



PILOT ACTION AREA	Belvedere terraces in Strunjan Landscape Park, Slovenia
REASONS FOR STARTING THE PILOT ACTION	<p>The area of Belvedere terraces represents one of the entry points to the Strunjan Landscape Park. Its potential can be used as a buffer area between the urbanized, tourist area of Izola and the protected nature area. The high intensity of tourists during the summer season is a significant source of pressure on natural resources. The coastal area is considered as an important element of summer tourism and not as part of the landscape with its natural values. CEETO pilot action is focused on the regulation of the Belvedere terraces area.</p>
MAIN OBJECTIVES	<p>The main objective was to prepare a study on landscaping and spatial planning solutions to increase the sustainability of touristic flows in the area and to obtain a conceptual solution for the regulation of the area, in cooperation with all local stakeholders. The aim of this regulation is to establish an entry point to the protected area which could help to raise the awareness of visitors about the Park, to control the movement of the visitors, to offer them several sustainable activities outside the Park and to relieve some of the pressure on the protected area throughout all the year, not just in summertime.</p>
MONITORING TOOLS USED	<p>Monitoring of visitors awareness and awareness raising activity itself were shaped like 2-in-1 and conducted by a questionnaire (1) that helps to monitor tourist awareness on the protection regimes and on whether or not they know they are in the vicinity of the park, and that monitors the satisfaction with the arrangement of the area, in order to understand needs and opinions on better development of the management plan. The other part of the questionnaire was an informative leaflet (2) on the protected area of Strunjan Landscape Park and its protection regimes.</p> <p>Based on the acquired data, an awareness-raising was implemented by animated educational videos of the protection regimes in the park.</p> <p>Collected data gave the opportunity to learn more about the number, profile and expectations of visitors in the area and helped the Municipality of Izola to establish a “transition zone” to the Park, through green public infrastructure, informing about the rules of conduct in the Park, and allowing for a sustainable business activity and environmentally friendly tourism in the area of Podbelveder.</p>
MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES	<p>Questionnaires, with included informative leaflet, were distributed in the pilot action area in the summer season in 2018 and 2019. A tourist was addressed to return the answered questionnaires to the bar at the beach or to the park employee and to take with them the leaflet about protected area Landscape Park Strunjan and protection regimes. An educational animation video of the protection regimes in the Park was produced and is constantly played in the visitor centre. It will be disseminated through other platforms (relevant webpage, FB, etc.) and in other info points within the Park. By those activities visitors were more informed.</p> <p>Information obtained from questionnaires will be used by the Municipality of Izola and Landscape Park Strunjan to better complete the project of Belvedere</p>



	<p>terraces in future planning.</p> <p>Other concrete activities implemented within the pilot action are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public utilities, traffic study and a variant of public utilities for the sustainable implementation of the tourism management model. 2. Electric minibus in the main tourist season is used to transport the tourists and the locals to different points of the Park. On the bus audio was played with short description of the Park and its protection regimes in three languages. This action is to regulate the visit flows and to reduce the impact of vehicles in the Park. 3. A feasibility study of a sustainable visit with alternative modes of transport will be done till the end of December. This includes: i) realization of a business plan for the electric minibus and other modes of alternative transport that will contain a study on most suitable routes and stops and ii) production of an app and/or leaflets with bus routes and stops to inform and encourage tourist to use the minibus instead of cars.
<p>USE OF ACQUIRED DATA</p>	<p>Data acquired during pilot action are planned to be used in future activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage and develop sustainable forms of visiting and spending spare time in the Park, which does not jeopardize the Park's protection objectives. 2. Installation of electronic counters on entry points and analysis of pressures. 3. Monitoring of visits and actions to reduce pressures (i.e. peaceful zones, route changes). 4. Establishing sustainable transport planning in the Park area and beyond. 5. Reducing the pressure on natural reserves from both offshore and inland. 6. Contributing to a greater share of sustainable forms of mobility. 7. More efficient use of the budget - better management of transport system means reducing the costs of maintaining and developing infrastructure.
<p>CONCLUSION</p>	<p>By connecting and involving as many stakeholders as possible in the planning of the Park's development, activities and projects, there are more possibilities for achieving the set goals.</p>