

Good Practice template

- In order to submit a practice, you will have to register in the Interreg Europe website. You can submit your practice through your user dashboard ('Good practices' tab).
- Optional fields are shown in **orange**. All other fields are compulsory.

1. Author contact information	
<i>[Technical: Contact information comes from your community profile. You can edit it by visiting your user dashboard] Ideally, the owner of the good practice should fill in the form. Indeed, if you submit a good practice, your personal and organisational profile in the Interreg Europe community will be linked to it.</i>	
Name	KATRINA POTAPOVA
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Telephone	
Your organisation	
Country	Latvia
Region	Riga
City	Riga

2. Organisation in charge of the good practice	
<i>[If your organisation is not the one in charge of the good practice, you can indicate the relevant organisation in this section of the form. But your contact details will still be linked to the submitted good practice.]</i>	
Is your organisation the main institution in charge of this good practice?*	Yes or no

In case 'no' is selected, the following sections appear:

Location of the organisation in charge:	Country	Drop-down list
	Region	Drop-down list
	City	Drop-down list
Main institution in charge	Drop-down list of organisations <i>[Technical: it is possible to select 'other' to add a new one]</i>	

3. Good practice general information	
Title of the practice	Society "Friends club of Banitis" organisation
Does this practice come from an Interreg Europe Project	Yes or no <i>[Technical: Good Practices outside the IR-E projects relevant to the topics and validated by the Policy Learning Platforms experts will also be included in the database]</i>

In case 'yes' is selected, the following sections appear:

Please select the project acronym	<i>Drop-down list of all Interreg Europe approved projects</i>	
Thematic objective of the practice	<i>Drop-down list of the 6 specific objectives</i>	
Geographical scope of the practice	<i>Select National/Regional/Local</i>	
Location of the practice	Country	<i>Drop-down list</i>
	Region	<i>Drop-down list</i>
	City	<i>Drop-down list</i>

4. Detailed description	
Short summary of the practice	The associations " Friend's club of Bānītis" by involving the community of local and railway enthusiasts, aims at preservation of narrow-gauge railway heritage, organizing clean-ups and trips for tourists.
Detailed information on the practice	<p><i>[1500 characters]</i></p> <p>The collapse of the Soviet Union, the exhaustion of peat resources and the modernization of bog development technologies led to the gradual reduction of the role of peat railways, until in 2011 it was only eliminated and abandoned. In 2013, in order to prevent further theft of railway infrastructure and rolling stock, it was planned to demolish it. As result it turn drew attention of the Railway Enthusiasts' Association, which, in agreement with the owners of the bog and adjacent peat processing, taking over the peat railway free to use. The association unites 23 people, mostly railway and public transport enthusiasts. Since 2013, once a month on Saturdays public clean-ups are organized, during which the railway line is renewed as well as rolling stock renewal works are performed. In 2020, about 90 different people took part in the clean-up. In most cases, the work is voluntary and unpaid, except in some cases when specialists are engaged on working days. Once a month on Saturdays, the association organizes events for tourists, which include train rides, a tour of the peat processing plant and a tour of the local history.</p> <p>Pigeons (town) are located only 12 km from Riga, this is a unique product of Latvia, so the events are very popular also for residents of Riga, Pieriga. The cooperation partners are the Peat Processing Company, the benefits are improved public image and managed surroundings, as well municipality of Kekava. The main beneficiaries are the local community, which consists of two distinct parts: former peat factory workers and newcomers, providing sentimental values to the former and newcomers as formation element of local identity.</p>
Resources needed	<p><i>[300 characters]</i></p> <p>In 2019, the association allocated 12 326, 55 EUR for the development and improvement of the railway.</p> <p>In 2019 in clean-up participated 1024 volunteers.</p>
Timescale (start/end date)	<i>e.g. August 2013 – /ongoing</i>
Evidence of success (results achieved)	<p><i>[500 characters]</i></p> <p>The implementation of such a practice, by attracting NGOs and its members, provides an opportunity to preserve traditions and create a cultural space, for an object that is characterized by disproportionate capital investment and is not considered to be able to bring commercial benefits in short time of period.</p> <p>Such practices allow to involve relevant field enthusiasts, improving the knowledge and providing public activities. This practice allows the development of a unique tourism product that has the potential to become a symbol of the region and an important source of identity and pride for the local population.</p>
Challenges encountered (optional)	<p><i>[300 characters]</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How not to lose financial stability considering the high capital intensity of the object and the slow increase in the level of income; How to maintain the level of motivation of members' participation when they are not remunerated, but the association generates income, and it hires specialists.



	3. How to attract the necessary co-financing for the absorption of EU support funds.
Potential for learning or transfer	<p><i>[1000 characters]</i></p> <p>Such practices could be interesting for cases offering and developing, based on public image, cooperation with production companies that do not preserve the historical, technological and economic traditions of the place, as well as natural values.</p> <p>As well this practice would be interesting for degraded objects that contain significant technological landscape, historical, natural and other values, but their preservation and development require specific knowledge and skills, as well as funding that is not at the disposal of municipalities or object owners.</p>
Further information	<i>http://www.bdklubs.lv/index.php/en/</i>
Keywords related to your practice	<i>Select existing keywords or add</i>
Upload image	<i>[2000px wide recommended]</i>
Expert opinion	<i>[1500 characters] [to be filled in by the Policy Learning Platforms experts]</i>

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