Eco-smaRT: Education for Sustainable Development of Regional Tourism
Krzeszowice (Poland) and Tralee (Ireland) meetings

Eco-smaRT project activities are related to raising the profile of environmental problems among the tourism industry, awareness of non-governmental organizations, local communities and local governments and encouraging a sustainable tourism service for a sustainable long-term future for the well-being of local communities. Development of training materials for use in adult education will be prepared together with ecological path projects in participant’s local region, they will be presented to local governments as proposals for implementation in the future.

Krzeszowice 9th to 13th May 2018 Project training event
Work started with an ice-breaking activity: participants were divided into groups in order to get to know each other better. Learners from each of the participating countries produced a SWOT analysis and a discussion took place after every presentation. FIRRIP, the Polish coordinator, conducted a workshop on the Education for sustainable development which was one of the main activities of the first day of the training week. The second day activities started with the Turkish partners presenting their SWOT analysis. After our coffee break all of the participants walked to the nearby Centre of Culture and Sport to join the Senior Club in Krzeszowice and attended a workshop on “Introduction to Eco-tourism”. A display of traditional dances and music was used as an example of an eco-tourism product and also as a way to sustain “tradition” in the area. In the afternoon participants went on a walk to an educational eco-path which was in the National Reserve of Raclawka valley. The third day was dedicated to Eco-tourism workshops presented by ITT. Two representatives of the Polish National Agency also joined the project participants for a monitoring visit and also to give participants a chance to ask questions. A visit to a local monastery in Czerna took place in the evening. On Saturday the learners were shown a movie about Mardin and a session was devoted to educating the participants about the region of Krzeszowice.
Participants were taken to an educational eco-path designed and maintained by the Association Ostaniec which started with a visit to the Cave of Bats. On Sunday the 13th, the last day of the training event, staff members met together with the groups of learners and worked on creating eco-path ideas based on the eco-path examples from every country presented during the previous days. Workshops in relation to Eco-paths will take place in Italy in October 2018 and each organization will discuss this further.

Tralee: 3rd to 4th September 2018 - Project meeting
The meeting started with an introduction by FIRRIP and a welcome by ITT staff members. The Turkish partner could not participate in the meeting due to administrative issues however they joined the meeting via Skype. During the first day of the meeting issues in relation to quality assurance were discussed. The summary of the quality assurance are as follows: QA questionnaire’s outcomes from the first meeting in Mardin and questionnaires outcomes from the training event were summarised and the 6 months evaluation results were presented by ITT. The types of dissemination activities (website, Twitter, Facebook, distribution of the project’s flyer; etc) carried out so far by partners were presented by the Turkish partner. The rest of the first day was dedicated to presenting and discussing the amendments to the training materials presented during the training event in Krzeszowice. All partners shared information about the progress on eco-paths. In the late afternoon all participants went on an excursion to Ballybunion Co. Kerry to visit a very interesting and amazing ecological farm belonging to Rena and Lisa Fingleton. The morning session of the second day was devoted to the discussion on the requirements of the interim report. The training event in Italy was also discussed and along with the agenda and actions to be taken by the final project meeting in May 2019 in Poland. After the publication of the first newsletter, partners continued to develop the project. The Facebook group is now an open group and every fifteen days each partner is responsible for uploading content to keep the Facebook page active.

If you would like to take part in the training event and get involved in the project, please contact:
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www.eco-smart.firrip.com.pl
Facebook page:https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405553339567309/

Kind regards,
Project Team

“This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] and all its contents reflect the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.”