

HerO Heritage as Opportunity

Sustainable Management Strategies for Vital Historic Urban Landscapes





THE HERO NETWORK

THE URBACT II THEMATIC NETWORK « HERO - HERITAGE AS OPPORTUNITY » :
STRENGTHENING THE ATTRACTIVENESS AND COMPETITIVENESS OF HISTORIC
URBAN LANDSCAPES IN EUROPE

The rapidly changing basic conditions of modern times pose a big challenge on the management of historic towns in Europe. The imbalance of progress and the preservation of the historic urban fabric often results in either economic stagnancy or the loss of cultural heritage values and with it the loss of identity.

In this context, the network HerO, a partnership between the cities Regensburg (Lead Partner), Graz, Naples, Vilnius, Sighișoara, Liverpool, Lublin, Poitiers and Valletta, aims to develop integrated and innovative management strategies for historic urban landscapes. The main objective is facilitating the right balance between the preservation of built cultural heritage and the sustainable, future-proof socio-economic development of historic towns in order to strengthen their attractiveness and competitiveness. Emphasis is placed on managing conflicting usage interests and capitalising the potential of cultural heritage assets for economic, social and cultural activities ('Heritage as Opportunity').

Challenges

„The historic urban landscape acquires its exceptional and universal significance from a gradual evo-

lutionary, as well as planned territorial development over a relevant period of time through process of urbanization, incorporating environmental and topographic conditions and expressing economic and socio-cultural values pertaining to societies.”

This quote from the Vienna Memorandum on “World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape” (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 2005) states that the historic urban landscape cannot be merely seen as an accumulation of significant monuments but rather needs to be considered as a living organism and vital living space for its inhabitants.

However, the rapidly changing basic conditions of modern times (like e.g. the fast-growing economic competition and accompanying development pressure, climate change, demographic change, etc.) pose a big challenge on the management of many historic urban areas, which can no longer be handled by traditional mono-sectoral policies. The lack of multi-level exchange with responsible managing authorities and the lack of integrated sustainable urban development policies which link the preservation of cultural heritage with the socio-economic development of



historic urban landscapes will eventually result in non-competitive urban areas with a low amenity value for inhabitants and visitors alike.

Key Point of Focus

Capitalising the results of past initiatives and taking into consideration the Lisbon/Gothenburg Strategy, the HerO Network addresses the following issue: Upgrading the urban environment by integrating cultural and natural heritage in sustainable urban development policies, aiming at preserving and valorising elements of natural and cultural heritage while developing attractiveness, social cohesion and economic activity.

Thus, the HerO network's main objective is to jointly develop integrated cultural heritage management systems and implement them in the HerO partner cities. These innovative tools aim to balance and coordinate the different demands and interests on historic urban landscapes to support a sustainable, future-oriented urban development which combines the preservation of the built cultural heritage with the socio-economic development of the old town areas.

Main Project Outputs

In a series of seven project meetings and conferences, the HerO partners' exchange and learning activities mainly focus on the development and implementation of integrated management plans for historic urban areas. Thereby, priorities are set on the topics 'visual integrity of historic urban landscapes' and 'multifunctional old town areas'. The project results will be presented at the Final Conference in April 2011 in Regensburg.

To allow for an effective impact of the HerO network activities on local policies, each project partner set up an URBACT Local Support Group by gathering the local key stakeholders with regard to the sustainable management of the historic urban landscape. In an integrated way, future-oriented urban development plans, so called "management plans" for the old town areas will be developed by these working groups in the HerO partner cities.

The experience gained in the network will be published in a guidebook for the successful development and implementation of integrated cultural heritage management plans and disseminated to a wider professional audience. Further, due to the lack of EU policies targeting at the sustainable development of historic urban areas, a strategy and policy paper will be developed. It will call the EU Commission to include specifically the preservation and development of historic urban landscapes in the next EU funding

programme period, stating the importance of old town areas for the Lisbon and Gothenburg goals and giving policy recommendations for the support of such areas.



A compilation of good-practice examples focussing on the topics "protecting visual integrity" and "applying integrated revitalisation approaches" identifies at an early stage in the project period innovative strategies and tools already applied in some partner cities to foster the dialogue and to stimulate the exchange of experience within the network (and beyond).

To build on the experiences of other historic towns in Europe and to widely disseminate the project's results, the HerO network cooperates closely with the "European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR)".

Further Information

For further information on the HerO network and the first project results please visit the project website at www.urbact.eu/hero.

To subscribe for the HerO newsletter, please send an email to hero@regensburg.de.

Fast Track Label

The European Commission has awarded HerO the 'Fast Track Label', a specific instrument of the 'Regions for Economic Change' initiative which aims to get the cities and the managing authorities of the European Cohesion Policy's Operational Programmes working together to enhance the impact exchange activities have on local level.

Thus, the project HerO strongly supports the "two-way bridge" between the thematic networking activities and the mainstream programmes of the structural funds, linking the local, regional and project level. All HerO partner cities cooperate closely with their associated managing authorities.



THE HERO PARTNERS

„The HerO network fosters the exchange between nine historic towns of nine European countries that all feature an extraordinary rich cultural heritage. Regardless of the cities' size and structure, I am convinced that sustainable management strategies for historic urban landscapes can only be developed in an integrated way. Only by bringing all relevant key stakeholders together, a future-proof concept for an old town area can be generated.”

Matthias Ripp, HerO Project Coordinator

Partnership

Regensburg (Germany)
Graz (Austria)
Naples (Italy)
Vilnius (Lithuania)
Sighișoara (Romania)
Liverpool (United Kingdom)
Lublin (Poland)
Poitiers (France)
Valletta (Malta)

+ The European Association of
Historic Towns and Regions



Contact

HerO Lead Partner Team



Matthias Ripp

World Heritage Manager of the City of
Regensburg and HerO Project Coordinator
ripp.matthias@regensburg.de



Barbara Bühler

HerO Project Manager
and Communication Officer
buehler.barbara@regensburg.de



Klaus Grepmeier

European Officer
of the City of Regensburg
grepmeier.klaus@regensburg.de

HerO Lead Expert



Nils Scheffler

scheffler@urbanexpert.net

Regensburg (Germany)

Lead Partner

Since 1945 Regensburg is the only intact larger sized medieval city in Germany, which, from the middle-ages till this day, has been able to function as an urban mechanism without interruption. Regensburg's old town has been able to preserve - as can be clearly seen from today's ground plan - its original basic outline since the 14th century. The inter-relationship of public buildings, private residences, workshops and the imposing grounds of the churches, monasteries and religious foundations all contribute towards creating an authentic picture of medieval urban culture and architecture - a constellation destroyed and lost forever elsewhere in Germany. The many conserved patrician palaces and large town house complexes with their imposing towers are outstanding examples for a style of architecture - influenced by Italy - which can be found nowhere else north of the Alps.

Being a unique example of a central-European medieval trading town and bearing an exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions especially in the Holy Roman Empire, the well-preserved ensemble of the "Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof" has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2006. The ensemble is about 183 hectares in size and

includes 984 monuments. Out of 147.270 inhabitants (as of 31.12.2008) approximately 17.100 people live in Regensburg's historic city centre.

Local Challenges

Regensburg's key challenge in regard to the project HerO is the development of an integrated cultural heritage management plan as an effective management strategy to balance the needs of the inhabitants and visitors with the preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage assets of the town. Thereby, special focus will be put on the careful integration of contemporary architecture into the historic cityscape.

Contact

Matthias Ripp
ripp.matthias@regensburg.de

Website

www.regensburg.de
www.worldheritage-regensburg.de

Managing Authority

The Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology



Graz (Austria)

With approximately 255.000 inhabitants Graz is a particularly fine example of the living heritage of a central European urban complex that was under Habsburg rule for many centuries. The old city is a harmonious blend of the architectural styles and artistic movements that have succeeded each other since the Middle Ages, together with cultural influences from the neighbouring regions.

The historic city centre of Graz reflects artistic and architectural movements originating from the Germanic region, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, for which it served as a crossroad for centuries. The greatest architects and artists of these different regions expressed themselves forcefully here and thus created brilliant syntheses.

The urban complex forming the historic centre of the city of Graz is an exceptional example of a harmonious integration of architectural styles from successive periods. Each age is represented by typical buildings, which are often masterpieces. The urban physiognomy faithfully tells the story of its historic development.

The historic city centre of Graz has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in the year 1999.

Local Challenges

The conflict between the preservation of the historic monuments and the socio-economic development is one of the main challenges for the City of Graz. Refining their cultural heritage management plan and balancing the protection of the built cultural heritage and the needs for economic development are therefore the key issues, the City of Graz would like to address within the project HerO.

Contact

Gerhard Ablasser
gerhard.ablasser@stadt.graz.at

Website

www.graz.at

Managing Authority

The Provincial Government of Styria



Naples (Italy)



Naples is the third largest city in Italy, the main city of Southern Italy and also the capital of the Campania region. The province of Naples has over three million inhabitants covering an area of 1.171 square kilometers. The port of Naples is one of the most important ports in Italy in terms of goods and passengers traffic and it's going to become the most important one also for cruise traffic. Revenue obtained from tourism and cultural activities is an essential part of economic growth.

The origins of the City of Naples date back to the 6th century B.C. when some Greek colonists, coming from Cuma, founded Partenope on the little island of Megaride, where is now Castel dell'Ovo. In 470 B.C. they set up Neapolis. The Greek-Roman road network was preserved until now in the old town centre and the stratification of the following ages enlarged its patrimony of many major monuments. For this reason the old town centre of Naples was included in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1995.

Local Challenges

Naples, a large city referring to the resident population, is a little city if we refer to its small territorial surface, and this stands out as an indicator of one of the problems that characterises it, the record density of about 8315 inhabitants/sqkm. Along this problem

there are many others such as a high rate of unemployment (17,8%), the severe status of the labour market concerning the lack of private activities, low levels of education, historical and monumental heritage (both public and private) in decay state, low quality of housing, precarious environment conditions due to the wide decay of the interested areas and high levels of acoustic and atmospheric pollution due mainly to the large number of cars.

The main challenges the City of Naples would like to address within the thematic network HerO are among others the physical, cultural and economic requalification of the historic city centre (thereby avoiding gentrification and exploiting the potentials of tourism and culture), the requalification of decaying monuments and the careful inclusion of contemporary architecture into the historic cityscape.

Contact

Gaetano Mollura
gaetano.mollura@comune.napoli.it

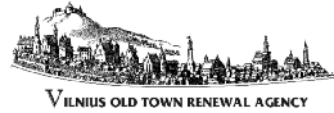
Website

www.comune.napoli.it

Managing Authority

The Campania Region

Vilnius (Lithuania)



From the 13th century to the end of the 18th century Vilnius Old Town was the political centre of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a role that it retains in the present-day independent Republic of Lithuania. It has been a centre of learning and culture since the 16th century. The town, which developed at the confluence of the Neris and Vilnia rivers, is an outstanding example of the blending of the cultures of eastern and western Europe, and also constitutes one of the most easterly examples of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque architecture in Europe. It played an important role in cultural developments in Belarus, Poland and Ukraine.

In the early 90s the old town became attractive for investors and for economically well off people. The rapid change of the economy made an impact on its functional use - the growth in the number of shops, restaurants, hotels etc forced the decline of residential flats. Vilnius historic city centre became vibrant and the most attractive part of the city, at the same time there still exist neglected parts of the historic centre with empty neglected buildings.

The size of Vilnius Old Town - UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1994 - is 351 ha. Due to the change of functional use, the number of residents in the old town dropped from 30.000 in the early 90s to 20.000 currently.

Local Challenges

Problems are the contrast between the upgraded main streets and public areas and the neglected backyards as well as the lack of pedestrian routes. Also, property owners have insufficient knowledge and finances for the maintenance of their properties. Vilnius' objectives for the HerO network are to improve the attractiveness and accessibility of the area, to develop more effective public-private dialogue and partnership means and methods, to involve the old town community to the conservation planning process, to rise public conservation awareness, to initiate and develop a systematic physical upgrade of the inner yards, pedestrian routes and sightseeing sites within the old town and to develop a 'Local Action Plan' for the integrated revitalisation of the old town.

Contact

Gediminas Rutkauskas
otra@lithill.lt

Website

www.vilnius.lt

Managing Authority

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania



Sighișoara (Romania)



Founded by German craftsmen and merchants known as the Saxons of Transylvania, Sighișoara is a fine example of a small, fortified medieval town which played an important strategic and commercial role on the fringes of central Europe for several centuries. The city is an outstanding testimony to the culture of the Transylvanian Saxons, a culture that is coming to a close after 850 years and will continue to exist only through its architectural and urban monuments.

Sighișoara is an outstanding example of a small fortified city in the border region between the Latin-oriented culture of central Europe and the Byzantine-Orthodox culture of south-eastern Europe. The apparently unstoppable process of emigration by the Saxons, the social stratum which had formed and upheld the cultural traditions of the region, threatens the survival of their architectural heritage as well.

The city of Sighișoara has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1999. It is located at the river Tarneve-Mare and is composed of two parts: the old city and the new city, which was developed in the past 60 years. Sighișoara has a total of 35000 inhabitants, 8000 live in the old town, the medieval citadel.

Local Challenges

Sighișoara's key challenge is the development of an integrated management plan addressing following issues:

- the restoration of the fortifications and the rehabilitation of the historic buildings;
- strengthening the residential character of the citadel;
- integration of the citadel and the "downtown" areas;
- improving the accessibility of the citadel;
- opening horizons for innovative approaches to safeguard and sustainably develop the historic urban landscape;
- developing a targeted exchange of planning and operational experiences.

Contact

Ioana Maria Sandru
sighisoara@cjmures.ro

Website

www.sighisoara.com

Managing Authority

The Romanian Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing

Liverpool (United Kingdom)



The City of Liverpool

Liverpool (435,500 inhabitants) has a tangible cultural heritage which includes 35 conservation areas, over 2,500 listed buildings, 10 historic parks and gardens and 4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments. It also has an intangible cultural heritage of music, sport, art and maritime history, which together justified Liverpool being awarded the European Capital of Culture 2008. Liverpool was inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2004 as "the supreme example of a commercial port at the time of Britain's greatest global influence." The World Heritage Site includes historic docks, monumental dockside warehouses and impressive commercial, civic and cultural buildings.

Local Challenges

Liverpool suffered from industrial obsolescence and population loss during the second half of the 20th century but in recent years it has been the focus of significant regeneration initiatives. The two recent phases of decline and regeneration have brought many challenges for urban planning and conservation of cultural heritage. The challenge of finding sustainable solutions for the city's (historic) Buildings At Risk (of further decay) is being addressed by a strategic approach to the issue. The challenge of achieving an equitable balance between regeneration and conservation has been addressed by close partnership working between all public sector agencies and the private sector.

Liverpool's World Heritage Site has an (integrated cultural heritage) Management Plan which is due to be reviewed in 2010 and a Steering Group (Local Support Group) which has already re-evaluated its purpose and function. It is hoped that during the course of the HerO network the improved management of the WHS can be achieved by reviewing and implementing the Management Plan and agreeing terms of reference for the Steering Group. In addition a detailed Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for New Development and Conservation in and around the WHS was approved in October 2009, following extensive public consultation. The clear guidance in the SPD will provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the outstanding universal value of the WHS, whilst encouraging investment and development which secures a healthy economy and supports regeneration.

Contact

John Hinchliffe
john.hinchliffe@liverpool.gov.uk

Website

www.liverpool.gov.uk
www.liverpoolworldheritage.com

Managing Authority

The North West Development Agency



Lublin (Poland)



With approximately 351.000 inhabitants Lublin is the largest Polish city east of the Vistula river. The significant part of Lublin's city centre is an historic urban area originating in the middle ages and extended in 16th and 17th century, when Lublin was one of the main cities of the kingdom. The decline of the city's importance helped to preserve the ancient urban texture through the 19th and 20th centuries but led to growing neglect as well as social and structural problems. The upgrading of historic urban texture has been one of the priorities of local policies since 1990. The improvement of the infrastructure and public space is advanced, however far from satisfactory.

Local Challenges

The historic value of the urban layout derives from readable layers of development strongly dependent on the natural landscape and environmental constraints (river valleys, loessial hills and their erosion). The wetlands surrounding the old parts of the city area are now under pressure for development. There are areas suitable for the revitalisation of the outskirts of the historic city centre, developing modern qualities in harmony with the traditional urban fabric. That kind of development requires high quality stand-

ards and a broad co-operation with the city, public transport companies as well as existing and future businesses with prospects of cultural and social input. The key challenges Lublin would like to address within the course of the project HerO are to develop local action plans to upgrade selected areas, to assure a sound urban mixture by securing green space and facilitating housing in the city centre, to assure quality development of the extended historic city centre, to define stable rules for the support of the renovation and maintenance of the historic town, to provide for an economic vitality in the historic city centre and to preserve the cultural and natural values of the town.

Contact

Ewa Kipta
ekipta@um.lublin.pl

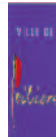
Website

www.um.lublin.eu

Managing Authority

The Marshall's Office of the Lubelskie Voivodship

Poitiers (France)



Poitiers (83.500 inhabitants) is an historic town situated in the west central area of France which contains a large panel of cultural heritage:

The Saint-Jean baptistery (IV-V PC), which is state property and one of the oldest witness of christianity in Gaul, the "Hypogée des Dunes" (funeral chapel of 700 PC), the Notre-Dame-la-Grande Church (12th century) and the Saint-Hilaire-le-Grand church (11th-12th century), which is listed by UNESCO as "Chemins de Saint-Jaques-de-Compostelle".

Located on the Clain river, the city is the heart of the Urban Community of Poitiers (CAP) and is the capital of both, the Vienne French Department and the Poitou-Charentes region. More than 80% of the population is less than 59 years old (25.000 students). The tertiary activities represent nearly 85% (and 90% in the city centre) of the economy sectors.

Local Challenges

The economy of Poitiers is centred around specific sectors of the economy, such as the ICT and new technologies, construction and civil engineering, trade, tourism, business support services, industrial logistics and car industry. Poitiers is well known for its university, which accounts for a large number of students in relation to its size.

The creation of the "Futuroscope" (a park that combines science, technology, education and entertain-

ment, the 3rd French attraction with 1,5 million visitors/year) has been at the heart of the city's economic success.

The heritage restoration is an important challenge that justified a large financial investment in 2008.

The key problems and challenges Poitiers would like to address within the course of the project HerO are:

- to develop a long-term synergy amongst stakeholders (managing authorities, shopkeepers, inhabitants, cabbies, etc.)
- to develop new ways of urban heritage valorisation linking historic and natural heritages
- to set up a sustainable development policy which would associate tourist valorisation of the historic city centre with Futuroscope skills
- to relay this strategy with inhabitants as 'ambassadors' of their city.

Contact

Anne Perrot
anne.perrot@mairie-poitiers.fr

Website

www.poitiers.fr

Managing Authority

The Prefecture de la Region Poitou-Charentes



Valletta (Malta)



Valletta (6300 inhabitants) was declared World Heritage City in 1980 and subsequently the fortifications of the Knights of the Order of St. John were inscribed on the tentative list in 1998. Valletta encapsulates a diverse ensemble of heritage assets both tangible and intangible which reflect its intense European history.

Local Challenges

Valletta to an extent is a City-State with pressures of high density and a commuting population. In the post-war period it saw the migration of inhabitants and policies have been devised to curb the high vacancy rates and attract new residents. Its heritage assets have not been fully tapped especially as vehicles for social inclusion or nodes of social contact. The City is still a dynamic place for social interaction as a point of reference for national or religious festivities. In the past five years Valletta has shown its potential for change. It rapidly adapted to the implementation of plans without heavy negative socio-economic repercussions (i.e. implementation of CVA and Park and Ride).

The HerO project will serve as a framework to develop the potential of the management of its historic landscape especially in the light of the Area of High Landscape Value parametres. The network will also serve as a platform for integrating projects and ideas on the ground i.e. restoration and rehabilitation project initiatives. These established benchmarks will also direct the project in specific areas which are critical and may ultimately improve Valletta's *raison d'être*.

Contact

Simon Cauchi
simon.a.cauchi@gov.mt

Website

www.cityofvalletta.org

Managing Authority

The Office of the Prime Minister OPM

The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR)



The HerO network cooperates closely with the European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR), an organization formed by the Council of Europe in 1999 that represents almost one thousand historic towns in Europe. EAHTR's principle objective is to identify and share experience and good practice in the sustainable urban conservation and management of historic areas through international collaboration and cooperation between towns and cities and other involved organisations.



The European Association of Historic Towns and Regions (EAHTR) was formed as part of the Council of Europe's initiative 'Europe - A Common Heritage', in October 1999. EAHTR aims to promote the interests of Europe's historic cities through:

- international cooperation between heritage organisations and historic towns
- sharing experience and good practice between historic towns
- promoting vitality, viability and sustainable management of historic towns and cities

Activities

EAHTR has organised, or helped organise, 12 international Symposia in Russia, Finland, Malta, Turkey, Italy (2), UK (2), Sweden, Croatia and Poland. Future Symposia are planned for Kayseri (Turkey), Ribe (Denmark) and Amsterdam (Netherlands) in 2010.

"The fruitful cooperation between EAHTR and the HerO network stimulates the project work of HerO, and allows the HerO partners to capitalize on the experiences of other historic towns in Europe. It also facilitates a wide dissemination of the HerO project's results among the EAHTR member cities."



Brian Smith
Secretary General of EAHTR

Another priority has been leading and participating in a range of European projects as a means of identifying and disseminating issues relevant to historic cities. An important example relevant to the work on HerO is the INHERIT project (see 'Investing in Heritage - A Guide to Successful Urban Regeneration' on www.inheritproject.net). 2010 will see extensive dissemination of HerO outcomes to the EAHTR membership.

EAHTR has established a programme of guidelines for local and regional authorities. The first of these on 'Sustainable Tourism Guidelines' will be finalised and disseminated in 2009 followed in 2010 by further guidelines on contemporary design in historic areas, importance of the public domain and on air quality in historic centres.

Each year EAHTR organises a 'study' visit to a European historic city or group of cities and produces a 'lessons' learned newsletter for distribution to EAHTR members (see Netherlands visit on www.historic-towns.org). The visit in 2009 was to Vilnius, European Capital of Culture. We plan to visit Graz in 2010.

EAHTR is committed to facilitating 'knowledge' transfer both at city and individual levels. For example we support short focused 'secondments' between member cities on key issues relevant to our work. This year there will be an experience exchange between Newcastle (UK) and Delft (Netherlands).

Future Priorities

In addition to carrying out its core activities EAHTR will be giving particular priority in 2010 to:

- widening its town, city and regional membership
- enhancing member services e.g. EU funding opportunities
- extending partnership arrangements with other heritage organisations e.g. the ISG magazine
- upgrading EAHTR website providing interactive pages for member city information
- launching 'Heritage Zone' - a dedicated social networking site for heritage professionals and other interested individuals (see www.heritagezone.net)

Contact

Brian Smith
bsmith@historic-towns.org

Website

www.historic-towns.org

Imprint

Published by:



City of Regensburg
 Planning and Building Division
 World Heritage Management
 Matthias Ripp / Barbara Bühler
 Neues Rathaus
 D.-Martin-Luther-Str. 1
 93047 Regensburg
 GERMANY
 Phone: +49 (0) 941 / 507 - 4614
 Fax: +49 (0) 941 / 507 - 4619
welterbe@regensburg.de
www.welterbe-regensburg.de

Published: October 2009
 Printed copies: 3500
 Print: ROTAPLAN, Regensburg (Germany)

Photographs:
 Page 1: © City of Regensburg;
 Page 2: © Municipality of Sighișoara;
 Page 3: © City of Regensburg;
 Page 4 (large): © Terry Mealey Pictures,
 Liverpool;
 Page 5: © Nürnberg Luftbild, Hajo Dietz;
 Page 6: © Michal Trzewik, Lublin;
 Page 7: © Municipality of Naples;
 Page 8: © SI Vilniaus Planas;
 Page 9: © Municipality of Sighișoara;
 Page 10: © Liverpool City Council;
 Page 11: © City of Lublin;
 Page 12: © Municipality of Poitiers;
 Page 13: © Valletta Local Council;
 Page 14 (view of Lublin): © City of Lublin

AN URBACT II PROJECT

URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development. It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is co-financed by the ERDF Funds and the Member States.

www.urbact.eu/hero

