



**InnoRenew CoE**

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# The protection of bronze monuments in the changing environment as an example of a citizen science project

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MLE on citizen science initiatives

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Zavod za varstvo  
kulturne dediščine Slovenije  
*Institute for the Protection of  
Cultural Heritage of Slovenia*



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INSTITUTE



## The protection of bronze monuments in the changing environment (ARRS J7-9494)

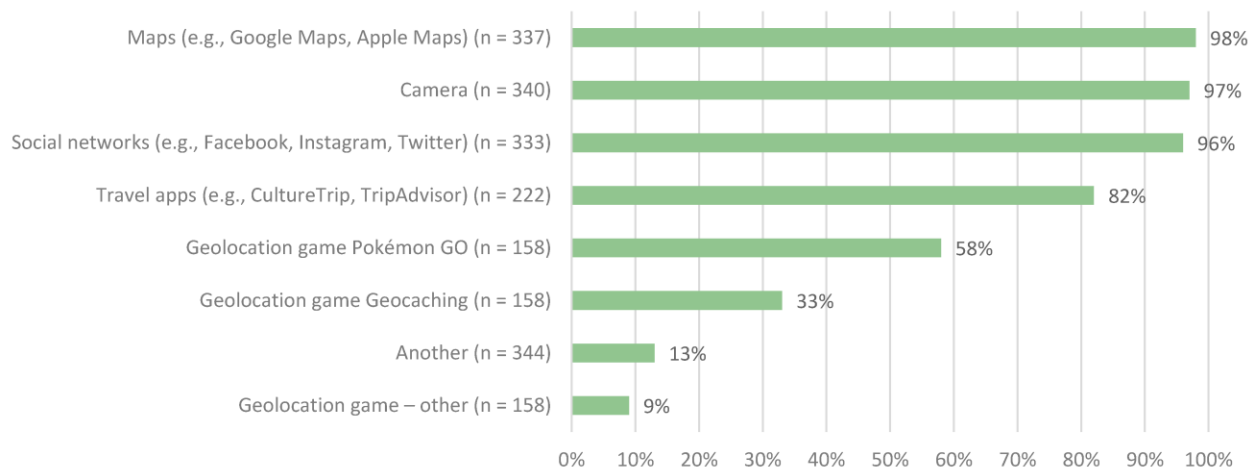
- Outside cultural heritage (CH) is exposed to various natural and human harmful factors leading to its degradation (e.g. wear, corrosion, vandalism)
- 4 monuments studied as case study
- **WP5: Social mechanism to include society in the care for cultural heritage**, i.e. study on how to encourage people to take photos of monuments and send them to researchers





## Online screening questionnaire

- Invitation posted to Facebook groups on the topic of travel, cities or location-based games
- 403 completed questionnaires



## Four live focus groups

- Topics discussed:
  - Smartphone photography and CH
  - Smartphone travel apps and CH
  - Location-based games and CH travel





## Some of the FG findings

- CH monuments photographed when they allow interaction and/or are photogenic and/or have an attractive story
- Monument material is rarely noticed by visitors but flaws and wear of the statue can be an interesting photographic motif
- Many participants like to take photos of information boards
- Game should be interactive and fun, not too complex; content in form of witty stories
- Some participants less excited about technology
- Websites are preferred to apps
- It is important to explain how the photos will help heritage protection and science





## Possible gamification strategies

- Photo contest (such as [Wiki Loves Monuments](#))
- „Storification“ (such as [Statue Stories Chicago](#))
- Using Geocaching and/or Pokemon GO
- Develop own app specific for this project
- Use of augmented reality technology
- ...







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## Series of four videos

(used as incentive)







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## Information board on Tartini square

+ social media  
promotion  
+ opening event







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# Opening event „science picnic“ (August 2021)





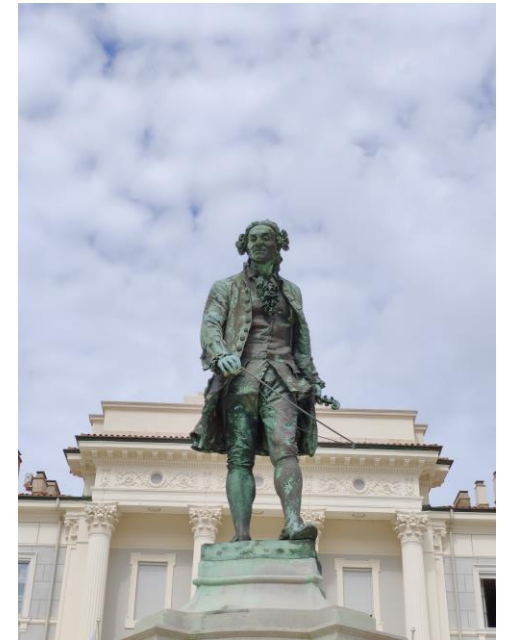
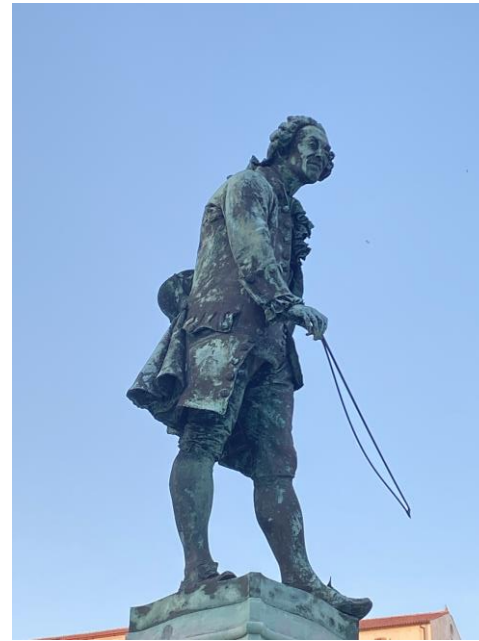


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## Result

- Database of photos





## Challenges

- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Difficulty of obtaining permits for placing the info board
- Lack of interest from local tourist organisations
- Low quality and number of photos gathered
- Insufficient project length and funds to fully realise all ideas







## Possible future activities

- Analysis and tagging of images (by volunteer curators)
- Extension to all bronze monuments (in Slovenia)
- Collaboration with Wikipedians (descriptions of monuments)
- Connection with sensors data





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# Thank you for your attention!