

# Tour des Villes in Idrija

Study-visit on 18th and 19th May 2017



## Aims

### Project aims:

The aims of the project as defined in the project concept are:

- Participating alpine towns have better knowledge about the challenges of sustainable urban development and about how the transformation of conversion and empty areas and buildings can contribute to attractive and lively towns;
- Participating alpine towns have analysed a present challenge in their urban zone and received ideas, instruments, problem solving methods to tackle these in a sustainable way;
- Participating towns benefit from cross-border alpine exchange of knowledge and experience.

### Aims of Idrija:



Idrija's miners' houses of 19<sup>th</sup> Century were nestled on slopes with its front facing the valley, built almost entirely of wood. The roofs were covered with fir boards and very steep. In general, houses were tall, with four floors, and used to inhabit more families, usually up to 16 people. Each house had a small vegetable garden that provided the owner of the house with home-grown vegetables and fodder for a goat or a sheep.

After the Second World War most of miners' houses were abandoned, demolished or transformed beyond recognition. Only few remain, nestled on slopes around Idrija, waiting for better times. The main challenges the town of Idrija would like to address in the Tour des Villes project are:

- How to involve inhabitants and owners in the processes of revitalisation?
- How to encourage private owners to renovate these houses?
- How to assist owners in renovation with respect to the heritage?
- How to enable good living standards in 19<sup>th</sup> century wooden houses?
- How to approach the heritage as an inspiration and an added value not as detractor and a barrier?

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## Programme

Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May	14:00	<b>Welcome and introduction to Idrija, its history and its possible future</b> [Town hall]	Mayor Bojan Sever Magdalena Holzer Matevž Straus
	15.00	<b>Short tour of Idrija's UNESCO heritage</b>	Tina Bajt (Centre for Idrija Heritage)
	16.00	<b>Idrija's miners' houses: once and today (and the future?)</b> Visits of sites with background information on the project (architecture, history of the project, ideas and challenges for the town, expectations of the population, enterprises, politicians, etc.) and presentation of the main challenges.	Matevž Straus, Janez Podobnik
	18:00	Short break	
	19:00	<b>Evening programme</b> Dinner at Šturmajce – presentation of traditional food in a renovated homestead	Tourist Cultural Association Kanomlja

Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	09:00	<b>Workshop</b> [meeting in front of town hall, stop at Idrija Townspeople Apiary on the way to the Youth Centre Idrija]	Matevž Straus, Janez Podobnik, Magdalena Holzer
		<b>Common discussion of the project of the town</b> (peer-to-peer counselling) [Youth Centre Idrija]	Matevž Straus, Janez Podobnik, Magdalena Holzer
	12.30	<b>Summary of results and next steps</b> [Youth Centre Idrija]	Matevž Straus, Magdalena Holzer
	13:00	<b>Lunch</b> [Škafar] and trip home	
Optional	15:00	OPTIONAL: Visit of the mercury mine – UNESCO World Heritage Site	