IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN TO THE TRANSBOUNDARY AREA ECOREGION JULIAN ALPS

CHANGES & CHALLENGES
BEFORE COVID-19 – AT THE START OF 2020

- Annual TB plan was prepared in December 2019
- The Year started with the Danilo Re competition
COVID-19 SITUATION/RESTRICTIONS

- Regular virtual meetings of the steering group
- Events/fair – cancelled/postponed/partly virtual
- School groups exchange – cancelled
- Best practice visits – cancelled
- Any kind of social meetings – cancelled
COVID-19 SITUATION/RESTRICTIONS

✓ Online Parkfest (event)
✓ TB map and Infografic, Dom Trenta as transboundary info centre
✓ New leaflets with TB map, walking trails
✓ Developing new project ideas
✓ TB and ECST re-evaluations
✓ E-bike excursion for journalists from Park to Park (Geen Belt)
✓ Both parks were part of FIDELIO project (University of Cambridge) concerning visiting of the area
✓ ECST Forum – virtual with translation
COVID-19 – CHANGES

**Online meetings**
+ less time on the road
- social distance

**Online promotion**
+ more visibility
- fewer visitors in our information centre, less direct information

**Online events**
+ more visitors interested in the topic/easier to attend
- events directly connected with local stakeholders (farmers, producers) were cancelled

**More people using cars**
- not enough efficient public transport/problems with overcrowded car parks
COVID-19 – CHANGES

**Different type of visitors**

+ new visitors in the area
- visitors with lower awareness about nature protections/less skilled – more injuries in the mountain – more rescue with helicopters
- visitor acceptance of the rules to be followed (inside limitation in number, social distance, face masks and hands cleaning) was not good in info centres
- outside excursions was limited with number of participants per excursions
- overcrowded valleys, well known and easy to access points (by car)
COVID 19 - CHALLENGES

- Continue our work: 5-years plan, recommendations of verifiers
- Plan activities for upcoming year with or without Covid
- Involvement of different stakeholders (e.g. quality brands)
- New visitor management approach to the new situation/new behaviour
- Using new approaches for cooperation – virtual/short films/using social medias, web pages as much as possible
- How to overcome personal experience/contacts

How to keep TB cooperation interested for co-worker and stakeholders also through Covid time?
COVID-19
CHANGES & CHALLENGES
COVID-19 – VISION

- Plan activates/project
- Collect and exchange different data's about flora and fauna
- Find possibility to connect young people (Young Ranger program)
- Adjustment/new approaches to new types of visitors, visitor management of overcrowded areas
- Do the next step to become TB MAB Unesco area
- Stay positive and stay in touch – professionally and personally
THE PAST IS FOR INSPIRATION, NOT LIMITATION, FOR CONTINUATION, NOT REPETITION.

Israel Zangwill

HVALA/GRAZIE/THANK YOU

Mojca Smolej
Triglav National Park/Ecoregion Julian Alps