

REGENERATING TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND STRENGTHEN THE IDENTITY AND URBAN CHARACTER OF HERITAGE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Comprehensive regeneration programme for historic neighbourhoods – **Morelia, Mexico**

1. DESCRIPTION

This programme, led by several municipal departments, aims to improve living conditions in the historic centre. It combines urban development, safety measures, initiatives to support the local economy and actions designed to strengthen community identity. It is based on an integrated, territorial and participatory approach, supported by governance mechanisms established at the level of each barrio.

2. CONTEXT THAT MOTIVATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRACTICE

The historic centre of Morelia is characterised by the deterioration of buildings and public spaces, a weakening of social cohesion and a sense of insecurity, evident in particular through the proliferation of graffiti and the abandonment of several buildings. This situation is leading to a gradual loss of the neighbourhood's identity and appeal, resulting in a decline in population, a decline in local commerce and difficulties in maintaining a continuous institutional presence at neighbourhood level.

3. APPROACH/METHOD

1. Territorial and social assessment aimed at identifying and mapping issues related to safety, the urban landscape, mobility, social cohesion and public services.

2. Inter-institutional coordination to plan cross-cutting interventions covering public spaces, safety, urban mobility, lighting, landscaping, cleaning, universal accessibility and economic revitalisation. The municipal departments involved include, in particular, the Historic Centre Department, the Secretariat for Urban Development and Mobility, the Morelia Police, the Secretariat for Public Services, the Morelia Secretariat for Women's Affairs, the Economic Development Department and the Municipal Planning Institute.

3. Conservation and maintenance, including specialised cleaning of cantera stone surfaces, removal of vegetation from façades, removal of graffiti and stickers, enforcement of regulations on awnings and advertising hoardings, restoration of fountains and street furniture, improving street lighting, repairing pavements, and enhancing signage, pedestrian accessibility and the CCTV system.



Well-maintained street furniture and public spaces in the Soterraña neighborhood © Gerencia del Centro Histórico de Morelia

4. Enhanced security through the integration of over 100 surveillance cameras linked to the Morelia police system and improved communication with residents.

5. Cultural revitalisation, historical memory and a gender perspective through a programme of educational activities, cultural events, and initiatives to protect and empower women, including support for craftswomen and female entrepreneurs and the promotion of historical female figures linked to the city and its heritage.

6. Mobilisation of federal and municipal resources. The estimated average investment per neighbourhood is approximately 250,000 MXN (15,000 USD), in addition to human and technical resources mobilised by various municipal departments.

4. EXPECTED/IMMEDIATE/MEASURABLE EFFECTS

Immediate effects

- Noticeable improvement in security and the urban landscape;
- Reduction in illicit activities in certain barrios;
- Localised economic revival and strengthening of traditional commerce;
- Increased use of public spaces by citizens;
- Consolidation of neighbourhood networks and direct communication with the authorities.

Expected effects

- Consolidation of permanent neighbourhood governance structures;
- Strengthening of residential sustainability in the historic centre;
- Increased urban and social resilience;
- Institutionalisation of citizen participation mechanisms;
- Sustainable conservation of inhabited heritage.

5. KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The habitability of historic centres requires comprehensive interventions that integrate safety, public spaces, culture, mobility and social cohesion.
- Citizen participation is essential to the sustainability of interventions.
- The promotion of historical memory and neighbourhood identities strengthens the historic centre's sense of belonging and social resilience.



Cultural events as part of the revitalization program © Gerencia del Centro Histórico de Morelia

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