



# POP-UP URBAN SPACES

## E-NEWSLETTER

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Together for

# PopUpUrbanSpaces



We are thrilled to announce that the PopUpUrbanSpaces project has entered its 10th month: over the past months, our partnership of 11 dedicated organizations has been hard at work, and we are delighted to see the project yielding more results with each passing day.

The collaboration among our diverse partners has been instrumental in creating increasingly meaningful synergies within our respective work. The transnational cooperation has played a pivotal role in propelling the project forward, and we are excited about the progress made so far.

As we approach the holiday season and the joyous occasion of Christmas, we take a moment to reflect on our achievements and express our gratitude for the support and dedication of each member of our community. The PopUpUrbanSpaces project is not just a collaboration; it's a journey we undertake together towards creating vibrant urban spaces.

Now, as we all take a brief pause to celebrate Christmas—a time of wonder, warmth, and togetherness with our loved ones—we extend our heartfelt wishes to you and yours. May this festive season bring you joy, peace, and inspiration for the upcoming year. Thank you for being a part of our journey, and we look forward to continued success in the coming months.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

POPUPURBANSPPACES  
E-NEWSLETTER

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# MEETING #1

## NYÍREGYHÁZA



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On June 27-28, the PopUpUrbanSpaces partnership reached a significant milestone by convening in Nyíregyháza, Hungary, for their inaugural face-to-face meeting. This gathering served as a pivotal moment for the 11 partners to establish personal connections and delve into the project's implementation plan. The meeting facilitated a common understanding of key project concepts and allowed for collaborative discussions to define the partnership's primary tasks moving forward. This in-person interaction not only strengthened the bonds among partners but also laid the groundwork for a focused and coordinated effort as they work together to bring the PopUpUrbanSpaces project to fruition.

On October 2-3, the PopUpUrbanSpaces partnership reconvened for their second meeting, this time in Ferrara, Italy. This gathering provided another opportunity for the 11 partners to assess the progress made since their initial meeting and engage in interactive and participative workshops. During these sessions, the partners collaborated closely, leveraging their collective expertise to address project challenges and refine strategies. The Ferrara meeting not only facilitated a comprehensive review of advancements but also reinforced the collaborative spirit within the partnership, underscoring their commitment to the success of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project.

## FERRARA



Presenting work packages

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# MEETING #2

## WHAT WE ACHIEVED SO FAR

Partners of the PopUpUrbanSpaces projects made significant progress in fulfilling the tasks included in Work Package 1 TRANSFORMATION. The aim of WPI is to increase awareness and improve capacities of public sector actors to better respond to urban mobility challenges using innovative tactical urbanism and digital communication approaches.

In the first 8 months of project implementation, three documents were prepared that contain really beneficial and inspiring information on tactical urban development and popup interventions not only for the partners, but also for urban development specialists, practitioners and other interested actors.

The first one is the Baseline Study that summarizes the latest scientific and practical information of tactical urbanism, tactical placemaking, and how these are used to help create the conditions of sustainable urban mobility. In addition, the Baseline Study also explores how digital communication is used in cities to raise awareness of residents - primarily but not exclusively of the key topics of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project. The purpose of the Baseline Study is to

- bring each project partner to the same level of information and knowledge;
- create a common perception among the partners in connection with the background and main topics of tactical urbanism and digital urban communication;
- reveal the recent situation and challenges in the cities represented in the partnership;
- provide a starting point in preparation of demonstration actions which ensure the testing process necessary for the development of the toolkit;
- broaden and deepen understanding of professionals dealing with urban development or other interested persons who are not directly involved in the project.

The second deliverable is the Urban Mobility and Travel Behaviour Audit of the 7 pilot cities based on a common methodology to collect specific information on urban mobility. The audit aims to assess the current state of mobility in these cities, including the existing infrastructure and the main challenges faced in the provision of sustainable mobility options and in using public spaces. The audit also seeks to understand the travel attitude of the population, including their travel behaviour, preferences, and willingness to adopt new mobility options. Through this audit, any cities can identify gaps and opportunities for 'greening' mobility practices as well as reducing congestion and pollution.

Thirdly, the Good Practice Catalogue effectively demonstrates the various popup approaches and the achievable results. The aim of it is collecting, processing and presenting good practices in connection with the key topics of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project: tactical urbanism, sustainable urban mobility, use of public spaces, and digital urban communication. With doing so, this document serves as an easy-to-use collection of ideas for cities, stakeholders and the wider public to have concrete examples on how to implement interventions which create a more sustainable attitude towards urban mobility. Furthermore, it will support the stakeholder engagement, dissemination and policy work.

In addition, partners establish and run urban-rural partnership networks to engage and sensitise the stakeholders. Based on a standard methodology, the partnerships facilitate developing closer interrelations between the main centres and their surrounding communities and jointly tackle mobility challenges.

As one of the key outputs of the project, the Capacity Building Strategy will be completed by the end of 2023. The Municipality of Nyíregyháza from Hungary is responsible for leading Work Package 1 of the PopUpUrbanSpaces project; however, the deliverables could not have been prepared without the efficient and effective cooperation of the partners

# WPI

# LEAD PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

MOK (SLO)

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## VESEL BOŽIČ

Every year, the Municipality of Kamnik organises a number of Christmas and New Year events that attract many residents and visitors from near and far.

The December atmosphere has already started on the very first day of December, when children from Kamnik kindergartens and schools decorated Christmas trees on the most beautiful Old town street, called Šutna Street, followed by the opening of the ice rink on the main square in the town centre and the New Year Children's Bazaar. The traditional lighting of the New Year lights all over the town has already summoned St Nicholas and his angelic entourage, and some naughty or minor mischief has also attracted naughty parkers.

In mid-December, the main street of the Old Town will be magically transformed by flaming flames in glass pots and home-made lanterns. This is the start of this year's series of events by the name of Fairytale Kamnik, which will continue throughout December with the town centre's vendors bringing a festive atmosphere to the town centre with their events/offer. They will be offering a wide selection of New Year and Christmas gifts. They will be delighted to attract many people visiting and buying gifts, as this is a way of showing support for local artists, craftspeople and the cute little shops that give our town a welcoming and vibrant feel. Vendors offer a variety of products such as wooden toys, ceramics, jewellery, unique clothing and local food (walnut cake »potica«, locally produced salami, cheese, mulled wine, boutique beers from local microbreweries, etc.). We should support them to keep our town vibrant all year round.



The rest of the year many craft workshops for children and adults, interesting lectures, Christmas and New Year concerts, theatre performances, nativity plays and other festive events will cater for different tastes of visitors. The festive atmosphere will continue to rise until the traditional New Year's Eve concerts in the Main Square from 28 to 31 December, which will be rounded off with the traditional outdoor New Year's Eve party with the Kamnik Folk Entertainment Ensemble. The New Year will be ushered in with a spectacular fireworks display.

Photo copyright: Miroslav Hrkalović

# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

IRMIR (POL)

## Wesołych Świąt!

One of the most interesting, though not exclusive to Krakow, attractions during the Christmas season is the Christmas Market. The first mention of it within the city dates back to the 13th century. In those days it was primarily a fair where not only food products, but also crafts and other items were traded.

Nowadays, the Christmas Market is an event that begins back in November and ends with the end of December or early January. The Market also offers many activities for children and adults. For example, children can take part in handicraft workshops, decorate gingerbread, meet Santa Claus and take part in various contests.



The Market also features numerous concerts, artistic performances and presentations related to Polish Christmas traditions. Music bands, choirs and dance groups perform traditional carols and pastorals on a stage located in the main square, creating an extraordinary Christmas atmosphere.

In addition, every year there is the Kraków Nativity Scene Contest in the Krzysztofory, which in 2014 was included in the national list of intangible cultural heritage, and in 2018 the tradition of performing nativity scenes is the first entry from Poland on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity. For several days in many places (including the Main Square) you can admire a nativity scene with live animals.

# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

NYHMJV (HUN)

## **Boldog Karácsonyt!**

As the Advent season commences, Kossuth Square in our city bursts with the magical fervor of the Advent fair. Here, the air carries the aroma of hot wine, chimney cakes, and delectable treats, enticing all with their festive flavors. Beside the Roman Catholic church, a luminous Ferris wheel offers breathtaking views of the city center adorned with sparkling Christmas lights.

A splendid Christmas tree graces Kossuth Square, a canvas for children's heartfelt ornaments and messages for the Little Jesus. Each Advent Sunday, our mayor ignites a new candle on the city's Advent wreath, marking the path to Christmas with hope and anticipation.

In Hungary, the festive magic of Christmas arrives not with Santa Claus but with Little Jesus, bearing cherished gifts. As Christmas Eve dawns, tables across the country brim with traditional delights like fish soup, stuffed cabbage, and delightful poppy seed and walnut bagels, filling homes with the warmth of Hungarian Christmas traditions.



# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ZWB (GER)

## Fröhliche und gesegnete Weihnachten!

Bamberg's Christmas market opened on 28 November and is open in the city centre until 23 December. At 47 different market stalls, most of which are made of wood, dotted around the town hall square and in the pedestrian zone, there is a wide range of delicacies such as mulled wine and roasted almonds as well as regional handicrafts to stroll around and enjoy. For the first time this year, a ten metre high Christmas pyramid with hot drinks will create a particularly festive atmosphere at the Bamberg Christmas market. Another eye-catcher is a large Christmas tree in the centre of the square, which dominates the colourful hustle and bustle.

Bamberg's highlight, as in neighbouring Nuremberg, is the election of a Christ Child, who accompanies the Christmas market tradition and for example performs at the opening together with Bamberg's Lord Mayor Andreas Starke, market traders and showmen.

A special Advent tradition throughout the city and the surrounding area of Bamberg is the incredible variety of nativity scenes. The nativity scene tradition is cultivated with dedication and is alive in many local and church nativity scenes. Large and small, historical and modern, Franconian or from all over the world can be admired. All of them invite you to take a contemplative stroll. There are also special Christmas tours of these pop-up Bible scenes. On this occasion, guests come from near and far every year. Maybe you've become curious too!?



Merry Christmas from Bamberg!

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# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

EMFIE (HUN)



## Áldott Karácsonyt!

In Szeged, the Christmas market is a vibrant hub of festive delights, bustling with traditional Hungarian treats and crafts against the backdrop of the city's largest square, Dóm tér. The market is a microcosm of local culture, featuring the iconic "kürtőskalács" (on the picture above), fragrant mulled wine, punch, and tea. Artisans showcase their handcrafted wares, while the aroma of roasted chestnuts fills the air. Dóm tér transforms into a winter wonderland, offering more than just culinary delights. Visitors can enjoy pony rides and marvel at the towering Ferris wheel. Amidst this festive atmosphere, the traditional Hungarian Christmas menu takes center stage, featuring stuffed cabbage, fisherman's soup (halászlé), and, of course, the cherished art of making gingerbread. Our "Pop-Up Urban Spaces" initiative aligns seamlessly with this seasonal market by celebrating local traditions, fostering community engagement, and creating dynamic temporary spaces that enhance the city's vibrancy. The Christmas market embodies the essence of our project, offering a unique space where culture, tradition, and joy converge.



# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

COFE (ITA)

## Buon Natale!

The 2023 Festive Season is making Ferrara shine at its best with 130 kilometers of bright light bulbs; tons of delicatessen and gifts in the Christmas market; and rides and trains for the joy of children all around the city centre and in the peripheries! Popping up at every corner, this year the traditional luminarie are expected to enlighten the streets on December 2nd, a week before the "classical" date of the 8th - which remains for the most-awaited switch on of the 22mt Christmas tree in front of the Cathedral.



The gleaming path linking the Train Station to Piazza Trento e Trieste starts with a sparkling, blue comet at the main gate of the city, just in front of the glowing Winter Park set up at Parco Coletta with the ice-skating rink and the fun-fair. The huge crossroad surrounding the park is also hosting the pop-up free concert of the international star Amii Stewart, while a rich live music programme will liven up the streets and the piazzas with the Jubilation Gospel Choir, the Souvenir de Noel and a special programme in the theatres and cinemas in town. Together with the comet, a gilded Christmas ball and a 12-pointed star will make the photos in the fascinating Rotonda Foschini and in the impressive Piazza Municipale with its Christmas Village even more magical. Nothing more special, than, that the ritual for New Years' Eve: thousand of people come each year to embrace the Castle during the firework show of the Incendio, a kaleidoscopic event of colors, sparks and music to welcome 2024 in the most crackling, roaring, popping way possible.

# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

IPOP (SLO)

## VESEL BOŽIČ IN PRIJETNE PRAZNIKE!

In Slovenia, Christmas is a cherished time marked by family gatherings and festive traditions. On Christmas Eve, families usually come together for a special dinner featuring traditional Slovenian dishes like potica (nut roll). The evening often includes the exchange of gifts, and the religious part of Slovenians usually attends the midnight Mass.

We would like to present a Christmas program in the old town of Škofja Loka, where they annually organize Shop Windows of Imagination. This is a heartwarming, locally powered Christmas initiative that maintains the authenticity of the Christmas market. The shop windows are transformed into exhibitions of artists and craftsmen. For the eighth consecutive year, the creative and cultural scene in Škofja Loka comes together to showcase the latest creative and craft products. In a joint effort involving 12 organizations, they aim to provide visitors to the old town of Škofja Loka with artistic works and high-quality products from craftsmen during the holiday season. They dedicate their spaces to sales exhibitions of works by artists, craftsmen, photographers, designers, and other creators, transforming them into holiday shops where visitors can choose original and unique gifts suitable for December gift-giving.

Another delightful Christmas event venue is Vetrinjski dvor - Vetrinjski Mansion in Maribor. Each year, local NGOs organize the "Vilinsko mesto" Festival - a celebration of play, creativity, fairy tales, and experiences. The festival includes performances, concerts, storytelling sessions, creative workshops, and other free events for the whole family. It is a wonderful opportunity to experience some free alternative Christmas programs and spend time with friends and family.

Photo copyrights: Izložbe domišljije, Škofja Loka, Visit Ljubljana and Vilinsko mesto, Maribor



*Shop windows of imagination  
in Škofja Loka*



*Ljubljana city centre and  
Fairy city in Maribor*



# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

UWK (AUT)



## FRÖHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN!

The magnificent Krems Advent magic in the old town runs from Thursday, November 23 to Saturday, December 23, 2023. There are more than 200 Christmas stores, restaurants and traditional arts and crafts shops and stand which will once again make Krems an atmospheric place to be during the Advent time. The unique old town of Krems offers plenty of space to stroll, enjoy and simply be enchanted by Christmas. While some of the PopUp stands sell mule for charitable reasons, others offer various handcrafts. Enjoyong hot wine outside brings people together who would otherwise stay home during the cold days of winter. Along the 700-metre-long pedestrian zone and in the romantic side streets, visitors can look forward to Christmas lighting with special Christmas photo points for their souvenir albums. In addition to the small, fine stores, numerous Christmas huts invite you to enjoy an atmospheric treat in the form of homemade Wachau mulled wine, chestnuts and delicate waffles. Many other exhibitors present themselves with lovingly made handicraft products.

Throughout Advent, the charming squares in Krems' city center invite you to linger and enjoy the unique Wachau Christmas atmosphere in the old town of Krems.

# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

RARR (POL)

## WESOŁYCH ŚWIAT!

We all looking forward to Christmas coming. This is a special period when time slows down for a moment so that we can enjoy what we usually miss in the multitude of duties and tasks we have to perform.

The Christmas Town has been open on the market square in Rzeszow since the beginning of December. Every year it attracts many residents of Rzeszów and the entire region. It is in the Christmas Town that the traditional Christmas Fair takes place, where you will find stalls with handicrafts, Christmas decorations and food. The Christmas market will be accompanied by many artistic events, including: distribution of gifts by Saint. Santa Claus, outdoor cinema for children and adults, live music, city Christmas Eve.

In Poland we have many Christmas traditions, among the most important we can mention:

1. Decorating the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve morning.
  2. Preparing the table, including placing hay under the tablecloth, which is to symbolize the birth of Jesus in poverty.
  3. First star: Traditionally, the Christmas Eve dinner begins with the first star in the sky. This is a symbolic reference to the Star of Bethlehem, marking the birth of Jesus, which, according to the Bible, was seen by the Three Kings on the eastern side of the sky.
  4. Common Prayer: Christmas Eve dinner, in the Polish tradition, begins with prayer and reading of a fragment of the Holy Bible according to St. Matthew or Luke, regarding the birth of Jesus, and lighting a Christmas Eve candle symbolizing Christ as the Light of the world.
  5. The wafer: Breaking the wafer with all participants of the Christmas Eve dinner is its central point. This gesture symbolizes the mutual sacrifice of each for the other and the willingness to share the fruits of their daily work with their loved ones. Sharing the wafer is intended to bring people closer and unite. The wafer is a remnant, a trace of the old Christian eulogies (sacrificial bread that was placed on the altar during the preparation of the Eucharistic gifts).
  6. Additional setting: An additional, free setting is placed on the table, one more than the number of participants of the Christmas Eve dinner. It is symbolically intended for an unannounced guest.
  7. Christmas Eve dishes: Depending on the region of Poland and family traditions, the set of Christmas Eve dishes varies, but traditionally, all the fruits of the earth should be on the table, and there should be twelve dishes. Trying each one is supposed to bring you good luck all year round. The most popular Polish dishes are red borscht with dumplings, mushroom soup, carp (fish) in various forms, kutia, dumplings with cabbage and mushrooms, kulebiak, and dried fruit compote.
  8. Singing carols in which all participants of the Christmas Eve dinner are involved.
- Let it be a special time for each of us with our loved ones.



# PARTNERS' NEWS

POP-UP CHRISTMAS IN THE PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

DAN (CRO)

## SRETAN BOŽIĆ!

While we're enjoying our boiled wine and sausages during Advent in Varaždin we managed to pop up with street solutions all along the city including our pilot area. Read more about it below.

The Development agency Sjever DAN d.o.o., in collaboration with the City of Varaždin and the Varaždin Tourist Board, has already started PopUp solutions concerning the city centre, in particular our pilot area, which has been previewed for implementation in the framework of the pilot activity in the City of Varaždin. In the light of the fact that certain motor vehicle entities continue to usurp the pedestrian zone within Šenoa Street, this has been addressed by a specific Christmas solution - holiday decorations and festive installations were placed at the entrance of the street, thus preventing the entry and passage of motor vehicles. It should be noted that in the spirit of the holidays, another urban-rural local partnership workshop was held in a slightly different way ('Walkshop') - the participants of the workshop went out into the streets and squares of the city and gave their suggestions regarding the issues of certain points that are considered dangerous for citizens (especially pedestrians and cyclists), and they will be included in development of the City of Varaždin Local Action Plan.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!



# Have a very Merry Christmas!

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



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