

SLOVAKIA

Local development

Location

Hrušov

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local
development

Measure

M07 – Basic services &
village renewal

Funding

Total budget 28 990.05
(EUR)

EAFRD 21 742.53 (EUR)

National/Regional 7 247.52
(EUR)

Project duration

2019 to 2020

Project promoter

Municipality Hrušov

Email

starosta@hrusov.sk

Website

www.hrusov.sk

Harnessing cultural heritage as a rural development tool in Slovakia.

Summary

A rural heritage asset was converted into a new rural tourism attraction hosting a museum of traditional folk clothing.



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Project Results

This cultural tourism project by the Hrušov municipality in central Slovakia created a new visitor attraction supporting rural employment and income opportunities for local businesses as well conserving cultural heritage, and improving amenities for local residents.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ Detailed planning of heritage renovation projects will help avoid risks of unexpected additional project costs.

Context

The Hrušov municipality in central Slovakia is known as a 'village of traditional folk culture'. For the last 24 years it has hosted the Hontianska Paráda folklore festival and the municipality actively restores heritage buildings - converting them into museums and cultural venues. This so far includes: a blacksmith's forge, a distillery, the House of Folk Living, the House of Pears, the Beekeepers' House, the Historical Fire Station, the Sandstone Cellar, the Exhibition of Peasant Technology, the Exhibition of Agricultural Machineries, and the Exhibition of Historical Tractors.

Objectives

The project was developed to take advantage of heritage as a rural development tool by attracting visitor income for local businesses, conserving cultural heritage, and improving amenities for local residents.

Activities

The project part-financed the reconstruction of a heritage asset in the village of Hrušov and converted it into a new visitor experience called The House of Folk Clothing. Project works were carried out by local skilled craftsmen - including carpenters, roofers, and masons - using local natural materials to preserve the original character of the building and its architectural elements.

Main results

The converted historic family house presents exhibitions and events that display traditional, regional folk clothing and their role in local cultural heritage. The House of Folk Clothing adds to the growing rural tourism offer in Hrušov, which provides local employment and other new rural development opportunities.

Key lessons

During the project's implementation significant structural decay was discovered in the load-bearing oak ceiling beams of the building. These had to be replaced and, as an unforeseen cost of the renovation, had to be funded from the municipality's own reserves, outwith the project budget. The lesson learned is that the cost plans of buildings reconstruction projects should be based on a detailed analysis by structural engineers.

Additional sources of information

n/a