



Università
Ca'Foscari
Venezia

PROJECT ACRONYM AND TITLE: EUWATHER - European Waterways Heritage (EU.WAT.HER): Re-evaluating European Minor Rivers and Canals as Cultural Landscapes.

FUNDING PROGRAMME: JPI – Cultural Heritage

CALL: HERITAGE PLUS Joint Call

SCIENTIFIC FIELD: Historic waterways; digital heritage; tangible and intangible heritage; co-design approach; eco-tourism practices

HOST DEPARTMENT/CENTRE: Department of Economics

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE: Prof. Francesco Vallerani

FINANCIAL DATA:

Project total costs	Overall funding assigned to UNIVE
€ 671.341,60	€ 166.880,00

ABSTRACT:

The presence in many European countries of artificial waterways connected to natural hydrography can be considered a relevant cultural heritage. Characterized by an intrinsic hydraulic complexity, this heritage goes back at least to the Middle Age, develops further during the Renaissance and reaches its maturity during the industrial era. The connection between natural and artificial waterways favoured the expansion of urban centres and the development of European trade, thus interacting with flood control strategies and the “construction” of rural landscapes. It is indeed a multi-functional heritage that deserves today a renewed, coordinated commitment to its re-valuation, by considering both its structural hydraulic artefacts (canals, bridges, locks, shipyards, mills...) and their related water-scapes. As to European major hydrography, such a hydraulic network is often a tourist resort already.

However, as to minor hydrography, it's still a hidden potential for sustainable development.

EUWATHER aims to promote the knowledge and rehabilitation of the unique cultural heritage of minor waterways and historic canals in 4 European pilot regions. The project is aimed at co-designing with people (local and visitor, stakeholder and public sector etc) to generate a body of data that can reveal the cultural and artistic heritage of minor waterways, in order to make a Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), interactive maps, and promote associated ways of communicating this heritage to a range of audiences.

The overall objective is to develop new opportunities for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation as a driver for sustainable development, together with better management and planning of secondary waterways networks. Also, EUWATHER aims to foster trans-boundary exchange of experiences to develop new, more coordinated institutional strategies and encourage research activities (oral history) that reflect tourist

interests as well as local values. In this way, EUWATHER fits perfectly the aims of Heritage+, as it combines in an unpublished way the 3 key elements (the tangible, the intangible and the digital) set by the JPI-SRA.

Planned Start date	Planned End date
1st September 2015	1st September 2015

PARTNERSHIP:

1 Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Venice (IT)	Coordinator
2 University of Brighton	Brighton (UK)	Partner
3 Universiteit Leiden	Leiden (NL)	Partner
4 Universitat de Girona	Girona (E)	Partner

WEBSITE: available from 2016 onward