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The Northern Cultural Regional Direction (“NRCD”) together with 11 other partners from 11 European Union countries are working together on the HISTCAPE project, which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and implemented by the “INTERREG IVC” program. Its focus is on the sustainable development and preservation of historical centres and rural areas.

The project involves setting policies and strategic recommendations to be used by the agents responsible for the conservation of cultural heritage and regional development. Its aim is to identify and develop tools to ensure the sustainable management of the landscape and preserve the small historic centres in rural areas of Europe. This will help stem the downward spiral of economic decline in rural Europe.

With the aim of creating added value at a European level, the HISTCAPE project seeks to collect the results of cooperation from all the partners involved in a guide for the preservation of rural heritage values, including good practice identified, general guidelines for its implementation, and common methodologies and policy recommendations - ensuring the creation of a practical thematic tool.

Together with NCRD, the other participants of the project are the Rural Development Agency of Styria (Austria), the Regional Authority of Castilla & León (Spain), the Marche Region (Italy), the Office for European Programmes of the Western Region of Macedonia (Greece), the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage in Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany), the Municipal Administration of the District of Alytus (Lithuania), the Local Government Association of Saaremaa (Estonia), the Vidzeme Planning Region (Latvia), the Ministry of Environment and Planning of the Republic of Slovenia, the company Technalia Research and Innovation (Spain) and Heritage Europe (EAHTR) a European association of historic towns and regions.