

Project HeiM – news

On March 11, 2020, a global coronavirus pandemic was announced by the World Health Organization, which resulted in the principle of force majeure being applied. In accordance with the principle of precaution, which lies at the basis of all our actions, we had to postpone or cancel the predominant part of our activities, both those planned for the future, as well as the ones already in the course of implementation.

Research on Routes

In recent months we concentrated on seeking and creating routes, implementing them and using in practice the competences and skills acquired in the previous stages of the project.

The knowledge and skills acquired so far are meant to help older adults to spread what they learnt to their peers and undertake the role of “interpreter” of cultural heritage. It is consistent with the project’s philosophy, to experience the value of heritage through activity and movement.

In this phase of the project a group of older adults in each of the partner countries, using their skills to define and design “active heritage routes promoting healthy lifestyle”, created and set routes of their choice. The routes were uploaded to the WIKILOC application.

The heritage resources chosen are meant to emphasise values such as: uniqueness, rarity of occurrence, representativeness, availability, sentimental, symbolic, artistic, iconic, religious values.

At least one of the routes developed in each country is related to the coexistence of man and nature, their mutual relations and interaction.

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“Heritage in Motion” aims to promote the knowledge of heritage at a local and European level for the purpose of encouraging the values inherent in cultural heritage –which make it a fundamental part of European society’s development.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



HeiM stands for Heritage in Motion; this is the philosophy of the project. Therefore, we will work to design "active heritage routes promoting healthy lifestyle".



The chosen heritage resources will serve to highlight heritage values: scarcity, rarity, representativeness, accessibility, sentimental, symbolic, artistic, iconic, religious, military and technological value as an example.

Spain

The Spanish routes were selected from proposals made by the committee of experts and the project participants. The teams went on some field trips to learn about the possible resources and filled up the cards agreed upon by the partners in order to decide which elements will be part of the route.

After two months of research, the writing of the routes began, and it was well advanced when Covid-19 broke out. However, this setback did not stop the groups, which have continued working online during the confinement to finish the texts, translate them and upload them onto Wikiloc. The selected routes are as follows:

- Insights into Alicante proposes a walk through the historical heritage of the capital of the province
- Alcoy, nature and industry, the jewel of modernism highlights the architecture and urban development of the main industrial city of Alicante at the beginning of the 20th century
- La Vila Joiosa, a sea for encounters focuses on the relationship between sea and man
- Fontilles, a model of colony and sanitary architecture
- La Serra Gelada and the Roman Villa of El Albir
- Xàbia, tuff stone and dry stone.

Croatia

Within the U3A Zagreb, Public Open University Zagreb more than a year ago we started with the implementation of the project HeiM. Within the project we wanted to discover hidden treasures of Zagreb, something that 50+ generations recognizes as our city's cultural heritage. After the preliminary research in autumn 2019 a group of 20 students went through the training programme. As of December, they started reading books, and articles about Zagreb's history as well as writing down their own memories. When we started with the project little did we know that in the very short period Zagreb will have to face a vicious virus (COVID-19) but also an earthquake. On Sunday 22nd of March at 6.24 am Zagreb was awakened with the tremble of the windows, walls, falling books, falling chimneys and a sound that none of us will ever forget. This earthquake left a permanent trail on all our cultural heritage and the photographs we took while working on this project will remain a permanent reminder of pre-earthquake city. So, the future visitors of Zagreb and users of WIKILOC will see Zagreb as we once knew it, and the new one, wounded but hopefully recovering to become not only more beautiful but also stronger.



Iceland

In Iceland five routes to different heritages are being researched on and documented into WIKILOOC. The routes are:

- Solstice walk in Viðey Island while studying houses and ruins that date back to 14th-19th centuries.
- Walk in Ellidaardalur, Valley in Reykjavik, along an old route used by common Icelanders as well as by foreign royalities and explorers.
- Art work in the center of Reykjavík. Statues and outdoor art made mostly by artists that received education in European art schools.
- Historical heritage in Laugarnes and Kirkjusandur in Reykjavik. Story of early settlement and industrial expansion.
- Cultural and artistic heritage in burial monuments in Hólavalla Cemetery which are considered unique in Europe.

The teams working on the routes are participants in the Training Programme and specialists of the Icelandic HeiM team. The work will be finished in May 2020.



Poland

During the past months we worked on designing national heritage routes. We gathered information, described the routes. We prepared five thematic routes:

- Warsaw – the Town of Maria Skłodowska-Curie. From a small girl, Marysia, to world famous scientist Maria Skłodowska-Curie.
- Bielany Forest – Wilderness in the City Centre. From Asceticism to Entertainment Park.
- Sweet Warsaw. Following the Steps of Warsaw Famous Confectioners.
- Warsaw along Chopin's Routes – a Virtuoso's Heritage.
- Swidermajer Style in Otwock. Pearls of Wooden Architecture near Warsaw.

After setting the routes we tested them by going there on foot or using public transport. The routes were uploaded to WIKILOOC with coordinates, pictures, descriptions. Unfortunately, due to the epidemic we were forced to interrupt our actions at the beginning of March.

Today we see with particular clarity the value of constant discovering, interpreting and protecting the world around us, as well as the need to promote respect for heritage and the special role older adults play in this process.

The active routes created are expected to promote/boost older adult's activity adults while simultaneously increasing their interest in visiting and exploring European heritage



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Next actions

Each country will prepare different heritage routes that will be published on the project web site in order to facilitate accessibility to the research undertaken.

Cultural heritage routes prepared by each partner will be sent in English and the national language to the WIKILOC platform and to the project website.

Transnational Meeting TM3, planned for 2-3 April 2020 in Warsaw (Poland) was cancelled due to the COVID-19 epidemic. Now we are working to hold our next meeting very soon which hopefully will not be too late.

