

Output factsheet: Peer Reviews

Project index number and acronym	CE81, ECRR
Lead partner	Association for Rural Development Thuringia
Output number and title	O.T.2.1 Capacity building for the sustainable management of Reformation-themed cultural heritage
Responsible partner (PP name and number)	Upper Austrian Tourism Board (PP 12)
Project website	http://www.interreg-central.eu/ECRR
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Summary description of the implemented measure(s), explaining the specific goal(s) and target groups

One part of the capacity-building actions within the project “European Cultural Route of Reformation (ECRR)” is a peer reviewing process to mentor and help the members of the consortium that are responsible for developing pilot regions to apply valuable experiences and lessons learnt from other partners to their own similar projects and activities.

The mentoring process within ECRR shall establish the spirit of collaboration amongst the partnership. Gaining success in carrying out regional projects and measures will be supported by collegial advisory amongst the partners. Learning from experiences of others who faced similar challenges on their way as well as being introduced to good practices are help- and meaningful approaches on the way of establishing a cultural route. Especially the less experienced partners shall take benefit from this kind of mutual mentoring.

Furthermore the peer reviewing shall help to discover similar interests, frameworks and challenging amongst the pilot regions and to build meaningful and long-lasting relationships between the partners as a good basis for future collaboration, especially within the Routes of reformation. But the peer review meetings also should take the chance to build and raise awareness amongst the participation local/regional stakeholders for the international significance of their efforts and initiatives.

Therefore the target groups for the peer reviewing in addition to members and employees of the partner organisations are key actors actively involved in the respective ECRR regions like public administration (local and regional), regional management, church and church-related organizations as well as tourism boards or cultural NGOs.

Detailed information about the mentoring process including also the informal approaches are provided in D.T2.5.1Mentoring Storified Report.

NUTS region(s) where peer reviews have been conducted (relevant NUTS level)

Peer reviews took place in following regions:

Slovenia: NUTS 2 - SI01 East Slovenia, NUTS 3 - SI014 Savinjska

Italy: NUTS 2 - ITC 1 Piedmont Region, NUTS 3 - ITC 11 Metropolitan Area of Turin

Czech Republic: NUTS 2 - CZ 03 Jihozápad (Southwest); NUTS 3 CZ 03 Plzeňský kraj

Germany: NUTS 2 - DEG0 Thüringen; NUTS 3 - DEG0C Gotha

Poland: NUTS 2 - PL51 Dolnośląskie; NUTS 3 - PL518 Wrocławski

Expected impact and benefits of the peer reviews for the concerned territories and target groups

The peer reviews shall enhance the performance of the participating partners and regions by exchanging experiences about challenges faced and success made. Relationships between partners shall be deepened and developed especially in the perspective of further collaboration. Participating partners and stakeholders will be strengthened in their efforts for creating and realising contributions of high quality to ECRR project and/or the subsequent Routes of Reformation. Both reviewed and reviewing partners shall gain positive emotions and confidence by the peer reviewing/mentoring process.

Sustainability of the peer reviews and developed material(s) and their transferability to other territories and stakeholders

Ten different partners of the ECRR consortium took part in the peer reviewing process. Due to the successfully European Cultural Route-certified Routes of Reformation (which provided an almost “perfect” future perspective) relationships between partners have been strengthened and concrete measures for future collaboration have been defined and agreed on. Teamwork for a longer-termed co-operation has been enhanced by the mentoring process.

Developed materials like included in “D.T2.5.3 Peer Review Methodology” can be easily transferred to any other region and even to other projects where peer reviewing as a tool has been taken into account.

Lessons learned from the development and implementation of peer reviewing and added value of transnational cooperation

Generally the peer review method is valuable because it fosters exchange, knowledge and common understanding. One partner recommended that this should be renewed and be continued in the frame of Routes of Reformation later on.

It has been a very useful approach for all participating partners to spend time off the offices and to discuss and experience things in the countryside/the places where the challenges really do exist, because in meeting reports or picture shows one usually tries to outline reality a little bit more shiny than it occurs to oneself.

The methods and timetable of a peer review should be designed in a way that the context and the expectations can be addressed as exact as possible. One design for all peer reviews will not allow this flexibility.

Although the method has been approved to be useful the question remains if it is a practicable solution when regions are not close to each other and travel costs and time frames must be taken into consideration. This was one of the reasons that not all partners took an active part in the peer reviewing process. Before the peer reviews started the value added of this measure and the input-output effect have been doubted sometimes - an opinion that has been turned during and after the peer reviewing.

References to relevant deliverables and web-links If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex

Deliverables:

- D.T2.5.1 - Mentoring Storified Report
- D.T2.5.2 - Cultural Heritage Management Guidelines
- D.T2.5.3 - Peer review Methodology
- D.T2.5.4 - Peer Review Reports

Web-link:

- <http://www.interreg-central.eu/ECRR>
- <https://reformationroutes.eu/>

Annex 1: Impression of peer reviewing



