

The Sustainable Historic Districts project

The Sustainable Historic Districts project takes a holistic approach to addressing common challenges in the historic districts of six cities from five EU Mediterranean countries: Lisbon (PT), Valletta (MT), Nicosia (CY), Ptuj (SI), Savona (IT), and Sassari (IT).

The project partners are working closely with EIT Climate-KIC to put sustainable development at the heart of the districts, take integrated approaches instead of focussing on isolated challenges. And thus, transform their historic districts towards fairer, more sustainable, climate resilient and inclusive communities.

THE CITIES INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT SO FARE ARE:

ALFAMA/LISBON

Alfama is one of the oldest districts in Lisbon. It resembles a typical Arab medieval city, and one of the main touristic locations of the city. Alfama is facing serious challenges to make compatible the long-dated habits and aspirations of the low-income local inhabitants with the mass tourists in recent years. Increasing heat waves and flash floods, as already occurred in the last years, will likely exacerbate these problems, due to the decrease of the comfort and health of the Alfama's occupants. Alfama has already carried on an intense participatory process with stakeholders and is now looking to work to implement effective solutions for the district and create a sustainable and resilient community.

VALLETTA

Valletta, the capital city of Malta, is a UNESCO World Heritage site, Capital City of Culture in 2018, a tourist city as well as a residential city. As a peninsula surrounded by fortifications, Valletta cannot expand in terms of land area. As a World Heritage City, with its high density of historic buildings and monuments Valletta also has several conservation constraints and gentrification and the decline in residential population is one of the most problematic issues. Valletta aims to become a smart city and a zero-carbon capital by 2030 and start putting in place the Valletta Declaration which came into force in May 2017.

NICOSIA

Nicosia Municipality is the largest city and capital of Cyprus. Since 1974, as a result of Turkish occupation, Nicosia is divided. Due to the surrounded fortifications, Nicosia cannot expand in terms of land area. The metropolitan area of Nicosia Municipality has an ambitious ongoing and well performing Sustainable Energy Action Plan for 2020 and beyond. The fact that the historic city is divided can limit the actions taken and the diffusion of results because of spread spatial planning. The city phases insufficient public transportation systems and obsolete infrastructures, and therefore to the excessive use of cars, even in the narrow streets of the historical centre, downgrading the quality of life of the residents and the visitors.

PTUJ

Ptuj is known as the oldest town in Slovenia, known for its abundance of heritage, culture, art and related festivals. Some of the key challenges the city is trying to tackle are: sustainable mobility, efficient energy use and renewable energy supply, town center management, restoration of cultural heritage and revitalisation of degraded urban areas. The Municipality is looking for effective ways of engaging with its citizens to be able to design and deliver projects with the community input and support. It aims to the revival of the "Old Town" on the principles of sustainable development and adaptation measures to improve climate resilience.

SAVONA

Savona is a coastal town in North-West Italy facing the Mediterranean Sea. The city used to be one of the chief seats of the Italian iron industry and, in recent years, sustainability has become a top priority for the city. The Historic District faces many challenges, one of them being climate change adaptation, congested mobility, combined with inefficient public transport and intersections with commercial/port transport and logistics. E-mobility is still a rarity and the city also features many heritage buildings that are either energy inefficient or abandoned and in decay, thus needing regeneration and reactivation.

SASSARI

Sassari is the second-largest city of Sardinia region in Italy. Its historical center still maintains its medieval structure, mainly composed by narrow streets with few green public spaces and ancient and not restored buildings. Mediterranean climate is typical. During summer, heat waves push the demand of energy for cooling, causing electrical blackouts, and compromise public health directly, through the urban heat island, as well as by increasing air pollution. The district is also characterized by a general lack of climate resilient public spaces, densely inhabited areas and low presence of green areas, leading to a fragmentation and jeopardization of the community spirit.



THE 21ST CENTURY

will be defined by how we address climate change and social inequality, particularly in cities. Actions to reduce climate change impacts and build more resilient cities are often great ways to reduce social inequality by creating opportunities for community-based investment and asset management.



THE SUSTAINABLE HISTORIC DISTRICTS PROJECT

aims to demonstrate how a collaborative process to taking integrated action will deliver innovation towards a fairer sustainability and climate change mitigation and resilience. This process will be tackled and developed through a participatory process with the districts' stakeholders and local population to assure its effectiveness in the long term.

The project aims to deliver integrated innovative solutions across the areas of:

- Mobility & accessibility
- Local economic development & tourism
- Housing & buildings
- Circular systems & nature-based solutions

Through co-ordinated actions across key enablers of transformative change including:

- Communications & progress monitoring
- Community participation
- Business models & finance platforms
- Urban planning approaches
- Governance & partnerships.



EIT CLIMATE-KIC supports cities to develop and deliver integrated neighbourhood-scale sustainability projects that can then be scaled back to city-wide implementation. Our experience has shown that working at the neighbourhood scale is essential to bring the complexity of whole-city urban transformations down to a more viable level that is closely connected to communities. We help city communities to build leadership capacity and set a course to advance resilient, sustainable policies and projects that in turn create local prosperity through jobs and investments.

PROJECT MAP



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**SUSHI
SUSTAINABLE HISTORIC
DISTRICTS PROJECT**

