



DANURB+ - STRATEGY

ANNEX new / POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION
IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS

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Deliverable D.T 2.1.4 - DOCUMENT ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS AS A NEW ANNEX TO THE DANURB STRATEGY

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Cover photo: KÉPKOCKA, 2022, Szigetzug Danube Days

2. INTRODUCTION

The DANUrB Strategy developed in the DANUrB project (*DANube Urban Brand - a regional network building through tourism and education to strengthen the "Danube" cultural identity and solidarity, Project period: 2017.01.01 - 2019.06.30.*) had been created as a document based on local cooperative heritage valorisation possibilities according to the interregional value categories and principles defined for all Danube towns during the 30-month period. This strategy has annexes showing different potential uses and possible scenarios of valorisation. This strategy is attainable online at the DANUrB platform (www.danurb.eu).

In the DANUrB+ project (*DANube Urban Brand+ Building Regional and Local Resilience through the Valorization of Danube's Cultural Heritage, Project period: 2020.07.01 - 2022.12.31.*) the focus of the overall project shifted from the tangible tools of valorisation more to the actual local activities on the sites of small scaled Danubian towns with special characteristics. The focus is much less on the theoretical tools, but on the actual interventions and processes that can contribute to the upgrading of the affected areas while respecting the heritage and community-based approach of DANUrB.

The concept of this new annex of the strategy is based on the above explained difference but also targets different aspects. Besides action-oriented interventions the annex is also prepared on **possibilities for action in border and peripheral situations along the Danube**, as these situations were not specifically treated during the 2017 to 2019 period. These cases have their peculiarities, moreover they specially characterize urban development possibilities in the whole region of South-Eastern Danube.

Peripheral and border situations

One of the key undertakings of DANUrB+ is that it deals with the peripheral and border situations along Danube with particular attention. One of the deliverables of the project - *D.T2.1.2., Spatial plan to understand the centre-periphery-borderland relations all along the Danube* - specially describes this phenomenon and provides the theoretical background for some other deliverables, among them this new annex.

From a spatial point of view, the growth and decline of a city are more like distant and cold statistical data, irrelevant to establish the potential and direction of their urban development. The periphery appears both in growth stages and in demographic decline and is always accompanied by socio-economic imbalances. Spatially, the shapes that a city can take in situations of accentuated dynamics are varied and depend on the moment they are captured.

For many cities, the growth of the urban territory - which in some cases takes place even if demographically, there is a decrease of the population, and economically are evident several shrinking aspects, the peripheral urban forms depend on the configuration of the city in relation to the territory in which it is located. Their diversity does not necessarily indicate a diversity in spatial distribution for the same region/ city, but a temporal diversity: in certain stages of development, certain types of peripheral forms are generated.

The cities on the Danube have peripheral shapes that are found in all these situations; exception are some new cities, created during the socialist period in Romania, Bulgaria or Hungary, which are in stagnation, whose periphery is reduced to the actual limit of the city built in relation to unbuilt / agricultural territory.

New annex of the Strategy in context of the various other documents of DANUrB+

In DANUrB+ several “strategical” documents are prepared based on local actions and activities. These are:

- D.T 4.1.2 - Regional action plans for municipalities (ASP and all regional municipalities connected) in all regions to be able to form interconnected regions competitive in the tourism, labour and cultural markets using their heritage connected to the Danube (Deliverable Target value 12)
- D.T. 4.4.2 - Heritage Valorization Action Plan guidelines to enable stakeholder networks to successfully create projects (Deliverable Target value 1)
- D.T.4.4.3. - Heritage Valorization Action Plans piloted with local stakeholder cooperatives (Deliverable Target value 6)

For clearly identifying the scope and tool of this new annex it is important to define the relation of these documents to each other with special emphasis on their implementation phase:

- The Regional Action Plans for municipalities are planned new networks of long-term actions that are not implemented yet. They are prepared in cooperation with local stakeholders, reflect on the comprehensive goals of DANUrB+ nevertheless their scope, and their necessary financial fundings go beyond the possibilities of the project. These are prepared together with possible stakeholders, keeping in mind their interests and the implementation of projects will also be the responsibility of the stakeholders.
- The “Heritage Valorization Action Plan guidelines to enable stakeholder networks to successfully create projects” mainly lists the possibilities for interventions for local stakeholders and thus it is mainly a toolbox of possible activities
- The 6 Heritage Valorization Action Plans are partially or fully implemented projects with DANUrB resources and with the workforce of the cooperation that can have a strategic relevance locally and can contribute to the overall goals of DANUrB. They are fully or partially implemented or major preparation documents (e.g.: architectural plans) are prepared. They can contribute also to specific aspects of the Action Plans.
- The new annex to the strategy contains implemented (or partially implemented) projects that can be handled as “GOOD PRACTICES”. Here we involve projects or actions that have been implemented in the scope of DANUrB or DANUrB+ and can be considered as Good Practice initiations also locally, but also in a larger context. They are not necessarily physical projects but any initiations that contribute to the goals of DANUrB+

Description of the case studies:

- context of the good practice
- the possible scope of actions from the goals of the actions plans
- how does it contribute to the goals of the regional Action plan (if it is relevant)
- explain why that specific planned or implemented project contributes to the DANUrB goal and to the goals of the “local” action plan

3. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #2 – HUNGARY, SZIGETZUG DANUBE DAYS

Section #1 – Hungary

SZIGETZUG DANUBE DAYS – LOCATION: RÁCKEVE, SZIGETÚJFALU, SZIGETBECSE, SZIGETSZENTMÁRTON

The Szigetzug Danube Days Festival is a great success story for the DANUrB+ partnership. The four settlements (Ráckeve, Szigetújfalu, Szigetbecse, Szigetszentmárton) already participated in the first DANUrB between 2017-19 and managed to make an excellent stakeholder network for themselves. They are located on Csepel Island and realized the importance of community and local forces and the possibility of making a more significant impact if they work together in one big cultural festival instead of making many smaller events. The team from KÉK provided platforms, such as stakeholder workshops and online meetings, to the local communities and gave guidance in communication and management.

Flyer of the Szigetzug
Danube Days in 2018



The program and the series of events perfectly fits into the philosophy of DANUrB:

- It was the initiation of KÉK (Contemporary Architecture Centre) and BME (Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Urban Planning and Design) initially in 2018. Since then the event has been held each year more and more with the participation and ideas of local stakeholders. The Danube Days Festival branding gave local stakeholders the perfect opportunity to connect the local heritage items in one big event during summer when most people enjoy visiting smaller touristic destinations.
- The festival is connected to the International Danube Day in the calendar, which is June 29th. The festival is usually held on the weekend before or after this day.
- It relies completely on local stakeholders and cultural institutions in the Szigetzug region (southern tip of Csepel island).
- In the first year, it was based on the cooperation of two settlements but slowly became extended, and more and more municipalities joined the program. In 2022 four settlements participated in the program: Ráckeve, Szigetújfalu, Szigetbecse, Szigetszentmárton.

- In 2018 it was still an event mainly organized top-down, but today it is more and more a local initiation, with initiatives and program proposals coming from local stakeholders.

In 2022 the municipalities organized a three week-long festival and included programs like the Night of Fairy Tales in Szigetbecse, “Me and the Danube” photography competition in Szigetszentmárton, the National meeting and conference of archaeological communities in Szigetújfalu. Connecting the archaeological conference with the Danube Days is a new tradition as well, it was the second year of it happening in Szigetújfalu, and we are hoping that there will be many more to come!



Temporary use of the MHSz Building

The last event of the festival was also the closing day of the DANURB+ Building Camp in Ráckeve which dealt with the temporary reactivation of the former building of the Hungarian Defence Association as the Pilot Action of the DANURB+ programme. The public participatory planning for the refurbishment of this building was also part of the festival as a pilot project and as an initial step in generating change related to the local action plan. On this last day KÉK organized a mini festival together with the Pest County Municipality and the lead partner BME, where the students from the building camp presented their works to the public, the BME team held a participatory design program, and everyone enjoyed a night by the Danube. The actors involved were the local municipalities and various other local stakeholders (Árpád Museum, Ács Károly Cultural Centre, Felső-Homokhátság LEADER Action Group).



Participatory planning in the MHSz Building

Based on the last two years, we are hopeful that there will be a festival in the following years as well, with less and less help from KÉK and more and more responsibility on the local actors, such as the local lead organizer of the festival, the Árpád Museum in Ráckeve.

Why is it a good practice?

- It fully relies on local stakeholders.
- After initial external support, the event has become self-sustaining, with local people recognising the potential and largely organising the programmes/events themselves.
- In 2022 with the student building camp, the pilot project of redesigning the MHSz building it contributed to the long term requalification of local heritage values.

Poster of the Szigetzug
Danube Days in 2022



Events on the last day of the Szigetzug Danube Days

4. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #3 – SERBIA, STAPAR ROSE FOR STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY TIES

Section #2 – Serbia

Pilot Action: Stapar Rose for Strengthening Community Ties: Painting a Mural on the Stapar Village Community Hall

“Stapar Rose for Strengthening Community Ties” Pilot-action was realised in the Stapar Village, the authority of the City of Sombor, Serbia. It is the result of cooperation between the University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture (project partner – PP), the City of Sombor, “Prostor/Space” Public Communal Enterprise (associate strategic partner – ASP) from Sombor, “Staparska ruža/Stapar Rose” Women Association, local community from Stapar and the artists specialised in painting murals.

The main goal of the pilot-action is to support local efforts to revive the handcraft of traditional Stapar rugs, which is on the official list of intangible heritage of Serbia. This decision was done during a collaborative process with the main stakeholders of the DANUrB+ Project from Sombor Region. There were two stakeholder meetings dedicated for a local action plan and pilot-project in Sombor, conducted on March 23, 2022 and May 18, 2022 (Fig. 1 & 2).

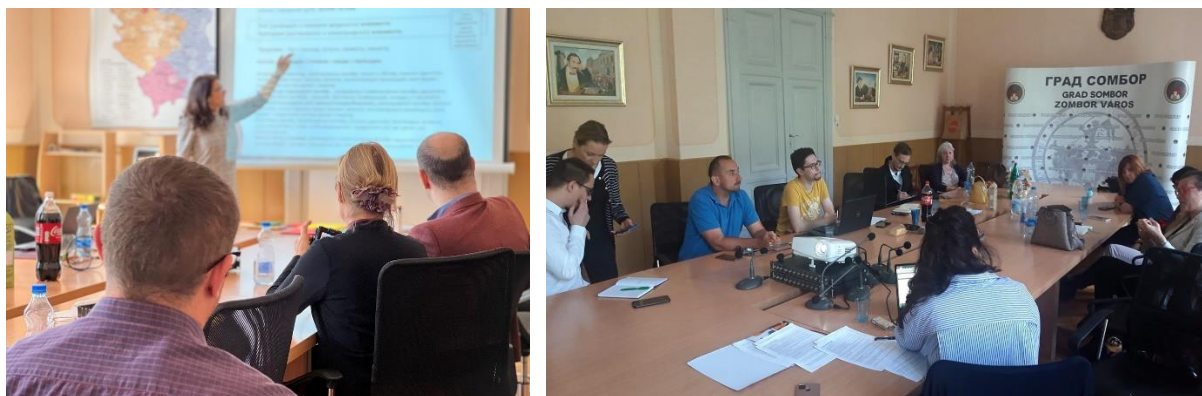


Fig. 1 & 2: Two stakeholder meeting conducted in “Županija” Building in Sombor: on March 23, 2022 (left) and May 18, 2022 (right) (Author: A. Grujičić, 2022).

The first preparations for the pilot started after the second meeting. Milorad Obradović, a PhD candidate from the University of Belgrade, was assigned on the behalf of the main partner to implement this project activity, while Dragana Siljanović Kozoderović, the ASP representative of Sombor, gave a significant local support. The preparations included preliminary research of murals with similar elements: (1) rose/floral motifs and (2) ethno-motifs. A technical check was also conducted during Summer 2022: stability of façade, possibilities of mural size, access to the façade, etc. After them, the final meeting about the pilot-action was organised on September 16, 2022. It included a in-person discussion with the president of the association, Mira Kovačev, about options and motifs for the mural (Fig. 3), on-site documentation and the checking of available local equipment for the mural painting (crane vehicles) and the clarification of the tentative schedule of the implementation of the pilot with local ASP

representatives. After this meeting, an open call for mural creation was prepared and posted in the second half of October 2022. It was supplemented with the further instructions from the joint discussion and photo-documentation.



Fig. 3: A discussion about motifs for the mural during the special meeting dedicated for the pilot-action; Fig. 4: The showroom of the “Stapar Rose” Association: the motif of red rose was emblematic for local traditional rugs (Author: M. Obradović, 2022).

The decision was to design and paint a mural for “Stapar Rose” using the traditional motif of a red rose, one of the oldest and most famous motifs on traditional rugs (Fig. 4). Traditional Stapar rugs were finally formed in the early 20th century as a mixture of traditional Serb/Balkan geometrical motifs and more naturalist artistic motifs under Habsburg influence. Patterns on rugs had a magical significance – each of them had a specific meaning. Rugs traditionally have between three and five colours. The main purpose of having a rug was for dowry. Today, they are made for protocolar purposes for the governments of Serbia and Vojvodina, as gifts for important foreign guests. At the end, it should repeat that Stapar Rugs are in the national register of intangible cultural heritage of Serbia, as well as that they are officially proposed for the intangible cultural heritage of the UNESCO.

The main aims of this pilot were:

1. To inform about, promote and protect local intangible heritage;
2. Support efforts of a local women association to enter the market more easily; and
3. Boost social integration and connection through open public space.



Fig. 5: The main/street façade of the community hall of Stapar Village before the mural painting (Author: M. Obradović, 2022).

The place for the mural was planned on the facade of the community hall of Stapar Village (Fig. 5), on the main crossroad in the village. “Stapar Rose” Association has its showroom in this building. The association represents the best practice of empowering rural women in

Serbia. In the case of Stapar Association, this is done through reviving and modernising the traditional handcraft of Stapar rugs, thus improving the capacity of local women for income and joint competence on market. However, their activities have a much wider meaning and contribution to the life and development of Stapar Village and the protection of knowledge and skills that are a significant part of regional intangible cultural heritage. Furthermore, “Stapar Rose” has successfully applied for several municipal, national, and regional calls for funding; the association has used it to train and employ six women in rug making, procure looms, and equip working space within the village community hall. The goal of the association is to continue with this programme, animate more unemployed and young women and help them “get out of the house and contribute to the household”.

The mural as an artistic medium is chosen due to its nature. Mural painting is inherently different from all other forms of pictorial art in that it is organically connected with architecture and has the elements of public art. The use of colour, design, and thematic treatment can radically alter the sensation of spatial proportions of the building and its surroundings. In this sense, mural is the only form of painting that is truly three-dimensional, since it modifies and partakes of a given space.

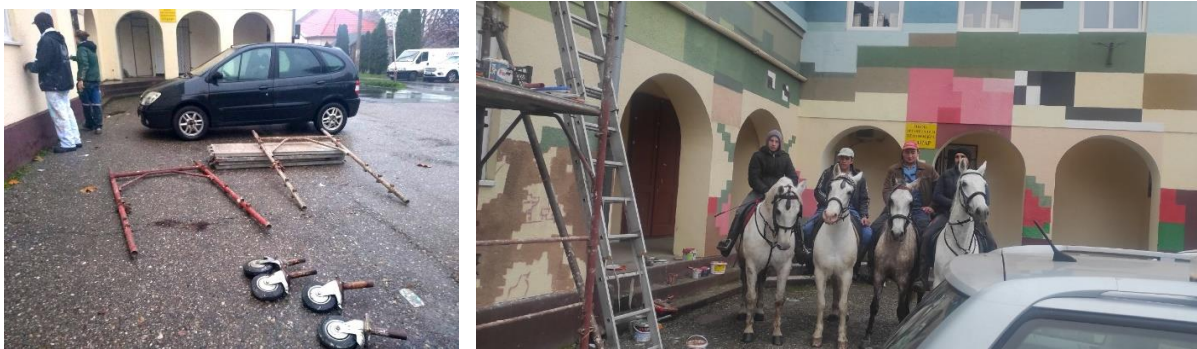


Fig. 6 & 7: The work on the mural on November 20, 2022 (Author: D. Siljanović Kozoderović, 2022); Local people visiting the ‘building site’ of the mural (Author: M. Kovačev, 2022).

The winner of the open call for the mural creation was artist Wuper (Dejan Ivanović), an artist from Novi Sad. The realisation of the mural was limited for one month, during November 2022. The core on-site activities were held during four days (November 19-22, 2022). Each day was dedicated for specific activities (Fig. 6):

1. Day: organisation of a building site;
2. Day: the painting of the contours of the mural objects;
3. Day: the main colouring; and
4. Day: finalisation and details, plus photo-documentation.

Two artists painted the whole mural – Wuper and Kori (Nikola Mihajlović), whereas their colleague made the professional photos of the mural on the last day of painting. They had a significant assistance and support from other entities:

- “Stapar Rose” Women Association: local organisation and communication, contact with local community, accommodation, food for artists;

- “Prostor/Space” Public Communal Enterprise (ASP organisation): as the owner of the building, “Prostor” gave the rights to paint the mural, clear space to be a “building site” and provide with logistical support from the city level;
- The City of Sombor: the free use of a crane from the city utility company for several days;
- Local community of Stapar Village (Fig. 7): building site equipment, such as scaffolding or ladders, electricity, beverage, local transport, etc.;
- Dragana Siljanović Kozoderović / ASP representative from Sombor: on-site support and food for artists; and
- University of Belgrade – Faculty of Architecture: / the main project partner: the executive organisation of the whole pilot-action, financial and administrative implementation, and international communication and dissemination.



Fig. 8: The mural of Stapar Rose after its finalisation, on November 22, 2022 (Author: D. Siljanović Kozoderović, 2022).

After the finalisation (Fig. 8), the mural was officially inaugurated in a special ceremony, held on November 29, 2022, in the presence of all involved partner organisations, guests from the city and regional governments, as well as people from Stapar and Sombor.

5. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #4 – ROMANIA, EIBENTHAL, VISIT BANAT INITIATIVE

Section #2 – Romania

EIBENTHAL, VISIT BANAT INITIATIVE

Location: Eibenthal - Dubova commune / Mehedinți County / Romania

Responsible actors: VisitBanat s.r.o. / Czech tourist operator, UMedveda SRL / local commercial company, Český Banát z.s / NGO Czech Republic, Czech Association in Banat / NGO Romania

Area of influence: transnational

Type of project: development / cooperation / cultural / tourism / leisure

Description of the project: Established in the 19th century by Czech settlers, the village of Eibenthal and its inhabitants suffered enormously after the closure of the nearby coal mine in 2006. However, in recent years, Eibenthal is going through a phase of revival, with a number of projects currently being developed to attract tourists, strengthen the local economy and promote local values and heritage.

The main objectives of these steps include:

- preventing the inhabitants from leaving the area and continuing the process of healing the community, following the disaster of 2006 that led to the closure of the Baia Nouă coal mine;
- promoting local manufacturing activities, customs and products as essential components for responsible tourism and sustainable development in the area;
- the preservation of construction techniques specific to the area, as mediators between the built-up and natural environment, in a rich cultural landscape.



Fig. 1: VisitBanat Initiative, Eibenthal: Eibenthal Restaurant / Local Producers; Source: UPT / INCDT

The commitment of the local community in the village of Eibenthal to preserve the specific character of the settlement can be seen in all the new tourist developments that have appeared here in the last 15 years (such as the bar "U medvěda", the Eibenthal guesthouse, the Eibenthal restaurant or the Manufaktura production cooperative). Moreover, nowadays similar initiatives appear in the village, following the good example of the former.

The Eibenthal community thus manages a private structure that coordinates tourists, called U Medvěda. It is a multifunctional space that has the role of informing tourists, offering local products, and promoting accommodation in various structures in the village. More than a tourist information centre, it aims to involve the community in all types of activities carried out.

In the village of Eibenthal, one can find several accommodation options that reflect rural and local values. Adhering to the principle of using site-specific construction techniques and local materials, accommodation spaces such as the Eibenthal Pension, as well as other private dwellings open for tourism, promote the specifics of the area and thus provide authentic experiences to tourists, while preserving the character of the settlement itself.



Fig. 2: VisitBanat, Eibenthal Initiative: Banat Festival / local community; Source: www.visitbanat.com

Eibenthal Restaurant is another family business in the village of Eibenthal, which offers tourists authentic experiences inspired by traditional cuisine. As such, the menu comprises local dishes (such as garlic soup or slow-cooked pork chops), which are still prepared according to traditional recipes and procedures.

In addition, the Eibenthal community has also established a cooperative for the production of culinary goods (such as sausages, cheese, canned food, syrups and herbal teas), which continues the generational practices and produces enough to cover the daily needs of the restaurant (selling the surplus to tourists).



Fig. 3: VisitBanat Initiative, Eibenthal: overview of the village; Source: INCDT

Finally, in order to promote tourism in the village of Eibenthal, as well as in the neighbouring area, local entrepreneurs work closely with communities in the Czech Republic and organise, mainly for them, an annual festival: the Banat Festival. This event also offers dedicated transport (from Prague to Orsova and, further, to Eibenthal), which allows Czech tourists to take part in this festival. Of course, the event is open to all, but the connection with the country of origin helps to preserve the specifics of the place.

Moreover, the Festival creates the premises for local producers to promote their services, while receiving an informal confirmation of the quality of their products from foreign customers. Thus, the village of Eibenthal contributes to the promotion of local values and practices in the area, through the sale (and production) of specific Czech food and beverages, household goods and other products.

Capitalization of local and heritage resources elements of natural and anthropogenic heritage (material and immaterial, specific to the community of Czech people in Banat: traditional construction techniques / traditional culinary recipes / artisanal products / music and dance).

Potential connection with DANUrB+: integration and promotion of the Banat Festival as part of the tourist agenda of cultural events in the area; integration of the accommodation and catering services offered at Eibenthal in the tourist network along the Danube.

Quality Label: the Visit Banat Initiative has been nominated by UPT as a Quality Label candidate. The candidacy has been accepted and the initiative has been awarded the DANUrB QL with a 3 fish qualification (for the Eibenthal Restaurant & Accommodation and Manufaktura cooperative) and a 2 fish qualification (for the Eibenthal Beerhouse).

6. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #5 – ROMANIA, THE ACTION PLAN "GREEN AXIS" OF CĂLĂRAȘI

Section #3 – Romania

THE ACTION PLAN "GREEN AXIS" OF CĂLĂRAȘI

The Action Plan for Călărași developed within DANURB+ is in accordance with the strategic context of the program and also is in line with the currently validated strategies within the official documents (development plans, development strategies, city, master plan mobility plans). The Action Plan started from field observations and interviewing the residents regarding their satisfaction in the use of public green spaces, and the answers were negative, showing rather a dissatisfaction with the quality of the green spaces related to the Borcea canal, the area that the residents indicated- as being the most valuable from this point of view.

At the end of an open and participative process of discussion and elaboration of several alternative proposals regarding this territory, with the input of UAUIM students from the Department of Urban and Landscape Design, guided by professors of architects, urbanists and landscapers, we proposed within this Action Plan the reconnection of the urban gardens located along the Borcea canal.

The concept of the Călărași Action Plan is oriented towards 2 major structural levels:

- Spatio-cultural, mainly focusing on the way in which the green urban spaces facilitate the pedestrian and velo accessibility, enhancing the urban landscape and heritage
- Socio-economic, as the new Green axis is an inclusive zone that aim primarily towards the public benefit and offers a variety pf experiences.

The city's "green axis" is oriented towards the Danube, together with the valorisation of the existing metal statues, as a symbolic legacy of the post-industrial era, and along with the valorisation of ex-industrial sites for leisure and ecotourism situated in the west periphery of Călărași. The project addresses the most valuable unbuilt sites in Călărași as a potential for increasing public attractiveness for residents and tourists through the (re)development of green spaces (existing and new urban parks and gardens), along the Borcea canal, and in extension, all in the included areas in PUG as green spaces.

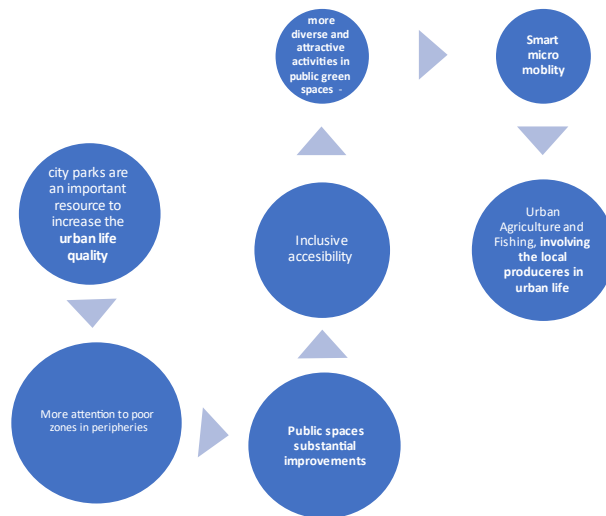
The Green Axis of Călărași will offer not only a better space for urban life for residents, but a new space for tourism and a regional visibility in the transborder context. The Green Axis of Călărași could communicate with the Park of Silistra city, situated also on the Danube shore, and together could form a tourist common offer, enhancing the cities partnership in a mutual benefit.

The Green Axis consists in a large typology of green and open spaces, as urban gardens, parks, pocket gardens, squares, community gardens, zoological garden (existing), leisure and sport areas, interconnected by pedestrian alleys and bicycle paths, with an appropriate and unitary treatment of vegetation and furniture design. It is also intended to refurbish the areas with

the existing metal statues, improve their visibility, treating sidewalks, urban furniture, and public lighting, as well as treating and installing of floating structures on the bank of the Borcea canal, in relation to the new in construction commercial port of Calarasi. Also, the project proposes the inclusion in the Green Axis of the former facilities (canal, lake) and the emptied space related to the Siderca, ex-industrial platform, which can be used for leisure, ecotourism, water sports such as canoeing, with addressability on a not only local but also regional scale.



• **Discussion and validation of proposals for Action Plan**



The parks and gardens proposed to be reconnected and composing the Green Axis of Calarasi, including new green areas: 1. Navrom Square, 2. Central Park (Victoria area), 3. Jirlău Park/Hospital, 4. Park/Dumbrava Garden, 5. Zoo Garden, 6. The "steel" park - H2O, 6. The "stone" park - Pond, 7. Siderca propodes leisure and sport area.



The main challenges of the project:

- a) Cadastral delimitation/ legal status of the sites
- b) Expropriation (if case)
- c) Collaboration between different administrative entities that manage the spaces
- d) Staging the interventions

- e) Financing the design stage and the works
- f) Maintenance of the facilities

Project objectives:

- O1. Connectivity in the green Axis achieved through the design of the car, pedestrian, and bicycle infrastructure and of the pedestrian crossings between the different parts
- O2. Landscaping consistent with the enhancement of the metal statues and to other elements related to the urban memory
- O3. Unitary treatment of the water banks, more accessible to the public
- O4. Differentiated treatment for the activity areas, increasing public attractiveness correlated with the city areas
- O5. Correct and sustainable treatment of urban furniture and public lighting

Project activities:

1. Cadastral delimitation
2. Defining the certain legal status of the lands that become part of the "green Axis"
3. Analysis of the existing situation, mapping the vegetation, creating/updating topographic plans
4. Developing a zonal urban plan that defines and locates the kind of activities that can be implemented in the green Axis
5. Developing the landscape design theme correlated to the PUZ (zonal urban plan)
6. Landscaping solutions competition for the Green Axis of Călărași
7. Defining the implementation solution
8. Staging interventions

Deliverables and expected results:

- PUZ clarifying all the urban and legal aspects of the lands, the functional allocation, etc.
- Landscaping plan of the entire Green Axis of Călărași, with concrete proposals regarding the interventions, vegetation, furniture, small new constructions, accesses, timeline, etc.
- Increasing the area's visibility and attracting investors in tourism and leisure - in regard to the city's new commercial port - under construction
- Increasing the opportunities for young people to relax and meet, with a positive impact on migration and the demographic decline caused by it
- Collaboration with Silistra in a joint transboundary visiting program of the Green Axis of the Lower Danube

Target groups:

- Călărași inhabitants
- Residents of Bucharest - weekend tourism
- Residents and tourists from Silistra
- Tourists from the Danube region - leisure, cultural/professional purpose

Sustainability of the project:

The project is a long-term one (10 - 12 years), and its impact will be determined correctly only at the end of the implementation of the entire green Axis. However, in stages, a positive impact will be observed in terms of awareness of the ignored values of the city, an increase in investment interest, an increase in professional visibility for the city, and in the attractiveness of community involvement, especially for young people.

- **Examples** (projects created by 4th year students from the Faculty of Urban Planning of UAUIM, 2021-2022):



AUTHORS: stud. urb. Dulf Ioana-Alexandra, Duță Ioana Alexandra, Mârzac Denisa Roxana, 2021-2022

7. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #6 - ROMANIA, DANURB+ SUMMER SCHOOL: URBAN EXPLORATION WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH IN GIURGIU

Section #3 - Romania

DANURB+ Summer School: Urban Exploration Workshops for Youth in Giurgiu

Dates: 5th - 30th July 2021

Organisers: Association for Urban Transition, "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism and Giurgiu Municipality

The programme was dedicated to young people interested in discovering Giurgiu with new eyes, exploring the heritage of the city through its buildings, streets, spaces and collective stories with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the local challenges and opportunities.

A group of 11 young residents of Giurgiu took part in the summer school, guided by Urboteca tutors and students from the Urbanism Faculty at "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest. The youngsters gathered every Monday in the courtyard of the *Regional History Museum "Teohari Antonescu"* in Giurgiu, where we ran the workshops around Urboteca's mobile lab for participatory urbanism. The atmosphere was positive and young people were keen to get involved in creative exercises, critical thinking challenges and collaborate on developing stories about Giurgiu.

We had 4 day-long workshops, one each week, and between each workshop the participants undertook small practical projects and urban observation exercises with online support from organisers.



5th -11th July: Urban observation and walking through Giurgiu

Theory: What is urban observation, how it's done, what tools to use?

Practice: Documenting a walk through Giurgiu using a mobile app

12th - 18th July: Critical thinking and analysing the city

Theory: How to analyze observations, generate ideas and define a research topic?

Practice: Documenting a place in Giurgiu

19th - 25th July: Fieldwork through interviews and filmmaking

Theory: How to gather info from other people, what is an interview, how to use creative filmmaking?

Practice: Filming an interview with older residents from Giurgiu

26th - 30th July: Video montage and storytelling

Theory: How to develop a story based on audio-visual materials?

Practice: Defining a short story about Giurgiu

With the kind support of local stakeholders, we've also organised trips around Giurgiu to key locations relevant for the industrial heritage of the city. The participants had the chance to see the inner workings of the active naval shipyard in Giurgiu in a guided tour at *Shipyards ATC* as well as discovering more about the water infrastructure in a trip at *Apa Service S.A.* and the water purification centre.

Across the different workshops, the participants developed skills in urban observation, critical thinking and learned how to work with creative tools from live-tracking apps to video equipment, which has increased their confidence and brought them closer to the city.

30th July: Final Event - Vernissage

The result was a set of posters and short films created by each participant which were exhibited in a final event on 30th July at the "Nicolae Balanescu" Atheneum in Giurgiu. The final event was the perfect occasion to show Giurgiu residents the results of the summer school in a vernissage featuring participants' posters and diploma posters of students from the Urbanism Faculty at "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucharest, followed by a projection of the short films about Giurgiu.

The event gave the public the chance to understand more about what's at stake in Giurgiu and the challenges and opportunities that the city is facing. The residents have also been inspired by best practice examples in urban regeneration for shrinking cities by watching the screening of *Planeta Petrila* and hearing from Dr. Arh. Ilinca Păun Constantinescu, one of the driving forces behind the community activation and urban regeneration efforts in a shrinking city in Romania with a mining heritage.

Danurb+ friends from the theatre company Des Châteaux En L'air closed the evening by presenting footage from their journey along the Danube by boat and what they've learned from interacting with residents along the Danube in key towns.



8. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #7 - ROMANIA, DANUBE DAYS IN GIURGIU

Section #3 - Romania

Danube Days in Giurgiu

Dates: 8th - 10th July 2022

Organiser: Association for Urban Transition with the support of UAUIM University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu" and Municipality of Giurgiu, in close collaboration with the local community of Giurgiu

During the weekend of July 8-10, 2022, the Association for Urban Transition organised the second edition of the Danube Days Festival. The focus was the historical neighbourhood of Smârda, a reference point for Giurgiu and its connection to the Danube.

This year's festival was organised as part of the activation of Giurgiu's Action Plan created through the DANURB+ programme. The Action Plan for Giurgiu called Facing the Danube was activated through a series of activities focused on urban regeneration and cultural-touristic promotion of the Smârda neighbourhood.

The Smârda neighbourhood was chosen as the base of the festival, being one of the areas rich in heritage in Giurgiu, a neighbourhood with historical value still visible through architecture and local memory, but also through the natural heritage to be integrated. It is said that the Danube cities are positioned either facing or with their backs to the Danube depending on the orientation of the neighbourhoods. But there is also a social element at play here, namely how the city opens up its local heritage to be known, celebrated and protected. This summer Giurgiu has been #FacingTheDanube through #SmârdaHistoricalNeighbourhood!





The festival was developed in close collaboration with the local community of Smârda, with an extensive program of activities for the 3 days from workshops held by local residents and organisations and guided tours of the neighbourhood to cultural moments and a series of thematic exhibitions. Key activities included:

- ATU collaborated with the Regional Museum "Teohari Antonescu" Giurgiu on a research of the public photo archives of the city for photographic materials documenting the neighbourhood. With additional resources from private residents and the involvement of a group of local historians and writers, we documented the history of Smârda.
- This results in the Photo and historical exhibition of the neighbourhood - Smârda "Then and Now" - developed in collaboration with the Museum of History "Teohari Antonescu", Studio COCON and a group of local historians
- Landscape revitalization of the last hut in Giurgiu together with the dedicated local community "La Bordei" and with the active involvement of "Giurgiu Neoficial"
- Exhibition #CuApeleCurate about the biodiversity of the Danube in the Giurgiu area together with the Mai Mult Verde Association and Giurgiu Local Initiative Group
- A series of creative workshops for young people and children from Giurgiu held by local organisations such as Palatul Copiilor, Assoc. Millennium Dance or Assoc. Zâmbete și Vise

The festival was an important event in Giurgiu, gathering approx. 300 people over the 3 days from children to young people and adults, residents of Giurgiu but also visitors from Bucharest or Ruse. The event was followed closely online where it reached more than 3,000 people, with the support of local and Bucharest media partners. Part of the audience were both young people from Giurgiu involved in previous DANURB+ projects and children from disadvantaged backgrounds who had access to new creative activities through this event.

FESTIVAL ZILELE DUNĂRII

VINERI 8 IULIE 2022

12 POP-UP / SPAȚIU DE LUCRU @La Bordei
 17 POP-UP / START FESTIVAL @DJ Joe
 18 ATELIER / DANS INTERACTIV @Millenium Art
 19 EXPO / VERISIAZ #SmârdaCartierIstoric & #CuApeleCurate
 20 EXPO / SMÂRDA "Atunci și Acum" @THENOW
 21 ART / ARHIVA CU SCURTMETRAJE

SĂMBĂTĂ 9 IULIE 2022

10 ATELIER / CREAȚIE PT. COPII @zâmbete și Vise
 11 TUR / GHIDAT SMÂRDA (RO) @Grig Vușpe
 13 POP-UP / PICNIC, TÂRC & COLECȚĂ DE CARTIER
 15 ATELIER / GRĂDINĂRIȚ PARTICIPATIV
 16 ATELIER / TÂMBLĂRIE ȘI MESTERIG @Weedy Garden
 17 TUR / GHIDAT GIURGIU @Vizi Giurgiu (P&M)
 18 POP-UP / ALBIM DE FAMILIE IERI ȘI AZI @Giurgiu Neoficial
 19 ATELIER / ARILODOR, PINGUIN CĂLĂTOR @Alunța Veicolascu
 20 ART / DOCUFILM "PLANETA PETRIȘA"

DUMINICĂ 10 IULIE 2022

10 ATELIER / BRICOLAJ PT. COPII @Palatul Capâlnor
 11 TUR / GHIDAT SMÂRDA (EN) @Grig Vușpe
 13 POP-UP / PICNIC, TÂRC & COLECȚĂ DE CARTIER
 15 ATELIER / HARTA MENTALĂ A CARTIERULUI @Urboteca
 17 TUR / PLIMBARE PRIN CARTIER @Eva Tatu
 18 ATELIER / IMPROVIZATIE PT. TINERI @Ana Silviu-Daponta
 20 ART / ARHIVA CU SCURTMETRAJE

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme **DANUB+**



#SMÂRDA CARTIER ISTORIC



Parc Orient



Fabrica de Zahar





La Bordei

**Weekend
8-10 Iulie 2022
Smârda, Giurgiu**

GIURGIU CU FAȚA SPRE DUNĂRE

FESTIVALUL ZILELE DUNĂRII



ORGANIZATORI
 ITU Asociația pentru Tranziție Urbană | Univ. de Arhitectură și Urbanism "Ion Mincu" | Primăria Municipiului Giurgiu

PARTENERI
 Muzeul Județean "Teohari Antonescu" | COCON | TRANZIT2030
 Comunitatea "Parcul Fabricii de Zahăr" | Comunitatea "La Bordei"

Proiect cofinanțat de Fondurile Uniunii Europene (ERDF și IPA)

9. ACTION IN BORDER AND PERIPHERAL SITUATIONS #8 – ROMANIA, “LA BORDEI” - COMMUNITY-LED REVITALISATION OF THE LAST URBAN HUT IN GIURGIU

Section #3 – Romania

“La Bordei” - Community-led revitalisation of the last urban hut in Giurgiu

Association for Urban Transition (A.T.U) has been working throughout 2022 on the revitalisation of the last urban hut in Giurgiu together with the local community called “La Bordei”. The place set in the historic neighbourhood of Smârda, Giurgiu has been the focus point for ATU’s action plan “Giurgiu - Facing the Danube”.



The hut "La Bordei" is more than a century old and has been deteriorating for the last few years despite having an important social and historical value. The community engagement work at “La Bordei” involved a group of local residents from Giurgiu who decided to save it and give it a purposeful future by turning it into a community centre. However, the hut is in a state of decay. This group of residents have hope and have been working with their own resources to revitalise it for the past year. The hut is in need of serious renovation, starting with a new wooden roof structure necessary to hold up under this winter’s rain and snow.

ATU has been supporting this community throughout the year to move from ideas into action through a series of activations. Together with the local communities, ATU organised a series of working sessions managing to remake the garden, start documentation work on the hut infrastructure and mobilise efforts for the hut consolidation:

- Monthly community meetings involving building work and revitalisation of the hut. This helped the group come together and advance the works for the hut: cleaning up and removing debris from the hut’s garden, setting up a small community garden, consolidating the roof and covering it up for protection to secure the hut over winter.
- Progress in the renovation of the hut in terms of building infrastructure. This involved getting professional studies done for the integrity of the structure and getting

specialists to visit and advise on the best route of action to preserve the architecture of the hut.

- Opening the hut up to the local community as a place of gathering. The hut has been the focal point of Danube Days Festival in 2022 with most of the exhibitions, workshops and activities taking part in its garden. This helped raise awareness of the historical and social importance of the hut with dedicated tours and discussions and brought the resident closer to this space.
- Starting a public fundraising campaign to raise the budget needed for the proper consolidation of the roof to ensure the building won't be further affected by winter weather.
- Supporting the local community to become a registered civic action group, with a clear roadmap for the renovation of the hut and next steps to become a sustainable community through future financing for their project.



Why is this a good practice example?

- This activation brought together a range of local stakeholders from residents to local organisations, public institutions and private actors
- It helped put the historic neighbourhood of Smarda, Giurgiu on the residents map with one space they see improving and can actively choose to contribute to
- After initial external support, the community is planning to become self-sustaining, with local residents making steps to become a civic group that can take the work further
- The work for the hut and more generally the revitalisation of Smarda neighbourhood as a result has potential to be continued with other projects and external funding in line with Action Plan

