

3.1.1. Working table

Padua 25th September 2018

Project details

PROJECT ACRONYM	USEFALL
PROJECT FULL TITLE	Unesco Site Experience For All
AXIS	ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE
OBJECTIVE	3.1- Make natural and cultural heritage a leverage for sustainable and more balanced territorial development
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Deliverable details

WORK PACKAGE	WP3 - Improving the accessibility of the italian- croatian sites
ACTIVITY NUMBER	3.1 - Development of guidelines for a management plan model for a better accessibility of Unesco sites
PARTNER IN CHARGE	PP2 - Venetian Cluster
OTHER PARTNERS INVOLVED	
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CHALLENGES THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FACES WITHIN UNESCO SITES

REPORT

25th September 2018

Teatro Botanico, Botanical Garden of Padua

The working table “Challenges that people with disabilities faces within UNESCO sites” represents one of the two occasions of meeting with the involved stakeholders, as foreseen within the project USEFALL.

It was organised on Thursday 25th September by Venetian Cluster (VHC) with the collaboration of the Botanical Garden of Padua, which is a UNESCO site of Veneto Region and one case study of VHC within the project.

The project USEFALL (UNESCO Site Experience For ALL) aims at the improvement of accessibility of sites of cultural relevance for all the weak groups, such as disables, children and elderly, and in order to pursue this goal the foreseen actions are placed in some UNESCO sites to propose infrastructural solutions and the application of innovative technologies like APP and multisensorial paths.

The organisation of the workshops is planned because the project wants to analyse the problems connected with the accessibility theme and the potential and criticalities of solutions proposed worldwide; moreover, the two workshops aim at providing information for the development of a pilot model of management of accessibility in UNESCO sites and of guidelines that will be spread in all European countries to share the experiences and good practices collected during the project lifetime.

The workshop had the objective of involving the most relevant stakeholders at the local level to organize a working table during which identify difficulties and necessities of people with disabilities during their visits to cultural sites as well as innovative solutions that are spreading in the last years in Italy and all Europe. This was the opportunity to invite UNESCO sites workers, representatives of Museums of the Veneto Region, institutional representative of municipalities and Region, Universities, cultural organisations and associations that deal with disability, in order to involve stakeholders with experience in different areas connected to the theme.

The speakers invited to the workshop were:

- Professor Barbara Baldan, Prefect of the Botanical Garden of Padua;
- Maurizio Malè and Giulia Albertoni, project managers of Venetian Cluster;
- Pierluigi Rossi, a young in wheelchair studying Cultural Heritage at the University;
- Patrizia Tolot, representative of Down D.A.D.I, organisation for social promotion in Padua.

The workshop has seen the presence of 15 people with different backgrounds and expertise: there were representatives of cooperatives working with disabled people and elderly, organisations for the social promotion, disables and their families, architects, people involved in the management of the Botanical Garden of Padua.

The participation was very active from the side of the public and the different speeches are relevant for the future development of the outputs of the project, with a main attention to the guidelines.

The workshop started with the institutional greetings of the Prefect of Botanical Garden, Dr. Baldan, who welcomed all the participants and then started her speech regarding the Botanical Garden as the context where the workshop is organised. Dr. Baldan started for the history and the initial use of the Garden, then she explained why the Botanical Garden was enrolled in the list of UNESCO heritage in 1997: the reason of its registration is linked to the fact that the Botanical Garden was born in 1545 in the same place and never moved, moreover the ancient part presents the same structure of the XVI century Garden, so it represents a unique case. Later, Dr. Baldan detailed the different activities of the Garden and she talked about accessibility of the structure: the Botanical Garden is accessible from the structural point of view for people with physical disabilities and wheelchair, but for other disabilities it is more restricted. There was the example of the UNESCO management method, which is a bit dated and foresees only the itinerary for blind people, which is a specific itinerary that gives the possibility of touching some kinds of plants and with the descriptions in Braille; moreover, the Prefect talked about the collaboration between the Botanical Garden and some cooperatives to involve in-need people, the possibility of organising didactic laboratories based on the necessities of the group and the implementation and modernisation of other inclusive and innovative solutions.

The second step were the intervention of Venetian Cluster as organizer of the event and partner of the project USEFALL: Dr. Maurizio Malè started the speech with a short presentation of Venetian Cluster as promotor of cultural heritage and then showcased the project and the case studies. The main information regarding the project were explained, such as the partnership, the objectives, the foreseen outputs and the different pilot actions for the six UNESCO sites in Italy and Croatia.

Later, the two case studies of Venetian Cluster within the project were detailed, which are the Botanical Garden of Padua and the Oriental Arts Museum of Venice, to discuss about the infrastructures and technologies already present and the innovative proposals to be developed in the USEFALL project to implement the accessibility:

- Botanical Garden of Padua

INFRASTRUCTURES AND TECHNOLOGIES

1. Accessible for people with physical difficulties and disabilities through ramps
2. APP available in different languages
3. Audioguides
4. Didactic labs with sensorial and tactile experiences

SOLUTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED DURING THE USEFALL PROJECT

1. Development of contents in LIS for the APP
2. APP with Talking Landscapes for a multisensorial experience

3. Silent Play for a multisensorial experience
 - Oriental Arts Museum in Venice (Ca' Pesaro)

INFRASTRUCTURES AND TECHNOLOGIES

1. Accessible for people with physical difficulties and disabilities through the elevator
2. APP available in different languages, included LIS
3. Tactile laboratory for blind people

SOLUTIONS TO BE DEVELOPED DURING THE USEFALL PROJECT

1. Development of virtual contents (visit with glasses that allow to visualise content related to the museum objects)
2. Virtual reality (involvement of visitors in a virtual reality through the audio and visuals instruments)
3. Audio contents and virtual reality to facilitate availability and comprehension to blind people, cognitive disabilities, etc.

The speech was closed with an overview of the innovative technologies ready nowadays in the market, such as the virtual reality that is a new technology that allow people to experience and see imaginary and recreated events and places. The general presentations focused on Hololens, Mira and Meta with the use of short videos and images.

After the formal presentation, there was the occasion for an interactive moment that presented a brainstorming to collect information about the meanings of disabilities,

typologies and possible solutions to overcome the connected difficulties. Giulia Albertoni, project manager junior of Venetian Cluster introduced the brainstorming with the definition of “disability” as reported in the Treccani Vocabulary and then opened the debate.

At the beginning, there was a brainstorming regarding the different kinds of disabilities and the following ones were identified: cognitive disabilities, autism and Down Syndrome, the rheumatic diseases which lead to motor limits, physical disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, deafness and hypoacusis, chronic illnesses; then participants added some categories with special needs such as children and seniors, the cultural and social disabilities, while since the beginning it was decided to put also the indifference and misinformation as an important disability of the society. The participants have later highlighted that using the word “disability” leads to an increased differentiation and prevent the inclusion, consequently the words “users” or “visitors” were then used. Gradually, there was a debate regarding some important solutions for these problems to increase the accessibility of cultural sites, and through a long and fruitful discussion the following solutions have been identified:

1. Physical disabilities can be faced with different solutions: virtual reality viewer in case the person is able to control the look direction and the head, accessible and close parking spaces, suitable infrastructures (such as automatic doors, suitable bathroom), tactile pathways, walkable roads;
2. Rheumatic illnesses, children and seniors can have solutions similar to the ones of the physical disabilities, such as walkable roads and suitable parking;
3. Cognitive disabilities could use more images, panels, tactile paths and multisensorial experiences;
4. Blind and partially sighted people can use tactile and 3D models and paths, captions in Braille, audio guides;

5. Deafness and hypoacusis can use the LIS, 3D models, tactile paths;
6. Regarding the cultural and social disabilities, it is necessary to simplify concepts, include other cultures, use images, explaining panels and different languages;
7. Indifference and misinformation result to be the hugest block for the accessibility and it is possible to overcome them with a raising awareness campaign, different perspectives, work with the community and on the institutional blocks, more information.

Some concepts were often recalled during the debate, which highlighted some fundamental points which will be taken into consideration during the development of the trainings and of the guidelines: the brainstorming saw the closure with a recall to the importance of autonomy when talking about accessibility and inclusion, the need of promoting approaches available not only for a single category of disables but for everybody, the importance of method during the solutions planning and of information, which is fundamental to raise awareness regarding accessibility and the linked proposals in the different cultural sites.

After the debate, there was the moment of “first person stories” to understand what is accessibility from the point of view of people who live disability. There were the speeches of Pierluigi Rossi and Patrizia Tolot, who represents the cooperative Down D.A.D.I.

Pierluigi Rossi is a young man who studies Cultural Heritage at the University of Verona and he is in a wheel chair without the possibility of being manually lifted up. In its speech, he proposed a list of cultural sites which he found accessible for its physical disabilities and later he showed the places with a high relevance for a Cultural Heritage student which he cannot visit, such as Rome and Venice: his speech has highlighted that in some cases it was possible to visit only some parts of the site or of the museum, because of not-working infrastructures, for structural limits of the building, while in other cases he was supported during the visit thanks

to the solutions proposed and to the staff who cares about his own needs. Finally, he provided a list of solutions that he would propose to improve the accessibility, like a pathway developed for people with physical disabilities in order to reach the cultural and historical sites, working gangways and infrastructural solutions in cobbled squares and streets of historical centres, clear indications of accessibility of museums and cultural sites with the detailed information regarding the different proposals.

The closing speech was the presentation of Patrizia Tolot, representative of the cooperative Down D.A.D.I.: she has shown the different activities promoted by the organisation in order to ensure a better autonomy of the young and adults with the Down Syndrome and to promote the inclusion within the three key points, which for the cooperative are home, work and entertainment. She has then shown a video developed by a journalist, where it was clearly explained how Down D.A.D.I. pursues its idea of inclusion. Finally, Patrizia Tolot has stressed their work for the improvement of accessibility in the city of Padua and for the awareness-raising of the people with Down Syndrome and their families as well as for the citizens and the institutions through specific events.

After the morning with the formal presentations and the debate, there was a lunch and then the possibility of further deepen the information about accessibility through the guided visit of the Botanical Garden in the afternoon. During the visit there was the possibility to see some instruments, such as an interactive map about products, short cartoons and videos, explaining panels with the captions in braille and in relief, instruments which are already installed in the greenhouses in order to facilitate the learning to every visitor category. Moreover, there was the possibility of touching some plants and of analysing the possible changes and improvements of instruments or locations, that will allow an increased accessibility and enjoyment of the cultural sites for the disabled people: the presence of a

woman in wheel chair has helped to practically understand the strengths and weaknesses from the structural and innovative point of view.

Photos



Botanical Garden's Prefect





Presentation of Venetian Cluster and of the USEFALL project



First person stories: Pierluigi Rossi and Patrizia Tolot