

# DELPHI: HERITAGE INTERPRETATION CPD ON SOCIAL COHESION & LIFELONG LEARNING

## INTERPRETIVE TRAINING: A REVEALING PROCESS

- Can we use heritage – natural and cultural, tangible and intangible – to address issues we face in society today?
- Can a memory, a landscape, or a monument built 2000 years ago, inspire values such as freedom of speech, or solidarity?
- Can we inspire sustainable lifestyles through our interpretation of trees, animals, landscapes?
- Can interpreters help local communities participate in revealing heritage's many meanings?



The answer to all these questions is “yes”. Heritage interpretation can inspire values, like peace, freedom, tolerance and solidarity. The Partners of the Erasmus + DELPHI project will help adult learners to gain the competences they need to create quality heritage interpretation based on sustainability, accessibility and participation, all central to the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Value of Heritage for Society. Our main outcome will be blended learning training package combining interactive online with face-to-face modules, helping participants get familiar with an inclusive, European approach to heritage interpretation.

## WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

### STOCK TAKING AND DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK

We kicked off officially in November '18, but held our first all-partner meeting in January '19 in Bonn. Following this, our first step was to agree on a joint approach. Our Stock-taking report assessed the ways other projects or communities have developed training in the field of interpretation and European values. Key interviews were held with relevant experts. We focused on the adult learning and heritage sectors, but for those of us not from the Heritage Interpretation sector, something was missing..... exactly what did training on interpretation mean?

### DELPHI'S PARTNERS TRAINED IN HERITAGE INTERPRETATION IN CAGLIARI

Interpretive training is always a challenge. Heritage interpretation can't be taught through lectures, in a classroom. Trainees must experience it for themselves with on-site practice, discussions, presentations, peer evaluation case studies, testing the principles of quality heritage interpretation in one's own context; these are just a few of the training tools an interpretive trainer can use to achieve their goal.

This was the experience of the DELPHI partners in Cagliari, May '19. The event coincided with our Italian partner's – Imago Mundi – largest event, 'Monumenti Aperti', involving more than 60 Sardinian municipalities over 7 weekends. All partners participated in this community-led heritage interpretation event, before following a taster interpretation training session led by the Mediterranean Centre for the Environment using a training syllabus developed as part of an EU Lifelong Learning Programme project titled InHerit. We also looked at examples of projects applying the central themes of Faro. The visit helped us bond, understand the practical aspects of our work and put the project into its policy perspective.

# THE COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK

After brainstorming at both project meetings, Delphi's main interpretation and adult learning partners (Alden Biesen and University of Freiburg) met in July '19 to review competences used in the Inherit project, adapting them for Delphi. Where previous frameworks focused on competences for direct interpretation of one or more heritage assets, the Delphi framework will include interpretive competences for the planning and roll out of cultural heritage as a lever for social & economic sustainable development, core to the FARO Framework Convention: strengthening European and self-transcending values, introducing multi-perspective approaches, facilitating social processes, heritage community building, adult learning. In a next phase the team will create EQF levelled reference systems and learning outcomes for a selection of these competences. This will eventually lead to a 'Delphi' course curriculum in line with the EQF (levels 4-5-6-7).

# WHAT NEXT?

Our next job is to finalise both the competence framework and training curriculum, and adapt our technical platform. Next year we will pilot our approach with communities in our partner countries. 2 webinars will provide information how to apply and about the concept. They will take place end of October '19. Then an online phase follows before the one week face2face course in Alden Biesen in February '20. The results of the project will be presented at our final conference to be held in Belgium in autumn '20.



Photo: Maria Leonida

# THE PARTNERS

The seven project participants bring a wealth of experience in the field of heritage education and related sectors. The project is co-ordinated by the German Institute for Adult Education in Bonn (D), which contributes its expertise in the field of professionalisation in adult education.

Also from Germany, The Blended Learning Institutions Cooperative (Blinc) has years of experience in creating learning platforms that enable learning, validation and documentation, and the Heritage Interpretation working group at the Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg has worked together with experts in the project HIMIS to train teachers and learners to develop values based on cultural heritage.

From Belgium, we have Landcommanderij Alden Biesen, which recently developed the BADGES project which validates visitors' non-formal learning at cultural heritage sites, developing learning paths as an app. Their previous experience also includes the development of a competence profile for heritage interpreters as part of the InHerit project.

From the Mediterranean, we are represented by a Greek project partner The Mediterranean Center of Environment, who developed a certificate course for heritage interpreters in the HeriQ project, and an Italian partner, the Associazione Culturale Imago Mundi Onlus which started the "Monumenti Aperti" movement in Sardinia and has been successfully running this project for many years, brings their extensive experience of heritage sites and the training of interpreters to the project.

From the UK, we have the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at University College London, which was the first institution to develop modules for heritage interpreters at university level.

For more information about DELPHI and its outcomes visit: [www.delphi-eu.org](http://www.delphi-eu.org). Please contact us at [project.Delphi@die-bonn.de](mailto:project.Delphi@die-bonn.de).

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