



"Regions, Cities, Neighbourhoods - strong Partners"

RegGov

Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated
Development of Deprived Urban Areas

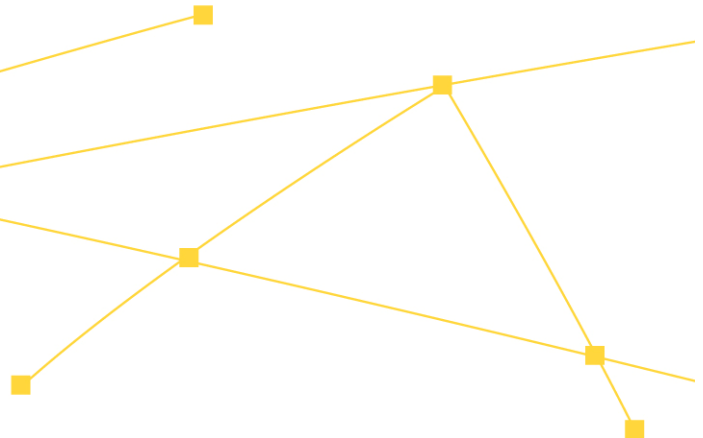
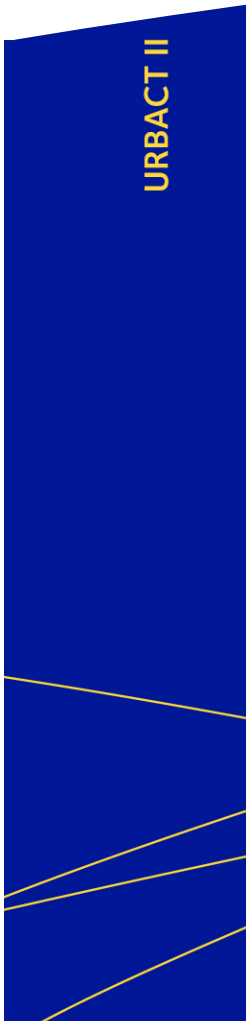
Local Action Plan

English abstract



City of Kőbánya/Budapest, Hungary

April 2011



Connecting cities
Building successes





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I. Description of the RegGov target area

The Pongrac housing estate is an isolated area of Kőbánya, surrounded by non-residential areas: the housing estate is surrounded to the south and the east by a railway line and a busy road, to the north by a tram line and another busy road, and to the west by a gasworks site. It is an enclosure within the urban fabric of Kőbánya, which defines both its problems and potentials. There are 20 condominium buildings with 1700 people living here. Only a small percentage of the flats are owned by the municipality, the rest are owned by private owners, which is the most common form of ownership in Hungary. In the Pongrac housing estate, there are several institutions run by the municipality: a child-care centre, a kindergarten, a temporary shelter for single parents, a daytime care centre for the elderly and a health centre. There is also a drug clinic run by an NGO and a secondary school of the Municipality of Budapest.

5% higher here than the Kőbánya average. The percentage of people with only primary school education is 7% higher than the average. The percentage of households without actively employed members is 5% higher than the average. Many of those who are employed work in poorly paid low-tech jobs. Therefore, it is vitally important to provide educational and other vocational training options for the local residents.



II. Problems & challenges

The Municipality of Kőbánya considers the revitalization and urban renewal of the run-down housing areas and improvement of the quality of life of people living in these areas to be one of the most important priorities of the municipality.

The Pongrac housing estate is a segregated area, both physically and socially.

The social survey indicated that many of the younger couples choose to move out of the housing estate as soon as they can afford it; as a result, it is mostly poorer residents and the elderly generation who remain.

The local residents often don't feel safe in the streets, especially because there are groups of non-residents who come to this area after dark and drink or use drugs in the streets.

The employment structure of the Pongrac housing estate is worse than that of Kőbánya. The percentage of inactive persons (jobless) is

III. Potentials

Although the Pongrac housing estate is a segregated area, both physically and socially, its isolated location is also an advantage: many of the local residents have a clear sense of local identity – a sense of belonging. Many of them still remember the “golden age” of the estate before WWII, and some of them are willing to take an active role in the regeneration of the area. The local schoolchildren all go to a nearby primary school, and with the help of their teachers, they are also actively involved in the regeneration process. A social survey was conducted in the area, which indicated that even though the people face numerous problems, they are interested in the appearance and the social cohesion of the neighbourhood and are willing to contribute work or expertise in the context of the urban renewal project.

The social survey of the neighbourhood showed that the negative spiral of degradation can still be stopped, and therefore it is well worth the effort and financing.

IV. Expected impact and effects on the image

The Central Hungarian Region Operative Program's social urban renewal competition called for project proposals, providing a unique opportunity for social urban renewal programs.

The goal of the call for project proposals is to stop the negative spiral of degradation of deprived urban neighbourhoods with a high concentration of socially and economically disadvantaged residents. The LAP-based EU funded project is supposed to stop the further degradation of the neighbourhood and improve both the quality of the built environment and quality of life of people living in the neighbourhood.

By means of social 'soft' programs, the projects are supposed to bring new opportunities for the people: provide vocational training and assist them in re-entering the employment market, help the elderly and the disadvantaged youth, bring the neighbourhood together and foster the community spirit by providing programs, street festivals etc.

V. LSG: composition, important stakeholders, etc.

The project will be implemented in close partnership with all stakeholders:

- Municipality of Kőbánya – lead partner of the project consortium
- Local residents – Representatives of the 20 housing associations
- Local secondary school
- KŐKERT – municipal company responsible for street and park maintenance
- Kőbánya district police-station
- Kőbánya Childcare Centre – municipal company responsible for the well-being of children
- Kőbánya Family Support Service – municipal company responsible for the support of families in need
- Urban development division of the municipal property maintenance company – recently created in order to take care of the project management

VI. Action fields of the LAP: brief report and strategic aims

Comprehensive strategic aims:

- Eliminating the causes that lead to the segregation of the area, making the Pongrac housing estate a better place to live.

Specific aims:

- Improving the technical conditions for the safe maintenance of the condominiums;
- Providing a safe, comfortable and pleasant living environment for the residents;
- Making the local residents feel more secure in the streets of the neighbourhood;
- Providing new venues for community-building activities;
- Integrating the deprived and excluded part of the population with the help of specialized programs;
- Building a good community spirit with the help of local actions.



VII. Planned projects and their objectives

Based on the Local Action Plan, the Pongrac urban renewal project proposal is a rather complex and elaborate series of projects, and has the considerable support of the locals living in the Pongrac housing estate. It consists of several elements:

1. *Strengthening the residential function of the neighbourhood, renovation of the housing stock*

The common parts of the houses will be partly renovated: the roofs, the corridors,

the pipeline, the electricity network etc. Each condominium listed the most important renovation works to be done and also made decisions to provide the necessary co-funding (15%)

2. *Strengthening the urban function of the neighbourhood, revitalization of the public realm*

There will be a complex revitalization and renewal program for the public areas. Local residents and children were involved by public participation in the design of the public space. These are the most important elements:

- Re-pavement of the streets and parking places;
- Traffic calming with street signs and speed bumps;
- New streetlights and security cameras to make people feel safe;
- Renovation of the existing playground;
- Building a new playground for small kids;
- Creating a new football grounds;
- Creating small gardens and open spaces between the houses;
- Creating a new public agora for outdoor leisure and other community-building activities.

3. *Strengthening the public service functions of the neighbourhood, renovation and renewal of social welfare and cultural facilities*

A kindergarten and day-care centre complex will undergo major renovation, and a small new cultural centre will be created in an existing building, which will provide a venue for most of the soft program elements.

4. *Community programs, trainings, events*

So-called “soft program” elements, community programs, trainings, events will be part of the urban renewal program. Two types of soft programs will be organized: 1. programs provided by the consortium partners; 2. “Soft Program Fund” – civic society organizations, foundations can apply for funding for small-scale projects.

There will be a wide variety of programs:

- educational and other vocational training courses;
- community-building programs, street festivals,
- leisure activities for kids and the elderly;
- helping the disadvantaged children with their school curriculum;
- involving the local residents in the revitalization of the public space: gardening etc.
- crime prevention programs;
- offering counselling services, advice on debt management etc.



VIII. *Monitoring (on the selection of the target area) & evaluation (on the implementation of the LAP)*

The Local Action Plan has defined a number of indicators that need to be improved by the end of the project (3 years) or by the end of the follow-up period (5 years). The following indicators (among others) were listed in the LAP:

New jobs created during the 3-year project period: 10

New community space created: 150m²

New open space created: 200m²

CCTV security cameras: 12

% of people content with the project: 75%

% of people who get employed after participating in the training programs: 30%

Street festivals and other open-air activities/year: 4



IX. LAP timetable

The local action plan of the Pongrac housing estate in Kobanya, Budapest reached an important milestone in August 2010. Based on the approved local action plan, the Municipality of Kobanya submitted a project proposal for a social urban renewal program of the Pongrac housing estate in May 2010 under KMOP-5.1.1/A funding scheme of the Central Hungarian Operative Program. The first phase of the project proposal evaluation was finished in August 2010. The Managing Authority of the Regional Development Programs *has supported the project proposal, and decided to fund almost 80% of the project* if all the necessary requirements are fulfilled by the Municipality of Kobanya. The second submission of the (final) project proposal was on 24 February 2011; the final decision will be made when the second phase of the project proposal evaluation is finished in May/June 2011.

Project planning phase 1:
June 2009 – May 2010

Project evaluation phase 1:
May 2010 – August 2010

Project planning phase 2:
August 2010 – February 2011

Project evaluation phase 2:
February 2011 – May 2011

Contract with the MA:
June 2011

Implementation period:
July 2011 – June 2013

Follow-up period:
July 2013 – July 2018

X. LAP financing

Project financing

This type of social urban renewal competition (code: KMOP-2009-5.1.1/A) offers a very unique funding opportunity:

EU subsidy:
929,590,453 HUF (3,355,821 EUR) 79.02%

Funding by the Municipality:
190,473,447 HUF (687,609 EUR) 16.19%

Funding provided by the locals:
56,169,600 HUF (202,772 EUR) 4.79%

Overall project size:
1,176,233,500 HUF (4,246,203 EUR) 100.00%

(1,000HUF = approx. 3.61EUR)

XI. Impact of the transnational exchange for the LAP production

The URBACT RegGov transnational exchange has been beneficial to the LAP production. The original idea of the LAP had already been influenced by the RegGov meetings, because we could see that it was worth drawing up a complex social urban renewal program rather than just a “normal” urban renewal project proposal.

Later on during the elaboration of the Local Action Plan, the Cluster meetings provided a valuable tool to check whether ideas worked well or not. For example, our RegGov partners confirmed that in the long run, the problematic drug rehabilitation centre should be relocated somewhere outside our action area. We have also formed an informal collaboration partnership with our RegGov partners from Nyiregyhaza, Hungary. We are planning to make a visit to Nyiregyhaza with some members of our LSG to see their results and challenges.



Imprint

Regional Governance of Sustainable Integrated Neighbourhood Development – RegGov
RegGov is a Fast Track Thematic Network in the URBACT II Programme.

Further information is available under: urbact.eu/reg_gov

Local Action Plan

English abstract

RegGov partner city:

City of Kőbánya/Budapest, Hungary

RegGov target area:

Pongrac housing estate

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URBACT is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal changes. URBACT helps cities to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 300 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants. URBACT is part-financed by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund).

Integrated approaches to the development of deprived urban neighbourhoods have proved to be successful in many old EU member states over the last decades. Crucial factors for success are efficient co-operation and a high level of trust between cities and their managing authorities. The challenge is how to develop, implement and fund such policies at a broad European level. The REGGOV Network focused on making practical experiences accessible and supporting partners to develop and implement new integrated strategies for sustainable neighbourhood and urban development.

www.urbact.eu/reg_gov



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