

GREENEU

“THE EUROPE THAT WE WANT”

MEETING IN NOVO MESTO (SLOVENIA)

11th of September – 14th of September 2023

MINUTES

Work package 6

PARTNER ORGANISATION:

Lead Partner: AYUNTAMIENTO DE DOLORES (Spain)

Partner 2: MUNICÍPIO DE AMARANTE (Portugal)

Partner 3: COMUNE DI CERVIA (Italy)

Partner 4: GODOLLO KORNYEKI REGIONALIS TURISZTIKAI EGYESULET, representing GODOLLO (Hungary)

Partner 5: MUNICIPALITY OF FARKADONA (Greece)

Partner 6: ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPING VOLUNTARY, representing NOVO MESTO (Slovenia)

Partner 7: ATHIENOU DIMOS (Cyprus)

Partner 8: OPCINA KALNIK OPCINSKO VIJECE KALNIK (Croatia)

OBJECTIVES:

- To investigate and formulate a sustainable urban development strategy that addresses environmental, economic, and social aspects to enhance the quality of life in urban area
- To assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth awareness of environmental issues, including changes in behavior and attitudes towards sustainability.
- To research and develop a comprehensive "Zero Waste Strategy" that promotes responsible consumption and waste reduction, focusing on both current practices and future trends.
- To examine opportunities and challenges in the green labor market and entrepreneurship, identifying emerging sectors and skill requirements in the context of sustainable economic growth.
- To explore innovative green technologies and their potential applications in various industries, assessing their role in advancing sustainable practices and addressing environmental challenges.

I) DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TAKEN PLACE

11. 9. 2023 (Day 1)

Arrival of Participants from each delegation.

Welcome from DRPD members and welcoming dinner.

12. 9. 2023 (Day 2)

In the morning, GreenEU partners and participants gathered in the Rotovž Municipality City Hall. After the compulsory registration, on behalf of the Municipality of Novo mesto and the Association for the Development of Voluntary Work, Nina Štampohar welcomed all participants and spoke a few words about the project. She also presented the programme. Then she handed over the floor to Mr. Peter Geršič, Head of the Development Projects Office of the Municipality of Novo mesto. The Head of the Office, Mr Geršič, presented the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy of Novo mesto entitled "City of History and Future".



We have learned the importance of strategies for each city to be diverse and productive in order to sustain the long-term well-being of its inhabitants. These must depend on the natural environment and the responsible use of natural resources. Through urban strategies, we provide a place to live, work, create, educate, learn, know and socialise, where innovation and technologies are developed to sustain the long-term well-being of the inhabitants. All these strategies must ensure the well-being of the population in a planned manner, with a long-term plan of action to address the identified problems in achieving the set objectives.

Mr Geršič gave us an example of the good practice of the Novo mesto strategies:

Sustainable Urban Strategy 2030 (SUS 2030)

Municipality Development Strategy 2030

SECAP – Sustainable energy & climate action plan

The purpose of preparing the SUS is to support sustainable urban development and determine integrated measures to deal with the economic, environmental, climatic, demographic and social challenges faced by urban areas and the rural hinterland connected to them. SUS must be: Smart, Green, Inclusive, Connecting.



We discussed the development of the circular economy and touched upon the upcoming green projects in Novo mesto that are facing challenges. We also touched upon climate change and the expected mild winters in the future. We learnt that municipalities did not feel the need for Sustainable Development Offices in the past, but nowadays they have proven to be necessary as we face more frequent weather changes. This is why Novo mesto does not look like an industrial city, even though it has exports worth €3 billion. Its river Krka is unpolluted and fully swimmable.

Finally, Tanja Cesar from the Association for the Development of Voluntary Work (DRPD) gave a very inspiring presentation on DRPD's vision on the Green Path and sustainable development. In her speech, she stressed the importance of sustainable development and how DRPD is working in this field. She gave us a detailed presentation of the programmes that DRPD is implementing, including care for refugees, running a youth centre, providing learning support and carrying out activities with Roma children. She highlighted how these programmes contribute to improving the local community and strengthen social inclusion.

In addition, Ms Cesar described how the DRPD remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic and focused on raising children's awareness on the importance of recycling and the proper disposal of protective masks. This underlined their commitment to a sustainable approach in their daily lives.



The final part of the presentation was dedicated to the screening of a film about the Slovenian community and its green future. This segment further reinforced the message of the importance of sustainable development and highlighted how every individual and organisation can contribute to a better future.

Later in the day we had the privilege to visit GRM - Novo mesto - Center for Biotechnology and Tourism, where we were welcomed by biologist Nina Gerjevič. The biologist proudly showed us around the school estate and the many green projects, most of which are funded by European funds.



The school, which has played an important role in the local community for 131 years, is spread over 250 hectares of land, including 50 hectares of woodland. We have paid special attention to their cow rearing, where they have about 60 cows that contribute about 600 litres of milk every day. The milk from these cows is then sold in bulk, without packaging, via a milk dispenser without the use of chemicals. They also use the milk to produce organic products that do not contain any chemicals.

After the tour of the estate, we were welcomed in the school's lecture room by Mrs Martina Kralj, who addressed us on behalf of the school's headmistress. We then listened to an interesting presentation entitled "Ecology in the present and the future" on the topic of "Zero waste", where we learnt about the concept of zero waste. The presentation was given by biologist Nina Gerjevic.

We concluded with a practical interactive workshop with second year students from the Biotechnical School, discussing the importance of environmental awareness. This experience further inspired us to work together on environmental conservation and sustainable development. We are glad to have had the opportunity to visit GRM - Novo mesto - Center for Biotechnology and Tourism and to learn about their exemplary approaches to sustainable lifestyle and education.



In the afternoon, Janez Rodič, our well-informed tourist guide, showed us around the charming Old Town of Novo mesto. He enthusiastically highlighted the rich history of the old part of the city. We walked along the cobble streets while listening to interesting stories about the past of the city. These insights added depth and context to the historical sites we visited. Novo mesto hidden gems and local secrets helped to make the trip truly memorable.

13. 9. 2023 (Day 3)

On the second working day, Greenu participants visited the Development Centre Novo mesto - Business Incubator Podbreznik. The event took place in the premises of the development centre, which aims to promote innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship.

Green trends in entrepreneurship: participants learned about current green trends and ideas in entrepreneurship, which play a key role in shaping the future of business. Topics covered include:

- Green labour market and entrepreneurship: introduction to the area focusing on employment and job creation in green industries.
- LabTop - Future Technologies: An overview of the technological innovations that are leading the way to a green future.



Speakers:

- **Franci Bratkovič, Director of the Development Centre:** Mr Bratkovič shared his experience in the field of entrepreneurship and sustainable development and presented key guidelines for the successful implementation of green approaches in business.



- **Simon Jeraj, Project Manager**, presented the vision and goals of the development centre and stressed the importance of cooperation between different stakeholders, especially local manufacturers, to achieve sustainable solutions. As a point of interest, he also presented the annual employee competition calendar. In it, employees enter their arrivals to work by bicycle, electric car, scooter or on foot, competing to see who has made the most pollution-free journeys to work on an annual basis.

PROJECT COORDINATION

After the presentation, we had a debriefing and discussion on the future activities of the Greenu project. The event took place in a constructive atmosphere where participants exchanged ideas and views on sustainable development. We discussed future meetings of the project partners. Two partner meetings remain before the Greenu project comes to an end.

WP7: WE ALL ARE EUROPE in Athienou (Cyprus)

The proposed date of the partners from Cyprus for the seventh event was 21 November 2023 - 24 November 2023. Travel days 21 and 24 November, working days 22 and 23 November. The majority of those present agreed with the date. The final confirmation of the date will be made with the lead partner and the project coordinators at the next online meeting.

WP8: FINAL MEETING: SPREAD THE WORD in Kalnik (Croatia)

It is pointed out that the last final meeting could be held in Croatia next year in April

The discussion was fruitful and the participants received valuable information for further work within the Greenu project. After the discussion, an interactive quiz on "Little Green Slovenia" was held.



The Greenu project continues its journey to promote sustainable development and green innovation across Europe.

In the afternoon, GREENEU partners had the opportunity to visit the magical Otočec Castle and explore its clean paths and surroundings, including the green Krka River that surrounds it. This visit was the "icing on the cake" and reinforced our commitment to sustainable development promoted by GREENEU. The visit was very informative and inspiring. The Otočec Castle, which has a long history, fascinated us with its architecture and natural surroundings. The project partners had the opportunity to discover the clean paths that lead through the castle surroundings and to delve into the diverse natural heritage of the area.



14. 9. 2023 (Day 4)

Departure of participants and awarding of 6WP certificates - GREENEU



PROJECT DISSEMINATIONS, NEWS, LINKS:

<https://greeneu-cerv.eu/>

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02ezrnvhZoxu3bdjvDtB2F2R7hDgH2JV8eJnQCbSZMjtLDwetwRME5cSHGEBuuuMdl&id=100071410274785

<https://www.facebook.com/100064365984640/posts/pfbid032cvR1sCd9PwszszHyTR8hi2PYDGCR9R7Co3TYXavtUuwehE3c2w7hf5ScxDL4jvzl/?sfnsn=mo>

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