

## Kick-off meeting

24, 25, 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - Canigó Grand Site - Marcevol - France

## Thematic Workshop MINUTES

TW Part one: 24th January 2017 – 14h00-18h30 (see dedicated document)

**TW Part two: 25th January 2017 – 9H00-18h00**

TW Part three: 26th January 2017 – 9h00-13h00 (see dedicated document)

The final outcome of the TW was for the partnership to co-write on the Thursday morning (Part Three) the terms of reference for the recruitment of the supplier in charge of conducting the in-depth study on the emblematic dimension of our territories as defined on WP3 (to allow PP5 to launch the tender).

To best prepare each partner to this task, and to introduce its territory, the LP hosting the event arranged:

- to give each participant (and newcomers to the network) a proper local experience of each of the 6 emblematic criteria as per defined on the charter of our EMM network. This was achieved through field visits (with relevant mediators, the choice of local services, a musical evening...)
- to invite presenters on related initiative: AP12 on a national qualitative network which values inspired EMM network and an academic geographer to bring a higher perspective.

## Thematic Workshop

**Part two: 25th January 2017- 9h-18h - field visits & musical evening**

**LET'S ALL SHARE AN EXPERIENCE OF EMbleMatiC Criteria**

The outcome of the day was to give each participant (and newcomers to the network) a proper local experience of each of the 6 emblematic criteria as per defined on the charter of our EMM network.

This was achieved through field visits, with selected mediators, together with the careful choice of local services and a thematic musical evening.

These carefully identified EMbleMatiC experiences could become the ingredients of our future “eco itineraries” products.



Participants were divided into two groups.

Each group participated in turns to each of the 2 field visits.

9h00-12h00	15h00-18h00
GROUP 1: Emblematic landscape interpretation	GROUP 1: Environmental management and tourism perspectives
GROUP 2: Environmental management and tourism perspectives	GROUP 2: Emblematic landscape interpretation

## 1. **EMbleMatiC criteria: HISTORICAL PLACES**

- Field visit 2: Environmental management and tourism perspectives

First site: Taurinya - Historic mining center - Valorisation of the mining heritage on the Canigó massif:

*With Rubén Molinà, in charge of Heritage at Canigó Grand Site*

*Ruben conceived the itinerary and designed each panel according to the iconographic materials and testimonials collected through an extensive on-going research and documenting process.*

With the visit of the itinerary of interpretation (1h-1h15), the group was introduced to the evolution of the site through the ages and to the means deployed by the municipality of Taurinya and the Syndicate of Canigó to valorize this patrimony and provide a true testimony on: "An economic and social reality of the history of the massif."



## 2. **EMbleMatiC criteria: NATURE & BIODIVERSITY**

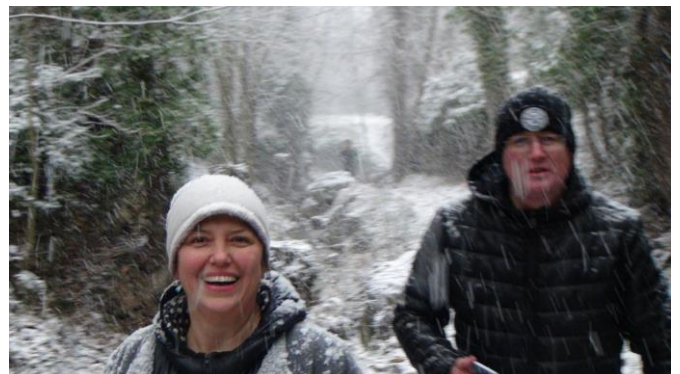
- Field visit 2: Environmental management and tourism perspectives

Second site: Balaig (Canigó massif entry door) - How to manage the entry door of a natural protected site

*With Florian Chardon, Director of Canigó Grand Site*

The management of the motorized flows when accessing the classified site of the Canigó massif by Balaig is a concrete and effective operational response carried out by the Canigó Grand Site team.

The group went to the car park entrance of the Balaig forest road, one of the main motorized accesses to the classified site of Canigó today closed to the general public. This example was used to present the challenge of managing motorized flows at the scale of the classified site (23 212 ha) but also the challenge of clearly identifying and giving value to the massif entrance gates.



## 3. **Emblematic criteria: PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE**

- Field visit 1: Marcevol - Emblematic landscape interpretation:

*With Miguel Georgief (Coloco) Indoor brief presentation of the landscape plan study followed by interpretation comments outdoor*

The SM Canigó Grand Site recently launched its landscape plan with the selection of a specialist consultancy: COLOCO. The challenge is to use this comprehensive landscape interpretation study, as an entrance door to review the general organization of the massif between the classified site, its gateways and the valorization of its more distant views. This approach is likely to be the driving force for the renewal of the "Grand Site De France" label in 2018. It should also contribute to the general strategy to re-direct tourist flows from the summit area to the lower sectors.

See in drobox: ko-TW-Part 2-Pwt-Landscape-plan-Coloco-Miguel-170125





*With Stephane Forel (Eveil Sauvage) walk with live interpretation and drawing activity*

This guide is combining his passion for hike and for drawing. Therefore, he has introduced in its hiking itineraries some breaks or pauses for each hiker to get a chance to integrate the various components of the outdoor experience with a practice of his own choice: drawing, meditation, yoga, observation...

Using a story-telling mode, Stephane guided our walkers to touch the local flora, to experience various view points over the massif, to listen to an etymological interpretation of the Canigó name (the tooth of a dog). When he finally suggested to seat by the side of a footpath and to start interpreting the landscape through drawing and watercolour, most of them surprised themselves by the level of their involvement and enjoyment of this activity. Time had stopped for a moment to capture on paper the essence of this walking experience from the image of a large scenery to the delicate shape of a plant.

Because of heavy clouds on the massif and cold weather, the afternoon group was offered a shepherd walk focussing on the northern hills and using a different drawing technic on blue paper.

Back to our meeting room, the drawings went on the wall to illustrate our individual recollection of this shared experience.

LP Canigó Grand Site is considering integrating this activity into its future eco-itinerary.



*With Dimitri Deboisseau – Marcevol priory director*

On the way back to the priory, Dimitri described the success of a local group in stopping a speculative project to build a golf course around the priory despite the absence of water. After some participative research, the site is now starting an agroecological project consisting in reintroducing almond trees and aromatic herbs culture and vegetable plots. The progress of this conversion project includes an on-going documented observation process of the resulting landscape changes.

#### **4. Emblematic criteria: LOCAL SERVICES**

- Lunch at "Café de l'union" labellised "Bistrot de Pays" - Fillols:

*With Marie Sarrote – cook and co-operator*

The village of Fillols is situated at the foot of the massif. It welcomes a substantial number of visitors, mainly hikers. However, this flow is concentrated on a short number of months.

To secure the opening of this "restaurant café" all year around, the inhabitants decided to manage it as a cooperative and to wave any turnover over the full year. Each co-operator has one vote and is committed to some tasks. When one leaves, another take his/her place and the place remains open. The label "Bistrot de Pays" is a recognition of this commitment to provide all year long in remote places, local services to inhabitants (post storage, sale of local basic



products, meeting place for various activities: games, debates, leisure, associative committees...) and to visitors and hikers (meals served 5 days a week made of local products at affordable price, maps and links to local services...).

- Stay at the Marcevol Priory and hamlet cottages

*With Dimitri Deboisseau - our host*

The choice of this venue greatly contributed to the success of our first meeting: the strong and "homy" "sense of place" of this historical building, its configuration, the history behind its rehabilitation, provided a unique experience. The secluded location and the absence of any shops in the neighbouring hamlet, facilitated our focus on our EMbleMatiC singularities. Finally, the site offers a unique view-point over the massif and the weather blessed us with some EMbleMatiC MagiC snowfall!



- Dinner with a traditional winter stew: "Ollada" (perfect for the musical evening after the late afternoon snowfall)

*With Bernard Mignon: cook*

The team of Marcevol selected Bernard to provide us with all meals during our stay: Bernard is known for its love of simple EMbleMatiC traditional recipes, where local sobriety rhymes with unique experience and total pleasure. Thus, Bernard was often found among us, keen to introduce dishes and share its secrets whilst asking about partners' practices in their own territories.

- Wine tasting at "Terroir -Terres Romanes"

*With Mr Xiffre (wine cellar director) & Nathalie Ferrat (Vinça tourism information office)*

This wine cellar is the only one left for all local producers to bring their grape to. They have recently converted part of the building to support their sales whilst providing an integrated and comprehensive welcome of visitors.

The presence of the tourist information point is a great driving force to this initiative.

Thus, the wine tasting room became a shop for local products and craft, a place for weekly welcoming meetings (food degustation and presentations of all local activities by the local providers to initiate relationships and bookings).

## 5. Emblematic criteria: MYTHS AND LEGENDS

## 6. Emblematic criteria: INSPIRATIONAL FORCE

- Musical dinner

*With Ramon Gual – born EmbleMatiC ambassador and musician*

Ramon has a rare capacity to use various mediums (dances, games, story-telling, songs...) to introduce main aspects of our cultural singularities. Thus, the participants could get to know:

- how the dragon has become the emblem of the Canigó (legend of San Jordi in the 17<sup>th</sup> century)
- the symbolic of fire and the summer solstice festival of "La Trobada" which attracts inhabitants from all areas to join for a festive evening under the summit before coming down from the peak carrying the flame of San Joan down to their village celebrations.
- the importance of witches and Catalan "Burro" (donkey)
- the local traditional dance of "Sardana"
- a few songs inspired by the Canigó through time: "Muntanyes regalades, l'estaca..."

