

Output Quality Report

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| Output title: <i>New competences in geoheritage interpretation</i> | |
| Type of output: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documented learning interaction <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy/ Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Tool <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot action |
| Contribution to PO indicator: | <p>Number of documented learning interactions in finalized operations</p> <p><i>The presented composite report of 8 outputs introducing new competences in geoheritage interpretation provides comprehensive and well documented results of the individual geopark research and transnational exchange of practices and experiences of 9 geoparks operating in the Danube programme area.</i></p> |

Summary of the output (max. 1500 characters)

Please describe the output in terms of content, objective, scope and main characteristics.

The report, in a form of a composite document introduces new trends and competences in 8 different fields of geointerpretation obtained by participating geoparks through first activities of the Danube GeoTour project, WP 5 Geointerpretation. The eight outputs being subject of the assessment are very specific as all of them address the same topic - geointerpretation skills. However, each of them focuses on different geological phenomena which was identified as a main challenge for interpretation within the particular geopark. For this reason, the coordinator of the WP5 proposed a common approach, enabled transnational learning exchange and in the composite report summed up the individual findings. The respective partners studied most recent trends, best practices and methods applied in interpretation of specific geological feature or processes and present them in 8 individual outputs documents being an integral part of the overall report. In this respect, the QA considered each individual output in a view of the overall aim – to open perspectives and strengthen the interpretation competences and the capacities of individual geopark. The report provides a comprehensive and well documented overview of new trends and recommendations to be followed in planning the pilot actions for interpretation of geoheritage as part of the project as well as a guideline in every day's practice of geoparks and other heritage sites within or outside Danube programme area.

Added value (max. 1500 characters)

For Documented learning interactions:

Please provide a comprehensive description of the quality of the learning interaction in terms of: scope, content, added value as compared to an isolated learning interaction not taking place in a transnational context.

The reviewed output documents and evidences of the research, exchanges and training undertaken demonstrate significant efforts made at partner and transnational level to improve geointerpretation skills, techniques and methods. Under the coordination of PP4, project partners applied different learning approaches such as self-assessment of existing practices applicable for transnational transfer, assessing the competitor's approaches by site visits of the newest interpretation centres in partner countries, web search and direct contact to ASPs for examination of global trends. The individual findings were transferred to project level. A joint training on contemporary geointerpretation including workshop for sharing concrete partner practices enabled comparison of different skills level between geopark's staff and immediate transfer of practical solutions from one to another geopark. The skills transfer is of particular importance for the youngest geoparks lagging behind in interpretation. In this interactive way, learning is not just quicker but it reduces potential failures and saves costs. During the screening of best practices and geo training various learning networks were formed between the partner's staff and experts outside the geopark community. The time dedicated to consideration and exchange of recent best practices in geointerpretation indicates that participating geopark's staff and geoguides had the possibility to improve the competences in geointerpretation.

Applicability and replicability (max. 1500 characters)

Please provide a concrete description of how the project output is to be applied in real life and could be replicated in other geographical and sectorial areas or different environments.

The output enables wide range of possible applications and replications not only within geoparks community but also in other protected areas (nature parks) or heritage sites where interpretation plays an important role visitor attraction and experience. Some of the concrete suggestions for application in real life could involve:

- *Recommended planning approaches, techniques and methods for specific geological phenomena shall be directly applied, tested and transferred as pilot actions under the existing Danube GeoTour project;*
- *New skills of participating geoguides and staff shall be shared with other geopark staff within each of the geopark;*
- *Importance of increasing geoguides skill level shall be integrated into the regular annual plans of the participating geoparks, including the possibility of staff exchanges and placements between participating geoparks;*
- *Output document will be publically accessible and available for other geopraks and sector organisations involved in heritage interpretation. General interpretation principles, wide range of best practice selection, lessons learnt and planning methods presented can be immediately transferred and used in setting up new thematic trails, exhibitions ...*

Suggestions for improvement, if applicable (max. 1500 characters)

Please provide information on possible improvements that could be brought to the current

output considering the general context in which it is delivered.

During the process of QA all PPs addressed the key gaps identified by QAM. Nevertheless, for future output reports, in particular composite and complex reports, the following is recommended:

- *More focus shall be paid to explanation of the results and description of change achieved (in this case scope of improved competences) beside the expertise itself.*
- *Criteria shall be applied when selecting and presenting best practices. The presented documents list a wide selection of cases of which all cannot be considered at the same quality level.*
- *The output report is reach in content, detailed and very comprehensive. It provides a valuable overview of different practices of PP as well as outside the partnership. The document presents a valuable tool for daily use of geopark staff. However, for dissemination purposes, a summary document in a user friendly format shall be developed.*

Output Quality Level

- Low
- Average
- Good
- Excellent