



Learning happens everywhere

When visiting a heritage site, you always learn, consciously or unconsciously. This is not traditional learning, but informal learning. Cultural and natural heritage can be interpreted and placed in a specific context, allowing personal and social competences to develop. This type of learning is not always visible and is not always considered valuable, although the heritage context has a great potential in the story of lifelong learning. Therefore the new Erasmus+ project BADGES was developed. Digital badges are **online re-**

presentations of achievements of various types of learning, resulting in a better visualisation of the learning and development of competences. Hereby, the heritage sector contributes to a learning culture, as well as to personal and social development. In cooperation with various partners, a technical platform for handing out electronic badges is being developed. These badges deliver visual evidence and validation for the informal acquired competences. Because if learning happens everywhere, why don't we acknowledge it?

Find more information on projectbadges.eu

Training course in Peniche



In October, the participating partners of the Erasmus+ project came together in Peniche (Portugal), for a joint staff training course. A five-day course during which the participants got acquainted with the project's innovative methodology, reached stage and its following steps and ultimate objectives. All the participants were prepped and inspired to start up a pilot project. Working groups examined and developed pilot cases with a badging system.

The participants also visited a possible pilot case on a day out: a nature reserve on a private island that is located one hour by boat from Peniche. With the aid of a badging system the Portuguese partner IP Leiria is thinking to raise awareness among the visitors about the protection of the environment of this site and its endangered plant species. A great example of the future prospects of the BADGES project!



Pilot project BADGES: a badge for the Loon expert

The castle of Alden Biesen in Belgium is a pioneer in terms of the BADGES project. The pilot project, which ends in March 2019, is a great example of a project where it is about learning through heritage, as much as learning about heritage. To guide participants through the exhibition about the historic Flemish region 'graafschap Loon', an (optional) badging system was developed. People who are interested are challenged with extra assignments and intrigued by information, visuals or sounds on different spots throughout the exhibition. With these incentives, visitors are inspired to think about and look at things in an alternative way. Next to a paper version, the BADGES project provides an app for mobile devices. The results of every participant are saved online

and an electronic Loon Badge is sent to every participating visitor. The BADGES project is being extensively developed. Therefore, feedback from visitors about the content and ease of use of the app is essential. Logically, this innovative and daring project is accompanied by various challenges. However, this doesn't stop the partners of the BADGES project to chase their final goal: to create an app that is ready to use at cultural and natural heritage sites. The aim is to provide a complete manual and toolkit for heritage sites in Europe. Hence, a rich network will arise, in which people can enlarge their collection of acquired skills and competences.



Would you like to be notified of further developments in the **BADGES** project?
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Very proud to announce that the pilot project in Alden Biesen was selected as good practice for the European year of cultural heritage. Watch the [video](#) here.



BADGES: Proud partner of the European Year of Cultural Heritage



Landkreis Kassel



IPL
 Instituto Politécnico de Leiria



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