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# NEWSLETTER

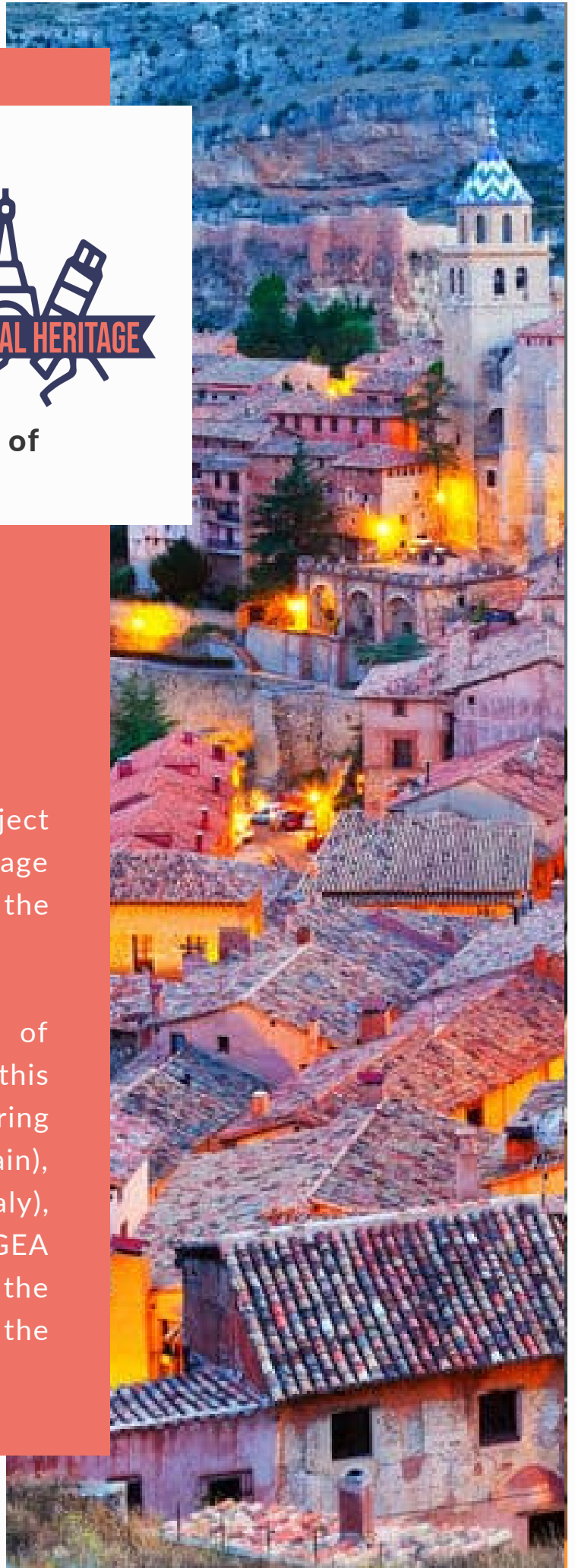


**Reviving of cultural heritage  
Social and Economic Empowerment of  
Rural Areas**

## THE SECOND MEETING OF THE RE-CULTURAL HERITAGE PROJECT IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA

The second Transnational Project Meeting of the Re-Cultural Heritage Project took place in Vienna, on the 22nd and 23rd of November.

VAEV (Vienna Association of Educational Volunteers) hosted this meeting in Vienna, gathering representatives from FSMA (Spain), Geinnova (Spain), Glocal Factory (Italy), AID (Greece), UMB (Slovakia) and IGEA (Turkey) to discuss the progress of the project, the results, outcomes, and the next steps.



## TRANSNATIONAL PROJECT MEETING - II

The two days agenda of the second Transnational Project meeting Re-Cultural Heritage Project included all important topics of the project. The partners discussed the Handbook (Project Result number one) which has been already finished, and the ongoing project results two and three: the on-line learning platform and "Assessment National Reports and Dissemination", which are progressing successfully.

The Quality Control Plan was presented, the Dissemination Plan and Sustainability and Risk Mitigation Plan were reviewed.

The next steps and subsequent events were also discussed; the third Transnational Project Meeting (Turkey, April 2023) and the LTTA Insight Seminar, which will take place in Slovakia next May 2023.

Definitely, it was a very effective and productive meeting. The goals were accomplished, the key insights and decisions were taken smoothly, and the action items to follow through were clearly defined.



The Second Transnational Project Meeting with the partner countries; Spain, Austria, Greece, Slovakia, Italy and Turkey.

## REGENERATING AND MANAGING RURAL HERITAGE HANDBOOK FOR ADMINISTRATORS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The first milestone of Re-cultural Heritage (project result one), the Handbook, has been finished and already published. The handbook: "Regenerating and Managing Rural Heritage Handbook for Administrators and Stakeholders" presents innovative strategies and measures for the regeneration of "rural areas", at the same time contents and containers of cultural values. Through a careful search for European best practices, the Handbook manages to address the following needs:

The increasing abandonment of rural areas, caused by urbanization and the lack of job opportunities, especially for younger generations.

The necessity to include minorities in the economic system by developing training paths, in order to access employment and interaction at the social level.

Promoting awareness of the importance of cultural heritage in innovative and modern terms for the creation of a sustainable local economy.

Training adults in the field of restoration of historical, cultural and environmental heritage in order to create new jobs.



## RESTORATION COURSES

### SANTA MARÍA DE ALBARRACÍN FOUNDATION, SPAIN

In the frame of specific measures aimed at revitalizing the tangible heritage, one of the Handbook Chapters and one of the pillars of this project, the Santa María de Albarracín Foundation, has some success stories to share, Restoration Courses that develop since 1997 in Albarracín, Spain, are a good example. Once the formal rehabilitation of Albarracín historic center was completed, and the necessary cultural infrastructures were created, the gradual restoration of cultural assets begins by developing an applied cycle of advanced courses for restorers, a program of restoration practices and, finally, a permanent Restoration Centre.

The professional restoration courses bring together a professional (theoretical and practical) education and local administration cooperation and support thanks to which various activities are possible. The Santa María de Albarracín Foundation annually organizes a cycle of advanced courses in the conservation and restoration of cultural assets for specialists. Restoration areas are the conservation and restoration of metals, bookbinding restoration, altarpieces restoration, restoration of the painting, graphic documents restoration, and textile and fabric restoration courses.

These courses are developed in collaboration with the Institute of Cultural Heritage of Spain and with the sponsorship of the Government of Aragon through the INAEM (Employment Institute of Aragón), which hosts these courses in its Training and Professional Insertion Plan.

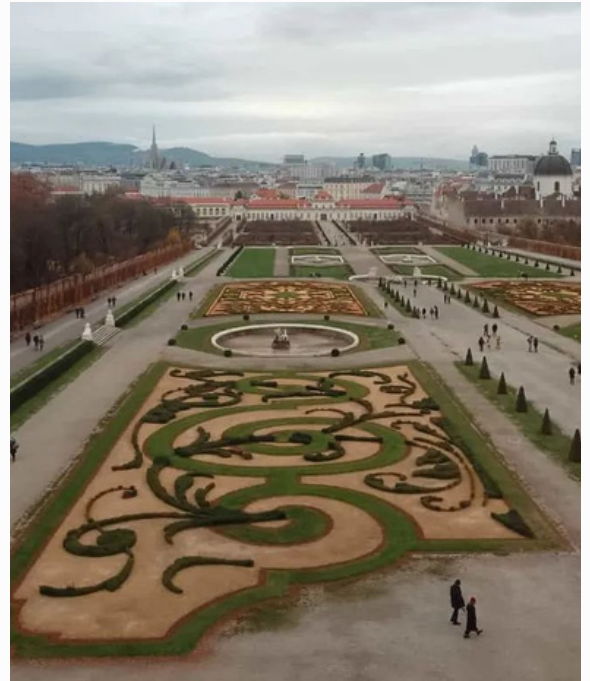


The program includes the complete conservation and restoration process of the cultural assets for the realization of the practices. These courses are distinguished by their predominantly practical nature, reinforced with classes and theoretical content. And after 26 years, these courses have achieved excellent recognition in the restoration field.

The objectives are to increase the value of cultural heritage assets, promote specialization in different areas of conservation and restoration of cultural heritage, promote the training of postgraduates and facilitate the realization of applied practices on real cultural assets.

The results of these courses are multiple. Students increase their capacity-building tools and skills by attending these specialization courses. The majority of participants are unemployed, and this education will potentially help them to find a new job, considering the excellent reputation of these courses nowadays. On the other hand, Albarracín's tangible heritage (some of the pieces restored) is preserved and exhibited at local museums. For this reason, this practice is linked to the field of sustainable initiatives and sustainable tourism.

Finally, thanks to the collaboration with public institutions these courses are possible. Without this collaboration, it would not be possible to preserve this tangible heritage, to provide this specialized education that dynamizes employment among participants, and the resulting dissemination of Albarracín Cultural Heritage through restored and exhibited pieces addressed to sustainable tourism. The outcomes of 26 years of restoration courses are more than 1,500 cultural assets restored by more than 1,500 restorers.





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