

GRUNDTVIG PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



ADOPT YOUR HERITAGE



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

2009 – 2011



This publication is prepared for dissemination of the project ADHER (Adopt your Heritage) results beside the resources available online at www.adher.mii.lt. The ADHER is supported by EC funding under Grundtvig Partnership Mobility Programme (2009 - 2011). This partnership includes the institutions in Italy, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Lithuania involved in adult education activities. The views expressed in this edition are those of authors in the ADHER consortium and are, under no circumstances, those of the European Commission and its affiliated organizations.

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About the ADHER Project

ADHER – ADOPT YOUR HERITAGE is a project supported by the European Union in Lifelong Learning programme. The project started in August 2009 and ended in July 2011. The partners were spread over Europe: Italy, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Lithuania. The coordinating institution was the Lifelong Learning Centre in Samsun (Turkey).

The general aim of the partnership was to increase and empower the mutual understanding and dialogue among different cultures by improving the knowledge of people about cultural heritages and helping them find innovative ways to access to knowledge of cultural heritages since it is an essential factor in the identity of each country and a privileged means of facilitating mutual comprehension among countries. During the project meetings it was agreed to compile lists of cultural heritages to be used for education purposes in each project country and to share the practices and experiences. The results are accessible on the project dissemination website www.adher.mii.lt.

CULTURAL HERITAGE INCLUDED

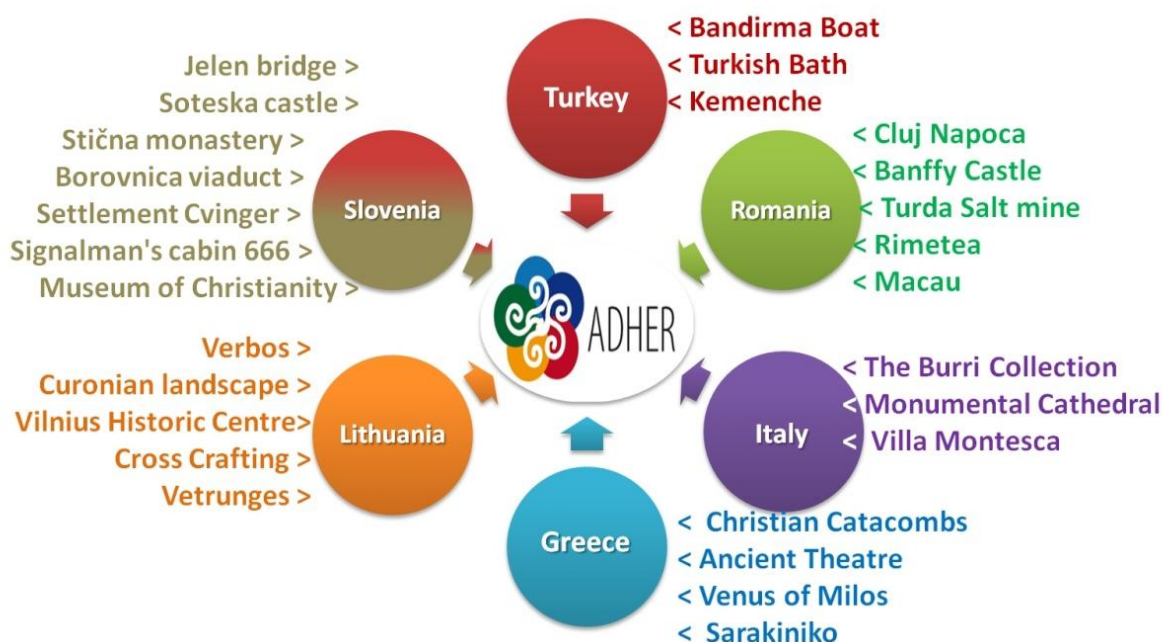


Fig. 1. The Cultural Heritage examples selected by partners for the educational Methodology

The Educational Approaches to World Heritage developed by UNESCO can serve as educational Methodology to our project as well. The Educational Resource Kit for Teachers, provided by UNESCO is accessible at website <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-54-19.pdf>.

The ADHER partnership includes the international mobility of the trainers working on tangible and intangible cultural issues and learners in order to:

- observe the role and task of the adult education providers on how cultural resources are used to generate employment opportunities and income, to reduce poverty, and to achieve cultural and environmental conservation by contributing the economical development,
- observe innovative approaches aiming at preservation, conservation and introduction of tangible and intangible heritages,
- enhance intercultural dialogue, and the exchange and sharing of experiences in the field,
- observe the methods and strategies used in different educational institutions to raise public awareness,
- compare the national and local regulations,
- develop and share common instruments that can be used in training courses,
- disseminate the results and outputs at local, regional, national and European level by organizing meetings, publications and a webpage.

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About Samsun and Partner Institution



Samsun – Big Mosque (Büyük Cami)

Atakum is a district of Samsun. It is a lovely coastal settlement. The total population of the city is 105,187, based on 26 districts and 30 villages and neighbourhoods of Samsun. According to the continuous migration of population data, the population is increasing by 200-250 people per month. With the tourism facilities, entertainment centres, many with beautiful beaches of the region, Atakum is one of the most charming districts in the city.

Atakum Adult Education Centre is a centre that provides the possibility to teach people from the age of 5 up. There are many courses organized such as: reading and writing, English, computer, folk dance, guitar, violin, hand crafts, theatre, needle work, swimming, art, chess, judo. If there is enough participation (12 people) then a new course, free of charge is opened. The courses can last from 4 to 9 months; depending on the course. We give a certificate when the students finish each course. In the centre, we have 10 classrooms, 1 library, 2 laboratories, 2 multipurpose hall and workshops. Except our building, we have a number of classes in several places around Atakum. For example, the first floor of an apartment or a small empty shop or an empty place in a village.

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology



Bandırma Boat

I – Bandırma Boat

Ataturk is the national hero of Turkey. He founded the modern Turkish Republic out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire; an empire that was seen as the sick man of Europe at the turn of the century. During the war, Sultan and many of the people saw a hopeful future in the acceptance of either the British or American mandate. Ataturk, however, had a very different vision. He left Istanbul in a small boat, named 'Bandırma'. Coming ashore at Samsun, on the 19th of May 1919 the day the War of Independence began. So Bandırma played a very important role in Turkish Independence, one can see pictures or a models of this boat everywhere in Samsun.



Turkish Bath

II – Turkish Bath

Cleanliness is a big and important part of Turkish society. There have been public bath-houses "Hamam" in Turkey since medieval times. There are separate baths for men and women, or, when there is only one bath house in the town, different days or times of day are allocated for men and women. A Turkish bath combines exposure to dry heat, moist heat, cold, and massage. Important occasions were, and in some townships still are, celebrated with rejoicing at the bath. For instance, a bride-to-be visits the Hamam wearing a ceremonial silk robe. She then has a kind of bridal party with her women friends and young maidens.



Kemenche maker (left) and Kemenche (right)

III – Kemenche

Kemenche is a Persian word which derived from the word *keman* (= bow, curve)" and the suffix *-che* (gives "small" meaning) means "little instrument played by bow". Kemenche has a narrower body and its shape is more rectangular (bottle shaped). The Black Sea Kemenche player usually plays while standing. In some parts of Asia and Europe you can see some instruments very similar to Turkish classical Kemenches with different names like the Lyra in Greece, the Gadulga in Bulgaria, and the Rebab in other Arabic countries. But it is interesting that either in Asia or in the other parts of the world you cannot find an instrument which has similar shape with Black sea Kemenche. So we can say that it only belongs to Black sea region, Black sea people, and everybody originally comes from this part of Anatolia. We have chosen Kemenche because we see it as our cultural instrument and try to teach it to our children.

First Mobility Visit, Samsun, 13 –16 November 2009



Meeting at Atakum Adult Education Centre

The initial project meeting in Samsun was organized by Atakum Adult Education Centre. The main meeting activities were:

- Brief presentations of partners to each other;
- Revision of the application form;
- Discussion on the details regarding the project.

The meeting was started and chaired by Merve Duygulu. Two participants from Romania, six participants from Turkey, one participant from Lithuania and one from Slovenia attended the kick-off meeting. Participants from Greece planned but were not able to attend the meeting. All participants gave a brief presentation of themselves and their institutions. The general and specific objectives of the project were revised. The following meeting places and the dates were fixed. The participants had the opportunity to see the official project website (www.adyourhe.com – later transferred to www.adher.mii.lt). In order to encourage efficient communication between the partners, we created a Yahoo! Group named as adher@yahoogroups.com.

Cultural visits and social activities, which represented the innovative ways of education/training used in achieving the main objective of the project which is to increase the mutual understanding among different cultures by improving the knowledge of people about the situation regarding the cultural heritage in different countries. The activities during this partnership visit included the following cultural heritage sites visited: Big Mosque, Samsun Bandirma Boat Museum, Gazi Museum, Hamam (Turkish Baths), and Amisos Hill. They also included a presentation of live Kemenche music at the farewell dinner.

The feeling of the participants about the meeting, the social and cultural activities held in the organization of Atakum Adult Education Centre was positive. Everybody got the chance to express their feelings and ideas. The general idea was that this meeting was a good start on our way to achieve our goals proposed in the application form.



Meeting at Atakum Adult Education Centre



Amisos Hill (left); The Amazon Island and the Amazon Woman Statue (right)

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit

... Well organized meeting in Samsun: useful discussions on activities foreseen in the project, the educational program applied in the Atakum Adult Education Centre, and the interesting cultural program giving a possibility to know more about the country and traditions. (Nerute, Lithuania)

First of all, we would like to thank all the staff and teachers at the Atakum Adult Education Centre for such a friendly welcome. We were given a very thorough tour of the centre and its facilities. We visited the Bandirma Boat Museum, the Gazi Museum and a mosque, before being treated to a 'Turkish Bath' – that alone was worth the trip! On our final day, we were joined for lunch on

the Amisos Hill overlooking the Black Sea, by Hülya Ertürk Koç, Samsun's Director of National Education. Then we were treated to a Farewell dinner of fish and a fine demonstration of the Kemenche by the wonderful Nizam Yildirim from the Atakum Centre. We had a wonderful time, and hope to visit again someday. ☺ (Marc & Gyongyi, Romania)



A glance to the Atakum Adult Education Centre

Seventh Mobility Visit, Samsun, 4 -7 July 2011



Meeting at Tepe Hotel Conference Hall

The seventh mobility visit in Samsun was organized by Atakum Public Education Centre (Atakum HEM) and attended by 13 participants coming from Lithuania, Slovenia and Romania. The participants were welcomed by the representatives of Atakum HEM, the Turkish partner and coordinator of this Learning partnership project funded by the Grundtvig Programme. The first day began with the coordinator's meeting about Final report writing at Tepe Hotel conference room. Duties were shared amongst the participants. The opinion was that the main aims were achieved in general. Also the possibility to work further on

the subject of ADHER and develop its ideas in other project ideas was discussed and every coordinator agreed and volunteered to work together in the future.

After coffee break all participants attended meeting. V.Bahar Zengin presented Turkey and some historical places, Samsun, Atakum Public Education Centre and own cultural heritages. Also Nerute Kligine was remembered with a short video.

After the meeting there was a chance to see and try the art of Ebru, followed by a guided tour of the city. The participants visited historical landmarks and museums of Samsun including the Bandirma Boat, the Gazi, Archaeology and Ethnography Museums, Amazon Island and Amisos Hill. During the tour the participants also saw the Ataturk Monument, Great Mosque and the International Bazaar.

Participants then went to Acem Tekkesi for a traditional meal, followed by folk dances and traditional songs. Guests also attended a traditional Henna night in the same place.

The second day's trip was to Sinop. The trip started at Sinop's Historical Prison then continued on to Sinop Castle (walls) and its beautiful scenery. After lunch, the trip moved on to Akliman, and visitors swam at Akliman coast in the Black Sea. On the return to Samsun, we all had dinner at the Amisos Hill Restaurant and every partner was pleased with the project and having had the chance of working together. In the future coordinators agreed to work together again.



The Art of Ebru presentation



Traditional Henna Night (left); Sinop Historical Prison (in the middle); Ataturk Monument Samsun (right)

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit

... All the time we have spent in Samsun and Sinop during this meeting is memorable for us but to witness the ceremony of the henna and to participate in such an event of Turkish marriage tradition - was unforgettable experience. Also it was very interesting to see traditional painting on water techniques – Ebru. Turkey has a rich natural landscape. Samsun and Sinop coastal sceneries are remarkable. We did like traditional food and dancing very much. Exceptional hospitality of Turkish people is also cultural heritage. Thank you very much for wonderfully organized meeting that enriched our experience. (Participants from Lithuania)

... I expected to see wonderful country and to get more information about its cultural heritage, but my expectations were succeeded because the two days of the meeting allowed me to absorb the unique atmosphere of everyday ways and cultural life in non-touristic part of Turkey. That was memorable experience that changed my understanding about country and people as well. I had opportunity to participate in authentic traditional event, part of Turkish marriage tradition, and a practice which remounts to antiquity, and that was unforgettable experience. I am very grateful for the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture I have read a lot about. (Kęstutis, Lithuania)

... I expected Samsun to be a little city, not too modern or industrialised. It was not what I expected; the city is quite large and modern, but still very beautiful and unique. The dinner from Tuesday night was the most memorable, with the traditional pre-wedding event. People were so hospital and lovely; they showed us their traditions, sang their songs and showed us how and for what reason to use henna. I will never forget this activity; the henna is still decorating my hand... The water painting was also memorable and very nice, a very unique piece of art specific to the visited place. I just want to thank the Turkish partners all their hard work, I really gained experiences I will never forget. (Eniko, Romania)

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About Cluj-Napoca and Partner Institution

The historic capital of Transilvania, Cluj-Napoca is approximately 200 miles (320 km) north-west of Bucharest in the Someşul Mic River Valley. In the Middle Ages the name of the city was Culus, as attested in documents dating back to 1173, but by the beginning of the 15th century it was known as Cluj. The name Cluj, comes from the Latin 'clusum', or closed, due to the city being surrounded by the protective and beautiful foot-hills of the Carpathian Mountains. The city is also known by its German name, Klausenburg, and its Hungarian name, Kolozsvár. In 1920, after the Tri-anon Peace Treaty, the region of Transilvania was officially joined with the Romanian State. Today Cluj is a thriving commercial and cultural centre.

Asociatia Bridge Language Study House is a private language school. Bridge LSH's activities began in 1993, and was the first established language school in Cluj. Bridge LSH provides language training courses combined with cultural issues and activities for people of all ages. Courses are delivered throughout the country, at one of our established centres in Cluj, Satu Mare and Oradea. Bridge LSH also delivers courses in the workplace and organizes several residential language camps for children each year.



View of Cluj-Napoca city, from the Fortress

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology



Cluj-Napoca, the statue of Matei Corvin
(Author of photo: Aurimas Rapecka)

I – Cluj Napoca

Cluj is a major cultural, university and industrial city – and is home to the “Alexandru Borza” Botanical Garden; Banffy Palace; The Tailor’s Bastion; The National Museum of Transilvanian History; The Transilvanian Ethnographic Museum and the Babes-Bolyai University. In addition to visits to these places, we have also planned cultural presentations by the Ethno-cultural Diversity Resource Centre, Casa de Cultura Cluj Napoca and the Cluj County Agency for Culture & Heritage.



Bánffy Castle, Bontida Village

II – Bánffy Castle, Bontida

The Built Heritage Conservation Training Centre has been based at Bánffy Castle, Bontida since 2001 and received the main prize for education and raising awareness by the European Union/Europa Nostra in 2008. The Castle was desecrated during World War II by German troops and neglected by the communist regime in Romania; it is currently being restored by the Transylvania Trust, with funds from many sources including the European Union and the Romanian Ministry of Culture. The Castle is being restored as a cultural centre. The purpose of the centre is to promote excellence in the conservation of the historic environment and specifically to teach traditional building craft skills which can be utilised in the repair and maintenance of historic buildings. It is run by The Transylvania Trust (one of the leading NGO’s in Romania dealing with protection of the historic environment), and the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC, the leading institute in this field in the UK).



View of Turda Salt Mine
(Author of photo: Gintautas Dzemyda)

III – Turda Salt Mine

The Salt Mine is mentioned in official documents from the middle of the 13th century, when the Mine was offered to the Transylvanian Catholic Church leaders. The salt was extracted in huge pieces, which were then cut by specialist workers. The mines were lit by candles and tallow rush lights; explosives were never used for exploitation nor mechanical equipment used for cutting the salt.

The Mine boasts impressive galleries, long tunnels and mining system, great acoustics and very healthy microclimate. The microclimate in the Mine is characterised by yearly variations of temperature between 11 – 12° C; the average humidity level inside is 80% and the air pressure is between 747-752 mm Hg. The lack of pathogen bacterium and a moderate air ionisation is beneficial to people with breathing disorders.



Rimetea Village, Rock of the Szeklers Mountain

IV – Rimetea

Rimetea is a commune located in Alba County. It is actually composed of two merged villages, Rimetea and Colțești. A former mining town, today it is known as the location of the Piatra Secuiului (Szekler's mountain) and as a Székely cultural centre. In 1999 the Village was awarded the Europa Nostra award. The first time the Village was mentioned was in 1257 under the name Toroczko. As part of the Kingdom of Hungary it belonged to Torda-Aranyos County; after the Treaty of Trianon in 1920 it became part of Alba County in Romania.



View of the Protestant Church in the village of Macău

V – Macău

Macău (or Mákófalva in Hungarian - 99% of the inhabitants) is famous for its decorative folk-costumes and furniture painting. Most people are farmers, working their land and raising animals. It is situated in the central part of the “Kalotaszeg” region. This impressive area is one of the traditional regions of Transylvania and includes about forty villages and towns. The main attraction of the region is the visual aspects of its ethnography; its colourful costumes and the picturesque folk-architecture have aroused the interest of many researchers leading to further exploration of the region. The region is the site of the earliest Hungarian settlements in Transylvania after the Conquest (896 AD). Due to wars and devastating raids by Mongol, Turkish and Tatars, a number of villages and towns in the region were destroyed.

Sixth Mobility Visit, Cluj Napoca, 15 – 18 April 2011



Moment from the project management meeting, Bridge Language Study House

The sixth mobility visit in Cluj-Napoca was organized by Bridge Language Study House, the Romanian representative of ADHER Project.

In total, we welcomed 5 visitors from Turkey, 5 from Italy, 4 from Greece, 4 from Lithuania and 3 from Slovenia. The programme started on the first evening of the mobility, when almost all of the visitors and organizers met for dinner and shared their experiences from the last 3 months.

The second day started with a series of short cultural seminars. During the first seminar, Andreea Blaga presented information about Transylvania’s geographical and historical aspects. Gyöngyvér Pillich-Wright and gave an insight into village life in Macău

and the surrounding area, including videos of different types of folk dances specific to the region. During the coffee-break, visitors had the chance to taste a very popular Romanian traditional cake, the “Kürtőskalács”, as promised during the first seminar.

The final seminar was given by Simona-Elena Bernat, of the Ethno-cultural Diversity Resource Centre in Cluj. The seminar was very interesting and active, it involved individual and group-based activities, brainstorming and the visitors own presentations.

Project managers were then invited to take part at the project meeting, while the other participants visited some of Cluj’s most memorable cultural heritages. The day ended with dinner at a local traditional restaurant.

The last day was also very interesting as it included a trip to 3 different places: the Turda Salt Mine, Rimetea Village and a walk up to Coltesti Castle. The first stop was the Turda Salt Mine, a chance to explore one of the most fascinating underground worlds. Then it was on to Rimetea, visitors were shown traditional tools, furniture and clothing from the region at the local museum, then it was lunch – a good traditional meal and drinks, home-baked bread, spring water and ‘Pálinka’. The day ended with a Traditional Evening, where local folk dance performers showed some of our dances and sang us old, almost forgotten songs.

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit



Moments from the 3rd Cultural Seminar (left); 16th of April: Dinner at a Traditional Restaurant (right)

... The meeting allowed us to discover Romania and its wonderful part – Transylvania. We had possibility to touch the non-artificial cultural heritage that is not accessible via the commercial tourism. (Gintautas, Lithuania)

... The days spend in Romania are unforgettable: early spring panoramic views in Cluj-Napoca and visit to Rimetea to feel a spirit of small village situated close to the impressive mountains. And of course the walk to Coltesti Castle was a real challenge for me, but I did it! I will remember the traditional folk art examples seen not only in museums but in many places where we have been. And the last evening with such temperamental folk dances and songs, that was a real culmination of everything! We are very grateful for so well organized meeting where we got some knowledge not only during seminars but visiting lively the places of cultural heritage – who can expect that Turda salt mine is so wonderful place to visit, to know more and to enjoy it. (Nerute, Lithuania)

... For me, accustomed to live in a plain landscape, the Romanian landscape left a great impression: mountains, valleys and human efforts to live there in such magnificent nature. The route repeated each twist of a mountain stream, a garden and a yard had a such place what was left from massive mountain besides. Turda salt mine witnessing the hard work of many generations enchants with her spaces and walls ornamented with wonderful patterns. When you know that everything was made mostly by human hands, the only expression comes to mind: unbelievable but it is apparent...

The impression on our partners hosting us are the best, they are sincere, open, considerate and cheerful. Each time when I am longing the nice atmosphere of this visit, I am opening the folk dance video record published at the ADHER website. (Snieguole, Lithuania)

... I would like to thank all Romanian team. The mobility was organized very well. I felt the team spirit. The Seminar was very enjoyable and informative. Turda Salt Mine was very interesting. Rimetea and delicious meal were unforgettable. Everybody was very helpful and cheerful. I felt myself like in my country. Thank you very much! :) (Bahar, Turkey)



... I affected much from Romania's multicultural form and education works to protect this form. Also I met enjoyable friends .Cluj was so exotic that everybody should see this place. I was very happy. Thank you very much for everything and with love. (Meryem, Turkey)

... Romanian mobility was very important and beneficial because we learnt Romania History, cultural form and saw natural beauties also we were very happy to meet new friends from other cultures. Especially Seminar was very effective and informative. I would like to thank all Romanian team. They were very hospitable. (Berna, Turkey)

... Romanian mobility finished all of my prejudice to foreigners. In Cluj we met a lot of people, loved them very much. We spent a good time with them. Also I loved natural beauties and architectural design. The Seminar was very informative and will add effective methods to my education life. (Bulent, Turkey)



Visit to Colțesti Castle
(Author of photo: Aurimas Rapecka)

 	
GREECE ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	
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About Milos and Partner Institution



The Milos Conference Centre - George Eliopoulos

Milos is an Island of volcanic origin the Southern Aegean, the Cyclades, with a rich history in the Prehistoric and Hellenistic period. It is known for various important monuments, like the Ancient City of Fylakopi (British Museum), the very early dated Christian Catacombs or the famous Venus of Milos, nowadays in the Louvre Museum, Paris. Today Milos is a popular holiday destination, but has also mining activities due to its geological wealth.

Mewcat, the Educational Women's Collaboration for Activities in Tourism, was founded in 1990 as women's initiative to support and provide education in remote regions like Milos Island. Since then, Mewcat has been involved in the development of informal education and vocational training strategies for geographical disadvantaged regions, in the improvement of e-education and e-inclusion. It specializes in the development and production of learning material adapted to the needs of and requirements of the tourism industry. In particular Mewcat aims at media and course productions in the fields of language learning, the preservation of cultural heritage and environment, the creation of green tourism and sustainable forms of tourism, the improvement of tourism services and intercultural communication. In this regard Mewcat had been carrying out numerous European co-funded projects targeting at media productions, awareness raising activities, the organization of events, conferences and training courses, like Greek Language courses for tourists or Art classes and exhibitions.



The modern Conference Centre – a restored Kaolin processing plant, witnessing Milos' mining history

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology

Mewcat has chosen 4 Cultural sites for education; three of them are of great historic value and known all over the world, the famous Venus of Milos, the Christian Catacombs and the Ancient Theatre. The fourth cultural heritage site is Sarakiniko, a lunar landscape of white Lava ash, shaped by wind and sea, which served as hiding place for pirate ships in the Middle Ages.



Venus of Milos (Greek Aphrodite)

I – Venus of Milos (Greek Aphrodite)

The finding of Aphrodite on Milos has an interesting story. In 1820 a local farmer, whilst working in his fields, came across a hidden cave wherein he discovered a statue, the form of a beautiful young woman, which according to local legend he was rather smitten with, he took her home and kept her in the cellar where he spent most evenings admiring her, this gave his wife cause for concern! And she complained to one and all about her problem hence the arrival of the authorities! Then a young French naval officer observed the Venus and considered her to be an important find, after some negotiations between the Bavarians and the French she was sold to France and was packaged and taken to Milos harbour Klima for shipment (here there are various stories of where her arms may have broken off, perhaps in the sea at Klima). There is an excellent copy of the copy at the archaeological museum of Milos whilst the original statute of the Venus can be found in the Louvre Museum, Paris. The Venus has been dated back to the third century BC in the Hellenistic period and was most likely decorating the Ancient theatre nearby the location of her finding. Today Milos's initiatives are envisaging creating a more impressive representation of Venus' finding location with a virtual connection to the original statue in Paris.

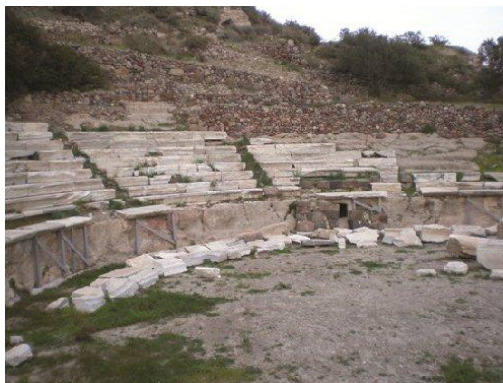


Christian Catacombs

II – Christian Catacombs

Milos Christian Catacombs are an incredibly significant monument to Christianity, dated in the first century AD. In the vicinity of the Ancient City of Klima on Milos, 150 meters above sea level, on a comparatively steep hillside, are the Catacombs of Milos. This was the meeting place of the early Christians, where they held their religious ceremonies and buried their dead, out of sight of the pagans of that time and their persecutors. They are the largest examples in Greece and among the most remarkable in the world, together with the catacombs in Rome and the Holy Land. The Catacombs were dug out of volcanic tufa, (a relatively soft rock), and form a magnificent early Christian monument, which indicates that Christianity was established on the island in the 1st century, developing greatly during the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D.

The catacombs were discovered by illicit antique dealers and became known after they had been pillaged in 1840. There are three chambers linked by five corridors and a dead end passage, making up a labyrinth which is currently 185 meters long. These were all open to but today, only the 2nd chamber, the «presbytery», can be visited by the public. Inside the catacombs, vaults can be seen in the walls which contain graves, and the floor has been used for this same purpose. The latest number of vaults recorded was 126 and it is estimated that thousands of people were buried here. Each grave was lit by an oil lamp but today lighting is electrical though discrete, evoking the atmosphere of the past.



Ancient Theatre

III – Ancient Theatre

The construction of the Theatre dates back to the Hellenistic period, but the remains visible today belong to the Roman phase of the monument. Preserved are the concave with seven marble rows of seats, the orchestra, the floor of the stage building, and many elaborate architectural parts. The Theatre has seven tiers and six steps seating up to 700, although as excavation is revealing the seating covers most of the hillside possibly seating three thousand spectators. The Theatre is in the semi-circle fashion, with an orchestra, original meaning the spot where the choir and actors would appear. In Roman times the Theatre was en-marbled, the original Greek Theatre would have been full circle. Decoration and location of this Theatre near the sea are similar to that of Ephesus (Asia Minor). Milos enjoyed great cultural achievement, in the Hellenistic period, with the production of wonderful sculpture, in particular the Venus of Milos (Aphrodite), the imposing statue of Poseidon showing great sophistication. It is thought Venus (Aphrodite) may have graced the Theatre as she was found nearby. Until recently moon lit performances and concerts were held, Shakespeare, Homer, Classical and modern music.



Sarakiniko

IV – Sarakiniko

This is a very unusual and unique area, often compared to a lunar landscape, the outcome of volcanic eruptions, molten white coloured ash which has cooled down and been sculpted by the elements, the scientific terminology is white volcanic tuff. There is no vegetation whatsoever but you will find many fossilized sea creatures thrown up from the deep during eruptions. The name Sarakiniko comes from the Saracen pirates who in the Middle Ages hid their ships here in between raids on merchant ships travelling across the seas from Constantinople to Europe, it can still be seen today where they secured their ships. Today Sarakiniko is a popular destination for photographers, film producers and many visitors enjoying the sea, diving from high rock formations.

Third Mobility Visit, Milos, 25 –28 June 2010



Meeting in the Conference Centre George Eliopoulos



Modern meeting facilities in the former Kaolin Processing Plant

The mobility visit in Milos was very successful, although Mewcat was confronted with a lot of organizational obstacles, due to unfavourable travel conditions, strikes in Athens and cancellation and changes of flight and ferry schedules, the 13 participants from partner countries managed to arrive safely at Milos (even some of them without sleep for 30 hours!). The meeting was held in the George Eliopoulos Conference Centre, a modern restoration of a former mining factory, highlighting Milos' rich mining history.

Ms Gina Grigoriou, curator of the folk museum and expert for Milos's history gave an introduction into history and an overview over Milos's sites. Yvonne von Beck, Mewcat, presented the cultural sites of Milos, which were chosen for further processing to be integrated into the ADHER Booklet. Emphasis was given on the possibility to include knowledge about these sites in today's tourism programmes or to further process conservation and exploitation of monuments for improvement of tourism offers. All partners gave short presentations about their cultural sites and reasons for choosing these specific ones for the project ADHER's outcomes. In a following discussion the milestones for the Booklet production were defined. The cultural programme included a tour to Milos's sites, the Catacombs, Ancient Theatre, Prehistoric Site of Fylakopi, Sarakiniko and Papafranga and finally... Sunset over the picturesque village of Plaka with stunning view over the sea. On the way the participants had the opportunity to taste local specialties, like traditional cheese pies with mint or "Koufeto", pumpkin sweets served at weddings and Turkish Baklava.

Very happily the participants collected little pieces of Obsidian, the famous black volcanoes stone near the seaside. Milos' lovely landscape and Greece's beautiful climate could finally compensate the difficulties, which the participants had encountered whilst travelling!

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit

... This is a beautiful, small island with gorgeous beaches. Adamas is a lovely port with a fun nightlife. Do not miss the sunset in Plaka. Most of what we have seen in Milos, be it the architecture of the houses. If I have to describe Milos in one word, it would be "beautiful". (Merve, Turkey)

... The unbelievable coasts and the so tourist-friendly people of the island; when you go to Milos do not use only your eyes but also your ears, your mouth. I won't forget this special island. (Dilek, Turkey)



Sarakiniko, the »lunar landscape«, white rock formations from volcano ash



Piece of marble in the Roman/Greek Ancient Theatre

... The most impressive is the ancient history heritage and nature landscape. All places related to the human history roots and naturally preserved ancient remains are unique and magnificent. Also traditional food heritage was exceptional. (Vilma)

... It was my first travel to Greece and its islands. I liked the towns of islands Plaka, Pollonia, Adams. Visits in catacombs, theatre and beaches were unforgettable. Greek culture has a very long history. It's the foundation of nowadays European culture. I am happy I had a chance to see Greek heritage. (Skirmante, Lithuania)



Narrow streets and typical island architecture in the picturesque village Plaka



Sunset from Kastro/Plaka with fantastic view over the harbour

SLOVENIA



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About Ljubljana and Partner Institution



Ljubljana – The City Museum of Ljubljana (left) and the Triple Bridge (right)

CPZ-International, Centre for Knowledge Promotion is located in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia and its political, cultural, economic, scientific and educational centre, with total population of 276.000 people.

The Centre is a small, private, not-for-profit research and development organization. Its main activities are supporting the development and quality of education, employment services and labour market by:

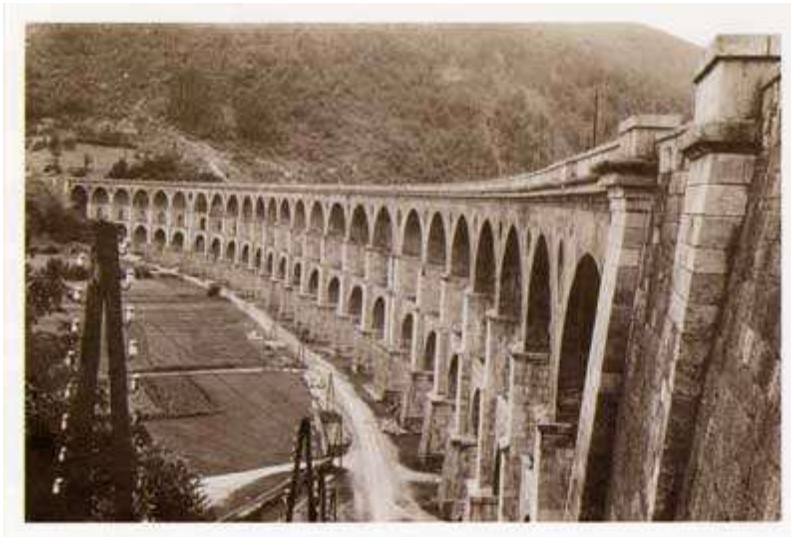
- implementing research, evaluations and analysis,
- developing new systems of education, assessment and certification,
- exploring and developing new educational (learning, teaching) approaches,
- analysing and developing competences (especially competences concerning unemployed individuals and older adults), and
- developing competence based educational approach, according to the (future) needs.

The Centre keeps up to date with the latest developments in science and technology in various fields. It is operating in European as well as in non-European countries.

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology

The examples of cultural heritage of Slovenia, which were chosen for the purpose of the project, were chosen in the framework of the first phase of an e-learning programme on cultural heritage of Slovenia and other partner countries, which CPZ-International prepared for its target group. In this phase, which was taking place from June 2010 to August 2010 and was dedicated more to someone's acquaintance with the situation regarding cultural heritage in Slovenia, the members of the target group – the unemployed people from different regions of Slovenia, interested in self employment and entrepreneurship in tourism, culture, education – were working (in the Moodle web classroom) in smaller groups and subgroups (teams), namely in one of the following roles: the team member, the team leader. The main task of the team was to elaborate the contribution on the given theme in the form of short and to the point Word document, which is later put (in the web classroom) among the so-

called sources. More precisely, the task of the team was to choose one or more examples of cultural heritage in the chosen municipality of the given Slovenian region, with a stress on cultural heritage which is threatened to disappear, and to try to answer to the given questions. The teams chose the following examples of cultural heritage.



Borovnica Viaduct in 1930

I – Borovnica Viaduct

This heritage belongs to the Central Slovenian region and to the Borovnica Municipality, which is 30km from Ljubljana and has around 4000 inhabitants, who mostly move daily to Ljubljana – to work or school. The Viaduct was built in the period 1850-1856 and was a world renowned masterpiece. Today it is gone – in the period 1941-1945 it was frequently bombed –only its pillars remain, which were proclaimed as a technical monument.



Jelen Bridge

II – Jelen Bridge

The Bridge is another heritage of the Borovnica municipality. It was built in 1857 and is among the oldest Slovenian bridges.



Signalman's Cabin 666

III – Signalman's Cabin 666

The Signalman's Cabin 666, the Borovnica municipality's heritage, which is in the procedure of proclamation for a monument of local significance, was built in 1857 and is one of the rarest cabins of this kind – i.e. the railway signalmen lived and worked in these cabins, whose main task was to enable safe railway traffic (controlling the railway line, signalling, raising and letting down the railway barriers etc.) – in Slovenia, which have been preserved almost unchanged to this day.



Soteska Castle

IV – Soteska Castle

The Castle belongs to the Southeast region of Slovenia or to the Dolenjske Toplice Municipality, which is 67km from Ljubljana and has around 3500 inhabitants, who mostly are employed in nearby municipalities (for example Novo Mesto). The Castle is from the 17th century and was well known as one of the most beautiful castles in the country in its time.



Stična Monastery (left); Museum of Christianity (left)

V – Stična Monastery

The Monastery belongs to the Ivančna Gorica Municipality (Slovenian Central region) which is situated 32km from Ljubljana and has around 15,000 inhabitants. It was founded in 1136 and was the country's cultural centre. In it the Stična manuscripts – one of the first documents written in the Slovenian language – were created. Today, it is the only active Cistercian monastery in Slovenia and was proclaimed as a monument of state significance. In the Monastery there is also a museum – the Museum of Christianity in Slovenia.

VI – Museum of Christianity in Slovenia

The Museum has, among other things, a permanent exhibition of the History of Christianity in Slovenia and the memorial room of father Simon Ašič, a well known herbalist.



Settlement Cvinger above Vir pri Stični

VII – Settlement Cvinger above Vir pri Stični

The Settlement, another heritage of the municipality Ivančna Gorica, dates back to the Iron Age – the first millennium before Christ. An object of exceptional value found in this settlement is the bronze vessel known as the Vače Situla, which is one of the most significant Situla art monuments in Europe.

Fifth Mobility Visit, Ljubljana, SLOVENIA, 12 –15 December 2010



Meeting at the City Museum of Ljubljana

The 5th project meeting was organized by the Slovenian partner in the project – the CPZ-International, Centre for Knowledge Promotion, from Ljubljana. Altogether there were 35 participants representing partners from Turkey, Lithuania, Italy, Romania and Slovenia.

The first working day of the meeting started with the meeting at the City Museum of Ljubljana. This meeting was carried out according to the programme of which the first part was for national coordinators only and the second part was for all participants. In the first part of the programme the national coordinators discussed issues related to the implementation of the project. In the second part of the programme the participants began to acquaint themselves with situation of cultural heritage within Slovenia (on local level). This acquaintance began with presentation of an e-learning programme on cultural heritages in Slovenia and other partner countries that CPZ-International prepared for its target group – the unemployed persons from different regions of Slovenia who are interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship in tourism, culture, education – which was followed by discussion in which comments on the presented programme and experiences of other partners in similar programmes were expressed. The meeting in the museum ended with a guided visit of the museum.

In the afternoon the acquaintance of participants with situation regarding cultural heritage of Slovenia continued with a guided tour of Ljubljana.

The second working day of the meeting was dedicated to an excursion of the Gorenjska region. This excursion began with a visit of Škofja Loka – a medieval town with many treasures. It continued with a visit to the Matijovc Farm at Podbrezje, which is a farm with centuries long traditions, followed by a visit of Bled and the Bled Castle. At the end the participants visited also the Apicultural museum in Radovljica.

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit



Guided Ljubljana tour

... Unforgettable meals, happy and hospitable people, clean city and beautiful Bled. These are the first words for me to tell Ljubljana. (Mahmut, Turkey)

... Modern and historical museum affected me a lot. You can feel history in Lectar Museum. Architecture was also impressive. I wanted to watch the sunset again in Bled. (Esra, Turkey)

... First of all I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of the meeting and underline the perfect level of coordination and organization of the event. The meeting of the trainers and the programme of cultural heritage objects were interesting and really important as for me personally as for my professional duties. The event was observed during the meeting of the staff of Vilnius University Library. My colleagues found project interesting and needful as well. The main impression of the Slovenian experience was made by the combination of traditional forms of reach cultural heritage and very modern ways of representation of the cultural traditions, handcrafts and historical and other monuments. First of all digital means of presentation must be mentioned in this context. Discussion with trainers and trainees from other countries resulted in deeper awareness of the context and meaning of the term "cultural heritage" in different cultures and traditions. The variety of studding possibilities, various forms of training courses gave a number of ideas, which could be used and actualized and realized in my professional work. In my opinion the meeting was very successful. (Tatjana, Lithuania)



Visit of the Matijovc Farm at Podbrezje (left); Visit of the Bled Castle (right)

... Lubiana is truly a great place if you are a "people person".
... Lubiana is not overrun with tourists; you can get a glimpse of life in Lubiana.
... The persons are open, friendly and helpful.
... Lubiana is the Christmas city!!!
(Participants from Italy)

... I heard many things about Ljubljana and Slovenia before this visit. I expected it to be full of culture life and many spectacular views. It was a great pleasure to see, that this city was more than I expected it to be.

The most memorable visit was that to the Bled castle. The view from up there was spectacular, the presentations and the clothing were very original and unique.

The Slovenian language has similarities with the minority Hungarian language from Romania. The visit to the farm got out new similarities as well, for example Slovenians also produce alcohol from different fruits, and their "snaps" is really similar at taste with ours.

The architecture and construction of villages are unique in Slovenia. Folk music is also different from ours, the bee keepers paint very special hives and the handmade cakes are also unique.

When the Slovenians come to Romania, they should experience cultural places such as ethnographic museums, to show them the architecture of our villages and the clothing specific to different regions of Romania, and folk music and folk dances, to reveal a great part of our culture. (Eniko, Romania)

... I expected to see as many different and interesting places (buildings etc.) as possible, so that I can make an impression of the Slovenian culture. It was even better as I expected. I got to see a very beautiful, old city with very nice people.

The visit to Bled was the most memorable, because we saw another part of Slovenia: a very impressive and well known lake, with an island (has a church) in the middle. The castle from Bled was also interesting to see, because they preserved the old habits and clothes of the medieval Slovenian people.

The older houses are similar to the Romanian ones, as well as the music, which sounds like the Hungarian folklore.

The baroc style seen inside an old library and also seen on some of the Ljubljanian buildings.

When the Slovenians come to Romania, they should experience the historical part of Cluj (buildings, churches etc), Romanian music, our food and if it s possible, some churches from Maramures. (Georgia, Romania)

ITALY



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About Città di Castello and Partner Institution



Villa Montesca, headquarters of Centro Studi e Formazione

Centro Studi e Formazione Villa Montesca is a non profit organisation, founded in February 2001, closely linked to the dynamics of a single European space for professional training, education, cultural and local development. It organises and develops training programmes and projects, and experiments new learning paths for studying and monitoring individual competences. It is a high level training organisation for post-graduate and post-diploma courses and for permanent education for adults based on the Lifelong Learning method. The Centre team works with national and foreign researchers and operators in developing specific methods and tools in the field of education.

It is located in Città di Castello - a border town between Umbria and Tuscany. It's a city in the Province of Perugia, in the northern part of the Umbria region of Italy. It is situated on a slope of the Apennines, on the flood plain of the river Tiber. Founded by the

Umbrians, ancient Tiferno, during the 1st century A.D., Tifernum Tiberinum acquired Roman citizenship and was part of the region of Umbria which, in the administrative division imposed by Augustus in the late 1st century B.C., coincided with Italy's region VI, bounded to the west by the Tiber and to the east by the Adriatic. In the early 12th century it became a free Commune, but in the next two centuries it was subjugated several times by the Pope or by cities such as Florence, Perugia and Arezzo. In 1422 Braccio da Montone conquered the town and inaugurated the period of lordships, the most important of which was exercised between the 15th and the 16th century by the Vitelli family.

Since the last post-war period, Città di Castello has undergone heavy industrialisation, especially in the engineering, printing and wooden furniture sectors. Tobacco growing also plays a substantial part in the local economy.



View of the frescos in Villa Montesca (left); View from Piazza Gabriotti, Città di Castello (right)



The Town Hall at sunset

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology



The facade of the Monumental Cathedral in Città di Castello



A piece of the treasure of the Sacred Art Museum

I – Monumental Cathedral and the treasures of the Sacred Art Museum

It seems that the Cathedral arises on the ruins of the Temple of Felicity, built by Pliny the Younger. The church was dedicated to San Lorenzo Martire. In 1012 the building threatened to go to ruin and Bishop Peter rebuilt it from the foundations and dedicated it to San Florido. In 1529 the church was entirely rebuilt according to Renaissance art.

Unique of its kind is the Romanesque bell tower round, isolated from the Cathedral. Looking at the facade of Gabriotti square, you see that the monument is a mixture of elements, revealing the remakes made in later centuries. The Cathedral has a gothic portal and suggestive underground church, fifteenth-century ornamental frame inside, seventeenth-century coffered ceiling, eighteenth cupola, which collapsed in the earthquake of 1794 and was rebuilt on a design by Thomas Catrani. The other side of the Cathedral is unfinished.

The Cathedral Diocese Museum, among the most expansive museum of sacred art (800 square metres), is distributed on two adjacent floors of the Basilica of the Cathedral of S. Florido. A collection of 25 beautiful silver pieces used for the Eucharist liturgy can be found in one of the main rooms. It is an exemplary paleo-Christian art from the sixth century, recovered near the Sanctuary of Canoscio in Città di Castello in the spring of 1935 during harvesting (from here the name of 'Canoscio Hoard'). The archaeological discovery is one of the most important of the last centuries. The large number of pieces found here (goblets, plates, religious drinking cups, and precious metals) makes the collection rare in Europe and of immense historical value.



A photo of the Villa dated 1932



A class in the Montesca's school

II – Villa Montesca and the Franchetti Heritage

Baron Leopoldo Franchetti and his wife Alice in 1901 founded the Montesca School housed inside the Villa offering a free education to the farmer's children up to the sixth grade. Their aim was to give them the opportunity to improve their way of living as well as their professional future. These schools were an early experiment in democratic education open to everybody. In 1905 Baroness Alice called Maria Montessori at Villa Montesca to organise with her a seminar which gave life to the first publication of the Method for Scientific Pedagogy, universally known as the Montessori Method.

One hundred years after that first experiment, a number of educational institutions, together with the Local Authority of Città di Castello, formed here an educational and professional training organisation to continue, in the spirit of the Franchetti institutions, the research and the experimentation on new teaching methods.

Nowadays the Villa has been fully restored and is surrounded by a centuries old park. Alice Hallgarten-Franchetti, an American woman in love with Italy, set up a weaving workshop in order to allow the already skilled craftswomen in developing and producing linens and embroidery following a centuries old local tradition. The Tela Umbra (today the Weaving Museum) was founded as part of a larger project having the aim to better the living standards in the countryside through the process of progressive self-empowerment with education and work training.



The Old Tobacco Dryhouses - Work: Grande Ferro Sestante, 1982

III – The Burri Collection

A fine example of contemporary art that makes the city proud all over the world. Alberto Burri (1915-1995) is one of the great masters of contemporary international art, who left all his works to the town where he was born: Città di Castello.

The complete collection of works by Alberto Burri can be seen in two exhibition locations, the 'Albizzini Palace Foundation' and the 'Tobacco Drying Factory' (former tobacco drying sheds). 'Albizzini Palace' is a fifteenth century palace, typical example of Florentine building, which houses the richest and most organic collections of the pictorial activity of Alberto Burri. The painting for him was freedom obtained, constantly consolidating, supervised with such vigilance as to take out the possibility of painting again. The painter of tars, of moulds, of sacks, of rags, of craters, of humps, of combustion, of wood, of iron, of plastic, of cracks, of grand cuttings in black, of cellotex, of ailments, arranged to express himself solely and directly with his work, the Maestro, reserved and wary, wanted to leave a 'sign' of dedication, wholly spiritual, to the city. In Burri's courage not to stop his artistic path from 1948 until his death, there is a rigorous will that responds to the profound sense of the moral order of paintings, to the critical lucidity that always supported it, that measures every search with extreme coherence, with the irreplaceable and inevitable presence of violent provocation and absolute attainment.

Since 1990 the collection has grown richer with the last donation of 128 recent works of large format, which have found just the right prominence in the space of the ex Tobacco Drying Factory, a complex of over 29.000 square metres. It is an exemplary utilization of industrial museum architecture.

Second Mobility Visit, Città di Castello, ITALY, 22 – 25 April 2010



Partners' internal meeting in the library of Villa Montesca

The second meeting of the project ADHER was held in Città di Castello at Villa Montesca. The meeting was attended by 40 participants coming from Turkey, Romania, Greece, Slovenia and Lithuania. During the first day, the partners and learners presented their own institutions and countries focusing on their cultural heritages. The hosting partner supplied information on the Region's cultural heritage, stressing the issue of public awareness, as regards its protection, presenting the educational tools used to improve the knowledge of cultural heritage and its role in local development. The meeting was also an opportunity for exchanging good practices and training methods of the participating countries. Discussions and debates regarding the project's activities and steps were spaced out with guided tours to historical and artistic Umbrian sites. Participants also went on a guided tour to Assisi where they learnt how the Region's cultural heritage is managed and valorised.

The partners and learners appreciated both the historical building where Centro Studi is located and demonstrated their high interest about the topics presented in the work session. The partners presented their contributions, including a list of cultural heritages of their country. The representatives of Centro Studi presented more detailed information on the situation regarding the cultural heritage in the country, on the local level. The focus was also on the public awareness about Cultural Heritages, educational tools used, importance of Cultural heritage in public life as a mean of local development, local and national regulations and laws in Italy. A discussion on the implementation of the project followed. Special impressions were taken from an interesting cultural programme: visit of Burri Museum and the centre of Città di Castello, and a guided visit of Assisi.



Moments of the meeting with representative and learners from the partner organizations on the first day in Città di Castello

Some Moments from the Mobility Visit and Comments of Participants



Groups of Learners attending the meeting in Italy

... Villa Montesca, Museum Alberto Burri... – the examples of cultural heritage in Città di Castello that stamped in my mind. And I was fascinated by the town itself, a small town which began in the year 89 B.C., a small town behind walls with all old buildings, towers..., beautiful old fronts with ornaments, beautiful doors and windows, and beams we saw through illuminated windows..., narrow paved streets in which modern cars are driving as this town is lively and the buildings are inhabited. (Sonja, Slovenia)

... The town itself is really fascinating... In the year 1997 a strong earthquake damaged several examples of cultural heritage of this area, including the famous church of San Francesco d'Assisi. From that time they began to educate the inhabitants on measures after the earthquake... By this, the possibility for complete restoration of the heritage is increased... Other examples of cultural heritage in Città di Castello that stamped in my mind: Villa Montesca, olive oil mill on a farm near Assisi. (Taja, Slovenia)

... Città di Castello, a medieval town, almost not renovated, where you can feel a spirit of passed ages and something connected to famous Antonioni films. (Nerute, Lithuania)

... Superb opinion on the Italy visit. (Jurate, Lithuania)

... The trip to Città di Castello was a unique experience, concerning as well the lovely landscape as also the Italian culture, architecture and art and also the Italian food. It was also very enriching to meet the participants from other cultures and countries. All the activities which took place – like the strolls in the medieval town, the visit of the museum Burri, the visit to the olive mill and to the town of Assisi and the tasting of delicious traditional food – were very impressive and made the group returning to Greece full of enthusiasm and enriched knowledge of the relevance of cultural heritage in today's business and modern enterprises. (Karolina, Greece)

... The most memorable were the visit to Burri Museum, the visit of Assisi and Olive Mill, the Villa Montesca as architectural monument, the architecture and landscapes, the Italian food. (Maria, Greece)

.... Italian language, traditional food and wine, the architecture and art are unique. (Luisa, Greece)

.... Città di Castello is gorgeous. I adore the silence of the town. It is a lord of the green land. (Mine, Turkey)

... It was unexpected impression. Wonderful old town, which differs from our northern cities. Trip to Italy was as a wonderful night dream. I know that I exactly will come to Italy once again. (Albertas, Lithuania)

... It was a wonderful place, which I exactly imagined as an example of heritage studies. Wonderful old town, wonderful landscape. I think it will be interesting different aspects of heritage which are different from other countries – Landscape and country architecture, food preparing heritage, intangible kinds of heritage. (Jurate, Lithuania)

... I expected a typically Italian town and what I saw there exceeded my expectations. Nice people, delicious food and great architecture. I think the most memorable moment was when we visited the olive oil farm which was an incredible experience.

We had the opportunity to enjoy some traditional Italian dishes in a great environment. Everything was great, from the table arrangements to the flavours of the food, not to mention the people there who were nice and friendly and made us feel at home. I liked their laid-back attitude and the fact that even a small town like Citta Di Castello had an art museum and they seemed to take pride in their heritage, well-preserved architecture and traditions. They have all sorts of festivals meant to remind people of old customs and also to create a feeling of community. (Ioana, Romania)

... I expected the project meeting to be quite boring, but it turned out most presentations were really interesting and focused on the meeting's subject. As for the activities, they were really entertaining and I must say the organisers did a really good job, despite the terrible misconception about the Italian sense of organisation :)

Everything was memorable, even the non-stop rain on Friday :). I mostly enjoyed the visit to the olive farm; I got to see a really old family tradition accompanied by lovely food and friendly hosts. Also the Burri Museum, for the contemporary art (although I think, for the trip's sake, a visit to a museum displaying Italian masters would have been more successful). It goes without saying that I definitely loved the delicious food and wine from the taverns, meeting people from other countries / cultures and sharing experiences. I also enjoyed practising my Italian with the waiters and shop assistants :)

Many aspects are similar to Romania. Starting with the Latin roots of the language, Roman Empire relics, the interest in family and genealogy, tradition, festivals, home-made food, the influence of the Church and religion (churches, monasteries). I missed music and dancing in Italy :P) (Lavinia, Romania)

... I found the activities very interesting and I was happy to learn about the other schools involved in the project and to hear new things from each country's culture.

I believe that the Italian culture is exploited more and tends to be more 'marketable' to help tourism. The family traditions are respected and live through generations.

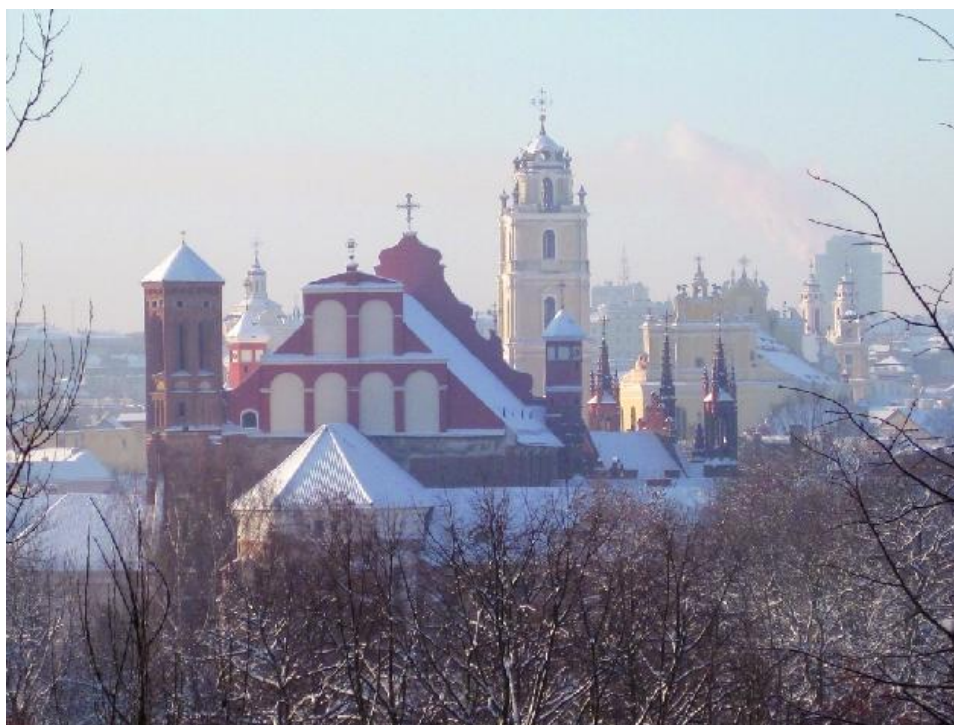
The similarities between the Romanian culture and the Italian one are first of all of a linguistic nature. Both languages have Latin roots and this fact has always brought the two people close together. From this point forward the similarities can be found in various domains, such as literature, music and visual arts. (Victoria, Romania)

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About Vilnius and Partner Institution



Vilnius – a city of old church towers and a fresh view

Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania and its largest city, with population of 560.190 as of 2010. The biggest and well known Lithuanian universities are situated in Vilnius. The city was first mentioned in written sources in 1323. The most laidback of the Baltic capitals has managed to retain its easygoing provincial charm. Vilnius is a cosmopolitan city with diverse architecture. There are 65 churches in Vilnius. Like most medieval towns, Vilnius was developed around its Town Hall. Vilnius' huge, UNESCO-protected Old Town has been patched up, amazing baroque and gothic architecture restored. A fresh set of shiny skyscrapers marks out the new business district. Vilnius has a well-deserved reputation as one of the safest and friendliest cities in Europe.

The Institute of Mathematics and Informatics of Vilnius University (IMI) is a state scientific institute – a budgetary scientific research institution, set up to pursue important long-term research for the economy of Lithuania and international cooperation. The main activities of the Institute are scientific research and experimental development, with research trends approved by the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The scientific activity of the Institute is concentrated in 5 departments of the Mathematical trend and 6 departments of Informatics and Informatics Engineering. There are 125 employees at the Institute, 74 researchers are working in the scientific departments, 65 doctoral students. Lifelong learning is performed at the intensive courses of the latest information technologies and multimedia applied to Lithuanian culture and language at the UNESCO Chair Informatics for the Humanities. The courses are not permanent but organized according the adult educational needs in the humanities.

Heritage Items Included into the Education Methodology

The list of Lithuanian cultural heritage was mostly based on the trusty expertise made for the UNESCO World Heritage List (WHL).



Panorama of Vilnius Old Town

I – Vilnius Historic Centre (UNESCO WHL, 1994)

Vilnius Old Town – an example of a city formation of immense cultural and historic value – 1994 inscribed into UNESCO World Heritage List for two criteria: Vilnius as the capital of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania 13-18 c. played an important role in the whole region: Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland; Vilnius is the most easterly city of Central Europe, subject to a strong influence of Eastern and Western European cultures, a typical example of medieval street patterns with valuable monuments of Gothic, Renaissance, Classical and Baroque architecture. With its surviving essential features of urban development, the Old Town is the most valuable part of the historic, urban and architectural heritage of Vilnius, the most important in the State of Lithuania. Its cultural values symbolise both the rich history of the country and the rebirth of its independent statehood.



Early spring days before the Easter are marked by Verbos – the original decorations

II – Verbos – an Alive Tradition of Vilnius Original Decoration for Palm Sunday

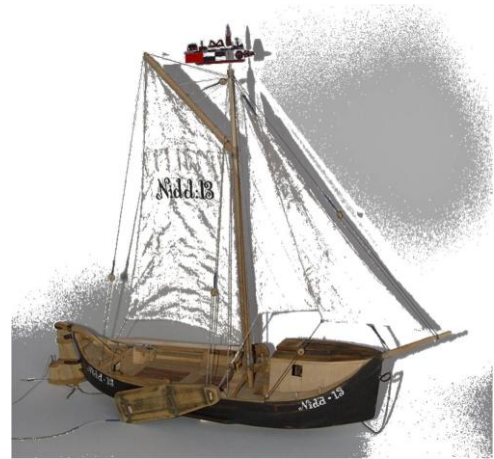
Verbos – a decoration made of dried flowers, plants, and moss. It originated in the Vilnius region and is traditionally used for Palm Sunday celebration, known since 16 c. In folk tradition it was a posy made from willow and juniper twigs – early spring trees and shrubs and evergreen plant twigs. It was believed that the exploding green plants have magical powers that will be recruited to keep the animals healthy, and the people happy and beautiful. Currently it is developed into a specific branch of a folk art spread throughout Lithuania. A normal size of Verba is 40 – 50 cm, but a colourful item of the Verba could be as small as 5cm or as big as 2m in length. On Palm Sunday one can see bunches of Verbos' carried to keep at home until the following Palm Sunday. Every year Verbos are created slightly differently in design or the materials used.



The unique landscape is a pearl of nature in the Baltic Sea waterfront

III – The Landscape of the Curonian Spit Nature (UNESCO WHL, 2000)

The Curonian Spit is a peninsula separating the Curonian lagoon from the Baltic Sea. The Landscape of the Curonian Spit has been formed not only by natural processes but also by human activities – it represents the combined work of nature and of man. Now the Lithuanian part of Spit is called Neringa, the Southern part belongs to Russia. Human habitation of this elongated sand dune peninsula, 98 km long and 0.4 – 4 km wide, dates back to prehistoric times. Throughout this period it has been threatened by the natural forces of wind and waves. Its survival to the present day has been made possible only as a result of ceaseless human efforts to combat the erosion of the Spit, dramatically illustrated by continuing stabilization and reforestation projects. The old legend says that the Landscape of the Curonian Spit has been created of sand by the giant woman called Neringa, gathering up sand in her apron and depositing it in an arc to protect her beloved fisherman from the Baltic waves – such is a female version of an ancient Hercules legend...This is one of the explanations why the place is called “Neringa”.



Weather vane and its location on the boat mast

IV – Curonian Weather vane (Vetrunges) – the Early Signs of Information and Communication

Since early days the Curonian Lagoon has been the strategic area of transit, fishing, trade and military interests. Vikings were the first to mark the littoral settlements, harbours and ships with symbolic signs of animals. The Hanza Road has spread the earmarking even further and adjusted the signs to signify a hierarchic stratum. Ship symbols pointed out the owner of the boat: the king, the duke, the bishop, a landowner, also the area a sailboat was from. The ensigns stipulate the boundaries of the fishing territories, number of nets and the size of mesh, also trade areas. For many of the Curonian Lagoon fishermen a Weather vane was a reflection of the family composition, dreams and the village he was from. Since the early 20th century Weather vanes have become not only functional signs but also the symbol and authentic souvenirs of this region. The contemporary reflexion of the boats with Vetrunges and Krikštai – the mysterious grave markers are given below in pictures.



The Hill of Crosses as the unique expression of spiritual and folk art aspirations

V – Lithuanian Cross Crafting and Its Symbolism (UNESCO WHL, 2008)

The traditional Crafting of wooden crosses reflects local village cultural identities, beliefs and ceremonies. It probably was originated in the 15th century, after the Christianization of Lithuania. Cross Crafting is a popular and traditional expression of historic, artistic, sociological and ethnological value. With pillar structures from 1.20 to 2 meters in height, each cross is typically carved with floral and geometric motifs, and adorned with statues of Christ or Saints. The Crosses may be erected alone or in clusters, in forests and fields, near springs and crossroads. Along with religious and social meanings, the Crosses also have political symbolism, for example linked to Independence of State. Since the 1920s, the Crosses are also used to commemorate national holidays. Many crosses are assembled at the Hill of Crosses, a significant historical site near Šiauliai, in the North part of Lithuania. There are some 200 cross-crafting masters in Lithuania. The Crosses are often consecrated by blessings and prayers.

Fourth Mobility Visit, Vilnius, 17 - 20 September 2010



Working hours at the old Vilnius University

The event was organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Informatics at the Old Vilnius University campus founded in 1579, an interesting historical place, where the participants of meeting were not only working but had possibilities to explore the University courtyards, to visit the Church of Sts. John and the historical University campus halls, one of the oldest academic Libraries in Europe.

Guided tours of visiting Vilnius Historic Centre (one of the items included into the list of Cultural Heritage) and Trakai – the historical capital of Lithuania, a small town known as the “town of lakes”. There is a unique castle of the early 15 c. Now the Castle Museum is situated on an island in the middle of a lake. It is a beloved touristic place that represents not only Lithuanian cultural heritages but also traditions and customs of Karaim’ minority settled here many centuries ago.

Comments of Participants and Some Moments from the Mobility Visit



Enjoying the Lithuanian folk songs

... Lithuania smells history I think it's very nice and interesting city. Lovely and clean streets, kind people, beautiful girls☺, historical buildings must be seen. I absolutely like everything from the culture to the people. Trakai has the most beautiful nature I have ever seen, never forgot Trakai, Vilnius. We had a perfect trip and felt like living a fairy tale. See you another time☺ . (Bahar, Turkey)

... I read about Vilnius before we arrived there and I was impressed about the city and its history. I liked it very much, it was even better than what I expected it to be. I liked the trip to Trakai, the medieval castle and how the Lithuanians were able to rebuild it. Vilnius was full of churches, most of them catholic, very beautiful ones. In Romania you can find a lot of beautiful churches, so I think that a similar characteristic would be the fact the bought Lithuanians and Romanians have great faith in God. I liked the Museum of amber; I have never seen something like that before. Thank you for a wonderful experience I will definitely come back some day to visit your country. (Cornelia, Romania)

... The Greek group consisted only of 2 participants, one trainee and one trainer, who returned to Greece, thrilled with both, the excellent organization of the whole meeting and the beautiful places visited and the choice of destinations. The town of Vilnius itself represents a jewel of culture and the stroll in the streets was a unique experience. The visit to the University and the library with its important literature and great works, the visit to the workshop for traditional stone processing but also the excursion to the historical capital Trakai in the outskirts of the city with our excellent guide made this experience for us an outstanding and exceptional one. The weekend ended with a spectacular show of fireworks and the traditional burning of effigies on the central square and a traditional dinner. The most memorable were: Visit of Library, Excursion to Trakai, Stroll in Vilnius, Fireworks on Central Square. (Katherina, Greece)



Visiting Trakai and the old Castle (left); the evening with a traditional Lithuanian food (right)

For more information on the ADHER project activities please visit the website www.adher.mii.lt.



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme

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