



NEW POST-SOCIALIST CITY:  
COMPETITIVE AND ATTRACTIVE

# ReNewTown

## Newsletter



**CENTRAL  
EUROPE**  
COOPERATING FOR SUCCESS.



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Dear Reader, we are very pleased to present the second issue of the ReNewTown project Newsletter. The issue presents key facts about the project and its current implementation. ReNewTown is also a platform for discussion on urban regeneration problems beyond the project's own case studies research. It focuses on the most interesting urban regeneration examples in countries involved in the work of ReNewTown (Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany). Therefore this issue also presents a new project, the aim of which is regeneration of large housing estates in Warsaw.

## The second issue contains the following articles:

### RENEWTOWN SLOGAN "ReNewTown - Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future"

The project partners conducted a brainstorming on-line session and chose the best slogan to show the actual contents and aims of the project. You may also read about ReNewTown theoretical concept, which consists of existing problems, the project vision and outlined solutions to be delivered by project.

### RENEWTOWN FOLLOWS OTHER INITIATIVES

People in every country of East and Central Europe develop interesting initiatives dealing with regeneration of socialist dwellings and buildings. This issue of our newsletter is to present the RE-BLOK project conducted in one of the districts of Warsaw, this year in June.

### RENEWTOWN - CONSORTIUM FIRST MEETING

All 8 project partners from 5 countries met in May in Warsaw. Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization of the Polish Academy of Sciences has organized a study visit to residential areas of Warsaw in order to show the good practices of large housing estates' regeneration. Furthermore, the program covered presentations of urban regeneration experts from Poland.

### RENEWTOWN - PROJECT IN BRIEF

Time plan, partnership, budget, contact.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Short information on the upcoming conferences and seminars dealing with urban regeneration problems.



# ReNewTown - Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future

## The Problem

Over 300 million people in the CEE live in areas impacted by the socialist era one way or another. Close to 2/3 of them live in cities and towns with districts constructed and developed in the socialist period.

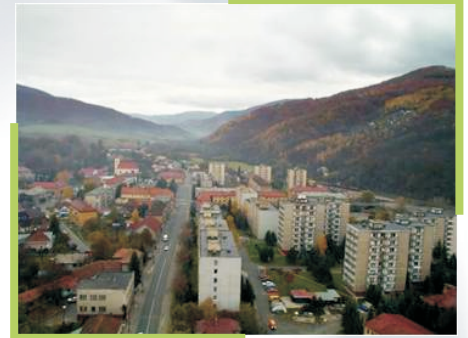
The urban areas with socialist burden face many social and physical problems deriving from low housing standards, unattractive appearance, excessive space usage and the lack of local cultural and social events. The problems of city districts with socialist burden are affecting not only inhabitants of socialist depraved buildings, but also the overall city image and its economy performance.

## The Vision

The urban areas with socialist burden can become attractive places to live and work in. Our vision is a new face of the post-socialist city: competitive and attractive.

## The Solution

RenewTown aims to find the best ways to improve the quality of life in urban areas with socialist burden. It will provide practical knowledge on how to overcome the problems of these areas and take advantage of their specificity. It will show which revitalization programs are most effective and how the local community can participate in them.



Hnúšťa, Slovakia



Nowa Huta in Cracow, Poland



Velenje, Slovenia

## New initiative aiming at the revitalization of socialist large housing estates in Warsaw

The lack of national revitalization programs or policies in Poland aiming at the improvement of live quality of urban areas with socialist burden, leaves the problem to the communes (local governments) and non-governmental organizations. One of the most interesting, recently introduced projects aiming at the regeneration of socialist large housing estates is the RE-BLOK project.



Vizualization of roof gardens, Ryszard Piwowar

RE-BLOK project aims to encourage discussion and action on the cultural, social and, last but not least, physical aspects of the revitalization of the socialist era housing estates in Warsaw's district of Targówek. Targówek is one of 18 districts of Warsaw with a population of 123 thousand inhabitants. According to the CSO of Poland, 85% of Targówek's housing stock has been constructed in the period of 1945-1988.

More information on:

<http://re-blok.pl/home/english-summary>

Within the framework of the project, conferences, workshops and happenings are planned to be organized by artists, urban planners and cultural animators. This approach will provide the creative means of involving Targówek's diverse residents in the process of adapting and transforming the community's fabric. The conference opening the project was organized on June 17-18. During the conference one of the most interesting workshop was the: 'Afternoon on the roof' which aimed to show possibilities to develop housing or recreational function on the roof of typical socialist housing blocks.



'Afternoon on the roof' workshop



## The ReNewTown project has been successfully launched

The initial meeting, inaugurating the ReNewTown project ('kick-off meeting') took place in Warsaw between the 24th and 26th of May 2011.

The program of the meeting covered:

- Setting up the organizational structure within the project and improvements of the project research concept;
- Project Partners' presentations;
- Presentations of ReNewTown pilot investments;
- Presentations of experts on regeneration of post-socialist urban areas;
- Study Visit: good practices of urban regeneration in Warsaw, examples of new investments in Warsaw residential area from 70's and 80's (Kabaty and Natolin);
- Sightseeing tour: historical Warsaw and post socialist heritage.



ReNewTown technical meeting



ReNewTown partnership



Backyard garden, Ursynów district



Meeting in Ursynów District Office

## Project summary

RenewTown project “New post-socialist city: Competitive and Attractive” is funded under Central Europe Programme and runs from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2014.

ReNewTown partnership consists of eight public institutions from Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. It will result in four pilot actions implemented in Nowa Huta in Krakow, Jizni Mesto in Prague, Velenje and Hnusta. The lead partner is Polish Academy of Sciences, Stanisław Leszczycki Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization

Total budget: EUR 1.514.061,60

ERDF co-financing: EUR 1.271.020,36

## Contact

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## Upcoming events

11th International Conference on Urban History: 'Cities & Societies in Comparative Perspective'  
Prague, from 29 August until 1 September 2012.  
<http://www.eauh2012.com/>

7th Population Conference Men - City - Nature: 'New Processes and structures'  
Toruń, from 17 until 18 of October 2011,  
<https://conferences.umk.pl/index.php/MCN/8MCN/index>

Warsaw Regional Forum 2011: 'Functional regions-towards a new paradigm of territorial and cohesion policy'  
Warsaw, from 19 until 22 of October 2011  
[http://www.igipz.pan.pl/wydarzenia/warsaw\\_forum\\_2011.htm](http://www.igipz.pan.pl/wydarzenia/warsaw_forum_2011.htm)

ULAR 6, Urban Landscape Renewal: 'City - friendly place for people'  
Gliwice, from 1 until 2 of December 2011  
<http://www.ular-ar.pl/>