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VETriTage
Integrated European
Cultural Heritage for VET

Introduction

The activities are the product of the European Project “VETriTage: Integrated European Cultural Heritage for VET”.

Starting from a European context of deep cultural diversities and, at the same time, with a common ground that makes up the distinct features, **the project wanted to address the European cultural heritage as a way to involve young people and enhance their key competencies**¹.

The project has been funded by the Erasmus+ programme, Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships.

Strategic Partnerships are transnational projects designed to develop and share innovative practices and promote cooperation, peer learning, and exchanges of experiences in the fields of education, training, and youth.

Over the lifetime of a project, Strategic Partnerships realise a broad range of activities strengthening the cooperation and networking between organisations and testing and/or implementation of **innovative practices in the field of education, training and youth**.

In VERITAGE the topic of cultural heritage was approached with the **methodology of integrated teaching** trying to break the barriers between disciplines in order to focus on the learners outcomes rather than on notions.

The project target groups

The main target group of VETriTage is represented by VET (Vocational Education and Training) trainers.

In a consequent cascade flow, **the second main target people are VET learners**. The benefits for them lies in the enhancement of their learning motivation and the concrete

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2018.189.01.0001.01.ENG



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opportunities to study the same content from different perspectives. In addition, the methodology lets them develop crucial key competences which are more and more required by the labour market such as multilingual, personal, social and learning to learn competence, citizenship, entrepreneurship and cultural awareness.

The project partnership included four countries: Sweden, Lithuania, Italy and Spain. The partnership represented an heterogeneous team made by complementary competences and expertise, background and missions.

The activities have been built with the contribution of all the partners with the aim of exploring European cultural heritage and with a view to the partners' context but also a wider perspective on Europe and beyond. Starting from focus groups on the meaning of cultural heritage, the activities have been built, shared, discussed and tested in vocational training organizations in the four countries.

The **thirty-six activities** are **subdivided in exercises and stages**, with the following indications:

- description of the exercises in order to understand the concept and ratio behind the activities
- objectives of the exercise
- key competencies involved with reference to the official framework
- resources: human and technical resources needed to perform the activity
- duration of the exercise.

The activities are in the following languages: English, Italian, Lithuanian, Spanish and Swedish.

Features of the exercises and methodology

The exercises were built keeping in mind the VET sectors and, in particular, the HORECA (Hospitality, Restaurant & Catering) and Tourism sectors.

For these reasons most exercises are related to these fields of study and are connected with the future job of the students. The students will reveal their talent by expressing themselves by images and other products. In the course of all the exercises they will have



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a chance to get acquainted with the [UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list](#) and find the importance of the individual role to ensure its continuity from the past to the future. To encourage students to take over the values of cultural practices and common European background by using various forms of self-expression, they will be involved in the **activities**, which **combine and deepen knowledge and also develop skills of the different areas**: marketing, customer service, ICT, languages, food preparation, tourism.

Being VET education approach one of “**learning by doing**” the exercises have the focus on practical activities engaging students in researching, building, exploring their area or town, connecting ideas and debating them. The activities create the opportunity for students to discover what it is like to find credible evidence to support arguments, decisions, and also how to connect with others and gives opportunities to discuss what has been learnt with their peers leading to a more open form of networking. All the exercises lead to increased capacity to base assumptions on known knowledge, practices in different cultures or countries and different languages.

One of the main functions of VET education and training is not only to prepare young people for the labour market but also to “support young people’s development of essential life skills that facilitate their successful transition to adulthood, active citizenship and working life” [OJ C 189, 15.6.2017, p. 30].

Therefore **all the exercises have also a focus on relevant contemporary topics** which can foster the acquisition of the skills and competences enabling young people to successfully participate in society. In detail the activities explore the issues of **climate change and environment, food waste, sustainability, European history, the European Union values, migration and cultural awareness**, etc.

There are **two main groups of exercises**: one focuses strongly on the process for the development of the key competencies whereas the second group is focused on the key competences but with a centre of attention on the assessment criteria for the activities.

As a reference, the partners also provided a table (see Annex 1 to this document) which **can facilitate the trainers in choosing the proper exercise for their students** according to the topic related to cultural heritage, its domains and the contemporary issues connected.

The table has been prepared according to the **Unesco** “intangible heritage” concept: most of the exercises refer to it as they are built around “traditions or living expressions inherited



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VETriTage
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from our ancestors and passed on to our descendants, such as [oral traditions](#), [performing arts](#), [social practices](#), [rituals](#), [festive events](#), [knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe](#) or the [knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts](#).”

In order to structure the table we have benefited from the graphic and semantic visualizations exploring the various elements across domains, themes, geography and ecosystems and their deep inter-connections <https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive>.

A people without the knowledge of their past, history, origin or culture is like a tree without roots.

Markus Garvey



ANNEX I

The aim of this table is to facilitate the trainers and teachers to “navigate” through the different themes of the workbook and its activities. For each activity the partnership referred to the lexicon used by UNESCO in defining cultural heritage.

In detail, we have explored the *Dive into CH²* project and the *UNESCO Thesaurus³*: the cultural heritage topics are identified based on their “domains” and “concepts” which can also be interrelated and grouped according also to the natural resources they refer to and to the threats that they may face without a proper safeguarding. The result is a dynamic and interactive space of cultural heritage practices and expressions representing a rich cultural diversity.

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive>

VERITAGE tries to explore some concepts and domains of the European Cultural Heritage and to make them known to the students and learners.

² <https://ich.unesco.org/en/launch-of-dive-into-ich-project-01032>

³ <http://vocabularies.unesco.org/browser/thesaurus/en/page/concept1670>

ACTIVITY	Tangible Intangible	Domain	Concept	Natural Resources	Threats - social aspect - contemporary topics
		https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive&display=domain#tabs	https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive&display=constellation#tabs	https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive&display=biome#tabs	https://ich.unesco.org/en/dive&display=threat#tabs
From ITALY					
1. Not all about chocolate is sweet	Intangible	Knowledges and Practices concerning nature Social Practices and Rituals	Food Preparation Food customs Traditional craftsmanship	Non-ecosystem specific	Economic Pressure – Insufficient Remuneration
2. The Noah's Ark	Intangible	Agriculture - Biodiversity	Plants	Agro- Ecosystems	Environmental Degradation
3. The Anchovy Travels	Intangible	Knowledges and Practices concerning nature	Food preparation Food Customs	Agro-Ecosystems	Migration
4. The food Museum	Tangible	Biodiversity	Food Customs	Non-ecosystem specific	New Products & Techniques
5. The Novel Food	Intangible	Knowledges and Practices concerning nature	Food Customs Food preparation	Non-ecosystem specific	Encroachment of Food resources
6. The Origin of Everything	Intangible	Social Practice, Rituals	Food customs Art Symbols	Non-ecosystem specific	Decontextualization

7. Food Packaging	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe	Art Food customs	Non-ecosystem specific	Industrial Production Waste Reduction
8. The Ground Tour of the 21st century	Intangible	Social Practices and Rituals	Art Tourism/Travel Leisure	Non-ecosystem specific	Touristification
9. Food Photography	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe	Food customs Art	Non-ecosystem specific	New Products & techniques
1. Fishing around	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Traditional craftsmanship	Food customs Food preparation Craft workers Traditional Tools Sea Fishing Tourism	Marine, Coastal and Island areas	Climate change Industrial production Rapid economic transformation
2. Beer, the oldest recipe in the world	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Traditional craftsmanship Social practices and rituals	Food customs Food preparation Craft workers Brewing Fermented Beverages Alcoholic Beverages	Non-ecosystem specific	Industrial Production Corporate Social Responsibility

3. A long history full of adventures: tea	Intangible	Social practices and rituals	Food customs Food preparation Beverages	Agro- ecosystem Mountains	Cultural Globalization
4. Wine as a driving force for European growth	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Social practices and rituals Traditional craftsmanship	Food customs Food preparation Craft workers Winemaking Farming/Agriculture Technical skills Alcoholic Beverages	Agro-ecosystem	Climate change
5. Home is where bread is	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Social practices and rituals Traditional craftsmanship	Food customs Food preparation Craft workers Farming/Agriculture Technical skills	Agro-ecosystem	Weakened practices and transmission Loss of knowledge Industrial production
6. Craft: from the heart and mind of an artisan	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Social practices and rituals Traditional craftsmanship	Craft workers/Handicraft Technical skills	Non-ecosystem specific	Weakened practices and transmission: few and aged practitioners, diminishing youth interest, halted transmission, reduced practice

			Traditional tools, knowledge and technology		New products and techniques: Industrial production, surge of new technologies, use of modern materials Economic Pressure: arduous training, rapid economic transformation
7. Farmed in Europe	Intangible	Knowledge and Practices on nature and universe Traditional craftsmanship	Food customs Food preparation Craft workers Farming/Agriculture Technical skills Nutrition Tourism	Agro-ecosystem	Demographic issues: rural/urban migration Environmental degradation: climate change, invasive husbandry, urban development Food waste
8. Art and Monuments	Tangible	Social Practices, Rituals and Festive events	Art Tourism	Non-ecosystem specific	Touristification
9. European Footprints	Intangible	Oral traditions and expressions	Social Integration Social systems Tolerance Culture of peace Youth participation Community participation	Non-ecosystem specific	Negative attitudes: intolerance, conflicts Multicultural society Europe Prejudices

			Multiethnic society		
From LITHUANIA					
1. Around Europe on Midsummer night	Intangible	Social Practices, Rituals and Festive events	Festivals Cultural Events Costumes Folklore Holidays Baltic songs, dance and Celebrations Fire	Non-ecosystem specific	Cultural Globalization
2. Fashion detectives	Intangible	Social Practices, Rituals and Festive events Traditional craftsmanship Handicrafts	Costumes Textiles Symbols	Non-ecosystem specific	Weakened practices and transmission: halted transmission, loss of significance Cultural Globalization
3. Insights of the visual Arts	Tangible	Performing Arts	Art education Tourism Museums Visual art Painting	Non-ecosystem specific	Cultural Globalization: mass & social media Over Commercialization Touristification
4. #brandnew #fast VS #oldstyle #slow	Tangible	Traditional craftsmanship Oral tradition and expression	Craft workers/Handicraft Technical skills	Non-ecosystem specific	Responsible consumption Environmental protection

			Traditional tools, knowledge and technology		
5. Heritage of the tallest buildings	Tangible	Traditional craftsmanship	Technical Skills Architecture Building Design	Non-ecosystem specific	Touristification
6. European Heritage Label	Tangible and Intangible	Traditional Craftsmanship Oral traditions and expression Performing arts social practices, rituals and festive events Knowledge and practices on nature and Universe	Heritage Europe Transports	Non-ecosystem specific	Environmental Degradation Touristification
7. Intangible Heritage	Intangible	Traditional Craftsmanship Oral traditions and expression Performing arts social practices, rituals and festive events Knowledge and practices on nature and Universe	All	Non-ecosystem specific	All
8. The Variety of wedding traditions	Intangible	Social Practices, rituals and festive events	Family Wedding		Weekend practice and transmission Cultural globalization

			Rituals Flowers		
9. Sustainable Tourism	Intangible	Social Practices, rituals and festive events	Environmental awareness, ethics and conservation Customs and Traditions Everyday Life Tourism	Non-ecosystem specific	Environmental Degradation Cultural Globalization
From SWEDEN					
1. Communication without words - Graffiti	Tangible	Performing arts	Urban Spaces Painting Murals	Urban Areas	Loss of Objects or Systems Cultural Globalization
2. Festival of Midsummer	Intangible	Social Practices, Rituals and Festive events	Festivals Cultural Events Costumes Folklore Holidays Baltic songs, dance and Celebrations Fire	Non-ecosystem specific	Cultural Globalization

3. Swedish Fika	Intangible	Social Practices, Rituals and festive events	Food Customs Everyday Life Social Behaviour	Non-ecosystem specific	
4. Winter and Tourism - Ice Hotel	Tangible	Social Practices, rituals and festive events	Customs and Traditions Everyday Life Snow Tourism Travel Leisure Holidays	Grasslands Mountains	Environmental degradation Decontextualization (touristification)
5. Julbord Table	Intangible	Social Practices, rituals and festive events	Customs and Traditions Food preparation Social Values Seasonal rituals	Non-ecosystem specific	Cultural Globalization Weakened Practice and Transmission
6. Windmills and Environment	Intangible	Knowledge and practices on nature and universe Traditional Craftsmanship	Technical skills Mill Windpower Flour Environmental Management	Agro-ecosystem	Environmental degradation New Products & Techniques
7. From Literature to Tourism	Intangible	knowledge and practices on nature and the universe	Literature	Non-ecosystem specific	Decontextualization - Touristification

			<p>Representative</p> <p>Literary works</p> <p>Everyday Life</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Leisure - recreational facility</p> <p>Playground</p>		
8. Tours arranged around historical events	Intangible	<p>Social Practices Rituals and festive events</p> <p>Knowledge and Practices on nature and universe</p>	<p>Oral traditions</p> <p>travel</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Historical reenactment</p>	Non- ecosystem specific	Decontextualization - Touristification cultural globalization
9. Architecture, Religion and Spirituality Tour	Tangible/intangible	<p>Social Practices, rituals and festive events</p>	<p>Religious Beliefs</p> <p>Architecture</p> <p>Spiritual Knowledge</p> <p>Religions</p>	Non-ecosystem specific urban areas	<p>Weakened practices and transmissions</p> <p>cultural globalization</p> <p>Negative attitudes</p>