



MAY 2016 / EN

Newsletter

Community-led Urban Strategies in Historic Towns (COMUS)

State of play - figures

Chiatura (GE):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Dusheti (GE):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Goris (AM):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Gyumri (AM):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Lutsk (UA):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Mstilav (BY):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Pryluky, (UA):

PTA
(finalised end of May)

Soroca (MD):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Zhovkva (UA):

Reference plan
(finalised end of May)

Highlights

In January 2016, the European Commission hosted the **2nd Steering Committee in Brussels**. National coordinators from Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as well as the COMUS lead expert and representatives from the [EU Regional Programme Neighbourhood East \(EC\)](#), Council of Europe, [Organization of World Heritage Cities](#) and [EU-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Programme](#) attended the meeting. The latter focused on intermediate activity report, national state of play and action plans for both the Planning and Project Phases.

New appointments were made at the Council of Europe for the management of COMUS. [Mr. Hakan Shearer Demir](#) will be the administrator in charge. He will be assisted by [Ms. Andréa Rodriguez Perez](#) for visibility actions, and [Ms. Irma Dzankovic-Arslan](#) for financial and logistical issues.

At present, **all the COMUS countries have implemented management mechanisms** for the implementation of the project. **Several missions were organised:** Mr. Philip STEIN, the COMUS Lead Expert went to Armenia in March 2016, at the request of the country, and the CoE Secretariat visited Belarus, in April.

The **workshop took place in Chisinau and Soroca, Republic of Moldova** with the participation of 32 persons from 9 COMUS towns. All participants were very much involved and enthusiastic. Beyond the review of the Planning Phase and information provided for the Project Phase, the constructive exchange among the 9 towns was remarkable and contributed to sense of a larger network that COMUS would like to strengthen.

Efforts will be increased to guarantee a **higher visibility of COMUS**. Visibility actions will include updated news and promotional postcards of the pilot towns, short promotional films on selected sites, together with brochure and local educational and awareness activities. This information will be included on the COMUS website which is already operational. Participating pilot towns are invited to regularly consult this website and provide useful information on the state of play of the project.

The **Planning Phase will be finalised at the end of May**, followed by the Project Phase between June and December 2016. Guidelines for the Project Phase were sent to National Coordinators.

NEXT STEPS

A **third workshop on Urban Planning** is being planned for **late June**.

A **first study visit to Germany late July** is being planned with the focus on Community Involvement in Heritage Planning.

Project Phase Action Plans should be finalised by the **beginning of June**.