

## 3.1.1. Working table

Padua 21<sup>st</sup> November 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	
STATUS	Final
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# CHALLENGES THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FACES WITHIN UNESCO SITES

## REPORT

21<sup>st</sup> November 2018

*Teatro Botanico, Orto Botanico di Padova*

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

It was organised on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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 have provided 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 was the second meeting organised inside the Botanical Garden of Padua and had the same objective of the first meeting, which is the involvement of 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. Starting from the discussion of the first workshop, this was the opportunity to invite UNESCO sites workers, Museum 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;
- Dr. Rosa Nardelli of the Office of Public Engagement, Sector of Involvement and sustainability, and Dr. Benedetta Zatti, Office Service for students, Sector Inclusion, University of Padua;
- Maurizio Malè and Giulia Albertoni, project managers of Venetian Cluster;
- Gloria Marini, La Piccionaia Centro di Produzione Teatrale, and Diana De Tomaso, Make it easy;
- Architect Rosaria Revellini, PhD student at the IUAV University of Venice;

- Giancarla Albertoli, Guendalina Righetti, Susanna Brugnoli, Anna Checchinato, for MAGY'S APS.

The workshop has seen the presence of 50 people with different backgrounds and expertise: there were representatives of cooperatives working with disabled people and elderly, organisations for the social promotion, workers of museums and cultural sites, disabled and their families, architects, journalists, the whole partnership of the project USEFALL.

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 representative of the University of Padua, Dr. Nardelli, who welcomed all the participants and then started her speech regarding disabilities and inclusion and the connected projects of the University of Padua. After her speech, Dr. Zatti continued the discussion explaining the reforms the University has approved in the last years in order to become more inclusive and sustainability. Moreover, the two representatives explained some good practices of the University, which can be interesting for participants as they could be inspired by these and proposed similar ideas to cooperatives and private entities.

The second step was 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 promoter 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 possible infrastructural solutions present nowadays in the market, such as the disables aids that are new solutions available at a low price that allow people to experience and visit places with stairways, difference in height, etc. The presentation focused on the problems of integrating accessibility solutions in the context, with the linked issues of permissions, authorizations, aesthetic, which lead to the need of finding personalised solutions suitable to the single situation, with the final goal of enjoying the cultural site without damaging it or bringing inconsistent changes.

After the formal presentation, there was the occasion for an interactive moment that presented the results of the brainstorming developed during the first meeting 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 reported the brainstorming results, starting from the different kinds of disabilities to the innovative and infrastructural solutions proposed.

Some concepts were often recalled during the debate and highlighted in the second meeting.

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.

Finally, the suggestions are:

- develop approaches and solutions available not only for a single category of disables but for everybody («Design For All»),
- the importance of method during the solutions planning, which should be long-term solutions,
- give more relevance to the information, which is fundamental to raise awareness regarding accessibility and the linked proposals in the different cultural sites,
- a recall to the importance of autonomy when talking about accessibility and inclusion.

The following speech was from 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.

There was then the explanation of the “for all” experience of the Silent Play, which is the multisensory proposal which will be developed in the Botanical Garden.

The speech of Gloria Marini, La Piccionaia Centro di Produzione Teatrale, and of Diana De Tomaso, Make it easy, started stressing the importance of the long-term planning and of the method. Moreover, they proposed a design for all, in order to have multidisciplinary solutions and not specific cases and the concept of disability is present only when the planning has not foreseen it.

The exploration of the site is a key element to find the questions which lead to the right answers and solutions, and the theatre experience is here important as an educational and entertainment tale. To better describe these concepts, they showed the experience of Parco Rossi, which is a park in the municipality of Santorso (province of Vicenza), that was involved in a new planning of the use of the park through the development of infrastructures, innovative solutions such as the relief map, audio guides and tactile panels, and experiences of Silent Play.

To close the speech, there was the possibility of experiencing a short Silent Play, even if it was delivered within the room and not outside in the Rossi Park: it was anyway interested because it focused on different senses.



The last part was called “Innovative projects for accessibility” and has seen two speeches.

Architect Rosaria Revellini, PhD student at the IUAV University of Venice, described the infrastructural proposals in the city of Venice: the different proposals of boardwalks, bridges, railings and parapets were illustrated through pictures and the analysis of studies about accessibility in Venice.

Following the presentation of infrastructural projects, there was the presentation of an innovative solution.

Giancarla Albertoli, Guendalina Righetti, Susanna Brugnoli, Anna Checchinato are the founders of MAGY’S APS, an association for social promotion and inclusion which develops concrete proposals to make the environmental and cultural sites accessible and enjoyable for all.

After a brief presentation of MAGY’S APS, they talked about their project “Following Fossy” in the Natural History City Museum of Verona explaining the limits they had to face – such as the lack of services and guides, lack of information, limits connected to the historical building and the ownership of the museum – and the suggestions they gave to improve autonomy, inclusion and increased information. Moreover, they described also the proposal developed for the Parco Natura Viva (not applied because of a lack of funds) and there was the possibility to see how is the visit for a person in wheel chair: thanks to a camera, participants saw part of the visit in the park, which claims to be accessible for people with physical disabilities, and understood the difficulties and problems that often disabled have.

Later, there was a lunch and then the possibility of further deepen the information about accessibility in the Botanical Garden through the guided visit of the 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 and enjoyment to every visitor.

### Photos



Welcome speech



Dr. Rosa Nardelli and Dr. Benedetta Zatti, University of Padova



Giulia Albertoni, project manager of Venetian Cluster





Speech focused on the Silent Play, La Piccionaia



The accessibility project of Venice



MAGY'S presentation