ADRINETBOOK
Adrion Cultural Heritage Collections Network
PROJECT NUMBER 876

ASSESSMENT LOOP REPORT

CONTENTS

1. Introduction to the Assessment Loop Report

The report aims at providing information about the state of the art of the Adrinetbook activities implementation. It corresponds to the Deliverable M.3.1 (Assessment Loop Report) and is produced at the 23rd month of implementation (out of 36 total months, considering the current request for prolongation).
This report is a midterm evaluation of project activities with a view to present mitigation measures to tackle the emerging problems, as well as to identify points of success to be further exploited and transferred.

The Assessment loop report is based on:
- Evaluation questionnaire, elaborated by the LP and filled in by all Project partners in February 2022.
- Project documentation and state of the art, in particular PowerPoint presentations used from project partners to illustrate the state of the art, during the Fifth Steering Committee, held online on 25th January 2022.

As agreed during the last SC and communicated to the Adrion Joint Secretariat, the LP is going to request an extension of the project duration by six months. The primary reason for this project extension was the general delayed caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, along with difficulties from two partners.

1.1.   The ADRINETBOOK project

<u>Duration</u>:   30 Months
02/03/2020
01/09/2022*

<u>Budget</u>: Euro 1.521.760,02

<u>Partnership</u>:
MUNICIPALITY OF MACERATA (LP)
ICCU – Central Institute for the Union Catalogue of Italian Libraries and for Bibliographic information – Italy (PP);
Municipality of Gjirokaster – Albania (PP);
MSU - Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb – Croatia (PP);
AGRRA – Zadar County Rural Development Agency – Croatia (PP);
ULSM - University Library of Belgrade – Serbia (PP);
RIS Research and Educational Centre Mansion Rakičan- Slovenia (PP);
Municipality of Thassos – Grecia (PP)

The project is now requesting a 6-months extension of project duration.

The Project aims at promoting, valorising and protecting cultural heritage in the Adriatic-Ionian area.
Its specific aim is to contribute to the enhancement and conservation of specific cultural properties, in particular books, and to make the digitized heritage accessible to a wider public in the project area of Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Greece and Serbia.

The project foresees the following WP:
- WP M: Management
- WP T1 Network: the creation of a network between operators of the cultural and tourism sectors and their training;
- WP T2 Digitization: the digitization of selected collections, performed with common standards and methodologies and integrated on a common platform;
- WP T3 Tourism: the tourism promotion of the CH sites, by means of local itineraries and one Adrion itinerary.

ADRINETBOOK's main outputs are:
1) **networking structure between operators of cultural and tourism sectors**: the project aims at generating a new Network in Adrion area, creating a new participating model for management of Cultural Collections, to preserve and valorize the different kind of Cultural Collections of the areas.
2) **digitization pilot actions**: common criteria will be established to create a unique Collection in all the involved areas and for different kinds of Cultural Contents using a unique model for all the Macro-Regional Area.
3) **the increase in visitors of CH sites**: Adrinetbook will deal with this challenge, creating a new integrated ADRION tourism offers, led by Cultural Heritage Collections, recognizing what the areas already did and systematizing that within a unique database, creating a new tourism model, specifically oriented to valorize all the assets related to Adrion Cultural Collections and linking them to all tourism offers and services, creating local and Adrion itineraries.

2. Activities' state of art

The Assessment loop report is based on:
- Evaluation questionnaire, elaborated by the LP and filled in by all Project partners.
- Project documentation and state of the art, in particular PowerPoint presentation used from project partners to illustrate the state of the art, during the Fifth Steering Committee, held online on 25th January 2022.

The project has suffered from some delays and obstacles in the project's implementation. In particular, three different situations overlapped:
- the Serbian partner, the National Library of Serbia, which already manifested some hesitation about remaining in the project during the first months of project's implementation, in October 2020 communicated its formal decision to withdraw from the project. The partner was replaced by the University Library Svetozar Markovic (partnership change valid since 02/11/2020);
- the project started almost at the same time of the spread of the Covid-19, which made the start of the project quite difficult;
- PP7 THASSOS encountered some internal difficulties in correctly implementing the project and until the third Report (01.01.2021 – 30.06.2021) the partner implemented no activities, as well as reported no expenses. The Lead Partner tried to tackle this situation by asking PP7 for additional commitment, always keeping the JS informed about the situation. PP7 provided the LP with a formal document where PP7 commits to the project implementations and declared expenses and activities' forecast for Period 3, which were almost totally realized.

As shown in Figure 1, the project can be considered slightly behind schedule: 7 partners out of 8 declare that the activities are slightly delayed, whereas one partner states that their activities are on schedule.

What is the state of the art of the project activities?
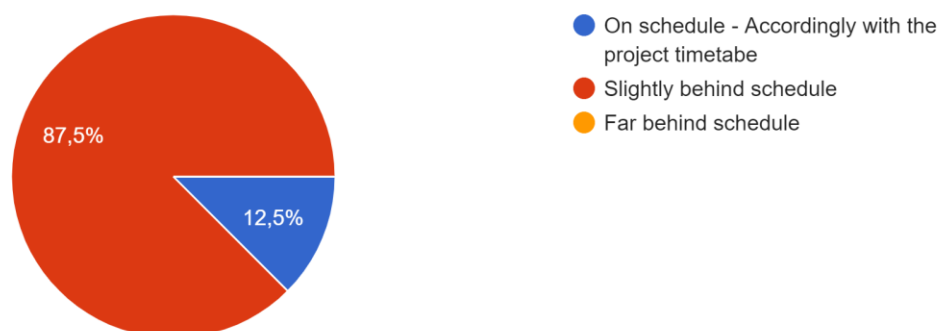8 risposte

Figure 1

5

In particular, WP T2 Digitization and WP T3 Tourism are the ones suffering the most from these delays: 6 partners out of 8 are late with the activities related to the WPs T2 and T3, while 3 partners out of 8 have creeped up delays in WP T1 (Figure 2).
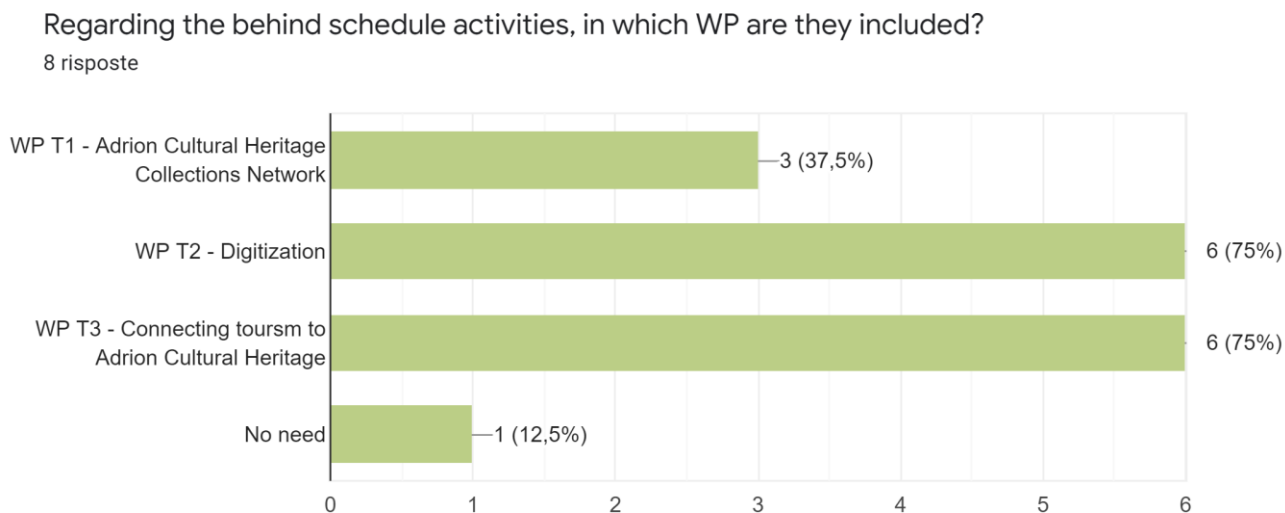
Regarding the behind schedule activities, in which WP are they included?
8 risposte

Figure 2

About the state of the art of the digitization process (within WP T2), the project foresees digitization activities for seven partners (the only partner that is not digitizing is PP2 ICCU, which is a technical partner, providing the know-how). Out of these, 6 are delayed with this activity:
- the delay is definitely critical for one partner (PP7), which still needs to finalize the identification of the items to digitized;
- the delay is quite critical for three partners (PP3, PP5 and PP8), which identified the items to digitized, but the digitization has not started yet;
- the delay is minimum for two partners (PP4 and PP6), which have started the digitization process.

About the state of the art of the creation of the local itinerary (within WP T3), the project foresees the creation of local itineraries for seven partners (the only partner not requested to produce a local itinerary is PP2 ICCU, which is a technical partner, providing the know-how and contributing to the Adrion one). Out of these:
- 4 partners (PP1, PP4, PP6 and PP8) finalized the elaboration of the itinerary
- 2 partners (PP3 and PP5) drafted the itinerary
- 1 partner (PP7) has to begin the elaboration of the itinerary.

Figure 3 shows the causes of delays. The obvious main reason for the delay is the situation related to the Covid-19 pandemic: all the partners suffering from delays (7 out of 8 partners) indicated this as the reason/one of the reasons for their delays.
Second most frequent reason is the internal organizational issues (4 out of 8 partners). Other less frequent reasons are: legal issues, problems with external providers that haven't delivered on time, change in partnership. Regarding this last reason, the interviewees (PP6 ULSM) is referring to their joining the project on the 9th month of

project implementation, replacing the original partner, the University Library Svetozar Markovic.
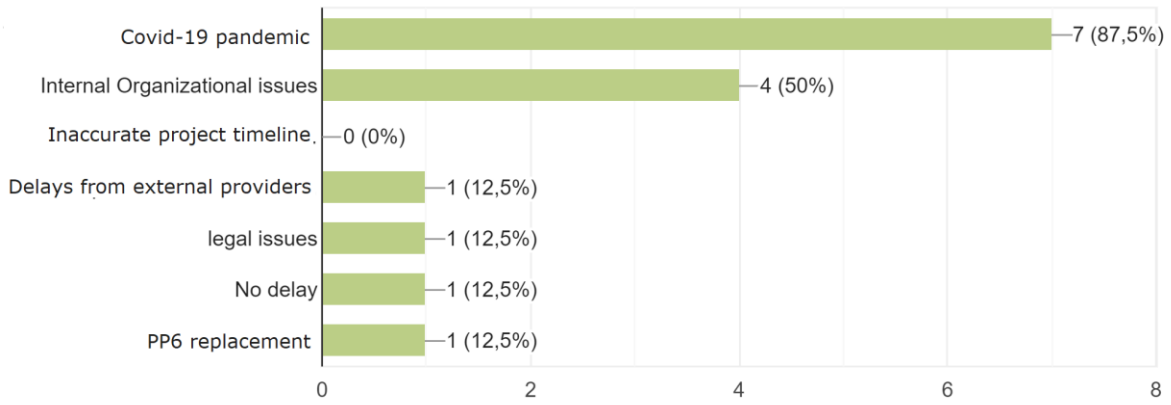
What are the causes of the delay?
8 risposte

Cause	Value
Covid-19 pandemic	7 (87,5%)
Internal Organizational issues	4 (50%)
Inaccurate project timeline.	0 (0%)
Delays from external providers	1 (12,5%)
legal issues	1 (12,5%)
No delay	1 (12,5%)
PP6 replacement	1 (12,5%)

Figure 3

3. Mitigating Measures

The first months of the Covid-19 pandemic were a period of great uncertainties, and it was difficult to immediately react with mitigating measures. So at first, PPs took some time before actively start with the project implementation. But in July 2020 the KOM was held online, and PPs started planning their activities.
The Covid-19 pandemic characterized the next months after the KOM as well, making it still difficult to correctly implementing the project's activities and to catching up the delays.
However, seven partners out of eight managed to replan the delayed activities.

As far as the behind schedule activities, did you manage to re-plan them?
8 risposte
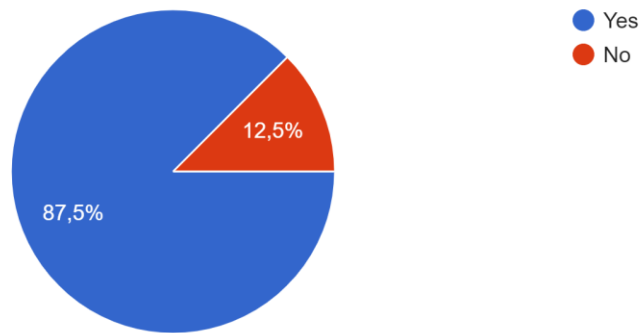
Figure 4

Apart from the replanning of the activities, 2 partners improved the internal organization (also devoting more people to the project's implementation) as a mitigating measure.
Partners agreed to submit a request of 6-months prolongation of project duration, which shall be granted, according to the JS communication.
Moreover, because of travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the unspent travel budget is going to be redistributed among different budget lines.

4. Impact of the activities

Partners are quite satisfied with the impact of the project activities on their institution. When asked about the most profitable activities among digitization, tourism and training, the partners show different preferences: 3 out of 8 partners choose the tourism activities, other 3 out of 8 partners choose the training ones and 2 out of 8 partners choose the digitization.
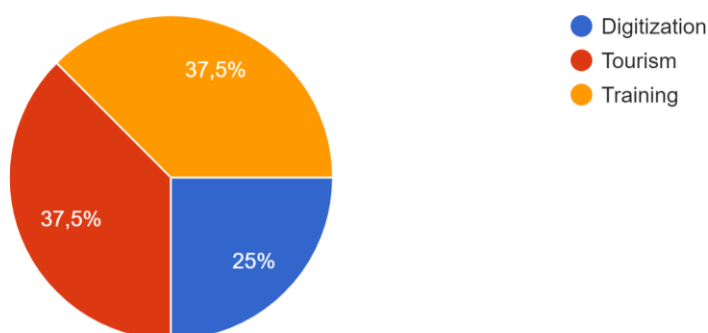
From what project activity your organization has gained the most?
8 risposte

Figure 5

In particular, regarding WP T1 Network more than half of the interviewees (5/8) considers the activities as positively affecting their institutions.

On a scale from 1 to 5, how much are the activities of the WP T1 - Adrion Cultural Heritage Collections Network impacting on your organization?
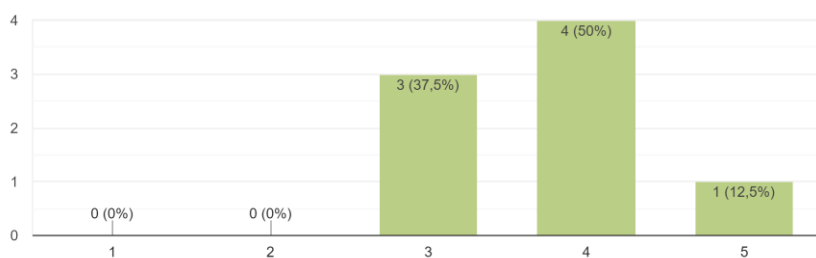8 risposte

Figure 6

About WP T2 – Digitization (Figure 7), partners show different opinions: 3/8 partners consider the activity as neutral, one partner considers them as positive and 3 out of 8 as extremely positive. Only one partner considers these activities as not positively affecting their institution.

On a scale from 1 to 5, how much are the activities of the WP T2 – Digitization impacting on your organization?
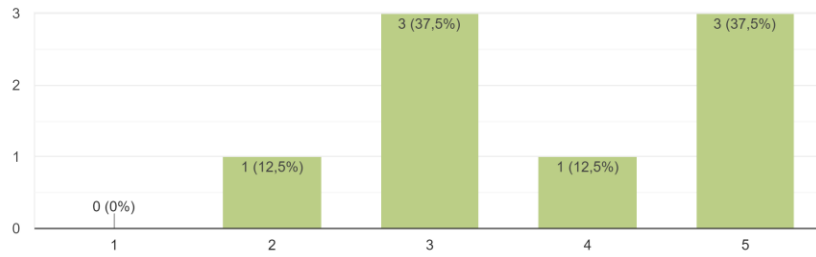
8 risposte

Figure 7

Lastly, PPs are almost unanimous when evaluating the WP T3 Tourism: the majority of PPs considers T3 activities as positively affecting their institutions.

On a scale from 1 to 5, how much are the activities of the WP T3 – Connecting toursm to Adrion Cultural Heritage impacting on your organization?
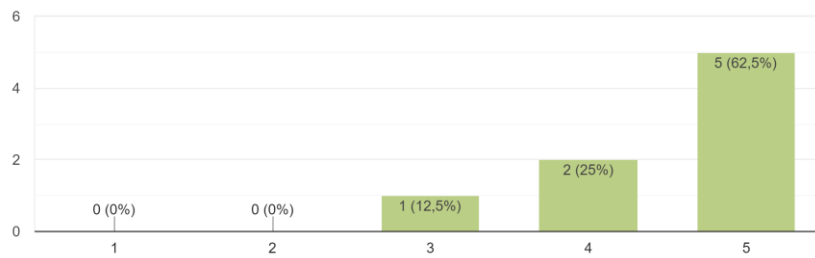
8 risposte

Figure 8

10

5. Budget activities

The last part of the survey aimed at assessing the PPs satisfaction about the budget allocation.
The majority of PPs (5/8) agrees about the fact that the budget was properly allocated (Figure 9).

Based on you experience so far, was the project budget allocated properly, among WPs?
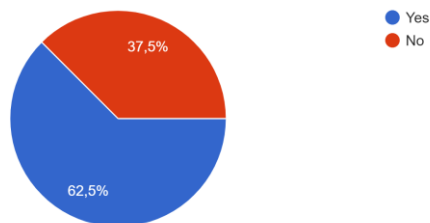8 risposte

Figure 9

When asked about WPs in which more resources would have been useful (Figure 10), 3 partners out of 8 answer WP Communication, 2 partners would have needed more resources on WP T3 Tourism, while one PP would have needed more resources on WP T2 Digitization.

If not, in which WP would you have needed more resources?
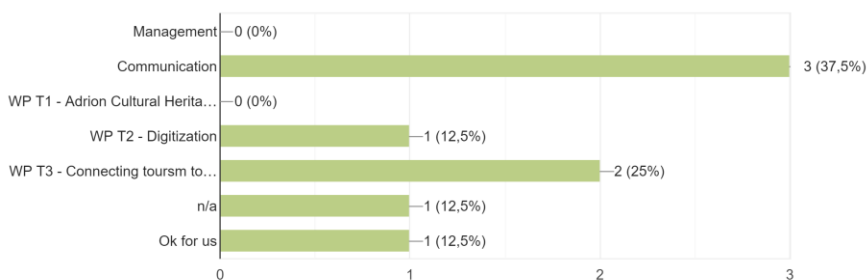8 risposte

Figure 10

Regarding the use of human resources, budget foresaw internal as well as external experts.
In implementing the project, 3 out of 8 PPs use only internal resources, while the majority uses both internal and external ones (Figure 11).

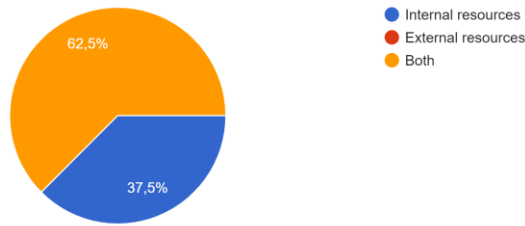Resources - In implementing the activities did you use external or internal resources?

8 risposte

Figure 11

The reason for using external resources are the following:
- the majority of PPs declares that they use external resources due to the lack of adequate internal staff
- other PPs declare that the internal resources don't have the adequate skills or they are busy with other tasks.

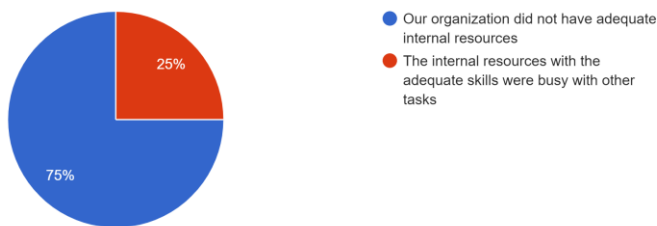If you used external resources, why did you use them?

4 risposte

Figure 12

6. Conclusion

This Assessment Loop Report provides the ADRINETBOOK project with information about the state of the art of the activities' implementation.

This report has highlighted a delay in the project's implementation, has researched the causes of this delays and underlined the mitigation measures that partners were able to carry out in order to tackle this delay. The Covid-19 represented the biggest reason for the delay and due to this global emergency situation a prolongation of project duration will be granted.

Moreover, the impact of the activities was analysed as well as the budget allocation. Summing up, partners has valued as positive the impact of the different WPs in their institutions and the budget allocation. Nevertheless, more resources on WPs Communication and Tourism would have been useful.