

HERICOAST

2nd workshop REPORT

Date: 25 – 26 October 2016

Venue: Sulina, Romania



Full agenda

- 24.10.16: **Arrival.** Transfer from Bucharest Airport and transfer to Tulcea; Dinner at DELTA Hotel Restaurant.
- 25.10.16: **WORKSHOP DAY 1.** Boat transfer to and accommodation in Sulina; Steering group meeting; Study visit Sulina; Dinner Perla Hotel Restaurant.
- 26.10.16: **WORKSHOP DAY 2.** Knowledge Exchange Workshop: Heritage & landscape; Communication Workshop - Engaging Stakeholders; Transfer by boat to Tulcea and then by bus to RIN Airport hotel Bucharest.
- 27.10.16: **Departure.**

Workshop: Exchange of experiences.

Note by Linde Egberts, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

On the workshop day of the partner meeting of the Hericoast project in Sulina, we started off with a recap of the starting points of this project. We looked back on the workshop in Kristiansand and presented a summary of the decisions that were made there. Most importantly, the list of questions that the partners formulated together as the outcomes of the workshop in Kristiansand was presented again. These questions regarded the things that the partners indicated as learning points in their process towards developing the action plan at the end of phase 1.

After this, we focused on regional heritage strategies that focus *preservation through development*. I presented one case study from the Netherlands: the New Dutch Water Defense Line and invited the partners to share their own experiences, based on a set of questions that were mainly aimed at *process* and most importantly: *stakeholder involvement*. Some of the partners took up the interactive assignment very well and shared rich examples with the group, some others found it hard to let go of their pre-written script, that was informative, but not on point. This made it more difficult to get to an exchange of expertise and knowledge than I had hoped.

Nevertheless, some interesting topics were exchanged. It became clear for example that the best practices in the toolbox should NOT be about the restoration of a building, but about *process* and *policy*. The impression was that this regional, integrated and developmental perspective on heritage was new for them and helped them understand how they could approach their action plans within this project (i.e. Tulcea County Council). Others took away a clearer understanding of what the *best practices* could entail.

Dirk Götzmann took over after the break, with a presentation on the European Landscape Convention and how the concept of *landscape* is inextricably tied to a multi-vocal perspective on the world around us and on the things we inherited from the ones that lived before us. He argued that territorial analyses and landscape studies should therefore reflect this multi-vocal perspective, in which not only the experts' interpretation of landscape should be reflected, but also that of the stakeholders that are involved in the decision making process for which the analysis is being made. He mentioned stakeholders in the field of public bodies and planners, but also citizens, entrepreneurs, tourism institutions or civil society, such as historical societies and NGO's.

We closed the morning session by reflection on these outcomes for the project. Tomas Olsson (Civilscape) was kind enough to open the reflection with some observations. Together, we translated these into several new questions that were added to the 'Kristiansand list', that now looks as follows:

- a model for public-private partnership?
- a tool for payback to citizen investments in heritage?
- a tool for involving decision makers?
- a tool for process design?
- a tool for organising cooperation between authorities and civil society?
- a tool for engaging local population?
- how do we integrate high-scale policy documents in regional and local policy?
- how do we take a coastal heritage approach?
- how do we embed heritage in context? (natural and intangible heritage)?
- how do we use the concept of liminality to talk engage our stakeholders?
- How can we use the momentum of centennials, jubilees and event years for raising momentum?
- How can we, by using these tools, enhance the policies' contribution to EU strategic priorities?

Looking back on the workshop, we can observe that the partners want to stay close to their own assignment within the project, with little room for pan-European reflections or abstractions on the level of *the uses of the past*. Or questions like: *what makes a coastal landscape a coastal landscape and who do we deal with that?*

The partners gained much clearer understanding now of the expertise of the regional partners and stakeholders in the project, which makes it easier to offer them the floor to enable knowledge exchange on the practical level of building new policies that the partners ask for. For the next partner workshop this means staying closer to the assignments that are on the programme for the coming months and to enhance knowledge exchange based on that. For the toolbox this means that we will develop a very concrete structure that includes concrete and practical contributions from each partner in the project. A separate document with recommendations will be sent to Kåre Kristiansen (Vest-Agder County Council, lead partner) that is enriched with considerations by Dirk Götzmann (Civilscape). In preparation of the meeting in Castilla y León in May (semester 3), we will share ideas on the toolbox and ask for feedback from both of them.

Communication workshop

Note by Kåre Kristiansen, Vest-Agder County Council.¹

The communication workshop consisted of the following two parts:

Part 1: Regional stakeholder strategies and ideas for digitization of heritage assets

Part 2: Stakeholder involvement and cultural heritage.

Part 1: Regional stakeholder strategies and ideas for digitization of heritage assets

Part 1 was introduced with a repetition of the communication strategy of HERICOAST as it stated in the application approved by the joint secretariat. It was stressed that main communication activities should be conducted within the partner regions and targeted at the key stakeholder groups related to the policy instruments addressed by each ordinary partner. In order to achieve engagement from key stakeholders in development of the action plans each ordinary partner has developed a draft of regional stakeholder strategy that list communication objectives and activities for the 1st phase of the project. Digitization of heritage assets is integrated in the project communication strategy as one communication activity aimed towards engaging stakeholders.

The introduction was followed by a session around the table where each region presented their regional stakeholder strategy with an emphasis on description of their key stakeholder, their relation to the policy instrument and what activities that was planned in order to engage them.

Each region presented their plans for digitization of 1 – 2 heritage assets, which is planned to be done by the ordinary partners in semester 2 and finalized in semester 3. The aim is to activate the regional stakeholders in the work on action plans. The digital format should be adapted to the platform most appropriate in the regions and based on the regional stakeholder strategy.

It was debated whether the project should augment the dissemination activities on European level and take a more active use of social media. This will be discussed with the communication manager after the meeting and brought up again on the coming workshop.

As a conclusion it was agreed upon that the lead partner and communication manager should revise the existing draft and get back to the partners with suggestion for a revision. The aim would be that the regional stakeholder strategies in a more coherent way reflected the objectives of the project.

¹ As the communication manager from Castilla y Leon (Laura Cuevaz Ortiz) unfortunately didn't participate in the meeting, project manager from Vest-Agder County Council (Kåre Kristiansen) chaired the session.

Part 2: Stakeholder involvement and cultural heritage.

The second part of the workshop was dedicated to a more general discussion on the role of stakeholder involvement and management of cultural heritage within a European context. For this part Kåre Kristiansen presented the conclusion of Council of European Union on *Participatory governance of cultural heritage* (463/1). Especially to paragraphs was presented for discussion:

*The Council of European Unions recognising that participatory governance of cultural heritage [...] seeks **the active involvement of relevant stakeholders in the framework of public action** — i.e. public authorities and bodies, private actors, civil society organisations, NGOs, the volunteering sector and interested people — in decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of cultural heritage policies and programmes to increase accountability and transparency of public resource investments as well as to build public trust in policy decisions;*

*The Council of European Unions invites member state [...] to [...] **make use of digital means in order to increase access to and participation** in the governance of cultural heritage for all social groups;*

The discussion was put in the context of Norwegian experience with local preservation plans and community involvement. The experience is that when the municipalities are responsible for development of preservation plans the definition of what is heritage changes from when preservation plans are done on a regional or national level. Municipalities prefer to identify and valorise heritage with is closer in time and geography and value current use more than historic authenticity. A key point is that the municipalities development of plans often have a stronger element of community involvement than when this is done by regional or national authorities. The point is that the understanding of heritage changes according to the level of management.

Field visit

Note by Dora Nica Vrinceanu, Tulcea County Council.

The field visits during the workshop demonstrated the experiences gained from work in the Tulcea County Council with the Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tulcea County in 2014-2020 and lessons learned from various projects such as BSUDRA (“BLACK SEA BASIN 2007-2013–programme). The field visit furthermore demonstrated the challenges with the main cultural assets connected to Sulina Old Lighthouse. The field visits highlighted how the cultural heritage management in the Danube Delta and Black Sea Basin is functioning in a context of an emerging economy combined with sparse public resources.

A first field visit was incorporated into the journey to Sulina town which started on October 25th early in the morning from Tulcea city. The trip with boat offered the opportunity to study the cultural landscape of Danube delta which consisting partly of UNESCO enlisted nature preservation zones securing rarest wildlife species. In addition the cultural landscape of the Danube delta encompassed minor historic villages such as **Mila 23 Village**, a fishermen village, where its inhabitants were using small boats and kayacs as primary moving vehicles between houses, it is nicknamed “Romania’s Venice”.

A second field visit was offered the stakeholders attending the meeting, while the



Sulina Beach

representatives of the partners joined the steering group meeting. The study tour was of Sulina town; a [free port](#) in [Tulcea County, Romania](#), at the mouth of the [Sulina branch](#) of the [Danube](#), being the easternmost point of Romania. The tour demonstrated Sulinas work to position itself within the tourist industry, where it attains a value from the pitoresque vibe, its quietness, as a departing point for various trips into Danube Delta, for its wild beach, and nonetheless for its traditional fish dish. The tour highlighted most important landscape features, natural and antropic, that the town uses for attracting tourists during the season,



Sulina International Cemetery

even though is remotely located as **Sulina Beach and Sulina International Cemetery**.

A third study tour was arranged for the whole group on day two. The tour highlighted the cultural environment of Sulina that relates to its international history in terms of shipping and maritime transport. The tour included **The Palace of European Commission of Danube** and the **Sulina Old Lighthouse** built at the beginning of the 19th century by the Ottoman authorities, administrated in the period 1897-1939 by the European Commission of the Danube. A key aspect was how the landscape of Sulina changes with the transportation of sediments through out the Danube. Lastly the tour demonstrated how the city manage the transmission of the cultural history of Sulina through museum in the old lighthouse and **Information and Ecological Education Centre**.

Annex 1: List of Participants

See attachment.



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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

WORKSHOP

PROJECT: Management of heritage in coastal landscapes – HERICOAST

Location: Sulina, Tulcea County

Date: 26.10.2016

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