



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

The project “Interpretative Trails on the Ground - Support to the Management of Natural Protected Areas in the Black Sea Region (InterTrails)” is funded by the European Union through the Joint Operational Programme “Black Sea Basin 2007 - 2013”

Guidebook Outline

Audience

The Guidebook is intended to serve as a handbook for interpreters to the selected trails. The interpreters should receive training during the planned “summer camps” in 2013.

The handbook includes two parts:

A. Introduction for the interpreter. It explains what is interpretation, how to present the existing information in an attractive way, what are the main principles and features of personal interpretation.

B. Description of trails. Each of the four trails is treated in a separate section. There may be two themes along the same trail, depending on:

- the characteristics of the trail and expert advice;
- age of the target group - adults, children (7-10; 11-15 years old)
- season (e.g. geology - from November to March; biology - from April to October)

Format

For publishing we (BSNN team) suggest a format of around 48-50 pages in A5 paper size. This is roughly equal to the same amount of standard word processor pages (around 300 words or 2000 characters per page). Thus the total text should be about 12000-14000 words, in order to leave enough space for illustrations and light, airy layout.

The considerations for this format were the complexity of the text, its usability as a reference for future interpreters and the budgetary limits. We should not forget that the guidebooks have to be translated in English as well.



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION



Contents

A. Introduction for the interpreter - 4-6 p

The information for this part is based mainly on J. Carter's "A Sense of Place: An interpretive planning handbook." and the Interpretation Handbook and Standard, as well as the presentations during the April workshop. Links to both handbooks are available on the project web site: <http://trails.bsnn.org> Partners corner -> Useful links

What is interpretation?

Interpretation is an explanation of the natural, cultural or historic values attached to places. It enables visitors to gain insight and understanding about the reasons for protection of our heritage.

Information and interpretation

Where information provides facts, interpretation provides a story. All interpretation includes information, but good interpretation takes facts and connects them with context.

What are the benefits from interpretation for visitors?

Why spend your precious leisure time reading panels or on a nature programme walk to see the Dalmatian Pelican? Visitors participate in interpretive activities for lots of reasons. Learning more about a place and its features can be stimulating and interesting and help make you feel good. It can:

- satisfy curiosity and thirst for knowledge
- add depth to the experience of places
- entertain
- provide insight and add meaning
- heighten sensory awareness
- inspire
- make the unfamiliar familiar
- be an opportunity to meet and talk with experts
- help you meet other people who share your interests
- be a good activity on holiday or school trips
- make you want to return to the site again



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

Interpretation also provides deeper less tangible benefits to individuals and to society. The underlying human desire for meaning and connections to communities and places underpins our interpretation work. Identifying with our unique places and culture helps people develop a personal and collective sense of being and value.

Principles of interpretation

- Enjoyable
- Relevant
- Organised
- Thematic
- Reaching visitors through different learning styles

Personal interpretation -> Personal interpretation, Chapter 3

- Techniques
- Delivery skills
- Communication
 - Distractions and emergencies - dealing with them
- Props / Materials
- Drama
- Associates and partners

B. Description of Trails - 10-12 p. each trail

Trail 1 (e.g. Cape Kaliakra)

1. Description of the site/trail

General information, main sights

Importance of the trail within the protected area or nature park

Parallels in the Black Sea region (e.g. steppe habitats, cultural heritage, etc.)

How to get there (by public transport, car, bicycle)

2. Description of the points (stops) along the trail; alternative routes (or themes)

Theme of the walk

Target audience: adults, children (age group)



Black Sea NGO Network



Project funded by the
EUROPEAN UNION

Recommended time for the visit (season; e.g. May - October)

Length of the visit (e.g. 1.5 hours)

Materials/Props

Required equipment for visitors (hat, boots, water)

2.1. General information - facts, pictures

2.2. Instructions for the interpreter - script

max ½ page per point - 20 points/stops for the whole trail

1) Gathering point (meet and greet)

2) Stop No1

3) Stop No2

...

10) End of walk

Trail 2 (Mount Strandja: At the foothills of the extinguished volcano)

Trail 3

Trail 4

This document has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the Black Sea NGO Network and can in no way reflect the views of the European Union.



Black Sea NGO Network