

Press Release

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Rehoľa menších bratov Františkánov (Religious order of Friars minor - Franciscans) from Slovakia and **FONS SACER** **belső egyházi jogi személy** from Hungary are happy to announce the beginning of joint project implementation within the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Hungary Cooperation Programme titled Touristic Development of Franciscan Cultural Heritage Sites of the Border Area by the Cooperation of the Two Provinces but is also abbreviated to be called MONUMENTIS. The goal of the MONUMENTIS project is to restore the Franciscan cultural and built heritage and to open it to a wider audience by developing it into touristic attractions. The church and the monastic orders, both in Hungary and Slovakia, possess historically significant buildings, some of which are open to the public but most of them are less suited for visitors or are completely closed off. As a result of the religious touristic developments in Hungary recently, several Franciscan monuments were made available to visitors. On the other hand, in Slovakia, the restoration and development of buildings and monuments belonging to the Franciscan order is a problem with no foreseeable long term solution making the monuments currently unsuitable for similar touristic availability.

The primary aim of the project is for chosen heritage sites of the Franciscan order on both sides of the border to be conserved, restored and made available to the public. The secondary aim of the project is to develop the management and marketing competences of the Slovakian partner by building on the experiences of the Hungarian partner.

Project locations in Hungary are Szécsény and Szentkút, and in Slovakia Bratislava and Filákov. The cooperation of the two Franciscan provinces is one of a kind, and the ultimate goal of the project is to create long-term

cooperation to preserve and pass on their common historical, religious and cultural heritage. The touristic opening is not only for pilgrims, but for all adults and children interested in historical monuments. In addition to the restoration of the buildings and monuments, one of the goals of the project is to create community and exhibition halls which will contain interactive elements.

Total Budget of this Project amounts to 2 939 885,12 € out of which the European Regional Development Fund contribution is 2 498 902,34 €.

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