



# Emblematic Mediterranean Mountains as Coastal destinations of excellence (EMbleMatiC)

Project Ref: 594 | 1MED15\_3.1\_M12\_272

# PARTICIPATIVE WORKSHOP REPORT PP5 **ETNA 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** 







#### Summary

The project "EMbleMatiC" is in its phase of in-depth study. For this reason the organization of a thematic workshop offers the possibility of a meeting with local actors, both for the presentation of the project and a good opportunity of exchange of ideas about the project. We gave a questionnaire with some questions about the emblematic criteria and problems connected with the development of a sustainable tourism in the area.

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### I. MEETING SUMMARY

#### I.1. Summary list

Date: 28.10.2017 Venue:Parco Fluviale dell'Alcantara, Castiglione di Sic.

**Time duration: 3Hours** 

Moderator's name and title: Bellia Concetto, President of GAL Terre Etna e Alcantara

Material provided: Placards about the project, Maps, Questonnaires

### Summary list of stakeholders that attended the meeting:

Nº	Name	Organization	Type / Sector of activity
1	Alfio Tulletti	Tulletti auto	Low cost car rental
2	Valentino Nunzio	Albergo diffuso S. Caterina	Rural hotel
3	Francesco Bonaventura	Hotel Federico II	Hotel
4	Mariangela Giannetto	Free-lance writer	Journalist
5	Michele Patanè	Ass. Culturale Sikania	Cultural association
6	Lino Andaloro	Ass. Culturale Sikania	Cultural association
7	Luciano Rigaglia	Rigaglia	Entrepreneur
8	Rosario Garozzo	Gal terre dell'Etna e Alcantara	Web designer
9	Antonio Camarda	Mayor of Castiglione di Sicilia	Politicians
10	Antonino Patanè	ASD Team-bike Castiglione	Local Sports association
11	Alfio Cantarella	A.M.I.R.A. Sicilia orientale	Italians' "Maitre" ass.
12	Rosario Romeo	Az. Agricola zucconero	Agricultural holding
13	Irene Randazzo	Comune Castiglione di Sicilia	Councillor for tourism affair
14	Pietro di Giovanni	Regione Sicilia	Sicilian Agricultural dep.
15	Adriana Gaggegi	Comune Castiglione di Sicilia	Councillor
16	Giovanna Romeo	Museo SS Pietro e Paolo	Local Museum
17	Giovanni Patanè	Enoteca regionale siciliana	Regional wine promotion
18	Francesco Treffiletti	F.R.A.T. S.r.l.	Entrepreneur
19	Michele Tuccari	Fondazione Regina Margherita	Onlus organization
20	Cettina Cacciola	Ufficio turistico Casiglione	Touristic office information
21	Marco Pagano	ASD Team-bike Castiglione	Local Sports association



















	<b>○ EMbleMatiC</b>	7 -		11/10	MOUNTAIN
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#### I.2. The meeting in brief

The meeting was held on October 28 at the conference room of the "Alcantara Fluvial Park". We have tried to invite different categories and associations as well as tourism entrepreneurs and others. On a list of 150 c.ca invitations attended to the meeting about 40 people Which, fortunately, well represented the different economic sectors of the place.

Unfortunately, because of regional elections, many politicians did not come who would otherwise have participated. We started at 16:00 with the presentation of the project. We presented the story and purpose of the project and made a long analysis of the emblematic criteria of the mountain. To the meeting was invited , as well, the mayor of the village that hosted us. The president of the GAL terre dell'Etna e dell'Alcantara was our moderator.

There were several questions about the project and the quality of the project itself.

Many have exposed the issues related to the territory and given some idea.

Mayor Antonio Camarda welcomed and introduced the work. The mayor made a presentation of the territory and of the project and the connection of the project with the common objectives of the territory. than we started with the presentation of the program (cca 20 minutes). We have, however, been very concerned about what are the criteria for defining the emblematic dimension of the mountain.

There was a discussion with the various categories present at the meeting,

and finally a comment from the gal president who also acted as moderator. We also distributed questionnaires that they could fill in at the moment or ship later.

The major problems with regard to the tourism development of the area are, above all, general infrastructures: road surfaces, road signs, tourist information in the villages, opening hours of public facilities and historical buildings, public transportations, urban cleanliness, bureaucracy.

However there are many possibilities for developing the territory: first of all the extraordinary and unique volcano site, the particular local products like pistachio or DOC wines, the historical heritage, monuments, castles, natural sites. Among other things there is also a good amount of beds offer: B&B, agritourism, holiday home, touristic apartments.

Unfortunately there is sometimes lack of professionalism in the management of some important products of the territory, not only in tourism but also in activities related to it.















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#### **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

Living around the volcano has created fictitious boundaries between the people living there and the rest of the mountain. The mountain, on the one hand, has given great fertility, is true that on the other hand it has created destruction and fear for which the inhabitants have learned to respect and live with their particular nature. The quality of the volcano's nature has created a strong "territorial cohesion" among the inhabitants. The volcano created opportunities and gave a strong sense of identity with the territory. Many religious festivals are linked to the relationship with the mountain.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C1 Scoring emblematic dimension			<u>x</u>							







#### **C2. INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION**

#### Questions

Is the mountain or part of it institutionally recognized?

#### 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

The mountain is largely institutionally represented and recognized.

Two large regional parks are part of the mountain: The regional park "Parco dell'Etna" and the regional park "Parco fluviale dell'Alcantara". The natural reserve of "Forre laviche del Simeto". Moreover 22 SIC areas (sites of community importance) and ZPS (special protection areas).

In 2013 the mount Etna was declared from **UNESCO** a world heritage site and was described as one of the "more Emblematic and active volcanoes in the world".

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	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C2 Scoring emblematic dimension			<u>X</u>							





#### 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

Etna is not only a mountain but a volcano. It is the highest and the only active volcano in Europe and one of the most active in the world. It is an active volcano but at the same time the most inhabited territory in Sicily. The most visited territory in Sicily not only for the exceptional eruptional activity but for the extraordinary quantity of cultural and historic resources. In the last years known all over the world for the production of the DOC wine "Etna Rosso" that became an emblematic factor of the volcano territory.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C3 Scoring emblematic dimension			<u>X</u>							





#### **C4. LEGENDS AND MYTHS**

#### Question

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

#### Key words to raise discussion

mythology

godly presence

haunted places

unknown powers

supernatural phenomena

spiritual, symbolic and other interactions

heroic accomplishments

folktales

sacred plants and animals

#### Answers / comments

The territory of Etna mountain has been conquered because of his position in the middle of the Mediterranean area and because of his fertility soil. The various cultures of the conquerors gave the mountain a rich tales of myths and legends. « Haephestus » was the god of the forge and the god of fire. The giant one-eyed Cyclops, an allusion to the "eye" of the volcano, helpers of Ahephestus. In order to protect from the eruptions many Saints have to intercede and are brought in front of the lava flow to stop it.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C4 Scoring emblematic dimension			<u>X</u>							





#### **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?

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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

We have many Greek and Roman poets who cited the volcano: Homer, Virgil, Horace, Ovid, and others have described the unreal atmosphere and landscape of ethnic eruptions Etna has inspired several literary works of antiquity, including the tragedy of Aeschylus, titled "Le Etnee", which we did not arrive, and satyric drama "The Cyclope" by Euripides. Various poetic compositions such as "Aetna" included within the Vergilian Appendix, and "Fábula de Polifemo y Galatea", written in 1616 by Luis de Góngora.

The figure of Etna also comes from **Shakespeare** in his Titus Andronicus

In the romantic age arrives on the mount Etna the German poet **Goethe**. Later also the two greatest Sicilian writers, **Verga** and **Pirandello**, will represent in these places many of their works. In the year 2000, images of Etna will make the tour of the world thanks to the British band **Coldplay**, who in the video of their single "Violet Hill" will use the Sicilian volcano as a natural set. Moreover Mustafar in Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith. Lucas sent a Team to film lava flows to be used as moving backgrounds.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension	<u>X</u>									





#### **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

Volcano Etna has an unusual form. There are not only one crater but three major eruptive volcanic cones and hundreds of lateral volcanic cones. The continues eruptions gave this territory a particular aspect. More than 200 caves originated from lava flows. The landscapes vary deeply depending from the altitude from volcanic craters to barren fields of lava to pinewoods and vineyards to more uniform morphologies in the valley. The flora and therefore the landscape varies depending on the altitude. The mountain's largest feature the " Bove Valley" offers a landscape that is absolutely unbelievable. A large horseshoeshaped caldera on the eastern slope covering some 37 square kilometres with walls of about 1000 meters high. The frequently eruptions give the opportunity of a unique and extraordinary picturesque landscape.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C5 Scoring emblematic dimension	<u>X</u>									







#### C7. UNIQUE ECOSYSTEMS

#### Questions

How unique do you consider the ecosystems of the mountain?

What is their vulnerability and state of conservation?

Key words to raise discussion

naturalness

intactness of natural systems

special biotopes and geotopes

caves

alpine lakes

unique biodiversity

botanical richness

endemism

species richness

unique terrestrial freshwater and

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 national or regional symbols

Answers / comments

The vegetation of the territory is extremely rich and varied. Etna is also rich in endemic species unique of this park. In fact Etna has formed an habitat so extreme that many plants and trees have had to change their characteristics to adapt and survive, transforming themselves in species existing only in this area In the lowest regions there are vineyards, orchards, nut trees and woods of oak and chestnut trees. In the higher level you can find woods of oak, turkey oak and larch pines and higher still (above 2000 m) there are beech and birch trees. Characteristic plant species of the Etna landscape are: the symbolic Etna broom, one of the main plants that colonizes the lava; Holy Thorn (Astragalus), which offer shelter to other plants of the Etna mountain, such as groundsel, chickweed, and the Sicilian soap. Only in the summit area there no vegetation because of the lava flows. The porcupine, fox, wild cat, marten, rabbit and hare live on the mountain along with smaller mammals. There are also many birds including the hawk, buzzards, kestrels, peregrine falcon and golden eagle and various types of owl. Some types of reptiles including the Etna viper.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C7 Scoring emblematic dimension	<u>X</u>									





# EMbleMatiC

#### **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

The inhabitants of the area are very close to the mountain. A match between respect and fear. A population very closely linked to the traditions and the local dialect, sometimes different from town to town.

Despite a large migration due to lack of job, many come back as soon as they have the chance. Moreover, the inhabitants of the area are proud of living on an active volcano. A very religious population, in fact, thousands are the religious festivals dedicated to the patron saint of the city. The territory is very fertile and particular, we have different products with the PDO, PGI and BIO brand.

From oranges to olives as well as hazelnuts or the famous Bronte pistachio. Products of which the inhabitants are very proud. Last but not least, the famous DOC red wine of the Etna that is now known throughout the world. Every village around the mountain has its own traditions regarding gastronomy and culinary products. Many are the festivals that take place during the year dedicated to local gourmet products.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C8 Scoring emblematic dimension		<u>X</u>								





# EMbleMatiC

#### **C9. SUSTAINABILITY AND ANTHROPOGENIC ENVIRONMENT**

#### Questions

What does the anthropogenic environment offer to a traveler?

What damage has been made to the natural environment?

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 interventions

large scale 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

The environment of the territory is in a state of conservation quite good. New buildings respect the urban layout of the territory. The historic centres are well preserved. The tourist flow, still not extremely developed, did not have a negative impact on the environment. The territory offers a great quantity of artistic and urban works. Medieval towns still well preserved. Some problems related to the management of urban areas mostly due to the lack of regional and state funds.

	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
C9 Scoring emblematic dimension			<u>X</u>							





#### **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

The territory of Etna, for its strategic position as well as for its fertile land, has attracted every kind of population since antiquity. After the "Siculi", the first inhabitants of the territory, Greeks, Normans, Arabs, Swabians, Angevines, Aragones, Spaniards, Austrians followed until the reign of Italy in 1860. Apart from a short period of destruction during the barbarian invasions, the territory around Etna had a great political, economic and architectural splendour. The domination of these peoples has left an indelible historical trace. There are countless historical elements that can be promoted. Each of the villages around Etna has a beautiful castle or an important historical center. Churches, historic buildings, squares, castles make the territory a unique place for the concentration of historic monuments.

10 9	8	7	6	5	4	თ	2	1
C10 Scoring emblematic dimension X								





# Other questions possible to address or address in a different manner in comparison to the previous ones (1-3 pages)

#### A. EMBLEMATIC DIMENSION

- 1. What are the mountain's elements that you are proud off?
- What are the common components characterising the emblematic mountains?
- 3. What are the elements justifying a universal value of the mountain?
- 4. How could we enhance the international recognition of the unique character of the mountain?
- 5. How could we improve the international recognition of our singularities?
- 6. Is the mountain superior in comparison to other mountains of the country and why?
- 7. What distinguishes the coastal Mediterranean mountains from other further hinterland mountains?

#### Answers / comments

- the largest active volcano in Europe. Production of worldwide known wine.
- 2. Breath-taking and emotional connection with nature. Relationship between volcano and inhabitants. Astonishing landscapes.
- 3. Notoriety, scientific importance, cultural and educational value. Place for research and education.
- 4. Providing more information about the security and the many outdoor activities of the territory.
- Planning international events about the mountain features.
- 6. Because first of all it is a Volcano and is the most inhabited mountain of the country.
- 7. In our case we have the unique possibility to sky in the morning and lying on the beach in the afternoon. Closer to the touristic flow of the coastal area.

### **B. DEVELOPMENT / STRATEGY**

- 8. How could the coast and the mountain be connected as a common tourism experience?
- 9. How could we establish a strong connection and permanent tourism flows from the coast to the mountain? How much sustainable could that be?
- Are there any interconnections and interactions with other sectors e.g. agro-food sector and nearby oursitical places
- 11. Are there any "sleeping" assets?
- 12. What would be a desirable future "picture" of the area?
- 13. What are the reasons for a traveler to extend the length of his/her stay?

#### Answers / comments

- 8. Building a connection through an itinerary that gives the possibility to stay a few days in a village of the hinterland.
- 9. Living the territory as a unique holiday destination.
- 10. Gastronomy, wine-itineraries are part important of the offer for a new way of sustainable tourism.
- 11. There are a lot especially eco-sustainable structures like agritourism, local B&B, historical building, family lodge.
- 12. Cleaner places. Safer roads and more detailed information for tourists
- Most of the tourist coming for a visit in the villages stay longer after approaching with the locals and discovering the natural and historical features of the places. Slow-food, winery.







- 14. What types of tourism are most suitable with reference to the mountain?
- 15. What are the pros and cons of the level of accessibility of the area?
- 16. Is domestic or inbound tourism preferable?
- 17. What it the potential of eco-tourism?
- 18. What is the societal awareness and appreciation of the mountain by the locals?
- 19. How would you comment on the carrying capacity of the area?
- 20. What is missing to achieve a sustainable tourism development in the area?
- 21. What conflicts are raised from time to time with groups such as hunters, livestock breeders etc?
- 22. What are the ascertained and the potential dangers?
- 23. What would be harmful for the mountain?
- 24. What risks, endogenous and exogenous threats should we bear in mind?

- 14 A tourism especially for people looking for peacefulness, culture, arts, nature, slow-food.
- 15 There is a lot of car rental, 4wd with driver for the volcano territory even we have roads not always in good conditions and sometimes a lack of good road signs.
- 16 The domestic tourism is mostly a one-day excursion tourism. The inbound tourism stays overnight.
- 17 Eco-tourism is a relevant part of the incoming tourism. The development of the agricultural, slow-food and wine tourism is very important.
- 18 In the last time there is an increasing awareness about the importance of the mountain. The locals begin to understand the great opportunity of the territory.
- 19 the territory is well prepared to welcome a good amount of visitors
- 20 Probably the inhabitants' consciousness
- 21 Hunting laws are well respected. Livestock breeders don't give many problems. Some problems, however, with citizens who sometimes let waste around.
- 22 Possible dangers could be linked to unplanned development of touristic infrastructure and self-made operator. Moreover the acquisition of tourism services by large monopolistic organizations. This is the case at moment regarding the access to the summit of the volcano managed by a single company.
- 23 A indiscriminate use of natural resources
- 24 to promote a development related to the uses and customs of the territory

#### C. ECO-ITINERARY

- 25. What could be an ideal eco-itinerary?
- 26. What would be an ideal eco-tourism product based on the emblematic characteristics of the mountain?
- 27. Is there adequate welcoming facilities in the eco-itinerary area?

### Answers / comments

- 25 An ideal eco-itinerary must go through the historic sites, the valleys, the rivers and the cultivations of the territory
- 26 Because of the biodiversity and the method of cultivation it could be our Wine the DOC Etna Rosso
- 27 There is a good amount of facilities





#### Other particular outcomes

Please feel free to develop any other outcomes not included in the previous parts of this participative meeting report

We tried to present the project to attract the attention of local actors.

We used Facebook, mails, online magazines, personal calls. Unfortunately, we have seen how many people are quite wary. Many previous projects did not produce the expected results or even ended without any feedback. Local actors have a prime optimism that we should try to keep awake. Probably a more continuous contact through workshops and information about the project path could serve to gain greater local actors participation.