



Ravenna is a showcase of art, history and culture of rare beauty: between the 5th and 8th century, it was the capital of the Western Roman Empire, of the Gothic Kingdom of Theoderic, and of the Byzantine Empire. This magnificent period has left a visible mark: Eight Early Christian and Byzantine buildings compose the site that Unesco added to the World Heritage List in 1996.

USEFALL project allowed the creation of a series of **postcards** designed with a special technique in braille and with relief prints, which will be soon available at the tourist information offices. They depict some jewels of the city, like the eight Unesco monuments, Dante, Guidarello Guidarelli (the symbol of Mar - Ravenna city art museum). Moreover, a new promotional **video** in LIS (Italian Sign Language) and audio guides for each Unesco monument in Ravenna have been created within USEFALL project in order to allow a better visit to persons with disabilities.

Furthermore, the museum Classis Ravenna features a new **tactile path** dedicated to the blind, visually impaired and cognitively disabled people that was inspired by the mosaic decoration of the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare in Classe. Thanks to tactile mosaic tables and three-dimensional reconstructions, the project has built a fascinating experience of knowledge of the ancient mosaic, including the representation of the typical animal and plant species that inhabited the local valleys during the 6th century.



Finally, the project brought to the issue of **guidelines**, aimed at including all possible users in the activities and initiatives of the area. **The Guidelines, if shared in all Unesco Sites involved in the project, both in Italy and in Croatia, will allow anyone - regardless of physical conditions - to access the contents of the Universal Goods, flexibly building their own visit experience.**

The Municipality of Ravenna is leader of the USEFALL project, and works in collaboration with the partner institutions Fondazione Aquileia and Venetian Cluster for Italy, the cities of Split and Poreč for Croatia .

The project aims to realize, promote and communicate a new system of accessibility and usability of the UNESCO heritage sites starting from these first six:



- **Basilica of Sant 'Apollinare in Classe - Ravenna**
- **Botanical Garden - Padua**
- **Museum of Oriental Art in Venice - Venice**
- **Archaeological area and Patriarchal Basilica - Aquileia**
- **Euphrasian Basilica - Poreč**
- **Historical Complex with Palace of Diocletian- Split**



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FOR A BETTER ACCESSIBILITY IN THE WORLD HERITAGE MONUMENTS

Thanks to the cross-border project Italy-Croatia, the European Community initiates and finances a trial to make six Unesco World Heritage sites accessible for all types of disabilities.

Breaking down architectural barriers, along with creating innovative communication tools for a better use of the cultural content, is a commitment to civilization, and allows a full enjoyment of the cultural treasures in the geographical area of the upper Adriatic, between Italy and Croatia.



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The City of **Split** is famous for the **Diocletian's Palace**, which is more than 1700 years old and under Unesco protection. Within the Palace, citizens of the City of Split live and work. Moreover, the number of tourists is increasing every year.



Since it is a 1700-years old Palace, there are many sites that are not suitable for persons with disabilities or baby strollers.

With USEFALL project, the City of Split will improve the access to the most frequent locations of the Palace, especially with the installation of one elevator in the Centre for Culture and Lifelong Learning Golden Gate (Centar za kulturu i cjeloživotno obrazovanje Zlatna

v r a t a) , one elevator/platform at the eastern entrance of the historical city centre (near the Silver Gate), and another elevator and a ramp at the western entrance (by the two passageways in Trg Republike – Prokurative).

The project also allows the development of a map with the information on the accessibility to cultural institutions for persons with disabilities.



USEFALL activities also include the organization of workshops for tourist guides, representatives of associations and cultural institutions, with the objective of informing them about the above-mentioned map, and about a new video about the City of Split.

Finally, the project will allow the development of a series of mosaics specifically designed for the blind and visually-impaired persons..

Founded by the Romans in 181 B.C., **Aquileia** was one of the biggest and liveliest cities of the Roman Empire during the Early Latin-Christian period. The city boasted one of the most relevant ancient ports of the Adriatic, being the starting point of the main commercial, cultural and military roads towards North-East Europe. Aquileia has been acknowledged Unesco World Heritage Site in 1998.



Fondazione Aquileia has the task of promoting its archaeological sites and museums, and of highlighting the historical and cultural heritage of a city that was one of the most important centres of the Roman Empire, as well as seat of a Patriarchate.

The **River Port** of the ancient city of Aquileia is the target area of USEFALL project, whose goal is to improve its accessibility for people with special needs, both motor and mental disabilities, sensory and intellectual.

An expert on accessibility carried out a study, analysing the current state of the area and identifying the actual needs of people with disabilities. He then suggested helpful, detailed guidelines for improving the accessibility of the Unesco site of Aquileia.

The final objective of this study is to launch a competition of ideas, from which will be identified the best solution that guarantees and improves the accessibility of the Aquileia River Port.

This first intervention may be shared as a best practice example among the other USEFALL project partners.



The two Unesco sites selected by **Venetian Cluster** for USEFALL project are the **Oriental Arts Museum of Venice** and the Botanical Garden of Padua.

The **Botanical Garden** was enrolled in the Unesco Heritage List in 1997. From a structural point of view, it is accessible for people with physical disabilities and wheelchair, but it is more restricted for other types of disability.

For this reason, two different projects were conceived to improve accessibility: the realization of a multisensory and interactive method that allows a complete experience of the site with **The Silent Party**, and the improvement of the already existing Application of the Botanical Garden, which will enhance the enjoyment of the visit, giving useful information.



The **Museum of Oriental Arts of Venice** is part of the Unesco site of Venice and its Lagoon since 1987. In this important museum, further accessible solutions will be the development of three ICT instruments for virtual reality, which will improve accessibility and facilitate the visit for everyone. The museum already features a tactile path for impaired and blind people, audio guides, and explanatory panels in different languages.

Other available instruments that will improve accessibility are the **Microsoft Hololens**, glasses used to bring to life again the exposed armours of ancient samurai; the virtual reality **Oculus go**, designed and implemented to allow visitors to see the interior decorations of a lady's sedan chair, otherwise not available for visits; and a neural network that, through smartphones pointed at an object, provides a detailed explanation, reproducing even the original sound of the exposed Japanese traditional music instruments.



The most valuable cultural property in **Poreč**, the **Euphrasian Basilica**, entered the Unesco World Heritage list in 1997. This site is the only landmark of the Early Christian period that is still perfectly preserved.



Built in the 6th century, during the time of Bishop Euphrasius, the Basilica is composed of the atrium, the baptistery, the bishop's palace, a number of bright mosaics and the ruins of 3rd-4th century-old sacral buildings. The mosaics decorating the façade and the inside of the church are an inestimable bequest of Byzantine art; moreover, the mosaic floor and the well-preserved writings suggest the period of construction and subsequent renovation works.

The Euphrasian Basilica was only the central part of a larger complex formed by a number of buildings, constructed mostly in the same period. Thanks to the participation in USEFALL project, the Town of Poreč-Parenzo has been able to carry out less invasive pilot infrastructural works in the area of the promenade that surrounds the basilica, providing the visitors, and in particular the persons with disabilities, a better access to the Unesco site.

Works in the old town of Poreč, carried out simply “scratching” the cobbled street, reduced slipperiness, making them safer. The project allowed the renovation of the pavement, improving pedestrian traffic safety; the replacement of damaged ramps for persons with disabilities; the stabilization of the ground. From a technical point of view, the works consisted in removing the existing damaged or cracked stone partition and in setting up a new treated, anti-slip stone lining. The works were completed in September 2019.

