

COMUS

JANUARY 2017 / EN

Newsletter

Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS)

State of play

Chiatura (GE)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Dusheti (GE)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Goris (AM)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Gyumri (AM)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Lutsk (UA)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are in progress

Mstislav (BL)

Planning Phase was concluded
Project Phase- PTAs are in progress

Pryluky (UA)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Soroca (MD)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Zhovka (UA)

Project phase to be concluded end of February
PTAs are finalised and FS are in progress.

Highlights



The COMUS Project Phase has been extended until the end of February 2017, overlapping with the Consolidation Phase that began in January. During the final period of the Project Phase, feasibility studies are being finalised by the local expert with coaching provided by international experts for each town. In addition, promotional films and brochures for each COMUS town are in their final stage.



The fourth COMUS Regional workshop on Heritage Management was held in Armenia (Yerevan and Gyumri, 22-23 September, 2016) with the participation of 23 persons from 9 COMUS towns with the expert of the Organization of World Heritage Cities. All participants were very much involved and enthusiastic. Issues concerning heritage management were discussed, including, challenges, communication models and tools, methodology of peer supervision, and the integrated approach. Democratic participation and human rights aspects of heritage management were emphasised as part of the CoE approach to this field.

The fifth COMUS Regional workshop – Mayors' gathering was held in Georgia (Tbilisi and Dusheti, 7 and 8 December, 2016) and included nine mayors and/or deputy mayors, national coordinators and project officers. A fruitful two-day meeting concluded with clear tasks for mayors for the last phase of the project and beyond, as well as a joint declaration pledging further political and financial support at local level (the declaration is available in six languages on the COMUS website).



The third Steering Committee Meeting was held in Georgia (Tbilisi, 6 December 2016). Positive feedback on 2016 activities and significant progress in the project implementation was noted by all participants. Concerns over the limited remaining time of the project, possibility of an extension and a follow-up project were raised by the countries. The Secretariat explained that all the requirements of the project would be fulfilled and concluded by the end of June 2017 as foreseen. Two follow-up actions after the end of the project were proposed. The 2017 plan of action was adopted by all participants.

Lead expert visit to Belarus provided support in the completion of the reference Plan for Mstislav and made recommendations for the next steps. Following this visit, the town of Mstislav successfully completed its Reference Plan and initiated its Project Phase.



EU Results Oriented Monitoring Mission (ROM), as part of the EU's routine practice took place in the autumn of 2016. While a comprehensive report will be shared at a later stage, observations from the external evaluator were shared at the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting.

International expert visits and workshops on Feasibility Study took place in Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

Community based activities took place across COMUS pilot towns in order to raise awareness about cultural heritage and the ongoing COMUS process, encouraging community ownership. Details of these events can be viewed on the COMUS website.

Next steps

Consolidation phase began in January 2017

Ukraine

Lead expert visit: Lutsk, Ukraine (12-13 January 2017)

International expert workshop on the feasibility study, Ukraine (8-10 February 2017)

Self-evaluation / reflection process (January- March 2017)

Consolidation of portfolios for each COMUS town (January – April 2017)

Regional Workshop n. 6 on 'Housing challenges in local development and financing heritage projects' (last week of March 2017 – place TBD)

More information and news about COMUS can be found at:

✓ www.coe.int/comus

