



METHODOLOGY

for DIALOGUE with STAKEHOLDERS

2019-2023

STRATEGY CHRISTHERITAGE ROBG-302

RUSSE - GIURGIU

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2014-2020

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The joint work of the stakeholders would take place in an optimal working and traceable way if the following algorithm is followed:

1. Each stakeholder representative fills in 1 online checklist with topic-focused questions before the workshop.
2. In the working meeting the answers received are discussed and grouped, after which they are discussed in 3 aspects: optimal, realistic and pessimistic.
3. A map of project proposals shall be drawn up and a vote shall be taken to rank the project ideas by weight.
4. They are located in a time quadrant and funding channels are discussed in 3-time ranges: short-term, medium-term and long-term.
5. Analysis of the achievements so far and summary of the motivation of each group of stakeholders - the idea they support according to the completed questionnaires and chart at municipal, regional and cross-border levels and needs according to the method of GAP-analysis.
6. Need to discuss each specificity of a particular region and where the desired development and current development occur.

Possibility through a virtual platform for conducting negotiations in case of force majeure, the proposed algorithm is an audit trail and has a convenient time range for each interested party.

Formal meetings and information events "in situ" are representative, emphasizing good cooperation in the work in the cultural and religious tourism sector. As well as contribute to improving the image of state institutions at regional, national and international levels.



Levels of development of dialogue with stakeholders.

LEVEL

1

Dialogue in practice with stakeholders

There are initiatives in the region - often scattered - regarding dialogue, at local or corporate / business level. Types of communication: (information, consultation, joint building).

LEVEL

2

Formalize the dialogue strategy

The subject is considered strategic and is subject to project management specific: mapping of stakeholders, defining the conditions for dialogue appropriate behind each category, consultation as part of an identification exercise, setting quantifiable objectives and more.

LEVEL

3

Professional administration of the dialogue

The practice is established, long-term and open to strategic actors. Agreements and common positions are made visible as an audit trail by signing program documents. Formal rules (eg privacy policy, etc.). Actions are being taken to develop a culture of internal dialogue (management manual, dissemination of manuals, etc.).

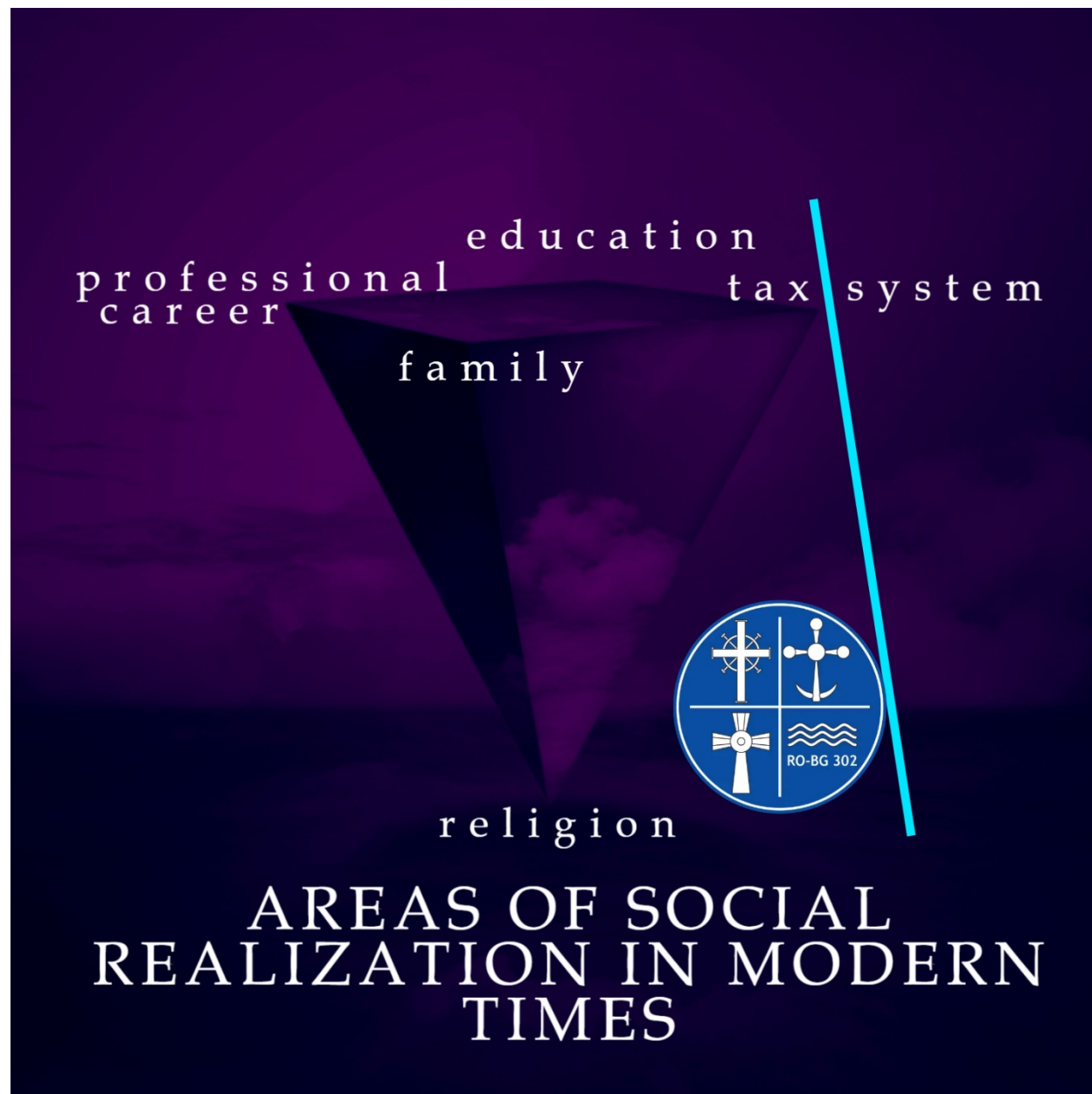
LEVEL

4

Involvement of stakeholders in governance

Mechanisms are being introduced to integrate stakeholders in the decision-making process. Stakeholder representatives are integrated into the governing bodies at different levels in the region.

In order to sustain the dialogue and the topic in the long run, the dialogue is integrated into the management system (executive evaluation or remuneration).





In Romania and Bulgaria, religious education is at a different stage in its acceptance into public daily practice at the time of the Christ Heritage ROBG-302 project.



Applications:

1. Recommendations for the development of integrated tourism products according to the shared best practices in the EU with an emphasis on the sustainable development of regional religious / pilgrimage tourism;
2. CULTURAL TOURISM and COVID 19;
3. "COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism";
4. TOURISM 4 ZUR 2030 / GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT;
5. Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria;
6. Notes on the railway transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of pilgrimage tourism during this period in Romania;
7. Information card for working meetings with stakeholders on the Christ Heritage project ROBG-302, GAP - analysis with focus on the topics:
 - a. D1: Establishment of tourist centres for integrated promotion
 - b. b. D2: Creation of a website for the promotion of the cross-border region Ruse Giurgiu and cultural and religious goals in the region, including tourist routes
 - c. c. D3: Establishment of workshops for teachers to disseminate cultural and religious information
 - d. d. D4: Establishment of shops within the churches included in the cultural and religious routes
 - e. e. D5: Creating exhibition-type events in churches
8. Stakeholder surveys: citizens, business and public administration representatives and priests;
9. Results of feedback received from stakeholders.



Recommendations on the Development of Integrated Tourism Products according to the shared best practice in the EU with a focus on the sustainable development of regional religious/pilgrimage tourism

Focus topics for discussion with stakeholders:

- ☑ Does it advertise the project logo, is it memorable and how important are the mandatory visual elements in the sustainable management of a pilgrimage route?
- ☑ Apply GPS coordinates of the sites along the route, as this information is actively used by different types of tourists.
- ☑ Each route for cultural and religious tourism needs to be presented with the following information:

Source: MANAGING VISITORS ON THEMATIC CULTURAL ROUTES HANDBOOK, ADAPTED FOR THE DANUBE CULTURAL ROUTES PROJECT: ROMAN EMPERORS' ROUTE AND THE DANUBE WINE ROUTE
Publication supported by the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Croatia Translation and adaptation of the publication: funded with the support of the European Union, Zagreb, 2013

To prepare the routes with info, according to the EU norms in the field of cultural tourism. **For more clarity and efficiency in the work to have a tabular type of information, for example in hotels for accommodation and price range, for example, minimum budget accommodation in a hostel or guest house and another column with a maximum price per night in a hotel in the region, if there is no accommodation nearby. even a camping area, to give possible nearby options, even if they are outside the region, if applicable as a case.**

Program objectives:

- directing tourist demand/activity towards areas where tourism is underdeveloped;
- joint design and promotion of a regional tourism product and the linking of several locations, municipalities, cities, and counties by a single theme;
- valorization of cultural, historical, and natural heritage by its inclusion in the tourism offer;
- achieving a better level of information and interpretation of tourism content through the development of thematic routes, thematic parks (thematic parks which were created/are created in the vicinity of "in situ" heritage sites, e.g. archaeological, historical, and natural sites), and interpretation centres;



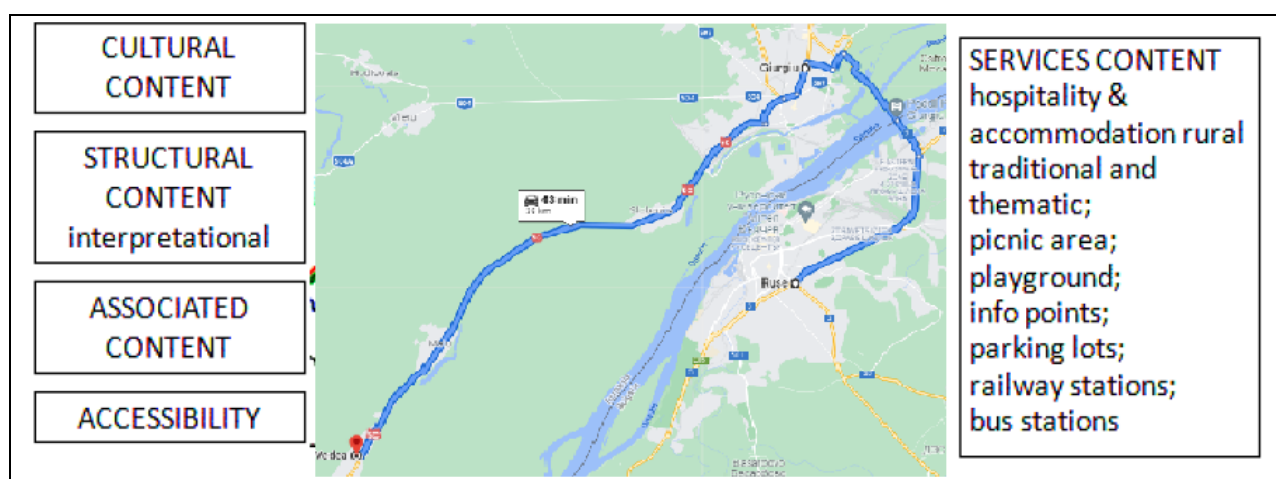
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- linking to European thematic routes

To design the entire route, it is necessary to define the following:

1. Attractive basis of 4-5 key cultural hotspots on a national level
2. Centered around the hotspots - clusters of hospitality services and content offer thematically linked to regional subthemes
3. Regional thematic zones - should enable the balance between different regional versions of the route
4. Shared marketing and PR (visual identity, road markings, information boards, stands, centres), documents, users
5. Accessibility - informational and literal - they must agree on and adhere to common working hours during the week and the year.



Mapping the offer on ChristHeritage ROBG-302 Routes in the CBC region Russe-Giurgiu involves various stakeholders.

EXAMPLE: CHRISTHERITAGE ROBG-302 ROUTES IN CBC REGION RUSSE- GIURGIU, Romanian section / Bulgarian section

Identification of hospitality services potential on the route has been done for all the included destinations in **Romania /Bulgaria**, and data was collected of service **providers on the Romania /Bulgarian part of the Route.**

TRAVEL AGENTS	ACCOMMODATION	RESTAURANTS
Destination	Accommodation facilities	Contact email/ Web



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Destination	Food and drinks	E-mail /Web	Telephone	Address
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**Stakeholders providing hospitality services on
CHRISTHERITAGE ROBG-302 ROUTES
IN CBC REGION RUSSE- GIURGIU**



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INFORMATION ON HOSPITALITY SERVICES STAKEHOLDERS ON INCLUDED SITES OF THE CHRISTHERITAGE ROBG-302 ROUTES IN CBC REGION RUSSE- GIURGIU		
Giurgiu/Russe	Contact / opening time	E-mail, Telephone
Travel agents ready to include Touristic Product 1 ROBG-302 in their offer/product portfolio	1. Name of the travel agency.... 2. 3.	1. 2. 3.
Food and drinks facilities Restaurants Cafes Wineries Other (define):	1.Restaurant in hotel 2.Restaurant Villa..... 3. Tavern in the center 4. Tavern near the city, in the village..... 5. Restaurant	1. 2. 3. 4.
Themitized facilities serving food old Roman evenings/meals	1. During the manifestation of the “.....”, which takes place in Oktober, organized by the Archaeological museum/ etc. of 2. Museum Night, last friday in July	1. 2. 3.
Accommodation available on site& number of available beds (hotels, hostels, camping sites, rural/ private accommodation)	1.Restaurant-..... 2.Hotel 3.Autocamp 4. Hotel 5. Villa	1. 2. 3.
Creative tourism offer near site (traditional crafts demonstration, workshops thematic crafts , creative offer, Old Roman creative cooking	1. Annual Boat ride/etc. on the traditional 2. Carnival in 3.3.Eco association	1. 2. 3.
Supporting facilities near the site, sports, playgrounds other	1.Adventure club 2.Kite club 3. Kiteboarding 4. Veloq motor club etc....	1. 2. 3.
Thematic Souvenir shops Old roman replicas... Traditional souvenirs shops Bookshops,	1.Souvenir gift shop in Museum with the appropriate publications 2.Souvenir gift shop	1. 2. 3. 1.
Events . number and type: thematic events, living history events, culinary shows,	1. 2. 3. 1.....	1. 2. 3.
Public transport availability Buses Train other	1. Bus station in 2.Train connectingand	1.
Other facilities : info centres,	1.Tourist board in	1.
Special services: for families,	1.Museum of orinthology	1.



COEXISTENCE OF DIFFERENT CONTENT

To simultaneously have a dynamic and balanced route, it is necessary to develop the following contents :

- cultural content
- structural content
- service content and
- associated content and accompanying activities.

The contents and offer need to be identified, developed, organized and balanced along the route:

CULTURAL CONTENT

Tangible heritage is the main component of the theme and it will help understand the lifestyle along the the route itself and of the sites and the total area as well, including the complementary content of the sites: public and religious buildings, rural heritage, monuments, geographical, historical and archaeological sites, industrial legacy, towns,...

It is necessary to evaluate the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of heritage resources about the route theme (focusing on key resources) ▪ Importance/uniqueness of resource / significance level - competitiveness ▪ The potential of an attraction on a hierarchical scale of attractiveness – familiarity outside the region ▪ Aesthetic value ▪ Historic or scientific value ▪ Educational value ▪ Social value ▪ Rarity, representative quality ▪ Evocative quality – linked to legends, myths, stories... ▪ Serves a special purpose (pilgrimage,...) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spatial distribution, ambience, and setting ▪ The capability to group cultural or heritage resources ▪ The physical condition of the resources: preservation, restoration ▪ Preservation of resource integrity ▪ Cultural values being evoked ▪ Robusticity ▪ Resource size, capacity ▪ The capability of controlling visitor flow ▪ Appeal and aesthetics of the surroundings ▪ Safety of the surroundings ▪ The market position of the destination (importance of cultural content in such a position) |
|--|--|



STRUCTURAL CONTENT will enliven the theme, other sites, and the area, or complementary content: intangible heritage, interpretative content, museums, attractions, exhibition areas, workshops for trades and crafts, centres... Interactive programs: Organised costume tours, Guided tours in connection with legends and historic records, A puppet theatre...

ACCOMPANYING ACTIVITIES may be a part of the route according to their correlation with the theme: festivals and events, creative workshops, concerts, education trails, bicycle trails,

If CBC Russe-Giurgiu highlights tourism as one of its development priorities, together with the extension of the tourist season past the summer months, it is obvious that places of interest in culture and

nature can be the main factors of an offer and the reason for the arrival of tourists. The quality and

The diverse cuisine of the CBC Russe-Giurgiu is not widely recognized and surely has a future as part of the tourist offer, and numerous regional initiatives have already been recognized as good products, such as..... etc. The problem is that all of these events are offered separately. Research by international experts has shown that the greatest market success will come from an offer combining various content– e.g. a visit to a nature park and a museum, a boat ride, an evening concert, a tasting of

original local products, and discounts for attractive shopping. It is always interesting to read offers for hotel accommodations in tourist brochures with their endless string of information on accommodation capacities, while not focusing on the content outside the complex, thus neglecting the fact that people mostly do not go on vacations to sleep in hotels, as they are probably more comfortable at their own home, but to have new experiences. Integrated products are surely a good option and do not necessarily require public support to develop.

EXAMPLE: Museums of

For the Heritage Routes project, a description has been made of the equipment found at the site of the attraction:



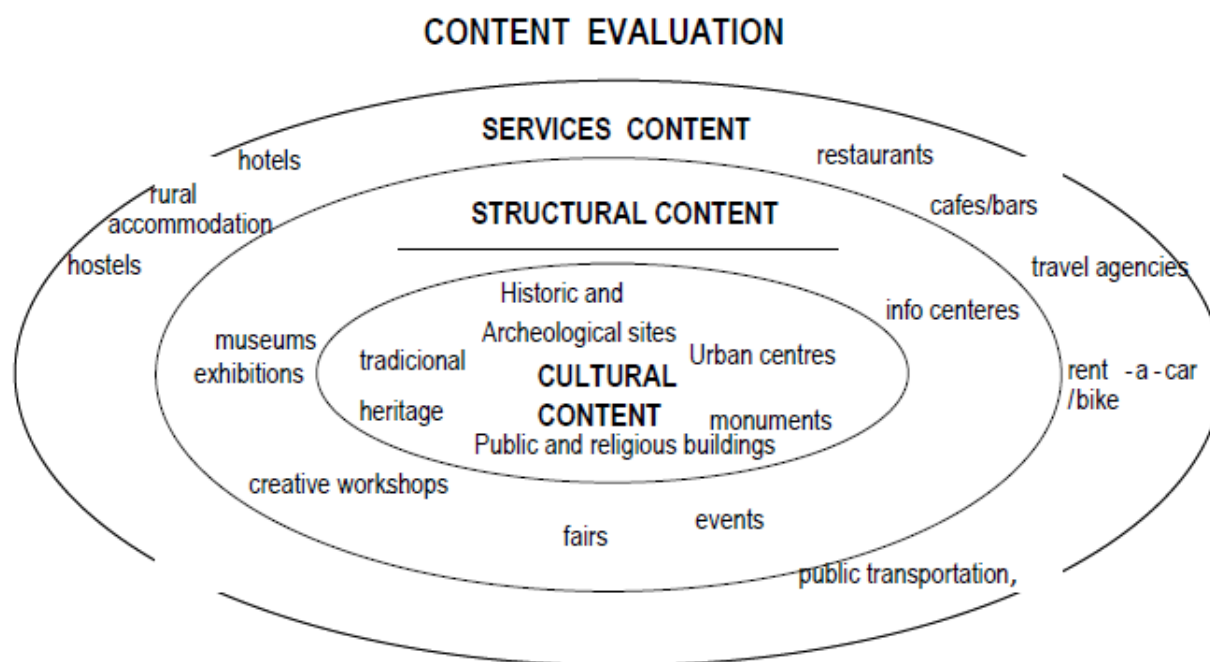
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- a) Traditional workshops (equipped with tools): workshop equipment (....., etc.) or
 - b) Multimedia venues: an auditorium with seats and an LSD projector
 - c) Arranged promenades and benches: arranged trails and promenades in the park with benches
 - d) Content for the visitors: parking lot, souvenir shop, restaurant, cafe, toilet for the disabled.
- The following events were recorded: Museum Night, Anniversary of
- EXAMPLE: Museums of - for the Heritage Routes project data has been prepared about the tourism sector (accommodation, hospitality, others)

SERVICES CONTENT Hotels, restaurants, accommodation facilities, rural households, hostels, camps, or any other type of service that enriches the route (rent-a-car, bike, etc.)

At least 4 more stop sites and three other forms of content are recommended for the route.





Content evaluation

Tangible and intangible heritage – cultural contents

Stopping points with selected thematically vital monument or story

Maintenance of cultural monuments, interpretation and availability			
	poor	good	excellent
monument/story/...			
tourist availability of the monument			
visiting hours			
preservation and maintenance of the monument			
economic utilisation of the monument			

Structural content

Focal points with selected informative content

Visual design and appearance and availability of exhibition and interpretational area			
	poor	good	excellent
museums			
visitor centres			
tourist availability of museums			
visiting hours of the museum			
preservation and maintenance of the museum			
number of museums and galleries			
exhibition areas and collections			
tourist availability of exhibition areas and collections			
tourist visiting hours of exhibition areas and collections			
historic halls for gatherings			
libraries and reading halls			



Service content

Hotels, restaurants, accommodation facilities, rural households, hostels, camps, or any other type of service that enriches the route (rent-a-car, bike etc.)

Accommodation facilities

Do the accommodation facilities support the theme?

- Traditional rural accommodation
- Other accommodation
- Building, design, furniture, cuisine, marketing designation

Hospitality facilities

Do the hospitality facilities support the theme?

- visual design and appearance
- cuisine and beverage offer
- offer of souvenirs
- theme events



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EVALUATION OF SERVICE CONTENT

Evaluation of service content	number	type	rating
Number of hospitality facilities included in the route			
Type of included hospitality facilities (traditional, authentic restaurants, cafés, bars and such)			
Thematically related hospitality facilities			
Number of accommodation facilities included in the route			
Type of accommodation facilities (hotels, hostels, camps, rural traditional accommodations)			
Number of traditional crafts/workshops included in the cultural route			
Other tourism services in the vicinity (thermal baths, swimming pools, wellness centres, tennis courts, golf courts and such)			
Souvenir shops, shops with traditional and thematic products			
Accessibility (types and frequency of public transport)			
Number and type of tourist events along the route during the year			
Tourist surroundings (active tourism destinations in the vicinity)			
Suitability for bus groups			
Suitability for specific tourist offer (for youth, families, women...)			
Experience value			
Organisation			

Balancing:

- Each destination/site, as well as content, has a specific task and role within the route;
- Included sites must complement each other;
- A developed cultural media of the site may be a connection with the main theme of the route, and the visitor must feel like a participant in a live show.





Associated content – Accompanying activities along the route

Events along the route

Do the events and activities support the theme?

- traditional crafts
- events
- culinary events
- living history

ACTIVITIES ON THE ROUTE – PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Activities

- Cycling
- Walking
- Riding
- Sailing.
- Trekking
- Climbing..
- Ballooning
- Hiking
- Driving
- ...



Content: HERITAGE tangible

- Historic monuments
(palaces, temples, fortifications, amphitheatres,...)
- Heritage Institutions
(museums, galleries, memorials, private ethno collections...)
- Sites (archeological, historic, .)
- Cultural landscapes
- Historic trade roads
- Portable heritage
- Traditional buildings...

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPONSIBLE TOURISM ON THE ROUTE

According to the definition by UNWTO, sustainable tourism includes resource management that satisfies the economic, social, and aesthetic needs of users while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, cultural and biological diversity, and the systems of life within an area.

The sustainability of resources is one of the key reasons for the development of cultural routes at the European level due to its set goals:

- providing new opportunities to lesser-known heritage;
- strengthening the importance of tangible and intangible heritage and area identity;



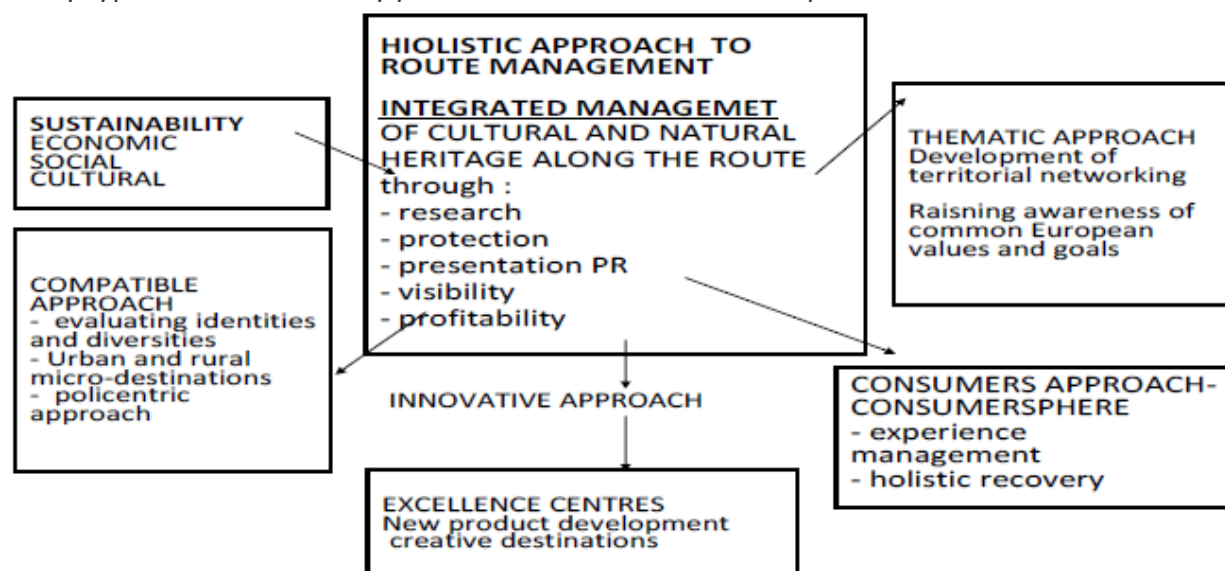
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- explaining historical importance and highlighting cultural similarities in various European regions;
- opening access to a wider circle of users;
- communicating heritage value;
- raising the competitiveness level of cultural landscapes less exploited in tourism;
- renewing life in neglected areas.

It is therefore important to consider cultural routes managed to achieve social, economic, cultural, and environmental sustainability.

Every type of tourism activity performed on the route should pertain to sustainable tourism.

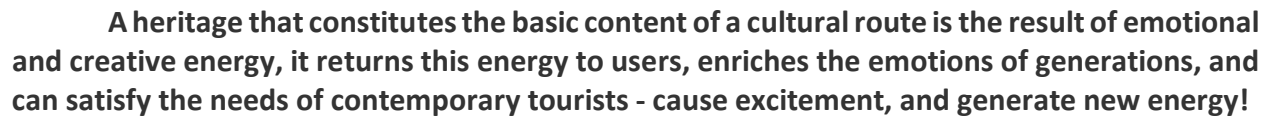


Good Practice Example: Danube Cultural Route combines lesser known tourist destinations with destinations already known, being honey pots for visitors directing them to undiscovered treasures of culture, traditions, nature, and peoples. Stakeholders gathered within the route, especially microservice providers/i.e. rural accommodation, and food services/, are promoting and sustaining the traditional way of life, traditional food, local products, local culture, and habits. In this sense also several included travel agents offering packages already have an EOS Code for sustainable tourism, and taking care of, environmental, social, and cultural resources.

Within the cultural route concept “Cultural heritage is seen as a dynamic reference point for daily life, social growth and change. It is a major source of social capital and is an expression of diversity and community identity” providing the visitor with the opportunity to combine creative cognition with the enjoyment of their free time”.



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Notes

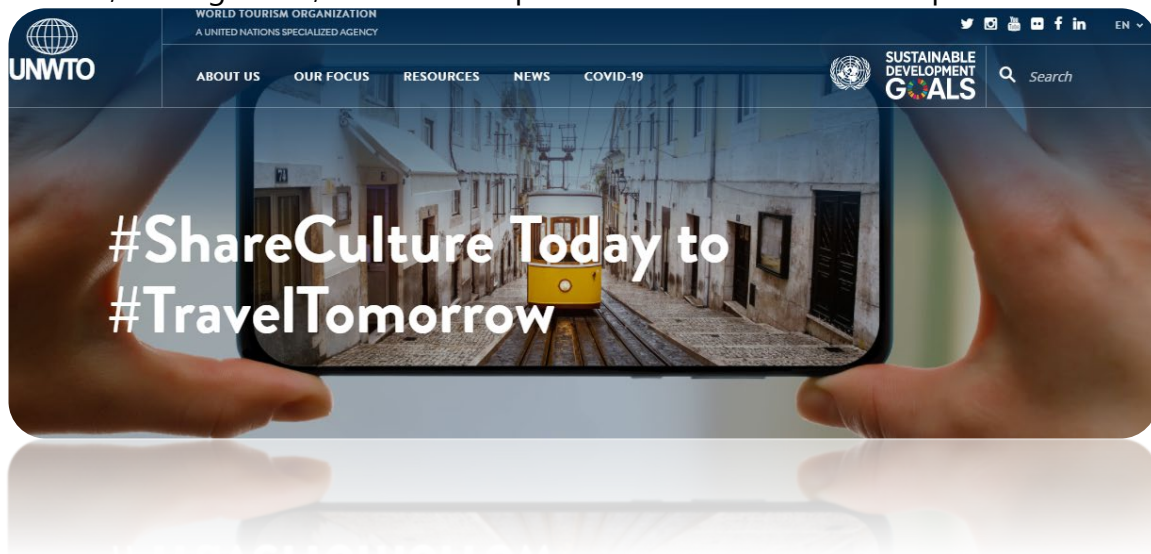




CULTURAL TOURISM & COVID 19

Content submitted by – UNWTO

With COVID-19 bringing global tourism to a standstill, millions of people in quarantine have been seeking out cultural and travel experiences from their homes. Culture has proven indispensable during this period, and the demand for virtual access to museums, heritage sites, theatres and performances has reached unprecedented levels.



With more than 80% of UNESCO World Heritage properties having closed down, the livelihoods of millions of cultural professionals have been seriously jeopardized. If tourism is set to contribute to the survival of the culture sector, i.e. cinemas, arts and many other segments, it should strengthen the cultural identity and branding of tourism destinations.

Despite all the challenges, the tourism and culture sectors are facing an opportunity to create new partnerships and collaboration. They are bound to jointly reinvent and diversify the offer, attract new audiences, develop new skills and support the world's transition to the new conditions.

The recommendations outlined below have been prepared by the UNWTO Ethics, Culture and Social Responsibility Department in collaboration with its international partners with competence in culture and tourism.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

1. Improve information and data exchange between sectors

The information flow between sectors is key to understanding the pandemic's impacts and devising effective responses. Specific data on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on culture and tourism, as well as on the solutions being put in place for cultural tourism survival, will allow for more focused mitigation plans to respond to different needs and replicate good practices.

2. Launch innovative alliances

The confinement has proven the importance of new technology and media in our daily lives. With millions of people confined to their homes, this is an opportune moment to develop and promote cultural experiences to a captive audience. The challenge is providing these experiences in a way that supports direct benefits to the involved organisations and practitioners. During this digital transition, tourism and culture can forge alliances with tech companies and the private sector to improve access to capacity building programs on culture and sustainable tourism, available online.

3. Inspire a more sustainable future for cultural tourism

The tourism and culture sectors must continue to work together to inspire a more sustainable future for cultural tourism. Marketing strategies in tourism are highlighting local cultural expressions not only to address new audiences, but also to inspire responsible travel. Destinations and cultural sites are grappling with how to survive this period of hibernation, while planning for reopening of tourism.

4. Form a more resilient tourism and culture workforce



The professional profiles of culture and tourism workers will require new skills for immediate actions and to take part in the recovery. Both sectors need to develop creative and inventive employment solutions to provide resilience to the workforce after decades of precarity. The existing jobs in cultural tourism should be kept and upskilled as human talent and knowledge are already there.

5. Strengthen governance structures for better coordination and information sharing

This crisis is an outstanding opportunity to build cross-sectoral governance models between tourism and culture key players. These models should involve tech partners to build platforms and exchange forums to coordinate actions and share information. The platforms should imply an effective communication, decision-making and agreements on setting the limits of tourism development involving cultural assets.

6. Attract new audiences

The culture sector is shaping up committed global citizens and the tourists of the future, by reaching out to children & youth. The emotional bonds emerging now between citizens and cultural creators will make a difference in the years to come. The confinement can also make repeat visitors and “senior” cultural tourists support culture with patronage and solidarity actions.

RECOVERY

1. Shift from quantity towards quality

Tourism success was traditionally measured by statistics highlighting visitors' numbers, while qualitative indicators and visitors' profile had less importance. The joint recovery of tourism and culture should align resilience policies, new priorities with the new measurement values, as well as tailor-made marketing strategies.

2. Diversify cultural tourism products

Destinations should address new and traditional markets & specific profiles of cultural visitors, whose interests and priorities may reshape after COVID-19 crisis. Culture will require support to survive and flourish, as it enriches the destinations' identity and inspires tourism revival. Some cultural gatherings may be temporarily replaced by alternative products, as new scenarios unfold.

3. Boost community's participation & domestic tourism

Engaging citizens' platforms in recreating the local cultural offer will have a strategic social and economic importance. Local communities' role will be essential in embracing first visitor flows, with precautions. Regaining domestic customers' confidence will accelerate the 1st phase of the cultural tourism recovery.

4. Customize cultural offer for international visitors

Bringing back inbound cultural tourism will be more challenging before consumers decide to



travel abroad. By customizing their cultural offer, governments, destinations and cultural industries can have a more international outreach. International and cross-sectoral alliances will have a key role.

5. Enable cultural tourism entrepreneurship and innovation

Innovation in SMEs, cooperatives and creative economy will be needed for the recovery, especially for the empowerment of women, youth & indigenous peoples. COVID-19 will heavily affect these groups as their economy is often informal, notably in emerging destinations. Their livelihoods will improve by consolidating their market access and inclusion into the cultural tourism supply chain. The shift from informal towards formal economy will benefit many communities and destinations.

6. Make cultural tourism accessible to all

The accessibility of cultural facilities, products and services should be advanced to cater better to the needs of persons with disabilities, seniors and families with small children, locals & visitors alike. Scaling up accessibility in culture benefits everyone.

Source: <https://www.unwto.org/cultural-tourism-covid-19>



„COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism“

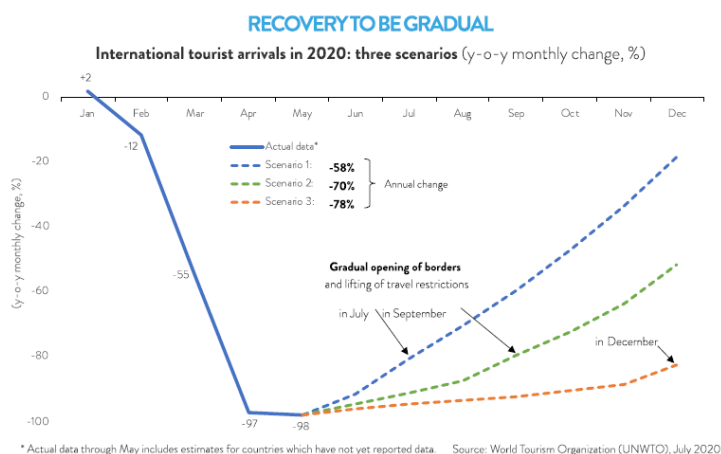
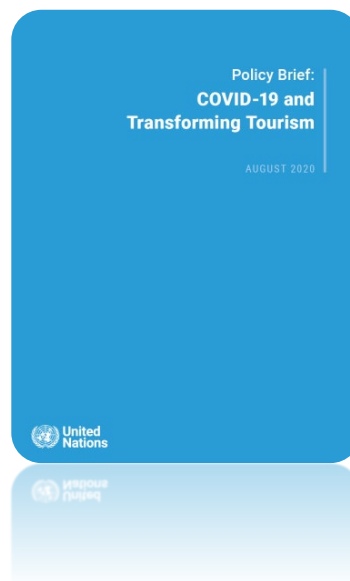
Content submitted by – UNWTO RW

Submitted Date : 25/08/2020

Tourism provides livelihoods for millions of people and allows billions more to appreciate their own and different cultures, as well as the natural world. For some countries, it can represent over 20 per cent of their GDP and, overall, it is the third largest export sector of the global economy. Tourism is one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting economies, livelihoods, public services and opportunities on all continents. While sustaining the livelihoods dependent on the sector must be a priority, rebuilding tourism is also an opportunity for transformation with a focus on leveraging its impact on destinations visited and building more resilient communities and businesses through innovation, digitalization, sustainability, and partnerships.

The COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism Policy Brief released on 25th August 2020 is part of the wider UN response and outreach to and around the pandemic. UNWTO has been the lead author of the brief, and 11 other UN agencies contributed to the policy document, highlighting the unique importance and scope of the sector.

The Policy Brief provides an overview of the socio-economic impacts from the pandemic on tourism, including on the millions of livelihoods it sustains. It highlights the role tourism plays in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, including its relationship with environmental goals and culture. The Brief calls on the urgency of mitigating the impacts on livelihoods, especially for women, youth and informal workers. The crisis is an opportunity to rethink how tourism interacts with our societies, other economic sectors, and our natural resources and ecosystems; to measure and manage it better; to ensure a fair distribution of its benefits and to advance the transition towards a carbon-neutral and resilient tourism economy.



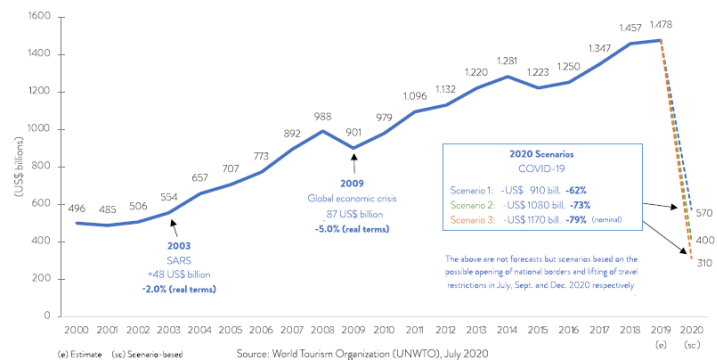
The brief provides recommendations in five priority areas to cushion the massive impacts on lives and economies and to rebuild tourism with people at the center. It features examples of governments' support to the sector, calls for a reopening that gives priority to the health and safety of the workers, travelers, and host communities and provides a roadmap to transform tourism.

1. Cultural Implications

The global wealth of traditions, culture and diversity are among the principal motivations for travel. The impact of COVID-19 on tourism places further pressure on heritage conservation in the cultural sector, as well as on the cultural and social fabric of communities, particularly indigenous people and ethnic groups. This crisis is also an unprecedented opportunity to transform the relationship of tourism with nature, climate and the economy. The COVID-19 crisis is a watershed moment to align the effort of sustaining livelihoods dependent on tourism to the SDGs and ensuring a more resilient, inclusive, carbon neutral, and resource efficient future. Harnessing innovation and digitalization, embracing local values, and creating decent jobs for all, especially for youth, women and the most vulnerable groups in our societies, could be front and centre in tourism's recovery. To that end, the sector needs to advance efforts to build a new model that promotes partnerships, places host people at the centre of development, advances evidence-based policies and carbon neutral investment and operations.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM RISKS RETURNING TO LEVELS OF 20 YEARS AGO

International tourism receipts, 2000-2019 and scenarios for 2020 (US\$ Billions)



2. A roadmap to transform tourism needs to address 5 priority areas:

- 1. MANAGE THE CRISIS AND MITIGATE THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS, PARTICULARLY ON WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY.** Gradual and coordinated solutions and responses will have to be implemented to: i) protect livelihoods, jobs, income and enterprises; ii) build confidence through safety and security in all tourism operations; iii) strengthen partnerships and solidarity for socio-economic recovery by placing a priority on inclusiveness and reducing inequalities.
- 2. BOOST COMPETITIVENESS AND BUILD RESILIENCE.** To support the development of tourism infrastructure and quality services across the entire tourism value chain; facilitate investments and build a conducive business environment for local MSMEs, diversify products and markets, and promote domestic and regional tourism where possible.
- 3. ADVANCE INNOVATION AND THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE TOURISM ECOSYSTEM.** Recovery packages and future tourism developments could maximize the use of technology in the tourism ecosystem, promote digitalization to create innovative solutions and invest in digital skills, particularly for workers temporarily without an occupation and for job seekers.
- 4. FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVE GREEN GROWTH.** It is important for tourism to shift towards a resilient, competitive, resource efficient and carbon neutral sector, in line with the objectives and principles of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Green investments for recovery could target protected areas, renewable energy, smart buildings and the circular economy, among other opportunities. Financial and bailout support from governments to the accommodation, cruise and aviation industries could also ensure unsustainable polluting practices are banned.
- 5. COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS TO TRANSFORM TOURISM AND ACHIEVE THE SDGS.** More agile approaches and alliances will be required for moving towards a resilient future and global goals. The UNWTO Global Tourism Crisis Committee has united the tourism sector to formulate a sector-wide response to the unprecedented challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective coordination for reopening and recovery plans and policies could consider putting people first, involving government, development partners and international finance institutions for a significant impact on economies and livelihoods.

A ROADMAP TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE TOURISM SECTOR

Managing the crisis and mitigating the socio-economic impacts on livelihoods

Boosting competitiveness and building resilience

Advancing innovation and the digitalization of the tourism ecosystem fostering

Fostering sustainable and inclusive green growth

Strengthening coordination, partnerships and solidarity for socio-economic recovery

socio-economic recovery
partnerships and solidarity for
strengthening coordination

inclusive green growth

tourism workers, especially female and youth tourism workers, to increase their capacity to use digital tools and online resources to streamline their operations and provide flexibility while preparing for the future of work.

Historically, tourism has shown a strong ability to adapt, innovate and recover from adversity. However, this unprecedented situation requires new approaches and strong multi-level response and partnerships. Recent trends in Europe show that the re-opening of borders and tourism activities is not without risks as it led in some places to rising infections, leading to new localised restrictions by governments. While addressing the immediate socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 on tourism and accelerating recovery to protect millions of livelihoods, this crisis is an opportunity for the sector to transform and become more resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

Such transformation implies placing people's wellbeing at the heart of tourism development, engaging governments, the private sector, citizens and the international community in strong partnerships for better planning and managing of tourism and setting measurement systems to evaluate the impact of the sector in the economy, on society and the environment and to guide adequately policies and operations.

2.3 Advancing Innovation and the digitalization of the tourism ecosystem

Recovery of tourism destinations and companies will be fully dependent on their capacity to take advantage of technology to better understand and monitor travellers' needs and trends, create and market innovative experiences, use digital platforms to enhance the competitiveness and agility of MSMEs to reach customers, provide added-value jobs, and implement effective health protocols. Artificial intelligence and big data can help manage flows and protect communities and resources.

Recovery packages could have a special focus to maximize the use of technology, advance the digitalization of MSMEs, promote network processes to create innovative solutions and invest in digital skills, particularly for workers, including female and youth, temporarily without an occupation and job seekers.

Building tourism innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems can help advance digital transformation. Innovation could focus on adopting digital models for managing the sector and creating new jobs, as well as new sustainable products and experiences that link travelers with nature and creative industries, empower communities and promote safe journeys through technology.

Digital technologies such as drones or remote and satellite technologies can also be leveraged to support environmental planning and monitoring, protecting the natural assets tourism depends on.

Furthermore, the crisis has accelerated digitalization and brought to the forefront the impact of the digital divide on specific segments of society, including women.

The provision of freelancing services and digital literacy training is necessary for

2.4 Fostering sustainability and inclusive green growth

This crisis offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform the relationship between the tourism sector and nature and so contribute more fully to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Enhancing sustainable regional tourism development provides considerable benefits from making tourism-dependent regions less vulnerable to economic threats, to using resources more sustainably, creating green jobs and enhancing transport connectivity. Tourism should shift towards a resilient, resource efficient and carbon neutral sector, building on existing efforts, including aligning with the One Planet Network Sustainable Tourism Programme. Action on climate change and investments in low-carbon infrastructure and R&D can generate

broad-based economic growth and create millions of new jobs – renewable energies alone could create 42 million jobs by 2050. Green Economy models for the tourism sector indicate the largest potential for improvement of resource efficiency lies in the area of CO₂ emissions with a projected 52 per cent improvement over BAU scenarios, followed by energy consumption (44 per cent), water consumption (18 per cent) and net waste disposal (17 per cent). Such transformation

would be in line with changing consumer demand. Mountain tourism, nature, heritage, cultural and adventure tourism are predicted to grow rapidly over the next two decades.

2.5 Strengthening coordination and partnerships to transform tourism and achieve the SDGs

The tourism sector can contribute to all 17 SDGs, as underlined in the UNWTO-UNDP report “Tourism and Sustainable Development Goals, Journey to 2030”. More importantly, tourism companies recognize that aligning business goals with the SDGs boosts competitiveness while contributing to sustainability and enhancing their social license to operate.

Yet to achieve such goals, the future of tourism depends on building partnerships at all levels – a solid whole-of-government approach; consistent vertical coordination between national and local authorities; enhanced coordination across sectors supporting tourism such as air, land and maritime transport, trade, environment, culture, employment, and strong public/private partnerships – and placing the wellbeing of host communities at the centre of tourism policies and management.

For details please see the link below:

- <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-08/SG-Policy-Brief-on-COVID-and-Tourism.pdf>
- <https://webunwto.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-08/UN-Tourism-Policy-Brief-Visuals.pdf>

SOURCE: WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO), AUGUST 2020



THE IMPACT OF COVID19 ON TOURISM



TOURISM 4 SDGs 2030/SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

People Planet Prosperity Peace Partnership

Sustainable tourism

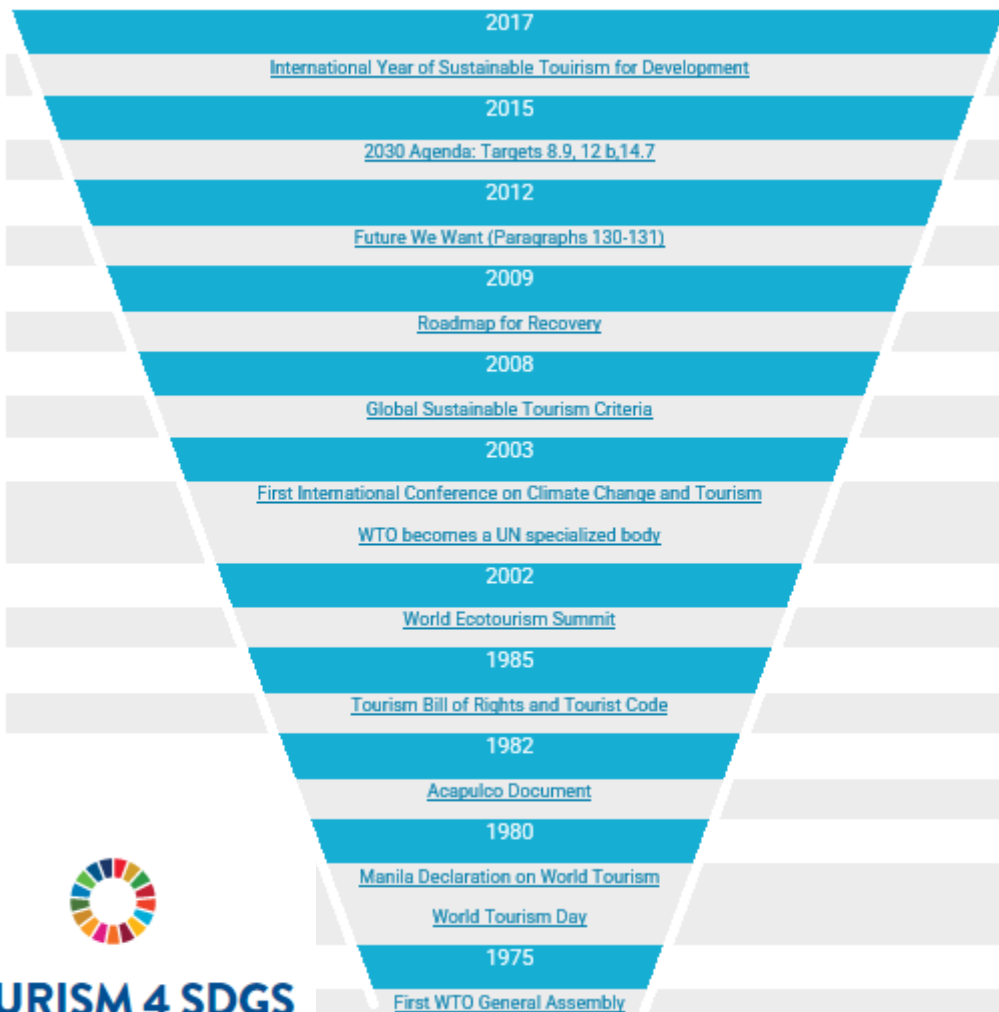
Tourism is one of the world's fastest growing industries and an important source of foreign exchange and employment, while being closely linked to the social, economic, and environmental well-being of many countries, especially developing countries. Coastal tourism is one vital sectors of the on sustainable blue economy in the developing states in EU . (see also: The Potential of the Blue Economy report).



The World Tourism Organization defines sustainable tourism as “tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”.

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development SDG target 8.9, aims to “by 2030, devise

and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”. The importance of sustainable tourism is also highlighted in SDG target 12.b. which aims to “develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that



creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”.

Tourism is also identified as one of the tools to “by 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries” as comprised in SDG target 14.7.

In the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want*, sustainable tourism is defined by paragraph 130 as a significant contributor “to the three dimensions of sustainable development” thanks to its close linkages to other sectors and its ability to create decent jobs and generate trade opportunities. Therefore, Member States recognize “the need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole. ” In paragraph 130, Member States also “call for enhanced support for sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building in developing countries in order to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”.

In paragraph 131, Member States “encourage the promotion of investment in sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism and cultural tourism, which may include creating small- and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating access to finance, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, indigenous peoples and local communities in areas with high eco-tourism potential”. In this regard, Member States also “underline the importance of establishing, where necessary, appropriate guidelines and regulations in accordance with national priorities and legislation for promoting and supporting sustainable tourism”.

The “Sustainable Tourism – Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) initiative was announced. The initiative was inaugurated by the World Tourism Organization, in collaboration with UNCTAD, in order to develop sustainable tourism as a force for poverty alleviation.

TOURISM 4 SDGS JOIN US ON THE 2030 JOURNEY

UNWTO and UNEP, Tourism and the Sustainable Development Goals – Journey to 2030, 2017.



The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a United Nations specialized agency, is the leading international organization in the field of tourism.

UNWTO is responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism geared towards the achievement of the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNWTO offers leadership and support to the tourism sector in advancing knowledge and tourism policies worldwide, advocating for responsible tourism and promoting tourism as a driving force towards economic growth, inclusive development and environmental sustainability.

UNWTO encourages the implementation of the Global Code of Ethics in Tourism, in order to maximize tourism's socio-economic contribution while minimizing its possible negative impacts.



SDG 1 – NO POVERTY

As one of the largest and fastest growing economic sectors in the world, tourism is well-positioned to foster economic growth and development at all levels and provide income through job creation.

Sustainable tourism development, and its impact at community level, can be linked with national poverty reduction goals, those related to promoting entrepreneurship and small businesses, and empowering less favored groups, particularly youth and women.

SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

Tourism can spur sustainable agriculture by promoting the production and supplies to hotels, and sales of local products to tourists. Agro-tourism can generate additional income while enhancing the value of the tourism experience.



SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Tax income generated from tourism can be reinvested in health care and services, improving maternal health, reduce child mortality and preventing diseases. Visitors fees collected in protected areas can as well contribute to health services.



SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

Tourism has the potential to promote inclusiveness. A skilful workforce is crucial for tourism to prosper. The tourism sector provides opportunities for direct and indirect jobs for youth, women, and those with special needs, who should benefit through educational means.

SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

Tourism can empower women, particularly through the provision of direct jobs and income-generation from SMEs in tourism and hospitality related enterprises. Tourism can be a tool for women to become fully engaged and lead in every aspect of society.

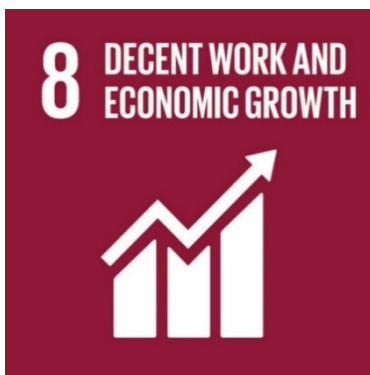


SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Tourism investment requirement for providing utilities can play a critical role in achieving water access and security, as well as hygiene and sanitation for all. The efficient use of water in tourism, pollution control and technology efficiency can be key to safeguarding our most precious resource.

SDG 7 – AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

As a sector, which is energy intensive, tourism can accelerate the shift towards increased renewable energy shares in the global energy mix. By promoting investments in clean energy sources, tourism can help to reduce green house gases, mitigate climate change and contribute to access of energy for all.



SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Tourism, as services trade, is one of the top four export earners globally, currently providing one in ten jobs worldwide. Decent work opportunities in tourism, particularly for youth and women, and policies that favour better diversification through tourism value chains can enhance tourism positive socio-economic impacts.



SDG 9 – INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Tourism development relies on good public and private infrastructure. The sector can influence public policy for infrastructure upgrade and retrofit, making them more sustainable, innovative and resource-efficient and moving towards low carbon growth, thus attracting tourists and other sources of foreign investment.

SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Tourism can be a powerful tool for reducing inequalities if it engages local populations and all key stakeholders in its development. Tourism can contribute to urban renewal and rural development by giving people the opportunity to prosper in their place of origin. Tourism serves as an effective mean for economic integration and diversification.



SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Tourism can advance urban infrastructure and accessibility, promote regeneration and preserve cultural and natural heritage, assets on which tourism depends.

Investment in green infrastructure (more efficient transport, reduced air pollution) should result in smarter and greener cities for, not only residents but also tourists.

SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

The tourism sector needs to adopt sustainable consumption and production (SCP) modes, accelerating the shift towards sustainability. Tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for tourism including for energy, water, waste, biodiversity and job creation will result in enhanced economic, social and environmental outcomes.





SDG 13 – CLIMATE ACTION

Tourism contributes to and is affected by climate change. Tourism stakeholders should play a leading role in the global response to climate change. By reducing its carbon footprint, in the transport and accommodation sector, tourism can benefit from low carbon growth and help tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our time.

SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

Coastal and maritime tourism rely on healthy marine ecosystems. Tourism development must be a part of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in order to help conserve and preserve fragile marine ecosystems and serve as a vehicle to promote a blue economy, contributing to the sustainable use of marine resources.



SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

Rich biodiversity and natural heritage are often the main reasons why tourists visit a destination. Tourism can play a major role if sustainably managed in fragile zones, not only in conserving and preserving biodiversity, but also in generating revenue as an alternative livelihood to local communities.

SDG 16 – PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

As tourism revolves around billions of encounters between people of diverse cultural backgrounds, the sector can foster multicultural and inter-faith tolerance and understanding, laying the foundation for more peaceful societies. Tourism, which benefits and engages local communities, can also consolidate peace in post-conflict societies.



SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Due to its cross-sectoral nature, tourism has the ability to strengthen private/public partnerships and engage multiple stakeholders – international, national, regional and local – to work together to achieve the SDGs and other common goals. Public policy and innovative financing are at the core for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), supported by a wide range of donors and in partnership with other international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, has been providing technical assistance in countries across the globe for more than 40 years. UNWTO's knowledge and expertise in developing sustainable, responsible, and accessible tourism contributes to a better world.

UNWTO 2030 Tourism Roadmap for Inclusive Growth shall provide a new opportunity for partnerships for development – SDG 17. The projects proposals (to be found on the T4SDGs map) reflect UNWTO Member States needs to build a more resilient, sustainable and innovative tourism sector that generates jobs and promotes inclusive, low-carbon growth in line with all three dimensions of sustainable development: people, the planet and prosperity.

Investing in people, boosting infrastructure development, shaping better policies and institutions, building resilience, stimulating entrepreneurship, fostering innovation and digitalization, and making sustainable use of rich biodiversity and culture should be at the core of our efforts to unlock the potential of tourism growth while mitigating migration and preserving each destination's natural and cultural assets.

Source: <https://tourism4sdgs.org/>





Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria



The Rila narrow-gauge railway

The Rila Railway was built in one of the most beautiful valleys in Bulgaria - Kocherinovska, sung by the patriarch of our literature Ivan Vazov in the book "The Great Rila Desert".

"This is a beautiful green corner, irrigated by the Rila River, which enjoys Nile's fertility: I admire with admiration to a look at its equal area, dressed in greenery from its crops: tobacco, corn, rice, vineyards, watermelons, poplars ... grace. "

1902-1912

The idea for the Rila Railway arose from the very beginning after the two brothers Kosta and Todor Balabanov won the tender for a concession of the Rila Monastery Forests in 1902. Todor Balabanov considered two options: building a narrow-gauge steam line and an electrified railway. He adopted the second option, citing the availability of sufficient resources for electricity generation.

The route of the project passes through Radomir-Dupnitsa-village Rila-Rila Monastery. T. Balabanov together with eng. Trunka is touring the terrain to study the most advantageous option.

As early as 1904, the Balabanov brothers asked the Ministry of Public Buildings, Roads and Communications, which manages the railways, to allow them to build a narrow-gauge railway from the Iliyna River down the Rilska River, past the Barakovo factory to Dupnitsa and beyond. to the nearest railway station in Radomir for transportation of timber and finished products.

In this connection, commissions were appointed in September 1904 and 1905, but due to the looming length of this line (almost 100 km) and the prohibition of the law to build and operate private railways in Bulgaria, the issue was protracted and unresolved. . Thus, until his death (March 15, 1912) Todor Balabanov could not see the factory connected to the railway. This dream was realized by his son Ivan Balabanov.

1915-1916

The construction of narrow-gauge railways with a track gauge of 600 mm. began during the First World War (December 1915) with the construction of the large supply narrow gauge line from Radomir to Dupnitsa and down the Struma River for



Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria

the needs of the Second Bulgarian Army. It was completed and put into operation on March 4, 1916, and to Gorna Dzhumaya (Blagoevgrad) on May 27, 1916. Further construction continued through the Kresna Gorge to Rupel and Petrich to facilitate the delivery of sleepers, beams, props and other timber needed for military units. The headquarters of the active army instructed the Railway Communications Administration to build a branch from the Struma station on the Dupnitsa-Gorna Dzhumaya line to the factory of the Balabanov brothers near the village of Barakovo. Construction began on August 4, 1916, and the line was opened for operation on September 13, 1916, from which date the factory was connected to the narrow-gauge railway network in the Struma region.

1918-1920

According to the original plan, the branch was supposed to be built next to the Orlitsa convent (1.5 km above the village of Rila), but this happened a year and a half later. On February 19, 1918, the USA ordered the narrow-gauge railway to continue to the Orlitsa convent. By June 20, 1918, the task was completed, as the rails were laid after the convent, but construction was stopped and the rails after the Orlica convent were dismantled and sent to the Southern Front. Until the end of the First World War and a few years after it, only the section Struma-Barakovo-Rila-Metoh Orlitsa (13.3 km) functioned in the valley of the Rila River.

1920-1927

In 1920, according to the Law on Settlement of the Railway Lines Built during the First World War, the UZHPS handed over to the BDZ together with all the military and the Struma-Orlitsa section, and the Bulgarian Forest Industry Company (BGI) to the Balabanov brothers - Kocherinovo took a concession and began building the extension of the line up the Rilska River valley. In this regard, BGI leases from BDZ the small section Rila-Orlitsa (1.5 km).

In 1922, the narrow-gauge line was already operated at the mouth of the Iliyana River - Iliyana Station (from 1925 Kula Station and from 1949 Brichebor Station). Almost a year and a half later, ie. by 1924 the line reached the left bank of the Rila River (on the Brichebor slope) to the Rila Monastery.

Further, the Bulgarian forest industry continues to work on the route, laying rails and so the narrow-gauge line reaches its final area, tentatively called Cherney station (almost 3.5 km above the monastery below Cherney peak), with many short branches



Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria

that are laid for convenience, and then dismantled and moved to another location according to the needs of loading and removal of timber and waste wood.

1928-1937

After 1928, when the Joint Stock Company "Bulgarian Book and Wood Industry" (BKDI) became the successor of BGI, Rila station - Orlitsa station (km 1 + 500) is owned by BDZ, but leased to BKDI, Orlitsa station - station Balabanov (km 12 + 600) is owned by BKDI and is operated by it, and from the Balabanov bus stop up to the monastery is owned by the Rila Holy Monastery, but is operated by BKDI.

In 1933 the term of this concession expired and since then BKDI used the site, paying rent to the Rila Holy Monastery.

In 1937 the normal railway line Dupnitsa-Gorna Dzhumaya was put into operation. The narrow-gauge railway along the Struma River has been dismantled in the sections Dupnitsa-Kocherinovo and Struma-Gorna Dzhumaya, and the small section Kocherinovo-Struma (2.3 km) is added to the branch Struma-Rila-Rila Monastery and Kocherinovo station becomes initial (transshipment) station on the narrow gauge.

1938-1942

Towards the end of the 1930s, to avoid the difficulties arising from the triple ownership of the Rila-Rila Monastery section, BDZ decided to buy the part of BKDI and agree with the Rila Monastery to take over the operation of its part. After preliminary negotiations with BKDI at the beginning of 1942, the Redemption Act was issued (SG, issue 8 of January 14, 1942). For its part, the administrative session of the Monastery Council of the Rila Holy Monastery, on February 3, 1942, decided to cede to the state in the face of BDZ ownership of its part of the line. Thus, in the spring of 1942, the entire section Rila-Rila Monastery became state property and was handed over for operation to BDZ, together with the rolling stock used along this line.

1942-1944

After 1942, without affecting the mainline Kocherinovo-Rila-Rila Monastery, operated as a regular railway line by BDZ, there were some changes with the special branches, which are again served by BDZ but are not their property.

First, BKDI dismantled the rail units from the Rila Monastery station up to Cherney, as its own, and used them to build a large branch to the Iliyna River to transport



Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria

timber along with the Kula-Kravarsko Dere station (about 3 km). This section comes into operation together with the continuation of the line from the Rila Monastery station to the very entrance (Samokov Gate) of the monastery (about 0.5 km). Soon, however, the then Metropolitan of Nevrokop, Boris, opposed the pilgrimage almost by train to the monastery. BDZ respects this reaction. As before, passenger trains begin to arrive and depart from Rila Monastery Station, and the extension is used as a railway branch, which brings supplies, firewood and coal for heating the monastery and surrounding buildings.

1945-1947

In 1945, three more branches with a total length of about 1.6 km were opened, and in 1946 the forestry continued the Kula-Kravarsko Dere branch to Radovitsa and laid rails from the Rila Monastery station up to timber loading sites.

Thus, by 1947, the narrow-gauge railways in the Rila River valley and its tributaries reached their greatest development: the current road on the mainline Kocherinovo-Rila-Rila Monastery - 36.9 km, station tracks 5.6 km, forestry and industrial branches - 10.7 km, or a total of 53.2 km. rail.

Public transport

Information about the transportation of passengers - visitors to the monastery, on the line and with rolling stock of BGI from the Rila upwards is available in 1927, but it is possible to be transported earlier. These shipments are also precisely negotiated. For example, in 1935 a ticket from the 3rd class from Rila station to Rila Monastery station cost 30 leva, as 7 leva were taken by BDZ and 23 leva - by BKDI. After 1937, when the section Kocherinovo-Rila-Rila Monastery remained a Stations and stops in the Rila riverbed

On May 18, 1942, BDZ put into regular operation the section Rila-Rila Monastery, as a continuation of Kocherinovo-Rila. The following operational points are open for public use along the entire line: Kocherinovo, Barakovo station, Porominovo station, Stobinovo station, Stob station, Rila station, Orlitsa station, Neofit Rilski station (until August 28, 1942, it is called Vakaro station), Pastra station, Balabanov station, Yagniloto bus stop, Kula station and Rila Monastery station.

Rolling stock



Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria

The locomotive depot in the Rila operates on average with 10 locomotives of two series - 01 60 and 400 60, while at the same time all other narrow-gauge 600 mm railway lines use only one 400 60 series for train traffic.

The car fleet consists of different types and purposes wagons, freight and passenger. In the years 1925-1931, new structural modifications of the passenger cars were made, created with the assistance of Eng. Kardelev, an associate of the Narrow Gauge Railway Workshop. They are a type of trailer designed for the warm spring and hot summer months to take a large flow of passengers in the direction of the Rila Monastery.

In 1946, a total of 214,623 passengers were transported on the Kocherinovo-Rila Monastery narrow-gauge line, and in 1947 - 237,437 passengers.

Renaming

On June 1, 1949, the Balabanov station was renamed the Zhelyu Demirevski station, the Kula station at the Brichebor station, and a little later the Yagniloto station at the Eleshnitsa station. The closed Struma station is opened as a stop, and the Orlitsa stop is closed.

In the 1950s, the Kocherinovo-Rila Monastery narrow-gauge railway continued to operate intensively. Between Kocherinovo and Rila there are on average 8-9 pairs of trains a day. Of these, 4-5 pairs are mixed, and the rest - are freight. Between Rila and Rila Monastery move 5-7 pairs, of which 2-4 pairs mixed. By 1955, some of the mixed trains had been replaced by passenger trains.

The railway is generally very well maintained. After 1955 in the heavy section Rila-Rila Monastery the rails type RDP-9.5 were replaced with relatively heavy for this interrail type CBR-19.5 and the superstructure is in excellent condition.

The end of a railroad

Despite significant improvements, traffic is gradually declining: timber production in the area is declining, pilgrims to the Rila Monastery are declining, and car access is improving. The number of people transported by the narrow-gauge railway in 1959 (the year before its closure) is about 130,000 people, incl. 44737 passengers left the Rila Monastery station, or an average of 123 people per day, which is a very good figure for a 600 mm railway line, where the normal passenger car has 20 seats and three trains a day.

Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Bulgaria

The last train, decorated with a black flag, departed from the Rila Monastery station on March 31, 1960. Journalists write that all the monks and workers in the monastery area came to the shipment, that the locomotive whistle kept ringing goodbye as the train descended Brichebor slope that the population of the entire Rila riverbed came out to send the last train.

The end, the unwelcome by all patriots end of that touch of the railway to the Holy Rila Monastery came...

Source: <http://www.archives.government.bg/>;
<https://www.strannik.bg/o/6319/izlozhba-100-godini-ot-osnovavaneto-na-rilskata-zheleznitsa>; <https://strelka.bg>



Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Romania

Vâlcea County, Romania: Cornet - "the monastery under which the train passes", the medieval "pillar" of Orthodoxy in Wallachia-Țara Românească



Râmnicu Vâlcea, Loviștei, considered a historical area of Romanian Orthodoxy, the place where Basarab I managed to consolidate the first Romanian feudal state, does not know too many stone monasteries, even if the county of Vâlcea is representative of Romania, which has the most places. , having over 52

hermitages/rock sketes, monasteries, hospitals, chapels, crucifixes.

This may be due to the fact that the mountain villages in the area had a wooden church as their spiritual center, which could easily be dismantled and relocated along with the village due to military incursions.

However, Țara Loviștei has one of the most beautiful monastic jewels, a mountain monastery built almost four centuries ago in an area where the lesser known fruit called COARNE grows.

The Cornet Monastery or Lovistei Monastery, the northernmost place of worship in the hereditary monasteries of Valcha County, has a feature that few know and has led many to call it "the church above the train".



The church dedicated to the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, a building representing seventeenth-century architecture, was built in 1666 by the lord of the fortress, Mares Bazescu, and was originally painted by its founder. In 1761 the altar was repainted with the contribution of master Alex, captain of Lovishte, Mihai, Radu from Targovishte and Yordache as master painters. The church, the pavilion

Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Romania

in the southeast corner and the partially fenced wall have been preserved in their original form since the end of the 17th century.

The monastery is located in the valley of the Olt River, near the old border between the Habsburg Empire and Wallachia, the last bastion of Orthodoxy at the time.

Today it is located 50 km from Râmnicu Vâlcea, on the road leading to Sibiu through the Olt Valley. Inside the church was divided by a wall between the nave and the narthex, and the painting is frescoed, but only the 15th century has been preserved. in the 18th century.

The site chosen to be built is a massive rock that descends from the Lotrullui Mountains to the Olt River bed. From here, the trade route connecting the two countries branched off, part went to Perishani - Courtea de Arges, and a steep and extremely dangerous part followed the road along the Olt River to Kalimanes.



"Cornetu was the pillar of Orthodoxy, the last fortified church in Wallachia, a fortress that has faced several problems throughout its existence that could actually lead to its effective extinction," said Ligia Rizea, a former AGERPRES employee, to a consultant. AGERPRES on heritage issues within the Regional Directorate of Culture.

In its history, the Cornet Monastery has experienced several crisis situations. Thus, in 1808, the hermitage was destroyed and rebuilt in 1835. The church on the border is perhaps the most persecuted place for the Habsburg conquerors, who were confused by this fortress of Orthodoxy, in an attempt to conquer by faith the shepherd communities located in the northern part of the county of Vâlcea. Between 1864 and 1925, the church was administered by the Euphoria of the Civil Hospitals in Bucharest, which in 1885 financed the construction of the oak

Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Romania

iconostasis; a year later the oil icons were painted with oil. Between 1923 and 1925, the hermitage-sponsored institution, in collaboration with the Monuments Directorate, rebuilt the dome of the tower and the altar, destroyed by artillery shells during the 1916 battles.

A critical moment of his entire existence. In 1897 the project for the construction of the railway line Ramnicu Valcea - Vadului River was developed and unfortunately in the area Rakovica-Cornetu, given the narrowness of the Olt Valley, the railway



line passes right through the monastery. Thus, according to this project, the rock would be blown up and the monastery indirectly removed. Negotiations took two years to find a compromise solution. The alternative was for the railway contractor to finance

the relocation of this place of worship, which was an extremely expensive procedure. Eventually, the permit was initiated by the clergy, who proposed building a rock tunnel just below the monastery. Following the technical analysis, this decision was accepted, but it also posed a number of risks, as the drilling work should not affect the resistance structure of the 300-year-old temple building. In 1898, however, the cells on the west side were demolished and a tunnel was built under the monastery, which is now on the list of protected technical monuments.

But the problems of the monastery did not end. In 1916, during the First World War, the Olt Valley was one of the fiercest battle zones, and the church was right

Notes on the railway the transport infrastructure in the past and the realization of the pilgrimage tourism during this period in Romania

in the middle of the front, between General Praporgescu's troops and the German army. The dome of the church and part of the altar were bombed with cannons, and then renovated between 1923 and 1925.

The last obstacle the monastery faced was in the 1980s, along with a plan for the hydro-technical structure of the Olt River, when authorities proposed its demolition again. However, the Cornet hydroelectric plant, which was proposed for construction downstream of the monastery, was redesigned and eventually this structure was built upstream, and the monastery is saved this time as well. "Pilgrims who want to retire to the monastery above the train can also admire the monumental work. It is a rock tunnel built in 1898. The railway tunnel belongs to the railway section Râmnicu Vâlcea, Raul Vadului, built under the direction of Eng. for its time, constructive solutions had to face the natural difficulties caused by crossing the gorge of the Olt River, a river transport artery open to modern transport. "The whole ensemble was designed and built with technical precision and special architectural flair from 1722, during the Austrian rule in Oltenia," adds Ligia Rizea of AGERPRES / (author of the article: Liviu Popescu, editor: Adrian Drăguț).



**Source: <https://www.agerpres.ro/social/2014/11/15/reportaj-valcea-cornet-manastirea-pe-sub-care-trece-trenul-fosta-vama-a-ortodoxismului-din-tara-romaneasca-12-25-02>;
<https://valceainimagini.blogspot.com/2020/06/cornetu-manastirea-pe-sub-care-trece.html>**



STAKEHOLDERS
QUESTIONNAIRES ONLINE

2020-2022

STRATEGY CHRISTHERITAGE ROBG-302

RUSSE – GIURGIU

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2014-2020

WWW.CHRIST-RO-BG.EU

Questionnaire-ROBG-302 <http://christ-ro-bg.eu>

Project: "Christian Heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu Cultural Corridor" - ROBG-302

Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Program 2014-2020

Project partners ChristHeritage ROBG-302:

Leading partner / LP /: St. Petka Church - Ruse, Bulgaria

Partner № 2 / PP2 /: Comuna Vedeя, Giurgiu County

& Church "St. Panteleimon" - Vedeя, Romania

Partner № 3 / PP3 /: Church "St. George" - Ruse, Bulgaria

Project duration 36 months: January 11, 2019 - January 12, 2023

Project budget: 1,499,991.21 EUR

This document was prepared under the project ChrisHeritage ROBG-302,
Activity: Establishment of a network of stakeholders for the
development of cultural and religious tourism in the cross-border
region Russe - Giurgiu

<http://christ-ro-bg.eu>



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GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA



* Obligatory

1. **1. Your email & organization you represent?***

2. **2. Profession / educational degree:***

3. **3. Is your age?***

Mark only one position.

☐ under 14 years

☐ 14-18 years

☐ over 18 years

4. **4. Is your gender?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Woman

☐ Men

5. **5. Do you pray often in church?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No, I prefer to pray at home.

6. **6. Place of birth :***

7. **7. How do you define yourself religiously? ***

Mark only one position.

☐ Orthodox

☐ Protestant

☐ Catholic

☐ Muslim

☐ A believer without specific religious affiliation

☐ Atheist

8. **8. Are you familiar with the lives of the saints who protect you and celebrate your name day?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. **9. Do you know which saint is the patron saint of the city of Russe, the Bulgarian capital and the whole of Bulgaria?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. **10. Do you know which saint is the patron saint of the city of Giurgiu, the Romanian capital and the whole of Romania?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

11. **11. Did you know that in the past monasteries were centres of knowledge, preserving literary and cultural wealth through their libraries, schools and scriptoria/places where manuscripts and books are copied by hand /?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

13. **12. Did you know that secular public education has separated from religious education only in the last 80-100 years? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. **13. Did you know that during the past world wars, priests also participated on the battlefield as military priests?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other

15. **14. Did you know that in the past monasteries were also places of treatment?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other: _____

16. **15. Did you know that about 100 years ago they were still used for payment in some churches and monasteries, the so-called temple coins?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other

17. **16. Are you familiar with the social, educational and cultural role of the Orthodox Church in the region and how long has it had an impact on the local population?**

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, for centuries
- ☐ Yes, for 150 years
- ☐ I've heard about its significance, but I don't know the exact date
- ☐ I don't remember from school
- ☐ I am not interested in this topic otherwise
- ☐ Other

18. **17. What is your favourite monastery and church in the Ruse-Giurgiu region?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ I have none of these
- ☐ Please name them
- ☐ Others: _____

19. **18. Have you come across information about the term "digitized culture heritage"**

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-cultural-heritage> ?*

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other: _____

20. **19. Would you like to visit a virtual exhibition of Christian cultural heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region while we are in a pandemic?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ It will be interesting and convenient for me to virtually view the exposition of the Christian cultural heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region even after the pandemic ban on visiting museums is lifted.

21. **20. What would interest you in the exposition on the Christian heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region, related to church history:***

Check all that apply.

☐ Archaeology/science of human activity in the past/

☐ Numismatics/science of coins as historical sources /

☐ Epigraphy/studies the old inscriptions and texts, which are not written with a pen on parchment, but carved with a chisel on a stone or painted with a brush on ancient frescoes and icons./

☐ Sphragistics/sigillography - studies the seals of medieval rulers, high clergy, cities and others./

☐ Heraldry/science of coats of arms and other distinctive signs /

☐ Ethnology/studies the cultural development of different ethnic groups in society /

☐ History of the region / Antiquity and the Middle Ages /

☐ Contemporary history of the region / New time - from the end of the XV to the beginning. of the twentieth century and modern times - after the end of the First World War 1918/

☐ Others: _____

Your opinion is a key factor for feedback from the community on the topic in the Ruse-Giurgiu region!

Thank you for participating in this survey
under the project "Christian Heritage in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu" - ROBG-302, funded by Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020



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Questionnaire-ROBG-302 <http://christ-ro-bg.eu>

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<http://christ-ro-bg.eu>



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GOVERNMENT OF ROMANIA



GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA



*** Obligatory**

1. **Is your age?***

Отбележете само едно кръгче.

☐ under 14 years

☐ 14-16 years

☐ 18-29 years

☐ 29-35 years

☐ over 35 years

2. **Is your gender?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Woman

☐ Men

3. **Place of birth ***

4. **Your email & organization you represent? ***

5. **Profession / educational degree ***

13. **1. What would interest you in the exposition on the Christian heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region, related to church history:***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Archaeology/science of human activity in the past/
- ☐ Numismatics/science of coins as historical sources /
- ☐ Epigraphy/studies the old inscriptions and texts, which are not written with a pen on parchment, but carved with a chisel on a stone or painted with a brush on ancient frescoes and icons./
- ☐ Sphragistics/sigillography - studies the seals of medieval rulers, high clergy, cities and others./
- ☐ Heraldry/science of coats of arms and other distinctive signs /
- ☐ Ethnology/studies the cultural development of different ethnic groups in society /
- ☐ History of the region / Antiquity and the Middle Ages /
- ☐ Contemporary history of the region / New time - from the end of the XV to the beginning. of the twentieth century and modern times - after the end of the First World War 1918/
- ☐ Others:

6. **2. Would you like to visit a virtual exhibition of Christian cultural heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region while we are in a pandemic?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ It will be interesting and convenient for me to virtually view the exposition of the Christian cultural heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region even after the pandemic ban on visiting museums is lifted.

- 3. Do you know which saint is the patron saint of the city of Giurgiu, the Romanian capital and the whole of Romania?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

7.

- 4. Do you know which saint is the patron saint of the city of Russe, the Bulgarian capital and the whole of Bulgaria? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8.

14. **5. Have you come across information about the term "digitized culture heritage" <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-cultural-heritage> ?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other: _____

9. **6. What would be useful for you in presenting a pilgrimage route related to the Christian cultural heritage in the Ruse-Giurgiu region?***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Presented pilgrimage routes on topics - baptism, wedding, and funeral of famous public figures from the region.
- ☐ Presented pilgrimage routes by geographical principle through modern and ancient names of settlements in the region.
- ☐ Pilgrimage routes are presented according to the annual calendar cycle of Orthodox holidays and saints related to local churches and monasteries.
- ☐ Combined.
- ☐ I am not directly interested in this issue.
- ☐ Other: _____

7. Did you know that secular public education has separated from religious education only in the last 80-100 years?*

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10. **8. How often do you visit the church near your home?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ Once a week
- ☐ More often
- ☐ Only on major church holidays during the year
- ☐ On my name day
- ☐ On my birthday
- ☐ On the anniversary of baptism, wedding, or funeral I do
- ☐ Not attend church
- ☐ Other: _____

11. **9. Are you familiar with the lives of the saints who protect you and celebrate your name day?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

12. **10. How many acquaintances do you have with theological education?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ One person
- ☐ Several people
- ☐ None

1. **11. Did you know that in the past monasteries were centres of knowledge, preserving literary and cultural wealth through their libraries, schools and scriptoria/places where manuscripts and books are copied by hand /?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

13.

2. **12. Do you pray often in church?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No, I prefer to pray at home.

14.

15. **13. Did you know that about 100 years ago they were still used for payment in some churches and monasteries, the so-called temple coins?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it

☐ Other

15. **14. Do you know the importance of the laity to the local church?***

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

16. **15. Did you know that during the past world wars, priests also participated on the battlefield as military priests?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other

16. **16. Are you interested in reading religious literature?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, mainly from Christian literature
- ☐ Yes, but I read other religious literature besides Christian
- ☐ No, I don't read any religious literature
- ☐ No, but I know the field of theology

17. **17. Did you know that in the past monasteries were also places of treatment?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, this is the first time I've heard it
- ☐ Other: _____

17. **18. In the conditions of life in a pandemic, does the church bring me comfort?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Maybe
- ☐ No
- ☐ I haven't thought about it and I can't answer

18. **19. Do you remember who introduced you to the Orthodox Church for the first time and explained to you how to pray, be baptized and what the icons are and why candles are lit!***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, my relative/mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, etc. /
- ☐ Yes, at the local religious school
- ☐ Yes, my godfather
- ☐ Alone
- ☐ I can not remember
- ☐ Other: _____

19. **20. Do you go to church for confession?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

20. **21. Are you interested in the elements of the temple architecture of the Christian church - exterior and interior?***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Yes, due to professional commitment
- ☐ Yes, due to personal interest
- ☐ I love beautiful architecture and looking at icons
- ☐ I feel the connection with the ancestors and our national past, preserved so far in the church, in the temple space
- ☐ I feel inner harmony as I listen to church choir music, so I often attend church services.
- ☐ I pay tribute to my deceased relatives
- ☐ No, I'm not interested
- ☐ Other: _____

21. **22. How often do you visit the church to listen to the church choir?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Every week
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Only on major church holidays
- ☐ Once a year
- ☐ Rarely and not related to a specific holiday during the year
- ☐ Never
- ☐ I don't have that habit
- ☐ Other: _____

22. **23. Do you participate in regular religious services in addition to wedding rituals, funerals and baptisms?***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

23. **24. Do you consider the Virtual Museums: Access to European Cultural Heritage and analysis for a richer interpretation of the past, using cost-effective technologies for advanced 3D modelling to improve understanding of cultural heritage and innovative digital systems, useful for the region? cultural assets "?"***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

18. **25. Are you familiar with the social, educational and cultural role of the Orthodox Church in the region and how long has it had an impact on the local population?**

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, for centuries
- ☐ Yes, for 150 years
- ☐ I've heard about its significance, but I don't know the exact date
- ☐ I don't remember from school
- ☐ I am not interested in this topic otherwise
- ☐ Other

24. **26. Sometimes you spontaneously visit a church/monastery to...? ***

Check all that apply.

- ☐ Light a candle for the health and pray
- ☐ Light a candle for the dead and pray
- ☐ Listen to the chants of the church choir
- ☐ Explore the icons and temple architecture
- ☐ No, it hasn't happened to me before
- ☐ Other: _____

3. **27. How do you define yourself religiously? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Orthodox
- ☐ Protestant
- ☐ Catholic
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ A believer without specific religious affiliation
- ☐ Atheist

28. What is your favourite monastery and church in the Ruse-Giurgiu region?*

Mark only one position.

☐ I have none of these

☐ Please name them

☐ Others: _____

28. **29. What are the topics of modern life on which you would like to know the position of the Church?***

Your opinion is a key factor for feedback from the community on the topic in the Ruse- Giurgiu region!

Thank you for participating in this survey

under the project "Christian Heritage in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu" - ROBG-302, funded by Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020



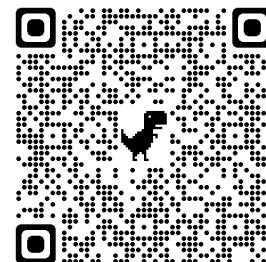
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Interreg Programme V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020
 Priority axis: 2, Specific objective: 1, Project name:
"Christian heritage in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu"
Christ Heritage ROBG-302
<http://christ-ro-bg.eu>

Questionnaire

to the Tourist sector/business companies, tour operators and etc./on the territory of Russe - Giurgiu region for the period 2020-2021

with a focus on cultural, historical and religious tourism in the cross-border region of Russe- Giurgiu, funded by the Project Interreg RO-BG 302 "Christian Heritage in the Russe-Giurgiu Cultural Corridor" Programme Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020.



This document was prepared under the project ChrisHeritage ROBG-302, Activity: Establishment of a network of stakeholders for the development of cultural and religious tourism in the cross-border region Russe - Giurgiu



*** Obligatory**

to develop the competitive cross-border tourist product in the Cultural Corridor Russe- Giurgiu, based on the sustainable use of the cultural, historical and religious heritage. www.christ-ro-bg.eu



HOW TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire shall be drawn up in such a way as to ensure the quickest and easiest possible completion. Most questions can only be answered by scoring in the cans. Too low a volume of information requires reports (additional search). When you meet "You" in the questionnaire, please respond on behalf of your organization. "Organization" means your company, division, or if you are in the head office, the group in which you work. In the public sector, this applies to specific local authorities or departments, public departments, etc.

Responding Scale:

1- a bit

2- medium

3- a lot

A. Basic information about the surveyed organization/company (Please fill in)

1. **Name of surveyed organization: ***

2. **Name of the person who completed the survey: ***

3. **Organization/Company Address: ***

4. **E-mail address (website) : ***

5. **The sector of activity: ***

6. **Year of the establishment of the company: ***

7. **Brief description of the company/organization: ***

B. Questions about the state of the tourist activity for the past 12 months (please fill)

8. 1. Number of tourists visiting the site in the period 2020-2021? **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Up to 200
- ☐ Up to 500
- ☐ Up to 1000
- ☐ Over 1500

9. 2. How would you allocate tourists by nationality (please fill in with 1 to 3) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Romanians
- ☐ Bulgarians
- ☐ Germans
- ☐ French
- ☐ British
- ☐ Spaniards
- ☐ Austrians
- ☐ Jews
- ☐ Armenians
- ☐ Russians
- ☐ Turks
- ☐ Greeks
- ☐ Americans
- ☐ Canadians
- ☐ Australians
- ☐ Other: _____

10. **3. What is the age of your visiting tourists? (please fill in with 1 to 3) ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Up to 18 years
- ☐ 19-27
- ☐ 28-36
- ☐ 37-50
- ☐ 51-66
- ☐ Over 67

11. **4. What vehicles have your visiting tourists used? (please fill in with 1 to 3) ***

*Rail cruise - A tourist trip on the railway line (attraction train) on a closed circular road, with planned stops on the way for excursions. *Bus cruise-Trips with various modifications of buses (mini-buses, buses with a capacity of 40-50 people and the like, double-decker buses, hotel-style buses with bedrooms, etc. ").

Mark only one position.

- ☐ River/sea/tourism - yachts, passenger ships
- ☐ River Cruise
- ☐ Automotive tourism
- ☐ Bus cruise*
- ☐ Rail tourism- via passenger or tourist train
- ☐ Rail cruise *
- ☐ Motorcycle tourism - to another city in the country
- ☐ Motorcycle tourism - to distant regions in different countries
- ☐ Cycling tourism - to another city in the country
- ☐ Cycling tourism - to distant regions in different countries
- ☐ Air tourism
- ☐ Ballooning
- ☐ Hiking
- ☐ Other: _____

12. **5. What are the reasons for the trips of your visiting tourists? (please fill in with 1 to 3) ***

*Nostalgic tourism is related to visiting acquaintances and relatives, birthplaces, past life or place of birth of parents, and funeral sites of their ancestors. Nostalgic tours are especially prevalent due to a change in the political map, especially in Europe. *Elite tourism- tourists with incomes above the average for the region- "tourist locomotive" gives the impetus for the development of the entire regional tourism industry. It helps to spread new high standards of services and to improve the quality of life of the population. *Organizing wedding tours - A package of tourist services, including video shooting, limousine, flowers, champagne, etc. If the wedding ritual is planned to be made on a trip, it is organized as a folklore holiday. *Organizing a tourist tour for christening - Package of tourist services, including video shooting, flowers, catering, etc. If the church ritual is scheduled to be made on a trip, it is organized as a pilgrimage holiday.

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Pilgrimage trips
- ☐ Tourism to visit relatives and friends-nostalgic tourism
- ☐ Educational tourism
- ☐ Sport tourism - canoeing, mountain biking, diving, yachting, etc.
- ☐ Business trips
- ☐ Rest
- ☐ Therapeutic tourism
- ☐ Other: _____

13. **6. Active months of the business activity of the company organization? ***

other: Seasonal (please specify months)

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Year-round
- ☐ Other: _____

14. **7. Number of company/organization staff (please specify) below: ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Up to 5
- ☐ Between 5 to 10
- ☐ Over 10

15. 8. Type of employment relationship with the company's staff (please specify) below **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Seasonal
- ☐ Year-round
- ☐ Other: _____

16. 9. Does the company's staff consist of local citizens? (please fill in) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

17. 10. What are the tourist services offered by the company/organization? (please fill in) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Hospitality industry
- ☐ Restaurants
- ☐ Tour operators
- ☐ NGOs
- ☐ Public organizations (state, municipal)
- ☐ Coffee and fast food
- ☐ Entertainment and Hobby
- ☐ Trade (souvenirs, small goods)
- ☐ Craftsmanship
- ☐ Other: _____

18. 11. Do you use electronic services to serve customers or to promote your activities (please fill in) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ External links
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Social networks
- ☐ Electronic room booking
- ☐ Special software for working with customers
- ☐ Other: _____

19. 12. Have you participated in national fairs or exhibitions in the last year/ in the period 2020-2021/? (please specify) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

20. 13. Have you participated in international fairs or exhibitions in the last year/ in the period 2020-2021/? (please specify) **Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes,
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

C. Future Development and problems of tourist activities in the cultural region Russe- Giurgiu (please fill in)

Towards a More Sustainable Cultural & Religious / Pilgrimage Tourism in the cross-border region Russe - Giurgiu ChristHeritage ROBG-302 Activity: Conservation and restoration activities presenting to the public the cultural and historical heritage in the 3 churches – permanent exhibition of church artefacts in Exposition Center, situated in the st. Petka church's yard in Russe & via Internet project site: www.christ-ro-bg.eu





21. **14. What do you think is the most famous site of natural and cultural and historical/religious / heritage, route, attraction, or event in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Cultural and Historical Heritage Site
- ☐ Route (specify village-locality)
- ☐ Attraction/organized Annual Event
- ☐ Natural Heritage Site

22. **15. In your opinion, the development of what kind of tourism is best suited for the conditions of the territory? (please fill in) ***

*Adventure tourism - licensed hunting, fishing, collection of wild herbs, etc., related to visiting, expeditions, and use to rest and rehabilitation of natural sites: seas, rivers, lakes, forests, mountains, caves, etc. *Sports tourism - The main task of these tours is the opportunity for tourists to engage in the selected sport: Underground (speleotourism), mountain riding, cycling, mountaineering, etc. Sports tourism requires adequate tourist infrastructure and guaranteed safety for the Turks. Sports tours are divided into 1. Active - a tour, during which tourists actively engage in one or another sport. professionally or as amateurs 2. Passive - a tour of sports competitions and events where tourists act as fans or with an interest in a particular sport, visiting the competition. * Ecotourism – It aims to create economic incentives for the preservation of the environment. The concept of "ecotourism" covers a wide range of trips – from small educational tours for students to regular tourist programs in national parks and reserves, to achieve sustainable development of the territories, and the preservation of biological and social, and cultural diversity. The resulting profit from this type of tourism can be partly directed towards reinvestment in environmental measures. To the environmental tourism belongs. *Rural tourism- which provides accommodation at home to residents of rural agroecological tourism, in which tourists during recreation lead a rural lifestyle on farms. *Exotic/extreme tourism- often adventure tourism is associated with a certain risk and requires increased attention to the safety of tourists. As a result, a specific location for extreme tourism has been chosen from the whole adventure, the purpose of which is the test of human forces in a complex environment, usually in an unurbanized environment in the open sky nature - diving, rafting on mountain rivers on light inflatable rafts, bungee jumping, kite-surfing, parachuting, skydiving, rock climbing, paragliding, kayaking, canyoning, ballooning, mountain hiking, and equestrian trekking, etc. The nature of exotic tourism also has gastronomic tours. *Social tourism - trips subsidized by the funds allocated by the state for social needs, supporting people on low incomes/ incapable persons, etc. to apply their right to rest

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Religious tourism
- ☐ Cultural & Historical tourism
- ☐ Sports tourism
- ☐ Educational tourism
- ☐ Eco, rural tourism
- ☐ Medical and recreation, spa tourism
- ☐ Business and professional, congress tourism
- ☐ Adventure tourism
- ☐ Festival, folklore tourism
- ☐ Water tourism
- ☐ Mountain tourism
- ☐ Hobby tourism – travel, photography, culinary
- ☐ Other: _____

23. **16. With what do you associate with the development of *religious tourism in the cultural corridor Russe- Giurgiu? ***

* Religious (pilgrim) tourism - travel to holy places, monasteries, and various historical and archaeological sites of cult value. 1) worship (visiting holy places of worship of holy powers); 2) cognitive journeys (knowledge of religious monuments, history of religion, the culture of religion); 3) Scientific trips (travel of historians and other specialists engaged in religion, etc.).

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Cultural & Historical tourism
- ☐ Other: _____

24. **17. What do you think is the most effective advertisement for the promotion of the local religious temple landmarks? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Personal recommendation - in real-time and live Radio
- ☐ advertising
- ☐ Recommendations from famous public figures with different professional fields of activity
- ☐ Television advertising
- ☐ Movies and through the other animated commercials, creating short themed videos
- ☐ Recommendation from a famous blogger, vlogger, etc. virtual influencers Newspaper/
- ☐ magazine advertising through paper printed version and/or on social networks
- ☐ Tourist guides in paper and digital format
- ☐ Publications on specialized sites and electronic media
- ☐ Advertising in specialized tourist publications
- ☐ Books or through the short story written fascinatingly on the subject or with an aspect of common ground in the region
- ☐ Visual arts through painting-posters, comics or/and illustrated encyclopedias for children
- ☐ Billboards, information and signposts
- ☐ Other: _____

25. **18. Who/What do you think should be the symbol of pilgrimage tourism in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? ***

26. **19. If you need to describe in just three/3/ words a religious tourist area in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? then these words in your opinion are: ***

27. **20. Please indicate three /3/countries with which you think cooperation in pilgrimage tourism should be supported, with a direct benefit of increasing tourist flow in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? ***

28. **21. What are the main problems of tourist companies and organizations in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? ***

29. **22. Is it necessary to develop training/courses in the field of pilgrimage tours in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu? ***

If Yes, specify in other

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other: _____

30. **23. Do the state authorities promote the development the pilgrimage tourism in the cultural region of Russe-Giurgiu enough? ***

If Yes, specify in other

Mark only one position.

☐ Yes

☐ No

31. **24. What *additional tourist services does your company/organization offer as an extra opportunity for tourist visits/ related to religious regional landmarks or with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage trip outside the urban area, including rock climbing to famous religious sites/caves? (please specify) ***

"Additional tourist services" - services related to travel, entertainment, events and other events of a cultural and cognitive nature, sports animation, mineral water-healing, and other medical services, congress and business events, use of funiculars, rental of beach facilities, equipment and vehicles, schools and riding clubs, yachting, surfing, ski schools, water sports schools, and other services, to developing of tourism.

32. **25. Would you include in the tourist services you offer a tour with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage thematic trip to conclude a church marriage, baptism, or visit historically significant cemetery memorials in the region? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian ritual of church marriage
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian rite of baptism
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits to Christian cemetery memorials of high cultural and historical value
- ☐ Yes, with the offer of all three possibilities
- ☐

33. **26. Would you include in the tourist services offered by you a tour with a focus on tourists interested in pilgrimage trip promoting some biographically aspect from a particular historical person/ monk, spiritual person, zograph, ctitor, doctor, composer, architect, writer, merchant, etc. significant personalities/ with a route including the churches and monasteries in the region Russe- Giurgiu /where was the person baptized, married, lived/worked, buried/? ***

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

34. **27. Would you include in the tourist services offered by you a tour with a focus on tourists interested in pilgrimage trips of the type "In the footsteps of St. Petka/Paraskeva - Protectrice of Romanians and Bulgarians"? ***

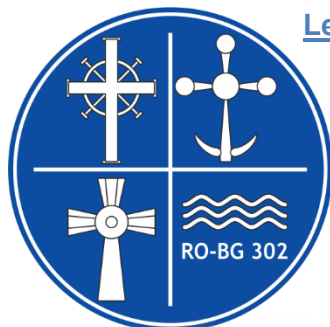
Mark only one position

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

35. **28. What do you think are the factors influencing tourists' choice of destination? (please specify) ***

Thank you for your participation!

-Project partners Christ Heritage ROBG-302:

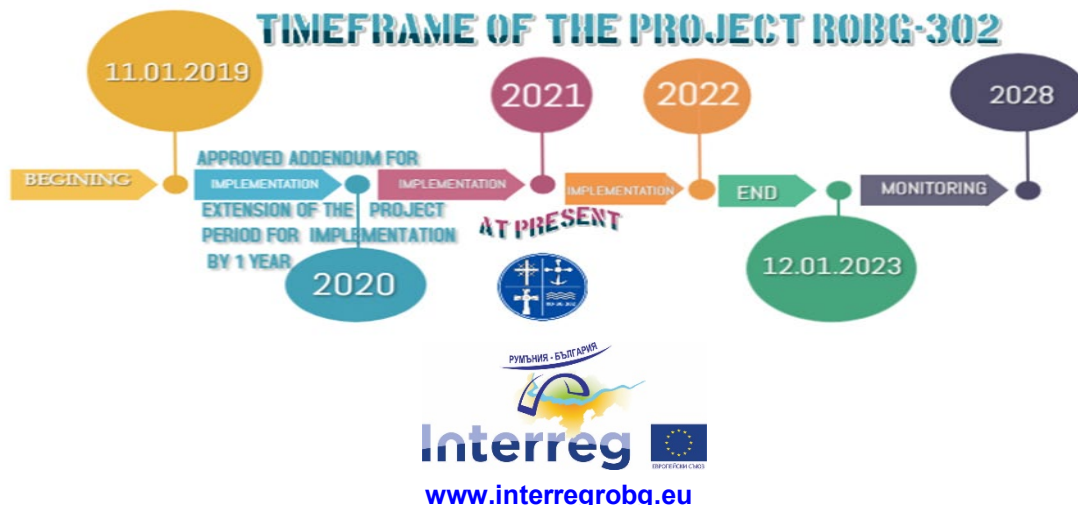


Lead partner/LP/: „St. Petka“ Church – Russe, Bulgaria

- svetapetkachruchruse@mail.bg

Partner No 2/PP2/: Comuna Vedeia, Giurgiu County-„St. Panteleimon“ Church- Vedeia, Romania- primaria.vedeia@gmail.com

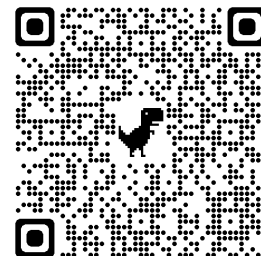
Partner No 3/PP3/: „St. George“ Church – Russe, Bulgaria - svetigeorgichruchruse@mail.bg



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Interreg Programme V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020
 Priority axis: 2, Specific objective: 1, Project name:
"Christian heritage in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu"
Christ Heritage ROBG-302
<http://christ-ro-bg.eu>

Questionnaire
to the priests serving the temples in the parishes of
Russe Metropolitanate & Giurgiu Metropolitanate
and their opportunity and development needs related to the sustainable
development and promotion of religious/pilgrimage tourism in the cross-
border cultural region Russe – Giurgiu



This document was prepared under the project ChristHeritage ROBG-302, Activity: Establishment of a network of stakeholders for the development of cultural and religious tourism in the cross-border region Russe-Giurgiu



Dear participants,

The ChristHeritage ROBG-302 project team developed this questionnaire as part of the initiative for the study and development of tourist activities with a focus on cultural and historical and religious tourism in the cross-border region of Russe- Giurgiu, funded by the **Project Interreg RO-BG 302 "Christian Heritage in the Russe-Giurgiu Cultural Corridor"** of the **Interreg V-A Romania-Bulgaria Programme 2014-2020**.

Your opinion is important throughout the process of planning, managing and monitoring the pilgrimage route and in your person, as representative of a key stakeholder, internal to the organization, the information provided by you is of particular importance.

All temples that provided feedback completed the questionnaire and requested the use of the news feed: **the official website of the project www.christ-ro-bg.eu** will be included free of charge in a tourist brochure, which will be promoted on the project page in 3 language versions - English, Romanian and Bulgarian, as well as distributed on paper among the stakeholders.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Project Team

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

With a focus on

The cultural and historical importance of the temple buildings in the cross-border cultural corridor Russe- Giurgiu as a single resource for the sustainable development of the Christian cultural heritage and religious tourism/pilgrimage destination.

The questionnaire shall be drawn up in such a way as to ensure the quickest and easiest possible completion. Most questions can only be answered by scoring in the cans. Too little information requires reports (additional search). When you encounter "You" in the questionnaire, please respond on behalf of your organization.

Responding Scale: 1-a bit 2-medium 3- a lot

For the sustainable development of pilgrimage tourism in the region, it is necessary to communicate through consultation and analysis of the completed questionnaires received and the internal stakeholders of the project beneficiaries, such as the priests responsible for the temples and other employees of the metropolis relevant to the topic of pilgrimage tourism.

The contribution of the project will be realized through the development of 3 joint integrated cross-border products for cultural and religious tourism based on cultural and religious heritage in the cross-border area Ruse-Giurgiu and developed according to the identified needs of the target groups of tourists:

- 1. "Christian cultural heritage in the spiritual space Russe-Giurgiu"**
- 2. "In the footsteps of the patron saints of Bulgarians and Romanians"**
- 3. "History and civilization in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu"**

We need the completed questionnaires by 31.05.2022 at the latest, before the project brochure is prepared, to help inform the decisions and identify areas for future development included in the design of advertising material.

The feedback obtained by completing the questionnaire will be analyzed and published on the official website of the project in the form of a report with summarized results. At the moment, such an

information base has not been created on the topic of cultural and religious tourism, based on the cultural and religious heritage in the cross-border zone Ruse-Giurgiu.

Basic information about the surveyed organization (Please fill in) *Obligatory

1. Name of church surveyed in the parish:

2. Name of the person who completed the survey:

3. Temple address:

4. Contact phone number:
5. E-mail address (website):
6. Working hours with pilgrims on a weekly/monthly basis:

7. Year of the establishment of the temple:

8. A brief description of the temple:

- A. Questions about the state of pilgrimage activity in the region for the past 12 months (please fill in)



9. Months of active activity of pilgrimage visits? **Mark only one position.*
- ☐ Seasonal (please specify months)
 - ☐ Year-round
10. What is the age of your visiting tourists? (please fill in) **Check all that apply.*
- ☐ up to 18 years
 - ☐ 19-27
 - ☐ 28-36
 - ☐ 37-50
 - ☐ 51-66
 - ☐ over 67
11. Do you keep a detailed account of your visiting pilgrims? ** Mark only one position.*
- ☐ Yes I do
 - ☐ Not
12. Do you use electronic services to serve pilgrims or to promote your activities (please fill in) **Check all that apply.*
- ☐ External links
 - ☐ Email
 - ☐ Social networks, such as a Facebook account
 - ☐ There is no available, but I want to advertise my church on the marching band on the official page created under the project 302 www.christ-ro-bg.eu
 - ☐ Viber
 - ☐ Other:

B. Questions about the specific location for the pilgrimage route (please fill in)

13. Would you like your church to be included in a brochure advertising pilgrimage tourism in the region

**Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Which route. Please clarify the
- ☐ Another route that is important to be created and sustained in the region in your opinion - for example in the footsteps of Scythian monks, in the footsteps of St. John Cassian, in the footsteps of Hesychastic monks in Scythia Minor / Ludogorie and Dobrudja /. Along the route of the Athos hermitages in the region, in the footsteps of St. Sedmochislenitsi and others.
- ☐ Not
- ☐ Other:

14. In your opinion, which of the 3 tourist products under the ChrisHeritage ROBG-302 project includes the profile of your church and a region with a focus on cultural and historical heritage? ** Check all that apply.*

- ☐ "Christian cultural heritage in the spiritual space Russe-Giurgiu"
- ☐ "In the footsteps of the patron saints of Bulgarians and Romanians"
- ☐ "History and civilization in the cultural corridor Russe-Giurgiu"
- ☐ And in the 3

15. Дпуро: Is there any interest in laypeople or inquiries about the cultural and historical value of the church by researchers and experts and other interest groups in the field? ** Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes, I do
- ☐ under 36 years of age.
- ☐ up to 55 years.
- ☐ over 56 years of age
- ☐ Not
- ☐ Other:

16. Do laypeople come with documents/information that they have found when inheriting property in the area with a desire to disclose them to enrich the available story about the cultural and historical value of the temple? ** Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not
- ☐ Please clarify the example theme.....

C. Future activities and problems of pilgrimage tourist activities in the cultural region of Ruse-Giurgiu (please fill in)

17. What do you think is the most effective advertisement for the promotion of local religious attractions? *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Television and radio advertising
- ☐ Advertising in specialized tourist publications
- ☐ Publications on specialized sites and electronic media
- ☐ Billboards
- ☐ Information and signposts
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Other:

18. Who do you think should be the symbol of religious tourism in the cultural region of Ruse- Giurgiu?
19. If you need to describe in just three words a tourist area in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu, then these words in your opinion are:
20. Please indicate three countries with which you think cooperation in tourism should be supported, with a direct benefit of increasing tourist flow in the cultural region of Russe- Giurgiu?
21. What is the most remarkable and with great influence of cultural and historical significance in your church and through appropriate public promotion could increase the attendance of your temple?
22. Does the church have a bell tower to the temple or has a church knocker, what is its history?

23. Would you include in the tourist services you offer a tour with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage trip for marriage, christening, visiting historically significant cemetery memorials in the region?

Mark only one position.

- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian ritual of church marriage
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian ordinance of baptism
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits to Christian cemeteries monuments of high the cultural and historical value
- ☐ Yes, by offering all three options
- ☐ Not

24. Would you include in the tourist services you offer and a tour with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage trip to promote the biography of a particular historical person: monk, spiritual person, zograph, ktitor, architect, writer, merchant, etc. significant personalities-in which church is baptized, married, fertilized, buried, lived in a certain period, a historian with a route through the churches and monasteries in the region? *Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

25. Would you include in the tourist services you offer a tour with a focus on tourists interested in pilgrimage trips such as "Following in the footsteps of St.Petka/Paraskeva - Protectrice of Romanians and Bulgarians"? *Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

26. Would you include in the tourist services offered by you a Certificate of the religious pilgrim*, which allows your visiting tourists to certify their status as pilgrims? *Mark only one position.*

*Today, Certificate of the religious pilgrim are a souvenir for the traveller in international tourist practice

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

27. Do you need additional information or a qualification course tied to the pilgrimage route? *Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

28. Dark tourism death* - are you familiar with this modern trend in religious tourism? *Mark only one position.*

*Dark tourism(black or grief tourism) is defined as tourism, including travel to places historically associated with death. The main attraction to dark places is their historical value, not their associations with death and suffering.

Visitors who are interested in these spaces show their intention to understand the pain of the other or exclusively for educational purposes. Dark tourism helps to improve society's reception capacity, as well as to teach a lesson to future generations.

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

29. Are Wikipedia published data kept up to date, for churches and churches? *Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not
- ☐ I have not paid attention to this aspect before

30. What do you associate with the development of religious tourism* in the region?

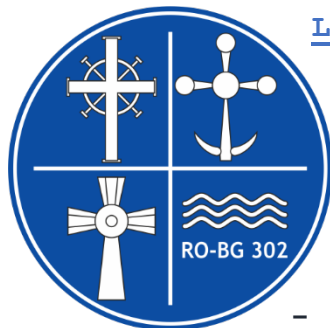
*Religious (pilgrim)tourism - travel to holy places, monasteries, and various historical and archaeological sites of cult value

- .1) worship (visiting holy places of worship of holy powers);
- 2) cognitive journeys (knowledge of religious monuments, history of religion, the culture of religion);
- 3) Scientific trips (travel of historians and other specialists engaged in religion, etc.).

Thank you for your participation!

Your opinion is valuable to us and it will find a place in the preparation of research in the field of pilgrimage/religious/ and cultural-historical tourism and a plan for the development of the competitive cross-border tourist product and sustainable development of the cultural region Russe- Giurgiu.

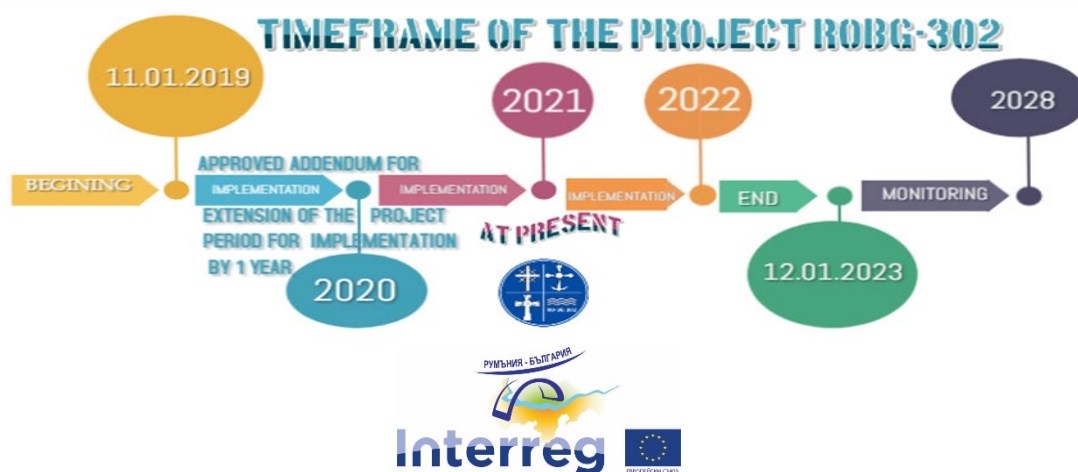
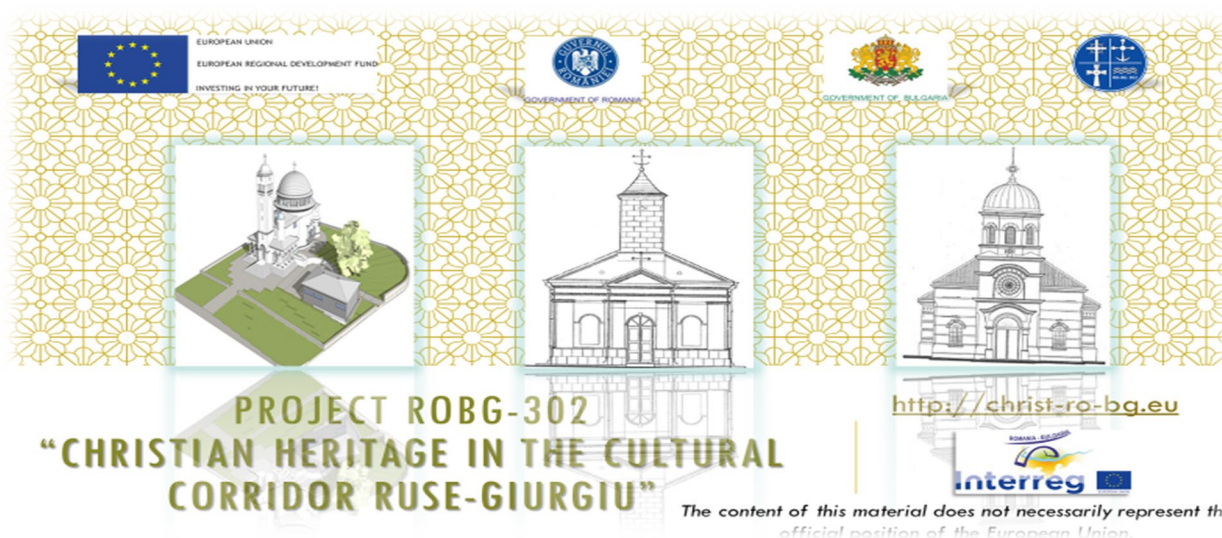
-Project partners Christ Heritage ROBG-302:



Lead partner/LP/: „St. Petka” Church – Russe, Bulgaria
- svetapetkachruchruse@mail.bg

Partner No 2/PP2/: Comuna Vedeia, Giurgiu County-„St. Panteleimon” Church- Vedeia, Romania-
primaria.vedeia@gmail.com

Partner No 3/PP3/: „St. George” Church – Russe, Bulgaria
- svetigeorgichruchruse@mail.bg



www.interregrobg.eu

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Interreg Programme V-A Romania-Bulgaria 2014-2020
Priority axis: 2, Specific objective: 1, Project name:
"Christian heritage in the Cultural Corridor Russe-Giurgiu"
Christ Heritage ROBG-302
<http://christ-ro-bg.eu>

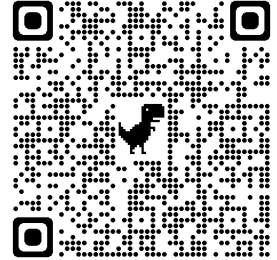
Questionnaire

to the priests serving the temples in the parishes of the Bulgarian & Romanian Orthodox Churches, outside the Ruse-Giurgiu region

and their opportunity and development needs related to the sustainable
development and promotion of religious/pilgrimage tourism

in the cross-border cultural region Russe – Giurgiu

This document was prepared under the project ChrisHeritage
ROBG-302, Activity: Establishment of a network of
stakeholders for the development of cultural and religious
tourism in the cross-border Russe region - Giurgiu



* **Obligatory**

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire shall be drawn up in such a way as to ensure the quickest and easiest possible completion. Most questions can only be answered by scoring in the cans. Too low volume of information requires reports (additional search). When you meet "You" in the questionnaire, please respond on behalf of your organization. "Organization" means your company, division, or if you are in the head office, the group in which you work. In the public sector, this applies to specific local authorities or departments, public departments, etc.

A. Basic information about the surveyed organization/company (Please fill in)

1. **Name of church surveyed in the parish:**

2. **Name of the person who completed the survey:**

3. **Temple address:**

4. **Contact phone number:**

5. **E-mail address (website):**

6. **Working hours with pilgrims on a weekly/monthly basis:**

7. **Year of the establishment of the temple:**

8. **A brief description of the temple:**

B. Questions about the state of pilgrimage activity in the region for the past 12 months (please fill in)**9. 1. Months of active activity of pilgrimage visits?**

*Mark only one position.

- ☐ Seasonal (please specify months)
- ☐ Year-round

10. 2. What is the age of your visiting tourists? (please fill in)

*Check all that apply.

- ☐ up to 18 years
- ☐ 19-27
- ☐ 28-36
- ☐ 37-50
- ☐ 51-66
- ☐ over 67

11. **3. Do you keep a detailed account of your visiting pilgrims?**

**Check all that apply.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

12. **4. Do you use electronic services to serve pilgrims or to promote your activities (please fill in) ***

**Check all that apply.*

☐ External links

☐ Email

☐ Social networks, such as a Facebook account

☐ There is no available, but I want to advertise my church on the marching band on the official page created under the project 302 www.christ-ro-bg.eu

☐ Viber

☐ Other: _____

C. Questions about the specific location for the pilgrimage route (please fill in)

13. **5. In your opinion, which of the 3 tourist products under the ChrisHeritage ROBG-302 project includes the profile of your church and a region with a focus on cultural and historical heritage? ***

**Check all that apply.*

- ☐ "Christian cultural heritage in the spiritual space Russe-Giurgiu"
- ☐ "In the footsteps of the patron saints of Bulgarians and Romanians"
- ☐ "History and civilization in the cultural corridor Russe-Giurgiu"
- ☐ And in the 3
- ☐ Other: _____

14. **6. Is there any interest in laypeople or inquiries about the cultural and historical value of the church by researchers and experts and other interest groups in the field? ***

**Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes, I do
- ☐ under 36 years of age.
- ☐ up to 55 years.
- ☐ over 56 years of age
- ☐ Not
- ☐ Other: _____

15. **7. Do lay people come with documents/information that they have found when inheriting property in the area with a desire to disclose them to enrich the available story about the cultural and historical value of the temple? ***

**Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not
- ☐ Please clarify the example theme

D. Future activities and problems of pilgrimage tourist activities in the cultural region of Ruse-Giurgiu (please fill in)

16. **8. What do you think is the most effective advertisement for the promotion of local religious attractions?**

**Check all that apply.*

- ☐ television and radio advertising
- ☐ advertising in specialized tourist publications on
- ☐ specialized sites and electronic media Billboards
- ☐ information and signposts
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Other: _____

17. **9. What is the most remarkable and with great influence of cultural and historical significance in your church and through appropriate public promotion could increase the attendance of your temple?**

18. **10. Does the church have a bell tower to the temple or has a church knocker, what is its history?**

19. **11. Would you include in the tourist services you offer a tour with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage trip for marriage, christening, and visiting historically significant cemetery memorials in the region?**

**Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian ritual of church marriage
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits related to the Christian ordinance of baptism
- ☐ Yes, especially with a focus on visits to Christian cemeteries monuments of high the cultural and historical value
- ☐ Yes, by offering all three options
- ☐ Not

20. **12. Would you include in the tourist services you offer and a tour with a focus on tourists interested in a pilgrimage trip to promote the biography of a particular historical person: monk, spiritual person, zograph, ktitor, architect, writer, merchant, etc. significant personalities-- in which church is baptized, married, fertilized, buried, lived in a certain period, a historian with a route through the churches and monasteries in the region?**

**Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

21. **13. Would you include in the tourist services you offer a tour with a focus on tourists interested in pilgrimage trips such as "Following in the footsteps of St. Petka/Paraskeva - Protectrice of Romanians and Bulgarians"?**

**Mark only one position.*

- ☐ Yes I do
- ☐ Not

22. **14. Would you include in the tourist services offered by you a Certificate of the religious pilgrim*, which allows your visiting tourists to certify their status as pilgrims? *Today, Certificate of the religious pilgrim are a souvenir for the traveller in international tourist practice**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

23. **15. Are there regular pilgrimages to your temple?**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

24. **16. Do you also work as a guide for pilgrimage groups?**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

25. **17. Do you need additional information or a qualification course tied to the pilgrimage route?**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

26. **18. Dark tourism death* - are you familiar with this modern trend in religious tourism? *Dark tourism (black or grief tourism) is defined as tourism, including travel to places historically associated with death. The main attraction to dark places is their historical value, not their associations with death and suffering. Visitors who are interested in these spaces show their intention to understand the pain of the other or exclusively for educational purposes. Dark tourism helps to improve society's reception capacity, as well as to teach a lesson to future generations.**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

27. **19. Are Wikipedia published data kept up to date, for churches and churches?**

**Mark only one position.*

☐ Yes I do

☐ Not

☐ I have not paid attention to this aspect before

28. **20. What do you associate with the development of religious tourism* in the region? *Religious (pilgrim) tourism - travel to holy places, monasteries, and various historical and archaeological sites of cult value. 1) worship (visiting holy places of worship of holy powers) 2) cognitive journeys (knowledge of religious monuments, history of religion, the culture of religion); 3) Scientific trips (travel of historians and other specialists engaged in religion, etc.).**

**Thank you
for your
participation!**

Your opinion is valuable to us and it will find a place in the preparation of research in the field of pilgrimage/religious/ and cultural-historical tourism and a plan for the development of the competitive cross-border tourist product and sustainable development of the cultural region Ruse- Giurgiu.

-Project partner's Christ Heritage ROBG-302:

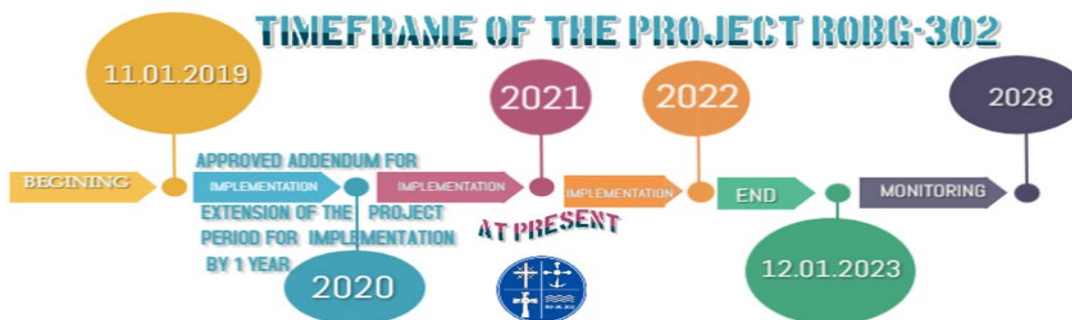
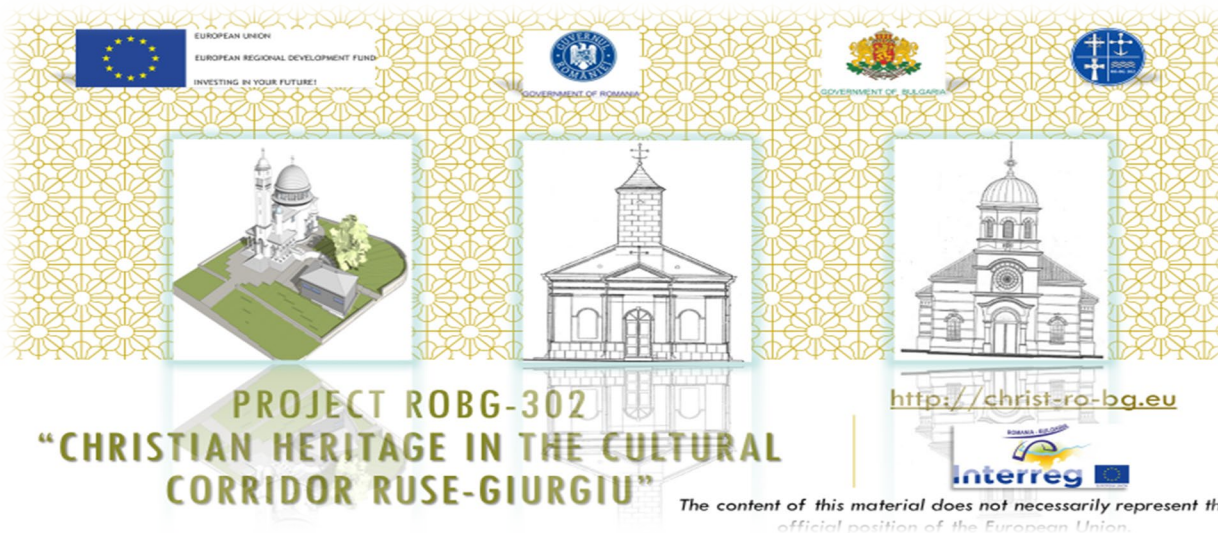


Lead partner/LP/: „St. Petka“ Church – Russe, Bulgaria

- svetapetkachruchruse@mail.bg

Partner No 2/PP2/: Comuna Vedea, Giurgiu County-„St. Panteleimon“ Church- Vedea, Romania-
primaria.vedea@gmail.com

Partner No 3/PP3/: „St. George“ Church – Russe, Bulgaria -
svetigeorgichruchruse@mail.bg



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Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders **Christ Heritage ROBG-302**

GAP - focus analysis: *Create tourist centres for integrated promotion-advertising materials and their distribution in different online and offline environments*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
D1: Establishment of tourist centres for integrated promotion	Create promotional materials (brochures, guides) and distribute them in different online and offline environments (on cruise ships, for example)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material human financial information 	2023-2025 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the level of awareness of tourists

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?



Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders **Christ Heritage ROBG-302**

GAP - focus analysis: *Establishment of tourist centres for integrated promotion – partnerships with local economic participants to maximize the expected effect of promoting tourism*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
D1: Establishment of tourist centres for integrated promotion	Establishing partnerships with local economic actors to maximise the expected effect of promoting tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material human financial information 	2023-2025 (medium)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the level of awareness of tourists

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?



Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders **Christ Heritage ROBG-302**

GAP - focus analysis: *Establishment of a website to promote Ruse - Giurgiu cross-border region and cultural and religious objectives in the area, including tourist routes*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
D2: Establishment of a website to promote Ruse - Giurgiu cross-border region and cultural and religious purposes in the area, including tourist routes	Creating an online ticketing platform for religious cultural routes (integrated travel packages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material human financial information 	2021-2023 (short-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the level of awareness of tourists;

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?



Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders **Christ Heritage ROBG-302**

GAP - focus analysis: *Establishment of educational workshops to disseminate cultural and religious information*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
<i>D3: Establishment of educational workshops in which to disseminate cultural and religious information</i>	Establishment and promotion of studios that tourists interested in cultural and religious tourism can access as a way to sustainable use of cultural and religious resources in the cross-border region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material human Financial Information 	2026-2030 (long-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the level of awareness of tourists

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?



Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders **Christ Heritage ROBG-302**

GAP - focus analysis: *Establishment of shops within churches included in cultural and religious routes*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
<i>D4: Establishment of shops within churches included in cultural and religious routes</i>	Promotion of religious objects of tourists to promote cultural and religious tourist resources in the cross-border area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> material human Financial Information 	2026-2030 (long-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> raising the level of awareness of tourists

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?



This document was prepared under the project ChristHeritage ROBG-302, Activity: Establishment of a network of stakeholders for the development of cultural and religious tourism in the cross-border region Russe– Giurgiu
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Information card for working meetings with project stakeholders Christ Heritage ROBG-302

GAP - Focus Analysis: *Create exhibition-type events in churches*

Guidelines for action	Activity	Resources	Time limits	Results
<i>D5: Create exhibition-type events in churches</i>	<p>The different types of exhibitions focus on the development of cultural and religious tourism in the cross-border region ruse - Giurgiu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo exhibition. • Collective exhibition. • Temporary exhibition. • Traveling exhibition. • Online exhibition. • Anthology exhibition. • Retrospective exhibition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ material ▪ human ▪ Financial ▪ Information 	2026-2030 (long-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ raising the level of awareness of tourists

GAP - analysis on the subject:	Current situation	Future situation	GAP -gap(s)	Action(s) to fill gap(s)
What?	What happened?	What's it supposed to look like?	What's different?	What will be done to bridge the gap?
Where?	Where's the confusion?	Where will it change?	Where will it be different?	Where will it be addressed?
When?	When is it done?	When will it change?	When are the differences needed?	When will it be considered?
Who?	Who's doing the job?	Who's going to do that?	Who will identify the gap?	Who's going to make the decision?
How?	How does it stack up?	How will time and resources be combined?	How will the difference improve?	How will the plan be deployed?

