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Starting a European inspiration and learning Network for Green & Healthy Destinations

Online Seminar on Green & Healthy Destinations in Europe

On April 29th, 2021 Nature For Health and Green Destinations were proud to host the online seminar Green & Healthy Destinations: The healing force of landscapes as part of the Landscape Triennial 2021. With a total of 154 people registering for the seminar, it represents a successful kick-off of the cooperation between Green Destinations, Nature For Health, the Province of Noord-Brabant and the Van Gogh Nationaal Park, with great support from the Council of Europe, Wageningen University & Research and VisitBrabant.

The skilful chairmanship of André van der Zande, the insightful input of all 12 speakers and the enthusiastic participation of the attendees, contributed significantly to the seminar’s success and offered valuable insights for everyone involved. Representing the two hosting organisations, the scene was set by two inspirational presentations from Albert Salman, the president of Green Destinations and Rob Wolters, the executive of Nature For Health. The passionate interventions by Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons, executive secretary of the European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe and Eladio Fernandez Galiano, the former head of environment of the Council of Europe as well as the compelling speech from Elies Lemkes, Regional Minister of Noord-Brabant, increased the spotlight on the growing importance of nature in human well-being, healthcare and tourism, especially in the post-Covid-19 season.

The successful implementation practices presented by Valerie Schneider from Gesundland Vulkaneifel in Germany and Daniel Raven-Ellison about London National Park City will facilitate more regions/destinations to draw from their experiences and progress towards an integration of landscapes, tourism and healthcare. Following this, Karolina Doughty and Huixin Hu from Wageningen University & Research provided a holistic overview of defining therapeutic landscapes and identifying their practices in the European setting. Mr Kees van der Ploeg, president of Bloom Healthy Life, presented a promising and innovative health care initiative set up in the Green Destination Ameland, an island in the Wadden Sea in The Netherlands.

Last but not least, the inspiring presentations of the Van Gogh Nationaal Park operational director Frank van der Eijden and President of the Van Gogh Park, Yvo Kortmann, highlighted the opportunities of portraying the park as a green and healthy destination.

The seminar marks a great start for the development of a European Green & Healthy Destinations Inspiration and Learning Network. Anyone interested in getting involved or having any other questions/suggestions regarding this topic, please feel free to contact the organizers through info@nfhfoundation.com.

Find all presentations here.

Seminar Recording