Funded by the European Union

BALATONFŰZFŐ – LOCAL GOOD PRACTICES

Cultural Heritage as a Community Resource

TANDEM: CITIES AND DEMOCRACY REVIVING LOCAL HERITAGE THROUGH PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

PANAGYURISHTE, 9–11 OCTOBER 2026

Why is TANDEM important for Balatonfűzfő?

- Balatonfűzfő is a **small-town community** where its **industrial past**, the **Lake Balaton environment**, and its **civic and cultural life** together shape the local identity.
- The aim of TANDEM is not only to preserve cultural heritage, but also to use it as a tool for **community participation and democratic dialogue**.
- As the lead partner in the project, Balatonfűzfő brings its experience in community-based cultural programmes and international cooperation.
- Following the meeting in Panagyurishte, local examples should be presented not simply as a list of events, but as **transferable methods** and approaches.

Balatonfűzfő's Heritage Profile

- **Industrial heritage and factory culture** – a defining part of the town's history.
- **The Lake Balaton and natural environment** – an important backdrop to local identity and community life.
- **Local cultural life** – cultural centre, library, community event spaces, tourist centre, and a wide range of cultural and community programmes.
- **Civil society and community organisations** – numerous cultural, sports, senior citizens', heritage-preservation and community organisations.
- **International cooperation** – town-twinning partnerships and the TANDEM project partnership.

Good Practice: Cooperation between Civil Society and the Municipality

- ✓ In Balatonfűzfő, alongside the municipality, a **wide range of civil society organisations** are active, taking on cultural, community, sports and social responsibilities.
- ✓ Supporting civil society organisations creates opportunities for local communities to initiate and implement their **own initiatives**.
- ✓ The essence of the good practice: the municipality should not act solely as a programme organiser, but also as a **partner and supporter**.
- ✓ **TANDEM lesson:** cultural heritage becomes a community resource when local people are not only consumers, but also **active participants** in shaping and creating programmes.

Good Practice: “Community and Industrial Heritage”

- ✓ The town’s industrial past is not merely a matter of industrial history; it also carries **personal memories**, **family stories** and a sense of **community identity**.
- ✓ The **“Community and Industrial Heritage – 100 Years of Heritage in Balatonfűzfő”** programme is a good example of how local history can be transformed into a community-based topic through a cultural event.
- ✓ The approach can be further developed through oral history, the collection of photographs and objects, digital storytelling, and the creation of a local memory map.
- ✓ **TANDEM value:** through personal stories, heritage becomes accessible and meaningful to several generations.

Good Practice: Cultural Programmes as Community Platforms

- ✓ The cultural programmes of the **Vágfalvi Ottó Cultural Centre, Library and Tourism Centre** create opportunities for people to meet and connect.
- ✓ Exhibitions, lectures, music and community programmes can bring together different generations and people with diverse interests.
- ✓ Programmes become genuine participatory practices when community involvement is incorporated from the planning stage onwards.
- ✓ Development direction: **“What would we like to preserve?”** – regular community discussions about local heritage.

Good Practice: Civil Society Diversity and Volunteering

- ✓ The civil society organisations of the town represent a wide range of local knowledge, experience and networks.
- ✓ Particularly valuable are those communities that keep a particular generation, sport or cultural field, or local tradition alive.
- ✓ A key element of participatory heritage governance is connecting the knowledge and experience of civil society organisations with municipal decision-making.
- ✓ **TANDEM message:** "THE EXPERTS ON LOCAL HERITAGE DO NOT ONLY WORK IN INSTITUTIONS – THEY ARE ALSO PART OF THE COMMUNITY."

What Can We Learn in Panagyurishte?

It is useful to present each good practice through four key questions:

1. **What do we do?** – the specific programme or method.
2. **Who do we involve?** – the municipality, institutions, civil society organisations, young people, older people, etc.
3. **What changes?** – knowledge, cooperation, trust and community identity.
4. **Can it be transferred elsewhere?** – costs, resources, necessary partners and time requirements.

This approach is directly aligned with the objective of the Panagyurishte workshop: to jointly develop the first professional version of the Good Practices Collection.

VIII.

Three Balatonfűzfő Good Practices – In Brief

A. **Civil society–municipality partnership:** supporting and jointly implementing local initiatives.

B. **Community reinterpretation of industrial heritage:** industrial heritage, personal stories, collective memory and local identity.

C. **Cultural institution as a community platform:** programmes and meeting places that connect generations and local stakeholders.

Common element: local heritage is alive when people have a personal connection to it.

Next Step: Balatonfűzfő 2027

The second TANDEM event will take place in Balatonfűzfő, 4–6 June 2027.

Focus: participatory heritage governance, intergenerational cooperation and community co-creation.

Planned methods: digital storytelling, QR codes, videos, heritage cafés, and joint activities involving young and older generations.

Objective: to test and further develop the good practices collected in Panagyurishte in a real local context.

Outcome: contribution to the Heritage Participatory Toolkit.

Proposed Method for the Good Practices Collection

Each good practice should be presented as a **one-page "card"** containing.

1. Title and short description
2. Location and implementing partner(s)
3. What local problem does it address?
4. Who participates?
5. What method is applied?
6. What results have been achieved?
7. What was the biggest challenge?
8. What can be transferred to another municipality?
9. Required time, human and financial resources
10. Photo/link/further information

XI.

Balatonfűzfő's Message in One Sentence

„CULTURAL HERITAGE IS NOT ONLY WHAT WE PRESERVE FROM THE PAST, BUT ALSO WHAT WE REINTERPRET AND PASS ON TOGETHER."

Balatonfűzfő's Objective within TANDEM:

To connect local stories, institutions and civil society communities in such a way that heritage becomes an active part of both present-day community life and future cooperation.

Thank you for your attention!

PANAGYURISHTE, 9–11 OCTOBER 2026

We look forward to meeting you soon in Balatonfűzfő!

PANAGYURISHTE, 9–11 OCTOBER 2026