

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund



What are your projects about?

**Overview of thematic issues addressed by
Interreg Europe projects in natural heritage**

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

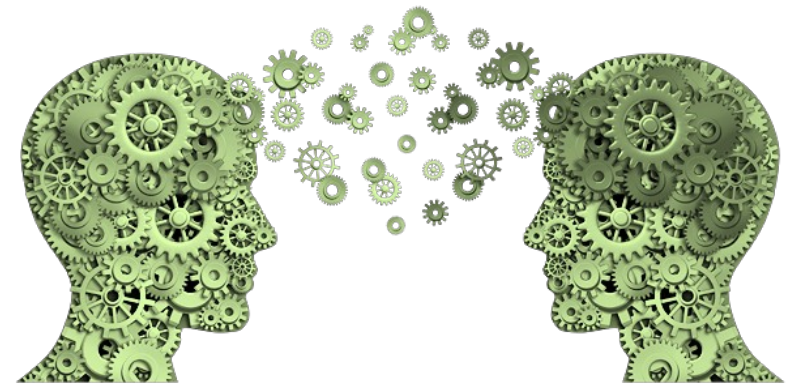
**Thematic Workshop – Protection and sustainable management of
natural heritage in European regions**

22-23 November 2018, Bucharest

Content of the presentation



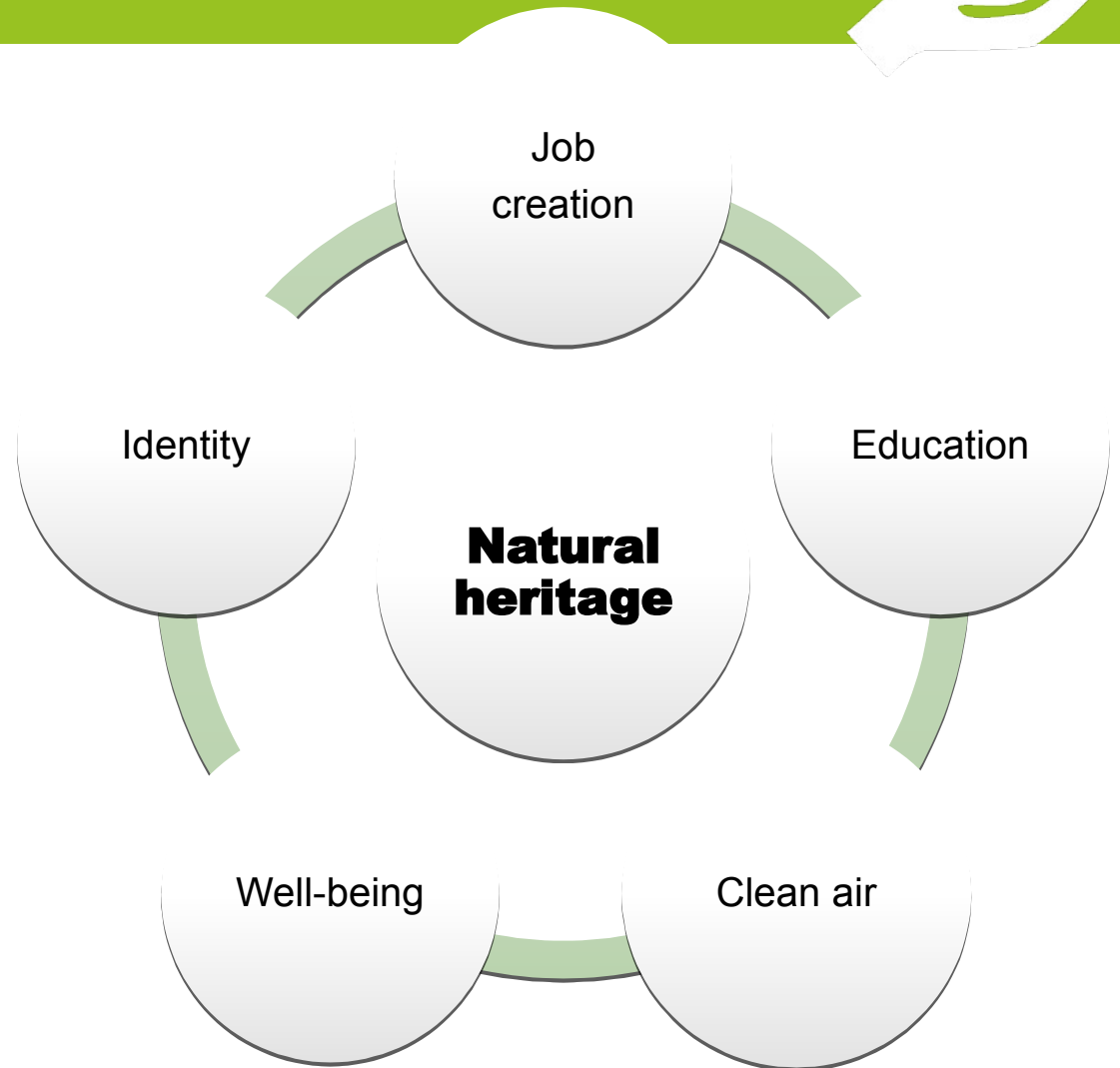
- EU Policy Framework
- EU Cohesion policy (post 2020)
- Interreg Europe projects on natural heritage and biodiversity conservation
- Challenges identified by Interreg Europe projects
- Key themes addressed by Interreg Europe projects
- Conclusions



Impact of natural heritage on regional development



Natural heritage
represents
Value for the
regions and cities



EU Policy framework



- EU Biodiversity Strategy and its targets
- Natura 2000: EU Habitats Directive and EU Birds Directive
- EU Water Framework Directive
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- EU Strategy on Green Infrastructure
- EU Integrated Maritime Policy
- EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy

Post 2020 EU Cohesion Policy



- **Greener, low-carbon Europe** (Policy objective 2) - green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management
- The rest: Smarter Europe, More connected Europe, More social Europe, Europe closer to citizens

Focus on:

- Innovation; Partnership and multi-level governance; Reduction of administrative burden; Locally-led development strategies; Enabling conditions

Thematic concentration: GNI > 100% of EU average PO1+PO2 at least 85% of the overall spending. For the 75-100% GNI and < 75%, at least 30% is proposed to be spent on PO2.

LIFE: EUR 5.450 billion to projects supporting the environment and climate action

Interreg Europe projects on cultural heritage



First call

- **IMPACT:** Innovative Models for Protected Areas: exChange and Transfer
- **BID-REX:** From Biodiversity Data to Decisions: enhancing natural value through improved regional development policies
- **SWARE:** Sustainable heritage management of WAterway Regions
- **CD-ETA:** Collaborative Digitization of Natural and Cultural Heritage
- **HERICOAST:** Management of heritage in coastal landscapes

Second call

- **Green Pilgrimage:** Green Pilgrimage Supporting Natural and Cultural Heritage
- **Night Light:** Improving regional policies to reduce light pollution and protect and valorise dark night skies
- **PERFECT:** Planning for Environment and Res. Efficiency in EU Cities and Towns
- **Land-Sea:** Sustainability of the land-sea system for eco-tourism strategies

Third call

- **ThreeT:** Thematic Trail Trigger
- **OUR WAY:** Preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage through
- **ECO-CICLE:** European network for the promotion of cycle tourism in natural areas
- **BIO-GOV:** Celebrating Biodiversity Governance
- **Delta Lady:** Floating Cultures in River Deltas
- **Star Cities:** Sustainable Tourism for Attractivity of Riverside Cities
- **INVALIDIS:** Protecting European Biodiversity from Invasive Alien Species
- **UL2L:** UrbanLinks 2 Landscape



Challenges identified by Interreg Europe projects

ancing nature preservation and development



- **New management models** for balancing preservation and exploitation of natural heritage assets (IMPACT, SWARE)
- **Cycling** as the sustainable mobility option not sufficiently recognised in preserved territories (Eco-Cicle)



Pressures on natural heritage and biodiversity



- Coastal areas suffer from environmental degradation (Land-Sea, HERICOAST)
- Infrastructure and tourism threaten natural heritage assets of coastal areas (HERICOAST)
- Biodiversity loss (BIO-GOV)
- Invasive alien species threatening biodiversity and ecosystems (INVALIDIS)



Policy integration and governance



- **Separation** of economic policies and environmental policies (Green Pilgrimage)
- Lack of **reliable biodiversity data** for policy making (BID-REX, Land-Sea)
- Lack of **solid multi-level governance** and fragmented governance structures (SWARE)
- Natural and cultural heritage dissociated in separate offers (SWARE, HERICOAST)
- **Insufficient coordination** among key actors, adjacent municipalities, private sector (OUR WAY, SWARE, IMPACT)
- Participatory governance (BIO-GOV, IMPACT, SWARE)

The challenge of valorising natural heritage



- **Low recognition of decision-makers** on the benefits of sustainable valorisation of natural heritage assets (SWARE)
- **No models and good practices** for the protection and maintenance of greenways (ONE WAY)
- **Unexploited potential** of regional eco-tourism due to limited intermodal connections (ThreeT)
- The potential of **riversides as tourism spots** not sufficiently recognised (STAR Cities)
- The resources of **river deltas** not utilized for development of the bio-economy (Delta Lady)

Education and awareness raising



- Education and networking (IMPACT)
- Volunteering (IMPACT)
- Education on sustainability and conservation issues (SWARE, OUR WAY)



Digital knowledge



- Lack of digital knowledge (Green Pilgrimage)
- Low penetration of digital approaches (CD-ETA, HERICOAST)
- Lack of organisational capacity and understanding for benefits from digital solutions (CD-ETA)
- No common approach or standard on digitisation of heritage (CD-ETA)
- Insufficient habitat mapping and heritage inventories (SWARE, BID-REX)





Key themes addressed by Interreg Europe projects



Key theme (1) – Cohesive natural (and cultural) landscapes



Projects:

- HERICOAST (coastal and fluvial)
- SWARE (waterways)
- OUR WAY (greenways)
- Land-Sea (land-sea ecosystems)
- Delta Lady (potential of river deltas)
- Star Cities (riverside cities)

Sub-themes and issues:

- Sustainable tourism
- Policy integration and governance systems
- Digital solutions
- Protection of coastal and fluvial areas



Key theme (2) – Green Infrastructure and landscapes



Projects:

- PERFECT
- UrbanLinks 2 Landscape (UL2L)
- Delta Lady



Sub-themes and issues:

Source: GRaBS project

- Social, environmental and economic potential of GI and urban landscapes
- Integration of GI into planning
- Integration of GI into investment
- Function of local open spaces
- Ecosystem services
- Development of bio-economy



Key theme (3) – Light pollution



Projects:

- Night Life

Sub-themes and issues:

- Dark skies as an asset for sustainable tourism
- Prevention of light pollution



Key theme (4) – Sustainable tourism/eco-tourism



Projects:

- Night Life
- Green Pilgrimage
- IMPACT
- Land-Sea
- STAR Cities
- HERICOAST
- ECO-CICLE

Sub-themes and issues:

- Dark skies as an asset for sustainable tourism
- Territorial strategies of ecotourism
- Tourism development in riverside and coastal areas
- Cycle tourism in natural areas



Key theme (5) – Invasive species



Project:

- INVALIDIS

Sub-themes and issues:

- Knowledge gaps in ecosystems' vulnerability to biological invasions and species' distribution;
- Low level of cooperation between public authorities



Key theme (6) – Enabling factors



Digital solutions:

- CD-ETA
- HERICOAST
- Green Pilgrimage

Access to funding:

- OUR WAY

Sub-themes and issues:

- Policy integration and governance systems
- Uniform standards for digitisation
- Public-private partnerships



Conclusions and way ahead



- Thematic exchange and learning possible across similar projects and issues, e.g.:
 - governance and coordination
 - improving knowledge (including on digital solutions)
 - balancing preservation with socio-economic objectives
- Platform's role is to catalyse and facilitate thematic exchange

Contact us:



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