

November 20, 2023

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK (priority thematic): *Greening Historic Public Spaces*
Pilot City: KRAKÓW (Poland)

Action Plan (proposal by the pilot city)

Introduction

As "communities of practice", the Collaborative Networks aim to create a free, creative space for reflection and discussion that organizes and enables constructive dialogue. It is in this privileged setting that OWHC member cities will be able to learn from each other and together find effective solutions to the four issues targeted by the Roadmap.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Roadmap, the Collaborative Networks must be organized and implement an Action Plan that meets at least the following needs in the run-up to the 17th World Congress of the OWHC (Cordoba, Spain, September 24-27, 2024):

- Before May 15, 2024: Gather material and experience, ask questions that challenge taboos and identify projects that are the subject of debate, and foster the emergence of a common culture.
- Before September 1, 2024: Formulate guidelines and responses to the thematic and issues at stake.
- During the Cordoba Symposium: in workshops led by the Collaborative Networks, identify possible solutions corresponding to precise criteria (to be determined) establishing new ways of thinking about and developing the heritage city.
- After Cordoba: experiment with possible solutions.

The proposed Action Plan drawn up by the pilot city and discussed at the first meeting of the Collaborative Network may initially focus on activities to be implemented up to summer 2024 but must take into account the entire process.

Concept and objectives

Due to the new issues at stake resulting from global warming, many cities are facing similar challenges. The case of Kraków brings in the front different subjects which must be taken into account when undertaking any activities within the World Heritage Site,

The greening and decarbonation of city centers, especially public spaces, are challenges faced by many OWHC members. The Collaborative Network proposed by Krakow will contribute to **specifying what are the interconnected problems related to the Thematic** and to **develop concrete common positions and responses nurturing future strategies and policies.**

With a view of the XVII World Congress of the OWHC in Cordoba (September 24-27, 2024), the Collaborative Network must conduct the following activities:

- Collect expertise and good practices from participating cities concerning urban greening projects (effective examples and mistakes to avoid).
- Obtain practical information on greenery (tree) species suitable in historic areas.
- Aggregate tools to public communication with different stakeholders and discuss the model for the dialog between city authorities and other interested parties.



- Capitalizing on greenery in the city for the rehabilitation and revitalization of religious or spiritual places.

Presentation of the thematic's challenges

The effect of the Collaborative Network will be a multifaceted study on the project of greening historic city centers, answering the questions: **to what extent, with what measures and under what conditions historic centers may be greened.** It raises the following challenges:

- Ensuring the dialog between all actors and establishing of a satisfactory compromise and mutual understanding and respect
- Rigorous analysis of the situation, to embrace different aspects: historical, landscape protection, climatic, technical and infrastructural, functional, social and dendrological
- Create an innovation approach involving all stakeholders
- Work out patterns, procedures - indicate benefits and risks
- Identification and planning of trees that adapt to the diverse weather conditions in harmony with the local urban ecosystem and biodiversity using innovative techniques for the greening of public spaces without impacting the occupied or safeguarded underground areas.

Schedule and calendar

- Kick-off meeting on **December 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. (EST) / 3 p.m. (CET)**
2 hours – online – working languages: French-English-Polish:
 - Short introduction by the OWHC Secretary General, Mikhaël de Thyse
 - Short presentation to frame the thematic and the meeting by the Plenipotentiary of the Mayor of the City of Krakow for culture, Robert Piaskowski
 - Presentation of the situation and projects in Strasbourg
 - Presentation of the Kraków's case and its unique perspectives by Prof. Andrzej Kadłuczka
 - Questions

Followed by a 2-hours online discussion with local actors from Krakow to elaborate on what has been raised during the previous 2 hours. A report will then be issued to the Collaborative Network's member cities presenting:

- The summary of questions, subjects of debate and problematics raised during the discussion
 - The synthesis of common issues, expectations and goals
 - The Action Plan revised with the next activities planned in more precision (study visits).
- **February 2024 to April 2024 / study visits**
 - In Krakow and in any other city member of the Collaborative Network, to illustrate the problematics previously defined
 - With the participation of representatives of the Provincial Council for the Protection of Monuments and the authors of the project for the reconstruction of the Market Square.
 - **May – June 2024 / workshop**
 - Formulation of guidelines and responses to the thematic and issues at stake.