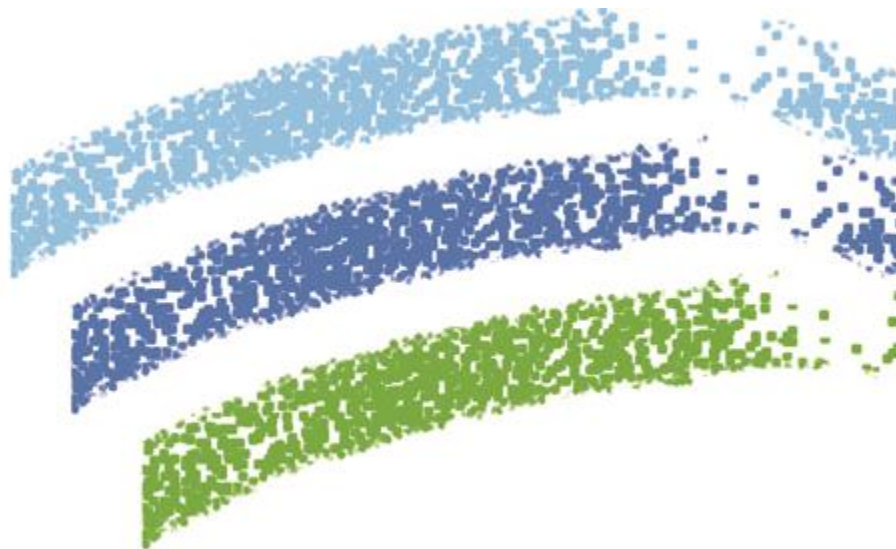


EUROREGIONE ADRIATICO IONICA
JADRANSKO JONSKA EUROREGIJA
ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION
EURO RAJONI ADRIATIKO JONIAN
ΕΥΡΩΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΔΡΙΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΙΟΝΙΟΥ

Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018



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1st Section

STATUTORY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

1. XV General Assembly of AIE – Termoli (Italy), 8th February 2018

On February 8, 2019, the XV Elective General Assembly of the Euroregion was held in Termoli. The Assembly, which involved the members of the association, focused on statutory issues and the renewal of AIE bodies. The debate focused on past and future activities of the association and on its participation in EUSAIR initiatives and the European projects.



The AI-NURECC Initiative was presented. Within this initiative, the Euroregion would actively collaborate with the most important macro-regional institutions in order to carry out a joint project focused on the Macro-regional Strategy. The Assembly approved both the AIE activity report and budget for 2017 and the AIE activity & financial plan for 2018, confirming

also the annual membership fee for 2018.

The Assembly elected the new bodies of the Association. The result of the election confirmed the previous setting almost entirely. In particular, President Nikola Dobroslavić from Dubrovnik Neretva County (Croatia) was re-elected and assumed his second two-years mandate as President of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion. Also, President Aldrin Dalipi from the Regional Council of Tirana (Albania) and President Luciano D'Alfonso from Abruzzo Region (Italy) were confirmed as Vice-Presidents.

The Assembly accepted the requests for membership of Una Sana County and Herzegbosnian County (Bosnia Herzegovina), the Municipality of Budva (Montenegro) and the Calabria Region (Italy). With these four new members, the association now counts 33 associates.



As part of the Assembly, a roundtable was also held on the topic of “Cohesion policy after 2020 in the area of the Adriatic-Ionian Region”. President Dobroslavić emphasised the pivotal role of Cohesion policy for the future of the EU, calling for a wider accessibility and for a simpler implementation of the policy.

2. Executive Committee- Brussels, 5th December 2018

The Executive Committee of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion took place at the premises of the Euroregion in Brussels on 5th December 2018, hosted by the Molise Region Liaison Office.



MEP Ivan Jakovčić updated the members on the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR), stressing the importance of unity and cooperation to achieve the EUSAIR goals and to build prosperity in the macro-region. Moreover, he underlined the need of financial resources from the European Commission to support the implementation of the Strategy.

During the meeting, members of the Executive Committee discussed the future of European Cohesion Policy and Territorial Cooperation after 2020. Nick Brookes (Executive Director at CRPM) reported that on 29 May the legislative package on Cohesion Policy had been published and that the main innovations concerned in particular the reduction of the overall budget (-10%), lower co-financing rates, the focus on simplification, the closer link with the EU "Semester" and the thematic concentration of priorities at national level.

The AIE Secretary General, Mr. Francesco Cocco, reported on the activities of the Secretariat, and illustrated the projects presented and implemented during the year, including the BleuTourMed_C3 - an horizontal project aimed at building a community of projects - as well as the CREATE and AI-NURECC projects. The forthcoming AIE statutory meetings and events were then presented.



Mrs. Di Salvatore, representing the President of the Abruzzo Region, reported about a new set of projects that the Abruzzo Region presented in Rome in May 2018 on the occasion of the 8th Thematic Steering Group. Mrs. Di Salvatore also illustrated the priorities and guidelines of the Masterplan.

Croatia labelled two projects related to the motorway section Križišće - Žuta Lokva and the railway line Lika-Dalmata. Greece focused on the maritime dimension with 7 project proposals. Italy submitted to label a preliminary contribution for strategic infrastructure proposals related to the theme of intermodal interconnection.

2nd Section

EUSAIR Initiatives and Conferences

1. President Dobroslavić chaired the CoR Adriatic and Ionian Interregional Group in Brussels

On 17 May 2018, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić (AIE's President) chaired in Brussels the 14th meeting of the Adriatic Ionian Interregional Group, of which he holds the Vice-Presidency.



The meeting focused on the implementation of the EUSAIR and was introduced by Mr. Giannantonio Ballette from the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) of the European Commission, in the quality of Coordinator of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. The state of play of the three main European Territorial

Cooperation programmes currently active in the area were also debated.

In closure, Mr. Giuseppe Sciacca from the Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR) provided a brief presentation of the AI-NURECC initiative developed in collaboration with the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and the other three major networks of the area (the Forum of the Adriatic Ionian Chambers of Commerce, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and UniAdriion).

2. AIE Vice-President Aldrin Dalipi at the joint meeting of EUSAIR FRIENDS and CPMR Adriatic – Ionian Task Force. Brussels, 17 May 2018

On 17 May, the Vice President of the Euroregion Aldrin Dalipi and Secretary General Francesco Cocco took part in the joint meeting of EUSAIR Friends and the CPMR Adriatic-Ionian Task Force at the European Parliament in Brussels. The meeting was jointly organised by the CPMR and MEP Ivan Jakovčić.

The EUSAIR Friends is an informal group of the European Parliament promoted by Mr. Jakovčić and composed by seventeen MEPs from different political groups and Member States. Its purpose is to follow the progress of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region. The meeting was moderated by Mr. Jakovčić. The MEPs, the



representatives of Regions and other AI stakeholders shared their opinions and comments on both the state of play of EUSAIR and its future.



Mr. Aldrin Dalipi highlighted the importance of the meeting and encouraged a more effective connectivity and interactivity between the cities of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, either through the blue highway or air and sea ways.

He stressed the importance of enhancing the collaboration of all regions in better protecting the seas from pollution and in a more effective waste management. He remarked how this goal could be achieved through a coordinated effort between the cities and countries sharing the same seas, united in assuming greater responsibility of the nature and the health of the people.

The moderator, Mr. Jakovčić stressed the importance of unity and cooperation to achieve EUSAIR goals and to build prosperity in the macro-region.

Ms. Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR, presented the AI-NURECC Initiative as a good example of financial support provided directly by DG REGIO to a network of regional and local stakeholders.

3. 3rd EUSAIR FORUM: AIE President Nikola Dobroslavić announced as opening session speaker



The 3rd Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), took place in CATANIA (Italy), on 24-25 May 2018, under the slogan “Our Region, Our Future”.

The President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić was one of the panellists in the opening session.



The key message of the President Nikola Dobroslavić was that regions and local stakeholders as well as networks are key enablers of the EUSAIR, capable of providing concrete solutions, and, for this reason, they should be involved to a greater extent in its implementation.

Organised by the Italian Republic in close cooperation with the European Commission and with the support of the EUSAIR Facility Point, the event was aimed at enhancing the visibility of the EUSAIR and

stimulating discussion about the progress made since the 2nd Forum held in Ioannina in May 2017. Participants also had the chance to discuss funding mechanisms for all four thematic pillars of the EUSAIR and to share concrete ideas on future prospects of the Strategy.

In its 3rd edition, the Forum focused on connectivity and in particular on challenges and opportunities for Transport and Energy networks in the EUSAIR Region.

4. AIE President and Vice-President at the annual CPMR General Assembly in Funchal, Madeira

The President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić, and the Vice-President, Mr. Aldrin Dalipi attended the 46th General Assembly of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) in Funchal, Madeira, from 18 to 20 October 2018.

Mr. Dobroslavić was involved in a panel on the EU Budget as Rapporteur of the Committee of the Regions on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.



The occasion was a good opportunity to strengthen the long-standing collaboration between the Euroregion and the CPMR, with a view to creating joint initiatives in the framework of EUSAIR.

The two networks are in fact involved in the AI NURECC initiative, aimed at contributing to the achievement of the EUSAIR political objectives and at fostering the sound implementation of its Action Plan. The 46th CPMR General Assembly involved several presidents of regions, elected politicians, MEPs and European Commission officials as well as the President of the Portuguese Republic, Mr. Marcelo Nuno Duarte Rebelo de Sousa. The agenda for the meeting involved key interlocutors and debates on the Future of European projects and the post-2020 EU budget.

5. 15th Meeting of the CoR Adriatic Ionian Interregional Group, Brussels, 6 December 2018

On 6 December 2018, the President of the Euroregion, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić and the Secretary General, Mr. Francesco Cocco, took part in the 15th meeting of the Adriatic-Ionian Interregional Group at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels. The meeting focused on the state of the art of the AI Interregional Group and the election of its President.



Mr. Donato Toma, the President of the Molise Region, was elected by general acclamation as President of the Intergroup upon suggestion of the President of the Euroregion, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić.

After the election, Mr. Giuseppe Di Paola – Coordinator of the EUSAIR for the European Commission, reported on the current state of the EUSAIR implementation. He stressed that the launch of the EUSAIR in autumn 2014 raised high expectations of immediate tangible results in terms macro-regional actions and projects. Macroregional Strategies are working, they all identified preliminary lists of priority actions and projects (Labelled projects). These shortlisted actions are at different stages of implementation, going from project ideas to be developed from scratch to bankable projects ready for funding as well as projects already funded - including through the Interreg ADRION transnational programme - and currently in their implementation phase. (Examples: ARIEL, ADRIPASS, EUSAIR TRANSPORT MASTERPLAN, Pollution at sea - Contingency Plan for the Adriatic and Ionian Regions). At political level, the annual Fora and the EUSAIR ministerial meetings were the occasions for the Governments to show their commitment for the Strategy and its added value of cooperation.

During the meeting, the future of the European Territorial Cooperation in the 2021 – 2027 Cohesion Policy was discussed. Finally, Mr. Stavros Kalognomos, Policy Officer of the CPRM (LP of the AI-NURECC Initiative) spoke about the implementation of the AI-NURECC Initiative and upcoming activities.

3rd Section

European Projects

The EU projects implemented in 2018 have strongly supported the Euroregion. Nowadays, the involvement of transnational networks in European Territorial Cooperation projects is more and more relevant as EU networks can play a pivotal role in capitalising such initiatives and in increasing their impact across borders.

Within this framework, the Euroregion is building its credibility and expertise in disseminating good practices, in ensuring the replicability and transferability of results, in stimulating policy-making among its members. The added value of The participation of the AIE in EU projects brings about an added value for both the association as a whole and its members, not only in terms of acquisition of good practices, but in providing opportunities to develop knowledge & capacities.

Taking advantage of the experience of our staff, the Euroregion has been involved in several EU projects as full partner or associated partner. This allows us to increase the possibility to have extra financial resources useful for implementing our activities, covering the cost for employed staff and assisting AIE members to harness financial opportunities.

Project	EU Programme	Role of the AIE	Website
BlueTourMed_C3	Interreg MED, 1st call for Horizontal projects	Full Project Partner	https://sustainable-tourism.interreg-med.eu/
PANACeA	Interreg MED, 1st call for Horizontal projects	Associated Partner	https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/

InnoBlueGrowth	Interreg MED, 1st call for Horizontal projects	Associated Partner	https://interreg-med.eu/thematics/blue-growth/
Blue Kep	Interreg Italy Croatia, 1 st call for Standard+ projects	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/blue-kep-project/
AI-NURECC	Direct funded by EC DG REGIO	Full Project Partner	https://cpmr.org/policy-work/cohesion/ai-nurecc/
CREATE	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	www.projectcreate.eu
SWEEP	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/sweep-project-description/
ProADAS	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/projects/proadas/

1. Overview

The opportunities offered by European programmes and the different EU projects implemented in recent years have played a key role in enhancing relations between the two sides of the Adriatic.

In 2018, the Euroregion was involved, as project partner, in 6 EU projects, namely: BLUEKEP (Interreg IT-HR 2014-2020), Create (Erasmus+ Programme), Bleutourmed_C3 (Interreg MED), AI-NURECC (DG Regio), SWEEP (Erasmus+ Programme) and PROADAS (Erasmus+ Programme).

The Euroregion was also involved as associated partner in two MED projects “PANACeA” (Horizontal project of Axis 3.2 on Protected Areas) and “InnoBlueGrowth: Horizontal Communication & Capitalization project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level” (Modular project of Axis 1 on Blue Growth).

Another positive result was reached in 2018, the E-CITIJENS project was approved under the Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC programme, with a start date in January 2019.

The Secretariat of the Euroregion has also applied for several other proposals under the following EU programmes: Erasmus+ (DIASPORA), ADRION Programme (C-ROOTS, MITOUR, MUSE4YOU, A3C, CITTA’ SLOW), COSME (Where About).

2. Participation of AIE Secretariat in events related to EU projects

Project events are an important opportunity for partners to exchange information about project development, to present and validate deliverables or outputs, to highlight issues and ideas, to plan further steps in project implementation, to facilitate communication and networking between partners, on the one hand, and to implement external communication more efficiently.

<p>BleuTourMed_C3</p> <p>Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean Community building, Communication and Capitalisation</p>
<p>Length: November 2016 – October 2019</p> <p>Programme: Interreg MED</p>

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism (Communication Capitalization and Community Building)

Coordinated by Latin Arc, Spain

More at: <https://interreg-med.eu/thematics/sustainable-tourism/>

In a nutshell: BLETourMed aims at supporting and ensuring synergies between the modular projects selected under the SO3.1 with the objective of creating a cluster of projects able to enhance joint solutions for the protection and promotion of natural and cultural resources in the Med area through a coherent strategy of Community Building, Communication & Capitalisation.

The Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community had its mid-term Conference in Rome on 29-30 May

On 29-30 May 2018, a mid-term Conference was organized by BleuTourMed_C3 horizontal project on Sustainable Tourism, in which the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion is partner.

The event brought together representatives from all modular projects belonging to the community, including several partners from the Adriatic and Ionian area. The aim was to reach out to and engage policy makers and stakeholders of the Mediterranean tourism sector, while strengthening cooperation amongst the extant



community's projects. Three new projects officially joined the community. The MED Sustainable Tourism_Athens Declaration of Intent was also signed.

Several thematic panels related to the promotion of evidence-based policies for sustainable development were organised. The AIE Delegation moderated panel 3 "What should we change? Innovative management and planning strategies for sustainable tourism". During the event, AIE had the chance to meet stakeholders and to build future collaborations by exchanging ideas on possible joint actions and projects.

Meeting in Barcelona

On 20-21 September 2018 a BLEUTOURMED_C3 project meeting took place in Barcelona (Spain), hosted by the Catalan partner Diputació de Barcelona.

The meeting was an important opportunity to discuss the state of the art of this cooperation project.



The main purpose of the meeting was to reflect on how to finalise the policy factsheets on sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean, as well as to define the logistic and methodology to be adopted in the next capitalisation seminars of the MED Community on Sustainable Tourism.

The AIE Secretariat provided some technical advice on the methodology to be adopted for both the seminars and Working Group 4 “How to address the complexity of the tourism sector, including local actors, decision-makers and consumers? Governance mechanisms to guide a wide variety of stakeholders towards a more sustainable and responsible tourism”.

To complete the exchange of information, the hosting partner, Diputació de Barcelona, provided a detailed presentation on sustainable development of tourism in the Barcelona Province, showcasing the local good practices for diversifying the touristic offer and breaking tourism seasonality.

Capitalisation workshop of the Med Sustainable Tourism Community, 20-21 November 2018, Marseille (France)

The Second event of the Sustainable Tourism Community took place on 20 and 21 November 2018, in Marseille.

The Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion attended the event as partner of the Horizontal project BleuTourMed_C3.

The capitalisation workshop connected the research and pilot projects with the political and policy-making level, providing political stakeholders with guidelines to translate projects outcomes into policies, with a view to exploiting project results on a wider scale. At this stage, the community is able to profit from the fruits of its work in order to streamline them and convert them into policies’ contents.

During the workshop, the members of the STC reflected upon identifying the best strategy to transfer the results delivered by the Modular Projects to specific target groups (e.g. European and Mediterranean stakeholders), in order to mainstream projects’ results into tourism policies and create policy messages.



BLUE KEP - BLUE Knowledge Exchange Program and integration of education systems

Length: January 2018 - September 2019

Programme: Interreg Italy-Croatia, call for proposal 2017 Standard+

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: The topic of BLUE KEP is the Blue economy and its value chain (Nautical, shipbuilding, and maritime technologies)

Coordinated by: Informest

More at: <http://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/blue-kep-project/>

In a nutshell: Project's overall objective is to enhance the framework conditions for innovation in nautical/maritime sector within the cooperation area, by strengthening the integration of education systems through the harmonisation of the technical educational systems. Main outputs are teachers' exchanges, durable cooperation agreements among schools, training programmes among schools and companies, students' mobility, 3 international modules and students' common assessment tool.

BLUE KEP project, Kick-off meeting

On March 8, the Kick-off meeting of the BLUE KEP "BLUE Knowledge Exchange Program and integration of education systems in the cross-border area" was held in Trieste (IT).

BLUE KEP aims at enhancing the framework conditions for innovation in nautical and maritime sectors within the cooperation area, by strengthening integration of education systems in the cross-border area through the harmonisation of technical education systems.

The kick-off was the first opportunity for the BLUE KEP partners to meet and define the work plan, the calendar of activities and events. Secretary General Francesco Cocco illustrated the communication plan as well as the communication and capitalisation tools of the project.



The initiative was presented in all its details by the General Director for Work, Training, Education, Equal Opportunities, Youth Policies, Research and Universities of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Ketty Segatti, by the Secretary General of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, Francesco Cocco, and by the technical secretary of the 2014-2020 Interreg VA Italy-Croatia Programme, Marin Miletic.

BLUE KEP takes step from the KEPASS project, part of the 2007/2013 IPA Adriatic Programme, and the BlueSKILLS projects. It builds upon the previous experiences of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, which, with almost 150 students involved in EU-financed international exchanges, holds almost a decade of experience in the field of international mobility applied to upper secondary schools and tailored in particular to technical institutes and strategic sectors such as the nautical/maritime sector and tourism. BLUE KEP aims to capitalise these results and develop new guidelines for the accreditation of schools, the selection procedures of students, the recognition of the competences (training credits) acquired

abroad, the implementation of internship programmes, the training of both teachers and students.

The project intends to integrate and harmonise the educational systems of the Adriatic-Ionian area with a series of targeted actions. The final objective is to involve about forty students from all areas of the project partnership in international exchanges dedicated to the “maritime value chain”.

BLUE KEP Project, Second Coordination Meeting

On June 5th the II BLUEKEP Coordination Meeting took place in Šibenik, Croatia, hosted by the Public Institution Development Agency of Šibenik-Knin County. In this second official meeting, project partners took stock of the already implemented activities and to plan the work ahead. Administrative and financial activities carried out by the lead partner Informest were presented, and communication deliverables produced by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion were validated. Moreover, Marche Region presented the monitoring system of the cooperation between Italian and Croatian education systems and the related forthcoming activities.

In particular, partners introduced the technical and professional secondary institutes in transportation, logistics and nautical sector, which received accreditation under the call for schools, as well as the guidelines for the forthcoming selection of the 39 students to be involved in the mobility that will take place in Spring 2019. Partners also discussed the methodological and organisational aspects of teachers training activities aimed at creating international modules to be added to ordinary school curricula.



BLUE KEP project, “Exchange workshop”

An exchange workshop took place in Pula on 3-4 October hosting partners, experts and teachers in representation of the accredited schools. The event was attended by representatives of the Secretariat. The accredited Italian and Croatian nautical technical secondary schools also took part in the event.



Teachers informed the partnership about the features and peculiarities of their respective education systems and contributed to the definition of the future learning activities.

The workshop allowed the nautical and technical schools to acquire a better knowledge of their respective educational systems and to find common bases for the identification of shared schemes for student mobility and apprenticeship opportunities, with particular reference to the procedures for the

selection and evaluation of students and for the recognition of skills.

AI-NURECC Initiative
<p>Length: 18 months</p> <p>Programme: Direct Grant by EC – DG REGIO</p> <p>Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner</p> <p>Topic: EUSAIR</p> <p>Coordinated by: CPRM</p> <p>More info at: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/ai-nurecc-initiative/</p> <p>In a nutshell: The AI-NURECC Initiative contributes to the achievement of the EUSAIR political objectives and to the implementation of its Action Plan. The final goal of AI-NURECC is to promote a structured dialogue and a more effective cooperation among Regional & Local Authorities, Universities, Chambers of Commerce, youth associations and networks, entrepreneurs and civil society.</p>

Informative event “The Future is near: Europe for Young People, Culture and Creativity in the Adriatic-Ionian Region”, Ancona, 4th April 2018

On 4 April 2018, the Secretary General was invited as a speaker at the informative event “The Future is near: Europe for Young People, Culture and Creativity in the Adriatic-Ionian Region”, held in Ancona



(Italy) and jointly organised by the Forum of the AI Cities (FAIC), the Forum of AI Chambers of Commerce (Forum AIC) and UniAdrion, the network of AI Universities, in collaboration with the Europe Direct Marche Region.

The aim of the event was to help young people become more aware of European policies for the Adriatic-Ionian region.

1st Edition of the Uniadrion Summer School: an opportunity for the Macro-Region’s students

In the framework of the AI-NURECC Initiative, Uniadrion and Marche Polytechnic University organised the first edition of the Uniadrion Summer School which was held in Ancona (Italy) in September 2018.

AI-NURECC Initiative: events in Tirana on 20-21 November 2018



On 20-21 November 2018, the Secretary General and the staff of the Secretariat participated to the Tirana AI-NURECC events organised by the Lead Partner CPRM.

As part of the AI-NURECC Skills Development and Training Action and the AI-NURECC Task Force on

Tourism and Cultural Heritage, the events aimed to bring together young people, politicians and officers from Regional and Local Authorities and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, Universities, VET, NGOs, Managing Authorities of ETC programmes, Interreg Project Managers.

The events included a Forum on EU Policies and EU Territorial Cooperation Opportunities focused on Technology, Innovation and Youth in the Adriatic-Ionian area, as well as a Training workshop focusing on practicalities of preparing and implementing successful cooperation projects in the EUSAIR, and an Info Kiosk aimed at supporting dialogue in the field of cultural heritage and tourism.

AI-NURECC INFO DAY “Adriatic Ionian Youth Own Their Future”

The AIE Secretariat also organised the Info Day “Adriatic Ionian Youth own their Future”, which took place on 10 December 2019 at Campobasso (IT). The event was aimed at boosting discussion into the establishment of a framework for Adriatic-Ionian cross-cooperation in the youth field. Policy trends,



existing EU programmes/projects and related EU opportunities for youth with specific reference to the Adriatic Ionian countries and the EUSAIR were illustrated. Some of the most remarkable youth cooperation projects currently running in the area were presented such as the Regional Office of Youth Organisations (RYCO) and the Biennial of Young Artists of Europe and the Mediterranean (BJCEM).

The event was attended by AI-NURECC partner networks, EU policy officers, organisations advocating youth empowerment and participation, as well as several local and national level stakeholders, including roughly 80 students from local secondary schools.

The event represents as a first step towards promoting and building an impacting and open dialogue between the Adriatic Ionian Youth and the EUSAIR institutional and technical structures such as for instance the Montenegrin Government, holding the AII Chairmanship in 2018/2019, which was represented by its European Integration and EUSAIR Facility Point officer, Mr. Miloš Mugoša.

Furthermore, it was an opportunity to present a second initiative that it is going to be delivered in Autumn 2019: the Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF).

AI-NURECC INITIATIVE: Events in Belgrade (Serbia), 17-18 December 2018

On 17-18 December 2018, a delegation of the AIE Secretariat participated in a series of events organised by the CPMR in Belgrade (Serbia) and focusing on skills development and training.

The events were aimed at bringing together young people, politicians and officers from Regional and Local Authorities and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, Universities, VET, NGOs, Managing

Authorities of ETC programmes, Interreg Project Managers.

On 17 December, the CPMR organised a seminar on EU Policies & EU Territorial Cooperation opportunities, focused on connectivity, energy transition and networks. This was followed on 18 December by the Europroject Design Training Action to promote access to EU programmes/funds, focused on the practicalities of preparing and implementing successful cooperation projects in the EUSAIR.

CREATE - Competitive Regions Employability of Adults through Education

Length: November 2017 – October 2019

Programme: Erasmus+ KA2 Adult Education

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Support regions to invest better EU funds for Adult Education

Coordinated by Agentur für Erwachsenen- und Weiterbildung (AEWB)

More at: www.projectcreate.eu

In a nutshell: The overall objective of CREATE (Competitive Regions Employability of Adults through Education) is to reduce geographic disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes across and within EU regions. CREATE will enhance policy formulation and promote evidence-based AE policy and practice, also by further aligning strategy, policy and funding.

Second transnational meeting of CREATE, Pescara (IT), 23-24 April 2018

Representatives of AIE Secretariat attended the 2nd transnational meeting of CREATE (Competitive Regions Employability of Adults through Education) which took place in Pescara (Italy) on 23-24 April 2018. The CREATE project is co-funded by the Erasmus Plus Programme of the European Commission and the AIE is one of 9 project partners



from 8 countries. CREATE aims to reduce geographic disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes across EU regions, by developing a toolkit to enhance policy formulation and promote evidence-based Adult Education policy and practice.

During the meeting, CREATE partners revised the Open Education Resource (OER) Platform and discussed key findings of IO2 – Policy Assessment and Mapping of Policy Tools for the identification of effective recommendations and tools to include in the CREATE Toolkit.

The consortium also discussed the importance of dissemination and exploitation activities. Partners are



strongly committed to giving great visibility to the project, through direct contacts and networks, online and print media, various workshops and events, and dedicated CREATE multiplier events in each country.

The Euroregion plays a significant role in the project as policy influencer in the whole macro-regional area. It is strongly committed in disseminating project results.

3rd Transnational meeting of CREATE project (Erasmus+), Hannover, 30th November 2018

The CREATE Consortium met in Hannover (Germany) on 30 November 2018 for the 3rd transnational CREATE meeting.



The event was attended by Representatives of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion Secretariat.

Updates were provided on the CREATE website and platform, concerning the creation of a “ToolBox” section which includes a set of practical tools for policy makers to ensure evidence-based decision-making and to better align adult learning policies and programmes with local socio-economic development. Partners also discussed their experience with filling in the Toolkit evaluation table.

The last important issue discussed during the meeting was the dissemination of activities. The partners are strongly committed to give great visibility to the project, online and offline.



SWEEP - Select Waste for the EU Eco-system Protection

Length: 24 Months (October 2018 – October 2020)

Programme: ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Environment and waste collection

Coordinated by Romania – Socio-Cultural Asociatia “Sfantul Ioan Botezatorul” – Berbesti

More at: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/sweep-project-description/>

In a nutshell: The project purpose is to increase the sense of responsibility of the adults aged 50+ regarding the importance of waste separation by training them in using digital tools and technology

related to the recycling/reuse of waste such an e-learning model provided on an interactive digital project platform.

SWEEP Kick-off Meeting

The SWEEP project partners gathered for the project kick-off meeting that was held at the Bezirksmuseum Margareten in Wien from 14th November 2018 to 20th November 2018. The meeting was organised by Umblick, an Austrian environmental protection organisation. The SWEEP main objective is to achieve homogeneous results on the disposal of urban waste in different countries as a possible solution to environmental issues and health protection. The main object of the meeting was to discuss the separate collection of waste and how its proper treatment can improve environmental protection. The Austrian partner created an e-learning platform to be used as a research tool in the field of waste separation by people aged 50+.

Partners discussed about their domestic differentiated collection methods. Moreover, the last day of the event was dedicated to a study visit of a treatment plant, where organic fraction are recovered and converted biogas in a landfill. This is one of the most important examples of the new frontier of the so-called circular economy.

4th Section

INTERNAL ORGANISATION

1. Membership

During the General Assembly held in Termoli on 08/02/2018, the Association accepted and admitted as full members the following public authorities from Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Italy:

- West Heerzegovina Canton (BA);
- Hercegbosanska Županija (BA);
- Una Sana Canton (BA),
- Municipality of Budva (ME);
- Regione Calabria (IT).

The General Assembly held in Termoli on 08/02/2018 confirmed the amount of 1.000 € as annual membership fee for the financial year 2018.

2. Secretariat

Coordinated by the Secretary General, in 2018 the Secretariat was reorganised with a view to enhance efficiency and facilitate the coordination and management of the different project activities, including

the preparation of reports, position papers and declarations. Such changes included the hiring of external consultants, the involvement of trainees as well as volunteers made available by AIE members. The Secretariat took charge of organising two annual statutory meetings (the Assembly and the Executive Committee) and of project meetings.

The staff of the Secretariat worked mainly in the operational premises of the Secretariat in Campobasso, in strong collaboration with the Presidency.

3. Communication and Website

The Secretariat manages both the internal and the external communication of the Euroregion, through its website and social media profiles. In 2018 the Secretariat improved the association's website with new and updated contents, with a view to enhancing the Association's visibility by constantly providing updates and highlights on the ongoing activities. In particular, content on EU projects, internal and external events linked to the Macro-regional Strategy were regularly provided. Furthermore, the home page of the website was renewed in its graphic design with a more appealing visual image.

In 2018, the Secretariat also cured the creation and maintenance of social media profiles such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. In 2019-2020 the use of social media for external communication will be improved, based on a communication and social media strategy.