by email or on our social media

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