

Report after returning from a study tour in Provence



Within the project "Heritage-Driver of Development," which is being implemented through the IPA cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Croatia, funded by the European Union Delegation, 31 partners and associates representatives from the project were on a study tour through Provence, part of the region Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur in the south of France, in the period from September 10th till 15th 2013.

Functional leader of the project, whose implementation started in March this year, is the Municipality of Tivat, while leading partner from the Croatian side is the Croatian Institute for Spatial Planning Dubrovnik-Neretva County. From the Montenegrin side, the project partners are Expeditio-Centre for Sustainable Development from Kotor and Cultural Homeland Association Napredak (Progress) Gornja Lastva, while from the Croatian side they are the Regional Development Agency of Dubrovnik-Neretva County-DUNEA and ECOVAST Croatian section of the European Council in villages and small towns. Representatives of collaborators on the project were on this voyage as well.



In the context of the project objectives, which are adequate treatment and valorisation of natural and cultural heritage in the Boka Bay and the wider Dubrovnik area, study visit to Provence aimed to inform participants on good experiences of their hosts. Provence has been selected as its natural and cultural climate is very similar to our own. Through four very active days, with a busy schedule of tours, lectures and meetings, participants had the opportunity to see at the field, example of Provence through several segments, when it comes to space management.



Visit to a regional park Calanques, or group Frioul Islands within the park, was an opportunity to learn how to protect and manage the natural and cultural values. Part of the area is managed by the Conservatoire du Littoral, which is match to our Public Company for the Management of Marine good, but with significantly different policies and objectives. As explained Fabris Bernard, who is in this State company in charge of European and international cooperation, the task of the Conservatoire is to manage coastal State property, in order to protect its natural features, as well as to buy the space along from a private owners, with the same aim. Like that was in part Giraud at the mouth of the Rhone, where the Conservatoire bought saltworks that are no longer operational, and gave them to the

management of the regional park of the Camargue . This area is important habitat for red flamingos , and many other plant and animal species . On the farm La Beligie Stefan Arnasan and David Lazin informed the guests about the LIFE + and Life Mc -Salt programs, and the importance of networks of natural habitats "Natura 2000" . Otherwise , this farm is known for its production of white horses of Camargue , but primarily Bulls of Camargue , where they are grown for corridors for already over two hundred years.



In all the interviews, as with representatives of the city of Marseille, in which coverage are island archipelago Frioul located, as with Institutions of which was discussed, it is noted that the cooperation of local, regional and national authorities with civil society organizations is on a very high level and that there is a sincere desire and commitment to the protection of natural resources at all instances. Likewise, it is recognized that adequate protection and management are bringing economic benefits, because the number of tourists per year, due to their special features, that visit these areas is expressed in the millions.

For the best example of good governance of architectural heritage has served the city Arles, whose historical core is protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The entire local economy revolves around this fact, and over 30% of the budget arrives from its use. In the words of Buzida Sabega, director of the Heritage Service of the city of Arles, and also the Vice President of ICOMOS France; on every euro invested in the protection of heritage, the city cashbox

gets eight euros. Arles is a place of permanent residence of many famous artists of today, a part of his life in this extraordinary city spent one of the most famous Impressionist painter, Vincent Van Gogh.

An example of exceptional management, when it comes to architectural heritage, is the city of Baux-de-Provence, located on a high rock within the nature park Alpilles. In this small town, with a population of 420 inhabitants , there are 1.5 million visitors per year.



Given that in the pilot areas of the project "Heritage – Development Initiator", Bay of Kotor and the wider Dubrovnik area , currently topical issue is construction of golf courses , Mayor of Boa , Mr. Mishel Fenar, was asked to present their project of golf courses, whose implementation is in preparation. It is interesting that in their case the investor is not the one who came up with the idea that at the base of the city of the top of the rock, which is developed agricultural area , build a golf course, but is the city that was looking for a partner for such project. However , the construction of the golf course will not in any way disturb the landscape nor its purpose , but will be made to integrate - intervention in the area will be minimal, golf courses routes will follow the lines of arable land and will preserve the maximum of the existing vegetation . One of the basic principles on which they insisted , both municipalities and all relevant state institutions , was "the protection of views " which means vistas of extraordinary landscapes , because which a large number of visitors come in Bo . As far as accommodations , golf will not lead to an increase

space construction – there will be no new buildings! Existing buildings , which are also part of the heritage , will be converted for this purpose.



France has an association called Grand Sites, which is the national match to UNESCO. The State has recognized the importance of protecting certain specific areas , rich in natural and cultural heritage; and they are managed in a specific way , with the cooperation of State , as the main controller , the region in which the Grand Sites are located , as well as sites government themselves . Any intervention on these sites is in detail reflected in all instances . One of the City Sites is a Grand Site Sainte- Victoire , near Aix -en- Provence, whose director , Philip Menj , presented the way of policy coordination and site themselves in the base of Mount Sainte- Victoire , best known by ainter Pol Sezaine , who has painted its extraordinary landscapes on over 100 of his paintings . This fact is extremely well used by local economy, referring visitors to tour the Mountain roads of Pol Sezane. In this way , surrounded by the extraordinary landscapes, it is passing through the village Vauvenargues , where the Picasso family mansion is, where lived and where was buried another giant painter , Pablo Picasso. At the very base of the highest peak of Mount Sainte- Victoire , in the homonymous house , trip participants had the opportunity to meet with management of space for fire protection , which was presented by Patris Berlo .

Announcement of Grand Site was used for promotion of the region in terms of viticulture . The entire Provence is world recognized as the home of

premium wines, and area Sainte Victoire by Rose varieties . Under the trademark of Cote de Provence Sainte - Victoire , the wine sale from this region has increased by ten percent! Implementers of the project "Heritage - Development Initiator" had the opportunity to try this wine and hear how successfully can be managed the local economy and reflect on sustainable development, in Puyloubier village , where they were greeted by the Mayor Frederic Guinier to lunch . Serving his guests by delicacy prepared by employees of the local government , he presented a compelling example of management, which , in his words , is not based on any kind of ideology , but only on common sense . Otherwise , the French system from local , over departman and regional , to the national level , allows withdraw funding from all these instances, for quality initiatives to improve the quality of life in this particular area , which this engineer by profession, who for 18 years performs the function of Mayor by volunteering, has attempted to exploit . It is supported by the fact that the population of the village is increasing annually by 18 percent !



The last day of the travel was reserved for a visit to Forcalquier town which is located within the park Luberon . This small town is dominated by a citadel, situated on a high rock, around which the city began forming . Patrique Coen, in charge of the landscape, urbanization, architecture and heritage in the park Luberon, guided the group through the history of the city and the way of heritage management . As a good example of how architectural heritage is treated in this area, there is an example of when the

municipality decided not to accept the project of necessary static reinforcement of fortifications by concrete, but, beyond the statutory procedures, and on the advice of experts in the Luberon Park, it decided to apply the traditional techniques, primarily drywall. In this area there is a well developed network of artisans, private companies and organizations that preserve and apply the technique of dry stone walls. The area is known for its large number of preserved traditional houses in dry stone, which with minor variations, are present in other parts of the Mediterranean, as well

An excellent example of how to give development opportunities to natural and cultural heritage, and without compromising their value, was found in the village Limans, which has won the French award "Eco Quartier 2011" for organic farming cooperative, awarded by the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and energy. Village experiences in terms of urban planning, agricultural development, and life in the village in general, preserving its natural beauties, were presented by the Mayor Joel Corbon and architect Charles Bove. Afterwards there was a visit to the village Volx, where the eco-museum "Olivier" is, in which was presented olive production in the Mediterranean, from ancient times to the present, as well as an exhibition of typical Mediterranean plants.



Participants in the project, who had the opportunity to visit Provence, agreed that it was a valuable

experience. They Agree in the belief that the knowledge and experience that they brought from Provence can be implemented in practice, both Croatian and Montenegrin. The significance for the project itself "Heritage-Driver of Development" will be visible in all its segments, starting from an analysis of the legislation of the two countries and the recommendations that will result from the project, through the model for wider public participation in the preservation and valorization of natural and cultural heritage, and to develop models for economic evaluation of legacy and its use for the purpose of sustainable development of the two countries.

Antonella Stjepčević, project PR