



HealingPlaces

Enhancing environmental management capacities for sustainable use of the natural heritage of Central European SPA towns and regions as the driver for local and regional development

HealingPlaces

NEWSLETTER #3

YEAR 2 | October 2020





Dear Reader,

In this issue of **HealingPlaces** newsletter, we would like to give you an overview of what happened in the life of the project during the third semester (1 April 2020 - 30 September 2020) within the three main activities of the project:

1. construction a common, innovative and web-based tool for assessment of threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in partners regions and elaborate environmental assessment tools, specifically dedicated to SPAs and easy to use, guidelines and trainings will improve the capacities of public authorities and other SPA decision makers to act more effectively on the existing SPA development problems and usage conflicts through integrated environmental management approach.
2. pilot actions in each region
3. development of an integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development

For **HealingPlaces** project, the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak is a big threat, not only because of direct danger to people health and life, but also due to the economic threat to the existence and sustainable development of health resorts, that project is focused on.

Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19, the project partners, striving to take care of their health and minimize the risk, take action to carry out the planned activities in the most efficient way.

Stay with us and enjoy reading!

You are also welcome to our website for more project news and there you can subscribe to our Newsletter as well.

Visit: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html>

https://www.facebook.com/HealingPlacesProject/?ref=page_internal

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/healingplacesproject/?viewAsMember=true>

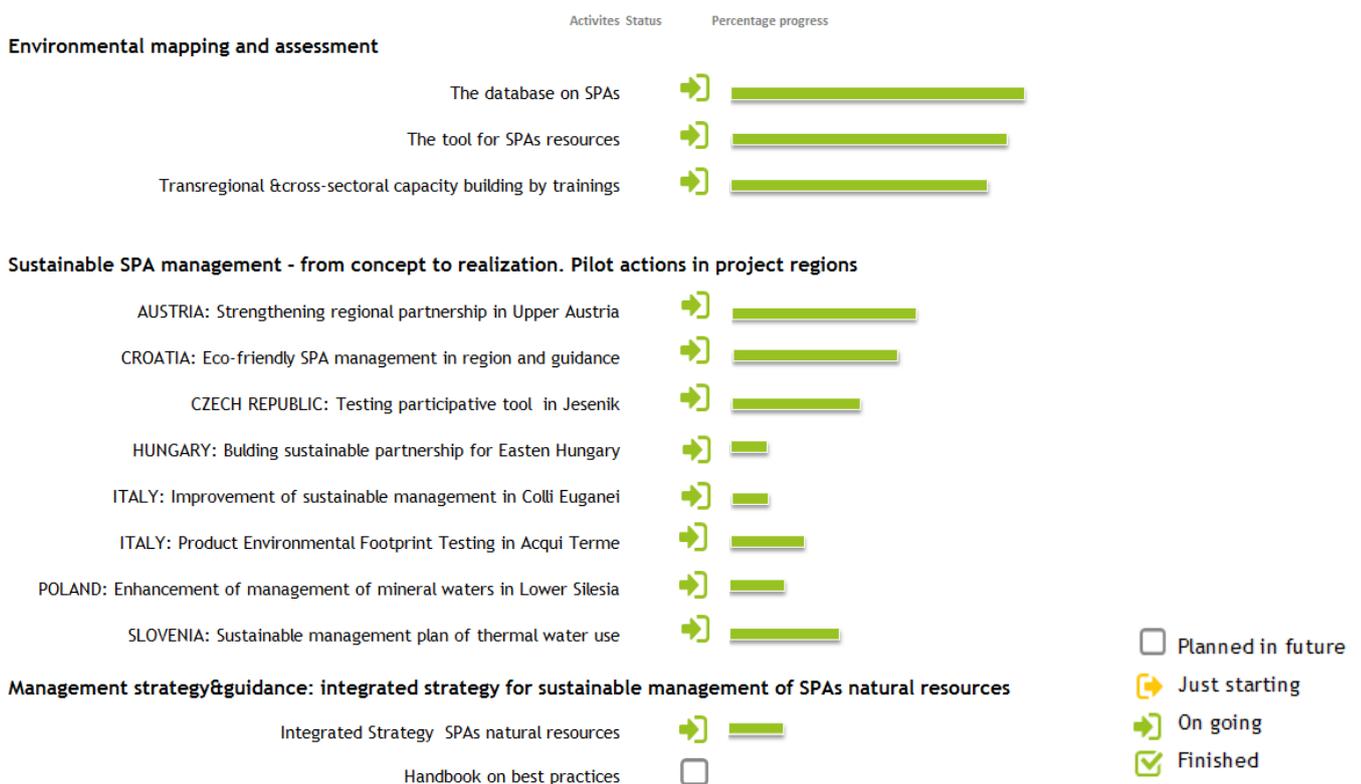
Your sincerely,
Healing Places Team



PROJECT PROGRESS

First of all, it's the generally tragic situation, with - as of 30th of October 2020 - globally 44 888 869 confirmed cases, including 1 178 475 deaths. Additional difficulties are connected with the ways of COVID-19 fighting implemented by different countries. Exit restrictions and bans, border controls, maintenance of critical infrastructure - many states are fighting with numerous measures against the further spread of the virus and the economic and social consequences of the crisis. Many companies are in economic difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and have to temporarily suspend or significantly reduce their activities and the working hours of their employees. Health tourism sector is one of most affected with airplanes on the ground, hotels closed and travel restrictions put in place in virtually all countries around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has cut international tourist arrivals in the first quarter of 2020 to a fraction of what they were a year ago. Available data points to a double-digit decrease of 22% in Q1 2020, with arrivals in March down by 57%. This translates into a loss of 67 million international arrivals and about EUR 67,2 billion in receipts. Scenarios foreseen in summer 2020 pointed to declines of 58% to 78% in international tourist arrivals for the year, depending on the speed of the containment and the duration of travel restrictions and shutdown of borders, although the outlook remains highly uncertain, especially as the situation now is in many countries worse than assumed.

Regardless the difficult situation, overall progress continues to be made across the project. Check out the chart below showing activities status.





Please find below short information about the activities project partners carried out to perform the planned activities in the most efficient way.

1. Construction of a common, innovative and web-based tool for assessment of threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in partners regions and elaborate environmental assessment tools:

Regardless the difficulties related to the Covid-19 pandemic and connected with it partial lockdown, the works on the thematic work package one have substantially progressed between April and September 2020. This specifically apply to the Activity focused on the environmental impact on natural resources composing SPAs value where all results have been achieved according to the plan. The works on Activity focused on building Internet GIS based tool- database on mineral and hot water resources for SPAs usage in Central Europe focused mainly on the completion of the knowledge GIS database and familiarize the project partners with it by presentation and initial training. Also the initial steps leading to the preparation to the publication of the GIS-based tool in the Internet have been done.

Activity focused on development of common tool for integrated assessment of threats & pressures on main SPAs' resources encountered most difficulties in work flows and consequently in on-time completion of certain deliverables. Within it the common methodology and ranking criteria for assessment of impact strength on natural resources in SPAs have been prepared and the draft version of the tool for the impact assessment have been partially elaborated. Despite the turbulences encountered, at the moment the difficulties seem to be overcome and the project deliverables should be caught up within the next semester, unless further heavy lock-down occurs.

2. Launch of Pilot Action in each partner region:

The main goal of launching pilot action in each partner region is the practical implementation of sustainable thermal/heating water use in SPAs. This is primarily understood as ensuring an effective and rational use of identified resources (protection of ecosystems) while realizing social and economic functions.

The main phase of the pilot actions is still at the beginning in most regions. Some countries have already started their local activities, others are still in the process of preparing them. From this perspective the schedule of pilot actions could largely be adhered to. Only when it comes to addressing the stakeholders there were slight delays. Some meetings with decision makers had to be postponed because of safety reasons and due to difficulties connected with partial lockdown. Others could only take place in an online setting. From today's perspective, however, these delays should not have any significant impact on the course of the pilot actions or the overall project.

You can find more information about the regional pilot actions [here](#).



3. Integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development

The main objective of the third work package is to establish a shared integrated strategy for the sustainable management of natural spa resources in Central Europe. The starting point for a common strategy are, firstly, the tools and information collected during the analysis and mapping phases and, secondly, the pilot actions implemented by all project partners.

Halfway through the implementation of the project, we can say that the activities aimed at sharing a common strategy have achieved a lot of progress.

First of all, the project partners involved the main potential stakeholders functional to the implementation of the pilot activities. The involvement of a wide range of actors is seen as a prerequisite for achieving long-term impact in addressing spa-related challenges through effective actions. The Covid-19 pandemic has profoundly influenced the process of involvement of the main stakeholders in the Regional Working Groups. This applies to all partners and all countries involved. But project partners adapted to the emergency situation by choosing new methods of involving stakeholders and rescheduling the activities of the Working Groups. Project partners provided the lists of potential stakeholders with info on their impact, influence and level of involvement: these lists must not be considered as "finished" reports but as a "continuous" process that will accompany the project in all its phases

Furthermore, 24 best practices concerning environmental & socio-economic pressures mitigation and conflict solving were collected by project partners. These pressures concern different aspects of environment: water resources (especially thermal & mineral water resources, but also surface waters), but also pressures and conflicts with nature protection, biodiversity, landscape (land-use), air quality/microclimate, etc. Each Country was asked to provide one best practice for each of the following fields: technology, policy/regulation, cooperation. At the end of this work it was possible to synthesize the results of the SWOT analysis of the best practices in 7 national reports (1 report for each of the countries involved: Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Austria and Italy).



EVENTS

22nd - 23rd
of April 2020

On-line
organized by
GIG & POLO PN

Austria (A)
realized by
Business Upper
Austria

28th of April
2020

Third meeting of the HealingPlaces project partners

The third meeting of the HealingPlaces project partners has been organized on-line on 22-23 April due to the epidemiological situation of COVID-19. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the overall progress of the project, in particular the implementation of tools to support sustainable mineral and thermal water management and pilot actions. The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss strategies for the future.

Pilot project meeting in Austria

Austrian partners from Business Upper Austria and representatives of the tourist association Mühlviertler Alm Freistadt had a first project meeting. The ground was laid for joint activities on of Upper Austrian's pilot region Bad Zell: the healing water and its effects have always shaped the region and will continue to play a major role in the future. The meeting was followed up with a discussion on 8th of August where team clarified the way for further cooperation in the pilot region Mühlviertel in Upper Austria, the next steps regarding the progress of the project have jointly been determined.



10th
of June 2020

Croatia (HR)
organised by City
of Križevci

1st of July
2020

Czech Republic (CZ)
organised by Mendel
University

Study-visit to Terme Sveti Martin

On Wednesday, 10th of June 2020 the City of Križevci organised a one day Study-visit to Terme Sveti Martin. Participants were students and professors from two higher education institutions: Križevci College of Agriculture and The Faculty of Geotechnical Engineering (University of Zagreb). The focus was on sustainable development of SPAs and first networking of that kind for this projects partners' activities. First goal was to connect the Terme Sveti Martin (especially its Maintenance sector) with students that study course Hydrothermal resources on Geotechnical engineering Faculty.

More info about the study visit [here](#).



Meeting with representatives of SPAs from the Jeseníky region

The meeting took place with representatives of the Bludov State Medical Spa, Velké Losiny Thermal Spa, Karlova Studánka Mountain Spa, Priessnitz Medical Spa in Jeseník, Bludov State Medical Spa, Schroth Medical Spa Lipová-lázně. The project partners were represented by Mendel University and the Jeseníky Mountains - Tourism Association.

Topics discussed included:

- Energy use of residual water in spas
- Database on statistics of site visits in tourism on the tourdata.cz portal
- Monitoring of climate and pollution in individual spas
- Recodification and obsolescence of spa statutes of individual spas
- Possibilities of partnership and international cooperation of individual spas subjects, traffic load and parking policy in individual spas, electro mobility.

More info about the event [here](#).



Poland (PL)

organised by
Marshal of Lower
Silesia Region

1st
of September
2020

Czech Republic (CZ)

organised by
Mendel University

15th
of September
2020

The importance of cooperation and efficient management of Lower Silesian SPAs is getting attention!

On September the 1st, the representatives of the health resort enterprises in Lower Silesia met with the regional authorities. The meeting was initiated by Mr. Cezary Przybylski, the Marshal of Lower Silesia Region and it was also attended by two other high rank officials, the members of the voivodeship board: Mr Grzegorz Macko, and Mr. Paweł Wybierała as well as by employees of the Marshal's Office and the Institute of Territorial Development (IRT).

The purpose of the meeting was to initiate cooperation between entities operating in the health resort sector leading - in the long run - to the establishment of a health resort cluster. The participants expressed high satisfaction and considered the initiative of the Marshal as extremely important and necessary. They declared their willingness to start formulating initial assumptions and elaborate the concept and structure of future cluster. The IRT informed the participants of the principles and goals of Healing Places project and declared its support in organizing contacts and maintaining multi-actors discussion on the platform of the Regional Working Group operating within the Project.

Workshop on how can foreign experience help Czech SPAs to develop?

Employees of the Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies of Mendel University in Brno, the Department of Water Protection of the Główny Instytut Górnictwa in Katowice, Poland, KOCCMAN envimonitoring s.r.o., and representatives of the state enterprise Horské lázně Karlova Studánka tried to answer this question at a joint workshop.

The topic of the meeting was the issue of further use of spa wastewater. After the presentation of the project and its activities, there was a more general discussion about the development of the spa and its limits.

The concrete outcome of the meeting was the agreement of the parties on future mutual cooperation in the preparation of an economic model for the installation and operation of such equipment. This could save the spa money in the future and reduce the negative impact on the environment. The spa is counting on the reconstruction of the balneo operation anyway.

More info about the event [here](#).



**15th of
September
2020**

Croatia (HR)
organised by City of
Križevci

First works on the pilot action in Križevci has started!

The non-invasive geophysical research will provide the Multidimensional study on the circular way of using existing resources of thermal & mineral water, providing sustainable use and preserve natural aquifer characteristics (such as pressure) & prevent depletion of groundwater. Check on how experts from Croatian Geological Survey applied the method of Magnetotellurics [here](#).



On-line
organised by
City of Križevci

**22nd -23rd
of September
2020**

Fourth meeting of the HealingPlaces project partners

The fourth meeting of the HealingPlaces project partners has been organized on-line on 23-24 September due to the epidemiological situation of COVID-19. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the overall progress of the project, in particular the implementation of tools to support sustainable mineral and thermal water management and pilot actions.

The meeting was also an opportunity to the Monitoring and Advisory Board of the project to meet and exchange experiences and discuss strategies for the future.





PROJECT IN MEDIA

CÍVISHÍR

<https://civishir.hu/helyben-jaro/2019/10/delfinje-is-van-mar-hajdu-biharnak>

Glas

PODRAVINE I PRIGORJA
ZUPANIJSKI TJEDNIK

<https://www.glaspodravine.hr/krizevcani-u-studijskom-posjetu-termama-sveti-martin-i-obliznjim-poljoprivrednim-gospodarstvima/>

mpower

<https://municipalpower.org/articles/how-krizevcis-residents-created-croatias-first-crowdfunded-solar-power-plant/>

PLATINUM

reviše & preispitani

https://view.publitas.com/platinum-online/2020-luglio_ing/page/136-137

prigorskihr



<https://prigorski.hr/grad-krizevci-zapoceo-pilot-akciju-unutar-projekta-istrazivanja-mogucnosti-kruznog-koristenja-termomineralne-vode>

sjever.hr

Sjeverozapadna i Srednja Hrvatska

<https://sjever.hr/2020/09/28/interreg-ce-healingplaces-projekt-u-krizevcima-pocelo-geofizicko-istrazivanje/>

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