



EMPATHS PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Empowering Landscapes with Participatory Approaches to Heritage Interpretation Skills

What is EMPATHS?

Putting people at the heart of heritage

EMPATHS (EMpowering landscapes with Participatory Approaches to Heritage interpretation Skills) is a 30-month Erasmus+ project (Oct 2024 – Mar 2027), coordinated by *Interpret Europe*. Its aim is simple but powerful: to transform how we interpret heritage by involving communities directly in the process.

Too often, heritage professionals lack the tools to facilitate effective participatory heritage interpretation. EMPATHS tackles this by developing a new blended training programme that helps professionals co-create heritage stories with local communities — making them active participants, not just spectators.

The training will be tested through pilot projects in Austria, Italy and Greece and offered to VET providers as a replicable model.

The ultimate goal? Stronger connections between people and places, and greater citizen participation in making decision about cultural and natural heritage.

Learn more: empaths-project.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union



Who's Behind EMPATHS?

The partnership unites six organisations from four countries (DE, AU, IT & EL) with complementary expertise:

Training Partners

Interpret Europe (DE)

Methodology & network

The Story Behind (IT)

Heritage Interpretation & ethical branding

The Heritage Management Organization (HERITAGE) (EL)

Community-based research

Piloting Partners

Karavanken Geopark (AU)

Natural heritage

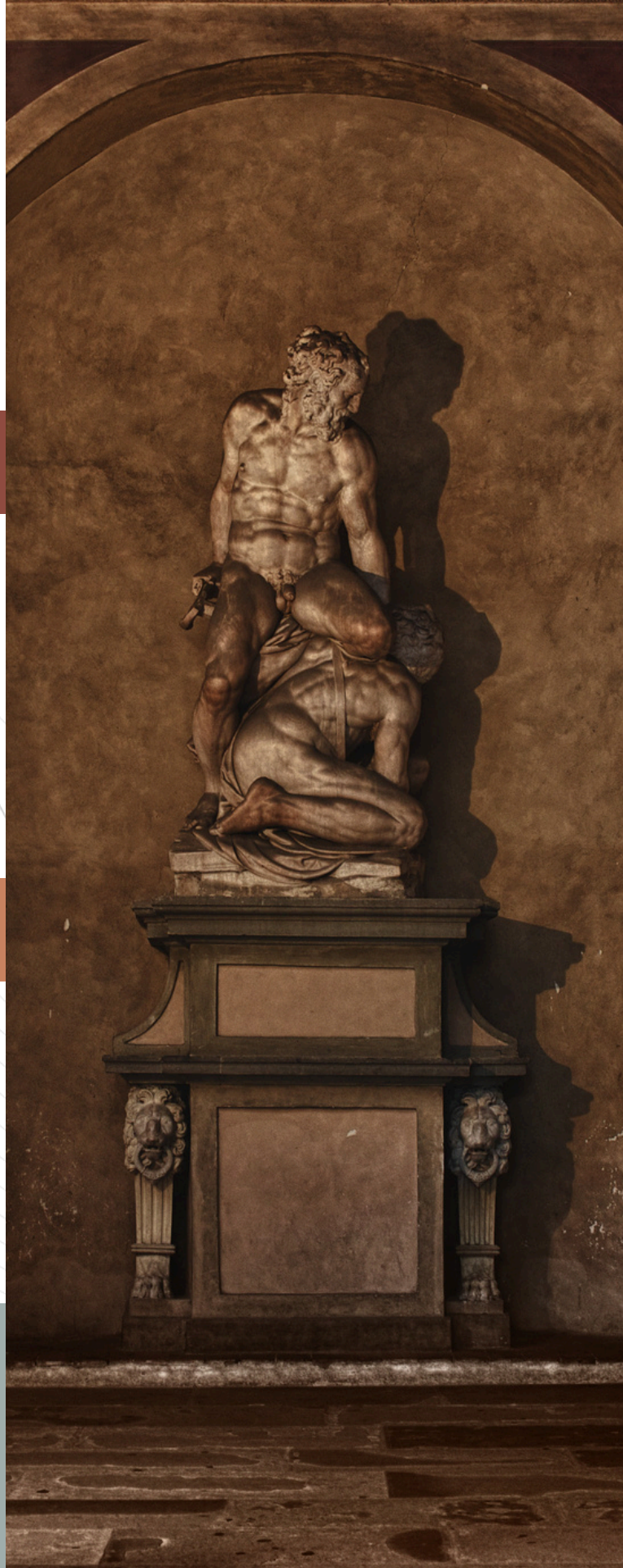
Archaeological Park of Campi Flegrei (IT)

Cultural heritage

Ethnological Museum of Thrace (EL)

Intangible heritage

Together, they bridge training, research, and real-world implementation through co-designed activities and Interpretive Community Labs.



Co-funded by
the European Union



A First Step: EMPATHS Baseline

The “Baseline Report” is the first key output of the project. It explores 14 participatory practices in heritage interpretation planning and related fields across Europe and beyond.



**View the full
Baseline Report**



EMPATHS in the Field: Campi Flegrei Event

The Archaeological Park of Campi Flegrei hosted the first public event of EMPATHS. Highlights included:

- Introduction by Fabio Pagano (PAFLEG Director)
- Session on heritage interpretation by Carmen Granito (TSB)
- Session on participatory practices by Giuseppe Pace (CNR IRISS)

The event engaged park staff in a lively dialogue, marking a first step in local empowerment through heritage interpretation.

View the post on LinkedIn



Co-funded by
the European Union



Digital Innovation Meets Participatory Heritage

How can digital tools help communities reclaim and celebrate their heritage?

This was the focus of a recent LDNet webinar, where Alexander Colvine (Interpret Europe) and Giuseppe Pace (PAFLEG) presented insights from EMPATHS alongside European case studies—from a historic dockyard in Malta to a Greek marble quarry and an Italian factory town.

The event highlighted how local communities are using digital storytelling and concepts like memory twins to lead heritage interpretation processes.

Key message: Participation empowers people to shape their heritage, fostering creativity, identity, and long-term impact.



Watch the full
Webinar on YouTube



Don't miss future updates!

If you're passionate about inclusive, people-centred approaches to heritage, subscribe to the EMPATHS newsletter to:

- Stay informed about upcoming training opportunities
- Discover best practices from across Europe
- Get involved in shaping the future of participatory heritage interpretation

SUBSCRIBE



Co-funded by
the European Union

