

Output Quality Report

Output title: 6.1. Danube GeoTour Itinerary	
Type of output:	<input type="checkbox"/> Documented learning interaction <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy/ Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Tool <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot action
Contribution to PO indicator:	No of tools for preserving and management of natural and cultural heritage and resources

Summary of the output (max. 1500 characters)

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

The output 6.1. Danube GeoTour Itinerary is one of the most important final product of the Danube GeoTour as it incorporates all individual deliverables into a set of thematic and transnational travel itineraries ready for the market. In this respect the WP 6 coordinator Bakony-Balaton Geopark successfully designed itineraries along two aspects: the geographical proximity of the geoparks (creating territorial itineraries) and a common theme connecting the geoparks (thematic routes). Among the proposed itineraries there are five territorial ones and six types of thematic routes which cover the areas of geoculture, geocycling, geohiking, georafting, geological and natural heritage. There territorial itineraries include: i) Styrian Eisenwurzen Geopark – Karawanken/ Karavanke(A/SI) – Idrija Geopark (SI) ii) Iron Mountains Geopark (CZ) – Bakony Balaton Geopark (HU), iii) Bakony Balaton Geopark – Papuk, iv) Djerdap Aspiring Geopark (SRB) – Hateg Geopark (RO), v) Idrija Geopark (SI) – Papuk (CRO).

The thematic itineraries smartly bring together and pack individual offers under several attractive brands such as GeoTriathlon, Digging Deep, Into the woods, Tour De Geoparks, GeoCulture, Historic Time Travel. Each Geopark participates in thematic as well as in territorial itineraries.

The description follows a common and very straightforward approach for each itinerary focusing on recommended sights and trails, local products to enjoy along the tour and useful websites.

Added value (max. 1500 characters)

For strategies and tools:

Please provide a comprehensive explanation regarding the added value of the output as compared to already existing strategies/ tools of similar type.

The output in the form of concrete recommended itineraries presents an important step forward in transnational visibility and positioning of the Danube region geopraks in the sustainable tourism market. The key added values generated the WP 6 coordinator Bakony-Balaton Geopark can be summarised in the following observations:

- *For the first time a selection of top nature & cultural heritage attractions and local products of geoparks was made and presented in the form of a set of unique itineraries;*
- **Readiness of the output** for the market: *the proposed itineraries are based on existing real products and can be immediately used by the clients;*
- **Flexibility:** *the concept of itineraries is designed in the way it can address specific interest groups (thematic itineraries) or touring tourists (territorial itineraries)*
- **Attractive common thematic branding** *clearly addresses and intrigues the target groups;*
- **Cross border and transnational dimension:** *each participating park is involved in thematic as well as territorial itineraries.*
- **Sustainability beyond the project:** *recommended itineraries are independent on future costs, operators or any kind of management as they may remain openly available through geopark websites to individual visitors or to tour operators. Thus their life-span depends predominantly on the tourism trends.*

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 approach of itineraries linking different destinations (in this case geoparks) territorially or thematically and focusing on green tourism niches seems appropriate for rising the attractiveness and visibility of small players in the tourism market. recognised areas in the tourism market.

In this context the approach has the potential for applicability in other tourism developing regions within while it can be replicated or extended to other geoparks within or outside the Danube region.

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.

As external evaluator I requested to strengthen the territorial itineraries concept , link them with the thematic itineraries and to design a single map of Danube region locating the proposed itineraries in the Danube territory. The WP 6 coordinator Bakony-Balaton Geopark has improved the draft output document following the propose recommendations.

Nevertheless it is highly suggested that before the project closure partners agree common approach and rules for attractive common web-presentation, common branding and future promotion of itineraries. The itineraries might play an important competitive advantage of Danube geoparks when positioning in the international tourism market in the coming years. Although the itineraries can stand alone I recommend that Bakony-Balaton Geopark keeps eye on the future I

promotion, quality control and usage and usefulness of itineraries in practice.

Output Quality Level

- Low
- Average
- Good
- Excellent**



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