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WP3 - TARGETED ANALYSIS OF TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

REVIEW REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS Output 3.5.5

Peer Review in Turin (IT)
September 11th-13th, 2013



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1 Introduction

This output is realised in the framework of the THETRIS project - <http://www.thetris.eu/> - implemented through the Central Europe Programme co-financed by the ERDF.

The overall objective of the THETRIS project is the preservation and the sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage based on churches in the regions of eleven project partners, through the implementation of specific management strategies. The specific objectives of the project are the increasing of the competitiveness of the different regions by the capitalization of cultural heritage, the development of long-term strategies for the preservation and the sustainable exploitation of churches, and the reinforcement of awareness for the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The THETRIS Transnational Church Route connects eleven church routes from different Central-European regions from eight countries, namely the Szatmár Region in Hungary, the Prešov Region in the Slovak Republic, the Šluknov Region and the Bohemian Switzerland Region in the Czech Republic, the Małopolska Region in Poland, the Piedmont and the Veneto Regions in Italy, the Meissen District in Germany, the Styria Region in Austria and the Goriška and the Gorenjska Regions in Slovenia.

The Transnational Church Route brings about greater recognisability and valorisation of sacral cultural heritage, which boasts remarkable variety as a result of the rich history of Central Europe. The preserved sacral cultural heritage bears witness to crucial historical events, long-term historical structures and different religious denominations which marked the church history and turbulent past of our continent. It also testifies to the artists, patrons and spiritual shepherds who, in their mission, went beyond the regions' and countries' borders, the intertwining and acquisition of art-historical styles and religious practices and the pilgrimage as a way of learning about the neighbouring and far-away countries and their inhabitants, etc. All in all, it bears testimony to various features which have connected European people and nations, regions and countries for many centuries.

An important element which connects these sacral monuments is their location, as they are often situated in the picturesque and well-preserved natural environment, in some cases even in national natural parks. Some churches were built at the then-important roads which pilgrims, merchants and



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other people travelled on, at important strategic locations or at places where miracles and apparitions are believed to have occurred.

The THETRIS Transnational Church Route indicates the noteworthy character of the rich European history and the variety of its cultural heritage as the included churches differ greatly from one another in many aspects, for example the aspects of art-historical and architectural styles, building material, the period of their origin, denominations, etc.

The Transnational Church Route includes parish, pilgrimage and cemetery churches as well as sacral monuments within monasteries, castles and fortified encampments where the inhabitants of the area fled during plundering raids and military invasions in the modern period.

The sacral monuments included in the THETRIS Transnational Church Route differ according to the denominations they belong to. Most of them belong to the Roman Catholic Church. There are also some monuments of the Lutheran Church in the Meissen District in Germany and the Szatmár Region in Hungary and some monuments of the Reformed and the Greek-Catholic Churches in Hungary.

Some sacral monuments boast monumentality, special architecture style which marked the cultural heritage of the area and art-historical uniqueness. Some churches are listed as UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites. Nonetheless, all the churches included in the Route are significant works of art which often harbour precious sculptures, paintings, glassware and other craftwork or other important material remains, such as famous relics. The Route includes small shrines as well as magnificent basilicas and monastery complexes. In the Middle Ages, the silence of monastery scriptoria harboured erudition and literacy, which left significant manuscripts for the centuries to come.

Some churches stand out for their ancient character, rich pilgrimage tradition which goes all the way back to the early mediaeval period, and their integration into historical events and processes which marked European history. Sacral monuments bear witness to important people of European history, such as famous artists, devoted priests, monks, saints and popes, emperors, kings and members of important noble families and monastic orders, and to artists and spiritual shepherds whose names are not known but who left a significant mark in the preserved sacral cultural heritage. Likewise, many believers and pilgrims have visited and financially and physically helped build and maintain the mentioned sacral monuments up to date, so that today's generations can cherish them as the



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heritage of the past which should be respected, protected and preserved for the generations to come.

The churches pride themselves also on intangible heritage, for example ancient tradition of church songs, music composing and nativity scenes or rich tradition of legends about miraculous salvation and healing, saints' apparitions, unusual natural phenomena, etc.

The variety of the churches of the THETRIS Transnational Church Route bears witness to the rich cultural heritage of Central Europe and enables the visitor of the Route or regional church routes to learn about various aspects of the heritage.

During the implementation of the project, ideas, suggestions and recommendations to manage heritage sites and heritage have been characterized and shared, with the aim to generate income for local communities and create stronger regional identities. Eleven regional church routes and a transnational church route, have been identified in order to raise awareness on the importance of preserving cultural heritage and to manage cultural sites by making them accessible to different target groups. Additionally, the project sustainability is being constantly pursued through the commitment and involvement of decision makers and local stakeholders.

In this framework of transnational cooperation and commitment, transnational reviews are meant to be a support in the regional strategies making process. The rationale of having transnational reviews activities is to acquire knowledge and experience from external experts and to throw an external point of view on the regional assets. The THETRIS project foresees a total of five transnational reviews that were implemented from September to October 2013. Each partner has been paired to a host region to visit, in couple with another partner, in the frame of a 3 day review organized by the hosts.

After the visits, the peers prepared the review reports with recommendations which provide information on the following topics: gained experiences, lessons learnt, highlights, missed links, steps for further activities, suggestion and recommendations. These five reports (one for each peer activity) focus on regional existing strengths and make recommendations for elaborating regional strategies. Each report examines four different aspects: socio-economic background, routes and accessibility, heritage and conservation, identity and local commitment, providing for each the main key findings and the recommendations. These reports are closely related to the SWOT Analyses



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developed by each partner at the beginning of the THETRIS project. In fact, each partner was called to identify and analyse strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats concerning their regions in relation to the same four key topics for which experts now provide findings and suggestions in the review reports with recommendations. It's a logical process with the aim to help partners to elaborate innovative and sustainable regional strategies for the valorisation of cultural heritage based on churches.



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2 Program of the Transnational Review

Transnational Review poses a support in the Regional Strategy making process. There were 5 Transnational Reviews included in the THETRIS project implemented in September and October 2013. This report is an output of a Transnational Review organized by the project partner Province of Turin (PP5) on 11th – 13th September 2013. These project partners were participating in the Transnational Review as Peers:

- Association of Municipalities in the Upper Tisza Area (LP; Hungary),
- Public Service Organisation Bohemian Switzerland (PP2; Czechia),
- Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (PP9; Slovenia).

The team of reviewers (peers) was including 2–3 experts (both PPs' staff and external experts) coming from each of reviewing partners (7 experts in total). The hosting staff was consisting of 4 people organizing the program of the transnational review and providing information for reviewers. The review was taking place in the Province of Turin, mostly in Susa Valley (excursion to the regional church route) and in office of the Province of Turin (working group, discussions), in a frame of 3 days.

The transnational review team:

- analyzed the materials provided by the host region before starting the transnational review activity (September 2013);
- visited several places in the host region, get information from hosting staff and took part in work meetings with hosting staff (11th – 13th September 2013);
- produced this report and series of recommendations on how to improve the host region policies and practice (October and November 2013).

Structure and contents of the report follow the Transnational Review Methodology. After the Peer Review, the Peers prepared Reports with recommendations on the basis of which regional strategies can be developed or adjusted, as well as provide information on the following main points of interest: gained experiences, lessons learnt, highlights, missed links, steps for further activities etc.



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Elaborating the Report, the Peers were coordinated by the Peer Review Coordinator. The Report focuses on regional existing strengths and makes recommendations for eliminating weaknesses and elaborating regional strategies. The Report had been finished on 30th November 2013 and was slightly adjusted later on, as the Host Region had a period of one week to review the Report for any factual inaccuracies or misunderstandings and send comments back to the Peer Review Coordinator by the end of this one-week period. The Peer Review Team then had an additional one week to incorporate the Host Region's suggestions into the report and produce the final draft.



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3 Basic information about the Reviewed Region

3.1 Map of the region

Following map shows Susa Valley region.

Figure 1: Brief map of Susa Valley region



<https://maps.google.it/maps?hl=it&ll=45.092914,7.542114&spn=0.610777,1.242828&t=m&z=10>

3.2 Short introduction of the region

(Note: This chapter text is based on sources processed by the host region.)

The Susa Valley has been an important European transit route and across the centuries has been the witness of important historical moments and has had the role of custodian of an immense cultural and artistic heritage, that with a rich natural beauty, has made the valley a unique and extraordinary place.



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The history of the man, who have populated the valley since Neolithic times, are reflected in the great variety of historical, archaeological and artistic traces that embellish it. This history is inscribed into the same landscape, where monuments created by nature, like the morainic basins of the Avigliana lakes, Mount Rocciamelone, Mount Chaberton, and human creations, such as the abbey of St. Michele, the Novalesa abbey, or the Exilles fortress and others, offer extraordinary points of access to a host of cultural, naturalistic and sportive adventures in the valley.

Over time, from the first century BC into the 1800s, the Romans followed by the French and then by the Savoys moved through this territory and shaped the valley floor and the high mountainsides with their residential, religious and defensive works.

Today the opportunity, with the support of a host of local organizations and institutions, is to explore a series of itineraries that will allow you to become acquainted with the variegated mosaic of artistic and historical treasures in the valley, following the themes of archaeology, sacred art, material culture and military fortifications.

An area which, thanks to the large common heritage, is configured as an open-air museum. The archaeological section highlights the extraordinary historical features of the Susa Valley, which has conserved significant traces of the succession of civilizations and culture, from prehistory to the modern times.

The broad valley floor provided room for settlements, which prospered and developed thanks to the accessibility of the mountain passes, and created the opportunity for fast connections to the rest of Europe, creating the impetus for a production of sacred art objects and religious architecture, which represent an important contribution to European art and culture as a whole. The wealth of abbeys, frescoes and Romanesque and Dauphiné churches all testify to the rich and varied cultural growth of the valley.

The Susa Valley, thanks to the many alpine passes, such as Moncenisio e Monginevro, have also been vital strategic importance, which explains the widespread and quite visible presence of military installations in the area. A historical progression from Medieval times to the Second World War may be observed in the military architecture, with works that are outstanding both as architecture and as examples of military strategy, and also have great aesthetic value for the beauty of the surroundings in which the various fortresses are set.



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The valley's material culture recounts the tales of women and men who have lived and who still live here, working and interacting with the mountains, creating pockets of prosperity or eking out living in the bottomlands or on the steep mountain slopes. Well-preserved alpine villages, with their characteristic spring-fed fountains, their village oven and their houses made of gneiss, other stones and wood dot the landscape.

The richness of human presence in this area is also reflected in its linguistic diversity, from the various local Italian dialects to the language of Languedoc, revealing the strong transalpine influences. An extra flavour is added to this tour of the valley by the local culinary traditions with their great variety of wines and gastronomic delicacies.

3.3 Socio-economic profile of the region

The following chapter is dealing with the socio-economic background of Susa Valley region. Main demographic and economic data are included in this chapter to characterize current situation of the region as well as main trends and changes.

The total population of the region is around 115.000 inhabitants (Fig. 1). The total population has been increasing in previous years. A slow ageing of the population has been appearing. The structure of productive activities and tourism are shown in Figure 2, and Figure 3, respectively.

Figure 2: Population of Susa Valley region

| Year | Foreign population | Population age <18 years | Population age >65 years | Female population | Male population |
|------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1999 | 1 744 | 16 125 | 20 086 | 53 542 | 51 710 |
| 2010 | 2 419 | 18 649 | 24 776 | 59 118 | 57 201 |

Source: Piedmont Region "BDDM - Banca Dati Decisionale sulla Montagna")



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Figure 3: Main data about productive activities

| 1999 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1- number of small companies | 2- number of medium-size companies | 3- number of big companies | 4- number of workers in small company (average) | 5- number of workers in medium-size company (average) | 6- number of workers in big company (average) | 7- number of handicrafts | 8- number of workers in handicrafts (average) |
| 15082 | 48 | 16 | 33016.76 | 4256.06 | 4966.66 | 6342 | 14480.52 |

| 2006 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1- number of small companies | 2- number of medium-size companies | 3- number of big companies | 4- number of workers in small company (average) | 5- number of workers in medium-size company (average) | 6- number of workers in big company (average) | 7- number of handicrafts | 8- number of workers in handicrafts (average) |
| 16412 | 76 | 14 | 38186.2 | 7538 | 8282 | 6576 | 14884.04 |

| Increase 1999-2006 (#) | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1- small companies | 2- medium-size companies | 3- big companies | 4- workers in small company | 5- workers in medium-size company | 6- workers in big company | 7- handicrafts | 8- workers in handicrafts |
| 8.82 | 58.33 | -12.5 | 15.66 | 77.11 | 66.75 | 3.69 | 2.79 |

Source: Piedmont Region "BDDM - Banca Dati Decisionale sulla Montagna")



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Figure 4: Main data about tourism

| 2000 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| range of altitudes (meters) | number of italian visitors in hotel | number of italian visitors in B&B/apartments | number of foreign visitors in hotels | number of foreign visitors in B&B/apartments | number of hotel | number of B&B/apartments |
| b- 600-1200 | 18058 | 12009 | 8569 | 2600 | 10 | 9 |
| c- >1200 | 222705 | 78430 | 148734 | 14327 | 133 | 102 |

| 2010 | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| range of altitudes (meters) | number of italian visitors in hotel | number of italian visitors in B&B/apartments | number of foreign visitors in hotels | number of foreign visitors in B&B/apartments | number of hotel | number of B&B/apartments |
| b- 600-1200 | 53300 | 31936 | 10951 | 1726 | 14 | 23 |
| c- >1200 | 672421 | 733035 | 159916 | 18531 | 144 | 174 |

| Increase 2000-2010 (#) | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|
| range of altitudes (meters) | number of italian visitors in hotel | number of italian visitors in B&B/apartments | number of foreign visitors in hotels | number of foreign visitors in B&B/apartments | number of hotel | number of B&B/apartments |
| b- 600-1200 | 195.16 | 165.93 | 27.8 | -33.62 | 40 | 155.56 |
| c- >1200 | 201.93 | 834.64 | 7.52 | 29.34 | 8.27 | 70.59 |

Source: Piedmont Region "BDDM - Banca Dati Decisionale sulla Montagna")



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4 General information about the transnational review

4.1 Information about the host region

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Host region | Province of Turin |
| Contact person | Alessandro Petruzzi, Davide Zeppegno, Tiziana Fiorini, Mario Burgay |
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| Fax Number | Fax +39 011.861.4299 |
| Date of Review | 11th – 13th September 2013 |
| Date of delivery of final report | 30th November 2013 |

4.2 Transnational Review Coordinator

| | |
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4.3 Peer Experts

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Peer Expert 3 (Hungary)

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Peer Expert 4 (Hungary)

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5 Section A: Socio-Economic Background

5.1 Key Findings

- Lower part of the Susa Valley region was partly influenced by the structural changes of the Torino City and of the economic crisis 2008–11. Tourism is less important in the lower part of the Susa Valley region (excl. business tourism, which was affected by the economic crisis) but its role in the local economy is increasing. The lower part of the region has a strong local identity.
- Upper part of the Susa Valley region is an autonomous region in the economic sense. It was not influenced by the structural changes of the Turin City and of the economic crisis. Tourism (especially winter tourism - location of the Winter Olympic Games of Torino 2006) is a key economic branch in this part of Susa Valley. The identity is more international or even global in this subregion.
- The region went through a great change after the Turin Winter Olympic Games 2006. The role of the region in the field of tourism increased strongly. The region is widely known abroad.
- The local economies of the upper and lower parts of the valleys do not communicate together. Moreover, Turin is an industrial city while the region has long tradition and high quality of local products: food, drinks and handicrafts. A network joining these two parts should be established.
- Timing of events for tourists is better in winter or during summer holiday season (especially August). In other periods it is difficult to attract a sufficient number of visitors. The tourism in the region has an extreme seasonality (only in winter and, less, in summer).
- A higher percent of Italian visitors in comparison of the percent of foreign visitors (in view of the dates referring to the number of stays in hotels, B&B and apartments).



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5.2 Recommendations

- Attraction of visitors from the upper part of the valley: They do not ski every day and want to have other opportunities what to do. Cultural and sacral tourism is one of possible measures, incl. tangible and intangible local heritage, agriculture productions (local wine, cheese), various local festivals... Then, the offer of the whole valley might be joint and integrated. The sub-products of sport tourism and cultural tourism should me merged into joint tourist packages.
- Attraction of visitors from the city of Turin, more sensible and interested in cultural offers.
- Attraction of previous visitors (who have already visited the Susa Valley region): A marketing/management/development strategy of the region should involve measures concerning “work” with previous visitors and preparing new attractions for them.
- The local residents should accept tourism as a good opportunity for regional economic and sustainable development, because of that they must be involved in different informal educational programs (workshops during festivals, activities in local associations, intergenerational connections in schools and elders programs).
- The preparations of new development strategies must include the involvement of local residents, who are the main actors of local progress. More intensive promotion of the Susa Valley as a destination abroad: especially in the areas where there is already peoples’ interest for Alpine nature and culture.
- Sustainable tourism development: A balance between tourism and local development should be a crucial point of regional strategies involving the entire Susa Valley.



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6 Section B: Routes and Accessibility

6.1 Key Findings

- The Susa Valley region is very well accessible by both highway and railway. Turin International Airport is very close. Therefore, both national and international accessibility of the region is actually above-standard, but policies to improve this aspect are starting out. Therefore, the public transport system is well-developed, too.
- International airport is located in the province centre of Turin.
- Existing itineraries of natural and cultural route (La via Francigena) and of culinary route involved many local stakeholders like sores, restaurant and accommodation.
- Many projects in the field of IT and communication (broadband network etc.) have been implemented in recent period.
- There are many tourist roads, artificially constructed in different tourist projects during times with interesting contents.
- From the infrastructural point of view, the Susa Valley is one of the most developed alpine valley.
- Connection of the historical routes with the bicycle paths and bridle paths.
- There has been developed the historical cross border tour "Via francigera" that has been widely promoted (also in magazines such as "Bell'Europa" August 2013 ecc.) and is now well-known. There are also other good projects such as "Treasures of Art and Alpine Culture" etc.
- There are many thematic routes under construction.



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6.2 Recommendations

- Wider use of Its in tourism, local development and marketing/management activities: Such tools like mobile applications, interactive maps, web applications, social networks might be used in marketing and development activities targeted on both locals and visitors. Guide applications with thematic sacral or wine routes, cycle tours, etc. downloaded by mobiles allow meeting existing itineraries independently by younger generation, too.
- Making use of new trends and to offer them linked to the region: The Susa Valley region might be profiled as a region of innovations, i.e. friendly region for disabled peoples, region of electric bicycles etc.
- The integrated system of public transport is convenient for a sustainable development (tourist buses, bus excursions etc.).



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7 Section C: Heritage & Conservation

7.1 Key Findings

- The Susa Valley region has well protected heritage in comparison with majority of Central European regions.
- There are numerous attractive sacral heritages such as abbeys and monasteries, reach cultural heritages such as diocesan or art museums and the King Palace (Palazzo Reale) in Turin. There are a lot of interesting and very important historical and artistic sites that stretches from the Roman times to 20th century and comprehend, for example, Celtic and Roman remains (Druidic remains in Susa, Arch of the Emperor Augustus and *Porta Savoia* in Susa, Roman aqueduct, etc.), medieval monuments (the castle in Susa, the medieval castle in Avigliana etc.), ancient and precious sacral monuments (the very ancient Novalesa abbey (founded in 726), Montebenedetto Charterhouse, the Abbey of St. Michele, the cathedral of St. Justus in Susa etc.), huge military installations (for example the fortresses of Exilles and Fenestrelle) etc.
- Unique natural areas including nature parks and great ski mountains in the upper part of the region should contribute to sustainable tourism development.
- Non-tangible heritage: Susa Valley has long tradition and high quality of local products: food and drinks, furthermore widespread know-how in handicrafts. All year long, municipalities of Susa Valley are full of festivals, tasting, wine and food, competitions of product quality.
- The history of the Susa valley is very rich and connected with other European areas. In the past the Susa Valley was an important transit route, so its history is all the more interesting also for foreign visitors.
- The historical and artistic sites are situated in a marvelous nature that is perfect for sport tourism. The valley is an unique place for combining various forms of tourism.
- Interesting museums at Susa (Museo Diocesano di Arte Sacra), in the Novalesa Abbey ecc. with interesting exhibitions.



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- The awareness of local people towards local heritage is not satisfied; some do not appreciate the achievements of their predecessors and do not incorporate it in their ways of life. Local tangible and intangible cultural heritage can be a mediator for resolving many contemporary social and economic problems and also element to link upper, medieval and lower people from Susa Valley.

7.2 Recommendations

- Strengthening of networking policies between sites of cultural heritage.
- Involving local communities in protecting cultural heritage and improve actions to increase value of them. Different educational projects for local residents with the aims to make aware people that heritage can be an element to link people, to encourage communication between them, make coherent and healthier local communities. When the people will see in heritage the opportunity for quality life (in social and economic field), they will present it to other people with pride, satisfaction and pleasure. Firstly the local residents must accept their heritage and be proud on it, and on the second step they could well preserve it and present to other people. Only like this the heritage could give people social and economic capital. The project could be led by schools, local associations or other organizations. The children could make aware people that achievements of older people are not something bad, undeveloped elements, but a base for new products based on tradition and innovation.
- Enlarging the “philosophy” of cultural and sustainable tourism for local communities and government of towns, furthermore applying the concepts at practice of everyday life.
- Tangible and non-tangible heritage should be merged into joint tourist packages and into guide applications creating thematic sacral or taste routes.
- Municipalities should promote dialog and communication between local producers of traditional food and consumers. Wide promotion of sustainable tourism development and provide incentives to food production using natural and environmentally-friendly techniques.



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- Joining to and cooperation with national or international associations to promote tangible and non-tangible heritage e.g. Cittaslow, Responsible Tourist Partnership, etc.
- Because of the rich history of the Susa Valley it is possible to elaborate a variegated offer of cultural tourism that can contribute to the conservation of the sites of cultural heritage.
- The valorization of the history connected with an important medieval noblewoman Adelaide of Susa: her role in the European history was very important. Because of that the valorization of her figure it might be very useful for the enrichment of cultural tourism of Susa Valley.
- The valorization of the military architecture it could be connected with other European cross-border region with rich military architecture (for example the sites along the Isonzo-Soča front along the border between Slovenia and Italy).



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8 Section D: Identity and Local Commitment

8.1 Key Findings

- Many local festivals for both local inhabitants and tourists are taking place in the region in various parts of the year.
- Municipalities, NGOs and other stakeholders have been implementing a lot of good projects in previous years.
- A high number of associations (i.e. Diocesan Museum in Susa) is in operation in Susa Valley. There is an idea of their coordination however it is difficult to find common fields to work together.
- People in lower part of the Susa Valley region are not friendly with tourism. It is not the main economic activity and is not perceived as an important and positive way of the regional development.
- A charming linguistic diversity of the region.



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8.2 Recommendations

- The local production might be targeted not only on selling of the products but also on the process of their production and preparation. This “experience tourism” is both attractive for visitors and, first of all, it is necessary to keep and reproduce the local identity.
- Projects of local schools targeted onto local identity: Local schools, NGOs etc. should implement projects answering questions like what our region offers, what is its identity, what are the specifics of it, who we are and who are the others, values of the region and its cultural resources...
- Common projects of preparing local books and publications (photos, memories...), public discussions, talking with locals to understand their needs, questionnaires and presentations are recommended to reinforce the local identity. In general, it is needful to find informal way how to contact with them and to find a methodology how to do it. Existing associations should be used for these activities.
- Explanation and education of the public in the sense of positive tourism impacts on the local identity (the identity can be strengthened via tourism development – expansion of local production, cultural life etc.).
- Advisory for entrepreneurs: Advisory and educational services for entrepreneurs might be implemented to help them to address both locals and tourists with local products.
- Creation of a network between the local tour-operators in various fields (hotels, restaurants, tourist guides,...) to build effective packages.



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9 Main Impressions of Peer Experts

After visiting the host region, the team of peer experts set expert outputs (see the previous chapter). However, all peer experts also had several experiences and impressions based on excursions, which they participated in. Therefore, a “list of experiences and impressions” is added as the last chapter of the Review Report. Each expert added 2–3 experiences and impressions:

- “The region represents an unique complex of historical and cultural sights situated in marvelous landscape of the southern corner of the Alps. It is a short ride only from busy metropolis of Turin to this region. The borderline between Alps and lowlands around Torino is not wider than a few hundred meters.”
- “The ancient and medieval sights are located just within towns, next to current built-up areas. This urban structure is very unusual and attractive for visitors from central and northern parts of Europe.”
- “The Novalesa abbey represents an example of successful revitalization and valorization of cultural heritage. It offers not only the spiritual shelter for the Benedictine monks, but it is also a very interesting cultural heritage site with interesting exhibitions, restoration workrooms, library etc. It is also well connected with local associations and young volunteers.”
- “A very interested element of the history of the Susa Valley is the medieval noblewoman Adelaide of Susa. She influenced not only the courses of events and the history of the march of Turin and in the county of Savoy but in central Europe too. Her life and the lives of her daughters were very curious and turbulent. Adelaide’s third husband was the count of Savoy Otto. With that marriage the House of Savoy concentrated their expansion efforts towards Italy. These efforts were recompensed centuries later with the foundation of the Kingdom of Italy in 1861. Because of that further valorization of the history connected with the life and the role of Adelaide and her family it should be very interesting for the enrichment of cultural tourism of Susa Valley.”