



MESTNA OBČINA KRANJ



Good Practice Summary (Compulsory) / Povzetek dobre prakse

This project of renewal and regeneration of the Planina neighbourhood in the town of Kranj is based on a Sustainable Urban Strategy of the Municipality of Kranj. In line with this strategy, the municipal authorities have devised a plan to renew the residential neighbourhood of Planina that has 52 ha of open public surfaces, more than 140 apartment buildings and 12,500 residents, so it is one of the largest congested urban neighbourhoods in Slovenia. It was being built from the early 1970s to the mid-1980s.

According to the established criteria, the neighbourhood is classified as a functionally degraded urban area of Kranj, since it is facing multi-layered and intertwined challenges. There is a lack of parking spaces, low use of public transport, outdated urban furniture, low energy efficiency of buildings, a lack of better children's playgrounds etc. Many residents have a low social and economic status. The neighbourhood is facing the challenges of vandalism, multicultural and aging population; there is a lack of programmes for different age groups and so on.

In line with the strategy, the objective was set out to design a plan for the renewal and regeneration of the neighbourhood together with residents and according to their needs. For this purpose, a working group of professionals in different fields was established that then became the project office for the renewal and regeneration of the Planina neighbourhood. In addition to experts from NGOs also several municipal offices, public services and local communities were included into operations of the project office, as well as other representatives of the public concerned. The project is coordinated by the Environment and Spatial Planning Office of the Municipality.

The first task of the project was how to include as many residents as possible into the renewal and regeneration of the neighbourhood, in a way that would be as active as possible. Different forms and methods of work were applied (e.g. online and paper surveys, interactive maps, exhibition of the neighbourhood's development, meetings of the residents and so on) to gather information about the residents' needs and wishes. After having analysed this data, we organized working groups according to the interests expressed. These groups dealt with different problems or challenges in the neighbourhood and, above all, they were searching for possible solutions. The municipality provided an appropriate infrastructure for such work, required material and support staff, as well as the sources of information and support by the various experts, municipal departments and competent institutions. Each of the groups was then given a small amount of money to carry out a so-called mini project, mainly to draw the attention of other residents towards the specific problem and possible solutions. The mini projects have been completed and presented at a public event in the neighbourhood, organized with the help of different NGOs.

Upon the initiative of one of the working groups, we started the first phase of the construction of a central playground for children that has also been concluded and celebrated at an opening together with the residents. We continued to plan and organize projects together and the working groups are still active. In cooperation with young people and youth organizations that are active in this neighbourhood (or in the town), we organized an urban youth festival, at which we presented the possibility of an active and creative leisure time in the neighbourhood. This was followed by a special issue of a magazine that we published together with young people and in which they presented their scenes, the problems that they are facing and their suggestions how to bring more life to the neighbourhood.

The one year anniversary of the project office has been celebrated as we organized a two-day national consultation with the title "Urban Renewal: Good practice in Slovenia and in Europe." This was a chance to highlight the challenges faced by local communities, the government and NGOs

when it comes to renewing and regenerating urban areas, especially the degraded ones, but also when it comes to including the residents, local initiatives and the involvement of all interested parties. A renowned researcher of urban renewals from the University of Vienna, and head of one of many local renewal offices in Vienna, shared their experience with renewing and reviving degraded residential neighbourhoods. Also our project was presented at this consultation and the participants described it as a unique example of a good practice for a comprehensive approach to the renewal and regeneration of degraded urban areas in Slovenia. Participants of the consultation were representatives of NGOs, local initiatives and the professional public in the field of landscape planning and spatial management, representatives of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning and representatives of many Slovenian municipalities.

Ever since the project started, we took great care to promote our activities and to inform the residents about them on our website and on a social website as well as by publishing articles in local and national media. For this purpose, we designed the visual image and logo of the project. The events were constantly advertised in brochures, on flyers and posters. Several other Slovenian towns, ministries and professional associations invited us to present the project at round tables, professional gatherings and meetings.

In cooperation with the residents, we prepared a plan to establish a Centre for Sustainable Mobility, an Urban Sports Centre and a Family Centre, among other things that are related to renewing the paths and urban furniture, coordinating the active participation of all actors at managing new programmes and making sure that they can operate in the long run.