



HealingPlaces

Enhancing environmental management capacities for sustainable use of the natural heritage of Central European SPA towns and regions as the driver for local and regional development

HealingPlaces

NEWSLETTER #6

YEAR 4 | May 2022





Dear Reader,

In this issue we want to give you an overview of what happened in the life of the project during the sixth semester (1 October 2021 - 31 March 2022) within the three main activities of the project:

1. Finalization of a common, innovative and web-based tool for assessment of threats and pressures on mineral and hot waters deposits in partners regions
2. Pilot actions in each region
3. Develop an integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development

For HealingPlaces project, the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has been a big threat, not only because of direct danger to health and life, but also due to the project focus on sustainable development of health resorts.

Despite some still visible effect of COVID-19, the project partners, striving to take care of their health and minimize the risk, take action to carry out the planned activities in the most efficient way.

Stay with us and enjoy reading!

You are also welcome to our website for more project news and there you can subscribe to our Newsletter as well.

Visit: www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html

Your sincerely,
Healing Places Team



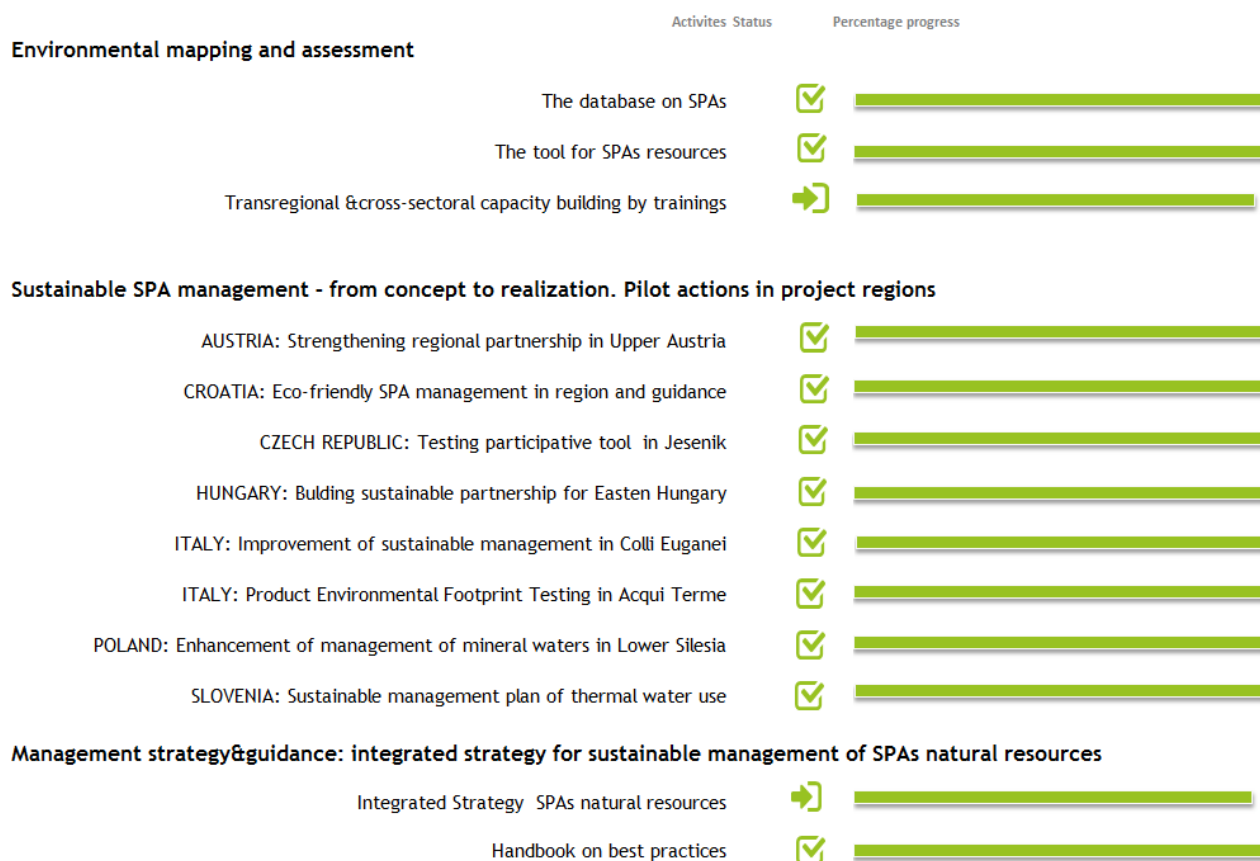
PROJECT PROGRESS

Activities during this, 6th semester of the project were partially still also carried out under epidemiological restrictions, but nevertheless the works have been will progressing. The project implementation has been extended till June 2022, so we are just nearing the end of the project.

The achievements of the project that we are proud of are the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders and experts, especially within the regional pilot actions, the finalization of most important project results in the form of tools and the works on the transnational strategy.

Therefore we would like to invite you to read more information about project progress and also to join us during the Final Conference, and three thematic webinars which will be organized mid-June (details on the following pages).

Check out the chart below showing activities status.



➡ On going
 ✓ Finished

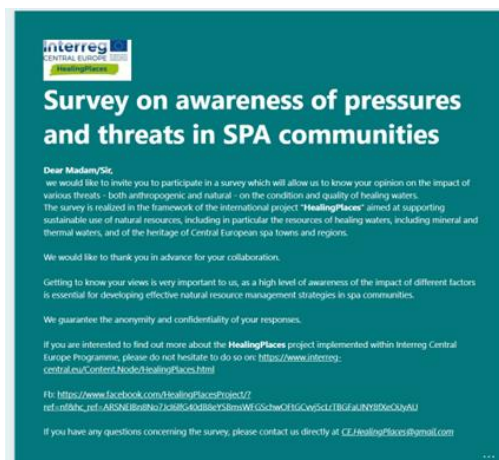


1. Construction of a common, innovative and web-based tools for environmental assessment and threats and pressures on mineral and thermal waters deposits in partners regions:

During the recent period, the activities within this thematic work package concentrated on sorting out, updating, and finalizing the activities still requiring final touch. One of them is the database of most important threats and pressures to the natural resources of SPAs in the partner regions. For this activity, a new methodological approach has been taken and the database is being built based on the expert knowledge gathered by the Partners during the project lifetime as well as on the wide stakeholders' opinions. Until the end of April, all partners have delivered necessary materials on threats and pressures on healing waters deposits.

In addition, the online survey has been conducted, which was widely distributed (in different languages) among stakeholders in partners' regions. These two pillars allows recognition and compare locally recognized threats and pressures. The final database will be published as an element of the already existing internet map.

Also the training on the final prototype of the tool for integrated assessment of threats and pressures on main SPAs resources was held during the online partners meeting on 8 February. Now, the more friendly, online version is being finalized, to be published in the Internet.



The Pordenone Upper Adriatic Technology Park continues works on elaboration of the app for managing thermal water resources and environmental sustainability.



On 21st of June, all tools developed will be presented during thematic webinar. Stay tuned 😊



2. Progress of Pilot Actions in specific partner regions

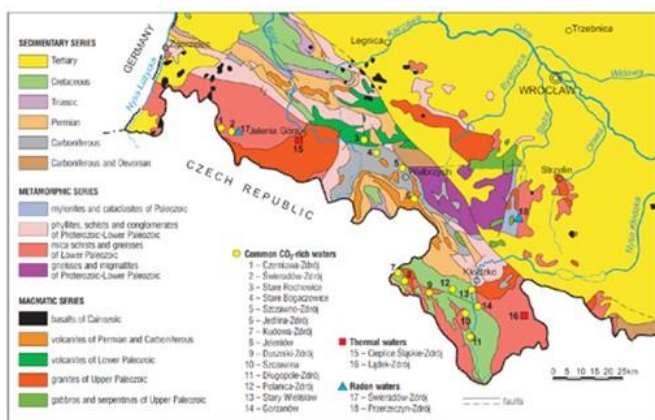
This article aims to present the current status of the pilot actions in the partner countries. Although the individual pilot actions in the different countries proceeded at different speed, in summary it can be said that all regions are finalizing their pilot actions. The flexible approach, despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 virus, made it possible to bring together a diverse community of stakeholders in the project pilot actions and the testing of environmental assessment tool.

Poland

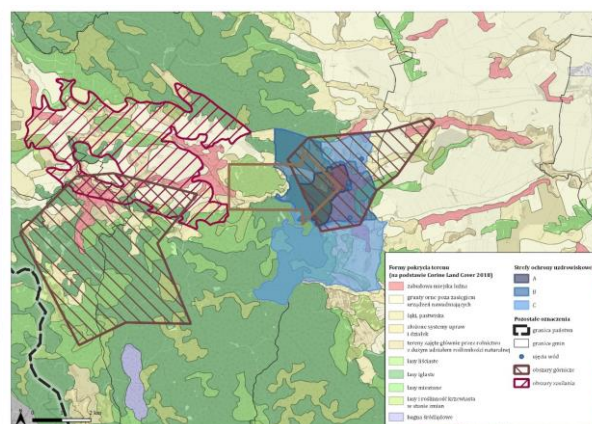
Pilot action 1: Balanced and sustained management of mineral waters in Lower Silesia

As part of the activities a report entitled "Sensitive areas for the protection of therapeutic water deposits in Lower Silesia" has been recently completed. The purpose of the study was to identify areas particularly important for effective protection of curative water resources in the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. The scientific basis behind the analysis was an isotopic water testing, which clearly has shown that the key areas for water protection are not limited to direct "mining areas" but can be much more distant (so-called "recharge and flow areas"), depending on geological conditions in particular areas.

The study presents the general geological and hydrogeological characteristics of the Sudety region and the curative waters of the Lower Silesian spas. For each of the regional spas, recommendation cards were prepared, where restrictions and recommendations on land use and management were formulated, addressed to local and regional policy makers to be taken into account in the spatial planning, legislation and deposit management process.



Simplified geological map of the Sudety Mountains and their foregrounds with occurrences of curative and thermal waters deposits (based on Ciężkowski et al., 2010).



Land use and the mining areas and recharge and flow areas for curative waters of Polanica Zdrój



Italy

Pilot action 2:

Improvement of sustainable management of thermal natural resources in Colli Euganei area

The APP is under developing process and will be reasonably put in function, at the disposal of technicians and all relevant identified stakeholders, in the short run. It has 3 main objectives/functionalities: entering punctual and verifiable consumption/usage data of SPAs and thermal realities; viewing/consulting information: bed numbers, biodiversity/geology/landscape characteristics; automatic monitoring of data acquisition levels relating to the maximum or minimum level of the wells based on the data provided by ARPAV (to be implemented as project follow-up by the Regional Authority of Veneto). Furthermore, all the contents refer to historical water resources usage, thermal water springs, water sustainability needed for creating the immersive experience within the Healing Places project and more precisely in the Thermal Euganean Basin are under collecting process. Currently, 11 VR sets and 300 cardboards have been distributed to the thermal local stakeholders through the finalization of proper cross-fertilization agreements aiming to valorise thermal cultural, touristic & naturalistic heritage, thus targeting local initiatives on the project objective for public policy maker, students and their families and tourists.





Hungary

Pilot action 3:

Shifting towards nature-focused development of SPA potential

Following a fruitful joint work with stakeholders, the main structure and content of the Sustainable Spa Development Concept for Hajdú-Bihar and Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén counties have been set up. This draft and the methodology developed strongly define the formulation of the conceptual document that will lay down the principles on how to ensure responsible and sustainable spa management and development and provide guidance with tools and methods how to achieve such larger scale objectives. In addition, Hungarian partners created their project video; this complex and comprehensive short movie covers the two counties, outlining both the present and the future of spa development, which provides a sound basis for the professional elaboration of the Sustainable Spa Development Concept.

This two-part video can be seen on YouTube channel:

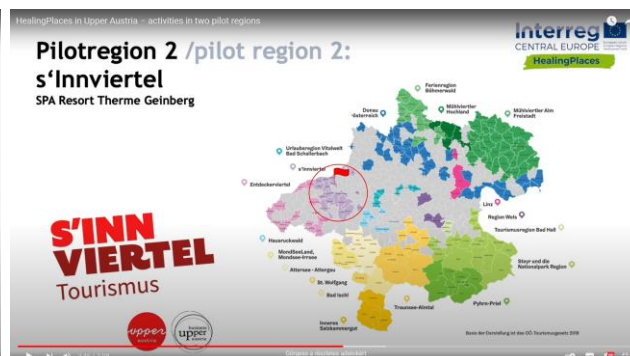
- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWm4Ndc4d6A>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjD3GymJlKM>

Austria

Pilot action 4:

Strengthening regional partnership in selected SPA regions in Upper Austria

In Upper Austria, the ongoing measures of the pilot action have largely been completed. Within the pilot region 1 (Mühlviertel) an analysis of 8 so-called Heilbründle has been conducted. Within the pilot region 2 (Innviertel) the analysis of thermal water use and best practices on cascade use is finished. In order to promote the results of both pilot action analysis a video was shot and presented to partners and interested stakeholders. At the moment the next measures for the regions are defined (Regional Action Plan) and the communicative appearance of the project is planned.





Croatia

Pilot action 5:

Eco-friendly SPA management in region and guidance for sustainable use of local thermal and mineral groundwater resources

As planned, for this pilot action most activities were completed during last period, with the regional ECO-SPA conference on other activities carried out in October 2021. In this period partners and stakeholders have been focused on further mutual learning. The next step is the implementation of action plans made within the pilot action and further cooperation with Terme Sveti Martin and mutual assistance.

Slovenia

Pilot action 6:

Sustainable management plan of thermal water use

Region Jugovzhodna Slovenija is one of twelve development regions in Slovenia and one of a few where natural resources are being used for healing and touristic purposes. In the region two spa areas were identified. Their activity is based on the extraction of thermal waters and services from balneotherapy and medicine. There is a couple of other areas with identified sources of (sub)thermal water in the region, such as Klevevž, Otočec, Božakovo, Šipek and Mali Nerajec where the use of thermal water holds a potential for further local and regional development.

In this semester the 2nd consultation on the challenges of management of spa areas was organised, this year focused on topics of the environment, climate change and nutrition. Several stakeholders presented and discussed these intersectoral topics. After the event a draft of the pilot strategy was prepared, including its action plan which was agreed by all relevant stakeholders. Another participatory method we used was the questionnaire which we carried out in the field in both spa areas and acquired almost 50 answers.



Landscape in spa area in Dolenjske Toplice.



Italy

Pilot action 7:

Product Environmental Footprint testing in the Thermal District of Acqui Terme

The activities of the HealingPlaces project continue in the thermal district of Acqui Terme. The pilot action is part of a context of profound crisis in the Acqui Terme spa sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the closure of all spa activities, closure decided by the private company that manages the spa activities and which risks causing a serious backlash for the entire spa sector with a loss of jobs and the risk of weakening the tourist offer of the entire territory.

With the current closure of the spa facilities, the Municipality of Acqui Terme, which became the owner of the “Former Military Baths” spa in 2017, is attempting a real relaunch of the spa sector, which is considered an important driving force for the local economy and an excellence for Acqui Terme and the whole of Piedmont.

The history of Acqui Terme has always been strongly linked to its thermalism. The thermal waters of Acqui Terme have been known and used therapeutically since Roman times. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the spas were expanded with the construction of the Military Baths. In the early 1900s, the spas were grandiose and were a source of pride for the city. Unfortunately, the splendor of the early 1900s has never been reached and various events have marked the often conflicting relationship between the city and the managing authority of the thermal cluster. The Former Military Baths are a unique heritage for the city. The complex of the Military Baths was built in 1700 and strengthened in the second half of the 1800s. This spa, one of the few plants of this kind in Italy, was used for two centuries by soldiers for spa treatments and was definitively closed in 1997. With the acquisition of the spa by the Municipality, the possibility of a complete recovery of the thermal vocation of the area becomes concrete.

In this context, the Municipality of Acqui Terme, hosted the study visit of the HealingPlaces project. The study visit took place on 29 March 2022. The study visit was jointly organized by the Italian partners of the HealingPlaces project, the Upper Adriatic Technology Park Andrea Galvani of Pordenone and the LAMORO Development Agency. The Unique Management Authority of Homogeneous Hydromineral Basin of the Euganean Hills and the Municipality of Acqui Terme were involved in collaboration with the University of Padua - Department of Archeology, the Archaeological Museum of Acqui Terme and the Association of European Historical Thermal Cities (EHTTA). The study visit allowed the exchange of good practices and knowledge between different thermal sectors, with a view to relaunching the thermal sector of Acqui Terme.

At the same time, the project activities continue with the involvement of the Municipality of Acqui Terme with the aim of identifying new products and services and evaluating them in relation to their environmental impact, with a view to sustainability and circular economy.



Czech
Republic

Pilot action 8:

Testing participative tool for improvement of SPAs water deposits sustainable management in Jeseniky

In the framework of the analytical material "Analysis of planning decision making processes potentially dangerous for mineral/hot water deposits" is prepared and will be ready by the end 05/2022 (contains basic regulation framework defined by Law on Spas and Czech inspectorate of spas as well as broader spatial planning mechanisms)

At the same time, a report on environmental impact assessment and weaknesses in participatory planning is being finalised.

Within the framework of Building Local-Regional Working Group: organized workshop on 25/03/2022 in Karlova Studánka with topic: "Management and sustainability of the use of natural medicinal resources and building awareness of them among the general public" focused on implementation the Tool plus monitoring of decision making processes in spatial planning. The presentation of regional video to stakeholders was also part of the workshop.



The results of all pilot actions will be presented in more details during Webinar on 14th of June 2022. Stay tuned 😊



3. Integrated strategy for SPA sustainable development

In the last months of the HealingPlaces project, sharing and disseminating the common transnational strategy is a fundamental action for the sustainability of the project itself: in fact, after almost 3 years of activity, the transfer of results and the creation of a multiplier effect in others territorial contexts of Central Europe is strategic for the sustainability of the project after the end of the funded activities.

The shared integrated strategy for the sustainable management of natural spa resources in Central Europe starts from the tools and information collected during the analysis and mapping phases and from the pilot actions implemented by all project partners. In the last months, project partners have tested the draft of the strategy and have collected tips and results from stakeholders' involvement and experiences in order to define the final version of the integrated strategy. This testing phase consisted in collecting the opinions and the recommendations of the main project's stakeholders on the first draft of integrated strategy by filling a structured survey. After this phase of sharing and testing, the final version of the integrated strategy will be disseminated.

On 18 January 2022 the LAMORO Development Agency coordinated an online workshop with all project partners to share the methodologies for the transferability and sustainability of the project. At the moment the partners are working on their regional plans for the sustainability of the project while a common transferability plan contains the main elements on how to transfer the results and the main best practices.

Finally, a webinar will be held in June 2022 to communicate the two main outputs: the handbook on best practices in environmental and socio-economic pressures mitigation and conflict solving and the integrated strategy for the sustainable management of natural spa resources in Central Europe.



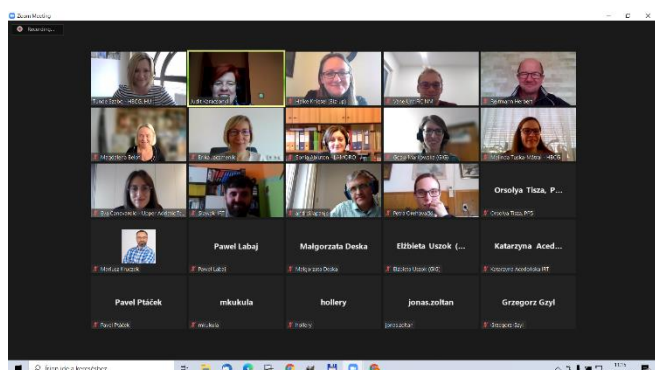
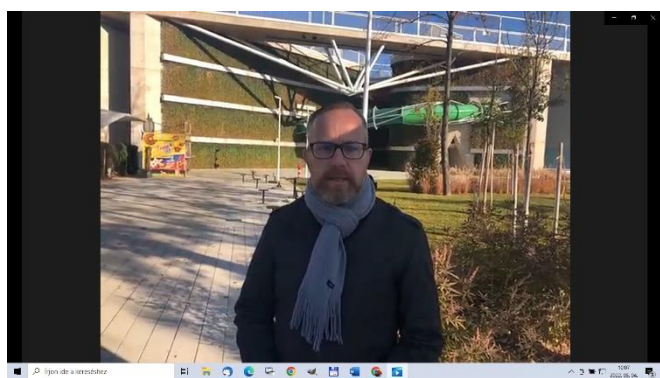
EVENTS

**26-27 of
October 2021**

Debrecen (HU)
6th partners'
meeting and
virtual study visit

The 6th Partners' meeting and virtual study visit was organised by Hajdú-Bihar County Government online

During the two days event there was a virtual study visit to Aquaticum Spa and the project progress was discussed as well as the economical, environmental and social challenges for all SPAs in post-COVID situation in the partner regions.



Slovenia (SI)
organised by
Razvojni center
Novo mesto

**02 of
February 2022**

Consultation on the future of spa cities and regions: Environment, climate and tourism in spa areas

On February 2nd project partner Razvojni center Novo mesto d. o. o. organized the event "Consultation on the future of spa cities and regions: Environment, climate and tourism in spa areas" online via Microsoft Teams. Slovenia is a country of many sources of natural remedies, which appear in different forms and in different areas. Increasingly complex activities at the global level require a comprehensive response and approach that can be pursued by connecting and strengthening relations between institutions, professionals and the general public. After the successful 1st conference on health resorts and regions, which was organized on 2-3.02.2021 and summarized in a [video report](#) and [proceedings](#), it is time to emphasised on new issues that characterize spa areas of Slovenia and wider areas. Issues related to environmental and spatial management was at the forefront, and experts in the field of public health and nutrition, which are important elements of health resorts and regions, will add a note.

More information about the event [here](#).



28th
of February
2022

Poland (PL)
organised by
Institute for
Territorial
Development

Czech Republic
(CZ)
organised by
Mendel University

25th
of March 2022

Regional workshop on the Integrated Action Plan for Spas in Lower Silesia

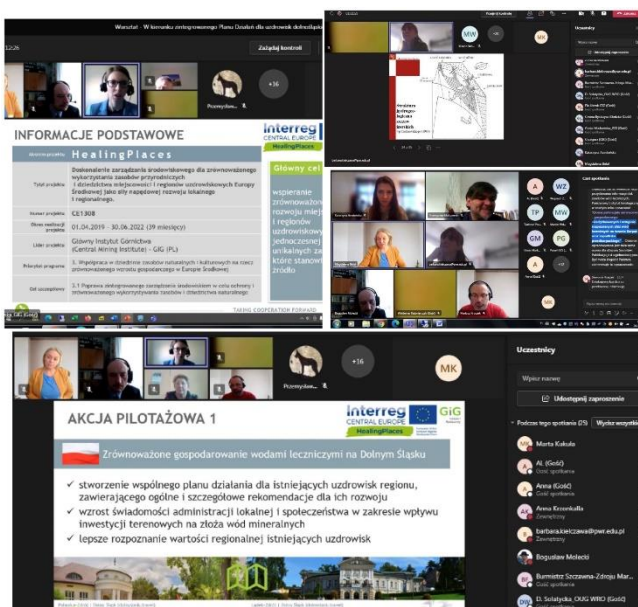
Instytut Rozwoju Terytorialnego, Główny Instytut Górnictwa and stakeholders from various environments (e.g. scientists, subject experts, local government and health resort authorities) were discussing the Integrated Action Plan for Health Resorts in Lower Silesia.

It is assumed that the Action Plan will be developed in consultation with entities interested in the subject of Spas. Based on the results of the diagnosis, it aims to ensure effective and sustainable management of resources in spas in Lower Silesia.

More information about the workshop [here](#).

Round table “Management and sustainability of the use of natural healing resources and raising awareness of them among the general public”

A round table entitled “Management and sustainability of the use of natural healing resources and raising awareness of them among the general public” has been organized on March 25th by Mendel University in Brno and associated partner Jeseníky - Nejkrásnější hory. The event took place directly in one of the spas involved in the project - Karlova Studánka. Representatives of municipalities, spas, professional balneotechnicians as well as representatives of the Olomouc Region were present. The participants were acquainted with the outputs of the project, especially with the Impact assessment tool and its use for municipalities and the creation of spatial analysis documents for spatial planning. Participants were also presented a video made during the project, with the aim of raising awareness of natural healing resources, and discussed the possibility of using it for schools, tourists and the general public.





**29th of
March 2022**

Italy (I)
organised by
Municipality of
Acqui Terme and
LAMORO
Development
Agency

Study Visit in Acqui Terme, pilot area of HealingPlaces

On 29 of March the Municipality of Acqui Terme (pilot area of HealingPlaces) in collaboration with LAMORO Development Agency, have hosted a delegation from Upper Adriatic Technology Park Andrea Galvani SCPA and the Management body of homogeneous hydromineral basin of Euganean Hills. In the morning a Round Table was held at Town Council Chamber of Acqui Terme then the guests have been accompanied into a city tour that gave them the occasion to visit and get in contact with the thermal city milestones among these: Bollente Hot Spring, the Thermal City area and the main city historical and cultural sites as Assumption Cathedral and the Triptych of Bermejo and the Archaeological Museum. That was the occasion to boost further synergies and cooperation between two important SPAs areas in Italy by extending the process of mutual learning and the exchanging of knowledge and good practices.

More information about the event [here](#).

Slovenia (SI)
organised by
Razvojni center
Novo mesto

**19th of
April 2022**

Round table “TRANSNATIONAL INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SPA AREAS: case studies from Slovenia and Italy”

Razvojni center Novo mesto and Geological Survey Slovenia organised a round table where Slovenian and Italian project partners presented and discussed transnational aspects of management of spa areas in Central Europe and reflect on the upcoming challenges of such areas from different aspects.

Speakers also represented specific spa areas which offer a personal insight to the topic, including a participatory session where exchange of thoughts was possible.

More information about the event [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE! final conference



INVITATION

to the Final Conference of the HealingPlaces Project
on the Environmental Resource
Management of Central European SPAs

Wroclaw / on-line | 9-10.06.2022



See more about project: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html>



More information about the event [here](#).

Registration here: <https://noweankiety.irt.wroc.pl/index.php/527834?lang=en>



SAVE THE DATE(S)!

thematic webinars

On-line webinar 1



How to manage natural resources in a health resort in a sustainable way?

Regional experiences presented by HealingPlaces project Partners

14.06.2022 at 10:00 CEST

for 90 minutes on

To join the webinar follow the link: [HealingPlaces Webinar](#)
More information about the event [here](#) .

On-line webinar 2



Discussion on strategic approach to resources sustainable management and best practices

The best practices and strategies to manage spas natural resources in a sustainable way

15.06.2022 at 10:00 CEST

for 90 minutes on

To join the webinar follow the link: [HealingPlaces Webinar](#)
You can register at the following link: [REGISTRATION](#)
More information about the event [here](#) .

On-line webinar 3



Tools which can be used to support management of natural resources in a health resort in a sustainable way

Experiences of Healing places project from building the tools dedicate to resources in health resorts

21.06.2022 at 10:00 CEST

for 90 minutes on

The link to the webinar will be available on project website
More information about the event [here](#) .



FOR MORE INFORMATION - CONTACT US

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You can also find us on the following platforms:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HealingPlaces.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/HealingPlacesProject>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/healingplacesproject/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPAASppx-rvXeVH64UL-g9w>