

# HINT Final Report form

Name of partner: Aspiring Geopark de Hondsrug

Period covered by report: 01/03/13 to 30/6/2013

Key objectives during report period:

Installing several Microsoft Surface tables will enable Geopark de Hondsrug to provide visitors to the 'expedition gates' or Expedition Gateways with information about the geopark in an interactive and innovative manner. All the Gateway museums will have a surface table. The Geopark has eleven story lines. All the lines will be brought together in the content of the table.

Did you meet all your objectives?  
*(Highlight/explain any problems)*

We did meet our objectives. We know that the table has more possibilities than we are using at the moment. We need to develop more in-house expertise to improve it. We are looking for other applications. We are interested in educational games for children.



## Summary of progress to project completion

Microsoft Surface is a revolutionary computer application which reacts to the natural movement of hands and physical objects. Users communicate with the technology in a way that is state-of-the-art, yet simple and intuitive. This innovative technology allows several users at the same time to manipulate and edit digital content, to control specific interactions with objects, and to connect other equipment to communicate with Microsoft Surface. In January 2011 Microsoft and Samsung jointly launched the second generation table in Las Vegas. *Speak* was present at the launch and was one of the first developers world-wide to develop an application for Surface 2.0



The *Speak* office has been commissioned to develop the concept and the user interface further. They will also be responsible for technical implementation and for editing content supplied by Geopark de Hondsrug. The plan was that the tables should arrive in December 2011. The delivery of the Microsoft table was delayed. The delivery of the tables was in April 2012. The company made a start on developing the application in November 2011. We are developing content for the application. We started with the peat storyline. When that was functioning we put in the ice age storyline. Two tables are being used now with two storylines. In June we decided that it was necessary to make some changes in the application to improve the functioning. At the end of August 2012 the update was made. We still want to improve the menu structure and asked *Speak* to put the templates of the other storylines in the system. The next storyline will be the prehistory. The content of the other storylines is under construction.

At this moment we are completing the content on the table. We are improving the text, adding photos and small movies.

We had quite a lot of difficulties with the Content Management System. In the end our supplier offered to put another CMS system on the application. This was a big improvement. Now it's easy to put more content on the table.

It is a continuing process. But we are content with the functioning of the table. Five storylines can be seen now. There's still a lot to do but the public is enthusiastic.



What have you learned from this project?

*(Highlight/explain how you are developing your knowledge/use of new technologies)*

We learned that we should make more effort on developing the content. The content can be used on the Microsoft service table and on the web 3.0. It's difficult to be creative with the possibilities of the service table when you have not enough knowledge about the possibilities off the table. The geopark team has lack of knowledge about the possibilities off the table. Speak has lack of knowledge about the content. Therefore we need to discuss everything other several times. At this time the table functions. To get the content better it will be necessary to put a lot of time into it. At the moment we have two volunteers are working to fill the application with content. We hope that before the summer five storylines will be available.

How have you tried to ensure best practice throughout the project?

*(Highlight any support/advice you have received)*

Trying to ensure that we make use of the best available technology for the project. We have been looking to other systems so that we can use the content in two different systems. We also discovered that we can use the content from our route bound app and our website in the service table.

Is there anything you would do differently in the future?

*(Explain)*

It's better to develop the content first and then make the application. In our situation that' wasn't an option. Make sure that the content management system is easy to operate if you don't have IT specialist in your organization.

Overall do you feel the project has been a success?

The Microsoft surface table is a success. So far we placed four tables in four museums. The content on the tables is improving. We see that almost everyone who visits the exhibition in the museums goes to the table and uses it. It's nice that especially young people use the table a lot.

List any publicity for your project (e.g. newspaper article, radio, magazine etc.)  
*(Please attach a scan or text where possible)*

We didn't make publicity especially for the table. The tables are part of exhibitions in museums.

Please give details of any community engagement (e.g. workshops, schools activities, volunteer opportunities, launch event etc.)

When the tables are placed the volunteers and employees get instructions. Two of our volunteers are beginning to become experts. They are more or less functioning as trouble shooters.

Give details of any feedback you have received on your use of technology

In the beginning we had some starting problems. But the tables are functioning very well at the moment. The Museums are all very happy with the tables. They say that table is an important part of their exposition. Visitors enjoy the table and are surprised by the content.

Any other comments?

Getting the content in the table is a lot of work. The people who fill the application have to have knowledge about the cultural history and how the content management system functions.