

Selected projects



Croatia

The route of health and friendship

Official title of the project

The route of health and friendship

Country

Croatia, Slovenia

Region/ City

- Istrian County (Towns: Umag and Buje; Municipalities: Karojba, Oprtalj, Grožnjan, Motovun, Vižinada)
- Obalno-Kraška Statistical Region (Municipality of Koper, Municipality of Izola, Municipality of Piran)

Sector:

common tourism and cultural area

Budget/EC contribution

156,753.00 eur EQUIVALENT TO 90%

Implementation period

23 months (from 12/09/07 to 12/08/09)

Achieved results

Revival and renewal of the alignment of the abandoned Trieste-Porec railway line and establishment of accompanying tourism supply with special emphasis on cycling. Because of the mild Mediterranean climate, the route can be utilised throughout the year. On account of the use of cycling path (going to work, shopping, schools), disburdening of road traffic can also be expected.

Coordinator

Rima Joujou – Delijkic (Project-Manager)

Beneficiary

The Istria County

Partners

- Istria–Pazin Mountain bike Cycling Club (Croatia)
- Municipality of Izola (Slovenia)
- Municipality of Piran (Slovenia)

Contact details

The Istria County
Flanatička 29
52 100 Pula
Croatia

The Route of Health and Friendship is the main green route in Istria. The shared objective of the “Parenzana” project is to develop a common tourism infrastructure which can serve principally as a cycling path, however, it can be used also for running, roller-skating and walking. Other important objectives of the project are: development and organisation of integrated tourism offer, development of sporting, cultural and leisure activities, joint management of tourist visits, tourist information and marketing of cultural events. Information of target groups will definitely improve and progress in tourism and indirectly in the economy will be achieved.

A hundred years ago, the Istrian towns and villages between Trieste and Porec were connected by a narrow gauge railway called Porecanka/Parenzana. The railway line was closed and dismantled in 1935, leaving behind only its alignment, which nowadays represents an ideal connection between the coastal towns in Italy, Slovenia and Croatia and a place where hikers, runners and cyclists spend their leisure time. The railway alignment, intended for renewal under the slogan of “Parenzana – The Route of Health and Friendship” will connect the three countries and their national minorities and improve the tourism offer in Istria.

The revival of route comprises renewal of the existing parts of the railway alignment and construction of new parts in Slovenia, investment in equipment of Parenzana Museum in Izola and the museum at Livade in Croatia (Municipality of Oprtalj), cleaning of the route in Croatia, marking and signalling of the route and accompanying tourist and cultural events in Istria. It should be particularly emphasised that the route has gained in importance since 2003 when it was awarded a prize and consequently became a part of the “European Greenway Network”.

The quality of outcomes depends to a large extent on co-financing from the European Commission funds of the

Neighbourhood Programme Slovenia-Hungary-Croatia 2004-2006. Without these resources, the approach to revitalisation of the old railway through integrated tourism supply line will be much less comprehensive

The project target groups are: local and regional authorities, local and regional development agencies, local tourism organizations, training organizations in the field of tourism and sport, cultural societies, museum visitors, primary school pupils, and general public – cyclists and recreationists.

Last update: 26.11.2007

