

Project summary

The project supports infrastructure and content development related to cave homes and their environment in Egerszalók. Cave homes are protected locally as shown by the following section of the village's Local Construction Regulations: Section 7 titled Special Areas, item (9) titled Cave Area. Municipality Decree 4/2014 (V.15.) by the body of representatives declares cave homes a protected natural area of local importance. The development covers properties with 8 different land register numbers of which 5 are not owned by the applicant. The municipality wants to purchase the above properties from its own funds for which it signed a sales contract with the properties' owner prior to submitting its application. In summary, the infrastructure of cave homes and their environment to be developed under the project is in poor condition. The cave homes are dangerous to enter because of the bad condition of the cellars underneath them. They cannot be used in their current condition and their underutilization is clearly due to their poor infrastructure condition. The cave homes and their environment to be developed don't fulfil any function because of the poor condition of their infrastructure and they cannot be visited in their current state. Part of our development plan promotes infrastructure development which is an essential prerequisite to creating rooms and environment appropriate for the community and cultural functions to be established as a result of content development. The implementation of soft project components aiming to embrace themes important for the community and improve individual and community competences were key priorities considered when community and cultural functions were developed. Another priority was to provide facilities suitable to accommodate community entertainment events and other cultural events/activities. Designing the infrastructure, special care was given to heritage protection aspects and typical landscape features. As a result, impact on the heritage component will be kept to the minimum and the new social building will be established using the typical construction materials, construction methods and design of the region. As part of content development, we aim to present folk crafts and the everyday lives of cave dwellers in the first place. To ensure cultural diversity, the crafts of the gypsy minority will be shown in a separate cave home designed especially for this purpose. To further this end, the project also includes the purchasing of low-value second-hand items related to crafts and everyday life. Under content development, a 3D cinema will be established in one of the cave homes where visitors will be shown a 10-minute film about the history of cave homes and their residents. The establishment of a classroom will also be an important part of the project. In this classroom, we'll provide free training to underprivileged community members and hold environmental awareness sessions for local schoolchildren. The cave homes will be made wheelchair accessible and the facility will include 2 wheelchair accessible toilets. In the cinema, the last row of the auditorium will also be wheelchair accessible and an induction loop will be provided during guided tours. In summary, content development related to the infrastructure development part of the project will involve the establishment of several community and cultural functions with the following social impacts: stronger local identity, social responsibility and community cohesion, deeper integration of

heritage values, higher awareness of the importance of local built heritage among visitors. Our project has the comprehensive aim to preserve, maintain and restore the environment of built heritage and present its original function and operation in an engaging way. Through this, we also aim to restore, preserve and present the values of built heritage and its natural environment related to traditional rural lifestyle, environmentally conscious area use and landscape management in a sustainable way and with the involvement of local stakeholders. We also aim to demonstrate traditional rural crafts and make development results available and accessible to the general public and present them in an engaging way.