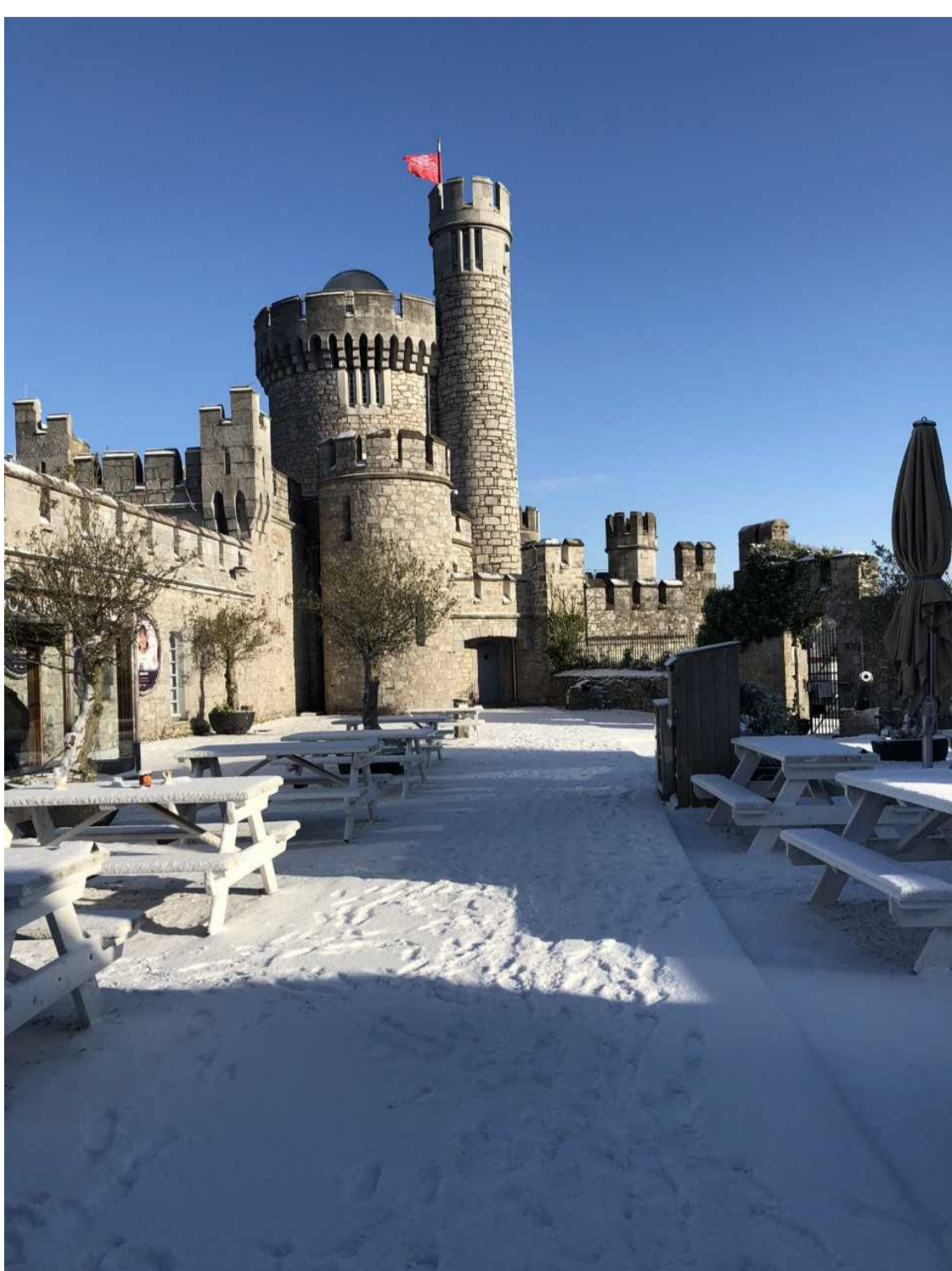


MEET OUR PARTNERS - CORK

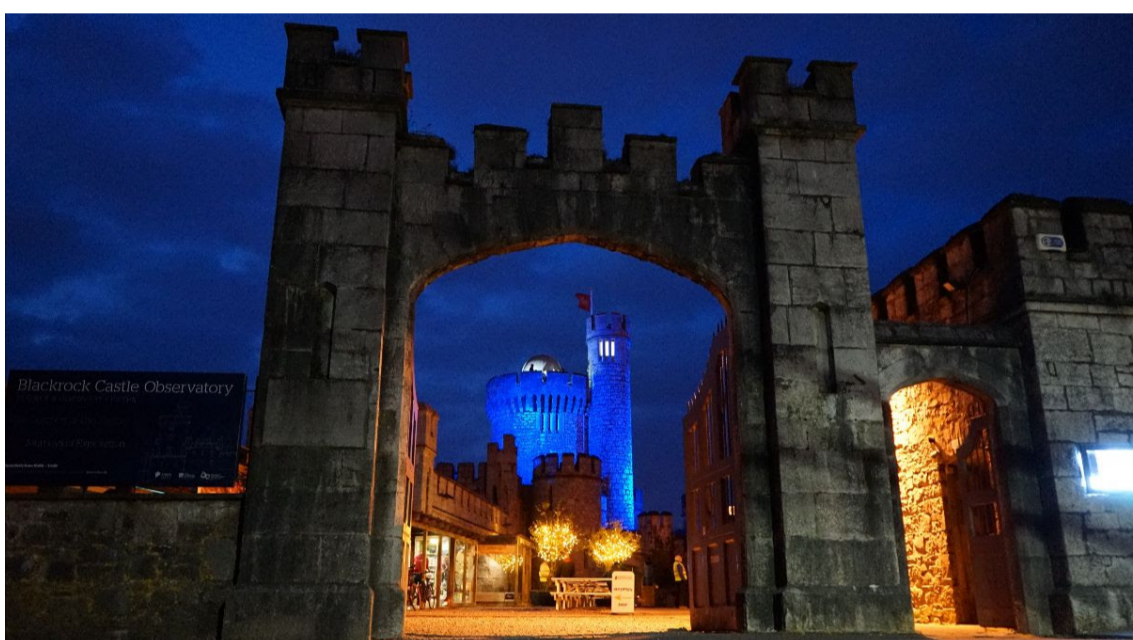
Cork is the second city in the Republic of Ireland and the city population is about 250,000.

Cork is one of the main access points to Ireland, with an airport serving a wide range of international destinations and sea-ferry services to France and Spain. Cork is also a very popular port of call for large passenger liners and during the season, we can welcome up to three large liners every day.



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Just as with Ireland in general, our region is very rich in heritage sites, it has a very lively night life and a lot of different activities for tourists to enjoy. These range from golfing, sailing, walking holidays, angling, painting etc. COVID 19 had a very negative on our regional tourism economy, which is only now slowly recovering as a result of the prolonged global pandemic.



The BODAH partner in the region is the Computer Science Department at the Munster Technological University-MTU. MTU is a regional wide university with its main campus locations in Cork city and in Tralee, which is the capital of County Kerry. The university has a student population of c20,000 students.

BODAH is examining how big and open data can contribute to sustainable tourism management. When we embarked on the project, nobody foresaw the challenges of COVID 19, our main tourism concerns were to ensure that the footfall by way of visitors numbers on any day, was sustainable from a visitors numbers management perspective. For example one of our test sites Blackrock Castle Observatory overlooking the river Lee is located close to the port area, similarly our historic indoor vegetable, fish and meat market called the English Market is in the tourism centre of Cork City. These sites were susceptible to very large numbers of tourist arriving at the one time, often by coach from a liner or a tour group who had flown into the city for a few days.



BODAH technologies would provide predictive visitor numbers for either location, both of which were planned as test beds and demonstration sites for the project. The purpose of the demonstrations was two-fold- firstly to build the systems using big and open data, which incidentally included factors such as weather, car numbers using the motorways to the city and project passenger arrivals at the airport and seaport, to accurately predict tourism numbers on any given time and date. The project plan was to use these test- demonstration sites to shown strategic planners, how big and open data could play a valuable role in tourism and heritage management and planning.

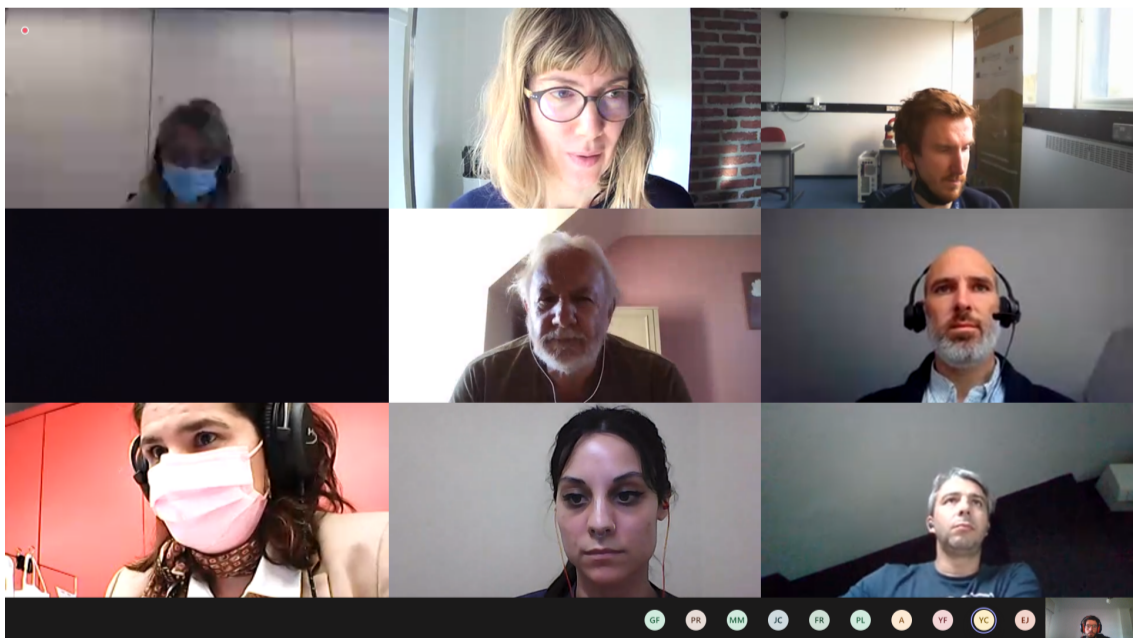
Regrettably, COVID more or less closed down tourism here for almost the past two years. Access to demonstration sites was frequently not possible due to health restrictions.

As the project emerges from the COVID constraints, we are conscious that in the post Covid world, heritage site and tourism attractions may have to consider controlling the capacity of visitor numbers and may now have to take public health considerations also into consideration As the project moves on, MTU and our partners in BODAH will now also be looking at these new challenges.

STEERING COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETINGS

BODAH held its fifth meeting on July 8th in order to advance in managing tourist flows in heritage cities.

On October 21st, the participants of the "Big and Open Data for the Development of New Processes towards Atlantic Heritage Management" (BODAH) European project held their sixth meeting. Both virtual events featured the participation of entities from Spain, Portugal, France, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.



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