

Mo.Na: Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence



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Mo.Na – A project for monuments in Nature

Santorini, Nessebar, Paphos, Butrint

“Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” - Mo.Na addresses several topics regarding the protection of natural and cultural heritage, including the protection of biodiversity, the effects of climate change, the sustainable use of our natural and cultural heritage, as well as the valorization and protection of the monuments and natural environment. Mo.Na aims to be identified as a key project in the Balkan-Mediterranean territory and more specifically in the participating countries – Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Cyprus – and also to become a ‘*Good Practice*’ project for the wider Balkan-Mediterranean region.

Within this framework, Santorini (GR), Nessebar (BG), Paphos Forest (CY) and Butrint (AL), protected sites with unique natural and cultural assets, constitute Mo.Na’s Case Studies, where their characteristics, capacities, potentials and opportunities, weaknesses and threats will be examined.

Mo.Na particularly focuses in developing an integrated management system in the project areas, encouraging dialogue among managing bodies and the public and creating synergies among stakeholders in the fields of environment and culture, in order to promote the project sites through the creation of place identity and at the same time to manage them through a sustainable management system.

Mo.Na aims in the sustainable management of the cultural and natural treasures that the project sites possess and additionally to help in the mitigation of the negative effects from visitors/tourists’ activities that take place within the project sites.

Mo.Na also highlights the need of place branding for the valorisation, protection and promotion of the project sites. Raising awareness of the public is also important. Mo.Na uses *Storytelling* a really effective and innovative way to communicate the thematic of the project to the wider audience and especially young people.



Mo.Na kick-off Meeting in Thessaloniki

The first partners' meeting of Mo.Na “Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” took place in the premises of the project's Lead Partner, the European Center of Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments in Thessaloniki, on June 10-11, 2019.

The two-day meeting initiated the start of Mo.Na and also the project partners' collaboration. The kick-off meeting was quite fruitful for the project partners, as the overall work-plan was discussed and the project's timeframe, objectives and expected results were set. An interesting part of the meeting was an introductory presentation on marine habitat type and typologies, as

well as their associated biodiversity.

Project partners had the opportunity to present the regions where the four (4) pilot actions will be implemented during the project. Partners also referred to their expectations from the project implementation as well as their main priorities towards the project's achievement of sustainability in cultural and natural sites.



The European Centre for Byzantine and Post Byzantine Monuments (EKBBM), aims to promote scientific research and study of Byzantine heritage monuments at international level.

EKBBM collaborates with U.N.E.S.C.O., the Council of Europe, the Organization for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and other European and international organisations and institutions, as well as with national authorities in the countries where it undertakes E.U. and other projects.

EKBBM has a 20-Year experience in leading, major transnational and cross-border project gaining significant benefits from the synergy between environmental and cultural bodies.

The overall Mo.Na “Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” aim is to recognize-analyze and evaluate the protection and promotion of natural resources and cultural heritage across the Balkan-Mediterranean territory, choosing as a main subject the integrated planning and the common management strategies in environments of high interest and preservations value (NATURA 2000, Ramsar Areas etc) in interdependence with regions with a high cultural importance (UNESCO protected areas).



Mo.Na 2nd Steering Committee Meeting in Butrint and Tirana, Albania

The 2nd Steering Committee meeting was organised in two parts, along with the 1st Mo.Na International Workshop. The first part of the meeting was held on November 5th 2019, in Butrint World Heritage Site, in the premises of the Butrint Museum, located in the Acropolis hill, while the second one held in Tirana International Hotel with the participation of representatives from all project partner institutions from Albania, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria and relevant stakeholder institutions and experts. The Meeting was preceded by a site visit in Butrint World Heritage property showing main features and selected case study archaeological remains.



Mo.Na INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

The changing interaction in the balance between the human factor, cultural heritage and environment in accordance to the climate change



The first Mo.Na “Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” Workshop were organised in Butrint and Tirana Albania, in November 6-7, 2019 by the National Institute of Cultural Heritage (Institut Kombëtar i Trashëgimisë Kulturore – IKTK) in cooperation with the EKMM. The topic of Workshop A was “The changing interaction in the balance between the human factor, cultural heritage and environment to the climate change-the case of Butrint, Albania”.

The main purpose of the international Workshop was to contribute to the better understanding of properties where natural, cultural values and human factor interact with each other as well as on management issues affecting them in the light of climate change. The need to improve exchange and cooperation between all relevant stakeholders, including particularly heritage professionals other disciplines and community was very clear.

The Workshop was a stimulating mix of contributions from a wide range of disciplines and experts, including national and regional governmental and scientific institutions in Albania, academics and heritage professionals from Albania and international institutions that are partners within the framework of Mo.Na project who presented national case studies from Albania, Greece, Cyprus and Bulgaria. These provided deep insights into the general context of understanding and managing the cultural and natural heritage, their interaction in the light of climate change and taking into account the human factor. Presentations also highlighted the need for case-specific solutions.

The presentations covered disciplines in the conservation of mosaics, archaeology, cultural heritage, environment, biodiversity, hydrogeology etc., and topics in 5 selected sessions: a) Conservation of cultural heritage and archaeology in Butrint, b) Monuments in nature – Nature-Culture linkages, c) Climate change and Cultural Heritage, d) Human Factor in cultural and natural heritage and e) Challenges for maintenance of archaeological remains.



The National Institute of Cultural Heritage (Institut Kombëtar i Trashëgimisë Kulturore – IKTK) is an Albanian public cultural institution under the direction of the Ministry of Culture, engaging in research and specialised operations in the field of tangible cultural heritage.

The main purpose of IKTK is to assist the Ministry of Culture in developing state policy for the preservation of tangible cultural heritage as well as it maintains the National Register of Cultural Property. IKTK is responsible among others, for the record and supervision of the built heritage, the preparation of relevant assessments and proposals for the assessment and documentation of the cultural-historical value and social significance of the cultural property, according to specific criteria, such as: originality and level of preservation, age and technique, scientific and artistic values, relationship with the environment, social significance.

IKTK develops and implements national and European projects for the rehabilitation and restoration of heritage sites.

<http://imk.gov.al/site/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Imk.gov.al/>

NEXT EVENTS AND MEETINGS

3 rd SC Meeting via Skype	27 February 2020
4 th SC Meeting in Nessebar, Bulgaria	11-13 May 2020 Nessebar, Bulgaria Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic
2 nd Workshop “The sustainable use and creative co-existence between natural and cultural heritage: the experience of Nessebar”	11-13 May 2020 Nessebar, Bulgaria Postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic

Mo.Na “Monuments in Nature: A Creative Co Existence” 1st Newsletter

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Mo.Na
Monuments in Nature:
Creative Co-existence

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Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Department of Forests, CYPRUS



National Institute of Cultural Heritage, ALBANIA

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