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CONSERVATION



SCIENCE



Bridges to the Future

Pilot scheme for preserving and restoring cultural heritage in conflict areas



TECHNOLOGY



EDUCATION



This project is funded by the European Union



Bridges to the Future - Conservation, Science, Technology & Education in Stolac

Project leader:

Foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders

Project partners:

Foundation Tecnalia – Research & Innovation, Spain

Association of Artist Deblokada, B&H

Tourist association Stari grad, B&H

Project duration:

November 1st 2012 – January 31st 2014

The **overall objective** is to create a better understanding of the rehabilitated city, where individual security on an intimate level is reached through experiencing a better future for Stolac, with its unharmed and intact cultural heritage assets.

The **specific objective** is to develop an innovative multidimensional digital model that will be used for teaching, recording and learning about conservation/restoration techniques. This model would be used for interpretation of the cultural heritage assets of Stolac using technological development as a bridge between the asset and the visitor/citizen to/of Stolac, and between the troubled past and a brighter future.

MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Workshops (training of young professionals, children and students from primary and secondary schools, as well as tourism professionals)

Output 1.1: Increased capacity in conservation/restoration and cultural understanding of commonalities of shared heritage

Activities:

Three 4-day long workshops in conservation/restoration related matters for young professionals;

Two 3-day long workshops with tourist professionals;

One 2-day long workshop with primary school children;

One 7-day long film workshop with primary school children;

Two 2-day long workshops with secondary school students

2. Participatory mapping exercises

Output 2.1: Encouraged creative thinking and participation of different target groups while mapping, imaging and viewing similar cultural heritage examples from nearby localities

Activities: Nine 1-day long participatory mapping and imaging exercises – study trips

3. Restoration camp

Output 3.1: Increased practical knowledge of young practitioners in the CH field in B&H

Activities: Implementation of one 14-day long restoration camp where on-going restoration sites will be used as a field for training

Output 3.2: Creation of a national network as a platform for communication and cultural exchange in B&H

Activities: Creation of a camp alumni association to serve as a network

Output 3.3: Practical training integrated into curricula of universities in B&H

Activities: Discussions, meetings, drafting of documents, and identification of partners and locations (synergy with other EU-funded projects)

4. Development of augmented reality model

Output 4.1: Creation of a model based on historical buildings along the river

Activities: The images and data collected from the participatory mapping exercise, workshops and restoration camp will be converted into a 3D digital model of Stolac as it exists today by the participants. This will use low cost/free tools using the multiple image photogrammetric applications. Historic photographs, oral accounts and other sources from the past will be incorporated, creating an image of the past. A custom smartphone application will be developed allowing citizens to view this model while standing in front of the existing structures in Stolac. For those without smartphones, the model will be available on the Internet and 2D and 3D printed images. An exercise to imagine the past will be conducted, and the buildings, bridges and other structures will be 'digitally restored'; this will then be added to the model.

5. Public presentations

5.1 Output: Encouragement of new, forward-looking models of working with cultural heritage and presenting it to the public

Activities: Five half-day long public presentation events

6. Promotional activities

Output 6.1: Increased awareness on the new approaches
Activities: Publishing promotional leaflets and guidelines in order to enhance visibility and ensure reciprocity

The preparatory phase - initial discussions, meetings and preparation will take a minimum of 2 months. Nine (9) actions (including participatory imagery exercises) are envisaged to take place over 15 months, where workshops would occur at equal intervals of time, every 1 and ½ months. The Restoration Camp will be placed in the midst of the workshops. The results from the activities will feed in to the development of the augmented reality interpretation model that would be an on-going activity. Public presentations will be developed at intervals of 3 months, before each new stage of work is taken on.

TARGET GROUPS

... Primary and secondary school children/students

... University students

... Young professionals in the field of cultural heritage (CH) and related fields, engineers, architects art historians, cultural heritage managers

... Women groups

... Professionals from the tourism sector

... Workers from restoration companies (engineers, craftsmen/craftswomen, managers)

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

Universities, tourist organisations,

Institute for the Protection of Monuments,

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), local community

THE EXPECTED IMPACT

(1) Creating stronger links between tourism and the CH sector

(2) Strengthening the capacity of professionals and students in CH interpretation and management

(3) Increasing public access to information on heritage sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(4) Enhancing dialogue and awareness about the importance of CH preservation and management, as well as public participation in the decision-making process

(5) Local, public communication of the multiple narratives of built heritage through creative participatory interpretation strategies