



## SOC Objectives

**SOC** promotes EU policies through important educational and cultural initiatives at local, national and EU level implementing specific actions aimed at developing integration of intercultural dialogue, social inclusion, active citizenship, foster EU values, support a transnational approach within a local dimension.

The main objective of the SOC project is the promotion of sustainability, competitiveness and enhancement of the local identity to produce a low impact on the environment, while at the same time encouraging the respect of local specificities through a focused info and awareness campaign on cultures and traditions of the communities visited.

Other important objectives are the following:

- give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in constructing a tighter-knit Europe, which is democratic and world-oriented, united and enriched by its cultural diversity, thus developing citizenship of the European Union;
- enhance tolerance and mutual understanding between European citizens, respecting and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity, while contributing to intercultural dialogue;
- active European Citizenship: participation and democracy in Europe: civic participation in democratic life of the EU;
- people's well-being in Europe: employment, social cohesion and sustainable development;
- develop thematic and long-lasting cooperation between towns.

## Project PARTNERS

PRIVERNO (ITALY)  
 ROCCASECCA (ITALY)  
 GIULIANO DI ROMA (ITALY)  
 WALLENHORST (GERMANY)  
 BRECLAV (CZECH REPUBLIC)  
 STAWIGUDA (POLAND)  
 ANDRYCHOW (POLAND)

## FRIEND Municipalities

MORAWICA (POLAND)  
 OBCINA BRDA (SLOVAKIA)  
 UHERSKE HRADISTE (CZECH REPUBLIC)  
 RACA (SLOVENIA)



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## Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns



## Sustainable Open Cities "SOC"

With the support of the "Europe for  
Citizens" programme 2007–2013  
of the European Union



Europe for Citizens  
Programme



The **Municipality of Priverno**, in synergy with Wallenhorst, Breclav, Stawiguda, Andrychow, Roccasecca and Giuliano di Roma, strongly wants to propose the **Sustainable** Open Cities-SOC project in order to train and educate the citizenship to this new kind of active tourism and increase the know-how on its potentialities, unfortunately still little explored.

SOC is an intercultural pilot bottom-up initiative promoting active sustainable tourism for a low impact on the environment and the respect of local features through an info campaign on culture and traditions of the communities visited.

Through the info and awareness social campaign SOC wants to promote a kind of sustainable tourism which leads to the management of all resources in such a way that economic and social needs can be fulfilled while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity, socio-economic development systems bringing to economic cohesion, social inclusion, increased opportunities.

The accomplishment of this Thematic Network foresees the realization of 3 international events, 2 in Italy and 1 in Poland.

OFFICIAL WEB SITE:

[HTTP://WWW.OPENCITIESPROJECT.EU](http://www.opencitiesproject.eu)

**PRIVERNO (ITALY), March 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**PRIVERNO (ITALY), August 10<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**ANDRYCHOW (POLAND), September 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**EVENT 1** takes place in Priverno and promotes sustainable tourism development; it involves 100 local and international participants during the Culture Week in honour of the Patron St. Thomas Aquinas, with the remarkable “Wine and Food Fair” and the exhibition of typical regional products coming from all the invited Countries. The theme of the conference is “Sustainable tourism development ” and debates, round tables, competitions for schools, seminars and cultural and entertaining events take place in order to transform the festival in honour of the Patron Saint in a large-scale cultural event able to valorise and promote the specificities of each territory. The target groups get aware of EU policies and of the concept of sustainable tourism and have the chance to exchange opinions also during brainstorming sessions.

**EVENT 2** takes place another time in Priverno during the Medieval Festival, as it is an honour for Priverno to host 2 events during the Project lifecycle. The theme of the workshop faces “The challenge of sustainability, competitiveness and enhancement of local identity ” and is the perfect chance, for 100 local and international participants, to turn back time thanks to magical atmospheres evoking ancient local traditions. Debates, round tables, reflections and a conference on “Sustainable economic development and better quality of life ” rise participants’ consciousness about the vital importance to promote low environmental impact and respect of local features for improving local socio-economic well-being.

**EVENT 3** in Andrychow is the ideal occasion to involve 140 participants and officialise SOC results. The main

theme of this workshop is “Sustainable tourism for sustainable social inclusion ” and this event is the perfect match of sport activities and cultural ones. Furthermore, it presents the SOC results and, last but not least, at the end of the event 3 Project Partners can manifest interest to settle future participative action plans and participate in a New Network involving also new partners. At present, the working TEAM composed by experts of EU policies is developing specific strategies that will allow the creation of a new active European network where the joint commitment is to define the necessary tools and methodologies for the construction of an ever closer and united Europe.



## Results

- integrity of local traditions and preservation of the identity and of the cultural and natural specificities of the territories (e.g. favouring small and medium local businesses that conserve a cultural heritage and traditional values);
- more awareness about the opportunities offered by the EC programmes for the support of local intercultural initiatives (in particular as for the Action 1-Active Citizens for Europe of the “Europe for Citizens” Programme 2007-2013);
- better knowledge about EU policies and laws related to sustainable tourism development and the promotion and enhancement of local features;
- valorisation of the social and environmental sustainability with the birth of future initiatives to wide the tourism offer and improve the quality of life and work;
- increased active citizens participation and involvement in the democratic civil life of the EU.