

New wind in Tomaj

Prevetrimo Tomaj

LOCATION

Tomaj, Slovenia

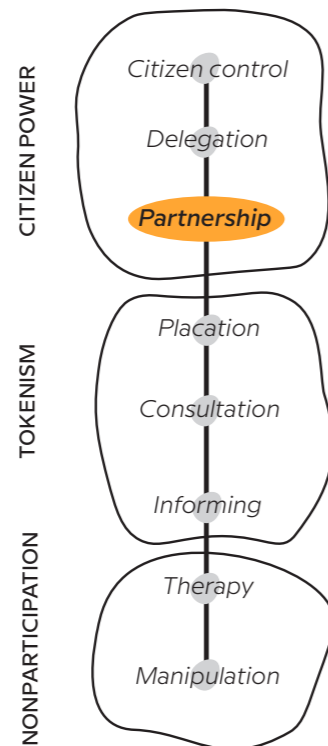
TIME PERIOD

From 2010 to 2011



THE PROJECT

Prevetrimo Tomaj or New wind in Tomaj was an **urban revitalisation project** of the town of Tomaj. It took place in various locations, including a sports field and a recreational space. The **targeted impact of the project was to connect residents of the village so they would spontaneously keep maintaining, cleaning, and upgrading open public spaces just like the residents of the past used to take care of the common places.**



and needs, analysed the local space, debated possible physical changes of the local environment, and carried out surveys. Some residents took part in activities of the voluntary camp and others attended cultural events.

RESULT

The project's **aim was partly achieved.** Even if it showed that small-scale interventions with residents and other institutions can make changes and can empower the local actors to develop the cultural life of a small town, it seems like the **village still does not attract more younger residents** that could take care of the open public spaces in the future. The biggest beneficiary of the project was the local community through the active engagement in the improved public spaces and learning on the historical values of the village. The residents also gained new knowledge and experiences in participatory active citizenship.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Tomaj is a moderate remote place located in the South-West part of Slovenia, next to the Italian border. The economic activity of the village is centred around tourism and agriculture and its **population is aging and rapidly shrinking.** This characteristic leads to a lack of participatory/cultural activities in the community. One of the main weaknesses is the poor public transport links between Tomaj and the regional centres, like Sežana, Koper, Nova Gorica, and Trieste. This makes it harder for those who don't own a driver's licence (mostly the elderly) to access daily-life-support facilities.

INITIATION AND ACTORS

The **cultural association prostoRož guided and coordinated the activities** based on the previously

adopted plan for revitalisation, following their experiences and knowledge of participatory practices for improving public open spaces. The project was supported by different institutions that provided knowledge and financial resources.

ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

To revive the village and its public open space, strengthen the local community and connect the village to the region, they used different tools such as **workshops, events, or presentations.** Schooling youth was an important part-taker. The local community was involved through all the stages of the project. One of their first and most important activities was setting up a plan for revitalising and improving Tomaj. They did that in workshops where they expressed their wishes



Voluntary camp
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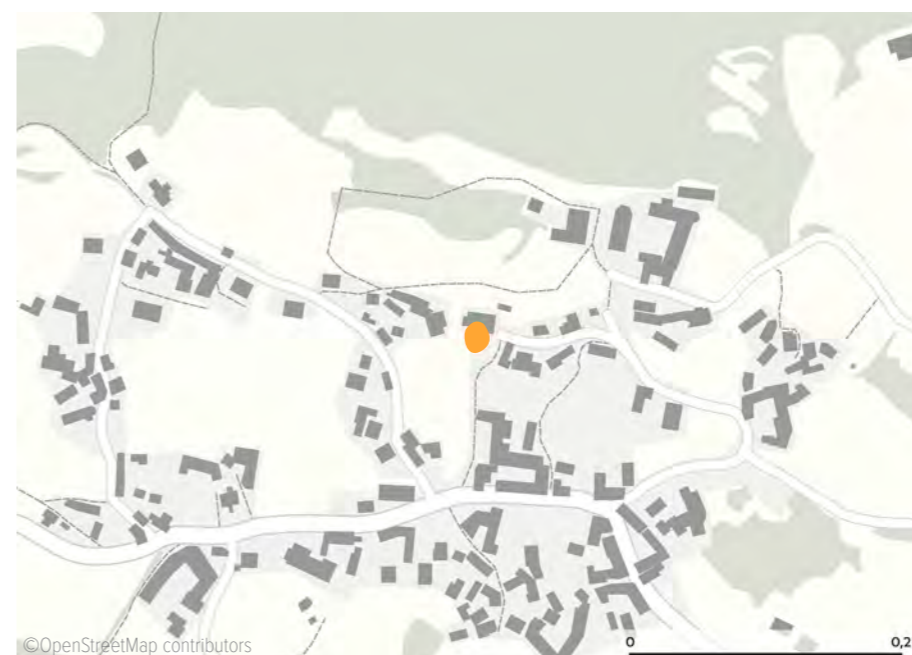
School playground
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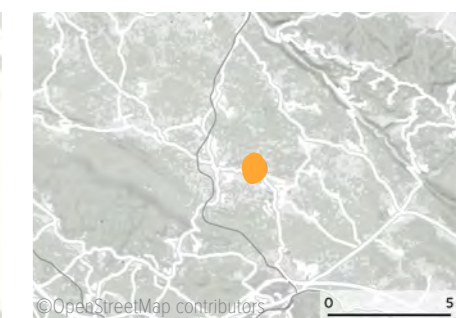
Children's workshop
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Children's workshop
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Tomaj, Slovenia

more about
this project





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