Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE

Co-funded by the European Union

GOV4PeaCE

D.3.2.1. Report of the Third Joint Transnational Strategic Workshop

with side events



Introduction

This report summarises the Third Transnational Strategic Workshop of the GOV4PeaCE project, implemented within the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme. The workshop was held in Ieper, Belgium, from the 10th to the 12th of June 2026 and was hosted by the In Flanders Fields Museum (IFFM).

The workshop brought together project partners (PPs), associated partners (APs) and experts from eight European countries involved in the management, interpretation, research and socio-economic valorisation of First World War heritage. The three-day programme combined project presentations, working sessions, study visits and a public forum.

The main objective of the workshop was to assess the progress and results of the project, with particular attention to the transition from the piloting activities of Work Package 2 to the implementation and uptake activities of Work Package 3. The workshop also provided a setting to discuss the steps required to finalise the project and to prepare for continued cooperation beyond the project period.

Day 1 - Wednesday 10th of June 2026

The first day focused on the results of Work Package 2 and the transition towards Work Package 3. Four consecutive sessions addressed the evaluation of the pilot phase, further development of the CEWoP governance model, the Action Plan for Transnational CEWoP Governance and the draft cooperation agreement.

The **first session** presented the main results and lessons from Work Package 2. The session was led by Jean-Baptiste Hintjens from the In Flanders Fields Museum, which coordinated the monitoring and evaluation of the piloting activities.

Work Package 2 was presented as the testing and learning phase of GOV4PeaCE - the stage in which the CEWoP governance model was tested in practice in functional territories representing different levels of governance maturity. The three pilot contexts were the initial maturity territory of Hungary, the developing Poland–Slovakia territory and the mature Italy–Slovenia territory.

A central lesson emerging from the pilots was that the presence of significant First World War heritage does not automatically result in sufficient governance capacity. Different maturity conditions therefore require different governance responses.

The pilot evaluation led to the development of three transferable conceptual solutions – (1) **Foundational Coordination Solution** for initial maturity territories (2) **Territorial Coordination Solution** for developing maturity territories (3) **Institutional Alignment Solution** for mature territories. The solutions follow the principle of transferring *functions rather than fixed forms*. Rather than reproducing the exact institutional arrangements developed in the pilot territories, they identify governance functions and approaches that can be adapted to other heritage-rich territories facing comparable challenges.

The session also addressed the testing of the digital governance self-assessment tool. The tool demonstrated value as a means of reflecting on governance capacity and identifying strengths and gaps within a territory. At the same time, the testing identified areas requiring further structural and technical development.

The overall conclusion was that the pilot phase provided a sufficiently strong evidence base to refine the CEWoP model and develop transferable solutions that can support territories in becoming more visible, better connected and more prepared for sustainable governance cooperation.

The **second session** was presented by OSUN WES, responsible for the development of the CEWoP governance model. The presentation addressed the revisions made to the model following the piloting and evaluation phase and outlined the remaining steps towards its finalisation. Particular attention was given to the digital governance tool and its role in supporting territories wishing to assess or further develop their governance arrangements.

The governance model and digital tool were presented as complementary elements. The model provides the conceptual framework for analysing and developing governance capacity, while the digital tool supports its practical application through structured self-assessment.

A tutorial video was also presented. The video is intended to guide organisations and territories through the use of the tool and support the application of the CEWoP approach in new governance contexts.

The **third session** focused on the discussion and formal adoption of the Action Plan for Transnational CEWoP Governance. The session was presented jointly by Maša Klavora, leader of Work Package 3, and Slavka Zupan from KZ Consult, who participated online.

The Action Plan sets out how the cooperation developed within GOV4PeaCE can evolve from a time-limited project partnership towards a more durable transnational governance network. It also considers a possible longer-term transition towards a more formal organisational structure.

The Action Plan was presented as an operational framework structured around four thematic pillars – (**1**) organisation (**2**) capacity building (**3**) up-scaling of the Walk of Peace (**4**) digitisation and communication. Each pillar defines a set of actions intended to support the continuation and further development of the CEWoP governance framework after the end of the project.

Particular attention was given to the further development of the Walk of Peace as a transnational product and governance framework, including the development of its quality brand and the ambition to pursue recognition as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe.

Participants subsequently worked in four breakout groups, one for each thematic pillar. The discussions provided comments and proposals for the further development and implementation of the Action Plan and created a basis for the discussion of the transnational cooperation agreement in the following session.

The **fourth session** built directly on the Action Plan and focused on its practical and institutional translation into a draft cooperation agreement for the future GOV4PeaCE network.

The agreement is intended to formalise continued cooperation between interested partners and stakeholders. At the time of the workshop, its signature was foreseen for the final project event in Nova Gorica/Gorizia from 19 to 21 October 2026.

Participants worked in groups on a number of issues that remained to be clarified before finalisation of the agreement. These included eligibility and conditions for becoming a signatory, the possible structure of membership fees, further steps towards nomination of the Walk of Peace as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, review of the geographical organisation of the functional territories, possible funding opportunities and potential follow-up projects for 2026–2027. The session therefore translated the strategic ambitions of the Action Plan into more concrete governance questions concerning membership, responsibilities, funding and long-term cooperation.

At the end of the working programme, participants attended the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate and the accompanying wreath-laying ceremony. A wreath was laid on behalf of the GOV4PeaCE project.

Day 2 - Thursday 11th of June 2026

The second day focused on the development and valorisation of First World War heritage in the Westhoek and on the role of the In Flanders Fields Museum within this wider regional heritage landscape.

The day began with two introductory presentations. Stephen Lodewyck, Director of the In Flanders Fields Museum, introduced the museum's role and approach to the interpretation of the First World War. Eline Adam, Heritage Projects Coordinator at APB Westtoer, presented the broader regional approach to tourism development and heritage valorisation in the Westhoek.

These presentations provided a framework for understanding the relationship between historical heritage, landscape, tourism, recreation and regional development.

Following a visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum, participants took part in a field visit to four selected First World War heritage sites – Hill 60, Kemmelberg, Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery and the German Military Cemetery at Langemark.

The four locations were deliberately selected to demonstrate the diversity of First World War heritage in the region, both in historical character and in contemporary management and visitor use. The study visit was therefore not limited to historical interpretation. It also examined how individual sites are connected to the surrounding landscape, regional tourism infrastructure and recreational networks.

Particular attention was given to walking and cycling networks and to the regional icon routes, several of which connect or pass close to the selected sites. The visit also demonstrated the interaction between heritage and recreation and the use of coherent regional signage to make individual sites part of a wider territorial visitor experience.

Each location illustrated a different aspect of heritage development and valorisation. Together, the four sites demonstrated how cemeteries, battlefield landscapes, memorial sites and other forms of war heritage can be incorporated into a wider regional framework without losing their individual historical character.

Where relevant, the site visits also connected individual stories from *the Names List* and with the educational and interpretive work of the In Flanders Fields Museum. This approach illustrated how site-based interpretation can be linked to personal histories while simultaneously situating individual heritage locations within the wider historical and contemporary landscape.

Day 3 - Friday 12th of June 2026

The third and final day took the form of a public forum at CC Het Perron in Ieper and was open to stakeholders and members of the wider public.

The forum presented the overall results of the GOV4PeaCE project and reflected on the lessons emerging from the three functional territories. Particular attention was given to the different governance conditions represented by the initial, developing and mature territories and to the way in which the pilot experience had contributed to the refinement of the CEWoP governance model.

The public forum also provided an opportunity to look beyond the immediate project period. Discussions addressed the continued use and transfer of the project results, possibilities for future cooperation and the potential for new initiatives and projects building on the governance approaches developed through GOV4PeaCE.

In this way, the final day connected the results of the project with the broader question of how First World War heritage can continue to support cross-border cooperation, knowledge exchange and sustainable territorial development after the formal conclusion of the project.

Annex

Program for the GOV4PeaCE Third Joint Transnational Strategic Workshop

Wednesday 10th of June 2026 – Friday 12th of June 2026 // Ieper, Belgium

Day 1 – 10th of June 2026 // Evaluation workshops

09h00	**Registration** Venue – CC het Perron *Maarschalk Fochlaan 1, 8900 Ieper*
09h20	**Opening speech** Stephen Lodewyck (IFFM)
09h25	**Finances and Communication** Alexander Klaric (Lead Partner) (*online*) and Anna Buk (Communication Manager)
10h15	**Session 1 - Evaluation of and result from Work Package 2** Jean-Baptiste Hintjens (Work package 2 leader)
10u40	**Coffee break**
11h10	**Session 2 - Discuss and adopt the final revised CEWoP model** Giulio Focardi & Lorenza V. Salati (OSUN Wes) and Maša Klavora (Work package 3 leader)
12h15	**Lunch**
13h30	**Keynote speech - From Sarajevo 1914 to Paris 1919 and Brussels 2026** **Why we need an international network of WWI-museums and WWI-heritage projects?** Piet Chielens
14h00	**Session 3 - Discuss and adopt the action plan for the transnational CEWoP governance platform** Maša Klavora (Work Package 3 leader) and Slavka Zupan (KZ Consult) (*online*)
15h30	**Coffee break**
16h00	**Session 4 - Agree on draft of transnational cooperation agreement for the establishment of the transnational CEWoP governance platform** Maša Klavora (Work Package 3 leader)
17h30	**break and free time**
19h00	**Guided tour at the CWGC Ypres 'Menin Gate' Memorial** Location – CWGC Information Centre *Menenstraat 46, 8900 Ieper*
20h00	**Last Post Ceremony**

20h30 **Dinner**
Venue – Yperley
Sint-Jacobsstraat 1, 8900 Ieper

Day 2 – 11th of June 2026 // Ieper Case – Museum and Regional development

08h30 **Registration**
Venue – Raadzaal
Grote Markt 34, 8900 Ieper – entry via courtyard

09h00 **Welcome speech**
Mayor Katrien Desomer (City of Ieper)

09h05 **Regional development in the Westhoek – Part 1**
The case study of the In Flanders Fields Museum
Stephen Lodewyck (IFFM)

09h45 **Regional development in the Westhoek- Part 2**
Touristic development and valorisation in the Westhoek
Eline Adam (APB Westtoer)

10h30 **Guided visit to the In Flanders Fields Museum**

12h30 **Lunch**

13h30 **Guided tour in the Westhoek region**
with a focus on regional and touristic development

- Hill 60 / Kemmelberg / Lijssenthoek / German Cemetery Langemark
- *Other sites can be added depending on the available time*

Return to Ieper foreseen at 19h00

20h00 **Dinner**
Venue – Den Olifant
De Stuersstraat 3, 8900 Ieper

Day 3 – 12th of June 2026 // Public Forum

09h30 **Registration**
Venue – CC Het Perron
Maarschalk Fochlaan 1, 8900 Ieper

10h00 **Welcome speech**
Stephen Lodewyck (IFFM, Belgium) and Emmily Talpe, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Museums (City of Ieper, Belgium)

10h15 **Panel 1 - Results of the GOV4PeaCE project**
A general overview of the process and results from the past periods
Elisa Corni (Work Package 1 Leader) and Jean-Baptiste Hintjens (Work Package 2 Leader)

10h30 **Panel 2 - Results and lessons learned in each functional territory**
Discussions with representatives from each functional territory, analysing the specific results and lessons learned in each territory
Chair - Jean-Baptiste Hintjens (Work Package 2 leader)
Speakers
Katarina Kogoj, ZRC SAZU, Slovenia
Róbert Miklós, Town of Mórahalom, Hungary
Dominika Kamińska-Kornaś, City of Gorlice, Poland

11h00 **Coffee break**

11h30 **Panel 3 - How GOV4PeaCE improved WWI Heritage Governance and shaped future transnational goals**
Chair - Maša Klavora (Work Package 3 Leader)
Speakers
Petra Svoljšak, ZRC SAZU,Slovenia
Francesco Frizzera, MITAG, Italy
Franck Viltart, Mission Patrimoine 14-18, France
Róbert Miklós, Town of Mórahalom, Hungary
Dominika Kamińska-Kornaś, City of Gorlice, Poland
Stephen Lodewyck, IFFM, Belgium

12h30 **Light Lunch**

14h00 **End**