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GA T.2.3 REPORT ON SITE VISITS ORGANIZED BY PARTNERS



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INTRODUCTION

In order to better define the potential for expanding Green and Historic Tourism and energy efficiency solutions to the Black Sea Region countries, the project GreeTHiS has two main strands of actions:

A) The experts' view: a “scientific” approach to Green and Historic Tourism and the Energy Saving solutions that can be applied to historic buildings. The aim is to create a cross-sectoral and transnational “observatory” of the state-of-the-art and the potential for development in all participant BSB countries.

b) The dissemination of this knowledge to stakeholders and local agents and communities, so that they can actively foster the proposed solutions and actions and participate at the formation of a new touristic potential. The aim is to make local communities, entrepreneurs and mere inhabitants aware of the need to change and adapt their business to less energy-consuming solutions while on the other hand creating synergies that can promote cleaner, eco-friendly tourism, with a focus on history and nature.

For that purpose were organized a series of Local Workshops, Business Breakfasts and Site Visits which aimed at the dissemination of information, productive discussion, involvement of the local communities and of local touristic agents and awareness raising in regard to specific natural sites and historic buildings.

In the present report the activities regarding the Site Visits organized will be presented in a synthesis by type of activity and by country. The Site Visits were an essential part of the activities, as stakeholders had the chance to visit highlighted monuments and sites and listen to the specific “heritage interpretation”, in order to have a fresh look upon them and help the local communities valorize these local monuments and sites for touristic purposes with a perspective on viable, sustainable development. Therefore, apart from the evident information on history, architectural details, events related to the monuments and sites etc., the potential for application of energy saving solutions was also explained.

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SITE VISITS

I. BULGARIA

Introduction

UBBSLA organized three site visits throughout GreeTHiS project, one to the pilot building which includes investment for energy efficiency solutions, namely its headquarters in the historic part of Varna, one to Devnya Municipality and the ancient city of Marcianopolis and one to the Historic Park of Varna. The three sites were quite representative of the historic itineraries and natural sites of the region of Varna.

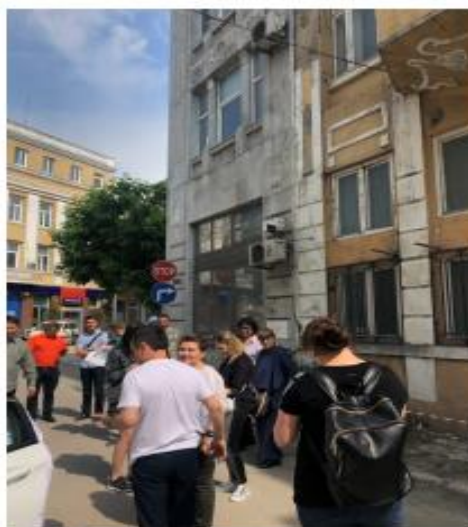
First site visit: UBBSLA pilot building, Varna, June 2nd, 2019

The site visit to the historic central part of Varna focused on the project's pilot building, namely UBBSLA's headquarters. It was attended by 12 participants, of which 4 belonged to local or regional authorities, 2 were infrastructure providers and the rest were local stakeholders. The site visit was accompanied by a demonstration of technologies for the restoration and renovation of cultural buildings, performed by professional experts and architects, representatives of engineering and construction companies, civic organizations working in the field, etc. The attendants were acquainted with the history of the building's construction, with its historical background and with its transformation into an information point for the tourists and guests of Varna. Particular emphasis was given on the observation and documentation of the façade and the external sides for the pilot interventions. Specific techniques for façade renovations were presented and discussed among the participants.

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*Second site visit: Salt mine, Provadia and ancient city of Marcianopolis, Devnya,
July 31st, 2019*

The second site visit was organized as a tour in two cultural heritage sites in two small municipalities neighboring Varna: Provadia municipality and Devnya municipality. The twenty-one participants of the tour were representatives of local authorities (8), infrastructure providers (5) and the rest were local stakeholders (entrepreneurs, members of environment and cultural heritage associations, scientists and researchers). The trip started with a visit to the Salt Mine near Provadia town, which is an archaeological site dating to the 6th and 5th centuries BC. Mr. Filcho Filev, the mayor of the municipality, who presented the team currently working on the archaeological excavations, welcomed the participants. Professor Vasil Nikolov, deputy president of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, presented the historical background and the artefacts discovered. The second stop was in the Roman city of Marcianopolis with the picturesque water springs in the town of Devnya. Mr. Svilen Shitov, the mayor, and his team of experts, guided the participants and described the culture of urban life in antiquity.

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Third site visit: Historical Park, Varna, October 10th, 2020

The third site visit organized by UBBSLA was held in the Historic Park near Varna located in the adjacent rural area. It is a large-scale historic and tourist attraction which became popular

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during the last few years. The site visit was part of the second local workshop “Active and interactive consumers of culture heritage services and products” that focused on how the participants can become active actors and “performers” of cultural heritage. The participants in the tour were local stakeholders, entrepreneurs and tourist professionals. The tour gave ideas and showed possibilities for tourist services related to historical reenactment, heritage interpretation and emotional engagement of visitors. The participants followed the tour organized under the title “A walk through the centuries” and were acquainted with the historical and cultural development of Bulgaria in the course of time.



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II. ROMANIA- LOWER DANUBE EUROREGION (ACTEDJ)

Introduction

Throughout 2019 ACTEDJ organized three site visits in the course of the GreeTHiS project, in order to familiarize stakeholders and local, regional and state authorities with the programme and with the sites of Green and Historic interest that would be valorized throughout the project.

First Site Visit, June 28th 2019

On June 28, ACTEDJ organized the first Site visit (DT2.3.1) within the GreeTHiS BSB- 305 project. The event started with a presentation of the project, its objectives and activities. In collaboration with “Mila 80” Association, the project team has outlined a route that will present some buildings of historical and cultural interest located in the central area of the city. Some of these buildings will be included in the virtual tour and will benefit from feasibility studies in terms of energy efficiency.

The representative of “Mila 80” Association presented information regarding the architects of the buildings and which institutions carried out their activity in those buildings until they came into the possession of the current owners. Some of these are still the headquarters of institutions or private companies. Unfortunately, most require intervention work both on the consolidation side and on the energy side. The event was also attended by a lady architect who presented some specialized solutions for these buildings.



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Second Site Visit, July 20th 2019

On July 20, ACTEDJ organized the second Site visit (DT2.3.1) within the GreeTHis BSB- 305 project. The event started with a presentation of the project, its objectives and activities. In collaboration with “Mila 80” Association, the project team has outlined a route that presented some buildings of historical and cultural interest located in the the city. The theme of this tour was related to the historical buildings that belonged to the local minorities or buildings in which they performed their activity.

The representative of “Mila 80” Association presented information regarding the architects of the buildings and which local minorities carried out their activity in those buildings until they came into the possession of the current owners. Unfortunately, most require intervention work both on the consolidation side and on the energy side.

The event was attended by the representatives of the local community, NGO's, stakeholders, and representatives of SME and local public authority.



Third Site Visit, October 5th,2019

On October 05, ACTEDJ organized the third Site visit (DT2.3.1) within the GreeTHis BSB- 305 project. The event started with a presentation of the project, its objectives and activities. In collaboration with “Mila 80” Association, the project team has outlined a route that presented some buildings of historical and cultural interest which were part of the old town center. Some of them no longer exist but they were mentioned. The theme of this tour was related to the historical buildings which are part of the old town center.

The representative of “Mila 80” Association presented information regarding the architects of the buildings and which institution carried out their activity in those buildings until they came

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into the possession of the current owners. Unfortunately, most require intervention work both on the consolidation side and on the energy side.

The event was attended by the representatives of the local community, NGO's, stakeholders, and representatives of SME and local public authority.



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III. MOLDOVA (ACTIE)

Introduction

In the district of Cahul, Moldavia, from October to November 2019 were organized 3 different site visits to potential historical and cultural tourist objects.

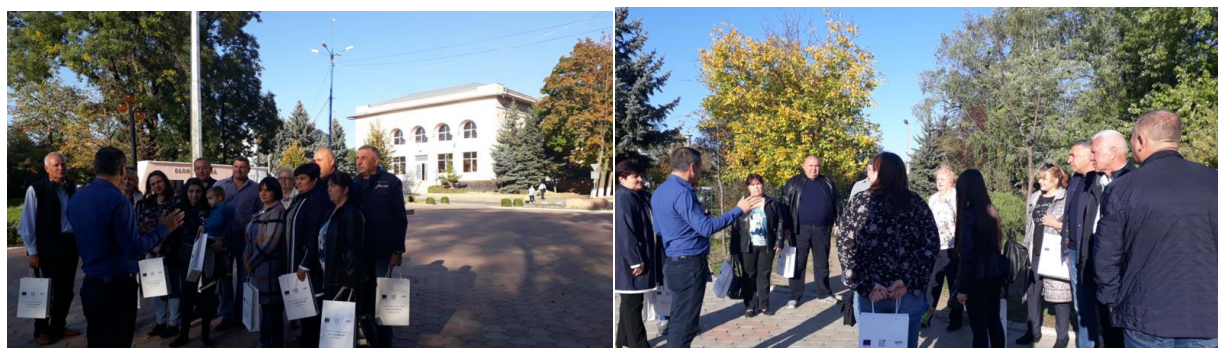
The purpose of these visits was to evaluate the most promising locations in the city of Cahul that have the potential to be included in tourism assets or to foster the existing locations to become more attractive for visitors. The site visit had also the role to evaluate the knowledge of the general public regarding the built and intangible heritage of the region and evaluate the importance to promote their preservation and enhancement.

Moreover, another goal of these visits was to evaluate the knowledge of the general public regarding the tangible and intangible heritage of the region and evaluate the importance to promote their preservation and promotion.

It was also an excellent opportunity to present the project to the potential final beneficiaries from outside the city of Cahul. Especially in the rural area of the Cahul region, these site visits gave the opportunity to evaluate the locations with touristic, cultural or heritage potential in the southern part of Moldova, most notably in the rural area of the Cahul region. Through these visits, participants had the opportunity to discover new things about bread history, local customs and traditions.

First Site Visit: Cahul City Centre, October 15th, 2019

On 15th of October, in the city of Cahul twenty one (21) representatives from the local and regional public authority, SMEs, business support organization, and interest groups including NGOs had the opportunity to visit the Cahul theatre, St. Mikhail and Gavriil Cathedral, the Cahul Museum and other buildings in the city centre. All these monuments are culture-related and can contribute to the enhancement of the cultural attractions of the city of Cahul, in addition to the surrounding sightseeing and relaxation spots in the broader region of Cahul.



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Second Site Visit: Rural Tourist Destinations, October 23rd 2019

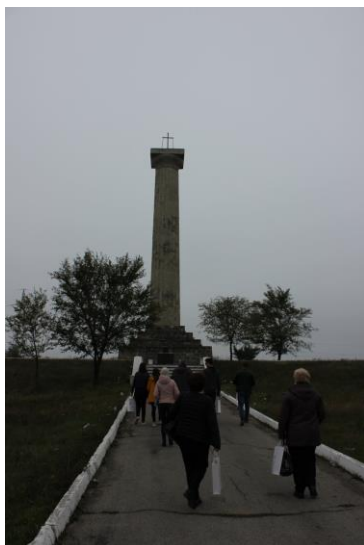
The second visit in the city of Cahul, took place on the 23rd of October. Nineteen (19) representatives from the local public authorities and interest groups including NGOs visited many places with touristic potential or cultural and natural heritage value, like the Lower Prut Scientific Reserve with Manta Lakes that will constitute the future Biosphere Reserve; rural tourist destinations such as agritourist pensions in Valeni Village, Trajan wall (Roman Limes) and a local winery.



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Third Site Visit: Museum Visits, November 13th, 2019

The last site visit on the 13th of November 2019 was attended by thirty five (35) participants from the General public or members of Interest groups including NGOs. This event was organised by Cross-border Cooperation and European Integration Agency in Cahul and through these events were visited 5 Museums from Cahul: the Cahul County Museum, Valeni Museum of History and Ethno-folklore, The Bread Museum also from Valeni village, The Museum of History and Ethnography from Slobozia Mare village and The Museum from Cucoara village.

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IV. GEORGIA (NALAG)

Introduction

In the course of the project GreeTHiS, NALAG organized three site visits for public authorities and local stakeholders in the unique Natural Heritage sites of the country. Participation was very large, especially during the first one, in the Kintrishi Valley, and the participants had the chance to get to know not only the natural landscapes and habitats, but also aspects of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage in this region.

First site visit to Kintrishi Valley, July 20th, 2019

Within the project representatives of NALAG organised site a visit which was combined with the local summer festival “The Sun Shines in the CountrySide” taking place in Kobuleti Municipality Kintrishi Valey which is protected area in the Black Sea region. It took place on the 20th of July 2019 and was attended by a group of 70 people including local authorities’ representatives, NGO members and other groups and individuals of stakeholders. During the event the visitors could get acquainted with local culture, could degustate the local food and enjoyed local folk music. The aim of the event was the promotion of rural and green tourism. The festival was attended by local representatives, residents of different regions and tourists. Kintrishi Protected Area is located in Adjara Region in the Municipality of Kobuleti. The area counts 13.893 hectare and is 300-2500 meters above the sea. From 2007 the Kitrishi Valey has the status of Protected Landscape Area. The visitors can enjoy here horse and bike lanes, picnic and camping areas and the gorgeous beauty of the nature.



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Second Site Visit to traditional Lighthouse in Poti, September 25th, 2020

On september 25, 2020 the second site visit took place in Poti Municipality. The participants had chance to visit Poty Lighthouse which consists of a cast iron tower ordered in England in 1860. In 1862 it was casted in separate parts by an engineer-mechanics from an English company “EASTON AMOS & SONS”. In 1864 it was put into the operation: Lighthouse construction parts were delivered from London to Poti. The Lighthouse has undergone much development and improvement. It was last refurbished in 1967. The tower, which has the from of a cone with a cut top, is assembled from cast iron plates, joined by nuts. Its height from bottom to top totals 39,8m. It has the historical heritage monument status.



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Third site visit in Kolkheti National Park, May 28th, 2021

Within the project “Green Tourism and Historical Heritage - a stepping stone for the development of the Black Sea Basin” (GreeTHis) representatives of NALAG organised the third site visit which was combined with the International Workshop #3 Organised by NALAG in May 28, 2021. As, due to the Pandemic situation in the world, NALAG had no possibility to organise study visit on site (and prepared the video footage), NALAG team decided to combine the site visit with the Workshop.

During the event the visitors became acquainted with the wild nature of Kolkheti Region. The excursion was organised by boat trip. The aim of the visit was fostering domestic tourism by raising the awareness of the local places having the great potential of the green tourism development.

Kolkheti National Park - the first natural site in Georgia, is nominated on the UNESCO World Heritage List, for its Colchic forests and wetland. The Kolkheti Lowlands received international attention for the first time in 1996 when Georgia joined the Ramsar Convention - an intergovernmental treaty on wetlands of international importance, especially those that serve as habitats for waterfowl. Park is in the emerald network as well, which is ecological cooperation, created in order to make up special conservation interest. You will be astonished how many birds are migrating here, especially in late spring and early autumn. Wetlands are an important resting and staging area for thousands of water birds migration between Northern Eurasia and Africa.



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V. UKRAINE/ ECICC

Introduction

Site visits were organized in order to familiarize local stakeholders with the project's view on prospective assets of Green and Historical Tourism in BSB countries. Participants are therefore invited to also think themselves about the touristic potential of heritage sites, historical buildings, and other assets, as part of the preparation for the compilation of GreeTHiS next deliverables, especially the Virtual Guide.

First Site Visit: Historical Museum, May 17th, 2019

The first site-visit took place on the same day with the local workshop, on May 17, 2019, at the Historical Museum of the Danube region. Participants had a guided tour in the museum, which included much information about the history of Izmail. Also, participants got a presentation of the building's state before any works for energy efficiency upgrades took any place. The historical building's issues regarding heating, lighting and other energy-consuming functions were thoroughly presented, thus highlighting the need for the upcoming interventions.



Second Site Visit: Izmail Museum of Oleksandr V. Suvorov, October 18th, 2019

The second site-visit was organized on October 18, 2019. Participants were again local stakeholders (a group of 30), consisting of representatives of NGOs, local authorities and municipal institutions, SMEs, and civil society associations. The participants visited the Izmail Museum of Oleksandr V. Suvorov. The Museum hosts a world-class collection of exhibits, while the building is an important historic and architectural monument, a unique manor dating to the 19th century. The importance of the Museum, second in ranking after the O.V. Suvorov Museum in St. Petersburg, is great since it hosts more than 30.000 exhibits, uniforms and equipment of Russian and European armies, paintings and engravings on the Russo-Ottoman wars as well as archaeological material. Participants had the opportunity to get extensive information about the main events and historical figures of the region between the 17th-20th centuries, as well as

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to visit the Museum's collection, which includes uniforms and equipment of the Russian and Western European armies (17th-20th C.), paintings and sketches thematically and chronologically related to the Russian-Turkish wars (18th-19th C.), as well as archaeological and numismatic finds.



Third Site Visit: The Izmail Fortress Assault, October 21st, 2019

The third site-visit took place on October 21, 2019. Another group of 30 stakeholders visited the Branch of the Communal establishment of Izmail City Council "Historical Museum Named after Oleksandr Suvorov" - Diorama "The Izmail Fortress Assault", which is a cultural and architectural monument of national importance. The Diorama "The Izmail Fortress Assault" opened on May 9, 1973, in the oldest building of the city, that is an Ottoman Mosque of the late 16th century. It is one of the few examples of late medieval Ottoman architecture in Ukraine during its heyday. Visitors were able to become acquainted with one of the key periods of the city's history and to visit an architectural monument from the Ottoman period of Izmail.



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VI. GREECE/ORESTIADA

Introduction

Orestiada was less fortunate than the other countries in regard to the site visits as lockdown situation was established early in 2020 in Greece. Hence the site visits were postponed for 2021 and two of them took place virtually.

Site visits: The Karatheodory Museum, Nea Vyssa, July 3rd, 2021

The first site visit was organized on Saturday, July 3rd, 2021 at the Karatheodory Museum, Nea Vyssa and the Municipal Refreshment Bar at Kastanies. The Museum (a former primary school building dating to the 1930s) is being redesigned in the context of the project GreeTHIS. The design and arrangement of the interior spaces has been completed, part of the physical exhibition items has been collected, and digital exhibits are being designed.

The Municipal Refreshment bar at Kastanies is one of the historical buildings which feature in the Report on Green Tourism for the Municipality of Orestiada. Part of a network of similar “green” recreation spots, it has been an important place for the annual Ardas Festival of Young People organized in Kastanies every year since 1995, unfortunately affected by COVID-19 restriction measures from 2020 onwards.



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Second and Third Site Visits, December 8th and 9th, 2021

The second and third site visits took place virtually on the 8th and 9th of December 2021. In the course of these visits, participants (19 on the first day, 13 on the second day) had the chance to watch the virtual 360° tour of Orestiada and its surroundings. The “Virtual Tour in North Evros” is an on-line application containing information and pictures of several sightseeing areas within the Municipality of Orestiada, including the Town Hall of Orestiada, the Hadrianople Grove (Alsos Adrianoupoleos), the confluence of Ardas and Evros rivers at Kastanies, the natural reserve at Komara, the “Bara Pentalofou”, the Mill at Petrota as well as the unique black stone quarry at nearby Karakopetra and the Karatheodori Exhibition Centre at Nea Vyssa.

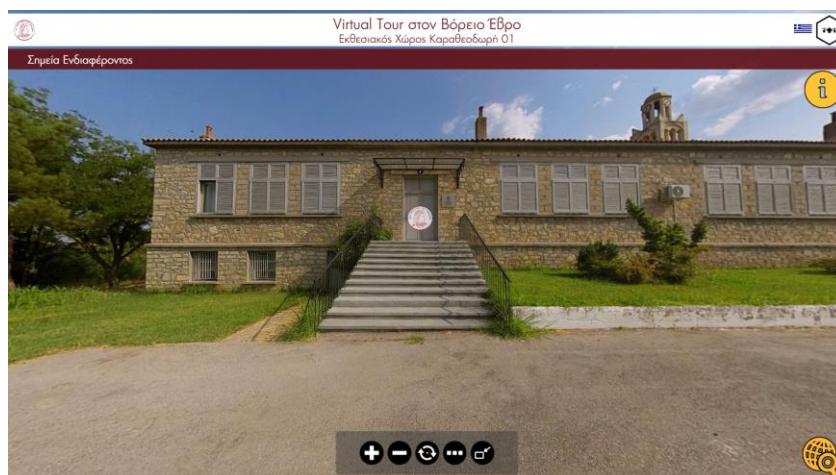
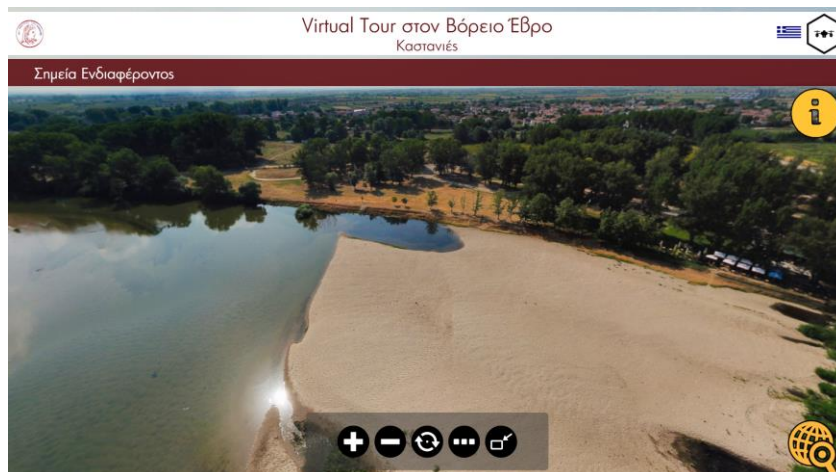
The tour offers not only the chance to virtually visit the landscapes, but also information about each individual site. The participants discussed over the potential of development of these particular sites into poles of attraction for Green and Historic tourism. The site at Kastanies, in particular, is the spot where the Ardas Festival takes place every year and it offers the potential to several activities to take place there, some of them throughout the year.



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