

BLUE TOURISM

E-Newsletter

December 2022

Partner meeting and field trip in Romania

The Blue Tourism partnership gathered on the 7th of July for its second partner meeting, in the central region of Romania, in Miercurea Ciuc.

The meeting has been held in hybrid format, with 2 online and 11 face – to – face participants. Partners have been discussing project progress and results development, the identified best practices presentation in the form of an e-portfolio using Google Earth.

Among the aims of the meeting there was also the presentation of the **BLUE TOURISM advisor profile and resources package**, which will be a blended learning training curriculum about sustainable tourism, tackling the methods of how to promote sustainability and efficiently use the natural, cultural and economic resources in watercourse regions for local development. In the afternoon, partners visited the Lake Saint Anne, which is one of the best practice examples of Romania. The only volcanic lake in Romania and Central Europe is located in a volcanic crater in the rugged Ciomatu Mountains, at an altitude of 946 meters. The lake is part of the Mohos Nature Reserve, a protected area included in the Nature 2000 program, located near the town of Tuşnad on the administrative territory of Harghita County.

<http://www.landofvolcanoes.ro/>



9th Environment for Europe (EfE) Ministerial Conference

On 5th to 7th October, the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) took place in Nicosia, Cyprus.

The EfE Ministerial Conference is one of the most high-profile events on Environment and Sustainable Development, organised globally, with the aim of gathering key stakeholders to discuss the UN's 2030 sustainability plan, focusing on the Mediterranean.

During the 3-day conference, the Blue Tourism project was disseminated to thousands of participants, including representatives of national and local governments, sustainability experts, universities, and NGOs.

In addition to exhibiting the Blue Tourism project through a booth, members of the partner country's organisation engaged into discussions with the conference's participants about the project's aims and objectives.

To learn more about the conference, visit the official website at <https://unece.org/nicosia-conference>.



BLUE TOURISM E-PORTFOLIO

Travel and tourism are inherent to our nature. Tourism habits, however, can have a big negative impact on the environment and local communities. Therefore, there is a need to consider more sustainable forms of tourism, including low-impact activities benefiting nature and society as a whole.

The BLUE TOURISM project, and more specifically the BLUE TOURISM e-portfolio, aims to play a role in this transition towards sustainability.

Following consultation with local experts in the tourism industry, the partners of the Blue Tourism project in their respective countries – Cyprus, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, and Spain – mapped a set of sixteen (16) sustainable practices in the form of case studies.

Each case study provides brief information on the background story, the sustainability as well as its innovative aspects of the touristic activities proposed.

All case studies are available for download in the e-portfolio section of the Blue Tourism website. In addition, the case studies are presented in an interactive way, through Google Earth. The users can zoom in and out as they like, to visit more case studies within the same country or the partner countries of the project. The information is displayed in the form of pop-up windows.

To learn more about the case studies, visit:

- The website [here](#).
- Google Earth [here](#).



What's next...

Partners in the upcoming months will be working on identifying two practices which have the power of raising awareness and reflection of sustainable water course practices. These will be documented in a very user-friendly way, through a one-and-a-half-minute video. The videos will promote the efforts of local, water-based tourism providers to find sustainable environmentally friendly solutions.

The short films will include reflections on:

- how sustainable tourism can bring added value to regional socio-economic development,
- how local tourism can help the local communities,
- how sustainable tourism can create new experiences and can revitalize local tourism.

The promotion of hardly known places and innovative solutions as well as interregional cooperation possibilities for building a more resilient tourism industry seen from the already existing water-based tourism providers point of view is also planned to be included. Videos are planned to be ready by August, next year.

Stay tuned to find out how we are getting along!



www.bluetourism.eu



www.facebook.com/blue.tourism.EU



https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNTI5T1AtaylBGMSVK_j12Q



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