



December 5, 2023

Québec Roadmap: Towards a New Urban Project (2022-2024)

COLLABORATIVE NETWORK (priority thematic): Regulation of traffic within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site

Pilot City: *DUBROVNIK (Croatia)*

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 are the subject of debate, and foster the emergence of a common culture
- Before September 1, 2024: Formulate common orientations
- During the Cordoba Symposium: in workshops, led by the Collaborative Networks, identify possible solutions
- 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

The Priority thematic led by the City of Dubrovnik aims to provide possible solutions to traffic congestion in the buffer zones of the World Heritage Sites. Traffic congestion in the buffer zones, accessibility, and liveability of historic urban centres are inevitably connected and many OWHC members are facing challenges in managing traffic.

In Dubrovnik, significant progress has been made to optimize traffic, and systematically regulate and arrange the conditions of entry, traffic, and exit of vehicles in the buffer zone of the WHS.

Looking ahead to the 17th World Congress of the OWHC, in Cordoba Symposium in September 2024, the Collaborative Network will conduct the following activities:

- understand the extent to which the traffic congestion contributed to the depopulation of WHS
- collect and share experience in implementing traffic solutions from participating cities
- create an inventory of good practices - methods of interventions to manage traffic flows (short/ mid/long-term measures)
- outline ways to adapt in existing legal framework to form the city policies
- produce recommendations for actions to limit the impact of traffic on the WHS
- identify and recommend indicators to monitor changes in city's liveability



Presentation of the thematic's challenges

The City of Dubrovnik is dedicated to finding solutions to traffic congestion in the buffer zone of the historic center - WHS. The intention is to implement the Limited Traffic Zone around the WHS, and systematically regulate and arrange the conditions of entry, traffic, and exit of vehicles in the buffer zone to optimize traffic, all following the guidelines of UNESCO and the Management Plan 2021-2026.

Limited Traffic Zone is aimed at:

- protecting historic city center from excessive traffic - restrictions for non-residents and unauthorized vehicles
- supporting and improving social and economic potential for residents and local community, by
- providing means and infrastructure solutions
- strengthening habitability in historic center and the buffer zone by increasing the quality of life and connectivity
- limiting pollution levels / enhancing decarbonisation
- reducing the negative impact on the heritage and historic environment
- enhancing the safety in the surrounding area

The members of the Collaborative Network will benefit from:

- the understanding the impact of traffic flows on WHS,
- the learning about the regulations needed, and
- the identification of indicators to monitor changes in the city's liveability

Schedule and calendar

1. Kick-off meeting– presentation of the thematic, the action plan, and practical details (**online on January 22, 2024 at 11 a.m. – CET**)
2. Call for papers/ presentations (January 2024)
3. Virtual working meetings – presentations from member cities (1x monthly from February till May 2024)
4. Two-day international expert workshop in Dubrovnik (June 2024)
 - lectures
 - site visits
 - conclusions - guidelines
5. Video- report about the Collaborative network (July 2024)