



Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains

as Coastal destinations of excellence

(EMbleMatiC)

Project Ref: 594 | 1MED15_3.1_M12_272

PARTICIPATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT LP1 CANIGÓ MOUNTAIN



Deliverable D 332

WP3 – Studying Activity A3.3 Conduction of the in depth study of the criteria composing the emblematic dimension of the EMM

Draft version – October 2017

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund







SUMMARY

The overall objective of the EMbleMatiC is to qualify the EMbleMatiC Mediterranean mountains as costal destination of excellence

Three sub-objectives were subsequently defined: to rebalance tourism flows toward hinterland area, to create and test a new form of sustainable tourism in this hinterland area and to join forces for communication with a common umbrella brand.

However, the first 15 months of the project are dedicated to a work package 3 on study.

The aim is to revisit the 6 identarian criteria that had been defined when creating the EMM network and writing its charter in order to enrich the approach with a multidisciplinary approach.

A contractor was recruited in June 2017 to conduct an in-depth study on our singularities following three phases:

- Phase one: consisted on the definition of an operative methodological framework.
- Phase two: focused on each partner perspective

During this phase each partner is confronting its community of stakeholders with the framework and criteria produced by Etam to collect precious contribution and evaluation into two deliverables:

D332 Participative Meeting report: this current document which compile all data collected among a well selected panel of local stakeholders.

D333 Case Study: this deliverable will enrich the contents of the previous report with a more comprehensive and exhaustive approach whilst developing each criteria according to its particular relevance for the partner territory. These reports should allow partners to identify possible options for future eco-itineraries for their hinterland areas.

- Phase three: will allow to consider the network perspective after compiling all partners data as a tool to qualify them but also to qualify future newcomers to the EMM network.

This phase should be completed by the end of February 2018 and facilitate to start of the testing period. Author(s):

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I. MEETING SUMMARY

I.1. Summary list

Date: 30/10/2017 Venue: SMCGS Headquarter – 66500 Prades - France

Time duration: 2H50

Moderator's name and title: Alain Gensane assisted by Florian Chardon

Material provided: 2 lists of the criteria (as per defined in 2013/2015 and as per defined in 2017 by Etam)

Summary list of stakeholders that attended the meeting:

Nō	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Thomas Dulac	Chalet des Cortalets	Massif shelter keeper
2	Sylvian Dever	GAL N.P. of Catalan Pyreneas	Natural Park
3	Gérard Soutadé	Geomorphologue	Universitarian
4	Gabriel Sainneville	SMCGS	Tourism specialist
5	Didier Brezeau	SMCGS	Sport in nature specialist
6	Jacques Taurinya	SMCGS Vice-president - mayor	Natural and mining heritage
7	Daniel Baux	SMCGS Vice-president - mayor	Natural and mining heritage
8	Florian Chardon	SMCGS Director	All strategies facilitators
9	Alain Gensane	SMCGS EMbleMatiC Coordinator	Sustainable tourism





1.2. The meeting in brief

Give a short description of the organization, findings and outcomes of the meeting

Participative meetings are an on-going process for us and our stakeholders

Consultation process initiated since 2013

In line with the obtaining of the Grand Site de France classification in 2012, the Syndicat Mixte of Canigó Grand Site has intensified consultations to better define the spirit of the place and the heritage value of the massif. It is particularly in this context that were realized in 2015, the interpretive plan of our Cultural Heritage and the graphic signature representing a dragon and affirming the baseline "Canigó, sacred mountain of the Catalans". This work has largely nourished the reflection undertaken within the framework of the network of Mediterranean mountains concerning the definition of the criteria of emblematic dimension by exploring the common values and shared singularities of the initial members that we contacted to create the network.

In the perspective of renewal of the Grand Site of France clasification, other works have enriched the reflection, including periodical thematic workshops on defining the spirit of the place and the heritage value of the Grand Site of France. The multiplication of discussions and sharing times led by our group of municipalities and involving a plurality of actors in the region (academics, institutional partners, elected representatives, associations, socio-professionals, users, etc.) are all materials for the EmbleMatiC study of what constitutes the emblematic dimension of our territory. Our decision was to capitalize on all of this work, without establishing an ad hoc consultation process to the project. The transversality being ensured by the team of the SMCGS and the constancy of the actors participating in the work of the SMCGS.

Our participative meeting

Finally, this participative meeting fitted in a calendar where local actors had been already substantially solicited through the preparation in September of an application for the Occitanie Regional site classification and in October the welcoming of a ministry delegation for the Grand site renewal proposal evaluation and a sequence of 8 public meetings to share its contents with the inhabitants of the 6 sectors of our territory.

Therefore, we limited its participation to key actors, confident that its content will be fully enriched in the case study by contents from our ongoing consultative process.

The meeting was held in our offices on Monday 30th October 2017 between 9H30 and 12H20.





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Structure of the meeting

- EMbleMatiC project presentation

The moderator started with a powerpoint presentation of the EMbleMatiC project from its conception to its current state of progress.

- Group work on each of the 10 proposed criteria

An average of 12 minutes was dedicated to each criteria.

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During each criteria sequence, participants were encouraged to consider the questions and key words provided by ETAM before sharing their own reactions and interpretations.

The focus was really on exploring the relevance of the proposed criteria to the territory rather than gathering a comprehensive list of illustrative related local examples and data (these will enrich the case study) The open and participative process stimulated many interactions and all contributions were recorded. To conclude each criteria discussion, participants were asked to complete the valuation grid located at the

- Final sequence on eco-itineraries

bottom of each criteria sheet.

Finally, participants were asked to capitalize on this exploration to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the territory in order to make some recommendations on possible eco-itineraries options.

Recommendations on Eco-itineraries options

Please read the last section of this report related to "other questions: C Eco-itineraries". It summarises all participants contributions.

Feedback on methodology / criteria

C9 SUSTAINABILITY AND ANTHROPOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

Participants were not so clear about this criteria name and suggested: Sustainability and vernacular activities.

GENERAL:

Participants commented on the fact that criteria were presented in a very general way.

They would have appreciated some clearer added distinctions, categories, reading grids to direct their reflection but also to create clear factors of comparison with other territories confronted with the same exercise.







II. EMBLEMATIC DIMENSION

C1. SPATIAL COHESION

Questions

Does the territory's legal protection set certain boundaries?

Do the virtual boundaries of the mountain correspond to a homogenic geographical area?

Is the area considered a continuous or discontinuous area?

Key words to raise discussion

spatial cohesion

spatial and socio-geographic similarities along the mountain

homogenic elements/parts in the natural relief

uniformity (e.g. land types, cultivars, desertification)

common features in the practice of anthropogenic activities

sub-sections shaping the boundaries of the mountain and the common cultural characteristics

delimitation of the area

settlements along the mountain particular territorial similarities in the physical and human geography

Answers / comments

A question of scale:

- Homogenous and continuous entity from far: seen from the coast or when entering our territory from the north, the south the east but always with a distinctive view point.
- Discontinuous entity when looking at it from close because of the great variety of the landscape: layers of habitats, flora and fauna, aspect depending on which slope one concentrates on.

Administrative boundaries: superposition of 3 areas (presented below from smaller to larger)

- A classified and protected area since 1951 under the law of the 2nd May 1930
- The boundaries of the area classified under the Grand Site De France certification
- The area inclusive of all the municipalities territory which have joined forces to jointly promote the "Canigó destination"

Geography of accommodation

- -There are the natural limits on the feet of the mountains set by the presence of the last villages.
- -There is a larger circle of accommodation which is consistent with the enlarged "Canigó destination" group of surrounding villages which are covering part of the valley and well-integrated into the future sectorized offer around the massif

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C1 Scoring emblematic dimension					6.66					





C2. INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Questions

Is the mountain or part of it institutionally recognized?

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Key words to raise discussion

IUCN designation as Strict Nature Reserve or Wilderness Area or National park UNESCO World Heritage List

World Network of Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks

European Destination of Excellence European Diploma of Protected Area, Natura 2000 award

System of Measures for Excellence in Destinations (SMED)

Cross-border cooperation and institutional recognition

Answers / comments

A question of scale

- "Departement" (French administrative subdivision)
- -Trans-border: relationship between the Tech Valley (Southern one) and our Spanish neighbours.
- National:
- International

Canigó Grand Site has a great know-how on institutional recognition initiatives

The SMCGS benefits from a dedicated legal entity organised around the perimeter of the Grand Site de France.

Over time its team of technicians have demonstrated a great ability to put together proposals that federates the local stakeholders whilst creating added value for the territory and its exceptional assets

A voluntarist approach around 3 themes

- Landscape
- Natural environment
- Cultural heritage

One future thematic

- Geology (no dedicated institutional recognition yet)

Main recognitions

- 9 Natura 2000 sites
- Natural park of Catalan Pyrenees
- Unesco heritage: fortified city of Villefranche de Conflent
- National natural reserves of Py, Mantet and Prats de Mollo
- Regional natural reserve of Nyer
- "Domanial" forests (state owned forests)
- Biologic reserve of Cady
- "Pays" of art and history of the Tet Valley
- "Pays" of art and history of the Catalan valleys of Tech and Ter.
- Grand Site de France certification

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C2 Scoring emblematic dimension					6.77					





C3. REPUTATION

Questions

Is there a global or national or regional or local reputation of the mountain?

What are the highly esteemed characteristics?

Key words to raise discussion

outstanding universal value principal factors for the reputation high reputation capital / elements widespread knowledge power of the word of mouth number of visitors

Answers / comments

Notoriety / reputation

The participants argued about replacing reputation by notoriety but the definition proved that it was not justified. Notoriety: the state of being famous for something bad. Reputation: the opinion that people in general have about someone or something, or how much respect or admiration someone or something receives based on past behaviour or character.

Absolute subjectivity

This criterion can not escape subjectivity since it is in most cases, hard to define with measured and sound data.

Decreasing with growing scale

- <u>- Local:</u> very strong reputation with experiences of reference for most inhabitants together with a strong phenomenon of identification.
- Regional: well represented
- <u>National</u>: fierce competition in France because of a very large variety of exceptional landscapes, sites.... Even so the Grand Site de France certification helps to distinguish us.

Numerous factors of reputation (at international level)

Scientific reputation

- Biogeography: vegetation map (works from Caussen)
- Geology: geological map of oriental Pyrenees describing the heart of Canigó made of gneiss and granite (works from Guitard, Nicolini)

Activity in nature

Our Llech Canyon attracts practitioners from all around Europe.

Cultural reputation

Pau Cazals classical music festival every summer in Prades Roman abbeys and cloisters

Natural heritage reputation

Unusual flat terraces on high altitudes related to the formation of Canigó (Pla Guillem, Pal de Cam Magre...)

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C3 Scoring emblematic dimension				7.22						





EMbleMatiC

Question

Regarding local myths and legends what are the strong points of the mountain?

<u>Key words to raise discussion</u>

mythology
godly presence
haunted places
unknown powers
supernatural phenomena
spiritual, symbolic and other interactions
heroic accomplishments
folktales
sacred plants and animals

Answers / comments

C4. LEGENDS AND MYTHS

Myths and stories related to emblematic massif places

- Noah tied his Ark to the Puig Barbet
- Peak of Seven Men (men moved to rock by god for trying to reach heaven)
- A dragon would have been found by Peter the Great out of the waters of Estanyol lake in the first known ascent of Canigó
- The Dolmen of Caixa Roland at the borders of Arles sur Tech and Montbolo would shelter Roland Tomb
- -The Exquerdes the Rotja have been formed by the cries of Pyr, priestess of the fire

Irrational interpretations of scientifically explained natural phenomenons

- "Aiguat": extremely severe flooding from 1940 accentuated by deforestation gave way to explanation related to mysterious network of underground lakes linking the summit to Perpignan city....
- <u>Magnetic quality of massif:</u> the strong Iron concentration is deemed to be responsible for confusing the navigation tools of planes in the 50's.

Pagan tradition and symbols

- Witches: present all around the massif 7
- Bears: with the bear festival in Prats De Mollo each year
- <u>Fire:</u> with the "Trobada" manifestation reuniting Catalans from all villages to light the flame on top of Canigó for the summer solstice before disseminating it through the territory
- Semiotes: strange mythical creatures present in Roman art
- Water: with the women of "aiguas" symbolising springs
- <u>Blood and gold/ Catalan Flag:</u> the origin of our trippy flag is said to come from the 4 fingers of king drawing lines on

										_
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C4 Scoring emblematic dimension			8.22							







C5. POWER OF INSPIRATION

Questions

How strong is the up to now power of inspiration and what is the potential not yet promoted or self-revealed?

Can you recall examples of people, personal or collective work of art inspired by the mountain?

Key words to raise discussion

literature fine arts films

theatre music

contemporary art

design photography video games

smartphones applications

Answers / comments

The Canigó has been through time inspiring artists from various disciplines:

Literature:

- Jacint Verdaguer: Epic poem Canigó (1886) inspired by the landscape, the author transforms the romantic idealised geographical truth of the location, while rebuilding an imaginary past in the service of the Catalan renaissance.
- Poets: Josep Sebastià Pons, Albert Saiset, Alain Taurinya, Machado (buried in Collioure)
- Rudyard Kipling
- Prosper Mérimée

Music

- Pau Cazals: al cant del ocells
- Popular songs: "muntanyes regalades"
- Modern songs: Jordi Barre, Joan Pau Giné, Pere Figueres

Painting

The landscape has captured the imagination of many painters:

- Herblain / Juan Gris...

Movies

- Le monde selon (Daniel Mermet) : introduction on Canigó
- 2017 Film on Pau Cazals
- Last Samourai

« Belle époque »

For late 19th century a group led by English aristocracy was visiting the SPA of Vernet (presence of Casino and sumptuous hotel, train line...).

- The Canigó was showing on a 100 pounds sterling note
- The daily weather forecast in London included news on Canigó area

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension			8.11							







C6. PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE

Questions

What are the grandiose parts of the mountain?

How far more is the aesthetic enjoyment of the mountain compared with other?
Key words to raise discussion

extraordinary / uncommon shape spectacular formations

imposing peaks

magnificent scenery

geological exceptional characteristics

rock formations

steep slopes

impressive landscape and panoramas topographic prominence graphic and astonishing parts of landscape aesthetic enjoyment Answers / comments

Picturesque definition

That has enough value to be painted

Physical presence

- Beacon of the Mediterranean: point of reference

The Canigó naturally impose its presence, summoning the eyes and imagination s over the centuries and like a beacon from distant points in the Mediterranean, from the confines of Barcelona to Marseille.

Indeed, with particular atmospheric conditions, the silhouette of Canigó can be seen from Marseille.

- Subliminal value

Seen from anywhere as a sumptuous backdrop Imposing a

- Natural monument

Many locals will compare it with our emblematic monument (like Parisian will boost the Eifel Tower)

- WHOA factor / strong sense of place

For many people, the Canigó has a reassuring presence that provides them with a sense of belonging and a sense of place (they see it daily, as a protection)

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension			8.77							







der the Factors for a large variety of ecosystems

- Surface or underground

- Surface of underground
- Climatic variety according to altitude
- Orientation; southern or northern slopes
- Soil types

Endemism

- The classified area was a clear recognition of the strong endemism value of many species surviving in ecosystems that needed to be protected.

Flora

Very rich: see the vegetation map of Gaussen

- 11 protected species,
- many rare species
- 30 endemic species

Fauna

- 125 bird species
- 17 mammal species are protected

Desman of Pyrenees / Salamanders / Euproctes

Raptors: Royal eagle

Insects: beetles near the glacier (scarabés)

Water

The massif is the Water Castle (water provider) for the full territory, irrigating the valleys and providing for agricultural activities as well as for humans

How unique do you consider the ecosystems of the mountain?

What is their vulnerability and state of conservation?

Key words to raise discussion

naturalness

Questions

intactness of natural systems special biotopes and geotopes

caves alpine lakes unique biodiversity botanical richness endemism

species richness

unique terrestrial and freshwater

ecosystems forest diversity tree cover/density remarkable trees threatened species natural quietness

high nature value farmland

high conservation status of habitats and

species

conservation of vulnerable areas

aesthetic enjoyment natural phenomena

climate particular conditions

scenic pastures gorges, valleys

emblematic plants and animals as national

C7 Scoring emblematic dimension

or regional symbols

1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7 high, 8-9 very high, 10 paramount

10

9

9.22

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1







C8. PARTICULAR CULTURAL IDENTITY

Questions

What is the particular cultural profile of the area?

Which are the elements attributing a unique character to the area?

Key words to raise discussion

values and works of the local society

customs

music

dance

festivals

market places

dietary habits

local dialect

social characteristics and peoples special

attitude

folklore

artisanal production

ethnicity

religion

intangible cultural heritage

holy places

thematic routes

quality products (PDOs, PGIs, TSGs, bio) local peoples' pride for the mountain particular mentality and temperament of the locals

architectural works

works of monumental sculpture and painting

locations, elements or structures of an archaeological nature

Answers / comments

Canigó = Identarian totem

This is a much for:

- <u>Inhabitants</u> (because for the inspiration force and the sense of place)
- Visitors:

They are overwhelmed by the strong landscape identity They find the cultural identity more difficult to apprehend

Internally referenced criteria

- Catalan flag
- Catalan language
- Catalan history

Without being ostentatious these symbols clearly manifest the cultural identity of this territory and of his historical relations with France and Spain.

Conscious of a certain cultural fragility

Many inhabitants are coming from other territories or countries and settle here for the quality of life, often for retirement.

The need to explicit the Catalan culture through for example the strategic use of Catalan testifies of a certain perceived cultural fragility.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
C8 Scoring emblematic dimension				7.55							
1 very small, 2-3 small, 4-5 medium, 6-7	7 high	1, 8-9	very	high,	10 p	aram	ount				





C9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ANTHROPOGENIC ENVIRONMENT

Questions

What. does the anthropogenic environment offer to a traveller? What damage has been made to the natural environment?

EMbleMatiC

Key words to raise discussion

vulnerability

current state of conservation management of the area manmade environment profile pleasing urban scenes architectural features aesthetics of settlements authenticity antiquities industrial heritage notable public works of the past sustainable, non-intensive, small scale

large scale interventions

interventions

sustainable or exceeding carrying capacity environmental impact of the human activity (businesses, public works, locals and tourists)

uncontrolled urbanism

negative impacts of tourism at present or foreseen

man-caused and natural catastrophes wounds

Answers / comments

Place to live OR Museum **Open OR Closed territory**

Even so the Grand Site de France is distinguishing exceptional site with high attractivity, the innovative policies to better manage visitors flows have for objective to remain an open territory for all those who are prepared to visit it in a more sustainable manner.

Strong human presence / influence

This massif territory bears traces of human presence and activities through time:

- Orris: shelters made of cry stones for shepperds staying in high terrace fro the summer:
- Mining vetiges on the landscape: mine galleries, roasting ovens, railways, overhead wires, hoppers...
- Feixes many slopes were used for agriculture: are showing the presence of man-made terraces sustained by dry stone low walls
- Water canals: an elaborated network of canals were conceived to distribute water where human activities concentrated
- Roads:

The high terraces of Pla Guillem were the theatre of a disastrous attempt in the 70's to build a motorised vehicles road across the massif to link the two valleys.

Positive landscape restauration initiatives

The outcomes of some mountainous locations restauration projects have benefited from international interest and recognition.

Perceived geological fragility

All specialists agree on the fragility or vulnerability of the Southern slope.

Nature has a strength of her own

Despite innovative intentions and efforts, humans must recognise that in many instances that can only accept their spectator role in relation to the power of nature. This is particularly obvious with natural catastrophes.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C9 Scoring emblematic dimension					6.44					







C10. HISTORIC PLACES

Questions

Are there historic elements that can be promoted?

Key words to raise discussion

prehistoric and historic places and resources

historic monuments

traditional trails

sanctuaries

landmarks

battle fields

emblematic personalities origin

historic towns

Answers / comments

An abundance of historical places ABSORBED by the massif

Looking at it from far one can't imagine how many treasures can be found on its most remote slopes.

Mountain hideaway

Man found the massif of Canigó as an ideal base which was protected all the time, giving rise to the genuine massive overcrowding during the ninth and twelfth centuries.

This unprecedented population growth has produced several masterpieces of European Romanesque art

- -Saint Michel de Cuixa abbey
- -Saint Martin du Canigó abbey
- -Saint Mary in Arles sur Tech

A cross border massif to be defended

Many places testify of this strategic location

- Fortified cities: Villefranche de Conflent, Prat
- Network of watching towers
- « Cimetière des maures » / Cam de l'home mort

This location should correspond to where the Mores were stopped in their invasion of the Iberic peninsula and the South of France.

A root for exile

- Thousands of Spaniard crossed this part of the Pyrenees to take shelter in France after the start of the Spanish civil
- Many European people used this location to escape the German forces invasions and repression during the second world war.
- Many "resistant" partisan took shelter in the forest above the village of Vallmanya: subsequently the German decided to fully burn it as a

The cradle of "Pyreneism"

The Chalet des Cortalet was inaugurated in 1899.

This large shelter is the property of the French Alpine Club Located at 2100 m, with a walking distance of two hours from the Canigó summit.

Its presence confirms the growing interest for mountain climbing characterising the end of the 19th century.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C10 Scoring emblematic dimension				7.88						



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Other questions possib the previous ones	le to address or address in a different manner in comparison to
A. EMBLEMATIC DIMENSION	Answers / comments
	No additional question were raised relation to A.
B. DEVELOPMENT/ STRATEGY	Answers / comments
	No additional question were raised relation to B.
C. ECO-ITINERARY	Answers / comments
8. What could be an ideal	- Should link the sea and the mountain
eco-itinerary? 9. What would be an ideal	Let's imagine an "initiatic way" of starting from the sea (the feet in
eco-tourism product	the water" to reach the hinterland eco-itinerary
based on the emblematic	- Targeted audiences
characteristics of the	Local people as much as visitors.
mountain?	- Mobility options
10. Is there adequate	To favour:
welcoming facilities in the	- soft mobility: cyclo-tourism, electrical bicycle for rent, hiking
eco-itinerary area?	- public transport with 1 euro bus and train network
	- Accessibility period
	An all around the year itinerary since seasonal attributes will enhance it.
	- Marketing
	This eco-itinerary proposal / offer must enrich the traditional beach
	offer. Therefore, it must be conceived with the tourism offices from
	the coast which will promote it. The ODYSEA sailors network could
	also relay it
	- Location
	On the terraces / balconies of the Canigó massif (one of the 6
	peripheric sector with its own belvedere over the Canigó summit, own historical heritage, services, hiking path and smaller
	peak/summit
	posityosamino
	- Thematic
	1) Mining heritage: considered but dropped since we have already
	done something similar
	2) Landscape interpretation:
	Following the concept of drawing hikes, provide a path with: - some landscape interpretations tools (orientation table,
	explanations but also drawing illustrations)
	- some drawing facilities to engage the visitor (drawing table, metal
	frames/ easels to fix the point of focus)
	- some leads to prompt interpretations: crest line, overall silhouette,
	point of details, etymological clues
	- Part of several days package: Looking back at our previous
	experience the project timetable to conceive and implement the
	eco-itinerary leaves us little hope of being able to guarantee it
	integration into some packages that would cover more than two day
	and a night accommodation.

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