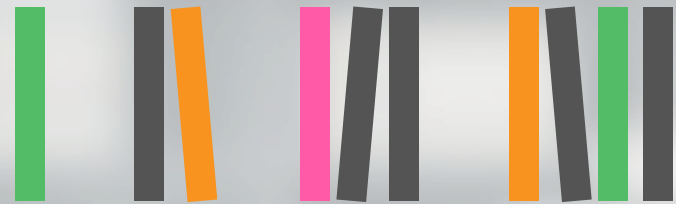


Virovitica Public Library

EU-funded projects & activities

1. *Horn for a book*
2. *Reconstruction & equipment of VPL*
3. *Erasmus+ programme*



Basic information

- With a population of 20,000 the city of Virovitica is the county seat of Virovitica-Podravina
- The library was founded in 1947
- Moved to the current building in 2007, covers 1020 sqm
- Library collection is about 107.000 volumes
- 11.500 members of which 4500 active users
- 19 employees of which 17 librarians; 12-hour opening hours
- Library network consists of a stationary library, a mobile library service, a municipality library and a library extension collection in a high school dormitory
- In 2023, we were the best public library in Croatia




Project overview



Co-funded by
the European Union

- EU funded project: **HORN FOR A BOOK = Potrubi za knjigu** (UP.02.1.1.15.0081)
- Call: **Reading for an Inclusive Society**
- Project duration: 16 Sept 2021 – 15 Sept 2023
- Lead Beneficiary: Virovitica Public Library
- Partners: Virovitica-Podravina County, City of Virovitica
- Total budget: €334,955.41
- Funding sources:
 - €284,712.10 European Social Fund (ESF)
 - €50,243.31 State Budget of the Republic of Croatia
- General goal: Increase social inclusion through reading literacy
- Main idea: Establishment of a **Mobile Library Service** to improve access in rural areas

38 % of the County was NOT
covered by the public
library services



70368
inhabitants in
the county

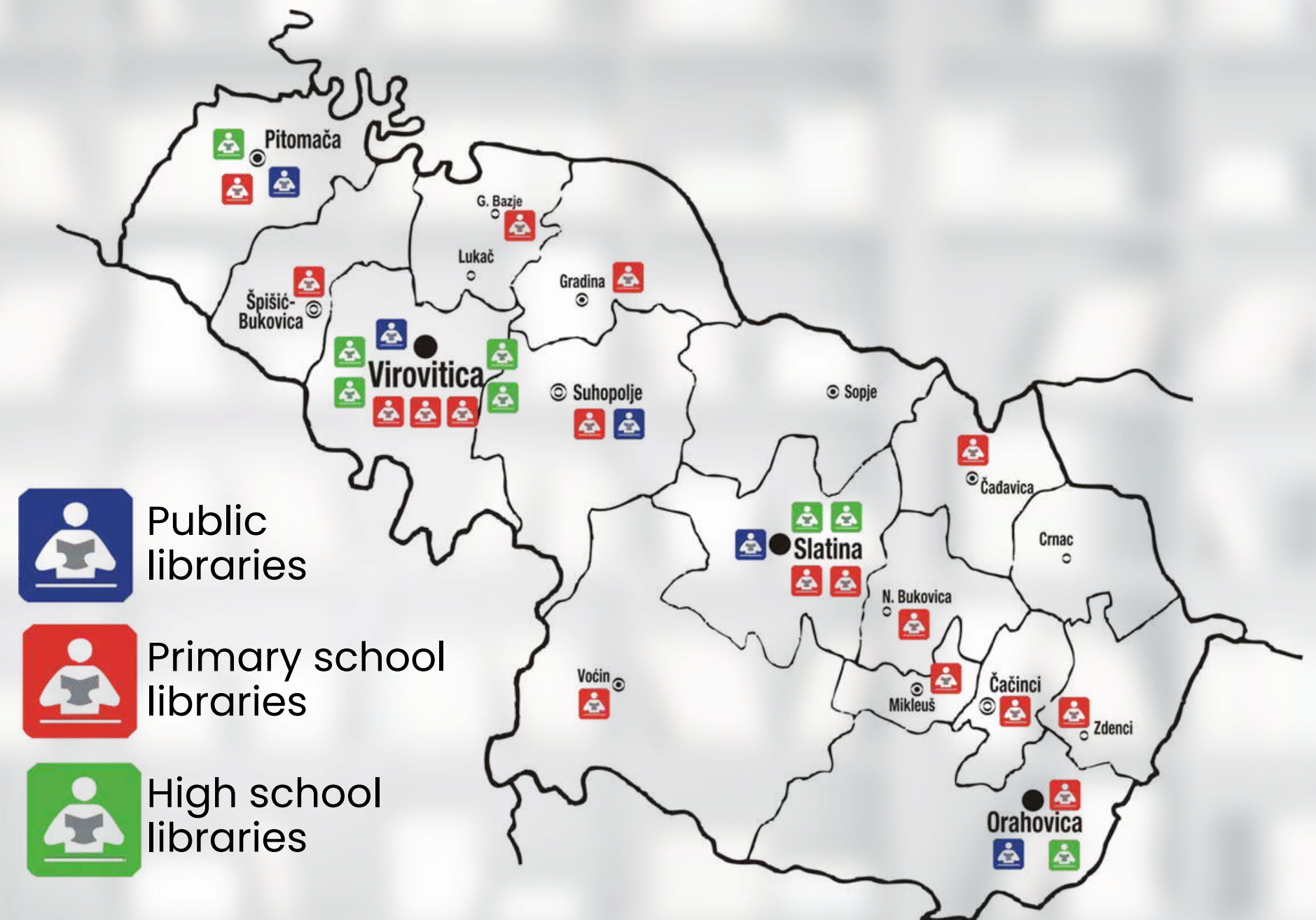


2024 km²
3 cities
13 municipalities
188 settlements

Background & Rationale

- Limited access to library services in rural and remote communities
- Literacy and information gaps among vulnerable groups
- Risk of social exclusion for seniors, youth and persons with disabilities
- Need for inclusive educational and cultural outreach
- **fulfilling the legal obligation of library network coverage**

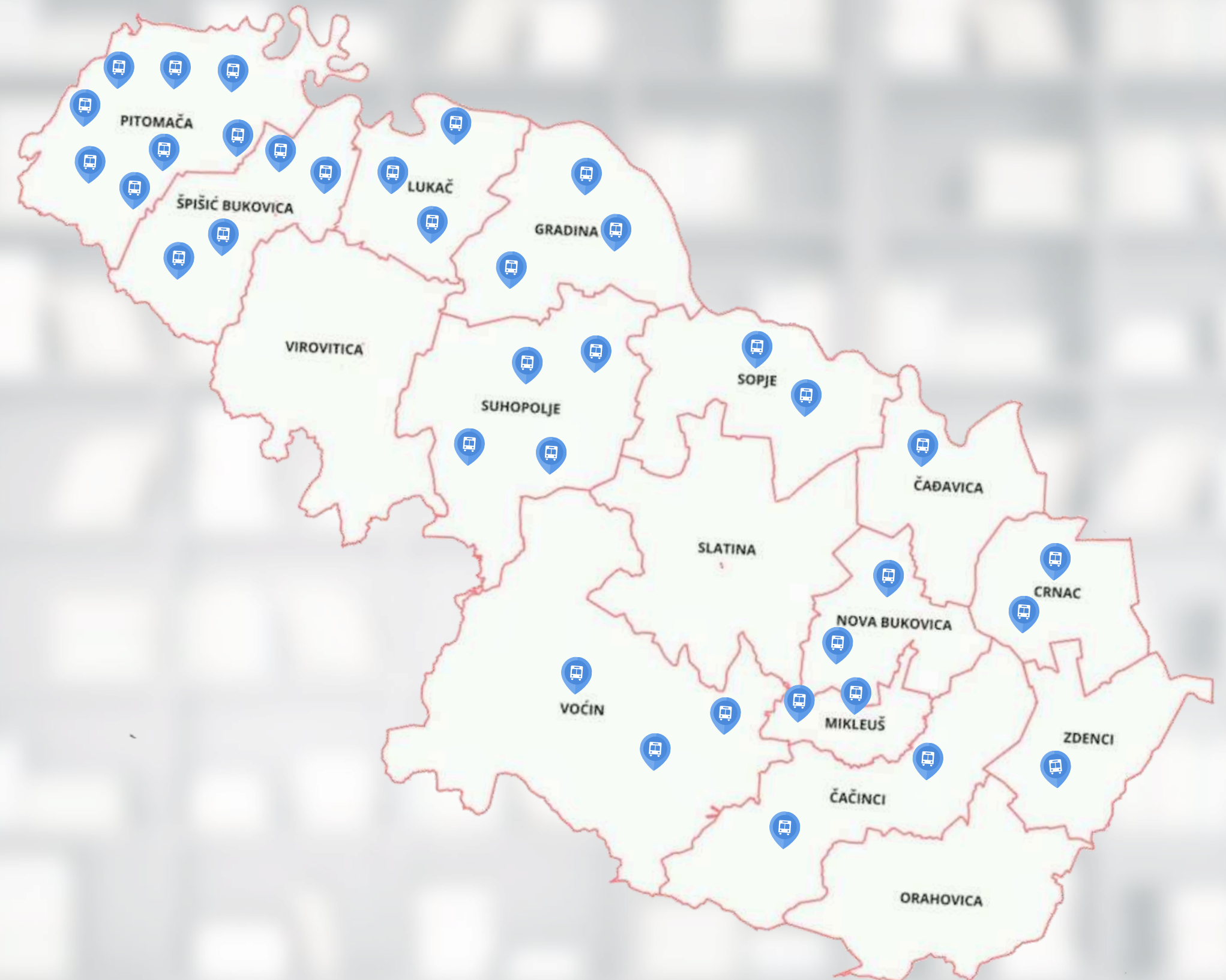
- Solution: **Mobile library vehicle** delivering books, services and workshops



Project Goals & Target Groups

Specific goals:

- Expand access to books and information
- Promote reading and media literacy
- Strengthen community participation and cultural inclusion
- Target groups: children & youth (up to 25), persons with disabilities, adults 54+



Key Project & Mobile Library Service Activities

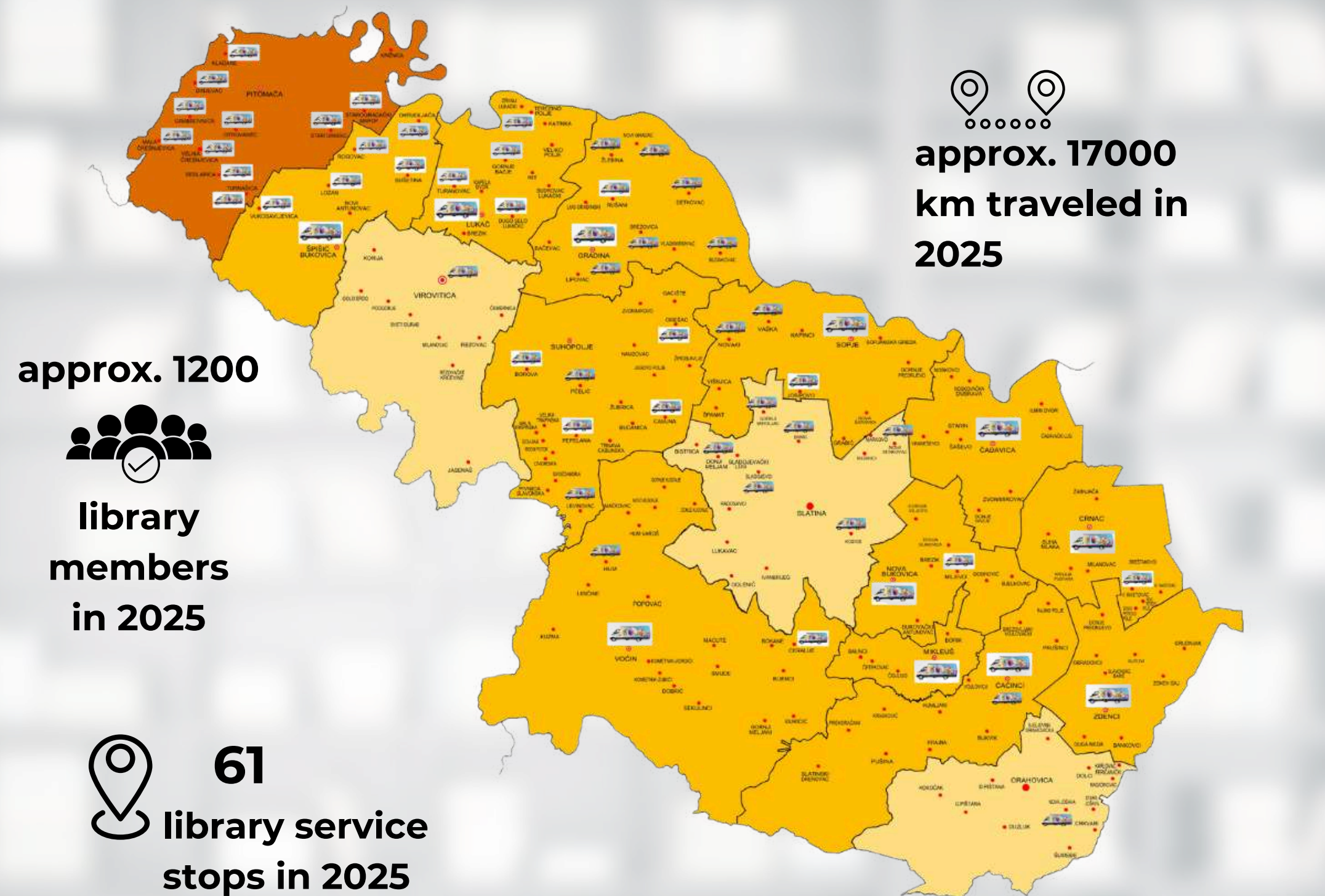
- Mobile library vehicle (BiblioVan) acquired
- Coverage: 13 municipalities, **38 service stops**
- Communication campaign and project website
- 43 media announcements
- Promotional materials including Braille leaflets
- Workshops for all target groups
- Equipment delivered: laptops, tablets, VR glasses
- Publication of a tactile picture book and a story collection book

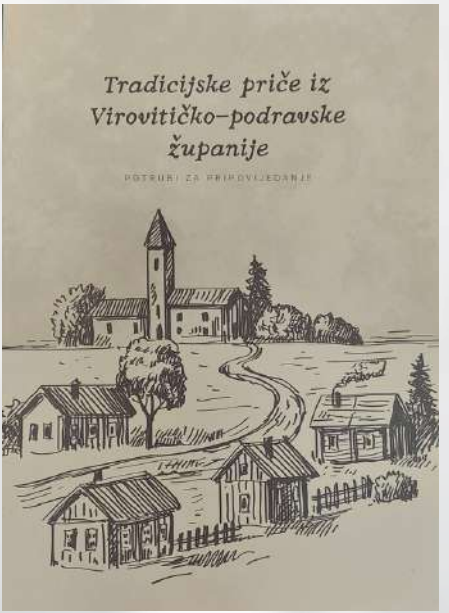


Results, Impact & Sustainability

- 2,784 new library items delivered
- 31 thematic workshops implemented
- Increased membership and improved rural access
- Professional staff employed for mobile service delivery
- Service continues after project completion
- Recognised as a strong model of inclusive mobile librarianship

Virovitica-Podravina County Mobile library service network in 2025





On the way to a smart & sustainable library

EU Project: Reconstruction and Equipment of Virovitica Public Library

- EU funded project name: Reconstruction and Equipment of Virovitica Public Library
- Call: *Renewal of Public Cultural Infrastructure* (PK.6.4.01.0028)
- EU Fund: European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- Lead beneficiary: Virovitica Public Library
- Partner: City of Virovitica
- Total project value: €1,191,054.05
 - EU co-financing (85%): €1,012,395.95
 - Local co-financing (15%): €178,658.13

(City + Library)

- Contract signed: 30 January 2025
- Implementation period: 24 months (2025–2026)



Co-funded by
the European Union

Why modernisation was necessary?

- Public libraries are key local centres for knowledge, education and culture
- The library operates in a building adapted in 2007 (approx. 1,020 m²)
- Library collection: 107,000 items, with approx. 4,800 new items annually
- In 2024: 4,389 members and more than 500 activities annually
- Identified challenges:
 - lack of modern study and community spaces
 - traditional lending and service model
 - limited technological infrastructure
 - dependence on conventional energy sources
 - need for improved accessibility and inclusion

Main goals of the EU project

- General objective:
 - Transform the library into a smart, sustainable and inclusive community hub
- Specific objectives
 - Improve accessibility for all citizens, including vulnerable groups
 - Modernise and expand library premises (new multifunctional spaces)
 - Introduce automation through RFID technology
 - Provide 24/7 return service through an outdoor book kiosk
 - Upgrade digital services (software, website, digital archive, e-books & audiobooks)
 - Strengthen community engagement through educational and inclusive programmes
 - prepare the infrastructure and logistics for the phased implementation of the *Open library concept*

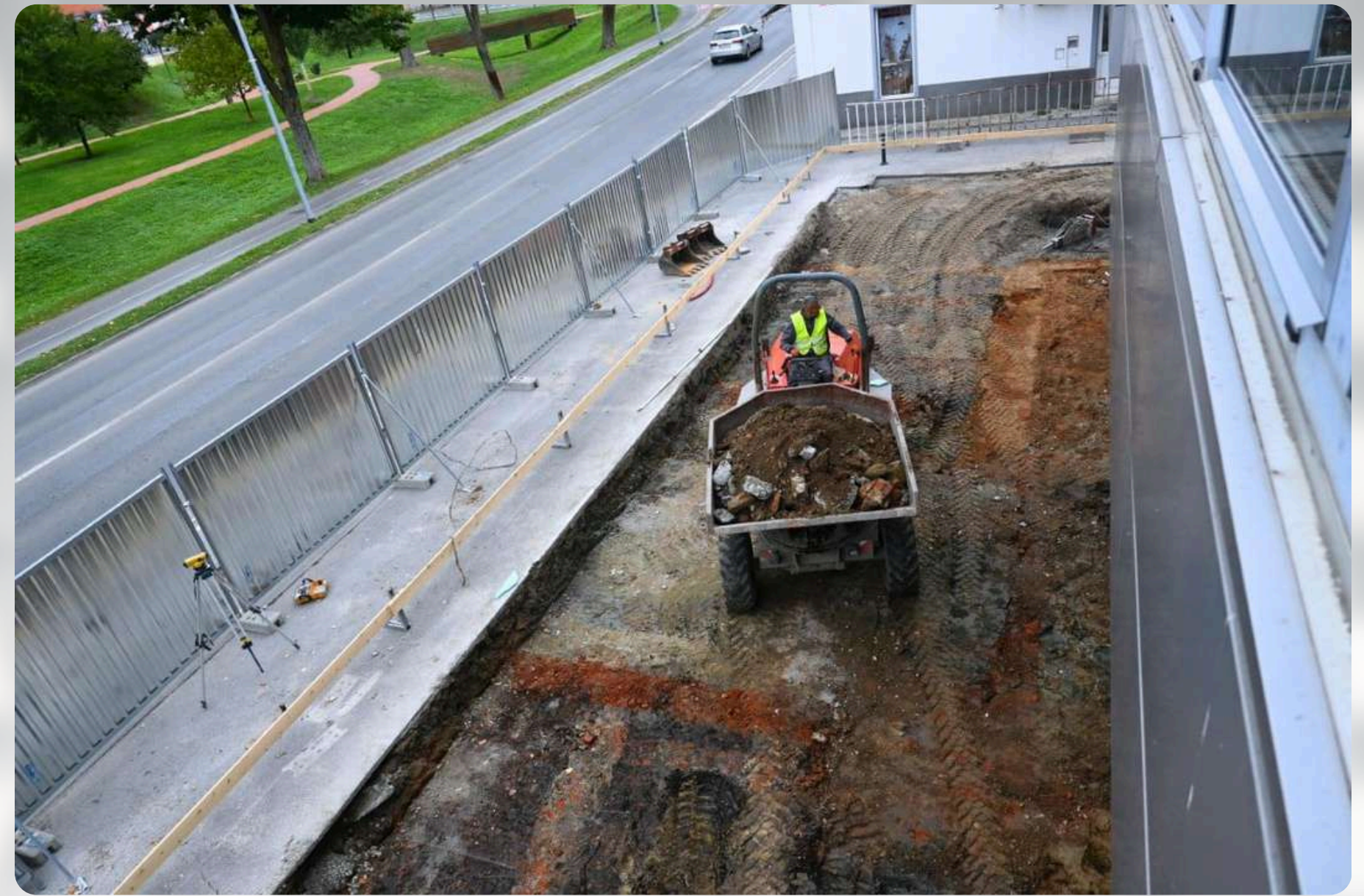
Key Investments & Activities

- Building extension and reconstruction of library spaces
- Renewable energy systems:
 - photovoltaic power plant
 - heat pumps
- New zones:
 - 'My club' (youth and community area)
 - 'Studio+' multifunctional hall for events and reading programmes
- RFID system for self-service borrowing and returning
- Outdoor 24/7 book return kiosk ("bookomat")
- Security infrastructure:
 - video surveillance
 - access control
 - anti-burglary system
- Smart infrastructure:
 - smart benches
 - visitor counters
 - e-bike charging station
 - air quality sensors
- Digital transformation:
 - new library software
 - new website and digital local heritage archive
 - expanded e-book and audiobook services
- Series of workshops 'Culture in the Community'

Long-term outcomes and community benefits

- Target: 80% energy sustainability of the building
- Implementation of the *Open Libraries concept* (extended access without staff)
- Expected measurable results
 - Opening hours increased from 65 to 80 hours per week
 - 13% increase in users expected by the third year after implementation
 - Green surface area increased by 91.2%
 - Improved service quality through automation and digital services
 - Stronger social inclusion and better access to culture, education and innovation

Vision: A smart, green and resilient public library – a modern space for learning, community life and sustainable development.



Erasmus+ programme



Erasmus+

- Erasmus+ project: *Let's read, too! (2023/2024)*

The goal of the project was to improve and perfect programs to encourage reading and develop awareness of reading among adult users, especially reading within reading clubs

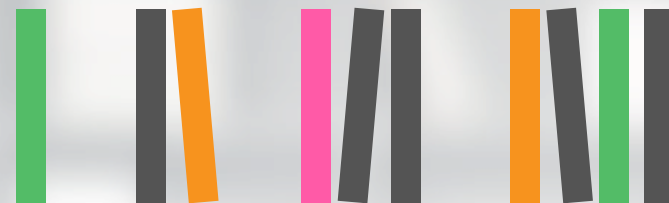
- Erasmus+ project: *Library – incubator for strengthening the capacities and creative ideas of young people (2025)*

The goals of the project are to develop the competencies of library staff working with young people in the field of reading, creative writing and debating among young people

- *Erasmus accreditation (2025/2027)*

The goals of the Erasmus accreditation activities are: 1. to strengthen the competences of staff and adult learners to encourage citizens to be active in the community; 2. to make the Library a center for promoting sustainability and environmental awareness in the community.

VIROVITICA
PUBLIC
LIBRARY



GRADSKA
KNJIŽNICA I
ČITAONICA
VIROVITICA

Thank you for your attention!

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