

URBACT III – TOWN OF PETRINJA
SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY

Petrinja is often known as a small, peaceful and harmonious town in north-west Croatia with great history and tradition. It is situated 13 kilometres south-west of Sisak and is an integral part of Sisak-moslavina county. Petrinja lies at an elevation of approximately 108m (354 ft). It is located in the territory of Pokuplje, in the centre slopes of Banovina region. The town covers the surface area of 380,94 km² (147,08 sq mi). Wider urban area includes 55 settlements among which only Petrinja and municipality of Moscenica have the status of urban area. The town of Petrinja is located on the right bank of one of the most beautiful Croatian rivers Kupa, at the creek of river Petrinjčica. According to the last population census, Petrinja has an estimated population of 24.671, reflecting decrease of 35% since the previous census which was taken in 1991. when the town had population of 35.151. Although, Petrinja is relatively small town, it is very well known for sports and sports achievements. There are thirty sports clubs and sports associations to confirm that. The greatest achievements are accomplished by our wrestlers. One of them is the Olympic winner, Vlado Lisjak. Football players, handball players and dancers also achieve great sports results at national and international levels. Petrinja and its area have suffered horribly in Croatian war of independence, known as „Homeland war“. Devastation of the town and other post war effects could be seen even today. Those were destructions and damages in historical and cultural heritage which had direct impact on cultural infrastructure and sustainable tourism, sports , town’s visual identity and on all aspects which were necessary for development of any kind. As a result, tourism has been affected negatively and revenues declined. This sector recovers very slowly and it is still not developed enough. Improvement of sports-recreational tourism would make Petrinja more comfortable and compelling place to live. This would have the effect on all people who live there now, more appealing for those who left the town and hope and motivation for young educated people to stay.

Petrinja is one among five cities in the Republic of Croatia that were chosen in experimental trial (pilot program), Programme of integrated physical commercial and social regeneration for war-damaged small towns by the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds. It also includes strategic and operational document for programme’s implementation-Petrinja’s Intervention Plan. It is a city development strategy which consists of few development projects and are co-financed from two funds- The European Regional Development Fund (for typical infrastructure projects) and The European Social Fund (for „soft“ projects). This programme is specific because it tries to accomplish specific goals of these two operational programmes: Operational programme competitiveness and cohesion 2014 - 2020 and Operational Programme Efficient Human Resources 2014-2020. These Programmes are included in the document.

Programme, which contains Petrinja’s Intervention Plan, includes the project „Grad na Kupa“. This Project covers the northwestern part of Petrinja. Area under construction is going to include internal waters, primarily the right bank of the Kupa river and lower course of the Petrinjčica river which combines the whole area. The aim requires revitalization of the project area by renewing the infrastructure and development of integrated content strategy in means of sustainable development of Petrinja and making visually appealing identity of Petrinja’s urban area. One of the components of the project „Grad na Kupa“ is also the reconstruction of the town beach buliding and construction of

sports and recreational building and facilities including the footbridge that has to be adjusted for people in wheelchairs and disabled pedestrians to easily approach public bathing spots. The existing building was constructed in 1942. as a part of public bathing programme next to the beautiful landscape of the Kupa river. This Programme includes the reconstruction of that building and the construction of all sports recreation facilities, designing and edging of sidewalks and roadways, building a playground, beach volleyball court, green spaces, outdoor barbecue setups and parking spaces.

Another planned project refers to the construction of tourist infrastructure on the top of Hrastovačka gora near the village Hrastovice, 5km away from Petrinja. Petrinja is located at the crossroads of several very interesting communication lines which is important because Petrinja is the town with great cultural and historical sites as it also has beautiful nature and landscapes. All of that shows existence of high potential for more intensive market growth and more serious evaluation of tourist sector. This project's goal is to make an important contribution to develop tourism by having resources for building sports facilities especially mountaineering and cyclotourism. The location of the project is on the Hrastovačka gora, at its peak called, „Piramida“. Hrastovačka gora is the north-western part of Zrinska gora which is separated by the valley of the Petrinjčica river and includes the largest part of Petrinja's area. The highest peak of Hrastovačka gora is „Piramida“ is at elevation of 415 m (1361 ft) and is above the village Hrastovica. „Piramida“ got its name because of concrete construction which was built in 1864. in the pyramid shape. There is „Matija Filjak“ mountain house nearby. Building the viewpoint includes metal construction containing spiral staircase around existing concrete pyramid and the platform on its top. It is also necessary to provide adequate electrical installations, lightning rods and suitable illumination. Building the viewpoint will increase the destination attractiveness, quality and variety of activities. Now, there are walking and cycling paths which start off from villages Pecki, Cepeliš, Hrastovica and Gornja Bačuga and lead to the „Piramida“. This peak has visitors throughout the year and it is the location for all kinds of events. It is a point of interest and curiosity for many hikers and ordinary visitors because of its unusual look, name and surrounding. The completion of viewpoint's construction will increase the number of visitors and sightseeing tours and therefore provide economic prosperity for local people. Consequently, this would be the motivation for production of local food and other products and contribution to people's revenues creating a new source of income. Target groups to evaluate the additional part of this project are going to be visitors (families, hikers, cyclotourists) whose number will increase when these tourist facilities are going to be built and going to offer something interesting and new. Benefits of this project will also have entrepreneurs in this region who provide services in tourism. They will benefit directly from the economic strengthening activities in the town as a result of increasing number of visitors, tourist arrivals and overnight stays. Ultimate consumers are: 1. Population of Petrinja whose town is going to be recognized as an attractive tourist destination and are going to enjoy all benefits it offers. Secondly, this project will improve and build a strong brand image for Petrinja as a pleasant town for its quality of life. 2. Local government – implementing this project will increase the number of tourists, tourism consumption, increase in the number of overnight stays what will directly have significant effect on the economic growth. Creating jobs and incomes is crucial for development.

The concept of Urbact III is to combine these to localities through 20km long cycling, walking and etc. route as a new trend of urban mobility. Our aim is to connect the city of Petrinja with the projects named "City on the Kupa River" and mountain hut "Matija Filjak" through bicycle, walking and etc.

route by using educational guide in nature. Also, this project's goal is to encourage people to be physically active, to indicate the importance of moving and healthy lifestyle and to offer new varieties of recreational activities and events. All of this will also give our citizens the opportunity to understand better the cultural, historical and natural heritage of their region.

Town of Petrinja has already participated in two URBACT's networks, The Agri-Urban project and City Centre Doctor.