



## PROJECT ENTRY 09

# THE CBC BLACK SEA PROJECT ALECTOR



ALECTOR

Collaborative Networks of Multilevel Actors to  
advance Quality Standards for Heritage  
Tourism at Cross Border Level  
2.1.2.73296.282 MIS ECT 2617

The ENPI CBC Project ALECTOR “Collaborative Networks of Multilevel Actors to advance Quality Standards for Heritage Tourism at Cross Border Level”, PRIORITY AXIS1: “Supporting cross border partnerships for economic and social development based on combined resources” and MEASURE 1.2 “Creation of tourism networks in order to promote joint tourism development initiatives and traditional products” funded by the ENPI CBC BLACK SEA JOP, informs on the

### The 4<sup>th</sup> CB Study Visit

Sile, Turkey

2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016

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The Black Sea Programme is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument



## EVENT ORGANIZER

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The 4<sup>th</sup> Cross Border Study Visit and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thematic Evaluation Workshop on the significance of heritage assets of the CBC Project ALECTOR (2.1.2.73296.282 MIS ECT 2617), has been hosted by IPA FLB (Governorship of Istanbul, Turkey), on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016 in Şile, Turkey. The focus of the pilot project of Turkey is the Şile-Ağva region nearby Istanbul. Şile is among the larger sub-provinces of Istanbul, and located at the Black Sea coast about 80 km to the east of metropolitan Istanbul. The Şile-Ağva pilot project comprises of two individual sub-pilot projects for the two towns of Şile and Ağva as well as their hinterlands. Ağva is a small resort town, about 40 km to the east of Şile. For decades Şile has been a popular tourism destination for domestic and foreign visitors enjoying its beaches and sea. Its vicinity to metropolitan Istanbul also make it a popular weekend destination for the city's many residents, causing a large influx of crowds overpopulate its shores. Over the last few years, there has been an increased effort among the sub-province's local governments to promote its green, hilly and lush hinterlands, displaying a relatively unspoiled cultural landscape. With its rich natural and cultural heritage assets, such as rivers, chestnut tree forests, waterfalls, caves, flora and fauna populations, and many traditional villages, the hinterlands of Şile have the potential to attract visitors who prefer to engage in alternative recreational and cultural activities. One of these efforts has been Şile's participation in this ALECTOR EU project. Ten natural and cultural heritage assets were chosen for Şile as well as Ağva. While the heritage assets for Şile focus on the region's maritime culture and local traditions, the ones for Ağva focus on the region's rural as well as its natural heritage.

Page | 2

## CROSS BORDER EVENT PARTICIPANTS

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1. Dr. Dorothea Papathanassiou - Zuhrt, Tourism - Cultural Heritage Expert of Drama Development S.A., the Lead Partner
2. Dr. Nikolaos Thomaidis, Tourism Cultural Planner and Communication Officer, Drama Development S.A., the Lead Partner
3. Eda Güney, Tourism Cultural Coordinator, IPA FLB - Governorship of Istanbul
4. Volkan Ata, Project Coordinator, IPA FLB - Governorship of Istanbul
5. Fidan Kaplan, Administrative assistant, IPA FLB - Governorship of Istanbul
6. Iulia Dangulea, Counselor, ENPI Partner No 1 - National Authority for Tourism
7. Svetlana Lazar, Regional Project Coordinator, ENPI Partner no 3 - National Association of Rural, Ecological and Cultural Tourism.
8. Svitlana Zakrevska, Project Manager, ENPI Partner No 4 - Donetsk Civic Organization "Alliance"
9. Natalia Semyvolos, Administrator, ENPI Partner No 4 - Donetsk Civic Organization "Alliance"
10. Dr. Emzar Kakhidze, Coordinator, ENPI Partner no 5 - The Batumi Archaeological Museum
11. Miranda Akhvlediarhi, Tourism Cultural Planner, ENPI Partner no 5 - The Batumi Archaeological Museum
12. Serkan Yeşilyurt, Project Coordinator, IPA - Partner No 2 - Bahçeşehir University/METGEM Development Center for Vocational Technical Education
13. Elena Simeonova, Project coordinator, cultural planner, ENPI Partner no 2 - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities
14. Cansu Tuna, DOKA, IPA Partner no 1 - Eastern Black Sea Development Agency
15. Prof. Vasile Valentina, Associate Partner, Institute of National Economy Romanian Academy
16. Amiran Kakhidze, Director of Batumi Archaeological Museum
17. Miranda Charkviani, Director of Cultural Heritage Preservation Agency of Ajara

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18. Lado Mgaloblishvili, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Ajara
19. Maka Lomadze, Art Studio Dotcomma, Batumi
20. Shorena Devadze, Communication Officer, ENPI Partner no 5 - The Batumi Archaeological Museum
21. Melda Erkut Arslan, DOKA, IPA Partner no 1 - Eastern Black Sea Development Agency
22. Harun Yaman, IPA FLB - Governorship of Istanbul

#### STUDY VISIT and ONSITE LECTURE

The focus of the pilot project of Turkey is the Şile-Ağva region nearby Istanbul. Şile is among the larger sub-provinces of Istanbul, and located at the Black Sea coast about 80 km to the east of metropolitan Istanbul. The Şile-Ağva pilot project comprises of two individual sub-pilot projects for the two towns of Şile and Ağva as well as their hinterlands. Ağva is a small resort town, about 40 km to the east of Şile. For decades Şile has been a popular tourism destination for domestic and foreign visitors enjoying its beaches and sea. Its vicinity to metropolitan Istanbul also make it a popular weekend destination for the city's many residents, causing a large influx of crowds overpopulate its shores. Over the last few years, there has been an increased effort among the sub-province's local governments to promote its green, hilly and lush hinterlands, displaying a relatively unspoiled cultural landscape. With its rich natural and cultural heritage assets, such as rivers, chestnut tree forests, waterfalls, caves, flora and fauna populations, and many traditional villages, the hinterlands of Şile have the potential to attract visitors who prefer to engage in alternative recreational and cultural activities. One of these efforts has been Şile's participation in this ALECTOR EU project. Ten natural and cultural heritage assets were chosen for Şile as well as Ağva. While the heritage assets for Şile focus on the region's maritime culture and local traditions, the ones for Ağva focus on the region's rural as well as its natural heritage. The focus of the pilot project lead by METGEM is the Ağva region nearby Istanbul. Ağva is a small resort town, about 40 km to the east of the town Şile. It is situated within the sub-provincial boundary of Şile, one of Istanbul's sub-provinces. The hinterlands of Ağva have the potential to attract visitors who prefer to engage in alternative recreational and cultural activities, which was the main motive the Ağva region was therefore chosen as a pilot project area of the ALECTOR EU project. Ten natural and cultural heritage assets were chosen for Ağva. Heritage assets for Ağva focus on the region's rural as well as its natural heritage.

Page | 3

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016

Study Visit, Interpretation, Onsite Lecture and Evaluation Workshop the IPA FLB, Governorship of Istanbul, Project Area, Sile, Koceali Region and IPA PP2, METGEM, Pilot Project in Agva, Kocaeli region. The Study Visit, Interpretation, Onsite Lecture and Evaluation Workshop have led participants to draw basic conclusion about the assets in question and their interpretation for the international audience within SCRIPTORAMA, the Black Sea Open Street Museum and the eBook for iOS and Android operating systems.

The rationale behind the Sile pilot project has been to promote Sile hinterlands, displaying a relatively unspoiled cultural and natural landscape, and to highlight and help revitalize local traditions such as the weaving of the traditional Sile cloth and its embroidery, which have been at the brink of extinction. Objectives of the project are to raise visitor awareness on Sile's natural and cultural assets with the use of interpretive texts, which can be accessed through the use of QR codes. The aim of the pilot project is to divert tourism, which has been primarily based on the sea, sand and sun, to the relatively unspoiled hinterlands rich in natural and cultural heritage.

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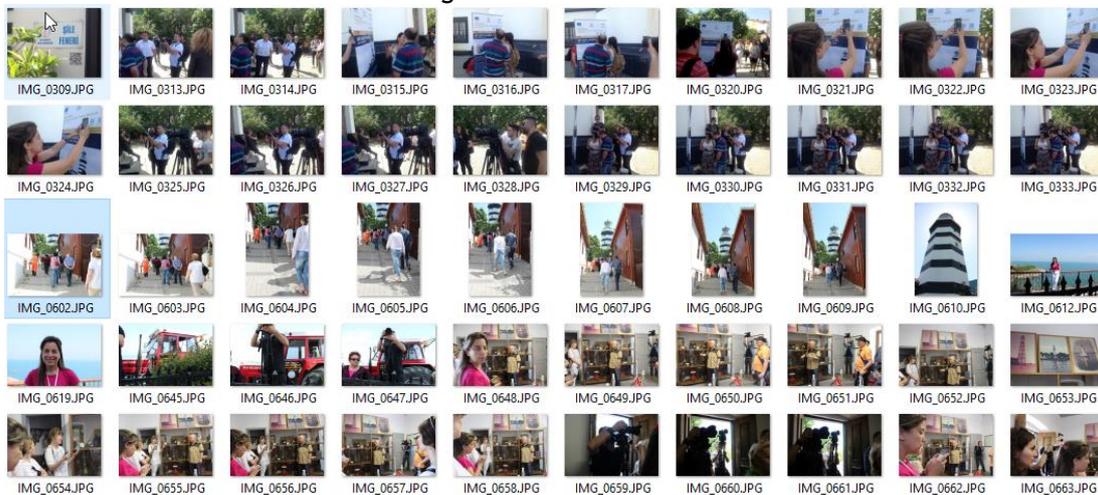
The Black Sea Programme is co-financed by the European Union through the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument



The rationale behind the Agva pilot project has been to promote the hinterland of Agva, displaying a relatively unspoiled cultural and natural landscape, and to highlight and help revitalize local traditions that also include the weaving of the traditional Şile cloth and its embroidery, as well as other rural traditions. Objectives of the project are to raise visitor awareness on Agva's natural and cultural assets with the use of interpretive texts, which can be accessed through the use of QR codes. The aim of the pilot project is to divert tourism, which has been primarily based on the sea, sand and sun, to the relatively unspoiled hinterlands rich in natural and cultural heritage.

### 1. Sile LightHouse

Sile is a beautiful historic maritime town at the Black Sea coast, most known for its historic but still operating lighthouse, as well as its traditional Sile fabric, which have become national cultural symbols. The area offers a relatively pristine coastline with many sandy beaches and therefore attracts many visitors from metropolitan Istanbul and other nearby locations particularly in the summer. What makes the area also special is its largely unspoiled hinterland, where it is still possible to observe traditional rural life in more than 50 villages dispersed in a green and lush cultural landscape. With its eye-catching construction and height, the lighthouse, rising up from the old Sile houses and creating the silhouette of Sile, is one of the first symbols that comes to mind when thought about Sile. The second largest actively operated lighthouse in the world, Sile Lighthouse is the largest active lighthouse of Turkey. Located 60 meters above sea level with a height of 19 meters, the Sile Lighthouse can project its light 35 miles further from where it is located. This giant artifact is also known outside of Sile due to its extraordinary features and unique structure. The Sile Lighthouse is one of the lighthouses that was built for the vessels passing through the Bosphorus could find their way during the Crimean War. It was built by Sultan Abdulaziz between the years 1858 and 1859, after the construction of Anatolian (Anadolu) Lighthouse in 1856. Turkish engineers designed the stone part of the lighthouse and the metal sections and the object lens of the artifact was brought from a factory in Paris. The tower of the lighthouse has been able to protect its original structure. Made from 110-centimeter-thick stone into an octagon shape, the tower was painted in black and white stripes in order for it to be visible during daytime. To see the flower decorated peak of the lighthouse, one must climb 72 stairs. Objects and kerosene lamps used before are now valued as antique and make the tower more interesting.





## 2. Sile Castle

There are four castles in Sile. However, the most famous one of them all is Sile Castle also referred to as Ocakli Ada Castle which is located on the island that is left from the Genoese, above Ocakli Island. Ocakli Ada Castle, with its distinctive silhouette, is one of the prominent symbols that define Sile. Built from white limestones, the castle is 12 meters high. Built for protection from the attacks coming from the sea, the castle was constructed by Byzantine emperor Andronikos and was used by the Ottoman Empire in time according to some researchers. However, in compliance with recent findings, the castle was constructed by the Genoese 2000 years ago and was also used by other civilizations that ruled Sile. Contrary to the former beliefs about this being a castle built for attacks, it has turned out to be a surveillance castle. When the 4 story building is investigated, a cellar is found at the bottom floor and the other floors are found to be suitable for a 20 soldier team. The castle has been restored only twice in ages. Repaired firstly by Byzantines, the castle was repaired a second time by the Ottoman Empire for them to be able to use it for surveillance. Because of rumors about treasures, the castle was raided by treasure hunters and was damaged greatly. The restoration of the castle started with the co-operation of the Sile Municipality and the Kocaeli University Faculty of Architecture and Design and finished 2015.

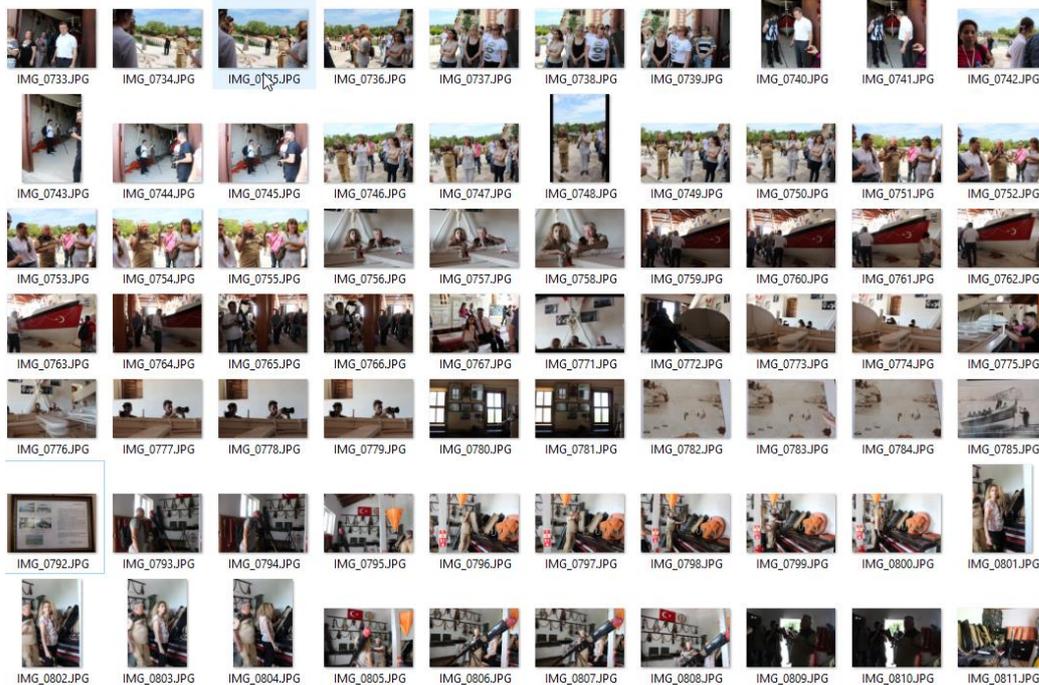
### Screenshot Sile Castle



## 3. Historic Ship Rescue Station

Sile's historic ship rescue station was built after nearly 220 ships hit by severe storms on the Black Sea sank in the first half of the nineteenth century. Many hundreds of crewmembers and passengers died, prompting Ottoman navy officials and ambassadors of countries using the Bosphorus to begin talks on the establishment of a ship rescue organisation with stations along the Bosphorus. After three years of negotiations between the parties, an autonomous ship rescue organisation (Tahlisiye İdaresi) was launched in 1869 as part of the Ottoman Navy. A total of 16 ship rescue stations were built on both sides of the Bosphorus, the one in Sile being one of them.

### Screenshot Historic Ship Rescue Station



#### 4. Sile Cloth Industry

Sile is most famous for its traditional Sile fabric, known throughout Turkey for its distinctive quality and crinkled texture. It has a unique production method and beautiful embroidery patterns. The fabric constitutes one of the area's major cultural heritages, and is produced primarily by local women. Its history tells the story of their resilience and hardships while caring for their families. The thread used to come from England in cube shaped balls, however, after 1950s, it was started to be produced in Istanbul and Izmir. Usually released as 20 meter balls, the width of Sile fabric can be as long as 40 centimeters. The production involves several phases. Traditional weaving techniques and patterns were passed on from one generation to the next. Before weaving the fabric, the twisted cotton yarn was soaked in a mixture of hot water and flour to strengthen it. The twisted yarn was used for both the warp and weft of the loom. After the weaving process finished, the fabric was immersed in a lime solution to lighten its yellowish colour. It was then rinsed in seawater and spread on the beach for drying. Although the authentic color of the Sile fabric is beige, it can also be white or get the color of the threads that are used. It is known that there are more than 200 Sile Fabric ornaments. Ladies of Sile generally use the most popular 55-60 ornaments. A variety of products such as blouses, nightgowns, shirts, tablecloth, tea glasses, salwar, bedclothes and quilts.

*Screenshots Sile Cloth Industry*



IMG\_0826.JPG



IMG\_0827.JPG



IMG\_0831.JPG



IMG\_0832.JPG



IMG\_0833.JPG



IMG\_0834.JPG



IMG\_0836.JPG



IMG\_0837.JPG

## 5. Yenikoy's Local Culture

New settlers of the area after the Greek-Turkish population exchange were Bosnian Muslims who had fled violence targeted at Muslims in Karadag, which used to be part of former Yugoslavia. Today the region has become an independent state known as Montenegro. In the mid 1920s, Abdurrahman Akova, a native of the village Muslići of Karadag, was sent to the Sile area for his military service. When he heard that violence had broken out in his native Karadag, he brought his family members and surviving relatives to the village after 1928, calling it “Yenikoy” (New Village). The villagers of Yenikoy still proudly continue many of their Bosnian traditions. Most popular are some of their traditional recipes such as Bosnian Borek; Potopljka, cooked with meat, onions and broth and Ribitsa, a type of ravioli.

Screenshots: Yenikoy's Gourmandise



IMG\_0839.JPG



IMG\_0840.JPG



IMG\_0841.JPG



IMG\_0842.JPG



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#### 4<sup>th</sup> CROSS BORDER THEMATIC EVALUATION WORKSHOP 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016

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The 4<sup>th</sup> Cross Border Evaluation Workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2016 was devoted evaluate the ENPI FLB and IPA 2 Pilot Projects in Sile and Agva and has extracted the views of the Cross Border Partnership. The Cross Border Partnership, the guests and visitors and operated the two pilot projects with 20 geolocations via SCRIPTORAMA, the Project's Open Street Museum (Portable Exhibition and eBook) across the different smart devices with full success. The particular innovation of the Sile project for Turkey is the identification of not so well-known cultural and natural heritage assets of a rural location, and their interpretation under specific themes. The use of QR codes for the interpretation of these heritage assets in a rural context is also an innovative approach, as well as the use of storytelling and legends in interpretive texts. The particular innovation of the Agva project for Turkey is the identification of not so well-known cultural and natural heritage assets of a rural location, and their interpretation under specific themes. The use of QR codes for the interpretation of these heritage assets in a rural context is also an innovative approach, as well as the use of storytelling and legends in interpretive texts.

Page | 8

### The ENPI CBC BS ALECTOR Cross Border Project Team