

Welcome to the 4th Edition of the CHARTS project NEWSLETTER



Issue 4 – June 2014

In this edition: * Regional and International events with CHARTS * Partners transfer good practices in 10 EU regions
* Partners integrate the lessons learnt from exchange of experience for future actions * CHARTS Closing Conference will be held in

Greece * The Charter launch event will be held in Brussels * Upcoming events July-December 2014



"The European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) was established in Brussels in 2009 as an international association following the merger of the networks set up by ECTN INTERREG IIIC operation led by Wales and CHIRON INTERREG IIIB CADSES (Network for European Cultural Tourism Authorities & Regions, NECTAR), led by 'EKPOL - Social & Cultural Council' of the then Magnesia Prefecture, now of Thessalia Region, Greece. We are proud that EKPOL has been a founding member of ECTN and has

contributed to the setting up of the CHARTS project in close cooperation with the other ECTN founding members.

When I took over the Presidency of the ECTN in January 2013 as President of EKPOL and Regional Councillor of Thessalia, I set as a top priority the successful completion of the CHARTS INTERREG IVC project, the first ever EU co-funded project that ECTN had won since its formation as an international association based in Brussels. As the normal period of the CHARTS project comes to an end, in June 2014, I am very pleased to see how the project has contributed to cultural tourism development in ten EU regions with the active support of ECTN. I am also pleased that the ECTN membership has doubled in terms of destinations thanks to CHARTS project, incorporating new members as project partners from the EU member states that joined the EU since 2004, namely from Latvia, Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria.

ECTN plans to take over the 'Award for cultural tourism destinations' for cultural and heritage tourism development across Europe launched by the CHARTS project partnership and run it as an annual contest from 2015 onwards, as an important legacy of CHARTS project towards raising awareness about cultural and heritage tourism in the EU and beyond.

ECTN has involved experts in tourism planning for the preparation of the Guidelines for the Implementation Plans which are being produced in the 10 geographic partner localities. Both the Guidelines and the Implementation Plans are expected to become important legacies of the CHARTS project, including actions for the new programming period 2014-2020.

As ECTN Presidency we are currently making the preparations for the **CHARTS closing Conference** that will be held in Greece on **10-14 September** 2014. The closing Conference organised by ECTN will start with a pre-Conference study visit in Athens Acropolis and the new Acropolis museum organised by CHARTS partner GNTO, main Conference on 11-12 September in Agria, Volos, Magnesia regional unit, as well as post-Conference study visits in Volos, South Pelion and Thessalia region.

We look forward to welcoming you to Greece, Thessalia, Magnesia and Agria in September 2014!

Kostas Chalevas, President of ECTN 2013-2014 President of EKPOL – Social & Cultural Council of Thessalia Region, Regional Councillor of Thessalia Region 2010-2019



"Project CHARTS, within the EU INTERREG IVC Programme of interregional cooperation, has successfully completed exchange of experience on good practices related to cultural and heritage tourism development and promotion. This has been achieved through a joint training seminar, thematic Workshops and related study visits in the partners' regions, a dedicated Study Tour and staff exchanges, including capitalisation of results from previous projects and initiatives and in accordance with EU policies and communications related to tourism sustainability.

A contest for the first ever 'Award for cultural tourism destinations' for cultural and heritage tourism development across Europe has also

been launched. We are pleased to see that some 30 applications have been received, all referring to important achievements in cultural tourism development; they will be assessed by a panel of judges consisting of senior elected representatives from the 10 CHARTS partner regions. The Award ceremony is planned to take place on 12 September 2014 at the closing session of the CHARTS final Conference.

The CHARTS project outputs are in the form of 'Web based toolkits' on the specific good practice topics for cultural tourism destinations, comprising a 'Good Practice Guide', an overall presentation supporting the Guide, a Leaflet summarising the key findings and a Video clip documentary highlighting the Good Practice topic and results. They are important project outputs and hopefully will be used as learning materials by destination authorities for years to come.

The transfer of good practices between project partners is almost complete. During the second half of 2014, in the last stage of CHARTS project, the CHARTS Partnership will continue to work together as planned in order to capitalise and exploit outputs, methods, results, policies and strategies based on the completed interregional events, in the field of culture, heritage and sustainable tourism development. **Implementation Plans** will propose relevant policy actions for submission to partners' managing authorities in local language, targeting funding in the new programming period 2014-2020

The Management & Coordination Unit (MCU) is assisting ECTN to organise the CHARTS Closing Conference. A Call for Speakers has been made and invitations are being sent to the European Commission, Committee of the Regions, European Parliament, UNESCO, UNWTO, ETC, WTTC, Europa Nostra, as well as to other relevant INTERREG IVC projects and related initiatives. At the Conference a 'CHARTS Charter' will be discussed and adopted, encompassing all previous relevant Declarations and Resolutions regarding the future development and promotion of sustainable and cultural tourism in Europe. The CHARTS project will conclude with the Charter launch in Brussels on 9 October 2014, as a side event during 'Open Days - European Week of Cities & Regions'."

Manos Vougioukas, CHARTS Project Coordinator, MCU Director







REGIONAL EVENTS by CHARTS PARTNERS



October 2012 - April 2014

Vidzeme Tourism Association (VTA) organised 11 local stakeholders meetings with media in order to serve as a platform between VTA and stakeholders to raise awareness about CHARTS, exchange information after

each Thematic Workshops of project, discuss about stakeholders contribution in the project, project progress, as well as benefits from project results to locals and Vidzeme region. All local meetings will be summarised into Final Conference about CHARTS on 5 November 2014 at Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Valmiera, Vidzeme region, Latvia.

More information (in Latvian): http://www.vidzeme.com/lv/vidzemesprojekti/charts/charts.html



11 February 2014

The Union of South-East Region Local Authorities (USERLA) hosted press conference for media and stakeholders in the City Hall of Burgas (Bulgaria) for dissemination of CHARTS achievements and results. Atanaska Nikolova, Deputy

Mayor of Burgas Municipality presented CHARTS and its results to date, highlighted a role of USERLA in the project and promoted CHARTS Award - the first award contest in cultural tourism for destinations to the wider audience. In this event were presented journalists from 4 newspapers, 4 radios, 5 internet news portals, regional TV and relevant representatives of local authorities https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=xVxgm6oXk-A&feature=c4-overview&list=UU9dA7E0J4-zH-QTFfNdhPwg



2 April & 11 April 2014

South Pelion Municipality (Lead Partner. Greece) hosted two Local Stakeholders meetings with media at Neochori village and Volos city for preview of the video documentary for cultural and sustainable tourism promotion and

marketing in South Pelion region. Both meetings were started with presentation of the CHARTS by Project Coordinator and a video documentary on best practices and Sustainable Cultural Tourism with discussions on CHARTS progress and benefits from project results to region and locals.





8 May 2014

Cadw, Welsh Government's Historic Environment Department organized local dissemination event at the

Caernarfon Castle in Gwynedd, in order to present project results so far and produced web-based toolkit on climate change for destinations. This event brought together local stakeholders, policy officers with decision makers and representatives of media.



with focus on good practice on cultural route - 'Dry Stone Route'.

29 May 2014

The Environment Department of Consell de Mallorca hosted press conference for elected representatives. local stakeholders and media in order to present CHARTS, its results to date and benefits from the project followed by the local event



30th May 2014

Consell de Mallorca organised local event which was focused on Cultural Routes as a good practice in the project. Ms Pilar Barraca from Ministry of Culture of Madrid and Mr. Jordi Tresserras - Expert on

Cultural Routes and project partner from Barcelona University presented papers on the importance of cultural tourism, especially concerning cultural routes as a way to improve local development, economy and awareness on local people about their heritage. Mr. Josep A. Aguiló (Head of Service of Environment Department of Consell de Mallorca) contributed with the presentation "The CHARTS project and the Dry Stone Route as a cultural route: present and future". 50 participants attended the meeting including representatives from 15 Municipalities, local tourism associations, stakeholders, local actors, hotel associations, general public and media.



6 June 2014

Veneto Region hosted local dissemination event Padua University for local stakeholders, media and students Padova University Tourism Department in order to

introduce with project, its results and benefits for region.



17 June 2014

In the frame of the final conference European project EUROTOUR HERITAGE within CULTURE Programme, CHARTS was invited to present the paper "CHARTS European Project: the Dry Stone Route" by Mr. Josep A. Aguiló in a local conference about

economy and heritage promotion. 40 participants were present, including project partners from different countries (France, Greece, Bulgaria, Scotland, Croatia and Italy), local stakeholders, technicians and representatives from public institutions.



27 June 2014

Pafos Regional Bard of Tourism (Cyprus) organised local meeting for stakeholders and media in order to disseminate project results and

introduce them with actions to be done by the end of year by involving local stakeholders for sustainable cultural tourism development in region.







CHARTS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Balttour 2014 Riga, Latvia 7–9 February 2014

Vidzeme Tourism
Association (VTA)
presented CHARTS at the
21th International Travel
Trade Fair "Balttour 2014"
in Riga, Latvia. VTA
introduced visitors and

stakeholders and destinations with results and outputs of project and promoted CARTS Award contest.

The fair was attended by 27,100 people, which is 15% more than in 2013, and five thousand of them were tourism professionals and invited guests. The whole exhibition presented 450 stands and 700 travel businesses from 38 countries.



BIT 2014, Milano, Italy 3-15 February 2014

Two Project Partners
Veneto Region – Tourism
Department (Italy) and
ECTN - European Cultural
Tourism Network
represented and promoted
CHARTS at BIT 2014 in
Milano, Italy in order to
disseminate the objectives

and contents of the project and to promote CHARTS Award 2014. Project partnership established significant contacts with people working with the good practices promoted by the projects (i.e. traditional skills, accessible tourism and cycling for tourists) by sharing ideas and innovative proposals. BIT 2014 recorded more than 100 participating countries, 30.400 private travellers, 1.000 companies, 700 international buyers and 53.600 professionals operators.



ITB Berlin 2014 Berlin, Germany 5 - 9 March 2014

Project Partnership actively participated at ITB Berlin 2014 in exhibition centre Messe Berlin at GNTO (Greece) stand together with project partners Pafos

Regional Board of Tourism (Cyprus), VTA (Latvia) and Veneto Region (Italy). During these days project Partnership promoted CHARTS, importance of culture and heritage for tourism sustainability, disseminated achievements and results of project so far to the relevant stakeholders and policy makers. In this time, the Award was promoted in the different way to wider audience - by pitching during free networking event on the small stage which was broadcasted in live social network Twitter. Particular attention of the Partnership was focused on the presentation of European Silk Road Venetian Routes – project VeRoTour which was organized by UNWTO and Veneto Region.

A total of 10,147 exhibitors from 189 countries displayed their products and services to 170,000 visitors, who included 114,000 trade visitors. Due high level of media attention to exhibition, project had opportunity to introduce representatives of media with INTERREG IVC Programme, CHARTS project and Award contest for tourism destinations.

Around 5,700 accredited journalists from 81 countries and some 300 bloggers from 25 countries reported on events at ITB Berlin.



Romanian Tourism Fair Bucharest, Romania 13-16 March 2014

The National Institute for Research and Development in Tourism (NIRDT) presented CHARTS at the 31th edition of the Romanian Tourism Fair in Bucharest at the official

stand of the Romanian National Tourism Authority.

During these days NIRDT disseminated the official leaflet of the project (in English and Romanian language), a flyer (containing a brief presentation of the project in Romanian language), as well as the CHARTS Award. This event brought together 280 companies from 24 countries like Israel, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Montenegro, Croatia, Turkey, Greece, Ukraine, Austria, Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Serbia, Moldova, Great Britain, Hungary, Jordan, Holland, Czech, China, Morocco, Malaysia and Egypt.



Info Day on EU funding Brussels, Belgium 20 March 2014

In order to capitalise project results after the end of project, CHARTS MCU participated at the Info Day on EU funding for Tourism where was presented EU

programmes and support under the 2014 - 2020 financial framework that are available for initiatives in the tourism sector. The info day focused on the most important EU programmes for the tourism sector and practical questions about types of tourism-related actions eligible for funding; types and levels of funding; who can apply and how to apply under Programmes such as COSME, ERDF, European Agriculture and Rural Development Fund, Creative Europe Programme, Horizon 2020, Erasmus+, European Social Fund, European Maritime and Fisheries. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=7252&lang=en&tpa_id=136&title=Info-Day%3A-EU-funding-for-the-tourism-sector



UNESCO / UNITWIN 3rd Conference Barcelona, Spain 16-20 June 2014

CHARTS Project Coordinator Mr. Manos Vougioukas and project Communication Manager Ms. leva Treija

participated at the 3rd International Conference UNESCO UNITWIN Network "Culture, Tourism, Development" Tourism and Gastronomy Heritage: Foodscapes, Gastroregions and Gastronomy Tourism. This event was officially supported by CHART project as one of the good practice of project is on local products and gastronomy. Project Coordinator presented CHARTS with its results and achievements and Good Practice of project on Gastronomy to participants from all the World. Mr. Jordi Tresseras, project partner from University of Barcelona presented Catalan culinary heritage safeguarding project as a method/proposal in order to include Catalan Cuisine in the UNESCO Best Practice Register of Safeguarding Immaterial Cultural Heritage. Catalan experience will be transferred to South Pelion in order to safeguard Pelion Cuisine in Greece.





PARTNERS TRANSFER GOOD PRACTICES IN 10 EU REGIONS

In the CHARTS project 12 such good practice topics have been examined, analysed, discussed and experience exchanged through thematic workshops and Staff Exchange Programme. Each project partner has been involved in at least 5 good practice topics which allowed local, regional and national policy-makers to access the ideas and techniques that have been successfully implemented by project partners and to contact the relevant people in the other organisations to get further details on the conditions for transfer.

According to the plan, within the CHARTS project 8 out of 12 good practices are being transferred to the 10 geographical partner regions across Europe:

- Good practice on historic sites protection from climate change impacts has been transferred from North Wales (UK) to Västra Götaland Region (Sweden)
- Good practice on accessibility to heritage 'TD Database' method has been transferred from Västra Götaland Region to Veneto Region (Italy)
- Good Practice on **effective partnerships** is being transferred to South Pelion Municipality (Greece) from the South-East region (Bulgaria) concerning local authorities, Vidzeme Region (Latvia) and Pafos Region (Cyprus) concerning tourism and cultural sectors.
- Good Practice on Host Communities involvement for responsible tourism, and in particular the European Capitals of Culture, has been transferred to Burgas (Bulgaria) in its bid for European Capital of Culture in 2019 and to Pafos in its preparations for ECoC in 2017.
- Good practice on quality criteria in destinations is now being transferred from Västra Götaland Region to North Wales (Caernavon Castle) and to Rhodes island (Greece). European Tourism Indicators System (ETIS) for Sustainable Management at Destination Level will be tested for the Mount Pelion destination by EKPOL Social & Cultural Council of Thessalia Region Authority in Greece.

- Good practice on gastronomy the method of culinary heritage safeguarding project by IBERTUR/Barcelona University has been transferred from Catalonia (Spain) to South Pelion (Greece) in order to protect and promote Pelion traditional cuisine. South Pelion is looking forward to applying for the inclusion of Pelion Cuisine in the List of UNESCO Immaterial Cultural Heritage, following 'Cucina Catalana' experience.
- Good practice on **railway heritage** has been transferred from North Wales (UK) to South Pelion region and also to Vidzeme region in Latvia.
- Good practice on information for visitors has been transferred from Vidzeme region (Latvia) to Mallorca (Spain)
- Good practice in **cyclotourism** is being transferred from Vidzeme region and Veneto region to Pafos region (Cyprus) and the the South-East Region in Bulgaria.
- Good practice on **place marketing** and tourism marketing is being transferred from Pafos region to Mallorca (Spain).

What is 'Transfer of Good Practice'?

Only a practice introduced by one partner and that has a concrete and measurable impact on another partner (for instance, through the initiation of a pilot project or through the adoption of a certain methodology by this other partner) can be considered as a transfer. The dissemination of good practices or the intention of a partner to adopt a new practice is not sufficient to consider the practice as transferred.

INTERREG IVC Programme Manual (30 May 2012, page 9)

PARTNERS INTEGRATE THE LESSONS LEARNT FROM EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

A key element of the CHARTS project is the preparation of an Implementation Plan (IP) for each geographical partner region in the project, as a requirement in the 4th Call projects. IP is a procedure that allows cultural, heritage and sustainable tourism to be planned at regional or sub-regional level through the involvement and co-ordination of a wide range of competent public authorities, private enterprises associations, cultural societies, special interest groups, other stakeholders, as well as the voluntary sector.

Based on partners' exchanged experience in all interregional events and the project outputs, 10 Implementation Plans for Culture and Heritage actions towards Sustainable Tourism Development: Integration of CHARTS project results into local / regional policies will be produced in local language at the end of the CHARTS project (December 2014) and submitted to the programme. An abstract of each IP will be available in English.

These Plans will specify planned future actions in the regional policy for submission to local managing authority in their local language, and to develop tourism sustainability with culture and heritage strategies.

Each IPs will create opportunities for employment in the Cultural and Tourism industries, protect and preserve culture and heritage at local, regional, state and EU levels, and may form a basis to apply for future funding in the 2014-2020 programming period, according to the Europe 2020 Strategy.

What is Implementation Plan?

The implementation plan is defined as a document that specifies how each 'region' participating in the cooperation will work to integrate the lessons learnt from the cooperation into its local /regional or, if relevant, national policies. This plan describe the future actions planned to ensure that the benefits of the exchange of experience are not lost after the project ends.

INTERREG IVC Programme Manual (30 May 2012, page 15)





CHARTS CLOSING CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN GREECE



During 2,5 years, CHARTS Project enriched regional policies with culture and heritage as added value for tourism sustainability by exchange experience amongst the 13 partners in established 12 Good Practices on the sustainable management of culture, heritage and landscape through communication and collaboration, keeping in mind the effects of innovation and creating a base of knowledge that can span well beyond the project's end.

The project CHARTS will conclude with an International Conference to be held in Greece on 10 – 15 September 2014 on the theme of

'Engaging Culture & Heritage for Sustainable Tourism Development'

The main objective of the conference is to showcase the achievements, benefits, significant results and outputs produced by project partners' regions and destinations.

The Conference will address a whole range of relevant issues from the sustainability perspectives, identifying specific challenges and examples of relevant actions by invited keynote speakers, experts, academics and practitioners.

The Conference will also provide an opportunity to discuss about how regions and destinations can initiate and support sustainable tourism development in Europe through engaging culture and heritage (including contemporary culture and natural heritage); what is the contribution of Cultural, Heritage and Sustainable Tourism development in tackling the economic and financial crisis and how Cultural, Heritage and Sustainable Tourism can contribute in the 'Experience Economy'.

The Conference will constitute a major event for Cultural Tourism in Europe with invited keynote speakers, representatives of EU institutions, UNESCO, UNWTO, ETC, WTTC, Europa Nostra, as well as INTERREG IVC JTS, etc. Insights into the future of inter-regional cooperation INTERREG EUROPE Programme 2014-2020 will be included.

CHARTS Closing Conference will be hosted by European Cultural Tourism Network (ECTN) Presidency EKPOL – Thessalia Region Social and Cultural Council and co-organised by South Pelion Municipality, Greek National Tourism Organisation and University of Thessalia with support of CHARTS Partnership.













In the Conference Programme:

- The showcase the achievements, benefits, results and outputs produced by CHARTS project partners' regions and destinations "Sustainable Tourism solutions for regions and destinations" in parallel sessions on 12 good practices
- Open discussions on Cultural Tourism in Europe with keynote speakers
- Presentation and Adoption of the Charter on "Culture and Heritage Added Value to Regional Policies for Tourism Sustainability"
- A ceremony of the 'CHARTS Award 2014' prize for "Destination of Sustainable Cultural Tourism"
- Pre- and post-Conference study visits

More information:

http://www.charts-interreg4c.eu/events/closing-conference/







South Pelion Municipality































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THE CHARTER LAUNCH EVENT WILL BE HELD IN BRUSSELS

The CHARTS partnership, in comparison with the previous projects, has been widened in terms of innovation, in a "sustainable interpretation" ensuring the agenda is taken forward between heritage and tourism through the Charter to be adopted by the partners to be launched in Brussels, through the Conference of the project and the participation of the Project in other EU Conferences and events for the promotion of these Practices and the results of the Project (DG REGIO - CoR annual Open Days, annual EC European Tourism Forum, EU Cultural Forum, Exhibitions, etc).

The Charter on "Culture and Heritage Added-value to Regional Policies for Tourism Sustainability" (CHARTS) which will be signed by all partners, potentially including their Managing Authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

University of Thessaly joined CHARTS

From January 2014, the Laboratory of Tourism Planning, Research & Policy, of the University of Thessaly (UTH), Department of Planning and Regional Development (DPRD) joined CHARTS Partnership with its expertise in Accessibility and Place Marketing in relation to Culture and Tourism and will benefit from the exchange of experience amongst the partners.

The Laboratory has experience in accessibility and place marketing strategies (enhanced by its participation in the INTERREG IIIC CULTMARK Project), has participated in international conferences and place marketing is amongst the syllabus offered to the students.

At the Closing Conference a 'CHARTS Charter' will be discussed and adopted, encompassing all previous relevant Declarations and Resolutions regarding the future development and promotion of sustainable and cultural tourism in Europe. The CHARTS project will conclude with the Charter launch in Brussels on 9 October 2014, as a 'side event' during 'Open Days - European Week of Cities & Regions'.

More information will be provided in project website http://www.charts-interreg4c.eu/events/charter-launch-event/

Upcoming events July - December 2014

- European Tourism Indicators System for Sustainable Management workshop, Brussels, Auditorium Brevdel July, avenue d'Auderghem 45
- European Tourism Forum, 30 31 October, Naples, Italy
- Open Days 2014, 6 9 October, Brussels
- World Travel Market 2014, 3 6 November, London
- 1st UNWTO European Conference on Accessible Tourism, 19 November, San Marino
- Conference 'Accessible Tourism: Innovative approaches between accessibility and heritage protection', 5 December, Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee, Van Maerlant Building

Download and disseminate electronically project Newsletters and documents from our official website

SAVE THE DATES!

CHARTS Closing Conference on 10-15 September 2014 in Greece

Charter launch event on 9 October 2014 in Brussels Radisson BLU EU hotel, room Schuman, 11:00 - 13:00

CHARTS project Leaflet (in English) in pdf format here CHARTS project Leaflet (in Romanian) in pdf format here Vidzeme (Northern Latvia) Cultural Tourism Map in pdf format here Mallorca The Dry Stone Trail (GR221) Map in pdf format here

Web-based Toolkits for Cultural Tourism Destinations here CHARTS Closing Conference here

Newsletter 1 in English here in Catalan here

Newsletter 2 in English here

Newsletter 3 in English here

Get more information about:

INTERREG IVC programme 2007-2013: http://www.interreg4c.eu/

European Regional Development Fund: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.cfm

CHARTS project You Tube CHARTS2014 Linked in CHARTS project INTERREG IVC

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