
PRESS RELEASE– 26. 11. 2008

REC Slovakia attends kick off meeting of transnational project aiming on the urban environment in Bratislava

A network of organizations across Europe involved in the transnational project **Urban spaces – enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban environment** (UrbSpace^[1]) met in Bratislava last week for the official kick off meeting of the project.

In a highly competitive bidding process the UrbSpace project beat off competition from 95 applicants to the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) **Central Europe Programme**^[2] to be one of only 30 successful projects going forward.

From Italy to Slovenia, Hungary to Austria, Germany to Poland, and Slovakia to Czech republic the 13 partners, drawn from eight member states, represent a broad spectrum of authorities, urban space. The main expected outputs and results of the project are:

- the elaboration of the joint strategy on urban open spaces, tools and guidelines for sustainable design of urban spaces and 15 pilot renewed urban spaces.

The project will facilitate as well the much needed exchange of knowledge and experience and the actual transfer of good practice on urban spaces renewal to local authorities. The project has been co-financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and made possible by the Central Europe Programme.

- Ends –

Contacts: Zuzana Hudeková, REC Slovensko (vedúci partner projektu), rec@changenet.sk, č.tel.: 02-52632942, www.rec.sk, www.urbanspaces.eu

Notes to editors

1. **History of the UrbSpace project proposal** - The origins of the UrbSpace project lie in REC's work on the urban environment and spatial planning along with practical experiences of Ekopolis (Slovakia) and Nadace Partnerství (Czech Republic). The latter organisations successfully developed a programme called "Spaces", based on good practice in European cities. The idea of the project is to build further upon this experience. REC Slovakia decided



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to offer to take on the Lead Partner role for the new project and together with the Ekopolis Foundation, the Nadace Partnerství (Czech republic) began the process of extended European partner search. The aim was to find partners with a range of interests, cultures, experiences and needs. The Municipality of Brno (Czech Republic), the Municipality of Sopot, (Poland), the Municipality of Brzeg Dolny (Poland), the Municipality of Nagykallo (Hungary), the Vienna University of technology, department of Urban design and Landscape Architecture (Austria), Subregional development agency Karst-Brkini (Slovenia), Fachhochschule Erfurt - University of Applied Sciences (Germany), Legambiente Lombardia onlus (Italy), RiSSC - Research Centre on Security and Crime (Italy) and Local Development Agency, La.Mo.Ro. (Italy) joined the project as partners.

2. **CENTRAL EUROPE** is a European Union programme that encourages cooperation among the countries of Central Europe to improve innovation, accessibility and the environment and to enhance the competitiveness and attractiveness of their cities and regions. CENTRAL EUROPE invests €231 million to provide funding to transnational cooperation projects involving public and private organisations from Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

The programme is financed by the European Regional Development Fund and runs from 2007 to 2013.