



UNDER

Underground Navigators Exploring
and Revealing



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



FONDI.eu



Executive Summary

A European project to empower young professionals in underground heritage tourism and promote sustainable, inclusive cultural practices.



UNDER – Underground Navigators Exploring and Revealing is a European project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme under the KA210-VET action for small-scale partnerships in vocational education and training.

The project brings together partner organizations from Malta, Italy, Hungary, and the Czech Republic with the shared objective of promoting underground cultural heritage while strengthening professional skills, international cooperation, and sustainable tourism practices.

Through a series of mobility activities, job-shadowing experiences, workshops, and field visits, participants explored unique underground sites, exchanged knowledge and best practices, and developed a deeper understanding of heritage management, cultural interpretation, and community engagement.

Building a European Network

The strength of UNDER lies in the diversity of its partnership, which combines local knowledge, international experience, and a shared commitment to cultural heritage.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- **Kunsill Lokali San Ġiljan – Malta**

Project coordinator responsible for the overall management of the project. The organization promotes local participation, community engagement, and inclusive initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and cultural awareness.

- **ACe20 – Italy**

A cultural organization specialized in tourism development, communication strategies, event management, and heritage promotion. ACe20 contributes expertise in visitor engagement, cultural interpretation, and the dissemination of project results.

- **Znojenské Podhorácko – Czech Republic**

An organization dedicated to sustainable tourism, rural development, and the promotion of local cultural assets. Its experience in community-based tourism provides valuable perspectives on how heritage can contribute to regional growth.

- **Várkapitány Lovagi Torna Egyesület – Hungary**

A non-governmental organization focused on heritage preservation, social inclusion, and community development. The association promotes educational activities and innovative approaches to cultural participation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

UNDER promotes European cooperation by connecting organizations and professionals from different countries to share experiences, develop new skills, and exchange best practices in the field of underground heritage. Through international mobility and collaborative learning, the project contributes to the sustainable promotion of Europe's hidden cultural treasures.

Why UNDER Matters

The project was developed around a series of interconnected objectives designed to support both young professionals and heritage organizations.

01

- **Professional Development**

To develop training opportunities and educational pathways for young workers involved in underground heritage associations and cultural organizations.

02

- **Heritage Promotion**

To increase awareness of underground cultural heritage and encourage active participation in local cultural life among young people.

03

- **Sustainable Tourism**

To promote experience-based tourism models that respect cultural heritage, local communities, and environmental sustainability.





KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT

The project is structured around three international mobility experiences, each focusing on a different aspect of heritage management and sustainable tourism.

01

Italy – Job Shadowing at Orte Underground 28–31 May 2025

Participants explored professional practices related to underground heritage management, visitor services, cultural interpretation, and tourism promotion. Through job-shadowing activities and meetings with experts, participants observed how heritage sites can become educational and economic resources for local communities.

02

Hungary – Work-Based Learning and Community Building 24–27 September 2025

Hosted in Sümeg, this mobility focused on inclusion, heritage conservation, vocational education, and community resilience. Participants explored how heritage organizations can create stronger connections with local communities while supporting social participation and cultural awareness.

03

Czech Republic – Sustainable and Rural Tourism 9–12 March 2026

The final mobility examined the relationship between cultural heritage, environmental awareness, sustainable tourism, and rural development. Workshops, field visits, and practical activities provided participants with innovative tools for creating responsible tourism experiences linked to heritage sites.

I MOBILITY

Orte, Italy
28–31 May 2025

The first mobility of the UNDER project took place in Orte, Italy, and focused on underground heritage management, cultural tourism, and job shadowing experiences. Participants had the opportunity to explore the famous underground network of Orte, observe professional practices in heritage interpretation, and learn how cultural sites can become valuable educational and tourism resources for local communities.



The programme included visits to the Orte Tourist Office, guided tours of underground sites, meetings with archaeologists and heritage experts, and a study visit to Narni Underground. Through these activities, participants gained practical insights into visitor management, storytelling techniques, and sustainable heritage promotion. The mobility also encouraged intercultural dialogue and knowledge exchange among participants from different European countries, creating a strong foundation for the following stages of the project.



Key Outcomes

- Heritage interpretation skills
- Visitor engagement techniques
- Intercultural communication
- Knowledge of underground tourism management
- Exchange of best practices among partners

II MOBILITY

Sümege, Hungary
24–27 September 2025

The second mobility was hosted in Sümege, Hungary, and focused on work-based learning, social inclusion, and community development. Participants explored innovative approaches to cultural education through visits, workshops, and experiential learning activities designed to strengthen teamwork and professional competences.



One of the highlights of the mobility was the visit to the Hospital in the Rock Museum in Budapest, where participants learned about mentoring systems and training programmes for guides working in underground heritage sites. The programme also included team-building activities inspired by medieval traditions at Sümege Castle and an unforgettable exploration of the Csodabogyós Cave, where participants experienced the challenges and responsibilities associated with underground heritage conservation and sustainable tourism.



Key Outcomes

- Heritage interpretation skills
- Visitor engagement techniques
- Intercultural communication
- Knowledge of underground tourism management
- Exchange of best practices among partners
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III MOBILITY

**Znojmo Region, Czech Republic
9–12 March 2026**

The third and final mobility of the UNDER project took place in the Znojmo region, Czech Republic, and focused on sustainable tourism, local heritage, and community engagement. Participants explored how cultural sites, underground heritage, gastronomy, and local traditions can be integrated into innovative tourism experiences that benefit both visitors and local communities.

Throughout the mobility, participants visited historical landmarks, local wineries, and cultural venues, gaining first-hand experience of sustainable tourism practices in rural areas.



The activities also included visits to Jevišovice Castle and local cultural events, offering opportunities to discover the region's rich history and traditions.

The mobility encouraged intercultural exchange, collaboration, and the sharing of best practices among participants from Malta, Italy, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. As the final stage of the project, it provided an opportunity to reflect on the knowledge gained throughout the UNDER journey and to strengthen the international network created through the project.



Key Outcomes

- Understanding of sustainable and rural tourism practices
- Greater awareness of underground and local heritage
- Enhanced intercultural communication and teamwork
- Knowledge of community-based tourism approaches
- Stronger international cooperation and networking opportunities

European Support, Lasting Impact

01

• European Funding & Programme Framework

UNDER was co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Programme, under Key Action 2 (KA210-VET – Small-scale Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training). This funding scheme supports international cooperation between organisations, encouraging innovation, skills development, cultural exchange, and sustainable growth. Through Erasmus+, the UNDER partnership was able to transform a shared vision into a concrete European project dedicated to the exploration and promotion of underground cultural heritage.



02

• The Role of Erasmus+ in UNDER

UNDER was co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Programme, under Key Action 2 (KA210-VET – Small-scale Partnerships in Vocational Education and Training). This funding scheme supports international cooperation between organisations, encouraging innovation, skills development, cultural exchange, and sustainable growth. Through Erasmus+, the UNDER partnership was able to transform a shared vision into a concrete European project dedicated to the exploration and promotion of underground cultural heritage.



03

• Lasting Impact Beyond the Project

The impact of Erasmus+ extends far beyond the project's duration. Through UNDER, participating organisations strengthened their international networks, shared best practices, and developed new professional competences. The project demonstrated how European cooperation can contribute to heritage preservation, sustainable tourism, and community engagement while fostering intercultural dialogue and a stronger sense of European citizenship. The partnerships and knowledge created through UNDER will continue to inspire future initiatives and collaborations across Europe.

Measuring Growth, Learning and Long-Term Impact



The UNDER project placed strong emphasis on evaluating its activities and results throughout the entire implementation process. Through questionnaires, participant feedback, mobility reports, reflection sessions and partner meetings, the consortium monitored the quality of activities, learning outcomes and overall project impact.

The evaluation showed that the project successfully achieved its objectives, generating positive educational, professional and intercultural outcomes. Participants reported significant improvements in teamwork, communication, intercultural skills and heritage interpretation, while gaining a deeper understanding of underground cultural heritage and sustainable tourism practices.

One of the most valuable outcomes was the **strong impact on personal and professional development**. The international mobilities in Italy, Hungary and the Czech Republic allowed participants to exchange experiences, **learn innovative approaches to heritage management and build long-lasting European networks**.

The project also **strengthened cooperation between partner organisations** and **increased awareness of the importance of underground heritage** as a resource for local development and community engagement.

Overall, the evaluation confirmed that UNDER successfully promoted vocational learning, cultural heritage preservation, sustainable tourism and intercultural dialogue, leaving a lasting legacy for participants, organisations and local communities.





*"When we work with passion,
work becomes purpose."*

CONTACT US

 sangiljan.lc@gov.mt

 +356 2137 3111

 <https://under46.webnode.it/>

 Forrest Street, St Julians, STJ 2033

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