

COASTAL & MARINE



**Natural and cultural heritage
of European
coastal communities**

Editorial

Dear Reader,

The World Heritage Committee is globally responsible for delivering the World Heritage Convention. The regional and thematic initiatives are crucially important to encourage and ensure the implementation of decisions and recommendations made. Sharing challenges and positive results from sites is beneficial for all World Heritage properties, especially for sites in the region in question or sites that share the same features.

This issue brings together Coastal Heritage from around Europe through two special projects: DUNC and CHERISH, whose initiatives and works we are passionately informed about throughout the following pages. One of these initiatives was the Baltic Sea World Heritage Summit. This important forum opened up discussions amongst relevant delegates on common challenges, best practices and possible long-term cooperation in the region.

Europe has different regional policies and programmes on cultural and natural heritage. How do these impact and reflect the coastal heritage or more specifically fishing communities, the traditional tools and practices as well as sustainability? Here we look for answers to these questions.

This issue encourages us to visit heritage properties along the Baltic coast and teaches us about the intangible cultural heritage of coastal people, a perfect balance between creativity and knowledge.

I wish you an interesting and informative read!



Burcu Özdemir
UNESCO Consultant

Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC)

The Coastal & Marine Union is dedicated to conserving and maintaining healthy seas and attractive coasts for both people and nature.

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Introduction

The maintenance and preservation of natural and cultural heritage is an important challenge for European coastal communities. In an ever-changing world characterised by accelerating globalisation, the value of cultural heritage for the identity of a region has recently been rediscovered. Appreciation for tangible and intangible cultural assets as well as natural heritage can be a catalyst for a sense of place, highlighting the history, uniqueness and traits of coastal areas. Hence, the protection of cultural assets is very important for local inhabitants, and makes a region more interesting for foreign visitors.

Capitalising on handicrafts, traditional shipbuilding techniques, characteristic architecture, natural assets, landscapes shaped by traditional agriculture or culinary heritage can attract tourists and businesses to the region. Thereby it is important to create holistic concepts for sustainable regional development where heritage can successfully be tapped as development lever. An important step towards achieving this goal can be a bottom-up approach, bringing stakeholders from different interest groups together to gain input from communities for a well-adapted local development strategy as well as to strengthen regional cooperation. The establishment of

efficient local value-added chains and cross-sectoral networks can generate synergies and new economic opportunities.

Even though every coastal area in Europe has its own history, a lot of the current challenges are quite similar. Experiences and good practices from foreign communities serve as a starting point for development strategies in other regions. Thus, interregional cooperation and knowledge exchange are highly beneficial. Two Interreg projects DUNC and CHERISH are fostering this interregional exchange and collaboration with regard to our coastal heritage, making it worthwhile to discover our cultural roots, to learn from old traditions and to raise the interest of younger generations so that they continue to support our heritage. Both projects are dealing with this in their own way with the aim to cherish our natural and cultural heritage and to create long-lasting concepts for its preservation and development. Following two articles about the background of the projects, the authors introduce fascinating examples of heritage in the various partner regions from Finland to Portugal.

*Theresa Horn & Cristina Nazzari
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CHERISH – Creating opportunities for regional growth through promoting Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe

CHERISH – Creating opportunities for regional growth through promoting Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe
The main objective of the Interreg Europe project CHERISH is to improve regional development policies to protect and promote cultural heritage in fishing communities in order to boost the attractiveness of these regions for businesses, citizens and tourists. Through interregional learning, the project aims to find common and sustainable solutions for the main challenges faced by coastal fishing communities around Europe such as climate change, increasing tourism pressure and the transformation of the European fishing industry.
More information: www.interregeurope.eu/cherish

DUNC – Development of UNESCO Natural and Cultural Assets

The project DUNC, funded by the Interreg South Baltic Programme, aims to unlock the potential of the South Baltic Sea region's assets by developing an effective, sustainable tourism strategy for its natural and cultural UNESCO sites. The project facilitates networking of tourism stakeholders, creating quality activities that help to prolong the tourist season, promote economic growth and bring about a real connection between tourism and the value of the Baltic Sea's heritage. The partners develop solutions that allow more guests to be welcomed, without compromising the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the region.
More information: www.dunc-heritage.eu



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A Place for World Heritage Cooperation

Traditionally, coastal communities around common waters have always had an impact on each other, sometimes even more so than that of any country's inland areas.

As in any other part of Europe, people living on the shores of the Baltic Sea have a long history of both cooperation and animosity. Colonial expansion and trades have shaped the life of coastal people, creating cities that became important commercial harbours, lively hometowns and beloved tourism destinations. At the same time, the coastline has been shaped by natural forces of winds, tides and waves forming natural spits, cliffs and other amazing landscapes.



© Karlskrona Municipality

Teamwork at the first World Heritage Summit

To give official recognition to the ceaseless human and natural processes that have changed the coasts over centuries and to protect the remarkable traces that we have nowadays, more than 20 natural and cultural sites along the Baltic coast have been inscribed in the UNESCO List because of their outstanding universal value.

All the coastal World Heritage Sites around the Baltic Sea are different and unique; however, they still face many similar challenges such as conservation and the management of tourist flows. On a positive note, these sites also have the potential to be role models for sustainable tourism that are globally recognised for their contribution to regional development and the empowerment of local communities.

Thus, the city of Karlskrona (Sweden) has recently come up with the unprecedented initiative to use World Heritage Sites as a lever to tie the region together and provide support for a more sustainable future.

Ideas, hopes and plans on how to bridge the Baltic Sea starting with its heritage, have been the focus of the first Baltic Sea World Heritage Summit, where representatives of coastal UNESCO sites

from six different countries came together with other stakeholders to discuss common challenges, exchange best practices and lay the foundation for long-term cooperation.

At the summit, Karlskrona also presented its long-term vision to create a Baltic Sea World Heritage Centre, which would support the development of the sites and ensure a permanent base of cooperation. It would provide vital support alongside current national and international networks and associations by employing experts in the fields of sustainability strategies, business development, project management and finance.

During the first summit, Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, former Prime Minister of Sweden, stressed the importance of cooperation across borders and underlined that the Baltic Sea region stands as a global example of how working side by side and meeting each other in trade and business can help nations face contemporary challenges.

At the next summit, we are looking forward to providing tangible support and benefits to the World Heritage Sites around the Baltic Sea. 'Sustainable Development' is not just a buzz phrase for us, it is a creed to live by.

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© Emil Selse

The DUNC Team supporting cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region



© Jorge Meira

How to protect and promote cultural heritage of fishing communities: the need for policy change in European regions

Fishing communities in Europe share the same challenges with regard to climate change, declining fish stocks, tourism pressure and the transformation of the European fishing industry. Cultural heritage has a valuable role for sustainable development, and so efforts are being increased to better position and profile these fishing communities. Through the development and implementation of new strategies utilising cultural assets of fishing communities, new jobs and new products or services are being created. However, at the moment, there are policies and regulations in place which do not allow much room for such developments and in some instances even hold them back.

Policy change on a regional level

Regional policies and programmes identified in different parts of Europe have been aiming at developing and improving different industries, but often they do not mention the possibilities of combining fishing with tourism and heritage. For example, Operational Programme South in the Netherlands focuses on innovative SMEs and strengthening cooperation between different sectors. Even though fishing and tourism are important sectors for the southern province of Zeeland, in the Netherlands, and cultural heritage of fishing communities is an asset which can be applied in a variety of ways, this is not mentioned. The Regional Operational Programme of Eastern Macedonia - Thrace 2014 – 2020 also focuses on regional production with the aim to reorganise and improve it. But again, despite the importance of the fishing industry throughout the history of this Greek region, fishing communities are not specifically mentioned. Regional Operational Programme Norte 2020 from

the north of Portugal includes cultural and natural heritage in the context of regional tourism, but until now fails to relate this to the fishing communities in the region. Therefore, the Programme has announced a call-out specifically to the fishing communities in the regions of northern Portugal. Policy and regulation can help fishermen to diversify their work in order to create more revenue; however, the opposite is also the case, making it more difficult for fishermen to engage in other activities.



© Karlis Ustups

Fishermen hauling in the nets at sunrise in Latvia

The importance of FLAGs as key stakeholders

Generally speaking, fishermen and the communities they live in are not well represented in policy making. At the same time, economic interests of large-scale fishing and tourism might be favoured over preserving cultural heritage. Regions where Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) are involved as key stakeholders seem to be more capable of dealing with conflicting interests than regions where such representative groups are lacking. FLAGs tend to have close relationships with local fishermen and the population of the fishing villages. These relationships have been built over the years – creating trust and a profound understanding of the daily struggles fishermen encounter. This trust creates an open forum in which possible solutions for the future of fishing communities can be discussed and then taken into account in policy making.



© Marco Zak

Fisherman hauling in the nets at sunrise in Italy

Roos Galjaard
Bureau PAU
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© Birger Lallo

The Naval Port of Karlskrona and its history

Karlskrona was listed as one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1998, as an example of an ideal European town and naval dockyard. The city was founded in the year 1680 on an almost uninhabited archipelago in the eastern part of Blekinge County (Sweden). At the time of its establishment, Sweden was at its peak when it came to warfare and border expansions in northern Europe and the planned city was to be a manifestation of Sweden's great ambitions.



© Visit Karlskrona

Kungsholms Fort off Karlskrona's coast

Karlskrona was set to be more than just a manufacturing or small trading centre, the aim was to establish a main naval harbour and a shipyard with the main fortification being towards the southern Baltic Sea. Civil districts, docks and industries were brought together in a city plan shaped with elements from the Roman Baroque era, incorporating a monumental square and blocks laid



© Visit Karlskrona

Inside the walls of the fortress

out in a grid pattern with radiating streets. An extensive fortification chain was also initially planned to enclose the entire city; however, the fortification plans were only partially completed, with only the square and two baroque churches built in the early 1700s. The architect was Nicodemus Tessin the Younger who also introduced Roman and French baroque into the country.

The era of the Swedish Empire ended abruptly in the year 1718 and so many of the planned building projects never materialised. Resources have instead been concentrated around buildings and complexes connected to the shipyard, which successively industrialised during the 18th century. Here, an outstanding form of conventional architecture, with drydocks, storehouses and workshops developed which united rationality with monumentality. The most ambitious project was a great sea arsenal, which originally included 30 drydocks in a radial plan. The construction was never fully completed, but five of the docks and a mast crane are still in use today.

During the late 18th century, an extensive programme started with aspiration to build a completely new navy, using new technologies and methods for ship building as well as constructing new types of ships. A devastating fire struck the city of Karlskrona in the year 1790, and large parts of the old blocks, made up of mostly wooden houses, were destroyed. The city was rebuilt within a decade, this time with residential buildings adjusted to the baroque grid-shaped street plan. The city saw some major changes also during the 19th century. Firstly, a large-scale building project launched with the construction of a new naval castle on the island of Kungsholmen, as well as a fortification tower on the archipelago. Secondly, there was a breakthrough regarding the architectural design of caserns in Karlskrona. Barrack establishments were built which would affect the characteristics of the city until modern day.

A visit to the naval city of Karlskrona offers a wide range of classical architecture demonstrating the changes during the 18th and 19th centuries. The architecture is not lavish, palatial style, but more casual and downright classicistic, which is to be admired and is inspirational for us even in our time.

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© Marco Bellelli

Trabocchi, between history and mystery

The *trabocco*, a strange fishing machine suspended between heaven and earth. A long, narrow walkway clinging to the rocks with poles fixed underwater. A platform with a small wooden structure for the storage of tools. A winch to lower into the sea and able to withdraw a large square net, supported by long antennae stretched out towards infinity. An indistinguishable interweaving of light and resistant logs, railroad tracks, ropes, wedges, bolts; fragile and indestructible, clumsy yet elegant. Spontaneous architectures and design objects. Bold engineering works and naive constructions of children. Thus, the *trabocchi* appear along the Adriatic coast between Ortona and Vasto in Abruzzo (Italy).

The *traboccante*, the original worker, half fisherman half farmer, achieved his daring construction on the shallow rocks, to be able to throw the nets a few hundred meters from the coastline, in summer and winter, in calm and rough seas. The catch was sold along with the harvest of the land, a subsistence economy that until the 1960s supported dozens of families. A world apart, far from fishermen who proudly ventured out to sea with their own boats; away from the farmers who produced for local markets. Yet, the mysterious *traboccant* remain an important element of coastal Abruzzo, their *trabocchi* emanating a charm that knows how to amaze.

So, why do the *trabocchi* have such mysterious origins? As is often the case with things considered unimportant, historical sources are scarce of detail. The research remains a prerogative of very few scholars and of some curious locals. Myths, history, legends and documents often overlap, sometimes getting muddled. Some people talk about Phoenician origins whilst others argue that those

long walkways, on the rugged coast of southern Abruzzo, served to facilitate the boarding of goods onto ships. Most recall documents from the 1700s that discuss inventive Jewish families, who came to Italy as a result of religious persecution, who were trained in the construction of wooden bridges. In Abruzzo, they use their new skills to this end: to be able to fish while remaining firmly anchored to the ground.



© Daniela Costa

Ladder to reach the fishing boats at trabocco turchino – Access only for the braves!

Since the 1960s, *trabocchi* have been experiencing a time of abandonment. Many do not resist the weather with some in a serious state of degradation. From the 1980s a sort of rediscovery began with some courageous restorations. Today most of the *trabocchi* have become original restaurants, where one can enjoy the fish of the Adriatic in enchanted scenery. While some have changed their original shapes, others have maintained their unique simplicity. In any case, the *trabocchi* have become an identifiable facet of Abruzzo, the emblem of its south coast. The local community now has the task of combining innovation and tradition, new functions and the preservation of this extraordinary cultural heritage.

Valerio Roberto Cavallucci
Director of the FLAG Costa dei Trabocchi, Abruzzo
Italy



© Marco Bellelli

Sunrise fishing nearby the trabocco Sasso della Cajana



© TZ Wismar, Anibal Trejo

Just a stone's throw away – the Hanseatic city of Wismar

Salty sea air, impressive buildings and a panoramic view of the Baltic Sea are the first impressions you get when you visit the Hanseatic city of Wismar in northern Germany. Founded in 1229, Wismar once belonged to the leading members of the medieval trade association Hanse. Together with Lübeck and Rostock, Wismar completed a contract in 1259 to secure the trade routes and as a consequence this is how membership of the Hanseatic League began. With the wealth acquired through this membership, Wismar had in the past been able to build up a beautiful city characterised by brick as the main building material.

Within about 70 years, the city was able to start constructing three mighty churches which are finest examples of Gothic Brick architecture (see infobox on page 9). The medieval building material can also be found in residential buildings of the city as well as being used to build fire walls, after city fires, so that flames could not spread across to adjacent buildings. These firewalls can still be seen in many homes today.

In 1632 there was a bitter blow to Wismar when the Hanseatic city was taken over by Swedish troops. It was only in 1903 that the kingdom of Sweden renounced the possession of Wismar and the city was definitively incorporated into the Duchy of Mecklenburg. The Swedish ruled over Wismar and today's friendship between Wismar and Sweden is clearly reflected in the annual Swedish Festival. Together with the Hanseatic city of Stralsund, Wismar was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2002. Both cities were important trading centres of the Hanseatic League during the Middle Ages. Their medieval ground plan with road network, district



© TZ Wismar, Mouadh Jabberi

Old harbour of the Hanseatic city of Wismar

and plot structure has been preserved almost unchanged to this day. The old towns of Wismar and Stralsund therefore still represent the ideal Hanseatic city during the heyday of the Hanseatic League in the 14th century. In addition, the medieval harbor basin, for example, has been preserved in Wismar and provides a picture of the actual backbone of a medieval sea trading town. The "Grube" flowing to the harbor is the last surviving artificially created medieval watercourse in a north German old town.

Another important tradition that helped the development of the city dates back to the Middle Ages. In the 13th century the fish stock of the Baltic Sea was rich in herring which annually swam into the waters of Wismar bay to spawn there. The herring became very easy to catch and a good way to preserve them was soon found so that the fish could be stored in wooden barrels to be sold to southern Germany.

However, the shoals of fish and associated revenues have become smaller and smaller, leading people to forget over the centuries that the herring had such great economic importance for the Hanseatic city. Recognition for the fish was relaunched by the *Hanseatic Chefs Club Wismarbucht* which initiated the annual two-week Herring Days Festival. The Herring Days start with a parade of herring carts, which leads from the Old Port to the marketplace. At the festivities, held in March, numerous restaurants in Wismar focus on the preparation of the fish, allowing the smell of roasted herring in one of Germany's largest northern marketplaces to take to the air.



© Christoph Meyer, paperheroes

Aerial view of the city centre with the St. Mary's Church

Anica Dommning
Assistance EU Projects Hanseatic City Wismar
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Stralsund: where modern meets heritage

Centuries ago, the Hanseatic League, a confederation of north German towns and merchant guilds, was founded to protect the mutual trading interests of its members. The league dominated trade and commercial fortunes in northern Europe for a long time and all the member cities consequently gained power, wealth and importance. The German city of Stralsund, which is now a peaceful and rather small town, was one of the cities belonging to this confederation. The rich architecture still reflects the past prosperity and makes it a pleasant city to live in and an interesting holiday destination.

The streets of the town are dominated by high gabled houses of the merchants. Right at the heart of the city, the Old Market Square, which is relatively small in size, is characterised by impressive buildings all around it. The City Hall with its beautifully decorated facade, is one of Stralsund's oldest and most beautiful buildings in the north German Brick Gothic style. The other gothic highlight visible from the main square is St. Nicholas Church, dedicated to the patron saint of seafarers and tradesmen. It is the most magnificent church in Stralsund and its interior is amongst the most complete and valuable in the whole of northern Germany.

However, the title of being the largest church is held by St Mary's Church, that once boasted another interesting record – the church's 151 m high tower had been the tallest building in the world for almost one century, until it burned down in 1647.



Old Market Square and City Hall

The tower has since been rebuilt and even if it is only 104 m high, the view from the top, incorporating the town and the Baltic Sea, is still breathtaking.

But it's from the water perspective that one can best admire the still preserved medieval cityscape of the town and the harmony created among old and new buildings. Right at the waterfront the building of the oceanographic museum appears in its bright shining white, like the colour of sailcloth, curved, as if it would flutter in the wind. Inside, the visitors are invited to explore the underwater world and learn about the rich biodiversity of the Nordic seas.

The coexistence of old and new architectural elements, coupled with the still intact medieval silhouette, led in 2002 to the inclusion of Stralsund's old town in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This important recognition testifies the high level of preservation and how the city and its community integrate it in their everyday life and future development.

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Stralsund Tourist Office, Germany*

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Brick Gothic style

Brick Gothic is a particular form of Gothic style that developed in areas where natural stone was unavailable, as in northern Europe. Its development was closely associated with the history of cities along the Baltic Sea coast between the 13th and 16th centuries and the development of the Hanseatic League. The brick itself represents a typical feature of this architectural style. The specific character of the uniform clay bricks superimposed on each other caused a reduction in the Gothic ornamental forms. However, the use of specially made bricks eliminated this shortcoming and Brick Gothic developed its own style of forms like in arches or ledges, which showed the versatility of the material.



Fishing Tourism: connecting fishing culture with economic opportunities

The fishing sector is playing an important socioeconomic and cultural role in fishing areas. However, the sector is facing a crisis since the fish stocks are diminishing and as a result the fishermen are seeing their income reduced day by day. Especially for some small coastal communities which rely on the fishing sector for income and food and whose cultural heritage is based on a way of life that has not changed for years, it is a particularly serious problem. There is no magic solution for intercepting this crisis, however, one practice that has gained popularity around the world for its positive economic and cultural effects in fisheries areas is fishing tourism.

Fishing tourism is defined as a set of tourism-related activities carried out by professional fishermen in order to supplement their income, promote and help recover their profession and socio-cultural heritage; and enhance a sustainable use of marine resources by means of boarding non-crew individuals on fishing vessels. It is a way to offer fishermen the opportunity to diversify their revenues without increasing their fishing effort and raise awareness of the traditions that fishing represents.

Many FLAGs (Fisheries Local Action Groups) are supporting fishing tourism activities. Such an initiative has been funded by the FLAG Larnaca and Famagusta District Development Agency (Cyprus) giving people the opportunity to experience the life of a fisherman and live for a short time in a fisheries-dependent village, Zygi. A typical daily program includes a tour around the fishing harbour

and a small introduction to the history of the village and its fishing activities. Information is given on the areas of ecological importance, the local monuments and things one can visit in Zygi and the broader area. The program continues with the fishing trip where the visitors can interact with the fishermen and practice the traditional ways of fishing.



© Marko Zac

Fisherman taking care of his fishing equipment

They can discuss with the fishermen, get to know his secrets, to discover the way of living and enjoy listening to stories and myths. There are opportunities to catch fresh fish using old techniques and to taste the fresh fish cooked by the fishermen who know the traditional recipes and ingredients needed for such delicious dishes. Also, recently, taking the example of *Pesca tourism* from Italy, fishing tourism legislation has been drafted setting the technical requirements for the fishing vessels and defining fishing tourism and services related to fisheries in the attempt to support the fishermen and preserve the fishing culture.

The FLAG programme of the Greek city of Kavala, as in Cyprus, aims at creating a distinctive tourism identity, through the development of an autonomous, competitive and coherent thematic tourism product, to stimulate local entrepreneurship, diversify it into new sectors and improve the quality of life. The remodelling of the tourism product focuses on fisheries and the sea, with an emphasis on fisheries tourism integrating fishing tradition in the tourism sector.



© Filio Sarantidou

Fishing boats in the port of Kavala, Greece



© Armin Stebli

To achieve the above, the FLAG strategy features various initiatives to facilitate the networking and clustering of relevant stakeholders such as the labelling of local fish gastronomy, the collaboration with fish restaurants, the promotion of the local history of sea trade, the expansion of fish processing units aiming to attract private investments from coastal fishermen. Projects aiming at the transformation of the fishing vessels for touristic purposes fall under the same framework as those from Cyprus, and require special attention given to the adaptation process of the vessels to meet safety and hygiene requirements for issuing the relevant fishing tourism licence. The attention and enthusiasm demonstrated by the fishermen and the local communities will make sure that these innovative ideas and new offerings will grow in the future.

Dr. Eudokia Balamou

FLAG Larnaca and Famagusta Districts Development Agency, Cyprus

Io Chatzivaryti

Municipality of Kavala, Greece

The Baltic Sea – a treasure chest for maritime heritage

Northern Europe and the Baltic Sea Region is home to many traditional ships. Nowhere else is the density so high. One meeting point for the family of traditional vessels is the Hanse Sail Festival in Rostock, Germany. The maritime festival is the biggest annual meeting of traditional vessels and museum ships in the world. It attracts around one million visitors and, since 1991, up to 200 participating ships join the event every year. Besides a rich entertainment programme at the various harbours of the city, people can experience traditional seafaring.

The goal to support traditional vessels as European cultural assets led to the founding of the *Baltic Sail Association* in 1996. It was this decade, at the end of the 20th century, that the Baltic became borderless, and organisers of Baltic maritime festivals started seeking new forms of cooperation.

The *Baltic Sail Association* is a network of eight cities in the Baltic Sea Region that supports maritime heritage and promotes the Baltic as a first-class sailing resort for traditional vessels and museum ships. The *Baltic Sail* is a marketing network for large scale maritime events of the partner cities. Its aim is to promote the respective festivals beyond the countries' borders not only to potential visitors, but especially targeting ship owners. Over the years, this has culminated in the network being able to encourage numerous ships to take part in several festivals per season which has created a unique maritime spectacle.

Daniela Kayßer

*Bureau Hanse Sail, Rostock
Germany*



© Bureau Hanse Sail, Rostock

The Hanse Sail: Meeting point of traditional sailing ships

Baltic Sail Association

Currently, the association consists of eight member cities: Gdansk (Poland), Klaipeda (Lithuania), Karlskrona (Sweden), Nysted (Denmark), Rostock (Germany), Riga (Latvia), Turku (Finland) and Szczecin (Poland). Interested in joining are Saint Petersburg (Russia) and Tallinn (Estonia). By winning those two cities, the Baltic Sail would unite all Baltic countries!

More information: www.balticsail.info



Traditional shipbuilding in Europe

Throughout Europe traditional shipbuilding has been under threat for many years. The reasons for this have been known for a long time; the initial problem being a change that took place in the mid-20th century when, for the first time, traditional shipbuilding was replaced by new ways and techniques to build boats. After the introduction of these new techniques, boats were no longer unique, singular pieces but became “objects” mass produced from a mould.



© Consorci Museu Marítim de Mallorca



© Consorci Museu Marítim de Mallorca

Working in progress – Accurate craftsmanship is essential in traditional shipbuilding

The globalisation of production has been another decisive factor which has spread the design of serial vessels all over the world. The fact that mass construction creates lower production and maintenance costs has meant that local craft have been substituted. Moreover, in some regions, tourism has provoked a change in the

use and price of spaces along sea sidewalks, historically intended for the mooring of traditional boats and the cuttings of traditional shipbuilders.

The gradual loss of these magnificent old boats has also led to the disappearance of many trades related to traditional shipbuilding. Despite this, however, different projects related to the recovery of these trades are now taking place in and around Europe as well as the opportunity to undertake vocational retraining there are other projects emerging to promote new uses for these boats. Each country or region copes with the problem in a different way, guided by their own policies and in accordance with their own circumstances. Therefore, it is necessary to share best practice through international cooperation projects in order to come up with new approaches, mainly focusing on fleets, trades related to traditional shipbuilders, training in the field of new construction and recovery, and proposals for legal protection of this floating maritime heritage that must also include intangible heritage. A first step would be to establish common action plans at different levels with clear focus on smaller realities.

An example of local action plan is the recovery program for the traditional shipbuilder's trade, led by the *Sustainability and Environment Department* of the Consell de Mallorca. The aim is to connect the current situation of remaining traditional boats with active traditional shipbuilders. To identify the current situation, cataloguing works of all the 780 traditional boats in Mallorca was necessary. An in-depth study of the traditional shipbuilder's sector was carried out, and of the 30 traditional shipbuilders still active, the following information was recorded: how they work, the production system they apply, distribution and restoration criteria, etc. Finally, a valuation method has been developed to establish a list of those vessels that are suitable to be under legal protection following the *Historical Heritage Law* of Balearic Islands.

This is only a small example of work that can be carried out at local level, but this is also a well transferrable experience that can be used and expanded in other regions. At this stage, it is beneficial to encourage debates in order to generate new, cross-border ideas and jointly address common challenges.

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Unitat de Patrimoni Marítim, Consell de Mallorca
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© Cora te Beek

Cultural heritage of fishing communities in Zeeland

The province of Zeeland (The Netherlands) has a relatively long coastline which for one part faces the North Sea and, for the other, the rivers Westerschelde and Oosterschelde. The villages of Vlissingen and Arnemuiden have the biggest and most modern fleets of Zeeland.



© Hedo Knol

Fishing boat of Zeeland's fleet in the North Sea

Fishermen from both places developed their industry from small scale daily fishing near the harbours to large scale fishing operations in the North Sea.

Fishermen from Arnemuiden used to fish daily for shrimp and flatfish. In 1868, the construction of the *Sloedam* began and made the train connection to Vlissingen possible but also definitively closed off Arnemuiden from open water. Nowadays, the home port of the fishing fleet of Arnemuiden is in Vlissingen. The historic scenery and some traditions remained in Arnemuiden.

Fish-mongers have been honoured with a statue, and in the village of Arnemuiden the biggest number of women wearing traditional clothing can be found in the province. Unfortunately, traditional clothing is not as popular as it used to be, and old crafts are not being taught to new generations. Turning the heritage of the villages into a unique selling point is essential for the survival of the fishing communities as recent developments are a threat to their future. Different political circumstances and decisions such as Brexit, the construction of offshore windmill parks and the ban on pulse fishing can have a great impact on fishery. The latter leads to higher operational costs and the continuation of less environmentally friendly fishing methods. Action is needed in order to maintain the fishing communities, their histories and their cultural heritage.

The municipality of Middelburg has made tangible and intangible cultural heritage more available to the public, leading to a rise of visitors. The Arnemuiden Museum has been very successful at collecting tangible items of local historic cultural heritage, including a complete shop inventory from the early 20th century!



© Municipality of Middelburg

Traditional fisherman sweater with unique knitting patterns

Within the city many statues and monuments remind the residents and visitors of the rich history of the fishing community. Every year, the fishery days in Arnemuiden and Middelburg put the history and culture of the local fishing communities in the spotlight, attracting visitors from outside Zeeland. Also, the C.A. Meerman Historic Wharf of Arnemuiden has been fortunate in preserving traditional knowledge with regards to shipbuilding and the restoration of historic sailing vessels. Young people are learning the crafts while on the job and visitors can see them in action while they are restoring old ships.

One initiative that has triumphed in making a traditional item popular again, is the sale of fishery sweaters in modern colours. In the past, it was possible to identify the origin of the fishermen by the typical patterns of their sweaters. The production of these sweaters stopped for over 80 years, but recently the publicity and sales success of the sweaters have turned the Arnemuiden Fishery Sweater into a brand, and the initiative has inspired other fishing villages in the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom.

*Project coordinator CHERISH
Jack Dooms
Municipality of Middelburg, The Netherlands*

Interview: Jasmund National Park – a small forest with great universal value

In northern Germany, on the island of Rügen, a small fragment of forest holds two honorable titles: national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Katrin Bärwald, communication expert, presents to us the smallest national park of Germany and explains to us why a forest has such a universal value.

This natural reserve is both a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site. What is behind these two honourable titles?

The Jasmund National Park is a nature reserve in the northeast of Rügen island in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany. Established in 1990, it is the smallest national park in Germany but is famous for containing the largest chalk cliffs and the biggest beech forest in the Baltic Sea region. Since 2011, this territory has also been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and the Ancient Beech Forests transboundary site. The status of national park and UNESCO site are both important. Being a national park, the area is protected from exploitation and 90 % of our national park is declared a core zone – which means that nature protection takes precedence. On the other side, being listed in the UNESCO portfolio is further recognition of its outstanding universal value and, for us, a commitment to protect this territory for future generations.

Other than the impressive chalky cliffs, beech trees are the real protagonists of the park. Why exactly is the beech so important?

The beech survived the last ice age when it once extended to vast areas of central Europe, before slowly moving north where its

migration is now visible in Sweden and Scandinavia. The beech has a strong capacity to adapt to different climatic conditions and environments, with ideal growing conditions found in central European areas, both on mountains and at the seaside. Yet, the truth is that there are only very few intact beech forests where the initial conditions are still preserved. An intact beech forest is composed by old, young and even dead trees – only with these components is it complete and can regenerate on its own.

What is the difference between an ancient forest and a managed one? Do your visitors know the difference?

Not many visitors know what the difference is between the two. A managed forest is a cultivated forest where trees are planted and felled, at least partially. An ancient forest is a forest which has suffered from almost no disturbance from human activity and therefore exhibits unique ecological features. We should think of the ecosystem as a complex system that can function at its best only with all its parts. Which means, proper conditions for new life can only occur when there is a constant process that makes all things come to life, grow, die, and form hummus. Whenever we add or take something out from that habitat, we are spoiling it.

As you mentioned, since 2011 the park is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Can you tell us more about the selection and nomination process?

It all started in the Carpathians, where we find the last primeval beech forests in Europe. In 2007, several forests in the Ukraine and Slovakia were listed as “Primeval Beech Forest” World Heritage Site. Afterwards, we started to look where the beech forests were in Germany, taking into account the different types – coastal or in the mountains. Chief experts were given the special task to look where in Europe ancient beech forests were still to be found, to analyse their characteristics and understand their potential. It was a masterpiece of international cooperation. In 2011 the five German fragments were added to the list and in 2017 forests in other European countries were added. Now, all these forests are joined in the most unique transboundary World Heritage Site that comprises over 70 forests that stretch over 12 different countries. This is the only UNESCO site that connects so many countries and is the result of great collaboration.





In accordance with the protection purpose the park also allows visitors to experience nature and take part in education activities. How do you inform your visitors and ensure a safe and educative visit?

Since the national park is such a unique place, I wish for visitors to understand this uniqueness, I don't want them to visit only because of what the beautiful scenery offers, a perfect background for a picture. This place can offer much more to visitors who take time to discover the park and its secrets. We welcome visitors with signs and information about the national park and the UNESCO World Heritage association. The forest is changing, the cliffs are breaking down, so we work non-stop to grant all visitors a beautiful and safe experience in harmony with nature. Furthermore, the National Park

Centre Königsstuhl and the World Heritage Centre allow visitors to discover the invisible and reflect on the core values of our treasure. Our deepest wish is that people are aware of what makes the park so unique. This is our hope for the future – that people will know and therefore respect and take care of this territory.

Katrin Bärwald

*Department for Communication and Environmental Education
Western Pomerania National Park Administration, Germany*

*The interview was conducted by Cristina Nazzari and Theresa Horn
EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany*



Location of the UNESCO World Heritage “Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe”
Dark green dots: UNESCO World Heritage Beech Forest; light green areas: natural distribution of beech forests in Europe



© Margareta Strandmark

The development of (agri)cultural landscapes

In 2000, the Agricultural Landscape of Southern Öland became Sweden's 11th World Heritage Site. It is one of very few agricultural landscapes among the world's 1100 UNESCO sites and, compared to many of the world's most spectacular and monumental ones, Öland's is probably not as easy to experience. It is all about the farmer's landscape shaped by people and animals interacting with nature, the local climate, the limestone bedrock and Öland's soil over a very long time.

Man's effort for survival and a livelihood is universal. However, traces of former cultures and farming methods tend to be erased when new opportunities are developed. Mörbylångadalen on Southern Öland has transformed from meadows interspersed with small cultivated fields to a large-scale agricultural landscape, but the ancient fragmentation of the landscape has been preserved in large parts of the heritage site. Here, modern tractors roll past early Iron Age burial fields and Viking Age rune stones. Linear villages are still situated as ancient provincial law dictated, along the old routes on Eastern and Western Öland. Churches stand as monuments of medieval parish administration and church repentance in the populous villages of the 19th century.

The characteristics of the land and the soil still determine what can be grown and harvested, which are the grazing fields, and where people can live, travel and be buried.

Today's farmers on Öland use the landscape in the same way as their forefathers did many generations before. That is why the agricultural landscape on Southern Öland is still here today farmed

but to an exceptionally high degree, not depleted still mirroring the land use that was fundamentally developed during the Middle Ages. The way this landscape continues to be farmed according to a thousand-year-old fragmentation of cultivated land and grazing fields is unique in Europe. All this comes naturally for Öland's native-born farmers.



© Barbro Julstad

Traces of the past – Ancient fragmentation of the agricultural landscape by stone walls

The ridges in the landscape that form the backbone of the heritage site can be found on both the western and eastern side of Öland. These ridges are natural elevations caused by the early development stages of the Baltic Sea. Along the ridges lies also the fertile arable land that was put there by the waves from the early Baltic Sea washing over Öland as the island rose out of the water.

Centrally on Öland, between the ridges, lies the *Great Alvar*, shimmering in the summer heat. The alvar is the common outlying land with its thin layer of soil, which could only offer a meagre pasturage for sheep, cattle and horses.

Both coasts, on the other hand, are characterised by seaside pastures - the lush grazing fields that line the coast. The grazing quality of these seaside pastures formed the basis for an already incredible prosperity during the early Iron Ages. As the seaside pastures and the alvar were primarily used for grazing, traces of prehistoric livestock farming can be found here today. In this scenario full of history, cattle are still peacefully grazing and perfectly meshing with nature's cycle.

Thorsten Jansson
Sweden



© Matilda Christiansson

Meadow grazing in Ottenby, Öland



© Gintautas Beržinskis

Environmental and social sustainability at the Curonian Spit National Park

The Curonian Spit is a long and narrow sand dune peninsula situated in the Curonian Spit National Park in Lithuania and the Kurshskaya National Park of the Russian Federation. The collaboration between humans and nature brought the Curonian Spit to the list of the world's most outstanding heritage sites and this durable coherence is obvious today.



© AirPano

An aerial view of the Curonian Spit National Park

The survival of this unique landscape is a result of persistent human efforts to combat the erosion of the Spit; with the sustainable management of tourism and the community-based revival of cultural history helping keep this fragile harmony between nature and local traditions alive to this day.

Nowadays, amongst other elements, the growing number of tourists is putting this environment under a serious threat. Environmentally friendly ways of travelling and the supporting services are a main priority to ensure the sustainability of this region. The Curonian Spit with a 53 km long bicycle path is very well known as part of *Route EuroVelo 10* among the cycle tourists. Long-distance cycle paths are arranged in the wilderness to allow visitors to enjoy the cultural landscape of the Curonian Spit. In order to encourage more people to use bicycles as eco-friendly transport it is essential to cover their technical and social needs ensuring comfortable and safe visits. New multifunctional, solar-powered stations have been installed along the cycle path at each station users can take a rest, inflate their tyres or use the tools to repair their bikes, charge their electronic devices and connect to Wi-Fi.

While cycling along the route, visitors learn about the history of the Curonian Spit which is extremely rich and unique. During the

first half of the 20th century, this area was ruled for a short time by different countries such as France, Lithuania, and Germany. Even though the arrival of the first tourists dates back to the end of the 19th century, this resort area became of great importance in the interwar period. At that time a new tradition, to spend summertime surrounded by nature and the sea, was formed in Europe.



© S. Pulkauninkienė

Exploring the lagoon's coast by bike

This trend, along with technical progress, had a crucial impact on the development of the Curonian Spit settlements, when in a fairly short time fishing villages turned into luxurious resorts and Nida experienced its "golden age".

The Curonian Spit tradition has been shaped by local inhabitants and tourists who were getting mingling and living together. This interconnection is well represented by some of the stories told during the theatrical representations now offered by the tourism center in Nida. During these tours, visitors can learn about myths, legends and real facts of ancestors in Nida and about the perspectives of tourists of other times.

Playing as actors in this theatrical representation, inhabitants are encouraged to learn about their history and immerse themselves in the life of their ancestors.

*Curonian Spit National Park Administration
Lithuania*



Traditional Ecological Knowledge Conveys Deep Messages of Our Mother Ocean

Human knowledge of the oceans, rivers and lakes has ebbed and waned for as long as we have had a relationship with the waters. Human societies have formed relationships with their seas through trade, travel, fishing, hunting, access and avoidance and exploration, to name some of the drivers of why we have “set sail” through the course of history.



Traditional fishing in the first half of the 20th century

Whilst much attention at present is devoted to the questions of marine pollution such as marine litter and plastic at sea, monitoring using traditional knowledge has long been the basic ingredient of survival for coastal communities. A classic example of using this knowledge exists from the Baltic Sea from late 1960s, where the traditional seal hunters and fishermen of Kvarken, Finland, participated and shared their observations of falling seal pup

stocks to scientists. Hunters passed the carcasses of ringed seals to researchers who could detect the presence and the extent of PCB and DDT in the meat of the seals. And further to this, detected the impacts of these chemicals in the uteri of female seals, thus detecting a fall in stocks and the reason for it. The initial observations had been conveyed by the people possessing knowledge of the local conditions.

This traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is often defined as *‘the cumulative body of knowledge held by community members due to long affiliations to specific landscapes and generational transmission. The term “knowledge” refers to the myriad of intertwined components such as experiences, rituals, worldview, social and family institution, language, traditional land and natural resource use to name a few examples.’*

Living fishing knowledge is practical in nature and often includes weather reading and navigational skills, understanding of shore consistency and depth, also currents and forms of the seabed. A successful outcome rests upon the positioning of the fishing site, using triangulation and reading of multiple moving and changing factors in a live situation.

Fishing communities reflect their cultural heritage in local place names, which can be very old. In places where actual fishing practices and number of fishermen have diminished or even ceased to exist, such place names carry a lot of meaning, history and culture of a place. Also whilst the ecological carrying capacity of the ocean may have been lost, traditional boat building and associated skills can often be revitalised and put to good use in the local community. All across Europe local small-scale fisheries are facing challenges; unfair competition with industrial fishing fleets over diminishing fish stocks, low prices of fish and unpredictable weather. Traditional small-scale fisheries are fully dependent on sufficient local fish stocks, with their knowledge, methods and gear having been adapted to specific local conditions, and a great care having been paid to the sustainable harvesting of fish. Small-scale fishers are rarely able or willing to move to new waters if their home waters are being depleted of fish. This is because many of these small-scale fisheries have had customary governance systems and a locally adapted response capacity to change in the past, prior to the advent of the industrial fleets, which is building on the local ecosystem capacity and characteristics.

Examples of the use of traditional knowledge can be found all over the world in traditional hunting and fishing communities. In the European Arctic, hunter and fisherman Nuunoq from Attu, West Coast of Greenland employs local knowledge to detect urgent messages of sea ice loss, species on the move, and equity problems

in marine governance of his home seas in a new method that tracks daily catches, oral histories and cultural concepts into a coherent database called “PISUNA” (<https://eloka-arctic.org/pisuna-net/en>). Collaboration between TEK and scientific knowledge, (fishermen and scientists) can provide us with better understanding of the changes in our oceans.

But how do we work with TEK? We need to start at the beginning – accept the fact that we understand the seas, streaming multiple ways of knowing – from science to traditional ways of observing and governance. However, these TEK systems have, for the most



Ice fishing with winter gill nets in the 1960s

part, been invisible and under threat of being lost. Therefore, documentation of what TEK looks like in a local community using marine mapping of TEK with the knowledge holders, respectful documentation of oral histories and user experiences, involvement of the TEK holders in decision making, quota sharing, marine spatial planning and ecology assessments and exposing TEK systems to wider audiences are some early steps in revitalising and respecting the wisdom of the seas embedded in these people and their communities.

Traditional ecological knowledge has not always been appreciated but there is a resurgence of listening to the small-scale fishers, women and men, who know their coasts and seas. Many regions in Europe still retain small-scale fisheries but several are still struggling and new ways to survive are needed. Possibilities to develop the economy and cultural heritage are there, most importantly the continuation of sustainable fishing practices to be able to feed local communities with fresh fish but also through tourism, education and collaborative research efforts.

Europe has many seas but only one ocean – our mother ocean.

We all belong to her.

*Tero Mustonen, Kaisu Mustonen & Chris Madine
Snowchange Co-op, Finland*

FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries

As we enter deeper into a century of changing oceans it is good to be reminded of the progress made at the FAO with the “Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries of Food Security and Poverty Eradication”, released in 2015. Not all countries have ratified or implemented the guidelines, but their spirit and intent, with the focus on small-scale fisheries is exactly at the heart of these issues.

These guidelines “are intended to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries (...)” SSF Guidelines position 3.2. is central to traditional knowledge work: “Respect of cultures: recognizing and respecting existing forms of organization, traditional and local knowledge and practices of small-scale fishing communities, including indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities encouraging women leadership.”

FAO 2015, available at www.fao.org/3/a-i4356en.pdf



© CIM Alto Minho

The Portuguese *sargaço* culture

The Portuguese coast has a geodiversity shaped by the Atlantic Ocean, with large rocky expanses interspersed with tongues of sand. On the coastal rocky platforms, at the tidal-influenced interface on the middle coastal threshold, delimited by the low-water mark, there is a very diverse algae community, comprising, amongst others: the brown algae and the red algae – which are the main components of the *sargaço*.



© CIM Alto Minho

Connecting land and sea – Coastal agriculture using seaweed as fertiliser

The name *sargaço* means a cluster of plants composed of various species of algae and debris from other marine plants taken from the seawater, or collected on the beach on ‘*mareada*’ days – the days of strong sea, when the algae are ripped out from the rocks and reach the beaches. The *sargaço* culture, on the northwest coast of



© Cristina Nazzari

Traditional seaweed stacks to dry the *sargaço*

Portugal, is justified by the presence of unique algae species and the deep cultural link that was developed by the coastal communities.

Sargaceiros acquired knowledge of algae and tides, mastered the creation of specific tools and complex techniques for collecting *sargaço*, for its transportation, conservation and use, which they tested and improved over the centuries. The algae have been used for different applications – as cosmetics because of its high iodine content and also as medicine for its healing potential. Yet, the *sargaço* is mostly used as fertiliser in the agricultural sector.

The soil near the coast is sandy and poor. The use of *sargaço* to fertilise it as well as the constructions of *maseiras* (windswept hollows) to help protect it from the strong and salty wind coming from the ocean, created a unique agricultural tradition and characterised the landscape. An exceptional material and immaterial cultural heritage developed and shaped the relations of the farmer with the sea. The use of natural fertilisers (coming from the sea) and long-established cultivation techniques made a major contribution to sustainable agriculture and allowed the settlement and survival of the riverside populations until the middle of the 20th century.

Due to social and economic challenges, this old tradition was nearly lost. Nowadays, only a limited number of people are still engaged in this activity, including those belonging to the communities of Apulia and Castelo de Neiva. Luckily, people are now rediscovering traditional techniques and the added value of sustainable agriculture. The locally grown vegetables with their typically salty flavor are precious ingredients for the diverse regional gastronomy, an important sector for the identity of the local communities.

The challenge is to make consumers aware of the secrets behind these local specialties and to transfer the knowledge of the cultural heritage, whether it be tangible or intangible. There are a wide range of traditional costumes, songs and dances that all tell the stories of people living by the ocean.

Therefore, the culture and working techniques of these neighborhoods are a heritage to be protected and will ensure these communities a more sustainable future.

Álvaro Campelo
University Fernando Pessoa, Porto
Portugal



© Cristina Nazzari

Beach Wrack – a Treasure of the Baltic Sea

Beach wrack is the general name given to organic marine material that is washed ashore. It is a natural phenomenon that occurs on beaches all around the world. Along the shores of the central and western Baltic Sea, there is a long tradition of coastal people using both fresh and composted beach wrack for a wide range of purposes including building materials, mattress filling, coastal protection, animal feed and to fertilize nearby land.

Seagrass in particular, due to its unique properties, has historically been a valued resource albeit a largely unpredictable one. For coastal residents, seagrass was durable, was an effective insulator, didn't attract vermin/pests and didn't mould. These attributes made it ideal for cushioning materials and also for roofing and insulation. Fishermen working in the Wismar area of northern Germany, supplemented their daily income by selling seagrass to local residents and it was also here where a number of seagrass processing and upholstery companies emerged. Records show that the use of seagrass even extended to the filling of cushions in ships and trains. In neighbouring Denmark, up until the 1930s, factories were processing millions of tons of cast seagrass annually.

This was specifically so, in the area around Møn, where seagrass was collected manually on the beach, dried and pressed into bales for local use or export.

Unfortunately, as seagrass meadows in the Baltic Sea were decimated by a wasting disease in the 1930s and as societies moved to synthetic and/or human-made building and filling materials, the use of beach wrack declined rapidly. Local economies, particularly in more rural coastal areas, also became reliant on the tourism industry.



© Theresa Horn

Beach Wrack is composed of heterogeneous organic marine material

The promise of beautiful, white, sandy beaches meant that beach wrack became a nuisance that needed to be cleared and thrown away.

However, over recent years, climate change, with the need for low carbon solutions, has brought about a renewed interest in beach wrack as a natural resource.



© Helene Høyer Mikkelsen/Realdania By & Byg

The Modern Seaweed House on Læsø Island

The value of cast algae and seagrass, not only for construction but also as a nutrient rich organic material, is once again being recognised. Small to medium sized companies, within the Baltic Sea region, are at the forefront of research into the role of beach wrack for phosphorus and nitrogen cycling in fertilizers and long-term carbon storage possibilities when it is bound in soil.

With seagrass meadows slowly making a recovery in the Baltic Sea, some dedicated construction companies are also now demonstrating that, as an insulating material, cast seagrass can outdo the performance of contemporary materials and can meet modern day building regulations. In 2012, the Danish island of Læsø saw the development of a new seaweed house, "Det Moderne Tanghus". The revival of this tradition has now made the use of cast seagrass there a living cultural heritage; something that the community of Læsø is hoping will be recognised on the UNESCO World Heritage list in the near future.

Jane Hofmann

EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region project CONTRA
EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany



© Rita Arāja

Carnikava's lamprey – the special value of Riga Planning Region

Carnikava's lamprey has a special value in the Riga Planning Region and since 2015 has been included in the European Union's Register of Protected Geographical Indications. Recently, the catching of lamprey and processing skills have also been included in the National Intangible Heritage List.



© Nils Smelēteris

Freshly cooked lamprey soup ready to be served

The local municipality has established *Carnikava's Local History Research Centre* (the *Centre*) that takes care of the preservation of the cultural heritage of Carnikava, which has already been gathering and promoting historical evidence for the past seven years. The *Centre* is a symbol of fishing heritage: one can learn about local fishing traditions and look into the history of the fishermen's life-style, discover the secrets of the old building and fishermen through photographs and family stories, as well as get familiar with



© Nils Smelēteris

Celebrating fishing culture at the Lamprey Festival

the lamprey, including the catching and processing traditions. The lamprey is the symbol of Carnikava.

The *Centre* is also important for the present and future of Carnikava as it actively cooperates with local fishermen and "sea wolves" who are involved in promoting fishing and cultural heritage. The specially established education centre for children offers two educational programmes promoting practical skills for budding local fishermen. Several local fishermen, young and old, participate in the educational programmes organised in the *Centre*, thus ensuring transfer and preservation of knowledge and fishing skills to young people. It is important to note that fishermen have successfully adapted to work with children with special needs – mental and physical disabilities, as well as children from disadvantaged social environments. Local fishermen also participate in the preservation of the material cultural heritage, for example, by reforming fishing crews or repairing wooden boats.

Festivals and events are also important for the local community. During the Fishermen's Festival and the Lamprey Festival, fishermen demonstrate fishing and fish cooking skills to a wider audience. As a matter of fact, recipes are an important cultural component of the region. Lamprey soup is a tradition that continues to be cooked year after year. These events act like magnets that attract tourists, promote the local economy and at the same time serve as a good way to keep traditions alive.

Olga Rinkus
Head of Carnikava's Local Historical Center
Latvia

Lamprey soup (serves 12)

Ingredients:

- 3 litres water
- 1,5 kg potatoes
- 0,6 kg carrots
- 0,8 kg fresh lamprey
- Salt, black pepper, scented pepper, bay leaves

Soup preparation time 40 minutes.

Boil water, add carrots (sliced or grated, as you wish), all spices, bay leaves, salt. Cook until the carrots are tender. Add the potatoes, cook until soft. Add sliced fresh lamprey and when the lamprey pieces rise to the top of the broth, then cook for a further 3 to 5 minutes.

Labu apetīti! (Enjoy your meal)

Overview of the projects' partners along Europe's coastline



CHERISH Project

- Lead Partner: Municipality of Middelburg (NL)
- Abruzzo Region – Agricultural Department (IT)
- Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd (CY)
- EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany (DE)
- Intermunicipal Community of Alto Minho (PT)
- Mallorca Island Council-Environment Department (ES)
- Municipality of Kavala (EL)
- Riga Planning Region (LV)
- Snowchange Cooperative (FI)



www.interregeurope.eu/cherish

DUNC Project

- Lead Partner: Municipality of Karlskrona (SE)
- Curonian Spit National Park Administration (LT)
- EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany (DE)
- EUCC Baltic Office (LT)
- Municipality of Mörybylånga (SE)
- Tourist Board Stralsund (DE)
- Tourist Board Wismar (DE)



www.dunc-heritage.eu

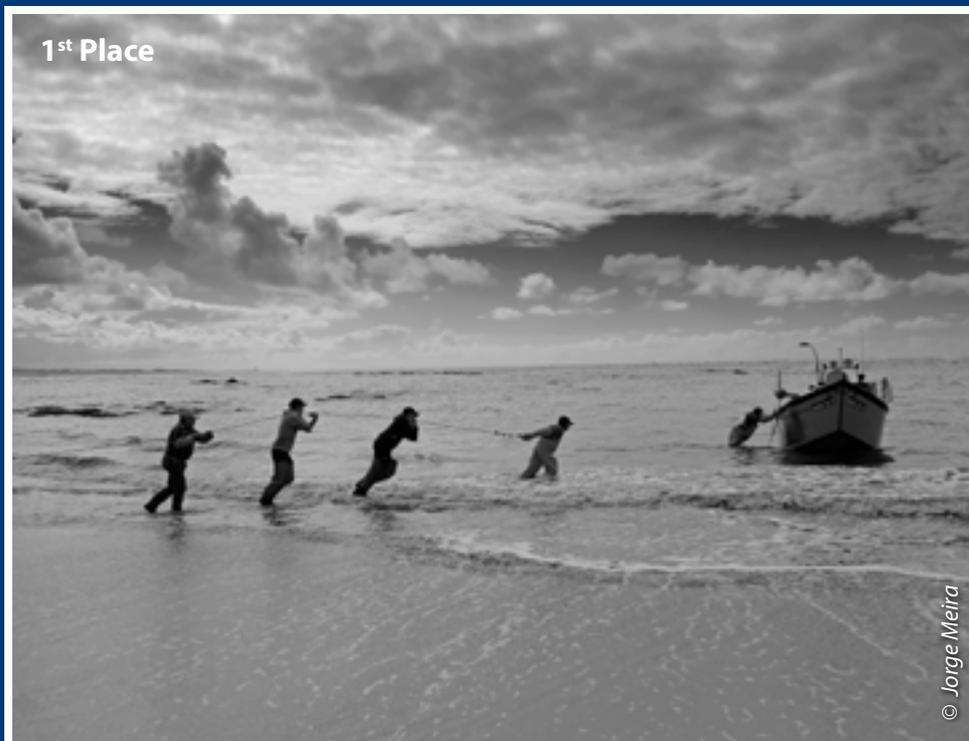


Discover the heritage of European coastal communities in pictures

A selection from 150 entries of the "Baltic Sea World Heritage" photo competition



A selection from 350 entries of the "Fishing Communities' Heritage" photo competition



www.eucc-d.de/competitions.html