



NEW POST-SOCIALIST CITY:
COMPETITIVE AND ATTRACTIVE

ReNewTown

Newsletter



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Dear reader, we are very pleased to release the eighth issue of the ReNewTown project newsletter. The current issue introduces key facts about the project and its current implementation. ReNewTown constitutes a platform for discussion on urban regeneration problems reaching beyond the project's own case study research. It focuses on the most interesting urban regeneration examples in the countries involved in the project: Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Germany.

This issue contains the following articles:

MUSEUM OF SOCIALIST CURIOSITIES IN HNUSTA

We present the recently completed ReNewTown pilot investment aimed to establish a permanent exhibition of the people's everyday life during the socialist era in Hnusta and in the surrounding region. The Museum of socialist curiosities in Hnusta is an initiative of the Agency for Development of Gemer Region and one of four pilot actions realized within the ReNewTown project.

RENEWTOWN TECHNICAL MEETING IN LJUBLJANA

The technical meeting in Ljubljana focused on the evaluation of the investments implemented under the ReNewTown project. It was also an opportunity to observe the selected examples of good practice in urban revitalisation in Ljubljana and Nova Gorica as well as meet with Slovenian experts.

INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL ORGANISATION AT THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

We profile INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL ORGANISATION at PAS, the leading partner of the ReNewTown project and one of the most important centres for research in the field of socio-economic geography, physical geography and spatial development in Poland.

THE RENEWTOWN DATABASES AND PROJECT IN BRIEF

We present three ReNewTown databases: on good practices, initiatives and experts in the field of regeneration of urban areas built during the socialist period. The basic idea of the ReNewTown project is to take advantage of the experience and knowledge of related current and past initiatives from the last 20 years and, based on this, to develop knowledge and tools to support the revitalization of post-socialist urban areas in the cities of Central Europe.



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MUSEUM OF SOCIALIST CURIOSITIES IN HNUSTA

The main aim of the pilot action project is to establish a permanent exhibition of the people's everyday life during the socialist era in Hnusta and in the surrounding region. The selection of the Hnusta city for the purposes of this project was very clear, since during the socialist era Hnusta has been one of the most prosperous hard industry city in the region. Nowadays the city is experiencing recession. Still, a lot of old and abandoned socialist buildings can be found there. These buildings, as well as the socialist image of the city may be used for the purposes of this project.



Memories are the only things that have remained for us from the socialist times. Memories, which are transferred from the older generation to the younger one. What kind of era was it for real? What kind of books did they read? What kind of food did they eat? What were the children playing with? What were they learning about? Who were the pioneers, what did the spartakiada look like, and what did they need „bony“ for?

The answers to these questions are very well known to the older generation, but the young one does not know much about this period of our life. This was the reason why the Agency for Development of Gemer Region in Hnusta, through this pilot action project, decided to preserve the past for future generations.

The Agency for Development of Gemer Region organized workshops for the citizens of the Hnúšťa town and te Gemer-Malohont region. The participants got acquainted with the life of people living more than 23 years ago. The lectures and presentations included such themes like everyday life, culture, media, holidays, socialist symbols, educational system, children, ways of spending free time by the youth and adults in the period of socialism.



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The museum is located in the former amphitheatre in Hnúšťa. The building was not used and became dilapidated in the past few years and it needed to be renovated. The walls of the rooms on the upper floor, where the museum have been placed, were scraped, cleaned and painted. In spring 2012, a group of volunteers together with professionals renovated the interior of the building. New wiring and new water supply system were made. The museum was officially opened on 24th November 2012

The museum is housed in 3 rooms. It is designed to present a three bedroom apartment from the socialist times. In the lobby an old-fashioned “corner” with the phone and books is located. The kitchen is furnished not only with furniture, but with old domestic appliances as well – such as fridge, coffee maker, etc. The children’s room is full of toys, children magazines and books from the socialist times. In the living-room TV-set with a functional radio is located. There will also a thematic exposition organized on various topics, such as culture, important people, educational system, etc. The apartment is furnished with the furniture most of which was donated by local volunteers. The museum received approximately 100 various artefacts from the socialist era; the most interesting are the TV-set, historical pictures and toys. In the future Agency for Development of Gemer Region is planning to conduct lessons about human rights and the history of our region during socialism.



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RENEWTOWN TECHNICAL MEETING IN LJUBLJANA 27-29 NOVEMBER 2012

The technical meeting in Ljubljana focused on the evaluation of the investments implemented under the ReNewTown project. It was also an opportunity to observe the selected examples of good practice in urban revitalisation in Ljubljana and Nova Gorica as well as meet with Slovenian experts. The 3-day meeting was organised by the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics (PP9). The idea of ReNewTown technical meetings is to transfer expert knowledge on urban regeneration issues from different countries within the partnership by inviting local and national experts from the host country.



This time the selected topics focused on the examples of good practice and initiatives from Slovenia related to ReNewTown investments: ArtZona from Nowa Huta in Kraków (Poland), the Museum of Socialist Curiosities in Hnusta (Slovakia) and the Centre for SMEs in Prague 11 (the Czech Republic). Among local good practices, the following projects have been presented:

The partnership hosted Mr. Janko Rožič – an architect from the start involved in the conversion of the former military prison into Hostel Celica in Ljubljana – a youth hostel and art gallery. This hostel is a part of the former military area, which is currently called Metelkova after the nearby Metelko Street (in Slovenian: Metelkova ulica). It is a renowned alternative culture community in the centre of the capital of Slovenia dedicated to the organisation of social and cultural activities for the public. Metelkova features all-night events and is arguably the best after-dark destination in Ljubljana, serving both local population and tourists.



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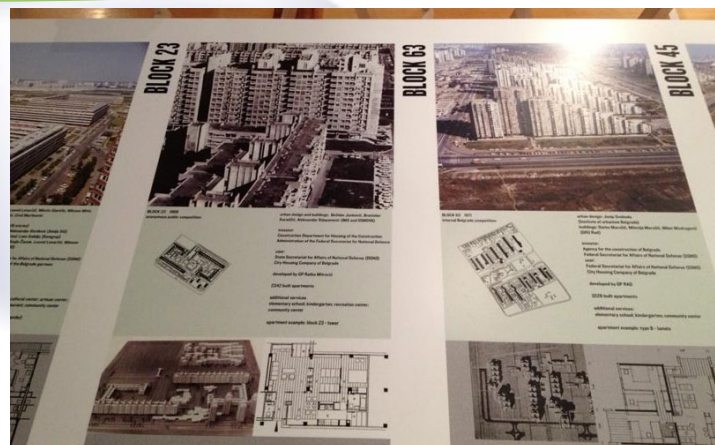
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The Slovenia Coworking Initiative was created by Ms. Eva Perčič (Memo Institut), who is also very involved in the activity of Kino Šiška. Kino Šiška is a centre for contemporary urban creativity. It was constructed in 1961 to serve as a cinema. After the renovation in 2009, it is considered as a first-rate example of modernist architecture. It is one of the largest and technically most advanced venues of this kind in Europe.



Exhibition Unfinished Modernisations



Hostel Celica-outside

A guided tour to the Museum of Architecture and Design was an opportunity to visit the exhibition "Unfinished Modernisations". The exhibition presents numerous architectural projects, ranging from tourist experiments on the Adriatic coastline, concepts for new cities and exhibition halls at international fairs, to notorious public edifices and historical memorials in all of the former Yugoslav republics starting from the Communist Takeover in 1945 to the collapse of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1991. After successful presentation in Maribor, the exhibition 'Unfinished Modernisations/between Utopia and Pragmatism' was presented in Belgrade and Ljubljana.



Metelkova



Kino Šiška



Workshop



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INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL ORGANISATION AT THE POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES – LEADING PARTNER OF RENEWTOWN PROJECT

The Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation at the Polish Academy of Sciences (IGiPZ PAN) is the leading partner of the ReNewTown project. The Institute was established in 1953 and is now an important centre for research in the field of socio-economic geography, physical geography and spatial development in Poland. The strength of IGiPZ PAN is international scientific cooperation, including the recent participation of its employees in more than 50 scientific and practical programs and projects. Moreover, in the last decade, it implemented about 200 other national research projects. The employees of IGiPZ PAN annually publish approximately 400 referenced titles.



The ReNewTown project is coordinated by the employees of the Department of Urban Geography and Population: Magdalena Wątorska-Dec, Grzegorz Węclawowicz, Magdalena Januszewska-Stępniać and Adam Bierzyński. The Department of Urban Geography and Population was established in 1956. The main stream of research is maintained in the convention of social geography of cities, and aims at understanding the mechanisms of transformation of cities and metropolitan areas in Poland and Central Europe. Research on the broader spatial development, transport and tourism is also conducted.



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THE RENEWTOWN DATABASES

The basic idea of the ReNewTown project is to take advantage of the experience and knowledge of related current and past initiatives from the last 20 years and, based on this, to develop knowledge and tools to support the revitalization of post-socialist urban areas in the cities of Central Europe. One of the key results of the project (in line with the basic idea) is the development of three databases: good practices, initiatives, and experts in the field of regeneration of urban areas built during a socialist period. The databases of good practices and initiatives include 132 cases from 13 Central European countries and 69 cities.

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

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Locations of good practices and initiatives included in RNT databases

