



INTERREG IVC PROJECT PERIURBAN PARKS

Component 4: Methodology Testing and Regional Action Plans

Final Report Template

Pilot Area	Natural park Drahaň – Troja in Prague district Troja
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Part 1: Contact Details

1. Pilot Area

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Part 2: Information on Project Activities

The current template is a tool for elaborating the final report of the pilot partner and peer review activities. It therefore compiles the partners' contributions formulated in the work plan and peer review templates according to the fields below.

1. Overview of Pilot Area

Provide a brief description of the chosen pilot area, including key characteristics (abstract of relevant aspects mentioned on Work Plan: size, typology of park, level of development of park, main functions, main strengths and weaknesses):

The pilot area is situated in Prague - Troja municipality where about 50% (approx. 300 ha) of the total park territory is located. The border of the part of the park territory does not correspond with still existing natural segments of with a recreation potential and important fragments of an original landscape. This southern part of the park comprises mostly residential areas with prevailing family houses (south border) and the housing estate (north border) are located on the delimited territory. The park also includes Zoological and Botanical garden and varied groups of natural, cultural and tourist sites. The territory of the park encompasses two significant European locations of Natura 2000 and UNESCO monuments. It is an important area maintaining biodiversity, protected species and ecological stability of the territory in the vicinity of the city centre. The disparity between the number of inhabitants and visitors of the territory (especially of ZOO), the lack of services and touristic infrastructure or the uncoordinated tourism are the most current issues that need to be addressed. It is also crucial to save Troja from being gradually sealed by city structure.

2. Methodology

According to the Methodology Sections you had selected under field 3.2.a of your Work Plan, please shortly describe the Methodologies implemented in your contribution to component 4:

Management/relation to surrounding area

Within the Methodologies implementation relationships with neighbouring municipalities were established, with aim to share and to spread ideas of periurban parks. With that relates also a renewal of discussion on green belt of city of Prague. The talks about the care for the

selected park's parts with important stakeholders of the area (ZOO, BG) were begun; and simultaneously the particular negotiations about management of greenery and protected natural areas in the park with Prague municipal authority are under way.

The new position carrying out public service utility - a care about public open spaces (procuring of tidiness, greenery maintenance). The employment office provides the service for Prague-Troja municipality, and long term unemployed persons carry out the utilities (Prague-Troja municipality does not pay for the service).

The Common Methodology was also commented by representative of Prague municipal authority, department of environment.

Policy/regulatory aspects

From the project emerged that existing status "natural park" is from the project's point of view deficient, as it does not meet all needed aspects, which the area shall fulfil. That is why the new term "periurban park" ("příměstský/ periurbánní park") was defined. The aim is to delineate these areas in Troja and in Prague as well and integrate them into urban planning documentation (existing urban plan and preparing metropolitan plan – the tools enable regulation of land use/ land occupation).

Environmental/rural aspects

There are in Troja district plenty of valuable biotopes, bounded especially on the river and rocky outcrops. They are endangered by degradation due to lack management and care (e.g. steppe overgrown by trees/ shrubs, presence of invasive species, rubbishes and rubbish dumps. Prague-Troja district carried out steps to improve the situation: self-seeded plants were eliminated on steppe locations, the goat pasture in selected areas was realized, and park cleaning with volunteers was organized by Prague-Troja district.

Economic aspects

Prague-Troja municipality searches continuously other financial sources for improvement of park state and its care ensuring, and that especially by different grants. In 2012 Prague-Troja municipality has got: a Capital City Grant for above mentioned goats and sheep pasture; grant for the "Greenway Prague-Dresden" project from Partnerství Foundation and Česká Spořitelna Foundation – installation of information boards, seats and bicycle stands along the A2 bicycle trail in the natural park Drahaň-Troja; grants for support of cultural events holding (e.g. Troja vintage).

A new position carrying out public service utility (involvement of a long-term unemployed persons paid by employment office) was established that does not encumber the budget of Troja municipality.

Social and Communication Aspects

The discussion with stakeholders is under way on passive and active levels.

A local and Prague (over-local) web page, local magazine, leaflets, brochures, broadcasting in TV rank among passive communication. The active forms of communication are annual holding of cultural/ sport events for public, organization of educational activities for public and schools (excursions with experts, Days of European Heritage); and active involvement of stakeholders into the project via public meetings in Troja; or engagement of local inhabitants into public inquiry, e.g. localities selection for index of tidiness assessment.

The aim of all these activates is especially to support local identity, the relationship of local inhabitants to the place of living and inform the public about the values of the periurban landscapes.

Infrastructure aspects

The discussion with Prague municipal authority was open with issue: renewal and creation of new paths and an increase of landscape permeability. New solutions in transport services are searched, including paths/ tracks and roads marking, via the cooperation with Faculty of Tourism and students projects.

Prague-Troja district has faced with a closure of tracks and paths through areal of Botanical Garden (part of the natural park Drahaň-Troja). Negotiations are under way.

3. Obstacles

How where the aforementioned Methodologies used in order to face the Weaknesses and Obstacles described under section 3.2.b addressed by the aforementioned methodologies selected?

- **It is crucial to save Troja from being gradually sealed by city structure** – there are insufficient tools for land and even natural reserves/ monuments protection. Prague-Troja municipality opened a discussion with stakeholders and private land owners about possibilities of usage some of plots, e.g. for local products production; or rent a plots for an agricultural purposes, where a sale of local product will bring a profits - a financial compensation from the plots.

- **Lost of original landscape character and biodiversity** – Prague-Troja municipality supported and extends the traditional way of farming and greenery maintenance in broader area of the natural park. The pasture with goats and flocks of sheep occurred in Troja in last centuries and returns back the origin element of farming in the landscape. The pasture helps to renew a former steppe ecosystems and suitable locality for rare plant and animal species arises, similar to those which are present in the nearby natural reservation and Natura 2000 locality Podhoří, and natural monuments Havránka and Salabka.

- **To keep the balance between number of visitors and capacity of park territory** – the presence of attractions as the ZOO or Botanical Garden, the balance will be very difficult to keep. The Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague (CULS), in cooperation with Prague-Troja municipality and citizens association Salvia organized several excursions to promote also an "ignored" parts of the natural park.

- **Lost of permeability of the territory (barriers)** – Prague-Troja municipality in cooperation with the CULS organized a meeting where local stakeholders, private owners and representatives of ZOO and BG were invited, and they opened a discussion about the issue.

- **Insufficient recreational equipment of landscape** – Prague-Troja municipality has acquired a grant on a purchase and placement information boards, seats and bicycle stands along the A2 bicycle trail in the natural park Drahaň-Troja. The trail connects Prague with Dresden, and in the future the trail should meet the Greenway's conditions and be called "Greenway Prague-Dresden". The new equipment will contribute to increasing the attractiveness of the trail and it will also provide necessary places for rest and relaxation.

- **Lack of financial sources for the management of the Park** – Prague-Troja municipality solved the problem partly by an involvement of volunteers – e.g. Index of tidiness. Secondly the establishment of a Local action group is planned (Action 3). It includes a foundation of a local Action group promoting the development of the periurban park, a series of cultural and educational activities enhancing public awareness of the importance of the periurban landscape and ensuring the necessary care of the park.

4. Actions

Please provide a description to what degree the Actions selected under Part 4 of your Work Plan were appropriately designed and duly carried out in order to implement the Methodologies selected as well as to face the Weaknesses / Obstacles mentioned above.

- 1) Stakeholders meetings – two meetings with stakeholders were carried out in 2012. The project itself, planned and already implemented activities were introduced there. The aim of the meetings was awareness raising of the natural park Drahaň-Troja and involving the stakeholders into the care of the periurban park.
- 2) Cultural events – many cultural and sporting events are annually carried out on the territory of Prague-Troja municipality. The events (e.g. Troja vintage, the Earth Day) are ideal for dissemination of ideas of periurban parks and therefore Prague-Troja municipality has introduced the Periurban Parks project through posters and presentations. Four excursions with experts were organised within the project in the natural park Drahaň-Troja.
- 3) Landscape permeability – there are many natural and artificial barriers in the landscape that decrease the permeability of Troja landscape. Prague-Troja municipality made a decision to improve the “passability” by restoration of old and establishment of new paths/tracks. In March 2012 two new tracks over the flood wall were built. The paths connect now the residential area in Troja with the recreational area and with bicycle trail by the river. A restoration and creation of new tracks and trails connecting particular areas are still in the plan.
- 4) Improving the quality of public spaces – several areas located in the park are included into the tidiness monitoring project in public spaces called “Index of tidiness”. The areas are controlled within the monitoring once per week. The records of controls are available at Prague-Troja municipality. The data are also recorded into the database. The municipality can manage the cleaning in the areas based on the information.
- 5) Management of the natural park – particular steps improving conditions of natural areas are carried out by systematic activities, e.g. pasture in selected areas, cutting unwanted shrubs in neglected areas, planting new trees and greenery maintenance. Within improving conditions a new playground was built and new informative boards were designed along the bicycle trail.
- 6) Discussion about management in the area was opened with local stakeholders. An idea to establish a new public service company (PSC) with aim to manage the whole park was introduced. The experts and stakeholders participated in the Periurban Parks project would be members of the PSC. The PSC would dispose with own budget (e.g. from Prague City Grants, Prague-Troja municipality grants, different foundations) and it would implement the intentions of the Action Plan.
- 7) Grants are profitable financial sources. Prague-Troja municipality has gained three grants this year that were used for park’s conditions improvement:
 - Prague City Grant – financial support (in cooperation with Q. Schwank foundation) for placement of a sheep and goats flock on a neglected hillside in Troja, cutting unwanted shrubs in neglected areas;
 - Greenways Grant from Partnerství Foundation - place information boards, seats and bicycle stands along the A2 bicycle trail in the natural park Drahaň-Troja. The trail connects Prague with Dresden, and in the future the trail should meet the Greenway’s conditions and be called “Greenway Prague-Dresden”;
 - Grant from Wine Foundation – financial support for organizing Troja Vintage where Periurban Parks project was presented.

How has it been secured that the various project activities are in line with the project scope and the methodologies selected?

Activities were implemented in compliance with project guidelines – Common Methodology, Good Practices; and they were inspired by presentations and excursions within meetings.

5. Stakeholders

In what function have the stakeholders (chapter 2.2 of Work Plan) been involved into the actions (actively/passively) and what has been their qualitative contribution?

The stakeholders were involved actively and passively within the project into decision making processes about aspects of the natural park. They were passively informed about the actions planned to be implemented within the project and they have also opportunity to participate actively on the meetings and decide jointly the form of Action Plan. The members of Prague municipal authority and municipalities have been involved into implementation of “periurban parks” and “green belt” into the urban planning documentation; establishment of a sustainable management of the landscape in “Trojska kotlina”; and public was involved into awareness rising of values of periurban landscape in Troja (via several events holding in Prague-Troja). Local inhabitants were engagement into the public inquiry (selection of localities for assessment of index of tidiness).

What did the stakeholders qualitatively achieve through their participation at the project activities?

The contribution for the stakeholders was their participation on the Action Plan preparation. They play an important role in decision making processes within Prague-Troja municipality. They are supported in gaining a relationship the place of living by strengthening the local community.

Please specify which kind of knowledge has been transferred between project partners and stakeholders and what was the result of this:

The possibilities of communication with local inhabitants by variety of events holding in Prague-Troja district was demonstrated the project partners. The new concept of “periurban parks” was introduced to the stakeholders and possibilities of managing the natural park and protection/ usage of free land in the area. The result was especially the awareness rising about managing the natural park.

6. Peer Reviews

To what degree and in what fields did the peer review partners upgrade the overall planning process? What was their input used in the component 4 activities of the pilot partner?

The contribution of peer reviews partners includes experiences from tours within meetings, information sent by email or post, and experiences acquired within discussion at the meetings.

- Volunteering (FEDENATUR, Aberdeen City Council)
- Educational materials and awareness rising material for visitors and children (Vithosha Nature Park Directorate, Danube Ipoly National Park Direcotorate)
- Equipment in park, e.g. info boards (Municipality of Lisbon, Lille Metropolitan, Sein-

Saint-Denis)

- Management of natural parks/ green areas, consultative council establishment (FEDENATUR, Lille Metropolitan, Aberdeen City Council)
- Stakeholder involvement into discussions about the plans and the “form” of the natural park (Vitosh Nature Park Directorate, FEDENATUR)

7. Results expected - Indicators

How can these results be quantitatively and qualitatively specified?

Within establishment of sustainable management of the landscape followed results are expected:

- Foundation of a new Periurban park “Trojská kotlina”
- Effective administration of the periurban park according to the Care plan
- Enhancement of local economy through supporting local agriculture
- Biodiversity support by traditional maintenance

Within implementation of “periurban park” and “green belt” into the urban planning documentation followed results are expected:

- Implementation of periurban park and green belt into the land-use planning documentations (Master plan, prepared Metropolitan plan)
- New planning tools - General plan of green belt of the City of Prague delimitating periurban parks on the territory of Prague, Regulatory plan of a selected periurban park, common methodology for regulatory plans of periurban parks
- Establishment of a functional system ensuring the sustainable long-term care of the landscape within the green belt
- Promotion of the theme of the importance of periurban landscape within the professional and general public and politicians, promotion of Prague green belt

Within public awareness rising of values of periurban landscape in Troja followed results are expected:

- Raising public awareness of the importance and values of the periurban landscape (promotion)
- Involvement of local people into the care of the periurban park
- Enhancing deeper relationship of people to the place
- Continuous development of the periurban park initiated by the local Action group
- Basic care of the periurban park on the local level

Please, define progress indicators for this scope (except quantitative numbers of products):

The list of indicators applied within the implementation of the project:

- Meetings with local stakeholders - private land owners, NGOs and important subjects situated in Troja districts (ZOO, BG, CULS), that become regular part of a communication with inhabitants and stakeholders.
- Number of public events organized within district Troja and municipality.
- Number of management activities on voluntary base.
- Improvement of neglected hillsides in the park and support of the steppe biotope by pasture.

- Existence of a number of local farmers.
- The new equipment (informative boards, seats, bicycle stands) along the bicycle trail and in the whole park.
- Maintained landscape in suburban areas.
- Awareness of importance and values of periurban landscapes within a professional and general public and politicians – focused on children (educational materials)
- Existing tools - planning tools for regulation of the areas within periurban parks.

The list of indicators in the process of applying within the implementation of the project:

- Foundation of a new organization aimed at the implementation of periurban park and green belt into land-use planning documentations and its participation in FEDENATUR.
- Establishment of a working team responsible for the elaboration of the Care plan for the periurban park.
- Number and area (in ha) of founded periurban parks in Prague.

Part 3: Conclusions

8. Results achieved

What results have been achieved through the implementation of the aforementioned actions? Please, quantify and qualify according to the aforementioned indicators:

- 1) Establishment of a good practice in management of natural grassland areas using sheep and pasture technique and finding an important economic resource for clearing and cutting down the overgrowing ligneous vegetation which is essential for maintain grassland areas, based on the sale of removed biomass as an energetic source. – grant received for obtaining sheep and care for them.
- 2) Dissemination of periurban parks concepts between experts and local stakeholders – two stakeholders meeting and publishing of special number of Veronica magazine concerning the topic.
- 3) Establishment of a partnership between Prague Troja district and Prague Ďáblice district concerning the development of periurban landscape. – 2. stakeholders meeting
- 4) Willingness of some new actors and stakeholders to collaborate on the common landscape management and to take care about the landscape. Stakeholders meeting
- 5) Clarifying and awareness raising of local people on the causal link between cultural heritage located in the park (Troja castle, troja vinery, Zoological garden) and original natural value of Troja landscape (microclimate, geo and biodiversity, scenery, etc.) – Troja day held on Vltava river meadows in the floodplain. Sort of cultural and educational activities – debates, expositions etc.
- 6) Involvement of some local people as voluntaries in some landscape improvement activities - Spring brigade: restoration of abandoned paths, cleaning of spring wells; Index of tidiness: monitoring activity.

Which of the aforementioned actions and results were presented at the project meeting in Brussels?

The annual workplan of the aforementioned actions was presented.

Which of these actions and results were presented at the project meeting in Košice?

The 1. stakeholders meeting, sheep grazing management, spring brigade and others.

Which of these actions and results were presented at the project meeting in Lille?

The 1. stakeholders meeting, sheep grazing management, spring brigade and others.

9. Methodologies

To what degree are the Methodologies selected put in practice (Please, provide quantitative and qualitative specification)?

Management/relation to surrounding area

Awareness rising, participation, involvement of municipalities members (9 persons) and local stakeholders (approx. 30). Renewal of discussions on actual topics with municipalities (57 municipalities) and Prague municipal authority members (approx. 5-10 persons).

Policy/regulatory aspects

Introduction of a new term “periurban park” and enforcement in urban planning documentations. In the process stakeholders, developers, urban planners (Prague municipalities, Prague municipal authority are included).

Environmental/rural aspects

Protection and support of valuable biotopes (preservation of biodiversity). Awareness rising about unique landscape. Involvement of volunteers (approx. 40 volunteers).

Economic aspects

Municipality budget support via grants (6 700 euro) and a new position carrying out public service utility (carried out for free for Prague-Troja municipality).

Social and Communication Aspects

Reinforcement of passive and active communication with stakeholders (important stakeholders – ZOO, BG, CULS, NG; important owners) and the public (Troja inhabitants, inhabitants of some neighbouring municipalities, tourists).

Infrastructure aspects

The effort to renew and create of new paths and an increase of landscape permeability. Cooperation with Prague municipal authority, important stakeholders and owners, and with Faculty of Tourism (student’s projects).

Which conclusions have to be drawn by comparing the actions carried out with the project’s objectives, the Common Methodology (Toolkit) and the Good Practices developed?

Did the contribution of peer review groups or stakeholders lead to concrete policy modifications, concrete actions and the usage of specific funding sources? If yes, please describe them.

The activities carried out within the project have not risen yet to particular policy modifications or the usage of specific funding sources. The created Action Plan proposes concrete steps that will lead to introduction of periurban parks and their implementation into the urban planning documentation, establishment of a functional management of these areas and ensuring of funding sources.

Based on the aforementioned conclusions, in what points could the Toolkit (Common Methodology) be improved? Please formulate concrete text passages which could be directly included into the Toolkit document:

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Please provide at least one concrete example which testifies the feasibility of the selected methodologies, the potential obstacles and how to overcome them, also including the estimated costs:

The care of green, valuable biotopes is one of the priorities in the natural park Drahaň-Troja. The intention of Prague-Troja municipality was to extend the traditional way of farming and greenery maintenance also to other, unprotected areas of the natural park. By renewal of the steppe biotope a suitable locality for rare plant and animal species. A plot is located on a steep hillside, where utilisation of machinery is difficult, and therefore, pasture seemed to be an ideal solution. Thanks to financial support (Capital City Grant) the Quido Schwank

Foundation, in cooperation with Prague-Troja Municipality, the goats flock was realised in the selected areas of the natural park.

The locality of approx. 2 ha is maintained by the pasture. The total year costs for ensuring of the pasture are supposed to be 2400 € in 2012. The biggest amount (almost 50%) is sent on a shepherd. He provides oversight of goats and sheep flocks, feeding and procuring of basic necessities. The budget was also used for construction of a firm fencing, shelter (300 €) and necessary trees cutting (200 €). Other costs are used for a flock transport (20 €) and veterinary care (60 €). The monetary sources for a raising of public awareness and an idea dissemination of traditional and environmental way of greenery maintenance are also include in the project. From the Capital City Grant is the pasture supported only during two years (31. 12. 2013), after 2013 will be the pasture procured again from the grant of from the Prague-Troja budget. The aim of Prague-Troja municipality is to continue in the pasture and to extend it on other localities in Troja.

10. Future Collaboration

Please, identify areas of potential future collaboration. Please, describe models for bilateral or multilateral cooperation and describe the entities from outside the project who have been constantly involved in project activities or who should be involved in the future and why:

Prague-Troja municipality cooperated on management of protected areas and greenery, with responsible person of department of environment protection, Prague municipal authority. There is also a ceaseless collaboration within urban planning of the area with Prague municipal authority, City Development Authority Prague.

The collaboration was established and will continue with important stakeholders in the natural park Drahaň-Troja (ZOO, BG, CULS, NG), especially by public meetings, negotiations – about specific problems of management of particular localities.

The municipality cooperates on grants and public events (local NGOs and foundations), and involve the public into controlling of tidiness of public spaces.

The collaboration will continue also with private owners – especially focused on awareness rising, involvement in public events; schools – by educational programs, providing rooms for public events; and local inhabitants – by volunteering (cleaning public spaces etc.).

All stakeholders are passively informed through local magazine, leaflets, website, and public events, and actively participate on public meetings organized within the project. The above mentioned collaborations in section 7 (Results expected)/ section 8 (Results achieved) are based on the running activities.