

Cisterscapes: education, sharing, interpretation

2026



Date:

Thursday 16. 4. 2026
- Sunday 19. 4. 2026

Location:

Vyšší Brod, Czechia



Interreg
Rakousko – Česko



Spolufinancováno
Evropskou unií



CISTERSCAPES
connecting Europe

CISTERSCAPES VB-Zw-ZnS



International EDUcation conference

16. 4. 2026, Thursday

Event Schedule



9:30am - 10:00am

Registration & Networking

Meet and connect with attendees



10:00am - 10:30am

Opening Speeches

Welcome and event overview



10:30am - 11:30am

Good practise panel:

Insight into education in the cistercian landscapes AT/CZ

speakers: BcA. Lucie Ó Súilleabháin Špalková, Elisabeth Moll, MBA, Dr. Andreas Gamerith, Mgr. Tomáš Pleva (Monastery Vyšší Brod, Stadtarchiv Zwettl, Stift Zwettl, Žďár nad Sázavou)



11:30am - 12:00pm

Coffe break



12:00pm - 1:00pm

Opening up and providing Access to Cultural Heritage

- **Education in the sacred space:** Bc. et Bc. Adéla Tlustořová - Roman Catholic parish Žďár nad Sázavou II.
- **Haptic Models as a Means of Bringing Regional Monuments Closer**
- **Mgr. Zuzana Duchková, Ph.D** - University od South Bohemia
- **Ebrach Abbey Behind Bars – Inaccessibility, Fascination, and Strategies for Visitors:** Dr. Rosa Karl
- **Organization of excursions and activities in the monastic landscape:** Monika Führer-Kolm - Volkshochschule Zwettl



1:00pm - 2:00pm

Lunch



International EDUcation conference

16. 4. 2026, Thursday

Event Schedule



2:00pm - 3:00pm

Interpreting the cultural heritage in practice

- **Water is our mirror:**
Mgr. Zuzana Demlová, Castle Ždár
- **Education in the Cultural Landscape Using the Example of the Historic Hoslovice Water Mill:**
Mgr. Irena Novotná, Muzeum Středního Pootaví Strakonice
- **Working with the Landscape in Art Education:**
Mgr. Karel Řepa, Ph. D - University of South Bohemia
- **Sharing knowledge directly at the pond:**
Dipl.Ing. Birgit Hofbauer-Domin, Pond manager



3:00pm - 4:30pm

Workshops



4:30pm - 5:00pm

Coffe break



5:00pm - 5:30pm

Conclusion



5:30pm - 7:00pm

Excursion

- Maria Rast am Stein
- St. Bartholomew's Church



7:00pm - 8:00pm

Dinner



8:00pm - 10:00pm

Pub Quiz



Cisterscapes steering committee + education in practice

17. 4. 2026, Friday

Event Schedule



7:15am

Mass in the Monastery
individually



9:00am - 12:30pm

Steering committee meeting



9:00am - 12:30pm

How to build a monastery

Creative workshop in the monastery garden



12:30pm - 2:00pm

Lunch

+ transportation to the monastery



2:00pm - 4:00pm

The Monastery tour



4:00pm - 4:30pm

Monastery Coffe break



4:30pm - 6:00pm

Short Monastery eduprogram
/ visit to the monastery operation



6:00pm - 6:30pm

transportation to Rožmberk nad Vltavou



6:30pm - 7:30pm

Tour of the Rožmberk's brewery with tasting



7:30pm - 10:00pm

Dinner



Exploring the monastic landscape

18. 4. 2026, Saturday

Event Schedule



7:15am

Mass in the Monastery

individually



8:30am - 1:00pm

Organized:

1.group - walk along the Abby road II. to The Devil's wall

2.group - hiking trip to the Cow mountain

Individually:

Rožmberk Castle, Český Krumlov, Zlatá Koruna monastery



1:00pm - 2:00pm

Lunch in the Monastery



2:00pm - 3:30pm

Beneficial lecture by Jiří Šindělář:
„Non-invasive archaeology and Rožmberk's rings”



3:30pm - 4:00pm

Monastery Coffe break



4:00pm - 5:00pm

Beneficial concert in the monastery church



5:00pm - 6:30pm

Individually leisure
(Vesper, praying The rosary together)



6:30pm - 8:30pm

Simple monastery banquet



Wilhering Pilgrimage Trail

19. 4. 2026, Sunday

Event Schedule



7:30am - 10:00am

breakfast, checkout,
departute to Wilhering



10:00am - 11:30am

Ceremonial opening -
Wilhering Pilgrimage trail



11:30am - 2:00pm

Invitation to a glass of wine



2:00pm -

Individually programm, departure



Annotations

Cisterscapes: education, sharing, interpretation

The conference **Cistercian Landscapes: Education, Sharing, Interpretation** will offer both inspiration and hands-on experience in bringing cultural heritage closer to people – with a focus on the Cistercian landscape and its stories. Participants will have the opportunity to look behind the scenes and directly experience innovative educational approaches developed within the cross-border cooperation project Interreg Austria–Czech Republic ATCZ00007, including both already implemented and upcoming educational programs.

Throughout a rich full-day program, we will focus on the key themes of accessibility and availability of cultural heritage, as well as on practical approaches to interpreting both tangible and intangible heritage – through panel discussions and workshops designed to encourage the sharing of experiences across sectors and regions. In addition to the main program, participants can also look forward to an accompanying program that provides further opportunities for networking, inspiration, and informal exchange.

Conference language: Czech and German; selected workshops may also be organized in English.

10:30–11:30 Block I:

“Insight into Education in the Cistercian Landscapes of Austria–Czech Republic”

Speakers: BcA. Lucie Ó Súilleabháin Špalková, Elisabeth Moll, MBA, Dr. Andreas Gamerith, Mgr. Tomáš Pleva

This session will focus on the main directions of educational activities and the development of educational programs in the partner locations of Vyšší Brod, Žďár nad Sázavou, the town of Zwettl, and Zwettl Abbey. It will include the sharing of practical experience as well as an outline of upcoming approaches and planned initiatives.

12:00–13:00 Block II: “Opening Up and Providing Access to Cultural Heritage”

12:00–12:15 Education in a Sacred Space

Speaker: Bc. et Bc. Adéla Tlustošová, Roman Catholic Parish Žďár nad Sázavou II

This presentation will introduce the specific features of education in a sacred space and working with children’s groups, using educational programs reflecting the liturgical year as examples. The programs focus on spiritual dimensions, traditions, art, and related aspects.

12:15–12:30 Haptic Models as a Tool for Presenting Regional Heritage Sites

Speaker: Mgr. Zuzana Duchková, Ph.D., Department of Art Education, Faculty of Education, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice

The presentation will introduce a project of the Department of Art Education (Faculty of Education, USB) that connects university teaching with professional practice in making cultural heritage more accessible. The project involves the creation of haptic models of specific architectural elements or paintings intended primarily for people with disabilities, though usable much more broadly. The models from Vyšší Brod Monastery will serve as examples

Annotations

12:30–12:45 Ebrach Abbey Behind Bars: Inaccessibility, Fascination and Visitor Strategies

Speaker: Dr. Rosa Karl, Individual Manager Ebrach

Since the mid-19th century, the former monastery in Ebrach has served as a prison. The most impressive spaces of the abbey are accessible only to groups and on special occasions, while most of the complex unfortunately remains closed to the public. How do we, as promoters of our monastic landscape, address this situation?

12:45–13:00 Organising Excursions and Activities in the Monastic Landscape

Speaker: Monika Führer-Kolm, Volkshochschule Zwettl

This contribution will present how excursions and accompanying activities in the monastic landscape are planned and organised in practice – from working with target groups and lecturers to logistics, communication, and linking education with the local story.

14:00–15:00 Block III: “Interpreting Cultural Heritage in Practice”

14:00–14:15 Water Is Our Mirror

Speaker: MgA. Zuzana Demlová, Ždár Castle

Ždár Castle – a former Cistercian monastery – is literally surrounded by water. Water has shaped the site itself, and the people who lived and continue to live there have used and transformed it. For this reason, the theme of water permeates the organization’s activities: educational programs, camps, and even interactive elements in the playroom. Currently, the team is working on the project Talent for Water – a travelling educational laboratory that, through role-based learning and collaborative challenges related to water, helps young people understand complex issues and find their place in addressing them.

14:15–14:30 Hoslovice Water Mill

Speaker: Mgr. Irena Novotná, Museum of the Central Otava Region, Strakonice

The National Cultural Monument Hoslovice Water Mill presents visitors not only with original milling technologies but also with traditional methods of farming within the cultural landscape. The Strakonice Museum, which manages the site, also uses it for educational purposes. Several new features for visitors are currently being prepared.

14:30–14:45 Working with Landscape in Art Education

Speaker: Mgr. Karel Řepa, Ph.D., University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Faculty of Education, Department of Art Education

The presentation will outline possibilities for the didactic transformation of selected landscape and environmental topics within primary school art education. Through practical examples, it will demonstrate the development of competencies for a richer perception of landscape, fostering a deeper relationship to place, and enhancing the meaning of landscape through art-based exploration and creative discovery.

14:45–15:00 Sharing Knowledge Directly at the Pond

Speaker: Dipl. Ing. Birgit Hofbauer-Domin, Pond Manager

This contribution will present knowledge transfer “directly at the pond,” using examples from carp farming in fishponds. It will focus on practical management methods and their interpretation for both the general public and professionals, with an emphasis on clear and accessible communication of hands-on fish-farming experience.

**Workshop I: Opportunities and Themes of Education in the Cistercian Landscape
Czech Republic–Austria**

*Speakers: BcA. Lucie Ó Súilleabháin Špalková, Elisabeth Moll, MBA, Dr. Andreas Gamerith,
Mgr. Martina Schutová*

What does cooperation between partners look like in developing education within the Cistercian landscape? Which themes and formats are addressed by educational programs across the sites of Žďár nad Sázavou, Vyšší Brod, the town of Zwettl, and Zwettl Abbey – in authentic monastic spaces as well as beyond them, in institutions, in the landscape, and in schools?

Take a closer look at the work of the educational teams and experience selected activities firsthand.
Language: CZ, DE, EN

Workshop II: Cooperation and Collaboration Between Institutions

*Speakers: Mgr. Tomáš Řepa, Ph.D., National Heritage Institute; Lucie Schubert, Wikimedia;
Bc. Martina Peřinová, Vysočina Education*

This workshop will focus on cooperation and collaboration between institutions and present various partnership models across sectors and borders. It will offer examples of good practice, shared experiences, and practical suggestions on how to establish, sustain, and develop cooperation so that it benefits both institutions and their target groups.

Language: CZ, EN

Workshop III: Carp – Water – Life in the Pond: Your Visit with Us Will Be a Rich Experience

Speaker: Dipl. Ing. Birgit Hofbauer-Domin, Pond Manager

The workshop will introduce methods for presenting nearly 900 years of the cultural history of fish. It will share knowledge about the environment, the natural production of carp, and why it is worthwhile to eat local fish more often. Participants will explore teaching methods that make centuries of pond heritage tangible and engaging.

Language: DE

Workshop IV: Presenting Educational Activities within the International Cisterscapes Network

Speaker: Dipl.-Geol. Christiane Huck-Stiasny, Cisterscapes

This workshop will introduce the programs of the international Cisterscapes network and their application directly in the landscape. It will focus on approaches that connect cultural heritage with environmental themes and explore how educational activities and interpretation in the field can enhance the perception of place, understanding of historical traces, and awareness of current landscape challenges.

Language: DE, EN