



# ECOMANAGEMENT

Yesterday's knowledge, tomorrow's know-how

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## EDITORIAL

Eco-management, yesterday's knowledge, tomorrow's know-how, is a project in the Erasmus + adult education strategic partnerships programme. The project is taking place between autumn 2017 and September 2019.

Six partners have come together within the project to develop a methodology to establish a formalised and lasting dialogue between the public authorities and local stakeholders, around the theme of the transmission of traditional know-how for sustainable development. Through this project, the group seeks to enhance the value of the local heritage as well as to create a European level network.

This is the third newsletter prepared as part of the Eco-management project and distributed to the general public. One more will follow, to keep the public informed about the progress of the project and its highlights.



*Louise Smyth takes part in the traditional cheesemaking process at Rainton Farm near Gatehouse of Fleet in Scotland.*

Eva and Alvaro try a traditional loom during the training seminar in Zagori in northern Greece.



## PROJECT PROGRESS

The project is now entering its second year. The first year saw the launch of all the elements of the project as initially set out in the application form.

Thus, between October 2017 and September 2018 the partners:

- Organised two transnational meetings: on 28 and 29 November 2017 in Madrid, Spain, and on 5 and 6 June 2018 in Gatehouse of Fleet, Scotland
- Organised a training seminar in Greece from the 24 to 28 September
- Organised eight SKYPE meetings to continue technical work between transnational meetings
- Created a Google Drive site to facilitate the transfer and storage of documents before uploading them to the project web site
- Worked on the communication tools dedicated to the Eco-management project, namely:
- Project web site translated into all languages of the partnership: [www.ecomanagement.eu](http://www.ecomanagement.eu). The web site includes information about the project: its origins, partners, activities, target audiences and results. As soon as the outputs finished they are up loaded to the web site with free access.
- A brochure presenting the project translated into all languages of the partnership
- Common European Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ecomanagement](https://www.facebook.com/ecomanagement). The page now contains a range of images and reports on the project activities.

During the first phase of the project, work was completed on good practice on the transfer of traditional know-how. A report was prepared on modelling intergenerational training and actions as well as a report on ethnographic studies.

## ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDIES

Over the summer the project has entered the more practical phase of the project with young people interviewing older people with valuable rural skills. The aim has been not only to motivate young people by bringing them into contact with holders of skills but to introduce them to rural skills which could provide them with employment opportunities. Moreover, the young people have gained confidence by mastering interview techniques and producing photographic and video records. Common themes for interviews have been traditional masonry and dry stone building methods and know-how linked to agriculture such as grafting, beekeeping, use of medicinal plants and cheese making. Traditional cooking is also a skill demonstrated by a number of partners. In a number of cases the young people have not only interviewed the knowledge holder but have taken part in the activity or have watched the skilled person at work.



Learning the traditional technique of stucco marble.

A traditional cooking demonstration in Vachères with 88 year-old Claudette.







**Example 1** Fascinated by bees from the age of three, Sixty eight year old Ján Martišík, has been a beekeeper for over forty years. He has been transferring his knowledge and know-how to young people for many years. He provides advice, makes visits to check on the health of bees and sells his honey to local people. This honey finds its way around the world as gifts to friends and family who live abroad.



**Example 2** Ninety five year old James Fiinlay has farmed traditionally at Rainton all his life. His farm was one of the last in Scotland to produce farm house cheese. In recent years there has been a growing demand for artisanal cheeses and the Finlay family are again making a range of farm house cheeses at Rainton with a strong emphasis on ethical farming practices.



In Zagori a group of young people are helping restore a section of wall at Ano Pedina brought down by the gales of 27 September.





## TRAINING SEMINAR IN GREECE

The partners took part in a week long training seminar in the village of Ano Pedina, in the district of Zagori organised by our Greek partner. The purpose of the seminar was to equip the project partners with the skills to implement practical training in their own areas over the coming months.

Significant aspects of the course included a lecture on reading the local landscape. This was followed up by a visit to village of Dilato where the partners were able to put the training into practice. On a visit to Elafatopos we met a farmer, who breeds sheep and uses their wool to make beautiful local products. We were shown all the stages of production from the fleece to woven and felted items and were able to try our hand at the loom. In the spectacular Vikos gorge we saw the many stone bridges and visited a restored watermill and stone path. On the third day of the course we were joined by architectural students from the University of Ioannina and together we visited the bridge at Plaka and learned about the major engineering and financial project to restore the bridge which had been destroyed by flooding.

During a visit to the office of the North Pind National Park we learned more about the economy of the area as well as the flora and fauna. We also heard about the educational activities of the park staff. This meeting was followed by a visit to a museum in the former home of a well-known local botanist. A further museum visit provided an opportunity to study traditional local costumes and artefacts. During the course of the seminar our host Eleni Pangratiou showed us how to prepare a number of local recipes, which we enjoyed the same evening. On the final day of the seminar the partners gathered in Ioannina where there was a well-attended press conference and each partner took part in a filmed interview. Finally, the Greek partner introduced the next stage in the project, the implementation of training actions, which will be put in place over the winter.

