CD-ETA Project
“Collaborative digitisation of cultural and natural heritage”
E-bulletin, Issue 1

Dear Reader,
Welcome to the first issue of CD-ETA E-bulletin, sharing important news about CD-ETA project activities implementation around Europe.

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We really hope that you will find the information interesting and useful for your work and you will keep up-to date with the CD-ETA project!

1. What happened in Semester 1?
   - Online interregional workshop
   - Pilot action launching
   - Thematic seminar 1
   - Stakeholders meetings

2. What’s next in Semester 2?
   - Thematic Seminar 2
   - Stakeholders meetings

3. Expected Results
   - Policy instruments improving

CD-ETA team

MANRA started a pilot action implementation
CD-ETA partners meet their stakeholders
FRI organised the 1st Thematic Seminar
MANRA hosted a study visit
CD-ETA project relaunched

CD-ETA project was approved for implementation of additional activities within the 5th restricted call of INTERREG Europe Programme

Two years of COVID-19 pandemic seriously affected all the fields of social and economic life, the restrictions imposed hampered the physical access to the world cultural and natural heritage. In this context, CD-ETA project applied under the 5th restricted call for additional activities under INTERREG Europe Programme in order to identify how the crisis impacted the project addressed topics and to exchange experience on possible measures to face and recover from the pandemic aftermaths. The application was successfully approved and the implementation of the additional activities started on October 1st 2021.


MANRA started a pilot action implementation

The experience exchange process will be expanded through a pilot action implementing by Partner 4 Association of Municipalities of the Ribera Alta Region - MANRA, Spain with collaboration of the Lead partner, aiming to test digital presentation of the natural and cultural heritage objects as a solution for remote access by adaptation of the good practice IWalk.bg to the Spanish situation.


In December, 2021 Online training was held in implementation of pilot action “Interactive 3D map of Towers in la Ribera”.

The objective of the training was to increase the capacity and obtain skills of working with specific software, technology and 3D modelling and its features.


FIRST THEMATIC SEMINAR

On March 01-02, 2022 within the implementation of CD-ETA additional activities, was held Thematic Seminar Nº 1. During first day of the event all project partners and stakeholders shared their experiences and specific examples of how cultural organisations in their regions have coped with the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis in order to continue the regional development process.

All the presentations could be found and downloaded here:

STUDY VISIT

Day 2 of the Thematic Seminar was focused on the experience of digitisation, dissemination and preservation of cultural and natural heritage by the commonwealth of municipalities of the Ribera Alta, within the framework of CD-ETA project.

During the event was shared the methodology and techniques used for digitization, as an extensive and detailed tour of the work done so far including virtual tours of museums, nature trails, 3D models of Arab Towers, bridges, the preservation of the regional oral and bibliographic heritage or the journey of natural spaces in 360 degrees.

Euroregion Pleven - Olt organised the 1st Stakeholders group meeting

On Nov 25, 2021 in Pleven was held the first out of totally two planned stakeholders group meetings. The event aimed at presenting at local level the official launching of additional activities implementation of CD-ETA project as special emphasis was put on the new targeted policy instruments - Nation Fund Culture, Module Cultural heritage and the future opportunities for the stakeholders.

Stakeholders' meeting organised by Harghita County Council

The first meeting of local stakeholders, organised by the Harghita County Council, took place on 23 February 2022.

As COVID-19 pandemic, the associated restrictions and security measures also posed significant obstacles to the functioning of cultural institutions, in the CD-ETA project Add-on, interregional cooperation aims to collect and share methods, digital and other solutions that can be used during the pandemic, to help the operation of cultural institutions. The representatives of the cultural institutions, theatres and folk dance ensembles of Harghita County shared with the audience their “survival” ideas developed in connection with the epidemic, which helped them to continue their activities in some form, to make the contact with the audience possible and to be able to keep the staff members.

According to the majority of speakers, despite the difficulties caused by the epidemic, the last two years have contributed to the development of institutions in many ways: the versatile use of online tools, addressing a wider audience of domestic and even foreign audiences, and digitizing cultural values. The conclusions are that, although digital methods have helped to keep institutions running during the epidemic, cultural events are not nearly as enjoyable in the form of online coverage as they are in live contact with the public.

**MANRA Meets with their stakeholders**

Association of Municipalities of the Ribera Alta Region – Partner 4 within CD-ETA project has organised a stakeholders’ group meeting on November 30th, as its format was a hybrid one - online and face-to-face. This stakeholders’ group meeting was conducted in the framework of the additional activities, approved for funding under the 5th restricted call for project proposals of Interreg Europe Programme.

The event was attended by the Secretary of the Valencian Federation of Municipalities and provinces and technicians of different municipalities in the Valencian region. It has been presented the good experiences for facing the COVID-19 restrictions and challenges for the cultural and natural managers in the local public structure. The tool "Guide of the Department of Digitization of Heritage", edited thanks to the Interreg Europe project CD-ETA, was presented to the participants (more than 50 participants online, 20 in presence).

MANRA develops a digital repository, RIBERANA, with virtual tours, 3D elements, 360° videos, images and interactive elements of the cultural and natural heritage of the region. The Guide details the process of the service and the technical and human resources needed, the methodology and the protocol used.


**Stakeholders' meeting organised by Foundation for Research and Innovation**

The Stakeholder Meeting “Good practices of digitization of natural and cultural heritage as anti-pandemic measure”, organized online on 9 February 2022, highlighted some of the good practices that most represented and still represent, during the COVID-19 emergency, an effective reference for stimuli and solutions useful for triggering innovative developments in the sector of digitization of natural and cultural heritage, especially in relation to new policies and future initiatives being defined to support the territory.

Five speakers joined by making their contribution with good practices capable not only of increasing knowledge on the artistic-cultural heritage, but also of identifying new ways and approaches (digital solutions, cutting-edge technologies) to promote culture, values and interests also at an international level.

- ArtCentrica: a new experience with art, and more Marco Cappellini - CEO and co-founder Centrica
- Digital artisan shops and immersive experience: project context
  Elisa Guidi - ARTEX Center for Artistic and Traditional Craftsmanship in Tuscany
- Digital artisan shops and immersive experience: from the real footage design to the realization of the VR experience
  Sara Aquino - SmartOperations S.r.l. - Department of Industrial Engineering - University of Florence
- The Michelangelo's David in the age of digital reproduction
  Grazia Tucci - Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering - University of Florence
- Cultural heritage and local identity - Digitization experiences and dissemination strategies
  Margherita Azzari - Department of History, Archeology, Geography, Fine and Performing Arts - University of Florence

Stakeholders’ group meeting of Gorenjska region

Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska - BSC Kranj implemented the stakeholders’ group meeting in the framework of additional activities of CD-ETA project, funded by Interreg Europe Programme. Regional stakeholders from different museums, libraries and agencies attended the meeting which was held online on 22nd February 2022.

The aim of the meeting was to exchange actual information on the topic of digitization of cultural heritage, discuss good practices that could be transferred among regional organizations and presented also to the international CD-ETA project partners on the upcoming events and within promotional activities.

Representatives of museums and libraries presented and discussed the activities which were implemented since the last regional stakeholder meeting on the topic of digitization and digital presentation of cultural heritage: setting up the virtual exhibition in Gorenjska Museum, virtual museum visit in Tržič museum, short film with presentation and initiation on individual visit of The Jesenice Upper Sava Museum, which help in presenting the heritage and maintaining contact or attracting visitors.

Regional stakeholders discussed also the possibilities of preparing and submitting new project proposals on the topic of heritage on the upcoming European tenders, especially cross-border cooperation.


Stakeholders' group meeting organised by Foundation for Historical heritage Santa Maria la Real

The stakeholder group meeting organised is composed of two phases. The first one consisted of an open and shared conference with the stakeholder group and a second one where the conclusions of this conference will be analysed with the different partners and stakeholders in Castilla y León to be held on 28 April and in which other specialists will participate with new presentations on some cases where they have maximised the heritage resources they manage to overcome the health crisis with innovative ideas. The conference dealt with different aspects related to the consequences of COVID-19 FOR THE CULTURAL HERITAGE. In this undoubtedly dramatic context, in which the focus is on the health crisis and the associated economic crisis, what is happening to cultural heritage?

Cultural heritage is a fragile collective asset, which is why preventive conservation approaches must take into account, more than ever, the catastrophic phenomena that can damage and/or destroy it, such as the crisis suffered by COVID-19. Faced with this challenge, it is only possible to implement management and coordination tools within a specific emergency plan for cultural heritage, as in other fields covered by civil protection systems in the event of emergencies.

Within the emergency world, what is essential is the coordination of all the aspects and resources involved in order to carry out an efficient and unified management; aimed primarily at guaranteeing the health and safety of people and their wellbeing, but trying to ensure that no area is neglected or affected by the actions to be carried out, and among these areas, cultural heritage is also included.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to confront critical questions and decisions concerning our future and the role of cultural heritage in it. Looking ahead, the post COVID-19 phase provides an opportunity to “build back better” by rethinking and further strengthening the role of heritage in sustainable development, in line with the UN 2030 agenda. Nevertheless, this will require the heritage sector to reconsider its position and proactively take concrete steps to advance social, environmental, and economic sustainability.
University of Patras met with the local stakeholders

On February 22nd 2022, University of Patras (Dept. of Environmental Engineering) organised a stakeholder meeting within the framework of project CD-ETA. The aim of the meeting was to discuss and exchange ideas with the regional stakeholders about effects of COVID-19 on culture and heritage as well as to answer to the question of how digital media can be used to address these effects.


Stakeholders' group meeting organised by Estonian War Museum

The first stakeholders group meeting was held in Estonia on February 9 in an online format.

Since majority of Estonian action plan actions need an updated central database (MuIS 2.0) was approached the National Heritage Board of Estonia to understand details about the progress of the process.

MuIS renewal is progressing. MuIS development has been divided into four stages and currently, 1st stage and part of the 2nd stage activities are under it is way. The first stage was planned to be completed by the end of 2021 but it was further postponed for June 2022. During 3rd and 4th stage, new functionalities will be added.

WHAT IS EXPECTED DURING THE SECOND SEMESTER OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

- In Semester 2 project partner 7 (Foundation Saint Mary the Royal for Historical Heritage) in collaboration with project partner 8 (Estonian War museum) will organise Thematic seminar No.2 to continue the good practices exchange process on policies for digitisation of natural and cultural heritage. Both project partners and stakeholders will share particular experiences on how the challenges of COVID-19 crisis were faced in order to keep on regional development process. Day 2 of the event will be devoted to a virtual study visit in Estonian war museum where will be demonstrated what measures the physical museum took in order to cope with challenges of COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions and continue functioning.

- The second stakeholders’ group meetings will be organised by each project partner.