

## PP4 - City of Poreč-Parenzo

### 3.1\_POREC\_Minutes of the working table USEFALL

<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/usefall>

Unesco Site Experience For All

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1 - Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development

**6<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Work package 3: IMPROVING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ITALIAN-CROATIAN UNESCO SITES**

**Activity 3.1: DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN MODEL FOR A BETTER ACCESSIBILITY OF UNESCO SITES**

**LOCATION:** Building of the Association of Craftsmen (Udruženje obrtnika Poreč), Partizanska 5a, Poreč-Parenzo, Croatia (Congress Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> floor)

**ORGANIZING INSTITUTION:** Town of Poreč-Parenzo; Department of General Administration and Economy, Project Partner 4

Standard + Project USEFALL - Unesco Site Experience For All

Financed by INTERREG V-A Italy-Croatia Cross-border Cooperation Programme 2014-2020, ERDF – European Regional Development Fund

Attending participants: see the attached attendance list.

- The Working Table was organized in collaboration with the Association of people with disabilities of the Town of Poreč – Parenzo, with the participation of the president and the secretary of the association.

As a best practice example, the Town of Poreč-Parenzo and the Association of people with disabilities of the Town of Poreč – Parenzo have reached out to the colleagues from the City of Vinkovci in order to invite Mrs Mandica Sanković as the guest speaker of the Working Table. As Mrs Sanković is an architect, who is well known throughout Croatia for her work on improving the accessibility of the city, she was identified as the best possible candidate to demonstrate the solutions that should be implemented in all inhabited places, cities / regions for the removal of obstacles limiting human development, health and quality of life. Her presentation was entitled “Urban planning to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities”.

The aim of the presentation was to exchange experiences of positive practices of sound urban planning, adaptation of Croatian and Italian cities / regions to persons with disabilities and creation of cultural and development strategic documents of accessible urban communities. As predicted by the application form, the Working Table was also focused on identifying the needs and the difficulties in visiting cultural sites areas. This task was performed by involving the main local stakeholders, primarily the NGO sector and culture management institutions, such as the Heritage Museum of Poreč-Parenzo. The session was devoted to adapting space to different interest groups of citizens with an emphasis on people with disabilities.

As Mrs Sanković explained, urbanism is a multidisciplinary science related to the construction of new and the renovation of existing cities and settlements and studying their development, structure and life in the past, the present and the future. The objectives of sound urban planning include directing urbanists and experts towards respecting the health and needs of the space users, taking into account the technology of building and space utilization, considering involving the community in the process of drafting physical planning documents.

Accessibility includes:

- access to physical objects;
- access to buildings;
- access to public transport means;
- access to information and communication, auxiliary technology included.

Mrs Sanković has explained to the Working Table participants who affects accessibility and in what way:

- investors – often avoiding building without obstacles with the assistance of planners or because of the lack of knowledge;
- designers, contractors, supervising engineers, construction site managers - because they do not implement the rules of profession and regulations;
- decision makers by not implementing available measures determined by regulations.

The speaker has also explained what is meant by the term “discrimination of persons with disabilities”. The discrimination of persons with disabilities implies not implementing the measures needed to remove the obstacles in the environment and in the general attitude of society or creating brand new obstacles that slow down the accessibility of services and the comprehensive participation of persons with disabilities in the activities of civil, cultural, economic, political and social life.

The project partners were informed about the costs of building accessible buildings:

- building costs are 1,8% higher when building accessible buildings compared to the “classic” ones, if the building is correctly planned from the start;
- the bigger the investment, the smaller is the additional cost of accessible building;
- subsequent adaptation requests by far higher costs which then amount up to 3,5% of the total value of the building.

After this theoretical part, the project partners were involved in the exercise of identifying correct or incorrect construction solutions, based on their predisposition to enable communication.

By the end of the presentation, the participants were reminded about the results of accessibility:

1. non-discrimination;
2. the decrease in the costs of living and medication of persons with disabilities;
3. the decrease in the costs of living for all other persons, regardless of their mobility;
4. the decrease in isolation, segregation, ghettoization;
5. cultural, social and economic development.

The Working Table was concluded with a Question-and-answer (Q&A) session, followed by a farewell speech on behalf of the Town of Poreč-Parenzo as the organizing institution.