

Funding programme INTERREG Baltic Sea Region, Priority 1 „Capacity for Innovation“

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„Innovative models for the development of historical centres of non-capital cities across the Baltic Sea“

The key idea of the project

The historical centres (Old Towns) of contemporary cities face many similar problems of development, yet these problems are especially pronounced in non-capital cities that in most cases are not natural magnets for touristic and economic activities. In most cities, there is an overall dilemma of reaching an appropriate balance between the heritage protection and the needs of citizens and businesses in modern city. Many non-capital cities have little internationally significant historical objects of culture and heritage that could become the central axis for development and tourist attraction. In such context, employing smart solutions becomes of critical importance. By term „smartness“, we understand the ability of social system (city, region, etc.) to envision critical issues, quickly and creatively respond to challenges caused by them, to opportunities, trends or symptoms, using these to achieve own objectives, supporting decisions with intelligence, knowledge, innovation and social responsibility.

The cities in different parts of the Baltic region have unique experiences of dealing with authentic challenges that could be successfully adopted and applied for strategic development of other cities. The innovative models of development are based on the effective use of local human, cultural and economic capital, absorption of external intellectual and financial resources, sound policies and smart public governance based on achieving shared value creation by all stakeholders of all kinds of local communities.

The key aim of this project is to professionally evaluate the good practices of the development of historical centres of non-capital cities by showing the variety of their development models and possibilities of their application in different contexts.

Main activities:

- Analysis of best practices of the development of historical centres in partner countries with key emphasis on non-capital cities in order to understand the drivers, preconditions and specific contexts that led to success;
- Creating the methodological platform for understanding and creating the developmental models of the historical centres;
- Development of a number of innovative and place specific cultural and educational products for the regional community and foreign tourists;
- Organising a number of site visits, workshops and common activities.

Outputs and Results:

- Enhanced collective knowledge and capacity to make smart and innovative decisions for the development of historical places in the cities;
- Enhanced entrepreneurial capacity of cultural organisations;
- Improved framework conditions for non- technological, culture and learning based innovations;
- Developed international networks of communities of practice between the partner cities;
- Revealed existing or potential local clusters;
- Designed the routs for cultural tourism around the BSR cities;
- Created the pipe line of projects for funding local initiatives resulted from the Project.

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