

Newsletter

Spring 2024



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Dear members,

A total solar eclipse could be observed along the eastern part of North America on 8 April. Astrologists associate eclipses with numerous challenges, even catastrophes, that precede or follow them in the places where the eclipse is most visible. Is it a coincidence, or does the eclipse really have something to do with the active hurricane season forecast for the east coast of the US? Some degree of influence is said to be felt across the globe. Whether you believe in and find astrological observations reliable or not, it is at least amusing to speculate that perhaps the eclipse has something to do with the theme 'challenge', reflected in this newsletter edition, too. On the other hand, we do realise that it is all a matter of interpretation, but this is your core business and I let you decide for yourself.

We are happy and grateful that another conference turned out to be a success. It didn't face more challenges than the usual hic-ups and it rather provoked thoughts instead. Under the theme, 'Sustainability: Challenging mindsets through heritage interpretation', 123 participants from 24 countries joined together in Koper, Slovenia, and through 35 presentations and workshops, and 7 study visits, discussed how to provide efficient food for thought through interpretation with longer lasting effects on people. Excellent keynote speakers underpinned the importance of interpretation for greater environmental and social sustainability.

Don't miss the breaking news about IE's paramount project - the Learning landscapes initiative, that finally secured necessary funding in partnership with UNESCO and will work with several World Heritage Sites as hubs for value-based heritage interpretation in the next couple of years.

You can also read thoughts about the challenging notion that we are all eco-terrorists and what profound reflections can a single graffiti sign impose on an individual. If only all interpretive services could be that effective!

Three 'postcards' from IE courses report about more than the usual challenges of shifting perspectives during the training exercises, participants in Colombia had a very different training ground to most of IE's courses and those at the American battle monuments in France did an excellent job interpreting something they were not ready for.

The beauty of some IE training is also that thanks to cross border projects they bring together cultures that have been in dissonance as happened with participants of the course in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

An author from Costa Rica challenges interpretive planners to embrace community-valued notions of heritage as the heart of interpretive strategies. Don't miss this valuable piece of advice on community engagement methodology.

Last but not least, a useful lesson learned came from Norway, in which an interpretive guide, one year after the course, comments on the challenges faced in engaging people in dialogue.

At this time, we call for all interpreters to join the exchange and share experiences through this newsletter. The community of practice is as rich as its members can contribute!

Helena Vičič
Managing Director

Provocation with a capital P

Sandy Colvine (France)

The thought-provoking power of a graffiti message that stopped me in my tracks.

“We are all eco-terrorists!” The striking message in capital letters in green paint on the concrete road barrier receded in my rear-view mirror as I drove home but it stuck in my mind.

The message was a wry riposte by supporters of the French environmental movement, Les Soulevements de la Terre, to the French Home Office Minister, Gérard Darmanin. He used the term to discredit, even criminalise, the actions of environmental protestors demonstrating against plans to build irrigation mega basins to counter increasing drought in the French farmland.

This prominent message on the roadside got me thinking on two levels. Firstly, we, as a society, are approaching a global climate crisis largely fuelled by the consequences of our attitude to nature since the industrial revolution as a resource to control and exploit. Luminaries from the father of interpretation, Freeman Tilden, to French anthropologist, Philippe Descola, have highlighted this dilemma and echoed the classic mantra, “There is no infinite growth with finite resources”. Despite good intentions and global gatherings such as CoP, there seems little to suggest our approach to the environment is changing. Indeed, mega projects such as the irrigation basins or more recently, Europe’s largest fish factory ship, the Annelies Ilena, suggest we are still set on a course of accelerating unsustainability. Moreover, it is altogether regrettable that we have reached a state where campaigners against such projects are discredited and labelled eco-terrorists by others for daring to say, Stop! Enough is enough. There has to be another way.

My second thought was, am I an eco-terrorist driving by that graffiti in my car? Reappropriating Darmanin’s declaration, it made me reflect on my attitude towards

the environment, how I use it, consume it and value it, or not as the case may be. Am I an eco-terrorist in gardening gloves and a hybrid car? It certainly felt healthy to challenge my perceptions and actions on a personal basis even if I find it uncomfortably easy to be a hypocrite. This then took me to wider issues such as the compulsion in western society to divide nature and culture into separate worlds, the concept of an historic environment that is so central to ‘modern’ cultural heritage and identity, or even the motivations behind rewilding projects.

There is plenty to demonstrate that humans are bad for the environment, yet during 4,000 generations of Neanderthals and Homo sapiens until the Anthropocene epoch (the term being a source of provocation in itself), our footprint was relatively restrained. Thereafter, in just over ten generations, we have had a major impact on our environment that is difficult to deny.

Those green painted words made we think about ‘modern’ society’s attitude to nature and to consult various sources to learn more. Can we change it individually and collectively? Is there a willingness to do so? Will our political and economic systems even allow such a change?

Needless to say, “We are all eco-terrorists” has been pressure-washed away now but it served to provoke reflection and challenge my values, which is what all good interpretation should do, even if the subjects are testing and tricky. I would even go as far as to say that in this case it was provocation with a capital P.

Sandy Colvine is a freelance interpretive and rural development consultant based in southeastern France. As an IE Trainer and IE Supervisory Committee member, he also runs a Facebook page called ‘Open to interpretation’ promoting interpretation in France and Europe. You can contact him at: sandy@opentointerpretation.net.

“We are all eco-terrorists!”
(Image: Sandy Colvine)



Finding the future of heritage interpretation within ourselves

Elisa Bailey (Spain)

Seeking to challenge mindsets on sustainability at the Interpret Europe conference #iecon24 held in Koper, Slovenia, on 21-24 March 2024.

What can be achieved in four days of conversations, presentations, lectures, workshops, meals, bus rides and site visits, with a view to sustainable development within the heritage interpretation sector? Considering where these ultimate frontiers stand, how we can challenge mindsets in the process and what this actually means is why over 120 people came from all over Europe and beyond to a welcoming town at the top of the Istrian peninsula.

As Interpret Europe's Managing Director, Helena Vičič, reminded us in her welcome speech, we might find some guiding principles in the UN's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and for Global Citizenship (EGC), and the European Commission's Stormy Times report. How we might actually step up to the challenge(s) was beautifully and generously set out by one of the keynote speakers, Professor David Uzzell of the University of Surrey, UK, in the form of 'giving away' the skills of interpretation so that people can work things out for themselves at other sites, too. This might help us all take responsibility locally for our own spaces and communities, when the issues we face are often so easily dismissed as 'global' (and thus some higher power's responsibility instead). The global 'issue' (I use the word with affection) of interpretation and the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy is, in turn, the recipient of in-depth care and investigations at WHIPIC in South Korea, led by Sujeong Lee, another keynote speaker. She came to both share and discuss with us in Europe. And, as reading the conference programme abstracts and memories of our interactions attests, so many of us brought our equally valuable own work, case studies, ideas and inspirations from 24 countries.

Koper/ Capodistria was the perfect setting for our conference: a multicultural Adriatic gem, whose warm embrace can be fast felt by anyone arriving through the town's walls, not to mention also due to the presence of the UNESCO Chair of Interpretation and Education for Enhancing Integrated Heritage Approaches at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska, our generous hosts. This



Challenging mindsets starts within our own group
(Image: Miha Rajh)

sensation of coming to our IE home for a few days was even more important after the lengthy journeys that many of the participants undertook to come to Koper, putting sustainability into action with slow travel and for some, a number of stops en route to appreciate more of our beautiful continent, its heritage, nature and people.

From the determination with which two ladies from Slovenia stood up in Sighișoara, Romania, at the end of the 2023 conference to assure us we could come together once again this year, through the unrelenting efforts of IE's management, team and volunteers to deliver the necessary admin and activities, to the dedication with which the presentations, workshops and visits were prepared and the subsequent dynamism with which they were imparted, and the warmth with which old friends and new gathered together to share knowledge, ideas and experiences... All of this is testament to the sustainability of heritage interpretation in Europe and beyond.

For a sector that is based around both adding value and disseminating specific values, via engagement, preservation, understanding, and sharing, we need impassioned, knowledgeable, inclusive, kind and analytical individuals to do this work. This is the way in which a strong eco-system of heritage interpretation – of both trained interpreters, and publics empowered to interpret heritage for themselves and across their spheres of influence – can be passed on to the next generations. Even against the complex backdrop of climate goals going ever further off-track, rising nationalism across many of our countries and the related polarisation of societies, technology (specifically AI) behaving badly, and various other factors, as covered in the keynote by Lluís Bonet of CHARTER and the University of Barcelona, whose

skills as an economist brought a whole new set of interpretations to the heritage sector's status quo.

In spite of, and also because of all this, our best answer as to what sustainable development within the heritage interpretation sector truly means, requires and how it can be achieved, has been found in ourselves. As sustainability is always contemporary and is about us and our communities, as voiced by another of the keynote speakers, Špela Spanžel of the Slovenian Ministry of Culture, we must continue to nurture it within ourselves, our practices and relationships. With strength, empathy, flexibility to the tides and all the publics who we will join and will join us, we will do this all the way to Sulejówek 2025, where we will once again be able to take stock and share our insights and emotions when we meet again, next time in Poland.

Elisa Bailey is a curator, museologist and cultural strategist dedicated to making the cultural sector a kinder place for all, with a particular focus on commemorative practices and spaces, and socio-political graphics. She is based in Madrid, Spain. She can be contacted at: elisa@curacultura.art.



(Images: Thorsten Ludwig - left and top, Patrick Lehnes - middle, Interpret Europe - bottom)

Impressions of iecon

IE News Team & anonymous participants

Whether you joined iecon in Koper or missed out, here is a flavour of the experience as we already look forward to meeting again in 2025.

Once again IE created a meeting place for lovers of heritage interpretation in all its various forms. A place to find participants from Asia to America and all of Europe under the same roof and who share similar interests.

Being able to interact personally again with people from throughout Europe, and more broadly. Involvement from UNESCO/IUCN was wonderful (including the South Korean reps).

The global dimension of the presenters and participants was great.

The conference was a great opportunity to meet like-minded individuals and to become part of a community that shares interests in heritage interpretation.

The blend of thoughtful presentations, study visits, a good venue and time to talk with like-minded people, all together made this an inspiring and valuable event.

I got inspiration, new ideas, contacts.

This confirmed for me that interpretation is my method and that I want to continue on this path.

The programme was strong, and had presenters from throughout Europe. Even though it is always frustrating to have to choose from among concurrent sessions, the variety and number of sessions was good. I also really liked the afternoon opportunities for study site visits.



(Image: IE)



Colourful meeting place for fruitful discussions between like-minded friends and colleagues (Image: Bettina Lehnes)

I enjoyed the study visits. These made us discuss the different approaches to heritage interpretation.

There is an increasing readiness among heritage interpreters to rethink some of our theoretical assumptions and established practices, i.e. to challenge our own mindsets.

It highlighted the need for interpreters to challenge people to think and question things, and deal with 'different' histories.

There is a lot of quality thinking and practice evolving throughout Europe. I continue to appreciate the broader view, and linking interpretation to significant national and transnational efforts, priorities and framing, and in different political contexts.

Various examples of interpreting in situations of prior and current conflict was so helpful and provocative.

I appreciated the opportunity to explore the diverse perspectives and motivations people have for heritage interpretation.

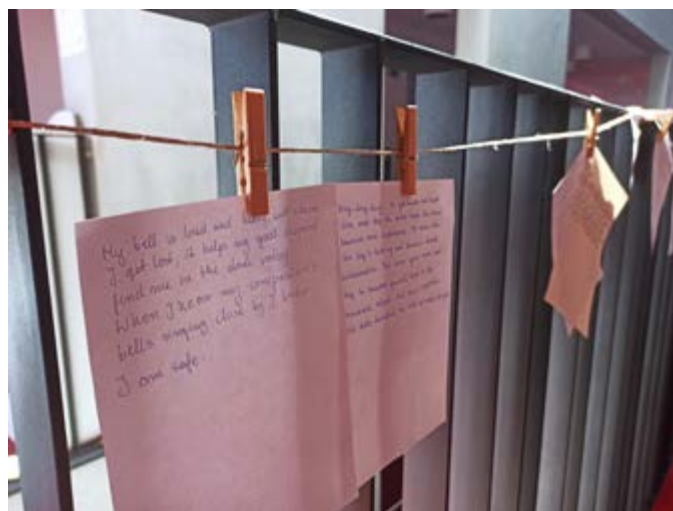
The sustainable, delicious lunches and other meals were appreciated (yes, I noticed: nothing was wasted – good follow through on sustainability!)

I especially like the relaxed and lively atmosphere among the attendees and at the same time in a context of knowledge, of people interested in what they do and with a love to improve and make known the different corners of the world we work with.

I valued the sense of community.

Looking forward to seeing you all again in Poland next year!

Thanks to the participants for sharing their thoughts either directly or through the feedback form.



Results of Certified Interpretive Writer (CIW) course taster (Image: IE)



Participants of Certified Interpretive Planner (CIP) course taster (Image: Iva Klaric Vujovic)

Save the date!

Our next conference is already booked! More details of #iecon25 will be announced in the next newsletter.

We will meet again in person next year in Sulejowek near Warsaw, Poland from 11 to 14 April 2025. IE's Event Coordinator, Bettina Lehnes, will visit in May and we will be able to share more details with you in the summer newsletter.

So for now, take a note of the date and keep your diary free!

General Assembly results

IE Management

IE's General Assembly took place in Koper, Slovenia, on 21 March as well as online.

The General Assembly was attended by members who had travelled to Slovenia for iecon24 and was also made available for members to join online if they were not able to make it in person.

The minutes of the previous meeting along with the annual reports for 2023 from management and the supervisory committee were accepted.

An overview of IE activities was given by Managing Director, Helena Vičič. Sandy Colvine and Yael Bamberger from the supervisory committee then gave a brief look at the strategy for 2025-2029, with thanks to members who have shared their thoughts during the planning process to help develop this plan for the next few years. Several workshops were arranged and a survey on the plan with key strategic goals, sub goals and proposed actions was answered by more than 70 members in the beginning of 2024. The consultation process will continue with management directors and an invitation for final comments to all members before it is concluded for 2025.

There was only one proposal for members to vote on, which was from the supervisory committee regarding the rules and procedures. The proposal was emailed to all members on 29 February and presented by Jurn Buisman.

A total of 62 votes were registered (either from individual members or representatives of institutional or business members) and of these 34 were cast. This is a very low percentage of IE's total membership, but does constitute a quorum. The proposal was accepted by 32 of the 34 votes, with 2 abstentions.

Our thanks to Eva Sandberg of the supervisory committee for chairing the meeting.



IE General Assembly participants
(Image: Iva Klaric Vujovic)

UNESCO and IE launched Learning landscapes initiative

IE Management

The first regions around UNESCO designated sites will be turned into hubs for value-based heritage interpretation by the end of 2025.

Since 2020, value-based interpretation has become IE's unique proposition to the heritage sector which is increasingly being urged to contribute to a better future. Learning landscapes are a comprehensive manifestation of value-based heritage interpretation in interpretive planning. At last year's IE conference, 'Creating learning landscapes through heritage interpretation', a joint initiative with UNESCO was announced to explore the potential of this approach. This will now be IE's key project for the next two years.

In partnership, the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe and Interpret Europe launched the Learning landscapes initiative to turn UNESCO designated properties into regional hubs for value-based heritage interpretation. This is an innovative conceptual and operational approach to enhance UNESCO designated sites as learning environments. The pilot region will be the Natural and Culturo-Historical Region of Kotor, a World Heritage Site in Montenegro. The initiative is financed by UNESCO's internal funds and the EU funded Culture and Creativity for the Western Balkans programme.

Most recently, UNESCO's International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC) showed great interest in the initiative and will monitor the process in order to draw from it for shaping principles and guidelines for contemporary heritage interpretation. A quick historic outline reveals that the learning landscapes are a logical next step of IE's past work. The IE conference 2016 in Mechelen already showed the critical role of heritage in bringing Europe's shared values back to people's minds. One year later, IE's award-winning Engaging Citizens paper suggested how heritage interpretation could connect people with values. IE didn't only have progressive ideas, but also excellent know-how in the form of the training programme for at least three profiles of heritage professionals.

After the first workshops delivered for UNESCO, recommendations for 'value-based heritage interpretation' as a contemporary approach to presentation and communication around UNESCO designated sites were published by UNESCO in

2020. A greater shift towards human and UNESCO values brought IE closer to its long-term vision of becoming a perceptible player in Europe. Working with values makes perfect sense also for international policies and green transition requirements that suggest heritage should open up for participatory approaches and integrate sustainability in its management and operations. Therefore, it was a strategic decision to align IE's training programme to UNESCO's recommendations for value-based heritage interpretation (VBHI).

To find out more about VBHI, you can join IE's webinar on 14 May, and a recording will be available afterwards from the IE members' area of the website. A paper on this subject is also featured in the IE conference Proceedings 2023 (Ludwig).

In 2021-22 IE was commissioned to run two WH-Interp courses on value-based interpretive planning for 42 World Heritage properties in Kotor (Montenegro) and Ljubljana (Slovenia) and additionally, 6 participants have prepared fully-fledged interpretive plans for their sites. WHS managers who attended the courses reported high relevance of the training for their work, and the need to work with communities around WHS became more pressing. Meanwhile, IE has worked towards community involvement for a couple of years (the conference in 2020 and Fostering communities case studies) and realised that stakeholder involvement in most of the interpretive projects in Europe is not satisfactory.



Kotor, Montenegro, will be one of the first learning landscapes and will again host IE training
(Image: Helena Vičič)

Since UNESCO designated sites comply with the mission to foster Education for Sustainable Development, a typical learning landscape would practise the following qualities:

- Give stakeholders a greater role in planning of a regional strategy and single site plans (participatory approaches)
- Exchange with residents and visitors towards sustainability values, in order to learn from the past for the future
- Strengthen UNESCO's human values in connection with Education for Sustainable Development
- Implement capacity building in heritage interpretation along the vertical axis from the managerial to front-staff levels in order to "empower all who inspire meaningful connections with Europe's natural and cultural heritage to shape our common future" (IE Mission)
- Provide visitors with inspiration for transition in their own environments

In the learning landscape development process, regional authorities or UNESCO sites organise interpretive training for a wider range of experts in the region. An initial training for interpretive agents who will then facilitate the regional strategy development process and several IE certification courses help local experts to devise plans on three levels, from the regional interpretive strategy, to interpretive plans for individual sites and to exhibit and programme plans for single interpretive services.

So how will we go about all this high flying theory?

- The first step will be to develop new training for interpretive agents. A pilot international course will take place in Kotor (Montenegro) this autumn. Interpretive agents are interpretive planners with excellent community facilitation skills, who will, after the training, foster the creation of interpretive strategies in their regions together with stakeholders.
- Based on the strategies from the first stage, training for interpretive planners will follow in early 2025 in every region separately. It will provide up to 18 planners connected to the regional development with interpretation skills and help them to devise full plans for their individual heritage sites within the region.
- Based on the regional strategy and individual site plans, the third stage of training will take place in the second half of 2025. Interpretive guide and writer courses, will help heritage experts to devise personal and non-personal interpretive services in the regions that encourage thinking about human values.

It looks like a lengthy process, but we believe the initiative has the power to profoundly change the way heritage interpretation is perceived and placed in local strategies and management plans. HI often appears to be a half-professional sporadic activity with weak interrelatedness of its results, while in the learning landscapes, it is a professional process with a clear pathway and efficient methodology that requires qualified experts.

In order to deliver on these expectations and also to streamline value-based heritage interpretation in other training events, IE trainers will gather for a summer school in Croatia in June 2024.

UNESCO designated sites (but not exclusively) and their areas will be able to apply to IE to join the initiative in 2024-2025, provided that they can partly co-finance activities in their own territories, have all necessary capacities and are committed to implement all activities in order to achieve concrete results.

Some regions have already shown interest but there are still a few places available. Another call for this will be sent out shortly.



Helena Vičič (IE) and Matteo Rosati (UNESCO) at UNESCO Bureau in Palazzo Zorzi in Venice, during the IE post-conference tour on 25 March 2024
(Image: Thorsten Ludwig)

Creative course in the city on a grain of salt

Branislav Lukić Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

The city of Tuzla hosted 12 participants from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina for an IE CIG course.

Tuzla, the city on a grain of salt, is in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is one of the oldest settlements in Europe with continuity of life. The oldest stilt houses settlement in Europe was found in Tuzla, which dates back to the Neolithic (Younger Stone Age). Other stilt house settlements found in Europe only date back to the Iron Age. The name of the city derives from the word 'tuz', which means 'salt' in the Turkish language. This city is one of the largest cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is a very important cultural, educational and economic centre of the country. Some say that two ores, salt and coal, are the greatest wealth of Tuzla, but that is not true because the greatest wealth is its citizens - the people who live there.

From 4-8 March, Tuzla hosted 12 participants for an IE Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training course. It was led by IE Certified Trainer Ivana Zrilić from Croatia. This course was run as part of the cross-border cooperation project 'Old railways for new experiences' financed by the European Union as part of the cross-border cooperation programme of Bosnia and Herzegovina - Serbia. The project is jointly implemented by the LINK entrepreneurial centre Mostar in cooperation with the municipality of Banovići, BIPS Belgrade and FORCA Požega.

All the participants agreed that, along with the excellent IE course, the beauty of the city of Tuzla and its hospitality will remain in their thoughts. The positive energy that reigned over all five days of the course showed that cohesion is one of the fundamental values of this training. The theoretical part of the course was very well balanced – just enough in the classroom for the background we needed, and the main focus was on the development of our interpretation skills. Although there were days that were rainy and very cold, we still got out to work in the field. It brought us even closer as a team, noting that until this course none of the participants knew each other. The wealth of diversity should also be highlighted here, as the participants were of different generations, genders, professions, nations, religions and life experiences. This IE course really brought us all together.



Great group dynamics (Image: Branislav Lukić Luka)

In researching the phenomena of Tuzla to interpret, the participants visited the following diverse range of destinations: Pannonian Lakes, City Park with a monument to Tvrtko I Kotromanić, Square of Freedom, Salt Square, Salt Spa, Atelier Ismet Mujezinović, International Gallery of portraits, Center of Literature, Monument to the Miner of Husino, Monument to Meša Selimović and Ismet Mujezinović, Tuzla goat monument, Bazaar fountain, Gazi Turalibeg's (Polish) mosque, Cathedral of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Franciscan church and monastery of St. Peter and Paul.

It was a really intense week with a motivated and excellent team of participants. We acquired skills that will be of great importance in our further work as IE CIGs. "The whole of Tuzla milked one goat" was the message during the working week, and for some new meeting and socialising I am sending a message - "See you at Meša and Ismet".

Branislav Lukić Luka is a multimedia artist, academic painter, writer, photographer, designer and guide. He is also an NGO activist. You can contact him at: branisavl@yahoo.com.

Interpreting megadiverse destinations: Sierra de la Macarena, Colombia

Jessica Lizcano, Ángela Delgado, Julián Guerrero, Andrea Parrado (Colombia)

Becoming ambassadors of nature guiding and heritage interpretation in a biological corridor where Andean and Amazonian ecosystems converge.

Through their participation in a six-day course offered by USAID Colombia and its Destination Nature Activity and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), these people built new narratives about wonderful tourist destinations in territories previously affected by armed conflict. The IE Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) course was conducted by NaturalWalks and resulted in the certification of 39 guides, inhabitants of the municipalities of Mesetas and La Macarena in the department of Meta, Colombia, at the end of 2023.

Vanessa Escobar, a nature and adventure tourism guide from the organisation Asoguías of the municipality of Mesetas affirmed: "Before this course, what we shared with tourists was very basic. But now we can interpret small things like a flower or large things like a rock formation. Before we didn't do this because we hadn't developed the skill. But now we can do it to connect with people and their emotions, generating a positive experience. Sharing this process with our fellow guides also helped us enrich our interpretive script. We are very grateful for this opportunity".

Incredible natural attractions such as Caño Cristales, Mirador del Amor and the Güejar River Canyon, became the perfect training scenarios in guiding and interpretation, with guides developing new skills through accompanying and leading nature and adventure tourism experiences during the course.

"I am very grateful for the course. We received very important tools; we now have a structure for guiding and we learned how to do things in an organised way in our territory. We are already applying what we learnt, and it is truly working for us. During the course we were able to interact with other colleagues and this allowed us to create networks and alliances through which we can expand the benefits for our territory and its communities. We are grateful to Interpret Europe and all the institutions that supported this training" shared Wilmer Soto, a nature tourism guide from the village of La Argentina in the municipality of Mesetas.



The Mesetas group at one of the many waterfalls of the municipality along the Guejar Canyon called La Encantada, and at the Mirador del Amor viewpoint in Morrobello (Images: Natalia Reyes, PNUD Colombia)

This theoretical-practical training exercise resulted in great lessons and opportunities on the need to generate and strengthen narratives to enrich the guiding experiences and improve the tourism offer. Narratives encourage genuine involvement not only by tourists but also by local guides from community-based organisations who seek an authentic appropriation of the territory and its values. As a result, this course highlights the importance of strengthening the work of interpreters and guides as intermediaries between tourists, nature and communities, and as key actors in generating awareness among tourism service providers in the territories.

Capacity building in the field of nature tourism and conservation in the Sierra de la Macarena generates a significant impact at the national level. The lessons learned from the courses in these territories can be replicated in other regions, thus contributing to the sustainable development of tourism in Colombia, the second most biodiverse country in the world.

This training course was possible thanks to the collaborative work of USAID and its Destination Nature program and the United Nations Development Program - UNDP and its projects Sustainable Amazonia for Peace - financed by the Global Environment Facility, under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development - and Corridors of Peace - financed by the Swedish Embassy.

Julián Guerrero is a lawyer passionate about nature working as the director of the Destination Nature activity of the U.S. Agency for International Development USAID (www.usaid.gov) in Colombia. You can get in touch with him at: Julian_guerrero@destinonaturaleza.org

Andrea Parrado is a tourism administrator working as the Destination Development Coordinator of the Destination Nature activity of the U.S. Agency for International Development USAID (www.usaid.gov) in Colombia. You can get in touch with her at: andrea_parrado@destinonaturaleza.org

Jessica Lizcano is a master in sustainability working as the Nature Tourism and Green Business Analyst at the of the United Nations Development Programme UNDP (www.undp.org/es/colombia) in Colombia. You can get in touch with her at: jessica.lizcano@undp.org



The Macarena group at a viewpoint and navigating the Guayabero river (Images: Vladimir Torres, tourist guide)

From military cemeteries to prehistoric burial sites

Pauline Viguier (France)

In January, 14 interpreters from the American Battle Monuments Commission met in Draguignan, France, for the commission's first CIW training.

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) is an agency of the executive branch of the American government. The commission is the guardian of overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials from past conflicts.

Even though we are all working for an American commission, ABMC guides are local employees, and our group was composed of French, Belgians, Dutch, English, one Canadian, and one American. We entered the conference room on the Monday morning for our first Certified Interpretive Writer (CIW) course, confident about the week to come. After all, most of us were IE Certified Interpretive Guides and we were already using interpretation techniques daily.

However, that confidence soon melted like snow in the sun when our trainer, Thorsten Ludwig, brought us to the phenomena we had to create a panel about. The one that would haunt our dreams for the week to come: a dolmen.

The rules were simple: we had five days to provoke, relate, reveal, and, eventually, create a deeper meaning for this 4,000-year-old historical monument. For all of us, interpreters of World War I and World War II stories, it felt like uncharted waters. We suddenly faced a terrible question: would we be able to meet the challenge? Spoiler alert: we did!

Creating a panel about the dolmen was not the only challenge of the week though. A series of practical exercises slowly taught us different ways to observe and devise thought-provoking and impactful content.

Several activities brought the group to the American Cemetery of Draguignan, where once again, we arrived with the naïve belief that we were now in known territory. But Thorsten made a point of bringing us to the more remote part of the site and asked us to focus on nature, trees, or other decorative elements of the cemeteries that we seldom interpret. The week also offered several opportunities for us to work together. Even though we are all colleagues, the ABMC cemeteries are scattered around the

world, and we rarely get to see each other. We spent an entire day at the Artillery Museum of Draguignan to work on creating a panel and text for an audio guide. The exercise was not only instructive but also fun, as we were all paired up and we could share our different perspectives and approach to interpretive writing.

Finally, at the end of a very challenging week, we were all ready to present a panel that we were proud of. We certainly had been provoked but it pushed us to relate and helped us to reveal. We all had found that deeper meaning.

One month after the training, the ABMC staff is now turning this new knowledge into solid action. A series of interpretive panels are being developed on two memorial sites, using the new perspective and knowledge gained during that CIW workshop.

Pauline Viguier is an IE Certified Interpretive Guide and has been an official French National Tour Guide for 17 years. She can be contacted at: viguierp@abmc.gov.



Interpreting a dolmen and researching in the artillery museum (Images: Charlotte Giraud)

Congratulations to our newly certified members

Certified Interpretive Guides (CIG)

Eddy Ancasi, Peru
Hendrick Apucusi, Peru
Demetra Argyrou Viguier, Cyprus
Juan Camilo Asprilla Valois, Colombia
Arpine Avetisyan, Armenia
Liana Avetyan, Armenia
Maira Ayala, Colombia
Barbara Bachiocco, Croatia
Maria Lucia Baquero Granja, Colombia
Arbey Barrios Lopez, Colombia
Mayerli Benitez, Colombia
Gloria Boschi, Italy
Ivan Božić Pavletić, Croatia
Katarína Bučinová, Slovakia
Nicolás Camacho Ávila, Colombia
Lucy Cañon, Colombia
Inês Cardoso, Portugal
Paul Castro, Peru
Frankly Castro Cuellar, Colombia
Gregorio Cruz, Colombia
Ana Cunha, Portugal
Luz Delia, Colombia
Jarinson Diaz, Peru
Flórez Mendieta Edwin Jaír, Colombia
Vanessa Escobar Marin, Colombia
Henning Flørenes, Norway
Miguel Ángel Gaona, Colombia
Maria Gentilini, Portugal
Cornelia Hagen, Germany
Raffi Halajian, Armenia
Saul Halire, Peru
Elena Hančinová, Slovakia
Auxiliadora Hernandez Rodicio, UK
Kirsti Indreeide, Norway
Marko Jukić, Croatia
Miroslav Kaliský, Slovakia
Mario Knežević, Croatia
Andreas Koenig, Switzerland
Jana Kološtová, Slovakia
Štefan Koreň, Slovakia
Jhon Héctor León Castañeda, Colombia
Joseph David León Farfan, Colombia
Viola Lewis, UK
Luis Lopez, Colombia
Nataša Mardešić, Croatia
Yicedt Mendez, Colombia
Adalbert Mezei, Slovakia
Olga Milinchuk, Sweden
Luis Eduardo Molano Morales, Colombia
Yina Monsalve, Colombia
Ana Mota, Portugal
Goran Mrnjavac, Croatia
Jaime Nina, Peru

Certified Interpretive Guides (CIG) (continued)

Timoteo Olgado, Peru
Stiven Oliveros, Colombia
Javier Orduz, Colombia
Fabier Otalvaro Mosquera, Colombia
Boris Pacheres, Peru
Diana Parra, Colombia
Aneta Pivac, Croatia
Maja Punoš Rebić, Croatia
Marta Quadros, Portugal
Fernando Quispe, Peru
Zoja Radić, Croatia
Valentina Restrepo Castaño, Colombia
Carmen Roca, Peru
William Rodriguez, Colombia
Monica Rodriguez, Colombia
Lucila Romero, Peru
Jairo Roncancio, Colombia
Brayan Ruiz, Colombia
Ludivia Santos Lizcano, Colombia
Ivana Sarić, Croatia
James Saunders, Canada
Patrick Schmal, Germany
Aleksandra Sinobad, Croatia
Elektrina Skelin, Croatia
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Wilmer Soto, Colombia
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Juan Taipe, Peru
Ana Tavares, Portugal
Nenad Tisaj, Croatia
Vladimir Torres, Colombia
Dumar Torres, Colombia
Ivan Andres Valenzuela Castañeda, Colombia
Yuliana Vargas, Colombia
Angie Vega, Colombia
Eilen Wiborg, Norway
Matija Znaor, Croatia

Certified Interpretive Planners (CIP)

Andrijana Milisavljević, Croatia
Roxana-Talida Roman, Romania

Certified Interpretive Writers (CIW)

Felicia Bories, France

Upcoming courses and webinars

Would you enjoy an enriching course with like-minded people and to gain an IE certification?

See below and keep an eye on the training pages of the IE website for up to date information on the next courses and training modules available near you:

<https://interpret-europe.net/training/ie-courses/ie-training-courses/>

You can email training@interpret-europe.net for further information.

Date	Language	Location	Trainer
Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG)			
26/04-05/05/24	Croatian	Vrsar, Croatia	Vida Ungar
29-31/05/24 (part 1) 11-12/07/24 (part 2)	German	Wolletz, Germany	Thorsten Ludwig
Certified Interpretive Writer (CIW)			
None currently planned	Keep an eye on the website		
Certified Interpretive Planner (CIP)			
None currently planned	Keep an eye on the website		
Certified Interpretive Trainer (CIT)			
None currently planned	Keep an eye on the website		

Upcoming IE webinars

14/05/2024 at 09.00 CEST

Value-based heritage interpretation (VBHI)

Presented by Thorsten Ludwig (Germany)

IE webinars are free for members and are conducted in English. Keep an eye on the website for further details of upcoming webinars and how to register:

<https://interpret-europe.net/training/webinars/>

Email webinar@interpret-europe.net for more information.

Don't forget that IE members can catch up on previous webinars if you missed them – the recordings are available in the members' area of the website.

Bridging heritage communities with interpretive frameworks

Jon Kohl (Costa Rica)

This methodology can create space to articulate and honour community-valued notions of heritage, as the heart of any interpretation strategy.

When the powerful write history

Normally the spoils of victory go to the winners, but not at the Battle of Little Bighorn, Wyoming, USA. In 1876 Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer led the Seventh Cavalry into a battle with Cheyenne and Sioux warriors without knowing their numbers, without respecting orders to wait, without knowing the landscape, and without reinforcements. According to some historians the brash, impatient, and overconfident Custer could not have mounted a worse battle plan. Yet, despite the complete annihilation of him and his 263 men, it was Custer who revealed posthumously in his idolised "Last Stand" through movies, posters, and even lunchboxes. The battle site itself regaled his name as the Custer Battlefield National Monument.

The imposed narrative and consequent interpretation of one dominant culture over less powerful ones have replicated like a virus time and again across continents. Time and again local communities find themselves peering helplessly at interpretations that they did not share in creating, that they do not share in telling, and ultimately feel alienated even on their own lands and in the face of their own heritage.

Times are changing, though, and indeed the US National Park Service in 1991 renamed the site of Custer's bloody ineptitude the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument where now Native American participants, both those who defeated Custer and those who aided him, have been honored and their stories told. While better late than never, the onus on the interpretive community is not to wait until late or never to involve local heritage communities in site interpretation, rather that should be a first step. This article then shares one tool to do precisely that: the community-based interpretive framework.

Community health and heritage

Today, while top-down, science-first, expert-driven interpretation still abounds around the world, awareness of the importance of local ownership for heritage management is growing among

interpreters. When local communities feel ownership of their own heritage, they tend to be more active managers, be more deeply engaged, protective, and proud. Indeed, when locals can craft and tell their heritage stories, they may develop a more positive and proactive self-identity, self-reliance, and self-worth, which is precisely what ISIS tried to crush by destroying ancient heritage monuments in Iraq and Syria. But that ownership does not arise from a generous act of government, rather it comes from full involvement in defining heritage meanings that later endow interpretation for the visiting public. As one local leader from Nyanza, Rwanda said about decolonising his own heritage from British rule in an article by anthropologist Annalisa Bolin: "We cannot own what we do not understand... we cannot own [anything] when we are not part of the entire process of management and planning." Understanding and ownership then first arise when communities assign their meanings to their heritage.

Interpretive framework history

The interpretive framework builds consensus among diverse heritage stakeholders about meanings related to heritage and its core elements to interpret it. Interpreters do not consult communities so that the former can invent themes and meanings, rather they facilitate participatory workshops to arrive at these meanings which they capture in summary form on a single sheet of paper, easy to read and understand. The methodology has been evolving since 1998 when the NGO RARE Center for Tropical Conservation worked with Pico Bonito National Park in Honduras to produce its public use plan. The local park team with RARE facilitators produced seven disconnected themes, becoming the very first interpretive framework. Later, RARE adopted a consensus-building workshop facilitation methodology innovated by the Institute for Cultural Affairs, a global grassroots development non-profit, as part of its Technology of Participation toolbox. As such they hierarchically ordered local themes to a single overarching theme for protected areas in Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, and Indonesia.

After RARE, the NGO PUP Global Heritage Consortium continued to refine the methodology applying it in the US, Costa Rica, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Colombia where the National Parks agency adopted the methodology nation-wide. It also worked with UNESCO to apply it in World Heritage sites in Vietnam, Portugal, and Kenya.

Later still, PUP added elements taken from Steve Van Matre's interpretation book in which he argued that true heritage site understanding requires more than themes. So now the interpretive framework uses outstanding heritage attributes (attractions, stories, intangible expressions, and outstanding features) to construct themes and the universal processes and forces that created the heritage and continue to transform it and ultimately the heritage essence.

With the newer version, additional frameworks have been facilitated in Colombia and Costa Rica.

How to facilitate the interpretive framework

While more detailed steps exist in the recommended Field Guide in the recommended reading list below, the first important one is to work with the local community to sponsor the process. With local leaders, the facilitation team invites a diversity of stakeholders and may need more than one workshop to accommodate everyone's schedule. As per the Technology of Participation, participants individually write their most important heritage elements on cards. Small groups then choose the best among all the personal selections of their members. Then these groups contribute their choices to a facilitated plenary during which in successive rounds, they pair and group related cards on the wall. They then name groups with the most cards. These names constitute emerging themes. As the number of cards is limited, the workshop necessarily produces 3–7 emerging themes.

Then participants identify universal processes related to each theme. Finally, facilitators guide the group in discovering the essence that flows through all the heritage site data. At night a small writing group transforms emerging themes of 4–7 words into full interpretive themes which are returned to participants for comment. After the workshop the team assembles results into the one-page framework with several pages of detailed description.



Workshop in Tayrona National Park, Colombia
(Image: Jon Kohl)

What Is an interpretive framework for?

If facilitated correctly, the community feels a collective ownership, even pride, in the results. For many, this is the first time they ever experienced a space for them together to anoint their heritage with deeper meanings rather than with just marketing clichés, without it being imposed by government, academic historians, or other powers. The framework in theory can be held and updated in public trust by a mutually elected institution, whether local government, museum, tourism chamber, or a park management agency. The framework serves as a reference for scholars, tour guides, historians, students, park visitation managers, or others interested in using heritage. It also beats at the heart of an interpretive plan from which all other interpretation flows.

Some uses given so far:

- Residents outside of El Cocuy National Park, Colombia used the park's framework to create a local museum
- On the Pacific coast of Colombia, NGOs and communities used an interpretive framework to design community-based tourism products
- Colombian National Parks are using interpretive frameworks from Tayrona and Amacayacu National Parks to design park interpretive centres

Interpretive frameworks can be applied equally well to all kinds of heritage sites at any scale from as small as a historic house to an entire galaxy.

You can see an example of one from the Flint Hills Discovery Center, Kansas, USA, below.

New skillset for interpreters


Whether you call it participatory or inclusive interpretation, heritage decolonisation, or ensuring collective ontological security, to work with communities, facilitate consensus-based workshops, honor results, and accompany communities to implement interpretive frameworks requires a skillset much beyond the traditional communicator referred to in most interpretation textbooks. The emerging age of interpretation requires practitioners who see themselves not just as guides of heritage but guides of community development.

See below some reasons for using interpretive frameworks and a list of further reading.

Reasons to use interpretive frameworks

1. They connect heritage with meanings and processes, provoking thinking and appreciation.
2. Different but related themes reinforce each other, forging new relationships.
3. All communications at an institution use the same themes in the same way to avoid mis- and cross-communication problems.
4. Planners choose which theme best fits a given audience.
5. Themes and their associated heritage elements facilitate the work of tour guides and operators, historians, students, government officials, and residents.
6. With publicly sanctioned themes, unscrupulous heritage recreation providers cannot simply make up meanings and stories to entertain their paying patrons.
7. A framework helps planners deploy themes across a heritage area and see interpretive gaps.
8. A framework lends interpretation a structure to plan and build experience opportunities for guests to deepen appreciation for a place.
9. They reinforce the notion that themes alone are insufficient basis for heritage interpretation. There are other equally important elements, all of which interact.
10. They create a space in which community value notions of heritage are articulated and honoured.
11. They serve as the heart for any heritage or interpretation management plan from which all media and strategies flow.

Example interpretive framework for Flint Hills Discovery Center, USA (Image: Jon Kohl)

 Interpretive Framework June 2015						
Essence	The Flint Hills landscape undulates through space, burns through time, and offers refuge to its ever changing character of community.					
Essence themes	The undulating limestone and tallgrass prairie landscape of the Flint Hills traces the submarine surface of an ancient inland sea, 165 million years ago.		The Flint Hill's ecologic and agropastoral patterns dance to cycles of human-induced fire.		In recent centuries, the Flint Hills have suffered various displacements of its (non)human inhabitants, leaving behind fragmented communities, but enriching its overall natural and cultural diversity.	
Universal process themes	The precipitation of minerals exposed to prolonged periods of pressure produces sedimentary rocks such as limestone from calcium carbonate skeletons of marine organisms.	As tectonic plates move about the surface of the earth, their collisions produce uplift into mountains and creation of new land surfaces.	Complex dynamic systems, such as fire-dependent ecosystems, cycle through stages of rapid growth, conservation, and then rapid energy release that feeds the next cycle.	Economic growth converts land uses, leaving behind patches of the pre-existing use, such as natural habitats.	Species expand into areas of low relative competition, often displacing existing residents.	The rise and fall of cultural practices depends on the socio-economic needs of the times.
Local themes	Millions of years of pressure crushed calcium carbonate animal skeletons into limestone at the bottom of an inland sea, later uplifted by tectonic activity into today's viewscape of the Flint Hills.	The undulating surface of an ancient inland seabed has risen and transformed into a sea of tallgrass prairie.	Despite the destructive power of fire, without it, trees and shrubs would overgrow and smother the productive tallgrass prairie.	The Flint Hills is the largest intact block of remaining tallgrass prairie, capable of sustaining viable populations of prairie chickens.	Fort Riley was the lance point into Kaw territory to move and protect settlers from the East into the future slave-free Kansas and beyond.	The rise of the iconic cowboy culture depended as much on the quality of the Flint Hill tallgrass prairie and railroad access, as it did on the cows themselves.
Attractions & Stories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large concentration of marine fossils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-rated clear sunsets and sunrises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep roots 	Prairie chickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last aboriginal homeland of Kaw Nation • First territorial Capitol of Kansas • First US case of Spanish Flu in Fort Riley • First land-grant college in the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iconic cowboy
<p>This framework does not include examples of the following heritage elements: intangible expressions and outstanding features.</p>						

Further reading

Annalisa Bolin and David Nkusi. 2021. Rwandan solutions to Rwandan problems: Heritage decolonization and community engagement in Nyanza District, Rwanda. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 22(1). Free online case study.

Jon Kohl. 2018. *Interpretive Theme Writer's Field Guide: A Pocket Companion to Sam Ham's Interpretation: Making a Difference on Purpose: How to Write a Strong Theme from Big Idea to Presentation*. National Association of Interpretation. This book reveals in more detail how to facilitate an interpretive framework.

No author. 2017. *Controversies Surrounding the Battle of Little Bighorn*. <https://worldhistory.us/american-history/controversies-surrounding-the-battle-of-the-little-bighorn.php>. Discusses Custer's ineptitude as battle strategist.

Raynald Harvey Lemelin, Kyle Powys Whyte, Kelsey Johansen, Freya Higgins Desbiolles, Christopher Wilson and Steve Hemming. (2013). Conflicts, battlefields, indigenous peoples and tourism: Addressing dissonant heritage in warfare tourism in Australia and North America in the twenty-first century. *International Journal of Culture Tourism and Hospitality Research* 7(3):257–271. Contains a Custer case study.

Steve Van Matre. 2008. *Interpretive Design and the Dance of Experience*. The Institute of Earth Education. Novel yet relatively unknown take on interpretation.

Jon Kohl is a writer and practitioner of heritage interpretation in international protected area and community development contexts as well as the director of the PUP Global Heritage Consortium. He lives in Costa Rica. You can see more of his writing at [ResearchGate.net](https://www.researchgate.net). He has been an Interpret Europe member almost since its beginning. Jon can be contacted at: writer@jonkohl.com.

The awkwardness of being provoked

Kjell André Brevik (Norway)

Some thoughts and reflections one year post-CIG training.

Time flies. Almost one year has now passed since I attended the IE Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) course at Valdres Folk Museum in Fagernes, Norway. For me, the course was an eye-opener, and an initiation into the practice of focusing on the importance of singularity, universal values and interpretive techniques. Under the guidance of our trainer, and with crucial aid from fellow participants, I think I finally 'got it'.

On my trip back to Trøndelag, I felt like a new person in terms of the essential insights, and the way I was going to apply this new knowledge to my own work. Also, I was looking forward to the homework assignment, with its fresh possibilities of transferring some of my newly acquired awareness of strong phenomena to a place I knew 'from the inside out'.

To be honest, the homework assignment was trickier than I expected. It turned out I was still trapped in the old habit of being used to completing a heritage walk without dealing with any general theme or well-prepared talks. After struggling with it for a few months, by foot and in thought, I finally got the positive push I needed to recognise myself as an interpretive guide. The push came from Sandy Colvine, our trainer, with his encouraging comments to my homework answers.

So, from late summer onwards I was ready to make a difference. After accomplishing my certification, the circumstances created a unique opportunity for me. In only four months, from spring to early autumn, I was transformed into a CIG with a full-time job in Melhus municipality, working with heritage interpretation in an open-air museum, along trails, in the local Sagauka festival, and in the public library.

Introducing work sheets for talks and walks represented a necessary professionalisation in the role I was going to play in the management of local natural and cultural heritage. But I was soon to discover that my preparations could turn out in different ways than expected. One walk could be a success, with engaged participants and good conversations related to phenomena along the route, while another was only a partial success with limited participation regarding open-ended questions. On one occasion I was supposed to give a talk on environmental issues to a group of adolescents.



Heritage talks looking at a standing stone and rock art (Images: Sagauka i Melhus - top, Trond Are Berge- bottom)

In practice, I'm afraid the indoor session ended up looking more like a formal teaching situation with very little participation from my 'pupils'.

After gaining more experience through practice, I've given some thoughts to the various receptions along the way. Not surprisingly, people in smaller groups are more likely to actively participate in a conversation, especially if they already know each other well. But, in my experience this is not always the case. Sometimes even smaller groups are reluctant to engage in a dialogue. Sadly, the adolescents are often too cool to converse, but this is probably not a behaviour restricted to my region alone. Maybe smaller groups in a more sensory stimulating setting could be the 'panacea'?

As I see it, inhabitants in this part of Scandinavia seem to find some elements of interpretation rather awkward. The participants are simply not used to that kind of involvement. We are generally quite anxious when it comes to revealing our deeper thoughts, at least in a group setting. I suspect that guides in other parts of Europe encounter people more eager to be provoked. On the other hand, I may be totally wrong regarding these tendencies.

At the time of writing, I'm looking forward to a new season of heritage walks and talks here in Melhus, actively applying and practicing interpretive techniques in my daily work. I see this process as a mutual development concerning both guide and participants. Perhaps the Norwegian 'stiffness' is finally softening? Last, but not least, I enjoy being a member of the Interpret Europe family. Indeed, after years of searching, discovering the art of interpretation and the association promoting it feels like coming home.

Kjell André Brevik is employed as a heritage interpreter in Melhus municipality, Norway. His area of responsibility covers the open-air museum Horg Bygdatun and the public library. He holds a Master's degree in archaeology from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). He can be contacted at: kjebre@melhus.kommune.no.



Storytime and nature talk with preschool children
(Image: Melhus public library)

Erasmus+

Many of our members have delivered projects under this funding - keep an eye on the website for opportunities.

Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe, with an estimated budget of €26.2 billion.

The 2021-2027 programme places a strong focus on social inclusion, the green and digital transitions, and promoting young people's participation in democratic life.

Keep an eye on the website for suitable opportunities that could support your projects and strategic partnership collaborations with other colleagues:

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/funding>

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/opportunities/opportunities-for-organisations>



Welcome to our new members

Institutional members

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Balkan Museum Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Batec Natura, Spain
Biotechnical Industrial Educational Museum, Greece
Bogazici University, Turkey
CEA Pollino Calabria, Italy
European Association of Archaeologists, Czech Republic
Forum Donaulimes, Austria
Foundation for the Urban Environment Pierre Laconte, Belgium
Heritage Malta, Malta
Hrvatska udruga za interpretaciju baštine, Croatia
Imagina... Guies del Collsacabra, Vall de Sau i Guilleries, Spain
Institute for Change and Leadership in Albania, Albania
Interpretacijski centar maritimne baštine DUBoak, Croatia
Jozef Pilsudski Museum in Sulejowek, Poland
JU Muzej i galerija Tivat, Montenegro
Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia, Croatia
Međimurje Nature - Public Institution for Nature Protection, Croatia
Milena's home foundation: Milena Pavlovic Barilli Gallery, Serbia
Museum Dvor Trakošćan, Croatia
Museum Geelvinck, Netherlands
MuZEH Lab, Albania
Naš centar za kulturu življenja / Our Living Culture Centre, Croatia
National Inbound and Domestic Tourism Association of Moldova (ANTRIM), Moldova
National museum Pozarevac, Serbia
NI Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Independence, North Macedonia
Perpetuum Agile - Center for sustainable, North Macedonia
Poznańskie Centrum Dziedzictwa, Poland
Pro Progressione, Hungary
PUP Global Heritage Consortium, Costa Rica
Regional tourism organization Rezort Piešťany, Slovakia
Silat for Culture, Lebanon
Silesian University in Opava - School of Business and Administration in Karviná, Czech Republic
Spolek Beskydhost, Czech Republic
Turistička organizacija Pljevlja, Montenegro

Institutional members (continued)

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**Do you have any personal contacts who would benefit from being a part of IE?
If so, introduce them!**

Further announcements

Upcoming events

Keep an eye on the IE website for details of international heritage interpretation events that we are aware of: <https://interpret-europe.net/ie-events-calendar/category/other-events/>

International Conference on Defence Sites: Heritage and Future

9-10 May 2024

Berlin, Germany

<https://itar.in/conf/about-conf.php?id=2274845>

International Conference on Museums Heritage Conservation

15-16 May 2024

Copenhagen, Denmark

<https://sciencenet.co/event/index.php?id=2379602>

AI and the Next Wave of Digital Innovation in Museums

21 May 2024

London, UK

<https://museum-id.com/ai-digital-innovation-in-museums/>

Cultural Sustainable Tourism

28-30 May 2024

Maia, Portugal

<https://www.ierek.com/events/cultural-sustainable-tourism-cst-6th-edition#conferencetopics>

How to Explore Social Justice in Museum Spaces

18 June 2024

London, UK

<https://museum-id.com/social-justice-in-museums/>

The World Canals Conference

24-26 June 2024

Bydgoszcz, Poland

<https://wcc2024bydgoszcz.pl/>

Persisting with change – 30th European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting

28-31 August 2024

Rome, Italy

<https://www.e-a-a.org/ea2024>

Conservation of Architectural Heritage (CAH) – 8th Edition

17-20 September 2024

Cagliari, Italy

<https://www.ierek.com/events/conservation-of-architectural-heritage-cah-8th#introduction>

Memory of the heritage in evolving and changing context and future challenges

26-27 September 2024

Oran, Algeria

<https://calenda.org/1111509?file=1>

International Conference “1964-2024, The Venice Charter”. Theoretical reflections and operating practices in the restoration project

25-26 October 2024

Venice, Italy

<https://www.dida.unifi.it/p888.html#ENG>

Sustainable Tourism & Nature Conservation – the Opportunity and Challenge for Parks

28-31 October 2024

Westport, Ireland

<https://www.euoparc.org/events/save-the-date-european-charter-for-sustainable-tourism-meeting/>

And finally...

Thank you for your contributions.

Sunny spring greetings from your IE News Team. Marie Banks (UK) – News Coordinator, supported by Anna Carlemalm (Sweden), Abby McSherry (Ireland), Elisabeth Nübel-Reidbach (Germany), and Ivana Zrilić (Croatia).

Any news, projects, thoughts or adventures in interpretation that you want to share?

Send a report and some photos to: news@interpret-europe.net.

Please consider that we like to promote best practice examples in the field of heritage interpretation and follow the guidelines for newsletter authors:

<https://interpret-europe.net/news/guidelines-for-authors/>

Deadline for contributions for the summer 2024 edition: Friday 31 May 2024

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