

Preserving Our Heritage Together: Bulgaria - Turkey



“The restoration of the Aquae Calidae thermal baths, neighbouring Bulgaria and Turkey, created jobs and revived tourism to experience the shared cultural heritage of the cooperation area.”



DESCRIPTION

Two important neighbouring cultural institutions – both badly in need of restoration – teamed up to improve themselves as a new joint tourist destination for cultural and religious tourists, and to create new jobs in the region.

Between the medieval monastery of St Nicholas in Kirkclareli, Turkey, and the Aquae Calidae thermal baths in Burgas, Bulgaria, there were important archaeological excavations, restorative works, 3D scanning of artefacts and even the creation of infrastructure like a new road and car park to encourage tourist footfall.

The results? Extensive media coverage, increased local and foreign tourism across both sites, a joint international scientific conference, and in Bulgaria, an influx of visitors coming to see the gloriously restored bath of Suleiman the Magnificent with their own eyes.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Burgas region (Bulgaria) and Kirkclareli district (Turkey).

PROGRAMME

Interreg IPA CBC Bulgaria-Turkey.

TOTAL BUDGET

€ 486,735.54

EU FUNDING

€ 413,725.20

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