

What surprised you in the exchange?

What gave you hope?

What did you learn that can bring us further towards 'flourishing destinations'?



It did not surprise me at how resilient, creative and adaptable we can be!

**No-one has gone bankrupt**

There was no big surprise: everyone had similar problems and adequate solutions to them

Some businesses have done really well as a result of Covid

Can governmental relance programs be aligned between European partners?

We hope to see each other again in real life and to exchange ideas in real life!

**Inhabitants became vistors of their own place!**

Certain businesses were not able to survive. We need to think more about the reasons for that.

**In a sense it was comforting to see we are all in the same boat.**

Renewed love for local touristique experiences is something to keep working on!

Question - did your local tourist board/DMO start to actively encourage people to discover their "backyard"?



WHAT SURPRISED ME IN THIS EXPERIENCE WAS THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE THOUSAND KILOMETERS AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, WE MANAGED TO SHARE OUR IDEAS

**I saw it a lot happening in Flanders - Sophie Assenede ... and others**

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Not enough people looking after our environment and experiences in our community.

**What brought me hope was that we are all experiencing the same challenges!**

what's brought me hope was all the business was that the majority of business where in the same situation and some others business were in a worse economical difficulties.

**Surprised that everyone took the time to rediscover their own area**

I was surprise to see how the word stop and everybody have time for everybody, surprise people have more appreciation for what they have at their door steep, surprise in how everybody want to contribute a little part on working together.

People now have more 'time' to spend. The cost of an acitivity is now not the focus.

Surprised to find new ways to be known, some businesses did this very well.

**Rural and local products have been highlighted.**

**I was surprised that all over the world the mindset was changed**

**I was surprised that El Tajin Martha's restuarant was closed**

**Some businesses have done really well as a result of Covid**

I learn to reinvent myself, embracing the new way of living with the current restrictions.

We learned more about human behaviour and what happens when they are 'locked down' and that lockdown eases. We learned what is important to people. We need to capitalise on that and learn for the future

I was surprised how incredibly busy some local sites became. Positive to see small businesses thrive.

Human lessons learned experiences, surprise Londoners are moving towards country areas

I now understand the importance of having the support of the local community

Learned that we need to provide a network of public toilets to support people to access the outdoors

**Need to value our nature economy more**

Some businesses did not survive. We need to think through why that was top help make them more resilient for any future pandemics

Small rural places were overwhelmed with visitors and caught unprepared for their arrival

**I was surprised that every Belgian started to appreciate their own environment. Everyone became a tourist in their own area.**

**Local community now value and are willing to pay more money for a local product. It is also a treat - in an otherwise boring life!!**



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Andreea: the rural tourism as key for local development

Bart - From Louise I learnt that having a few business directions is a very good plan (diverse your economic model)

What doesn't surprise me is that we all face the same problems.

1. Monica: it surprised me to see how similar the problems we face are.

1. Stuart - not all that surprised that our rural areas benefitted and urban areas were quiet for tourism.

Bart - It surprised me that in Belgium the COVID problem looks bigger than in Scotland or Romania

Andreea: Adapt, reinvent, see new opportunities

2. Stuart - It gave me hope that we are all planning for a post Covid future or at least planning for business to start back again.

Bart - More rural space = A GIFT

2. It gave me hope that we became more attentive to our values, of each one!

2. Stuart - we all want to help our local areas/businesses flourish and with Scotland, Belgium and Romania all appearing to want these same things it makes the big challenge to change the world less of an impossible task.

Bye Bye COVID soon please. IK BEN HET BEU

Louise - not surprised by the overall sameness of the challenges we face. Great to see that Romania and Belgium communities supported their businesses. I drink too much.

implica i să găsim solu ii i strategii. - I hope that we will get well through this period, especially because I see that we are all involved in finding solutions and strategies. - Ik hoop dat we deze periode goed doorkomen, juist

What doesn't surprise me is that we all face the same problems. I expected this somehow

3. be more careful about how we do things / more flexibility and ease of adaptation

Am inva at ca orice situa ie are pãr i bune i pãr i rele i cã adaptarea joacã un rol extrem de important. - Ik heb geleerd dat elke situatie zijn goede en slechte kanten heeft en dat aanpassing een uiterst belangrijke rol speelt



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KILROY WAS HERE Group 4

People are adapting, they're 'flourishing' under the circumstances - Ann-Marie

the creativity in Romania, and the supporting attitude of entrepreneurs in Scotland

It was a very intense and interesting experience

it's important to see that we can trust the power of community

A negative - A couple of businesses in my industry have had to cease trading as a result of the pandemic. This has been upsetting to see as most were family businesses that have been operating for many, many years. Ann-Marie

It did not surprise me at how resilient, creative and adaptable we can be!

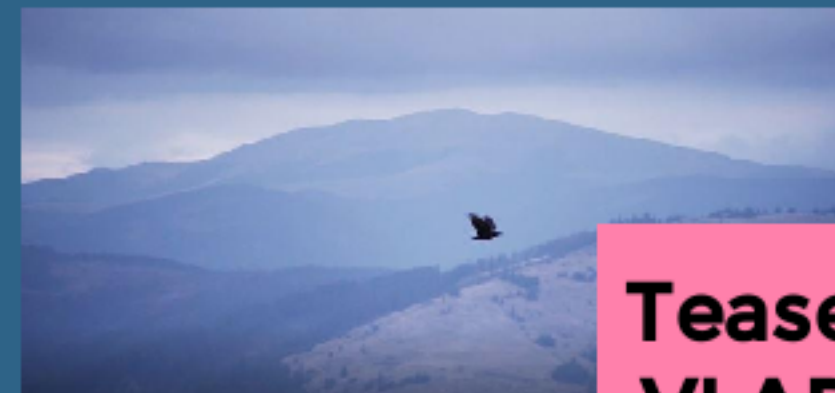
the easy/fast shift to local actions and supporting local businesses

I am pleasantly surprised that each of the participants went through a difficult period and yet they are very optimistic, confident and willing to change.

the pandemic time give us time to think and rethink the things we intend to do, and improve our vision on it. and it is nice to see that each one is supporting each other. It's a difficult time for every one, but everyone is in it in the same way

It gave me hope the fact that people came with so many creative ideas for this period

We also saw how quickly nature could heal if left alone for a while - the skies were clearer etc.



Teaser : VLAD's film!

There is always hope and we can create a better world together when tougher times are with us

in the dark, a little light can make the difference

We have been given an opportunity to teach people about our local area and how to respect and care for it. Ann-Marie

More people in the tourism transport industry have come together to create a louder voice. To work together to find solutions to our issues and to understand that we are all in this together. Ann-Marie



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provincie Oost-Vlaanderen



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Group 5

Hope - that people are embracing local tourism and supporting local business

destinations - Europe is on our doorstep and there are so many unique experiences out there that communities develop and share with great enthusiasm. Maybe unique European experiences are something Scots will look for more in

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**Diversity of response**

Things going on on my doorstep that are relevant

Local community tourism responses can be fast, agile and adaptive.

Surprise - the speed that everyone has been able to adapt and diversify at short notice in trying circumstances



**Hello!**

**No one went bankrupt so far!**

That we are still here to learn from on another!

Surprised at how resilient everyone has been in incredibly difficult circumstances











