



Newsletter – Issue n.0 – June 2016

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Dear Friends,

welcome to the first encounter with our newsletter: a collection of useful and hopefully interesting information regarding our URBACT network, identified by four capital letters – MAPS – which stand for Military Assets as Public Spaces. After the first six months of joint work, Piacenza (Lead Partner of the project) and the other nine Municipalities involved have received official confirmation of the admission to Phase 2 of the URBACT III Programme, which means other two years to share ideas and plan together the future of the former military settings in our cities. Different types of heritage, but one common goal: urban renewal and regeneration as the key element to promote social inclusion.

A change in shape, not in identity

Just a few weeks after the beginning of Phase 2 – set on the 4th of May – our French partner, Chalons en Champagne, notified the intention to abandon the network, due to the lack of staff dedicated to the project. Whilst regretting the loss of a valuable experience to share, this is also the demonstration of how much work, care and attention European projects need. However, the information on our former companion is included in the Baseline Study completed by our Lead Expert, Luca Lanzoni, the first pages of which can be downloaded from our website: www.urbact.eu/maps

So this is our profile right now: Piacenza (Italy), Varazdin (Croatia), Szombathely (Hungary), Cartagena (Spain), Espinho (Portugal), Longford County (Ireland), Telsiai (Lithuania), Serres (Greece) and Koblenz (Germany).

Rendez-vous in Varazdin

Countdown to the kick-off meeting for Phase 2: the appointment is in Varazdin, on the 21st and 22nd of June.

This will be the first of many encounters around Europe, awaiting us in the next few months. Whilst Cartagena has been already scheduled for September 2016, Koblenz should be hosting another transnational meeting in January 2017, Telsiai in the following September and Longford in January 2018... where will the third meeting be held, in Spring 2017? This is only one of the many topics that will be discussed in the beautiful Croatian setting of our imminent rendez-vous.





Would you like to discover more about the cities in the URBACT MAPS network? Check our [YouTube Channel](#) for a sneak peek taking you from the Atlantic to the Baltic coastline.

Greetings from...Piacenza

A prize winning plan

The City Council of Piacenza has been awarded the sum of 1.796.643,48 € by the National Agency for State Property, due to the recent approval of the Structural Urban Plan (Psc) that puts down in black and white the new destination of use for twelve historical buildings including former military installations that were listed in the Unitary Programme for Territorial Enhancement (Puvat), signed in 2012 by the Agency and the Council themselves.



A vast heritage of considerable historical, architectural and economic value, part of which – four barracks in the heart of the city - has been transferred to the National Agency for Loans and Deposits (public entity that manage eritages also with funds and bonds), determining the economic bonus: vital resources that will be used for important local investments. The buildings and areas involved do not include the three settings participating to the MAPS project (i.e. the former Pontoon Lab, the former Pertite bullet factory and the Lusignani Barracks soon to be dismissed by the Ministry of Defense).

Once a bullet factory, in future a playground

Until the 26th of June, it is possible to choose the logo for the new playground that could see the light, in future, in the military area of the former bullet factory named "Pertite", (one of the three included in the URBACT Maps project for Piacenza) where a terrible explosion occurred in 1940.

A maze, a scented path through spices and herbs, giant musical instruments to play the music of nature: these are only a few of the fascinating adventures that 150 pupils belonging to 8 primary school classes have planned for this very special park. At their side, the students of the





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Italo Calvino secondary school assisted by architects Eleonora Loca and Matteo Cervini, who belong to the ULG in Piacenza, presenting their own project for the area.

Here you can vote your favourite logo for the future playground, among the 11 symbols drawn by the children themselves.

<http://partecipa.comune.piacenza.it/perc.../logo-parco-pertite>

Greetings from... Longford

In remembrance of April 1916

A special Commemorative weekend to honour the brave Longford men and women of 1916, was held to celebrate the great community spirit of the County from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th April, in the centenary of the Easter Rising.

Opening in style with an art exhibition and the launch of a 1916 map of County Longford sites, associated with that special year (guest of honour the Historian and Archivist Catriona Crowe). The highlight of the weekend was a parade led by Longford Garda Police band, who made its way from the Cathedral grounds to Longford Connolly Barracks, drawing together elements of commemoration and creativity. Among the members of the band, there are relatives of the Longford men and women who participated in the Rising, members of the Defence Forces - Óglaigh na Éireann – past and present, and the Aisling Children's Arts Festival.



Participants to the recent community arts project entitled 'Lights in the Darkness' by Tom Meskell, grandson of Patrick Doyle, were also present and carried with them the lantern figures created during the project.

'Remember, Reflect and Re-imagine' was the theme of the parade, followed by the reading of the Irish Proclamation and a flag raising ceremony. Representatives from each of Longford's twin towns and the Longford Associations at home and abroad were in attendance. There were also performances by local groups, including the Longford County Choir, the Innyside Singers and local schools. Thereafter there was plenty of entertainment for everyone on the grounds of Connolly Barracks, where traditional crafts by the County Longford ICA and the best of Longford's arts and crafts were also on display.

Greetings from... Telsiai





"Darom": let's do it!

It was the motto of the day, as it happens regularly in Springtime in Lithuania: "Darom!", meaning "Let's do", invites organizations, associations and citizens to choose a local area and clean it, gathering leftover trash and debris. All over the Country, people take part in this great collective action for the protection of environment and the District Municipality Administration of Telsiai made no exception!

For the third consecutive year, the Council staff with their families – spouses, children, relatives and friends – teamed to give a makeover to the lands near the city military site, following the experience that two years ago led them to Spring cleaning in the "Military Town" itself.

EU funds for the District

Making the territory more attractive for local and foreign commercial and industrial companies, solving the problem of pollution: these are the main objectives of the project supported by European Structural Funds 2014-2020.

Regeneration plans involve the 17 hectares of the former Soviet Military Army base, owned by the Municipality and located North-West of the city. At present, some of the buildings are used by the police, others as warehouses or car parks, whilst the rest are empty. The main idea is to convert the site in a space for new light industrial areas: in February the urban layout has been approved, regarding the network of road connections and the open spaces. Debate involving local representatives has led to the idea of using a sector of the former military area for the activities linked to MAPS, following a co-design approach in compliance with the principles of the Urban Structural Plan.



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Greetings from... Serres

Going Green with the EcoFestival

The former military base of Serres Stratopedo Papalouka has hosted the 6th edition of the Eco Festival from the 5th to the 8th of June. Starting off on World Environment Day, the event is organized by the Municipality of Serres and has hosted many different organizations with activities focusing on sustainability (recycling, waste management,





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renewable energy, etc.), educational, artistic and cultural labs (artworks created from waste material, for instance), learning skills such as constructing a solar heating system or solar cooling equipment... or even a bird's nest!!! The URBACT Maps network is happy to spread the news: another former military setting is brought back to life and to public use.

Greetings from... Koblenz

"MAPS brings the city forward"

These are the words of the National Minister for Urban Development Barbara Hendriks and the State Minister for Inner Affairs Roger Lewentz, who recently visited Koblenz and were informed by Thomas Hammann, project manager in



the German Municipality, about the situation of the Fritsch-Kaserne and its surrounding area.

The Government representatives promised their support for the regeneration of the former military asset, showing great interest in the URBACT programme and looking to MAPS as a helpful and important component in the process towards reuse and reappropriation of this historical military heritage.

At the heart of Europe

The German Secretary for European Affairs Heike Raab was invited by the Lord Mayor of Koblenz, Joachim Hofmann-Goettig, to visit the Office for Economic Development and Europe in our German partner city. Oliver Hoffmann, officer for International Affairs, took the opportunity to present an overview of our MAPS project, sharing the enthusiasm about the fruitful results of cooperation in transnational networks such as URBACT. Furthermore, the State Secretary stressed the importance of international alignment for all Municipalities.

Farewell...

We hope you found our Newsletter interesting, but if you wish to unsubscribe please write to the following address, specifying the request "CANCEL ME": elisabetta.morni@comune.piacenza.it . Should any of your friends like to receive info from us, just change the message: "REGISTER ME".

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