

**Enhancement of Cultural Heritage through Environmental
Planning and Management – CHERPLAN**

(SEE/0041/4.3/X)



Enhancement of Cultural Heritage
through Environmental Planning and Management

WP5 – Environmental Planning in Pilot Projects

**D5.3.6 – Pilot Project Environmental Management Plan -
Nafpaktos**

SUMMARY

«Pilot Project Environmental Management Plan - Nafpaktos»

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The present Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was elaborated in the context of the SEE/CHERPLAN project, as a deliverable of WP5, and particularly of Activity 5.3. In this framework, the methodology for Environmental Planning (EPC), which was developed in WP4, was applied to certain pilot cases in each of the participating partner countries, which in the case of Greece is the area of Nafpaktos.

Background

The CHERPLAN project aims at obtaining compatibility and synergy among protection of Cultural Heritage (CH) and social and economic development, by encouraging adoption of a new approach in Environmental Planning throughout all the South-East Europe geographic area (SEE). In the context of this project, and through substantial and multi-level cooperation, the project partners organized working groups and training seminars, exploited the results of SWOT analyses, implemented pilot projects, prepared Business and Environmental Plans, as well as Action Plans, and they were forced to form local partnerships for the management of CH areas, in order to promote an effective participatory scheme for the management of the CH areas.

The project is partially funded (85%) by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and by the state for the remaining part of the budget (15%), in the framework of the SEE Programme.

The selected pilot area for Western Greece, in the context of the CHERPLAN project, is the Nafpaktia Municipality (coastal area, urban area, rural and mountainous areas), where indicative initially proposed pilot activities concerned promotion of CH monuments and territorial planning, with the aim of obtaining sustainable development of the area. In the context of the Action Plan, the pilot project was further defined as the formation of the cultural path for the interconnection and promotion of the Asclepieion excavations at the Dexameni hill and of the Castle City.

The cultural path is separated in two sections, following the two paths:

- The first section is located exclusively inside the Castle City and its funding has already been ensured and planned. The area enclosed or surrounding this first section falls almost completely into the official boundaries of the archaeological area of the Nafpaktos castle and the city section that has been denominated as a historical area.
- The second section connects the archaeological area of the Castle City with the wider area of the Dexameni hill – Asclepieio (Tsoukari) – Saint George, and the ancient artifacts that have been excavated in the area, through a path into the old city center.

In the particular case of the CHERPLAN project, the EMP helps to face the frequently serious problems, arising from the erroneous management of precious CH resources, which endanger the social and economic development of the relevant communities. Rapid tourism development, uncontrollable construction and insufficient maintenance can make the CH areas less attractive, and can contribute at rapid deterioration of the quality of life for the citizens, who have to abide with crowding of the public spaces, and high cost of living due to not suitable or not sufficient infrastructures. Furthermore, a kind of management of CH focusing exclusively in its protection may have adverse impact, preventing local development.

CH must be considered as a living and critically important environment for its residents and visitors alike, and should be treated in this perspective. Especially for the intangible heritage, its management and the need for its integration require a holistic approach, for the successful coupling of CH management with sustainable local development. Hence, a holistic view of CH in relation to the environment requires a simultaneous consideration of the natural environment (air, ground, underground resources, water), of the social and economic environment (cultural activities, CH, economic activities), and of the technical environment (water supply, drainage system, waste treatment, security, stability, lighting, architectural style).

Environmental Management

The following acted as preparatory activities for the elaboration and implementation of the Environmental Management Plan (EMP):

- Thorough study and adaptation of the Environmental Planning Concept (EPC) methodology, as it was developed by the Austrian partner (BOKU).

In the context of the EPC methodology, it is foreseen that, during elaboration of the EMP, a soft system methodology must be followed, which is implemented in six steps, for the development of a common EMP for CH that can be applied at European level. These steps were followed closely in the case of the EMP for the Nafpaktos area.

- Selection of the appropriate participatory process approach and creation of the necessary organizational structure among the Nafpaktos local key stakeholders, including participation of the two Greek CHERPLAN partner organisations (RDF/RWG, CTI).
- Participation of the local stakeholders was from the beginning a critical success factor, hence the Local Monitoring Committee was established during the very first steps of the project. This Committee, with the active participation and contribution of all the relevant to CH, environment and the Municipality local actors, operated as an advisory and steering

committee that obtained the necessary consensus for selection of the optimal activities for promotion of the local CH rich resources that would lead to local economic development, but also with respect to the environment.

The working group in Nafpaktos was organized in an interactive manner, in order that participants would get feedback from the stakeholders immediately. Furthermore, the already prepared SWOT analysis, Business Plan and Action Plan were taken under consideration, with the aim of providing specific answers and investment proposals, building a common vision and the necessary consensus for future activities.

Thus, with participation of all involved stakeholders operating in the Nafpaktia Municipality, the Ministry of Culture local branches, representatives of the production and entrepreneurial sectors, the Regional Development Fund of the Region of Western Greece and CTI, four thematic workshops were implemented, as it was foreseen for each pilot area.

- Detailed study of the findings of the SWOT analysis for Nafpaktos.

From the Nafpaktia Municipality SWOT analysis that was elaborated at the start of the CHERPLAN project (with main source the Operational Programme of the Municipality), the strengths and weaknesses of the area came up clearly, and became the subject of discussion and further processing by the participants of the Local Monitoring Committee.

- Detailed study of the EPC methodology indicators, focusing in local conditions and adaptation.

The indicator lists, presented in detail in the relevant deliverable, which was elaborated under the responsibility of the Austrian partner BOKU, constitute an effective tool for monitoring of the implementation of the selected activities and of the impacts that will result from the pilot project implementation. These indicators are classified in two categories, depending on their importance and usefulness in meeting the set objectives:

DIRECT INDICATORS – The indicators that were evaluated as the most significant for the progress and implementation of all the objectives and of the Business Plan as a whole. These are the indicators related to the variation of the number of tourists, visitors and vacationers in the area, who are the first that change in relation to the other indicators, and the indicators related to the registering, promotion and protection of CH, and to the increase in visiting of archaeological sites or the traditional settlement.

INDIRECT INDICATORS – The indicators that are affected by the variation of the direct indicators, and that can be used for the assessment of the

indirect impacts and, partly, for the support of the local community during the anticipated changes to all the sectors of activity and of the local society. These are mainly the indicators related to the variation of population statistics and of the local economy characteristics, as well as part of the indicators related to the technical infrastructure in the area and to various services to the inhabitants and visitors.

- Final selection and assessment of the indicators that were considered important for the Nafpaktos area (SWOT – StraSSE methodology).

The scope of the Nafpaktos pilot project is aligned with the main findings of the Strategic Plan that was elaborated in 2011 by the Municipality, where the most important finding was the need for promotion of the Castle and the branding of Nafpaktos as a Castle City. Furthermore, application of the innovative SWOT – StraSSE methodology to the Municipality of Nafpaktia indicated that the strategic objectives stated in the Strategic Plan show a remarkable coincidence with the findings of the SWOT – StraSSE methodology (Development of agro-tourism and eco-tourism, Development / completion of the road network, Development of infrastructure for promotion of alternative forms of tourism, Promotion but also protection of the Castle City and the rest of the CH in the area, Interconnection of the coastline with the other two zones for facilitation of tourist flows from each zone to the others).

The main activities, their time table and initially estimated costs for their implementation, as they were defined in the Nafpaktos Business Plan, are shown in the following table.

Most important Activities, indicated in the Business Plan

Activities	a/a	Description	Funding source	Timetable					Cost	
				1	2	3	4	5		
1.1.1.6	1	Elaboration of an integrated framework programme for the land use planning of the Castle City area and the deprived urban areas of the Old Town, for the development of a renovation, promotion and management plan for the Castle City, which will become a tool for its protection and sustainable development	Region of Western Greece (RWG), Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (YPEKA)							500.000,00
1.2.1.1 1.3.1.1 5.3.1.3	2	Development and operation of a Cultural Path - Section 1: (Inside the Castle City itinerary) Port - Acropolis	RWG YPEKA							400.000,00
1.2.1.2 5.3.1.4	3	Development and operation of a Cultural Path - Section 2: (Connection of Castle City with Asclepieio itinerary) Kozoni land property - Saint George hill	RWG							400.000,00
4.2.2.1.5	4	Formation - Promotion - Greening (planting) of the Asclepieio and Water tank hill archaeological site, in combination with section 2 of the Cultural Path or together	RWG							200.000,00
1.3.1.4	5	Renovation of Castle entrance A', via Kozoni str.	RWG YPEKA							200.000,00
6.1.1.10	6	Development of a Cultural Park at the Kozoni Inheritance, in conjunction with the renovation of the eastern Castle City entrance, green areas, parking spaces, and an open theater and cultural events	RWG YPEKA							800.000,00
1.3.1.2	7	Renovation of the NE Castle entrance from the Acropolis side (in combination with parking areas), and connection to the city peripheral road	Municipality of Nafpaktia, YPEKA							400.000,00
1.3.1.3	8	Renovation of the SW Castle entrance (except for the Botsareon str. Gate) and of the Agita str., where the west castle gate is maintained (in combination with parking and green areas)	Municipality, YPEKA							400.000,00
2.2.1.3	9	Unification of the two beaches of Gribovo and Psani with the main part of the Castle City Venetian port, through the development of alternative road connections	RWG YPEKA							500.000,00
1.4.1.7	10	Installation of specific signs at the archaeological sites and historic and traditional buildings, as well as at the accessing roads to them, everywhere in the city, with emphasis to the coastal zone	RWG Municipality							100.000,00
1.1.1.2	11	Elaboration and implementation of a systematic promotional plan for identification of the Nafpaktos Castle City as the site of the widely known sea-battle of Lepanto	Ministry of Culture, Municipality							200.000,00
1.1.1.1	12	Elaboration of a strategic plan study for a structured promotion of the city of Nafpaktos and its cultural and tourist resources, for branding the city as a Castle City, based on the principles of Place Marketing	Ministry of Culture, Municipality							100.000,00
1.1.1.5	13	Elaboration of a specific Hydro-Geological study, and implementation of the works necessary for the protection of the Castle City antiquities from possible corrosion activity of underground waters	Municipality, YPEKA							100.000,00
TOTAL										4.300.000,00

From the elaborated Action Plan, the most mature and urgent activities with relation to the project aims were selected, i.e. the development of the Cultural Path for promotion of the Castle City.

Following this, the 13 selected activities were correlated to environmental management issues, and the following list of activities was decided:

- Protection, promotion and exploitation and maintenance of CH monuments and sites (mainly the Castle City), as a first step towards their preservation and sustainable development
- Improvement of accessibility and increase in visiting of the city's archaeological sites and of the Castle City
- Improvement of the quality of the urban areas and, consequently, of the life of the residents
- Protection of the Castle City from various natural hazards, by elaborating a hydro-geological study and by implementing the technical works that will be foreseen in the study

Implementation

During the implementation of the present EMP, search and processing of data was implemented, whenever possible, for each one of its main parts, i.e.:

- Determination of the appropriate legal framework for the pilot project works, always in relation to the Cultural heritage, i.e. the Law for public works (L. 3669/2008), protection of antiquities (L. 3028/2002), environmental licensing (L. 4014/2011), civil protection (L. 3013/2002), urban planning (L. 2742/1999) and their relevant complementary arrangements.
- Specification of a vision for the Municipality of Nafpaktia, in relation to culture, as *"Establishment and promotion of Nafpaktos as Castle City, and area of particular archaeological significance and natural beauty"*.
- Detailed recording and classification of the most important CH monuments in the city of Nafpaktos (prehistoric, classical and Byzantine), based on official data supplied by the two Ministry of Culture local branches.
- Specification of an organization plan so that it can be possible to allocate responsibilities for environmental management, to identify the authorized officials for granting the required approvals, before and during the pilot project works, and to specify the requirements for the environmental training, when necessary.
- Identification of environmentally sensitive areas and activities for facing the problems, as well as the required time table and budget for each one of them.

The 1st one that was identified refers to the whole Castle walls, and the threats arising from possible natural hazards (mainly corrosion of parts of the wall at the Acropolis area, due to underground water activity). A specific hydro-geological study will be elaborated for this threat.

The 2nd one that was identified refers to the part of the wall located at the Venetian port, which constitutes the edge of the Castle City at the sea side, and which is damaged because of extensive corrosion. It is foreseen that, along with the scheduled works for improving visibility and artistic lighting at the port, a number of repair works to the castle walls will be implemented in parallel.

- Assessment of the Environmental Impact from implementation of the pilot project. Environmental impact refers mainly to project impacts on the Air quality, Energy management, Noise and vibrations, Waste treatment, Water management, Fauna and Flora, Fire (mainly in forest areas), Leaking of hazardous materials to the environment. The main impacts were determined, at the level that was possible, since further analysis was beyond the scope of this Plan.
- Protection of CH monuments, i.e. determination of all possible environmental hazards, along the length of the Cultural Path, and planning of all the appropriate corrective interventions.
- Provision for restoration of the pilot area every time it is disturbed.
- Control of contractors – subcontractors, reporting procedures and risk assessment, using standardized templates.

Monitoring and reviewing of the EMP

In this last section of the EMP, the method for monitoring of the environmental parameters is specified, through monitoring of the progress in the Action Plan implementation, of the variation of the selected indicators' values, and of the sustainability of the participatory process. For this purpose, several templates from the literature are provided, although they will have to be adapted to the relevant procedures / templates of the Municipality services.

Furthermore, a first approach is attempted to draw guidelines for environmental auditing, for keeping records for any corrective actions, and for periodically reviewing the EMP.