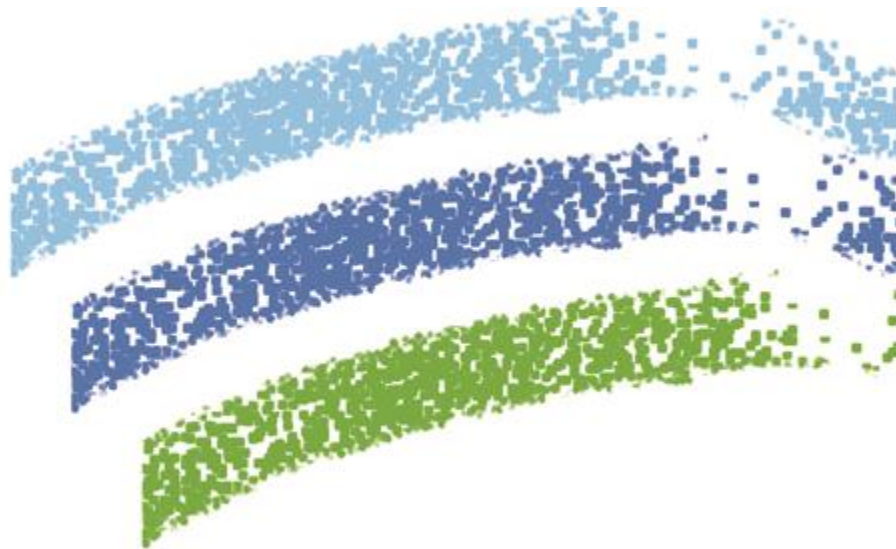


EUROREGIONE ADRIATICO IONICA
JADRANSKO JONSKA EUROREGIJA
ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION
EURO RAJONI ADRIATIKO JONIAN
ΕΥΡΩΠΕΡΙΦΕΡΕΙΑ ΑΔΡΙΑΤΙΚΗΣ ΙΟΝΙΟΥ

Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



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1st Section

STATUTORY MEETINGS

1. XVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AIE – MOSTAR (BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA), 16TH JULY 2019

The XVI General Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion was held in Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina) on 16 July 2019, organised by the Secretariat and hosted by the Herzegovina Neretva Canton. The meeting took place during the two-days AI-NURECC training event “How the Community-Led Local Development approach can help develop the pillars of the EUSAIR”.



Chaired by President Nikola Dobroslavic, the Assembly focused on statutory issues and approved the annual budget and the financial reports for the year 2018, as well as the activity report 2018. The Annual Activity Programme 2019 and the Financial Plan 2019 were also adopted and the Secretariat made Members aware of the calendar of activities for the next year as well as the status of the EU projects implemented by the association.

The board of the Association approved the declaration “MEDITERRANEAN COOPERATION ALLIANCE – Facing together common challenges and integrating strategies for a better and sustainable future” and the Athens Declaration of the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community. Papers with policy



recommendations on Sustainable Tourism elaborated by BleuTourMed_C3 MED project (Interreg MED Programme) were also distributed by the Secretariat.

Mr. Marco Marsilio (Abruzzo Region) was nominated as Vice President *Vicarius* of the Association. The General Assembly voted to appoint the Secretary-General of the Adriatic Ionian

Euroregion and confirmed Mr. Francesco Cocco for the next three years.

President Dobroslavić expressed his support for all the initiatives of the Euroregion and encouraged to continue promoting cooperation programmes and projects in the whole the Adriatic Ionian area,

stressing the importance of connectivity as a prerequisite for the overall development of the region.

2nd Section

COOPERATION INITIATIVES AND CONFERENCES

1. MED MARITIME SURVEILLANCE. PRESIDENT DOBROSLAVIC AS SPEAKER IN PANORAMED CONFERENCE IN L'AQUILA (IT)

A PANORAMED High-level Conference took place on January 18th, 2019 in L'Aquila, Italy. The event was organised by the Service of Territorial Cooperation IPA Adriatic of Abruzzo Region, in collaboration with Italy's Department of Cohesion Policies, the Italian Agency of territorial cohesion of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Italian Interreg MED Committee and Marche Region as the Country Coordinator of the PANORAMED Project.

The Conference focused on governance and maritime surveillance in the Mediterranean, and is the first held in Italy on such a strategic topic for the EU. Intended as an opportunity for discussion and technical analysis of the actions to implement at local, regional, national and cross-border level, in order to improve maritime surveillance in the Mediterranean region as whole.

The event saw the participation of Mr. Antonio Tajani, President of the EU Parliament, who provided his keynote speech. Both AIE's President, Mr Nikola DOBROSLAVIC, and Secretary General, Mr Francesco Cocco, contributed as panellists of the conference.



THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROREGION, ALDRIN DALIPI, MEETS THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA IN ALBANIA

On 19 February 2019, President of the Regional Council of Tirana and at the same time the Vice-President of the Euroregion Adriatic-Ionian, Mr. Aldrin Dalipi, hosted the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Tirana, Mrs. Sanja Bujas-Juraga at the premises of the Tirana Regional Council. During the meeting it was discussed about the concrete cooperation with the Croatian regions within the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, and the steps that have been taken so far on this regard. The Ambassador



praised the important steps that have been taken between two countries and regions, and it is necessary for this cooperation to be established at the economic level as well.

President Dalipi proposed the creation of a Adriatic-Ionian Professional School in the field of tourism, and services that would help in exchanging experiences and enhancing the capacity quality of the young people in these areas. Also, Mr. Dalipi made known the upcoming agenda of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion.

MED COOPERATION ALLIANCE, THE EUROREGION IN BARCELONA FOR THE FIRST COORDINATION MEETING

The Alliance for Mediterranean Cooperation is a new strategy implemented by some local and regional partners from the MED area to promote sustainable and integrated territorial development of the Mediterranean basin.

The First Coordination Meeting took place in Barcelona on April 24, 2019, hosted by the Generalitat de Catalunya. The representatives of the CPMR – Inter-Mediterranean Commission, the Euro Pyrenees Mediterranean Region, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Arco Latino and MED Cities met to discuss the future perspective of the Alliance for Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

The networks examined the objectives of the initiative in Barcelona and some common actions to give



visibility to it, also agreeing on some common activities such as pilot / strategic projects and future events. The partners also positively assessed the opportunity to find new members of the initiative.

Secretary General Francesco Cocco attended the meeting giving his contribution to the definition of the joint strategic actions of the initiative.

4th EUSAIR FORUM IN BUDVA

Each year the traditional Forum attracts numerous stakeholders, such as European Commission and other EU institutions, National ministries, Regional and Local authorities, Business sector, Academia and Civil society, who share views, exchange experience and discuss ways of cooperation.



In 2019, the annual event took place in Budva (ME) with a view to raise visibility of the EUSAIR and reflect on the progress made since the 3rd Forum held in Catania in May 2018.

The 4th EUSAIR Forum focused on the topics related to the field of Tourism and Blue Growth. The participants had the chance to discuss funding mechanisms for all four thematic pillars of the EUSAIR

and share concrete ideas on the future prospects of the Strategy.

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion participated in the Forum as key stakeholder of the Strategy, within the framework of the AI-NURECC Initiative's Seminar on "Skills Development and Training Action to promote access to EU programmes/funds focused on Industrial Transition and Entrepreneurial Discovery within the Smart Specialisation Strategies".

MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONVENTION 2019

The Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019 fosters a sound debate on key topics to promote sustainable tourism by providing a platform to showcase solutions developed by the MED Sustainable Tourism Community, an Interreg MED Programme initiative.

On 5th – 7th June 2019, the MED Sustainable Tourism Community gathered in Barcelona on the occasion of the Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019 to debate the tourism sector's contribution to a more sustainable and inclusive growth in the Mediterranean region. Panel discussions, round tables, workshops, side events and visits showcased how territorial projects of the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism Community can help in preserving the unique landscapes and precious resources of the Mediterranean by promoting a sustainable tourism.

The Convention gathered more than 70 speakers and 200 representatives at European, national, regional and local levels of the tourism sector from private and public entities and higher education institutions.



The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion joined as partner of the MED Horizontal Project Bleutourmed_C3. The Secretariat was involved in a panel debate. Furthermore, other representative of AIE members (such as FVG Region, Puglia Region, Emilia Romagna Region, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Split and Dalmatian County and Dubrovnik-Neretva Region, etc.) attended the convention as hosted participants or as partners of MED modular projects.

MED COOPERATION ALLIANCE, PRESIDENT DOBROSLAVIC IN MARSEILLE FOR THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CRPM INTERMEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION

Marseille, 21 June 2019. Nikola Dobroslavic, as President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and President of the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region, took part in the General Assembly of the CPMR Intermediterranean Commission. The president was one of the speakers involved in the international seminar

"Strengthening cooperation efforts for a more cohesive, inclusive and sustainable Mediterranean", a panel focused on the future of cohesion and cooperation in the Mediterranean.



In his speech, President Dobroslavic reiterated the commitment made by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion in promoting the MED Cooperation Alliance: *"My organisation approved this statement without the slightest hesitation. We did this by bringing our long experience of networking between regions. The EUSAIR strategy was only the first step towards more ambitious objectives such as the establishment of a basin strategy for the entire Mediterranean area that is complementary to EUSAIR and the West MED initiative. Our ambition is therefore to build an integrated and long-term strategy that supports the sustainable development of the entire Mediterranean region"*.

3rd Section

EUROPEAN PROJECTS

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 AIE's participation 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 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. The table illustrates the project in which AIE is involved in 2019:

Project	EU Programme	Role of the AIE	Website
BlueTourMed_C3	Interreg MED, 1 st call for Horizontal projects	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/progetti/bletourmed_c3
Sustainable Tourism	Interreg MED	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/progetti/sustainable-tourism-it
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/
Biodiversity Protection Community	Interreg MED, 2 nd call for Horizontal projects	Associated Partner	https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/
Blue Growth Community	Interreg MED, 2 nd call for Horizontal projects	Associated Partner	https://interreg-med.eu/thematics/blue-growth/
Renewable Energy Community	Interreg MED, 2 nd call for Horizontal projects	Associated Partner	https://renewable-energies.interreg-med.eu/
BLUE KEP	Interreg Italy Croatia, 1 st call for Standard+ projects	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/blue-kep-project
E-CITIJENS	Interreg Italy-Croatia	Full Project Partner	www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/progetti/e-citijens-project
AI-NURECC	Direct funded by EC DG REGIO	Full Project Partner	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/ai-nurecc-initiative
CREATE	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/progetti/create
SWEEP	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/sweep-project-description/
ProADAS	Erasmus+	Full Project Partner	www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/projects/proadas/
Eco for PIF	Hercule III	Associated Partner	https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/system/files/paginabase/99937/ECO%20for%20PIF_scheda_ENG.pdf

1. Overview

In 2019, the Euroregion was involved in 14 EU projects, 8 as full partner under 4 different European programmes. These are:

- Interreg MED projects: Bluetourmed_C3 and Sustainable Tourism;
- Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC projects: BLUEKEP and E-CITIJENS;
- Direct Grant by DG Regio: AI-NURECC;
- Erasmus+: CREATE, SWEEP, proADAS.

Among these, the Euroregion contributed to the successful closure of Bluetourmed_C3 in October 2019, of which the Sustainable Tourism is the sequel, BLUEKEP, AI-NURECC and CREATE. It also kept implementing the ongoing projects (SWEEP, proADAS) and successfully kick-started the E-CITIJENS project, started in January 2019.

The Euroregion was also involved as associated partner in some projects, three Horizontal projects under the MED programme (Biodiversity Protection, Blue Growth and Renewable Energy Communities) and one under the Hercules III programme (Eco for PIF).

Under the Eco for PIF project, the AIE participated in the Kick-off-Meeting held in L'Aquila on 25-26 June 2019 and contributed to diffusing project questionnaires and webinars across the Association's members. Activities under these projects will continue in 2020 and will be reported in 2021.

The results of each projects are available on each project website where it can be possible to download the deliverables elaborated by each project.

2. Participation of the 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 discuss issues and ideas and plan further steps in project implementation. The role of the Euroregion, as transnational actor and key institutional stakeholder of the EUSAIR, was focused on communication, networking and dissemination activities. In 2019, the Secretariat took active part in the organisation, participation and communication of 13 events.

BleuTourMED_C3 and Sustainable Tourism
<p>End date: 30th June 2022</p> <p>Programme: Interreg MED</p> <p>Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner</p> <p>Topic: Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism (Communication Capitalization and Community Building)</p> <p>Coordinated by: Latin Arc, Spain (BleuTourMED_C3). Diputacio of Barcelona (Sustainable Tourism)</p> <p>More at: https://interreg-med.eu/thematics/sustainable-tourism/</p> <p>In a nutshell: Sustainable Tourism is built upon the results of the previous horizontal project (BleuTourMED_C3). Its main aim is to set up a general framework of collaboration to facilitate the creation of synergies among modular projects, to enhance its visibility and to support the institutional up taking of their outputs and results, mainly in the field of tourism policies and cohesion policies.</p>

WORKSHOPS OF THE MED SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMUNITY “TOWARDS POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: SHAPING THE RESULTS OF THE MED COMMUNITY “, 27-28 MARCH 2019, SPLIT (CROATIA)

On the 27 and 28 March 2019, about ninety participants from the MED Sustainable Tourism Community, met in Split for workshop #2 of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community organised by the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion in the framework of BleuTourMed_C3 project. Divided into four thematic Working Groups, representatives of the 17 projects of the Community continued the work started in Marseille

towards the Mediterranean Sustainable Tourism Convention 2019 to be held on June 5-7, 2019 in Barcelona. The MED Sustainable Tourism Community's projects gathered in Split last March 27-28, 2019 to work together towards the drafting of the policy recommendations and continuing the work started in Marseille, last November 20-21, 2018.



Some AIE members (Puglia Region, Emilia Romagna Region, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Split and Dalmatia County and Dubrovnik-Neretva Region) have attended the workshops as partners of MED modular project giving their contribution to the event.

The session has been opened by Mr. Luka Brčić, Vice President of Split and Dalmatia County, who welcomed the audience and stressed the importance of tourism in Croatia and in the Mediterranean region and strongly encouraged the actions implemented by the MED Sustainable Tourism Community.



Then Mr. Francesco Cocco, Secretary General of Adriatic Ionian Region, took the floor to thank the community of projects for their participation. After the opening session, three projects which joined the community on February 2018 took the floor to introduce their main activities. Mrs. Konstantina Spyropoulou introduced the project INHERIT followed by Mr. Ernesto Lopez who presented the activities and the objectives of the project HERIT-DATA. The session

was closed by Mrs. Antonija Odak who presented synergies and objectives of the COASTING, a capitalisation project based on the ICZM – Integrated Coastal and Maritime Management principles, aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of a multi-level governance tool. Mrs. Lydwine La Fontaine, Project Officer Governance and Strategies of the Interreg MED Programme Joint Secretariat, presented the overall strategy of the Programme for the years to come and congratulated the members of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community for the results achieved and the synergies developed within the Community and amongst the different MED thematic communities in the last two years.

MED SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMUNITY EVENT “FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION”, BRUSSELS, 9TH OF OCTOBER 2019

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organised the conference “Fostering sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean region”, as side event of the European Week of Cities and Regions. The event took place in Brussels on the 9th of October 2019 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Tuscany Region delegation office in Brussels. The event is jointly organised in partnership with the BlueTourMed project and with the active participation of the MED Sustainable Tourism Community. It was an occasion for this Community to



showcase the achievements of its territorial cooperation projects in fostering sustainable tourism in the Mediterranean area, as well as to present important policy paper and factsheets.

Several speakers intervened, such as Mr Andrea Cozzolino (MEP), Mr Milosz Momot (European Commission, DG GROW), Mr Aldrin Dalipi (Vice-President of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion), Mr Gaetano Armao (Vice-President and Regional Minister for Economy of Sicily Region and Member of the Committee of the Regions).

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 COORDINATION MEETING IN SPLIT



On 18 June 2019, the BLUE KEP partnership gathered in Split in order to review the status of ongoing activities and discuss the forthcoming ones, leading to the closure of the project in Autumn.

Organised by JU Rera SD, Split, the 4th Project Coordination Meeting allowed partners to provide updates about activities carried out and to agree on

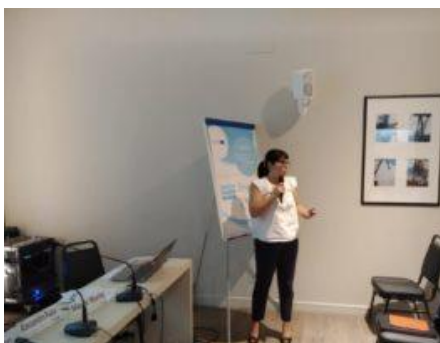
the forthcoming ones. In particular, technical experts, matched schools, teachers and partners discussed the 4 International Education Modules to be tested with a view to their adoption by schools. They also discussed the details of the common scheme for recognition of students' acquired

competences and qualifications that is the final objective of the exchange programme.

Some preliminary results of the mobility programme were also presented. The mobility programme was designed as to provide both class-room training and hands-on training at local companies, with a view to both creating innovative skills that match the blue sector's labour market needs as well as increasing students' employability prospects. A first wave of mobility started on March 2019 and a second wave ended in July 2019, involving a total of 38 Croatian and Italian students.

FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE BLUE KEP PROJECT IN ANCONA

The Final Conference of the BLUE KEP project was successfully held in Ancona (IT) on 26 September 2019, in a room crowded with students from local nautical and technical secondary schools. The Conference was opened with a welcome message by Ms Loretta Bravi, Councillor for Education, Training and Labour Market of the Marche Region.



AIE's Secretary General Mr Cocco, stressed the importance of creating synergies between territorial cooperation programmers and projects and the broader umbrella of the EUSAIR. He also pointed out that the BLUE KEP project was quite successful and its momentous results can be a starting point for building similar initiatives at a macro-regional level.

The Secretariat presented communication activities, including the project guidebook, which, addressed to project's stakeholders and to national and regional level education ministries, was aimed at capitalising and disseminating results.

Delegates of regional administrations, national and regional research centres, local companies, schools and representatives of the EUSAIR Facility Point discussed the challenges of identifying skills that can boost the strategic development of the blue sector in the cross-border area.

The Conference closed with the handing out of mobility certificates to both students and teachers. Students definitely felt special, rewarded and proud of their achievements and were sincerely congratulated by all participants.



E-CITIJENS - Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITIzen Journalism to ENhance Safety of Adriatic Basin

Length: 1st January 2019 – 30th June 2021

Programme: INTERREG Italy Croatia CBC Programme 2014 – 2020

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Civil Protection, Safety and Resilience, Citizens Journalism

Coordinated by: Molise Region

More info at: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/e-citijens/>

In a nutshell: E-CITIJENS aims at increasing the safety of the Croatian and Italian Adriatic basin from natural and man-made disasters by improving emergency prevention and management measures and instruments that combine institutional data sources with “social media” based information on occurrences.

KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE E-CITIJENS PROJECT AND CROSS-BORDER CONFERENCE



On 18 and 19 June, the Secretariat attended the Kick-off Meeting of the E-CITIJENS project and the Cross-border Conference “Emergency Response Decision Support System”.

E-CITIJENS intends to develop an innovative monitoring system, based on the integration of heterogeneous data, including alerts broadcasted by both institutional sources and information shared by citizens on online social networks. Coordinated by the Molise Region, the E-CITIJENS project involves 9 partners from the cooperation area: Split and Dalmatia County, Veneto Region, University of Split, EEIG EuRelations, University of Bologna, Pescara Municipality, Zadar County Rural Development Agency. Within this project, the AIE is in charge of WP2 Communication and will take care of disseminating projects results across the Adriatic Ionian area and the EU.



The E-CITIJENS Cross-Border Conference named “Emergency Response Decision Support System” - took place at the Angevin Castle of Civitacampomarano (Campobasso, Italy). The event was designed with a view to raising awareness about emergency decision support systems and to informing about best practices and projects related the use of social media for emergency and disaster monitoring and management.

E-CITIJENS – 1ST PROJECT AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN SPLIT (CROATIA)

On Thursday 24th October, the 1st Project and Steering Committee Meeting of the E-CITIJENS project was held in Split (Croatia). The first project meeting was attended by all members representing the project partners and the Steering Committee discussed the following issues: new semester working plan approval; activities implementation, financial issues and any other tasks. In the afternoon, the E-CITIJENS project partners organised three working groups on the following topics: risk scenarios; risk management legislation; social media and crowdsourcing.

The staff of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion participated in working group 2, during which the partners presented and discussed the results of the second Thematic Task Force (TTF2) concerning the Civil



Protection emergency management legislation in Italy and Croatia. Working Group 2 provided a summary of the existing legislative frameworks in Italy and Croatia considering both the transnational/national, regional and local levels. In particular, attention was paid to the civil protection legislative frameworks concerning the selected natural disasters: floods, forest fires and

earthquakes. It is to remember that one of the aims of E-CITIJENS project is to harmonize Croatian and Italian risk management current legislations, enhancing their level of uniformity and similarity, in order to make available to national and regional authorities a cross-border uniform emergency legislative basis according to the EU principle of cooperation and subsidiarity.

2nd E-CITIJENS COORDINATION MEETING IN BOLOGNA (IT)

The E-CITIJENS consortium gathered again in Bologna (Italy) on 19 November 2019, to put forward the creation of an Emergency Decision Support System (EDSS) Platform that will be tested and used by the Italian and Croatian Civil Protection operational rooms and by a cross-border Functional Centre.

The E-CITIJENS Project Meeting was co-organised by the Molise Region, coordinator of the initiative, and the University of Bologna, which hosted it, and took place between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. The meeting saw the participation of all project partners and particularly of the scientific and technological developers of the platform: Civil Protection Department of the Molise Region, University of Split, EuRelations EEIG, University



of Bologna and the Zadar Agency. With this activity the consortium boosted the creation of a "social

media based" Civil Protection Emergency system based on work done previously with a view of comparing and reclassifying current risk scenarios, civil protection management legislations and social media and crowdsourcing network application across the two cooperation countries.



The scientific group discussed details of the hardware and software technical and applicative specifications with particular focus on the analysis and aggregation of different real time data stemming from multiple data sources including emergency services' in/output video interfaces as

well as probes, sensors and those provided by citizens through social media. Such data will be made available to both Italian and Croatian Civil Protection and Coast Guard chains of command and operational units as a single and coherent risk scenario, thereby effectively improving the capacity of civil protection structures to predict and manage natural and man-made disasters.

AI-NURECC Initiative

Length: 18 months

Programme: Direct Grant by EC – DG REGIO

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: EUSAIR

Coordinated by: CPRM

More info at: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/ai-nurecc-initiative/>

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.

AI-NURECC INITIATIVE: EVENT IN BUDVA (MONTENEGRO), 6 MAY 2019

On 6 May 2019, the Secretariat participated in an AI-NURECC event which was organised by the project coordinator, the CRPM, as a side-event of the 4th EUSAIR Annual Forum in Budva (Montenegro).

The event fell under the AI-NURECC Skills Development and Training Action and 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 Manager.

The SEMINAR on Skills Development and Training Action took place in the afternoon and brought together representatives of the academic and business sectors and launch a dialogue to examine the industrial transition and entrepreneurial discovery within the framework of the Smart Specialisation Strategies. The topics were the Blue Growth and Tourism.



AI-NURECC EVENT IN MOSTAR: EURO-PROJECT DESIGN TRAINING ACTION

On 16 and 17 July 2019, the Secretariat organised a training event aimed at promoting access to EU programme and funds. The two-days event was held at Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina) and was attended by AIE's member Nerevta-Herzegovina Canton, represented by its Prime Minister, Mr. Nevenko Herceg, as well as by the Mayor of Mostar, Mr. Ljubo Bešlić, who provided their institutional opening speeches. Mr Stavros Kalognomos, representative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), AI-NURECC Coordinator, introduced the initiative, its main objectives and the achieved results in terms of stimulating a greater role of local and regional actors in the implementation of the EUSAIR as well as their ownership of both the Strategy and its pillars.

Participants were then introduced with the opportunities, synergies and good practices for sustainable



development and youth cooperation at regional and cross-regional level. This session was animated by the Minister of Agriculture, Water-Management and Forestry of HNC, Mr. Donko Jović, who explained the development strategies, priorities and currently running EU-funded projects under the 2014-2020 Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro. Following, representatives of youth organisations gave an overview of their initiatives.

The seminar included a practice-oriented and interactive training with a focus on models of participatory project-design and management such as the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD). All existing EU funding opportunities in which Bosnia Herzegovina is an eligible country were presented and participants were guided to better understand how to build a successful CLLD strategy.



AI-NURECC SEMINAR ON MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE, EU POLICIES AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN CAMPOBASSO

The CPMR, Coordinator of the AI-NURECC Initiative, and the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organised a seminar in Campobasso (Italy) on 4 and 5 November 2019. The event took place at the premises of the



University of Molise and focused on multi-level governance (MLG) in EU policies and in local development policies of the Adriatic Ionian region. In the event explored the role and added value of MLG approaches in enabling regional convergence as well as the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR) by local and

regional authorities of both EU countries and non-EU countries.

The event was an occasion to host an Albanian-Montenegrin delegation of regional and local authorities who attended both the event and a study visit aimed at illustrating models of rural development based on private-public initiatives and supported by intermediary bodies such as Local Action Groups (LAGs). The delegation participated in a session focusing on LEADER, Community-led Local Development (CLLD), Stewardship and local organic farming case studies such as the Biodistretto Laghi Frentani (Laghi Frentani Biodistrict). Secretary General of the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Enea Hoti, illustrated the ministry's priorities and development strategy.



The session ended with the signature of the Declaration of Campobasso "A new development model for Albania and Montenegro".

ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FORUM, TIRANA 19 NOVEMBER 2019

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), in collaboration with AIE's member the Regional Council of Tirana, organised the first "Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum" (AIYOF) in Tirana on 19 November 2019.



The event felt under the AI-NURECC Initiative Youth Action and was kindly hosted by the Europe House, the spaces of the EU Delegation to Albania.

The event was attended by almost 100 people among which mostly university and high school students, school managers and university professors, VET organisations, NGOs, chambers of commerce as well as representatives

of national, regional and local authorities.

Mr Aldrin Dalipi, Chair of the Regional Council of Tirana and Deputy-Chair of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, officially opened the event. The Albanian Minister of Tourism and Environment, Mr Blendi Klosi, and the Mayor of Tirana, Mr Erion Veliaj, highlighted how youth need to be involved as major beneficiaries of a Balkan space and of development strategies targeting sustainable tourism, green technologies, digital transformation, growth and modernisation of enterprises. In the following technical session, Ms Joanna Mouliou-Niessler from DG REGIO explained the European Commission's policy objectives for the forthcoming programming period (2021/2027). Mr Armand Skapi, Secretary General of the Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs,



highlighted how youth involvement in the EUSAIR platform and a greater awareness of the opportunities linked to it may counteract the brain drain from the Western Balkans to Northern Europe. The following sessions focused on youth cooperation, moderated by Mr Bernard Dosti, Deputy-Rector of the University of Tirana, and saw the participation of Mr Polignano, from the Delegation to Tirana of the Apulia Region (Italy), Mayor Caporicci of Portocannone (Italy) and Mr Genci Kojdheli, General Director for Strategic Projects & Foreign Investments of the Tirana Municipality. Four Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations presented their activities and priorities: the Bosnian Representative Association for Valuable Opportunities (BRAVO), the Western Balkans Alumni Association (WBAA), the Students' Academic Senate of the University of Tirana, the Youth Centre of Epirus, an NGO also managing the local Europe Direct Office. The event closed with some major youth organisations identifying recommendations for a better involvement of youth in policy-making. These were: Young European Federalists (YEF), Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), Forum Mladi I Neformalna Edukacija (Forum MNE), Cooperation and Development Institute (CDI), "Junior Achievement of Albania" and Code Partners (AL).

AI-NURECC FINAL CONFERENCE: RESULT OF TWO YEARS OF COLLABORATION AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ADRIATIC IONIAN REGION

The CPMR, Coordinator of the AI-NURECC Initiative, organised the AI-NURECC Final Conference on 4 December 2019 in Brussels (BE). The Conference marked another key milestone in the implementation of the joint initiative of all major stakeholders of the Adriatic Ionian Region and paves the way for future cooperation.

The AIE was represented by Vice-President Mr Aldrin Dalipi and by Secretary General Mr Francesco Cocco.

Vice-President Dalipi participated in video-conference and highlighted that: “Tirana hosted two AI-NURECC events, the first was held in November 2018 focused on Technology and Innovation and the



second, in November 2019, involved Adriatic-Ionian youth organisations and was attended by the Albanian Minister of Tourism, Mr Klosi, and the Mayor Tirana, Mr Veliq. Notwithstanding the event of the earthquake, Tirana, European Youth Capital 2022, is working to its recovery and the Region of Tirana is eager to continue collaborating with the AI-NURECC and similar initiatives”. Secretary General, Francesco Cocco, presented a letter by EP President, Mr. Sassoli, congratulating the AI-

NURECC Initiative for “favouring a more active and a better integration of the Balkans in the EU processes (...) and for contributing to achieving the principle of unity at which the European Parliament aims”. Letter of Mr. Sassoli. Secretary General Cocco also presented the key actions carried out by the Secretariat within the framework of the AI-NURECC Initiative, among which the first Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum (AIYOF) held in Tirana on 19 November 2019 and the related study on “Enhancing Youth Participation for a more innovative and integrated Adriatic Ionian Region”.

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.

EUROREGION AT THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES TO SHOWCASE THE RESULTS OF THE CREATE PROJECT FUNDED BY ERASMUS+.

On October 10th, the CREATE consortium, a project funded by Erasmus+ and in which the Euroregion was one of the partner, held the final event in Brussels to showcase the results of the initiative.

The final event “Competitive Regions Employability of Adults Through Education” was aimed to illustrate the CREATE Toolkit during the European Week of Regions and Cities, the flagship event on the European Cohesion Policy organised by the EU Commission and EU Committee of the Regions and attended by 6,000 people from all over Europe who come to Brussels to discover the future of territorial development and exchange good practices. More than 70 people registered, among which local policy makers and practitioners of social and cohesion policy: the CREATE



partners provided an overview of the project rationale and results.

The following day, the Consortium took part in the closing internal meeting of the Project: the 8 Partners took stock of the successful implementation of the project, its results and achievement. In addition to dealing with project management and reporting, a thorough evaluation of project results allowed partners also to identify possible venues of further collaboration in the domain of public policy for adult education.

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 PROJECT: A LEARNING TEACHING TRAINING HELD IN CAMPOBASSO (IT)



From 28th April to 4th May 2019, the Euroregion took part in the SWEEP LTT event that was held in Campobasso (IT) and its surroundings, organised by project partner EuRelations EEIG. The event was attended by 28 participants, who benefited by a quite challenging structured programme of educational activities aimed at presenting the results of academic analyses carried out under the project, information exchanges about the different systems of separate waste collection and recycling, as well as cultural and tourism activities.

The group of participants visited the Municipality of Matrice (IT), where, welcomed by Mayor Arcangelo



Lariccia, were introduced to the local separate waste collection system including a capillary door-to-door collection service.

In Campobasso, Mayor Antonio Battista, introduced the work of an educational focus group, open to all citizens and coordinated by scientific experts, who lectured about waste valorisation, sustainable development and circular economy. Ms Clara Piccirillo of NANOTEC (Institute of Nanotechnology)

of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), held a lecture on “green chemistry principles and waste valorisation for sustainable development” and Professor Angelo Belliggiano (University of Molise) held a lecture on “the role of agriculture in circular economy”. The group of participants was exposed to the separate waste collection system of the City of Campobasso called “EcoStop”, which allows citizens of the various districts to give their already selected waste and service managers to have a time estimate of the type of waste conferred. The education programme was complemented by visits and guided tours of the main cultural heritage sites of the area, such as the botanical garden and the historic centre of Campobasso, the Romanesque church of Santa Maria della Strada in Matrice, the archaeological excavations of the ancient Samnite city of Altilia.

At the end of the LTT, Mrs Cebotari, representative of the project coordinator, summarised the work done and presented the calendar of next activities of the SWEEP project.

THE AIE ORGANISES THE SWEEP PROJECT MEETING IN PULA

On 1st and 2nd October 2019, the Euroregion organised the second transnational project meeting of the Erasmus + project SWEEP (Select Waste for the EU Eco-Protection). The event took place in Pula (HR)

and was hosted by the Istrian Development Agency (IDA).

On the first day, each partner reported on project progress and activities. The Austrian scientific partner Umblick showed the updated SWEEP website and various changes were discussed by all partners. Updates about the e-learning platform were also given.

Mr Enzo Ziccardi from EurRelations EEIG, illustrated project Intellectual Output 1 via the project website. Ziccardi showed the path activated for the construction of the output: from the updating of the data of the various countries detected by the partners to the analysis of the results compared to the



expectations. The output offers learners and interested citizens an overview of the methodologies applied in the various partner countries with regard to the collection and use of waste, enriched by the best cases detected. The output has already been published in the final English version e on the project website: e-learning – IO 1.

On the second day, the partners discussed the contents of the Intellectual Output 3. Three working



teams were created, each focusing on a different topic, and the next deadlines for completion were set. The result of this work was compiled by Ms Michaela Punz (Umblick) and sent to all partners by e-mail.

Mr Enzo Ziccardi gave the other partners some instructions on the financial report.

proADAS - Promotion of Active Digital Ageing Skills

Length: November 2018 – October 2020

Programme: ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for Adult Education

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Environment and waste collection

Coordinated by Cyprus – European University Cyprus

More at: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/projects/proadas/>

In a nutshell: The proADAS project aims to tackle the gap between the ageing population and digital literacy and to address the high necessity for digital key competences among the senior population. It is aimed at making digital competences more accessible to seniors (over 60-year old) and increase their use of ICT.

KICK-OFF MEETING OF PROADAS IN ATHENS



8 February 2019. The ProADAS project partners gathered together for the first time in Athens to attend the Kick Off Meeting hosted by Xenios Polis in cooperation with University of Cyprus on 7 and February 2019 in Athens, Greece.

The lead partner introduced project objectives, actions and deliverables as well as the methodology of the initiative. The partners had the opportunity to discuss on how to develop the activities and the intellectual outputs. The Secretariat of the Euroregion participated to the meeting as project partner



presenting the organisation and its role in the project. The partnerships discussed on how to realise the main outputs such as review paper and research Paper on ageing population and digital literacy, handbook, e-learning courses, mobile application, etc. The project consortium defined also the next project meeting which be held in Paris in September.

3. Learn about projects' outputs

In 2019, the Secretariat collaborated in the elaboration, approval and dissemination of various project-related documents and promotional materials and studies. Following a list of the main deliverables by project.

BlueTourMED / Sustainable Tourism

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
Policy Factsheets	The documents are the result of the four Thematic Working Groups composed by the Project of MED Sustainable Tourism Community and external experts	Download
Policy Recommendations	Thanks to the commitment of 18 EU Mediterranean projects, the MED Sustainable Tourism Community has elaborated the Policy Recommendations gathered in a final document and available in different language.	Download
Thematic Papers	6 thematic papers on different topics related to	Download

	Tourism challenges such as responsible coastal and maritime tourism, measuring tourism sustainability, reducing tourism pressures, increasing tourism benefits, improving tourism governance.	
Thematic Factsheets	Analyses of the themes tackled by the MED Sustainable Tourism Community and BleuTourMed_c3 project	Download
Scientific Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boosting Rural Areas Revitalization in the Mediterranean through Cross-cutting Approach Based on Ecological and Social Resilience. - Conceptualising Tourism Sustainability and Operationalising Its Assessment: Evidence from a Mediterranean Community of Projects. - Challenges and Gaps towards Sustainable Coastal and Maritime Tourism in the Mediterranean- 	Download
Search the MED tool	It is a search engine tool for giving access to a wide range of documents related to tourism sustainability issues with particular focus on Mediterranean.	Link

PANACEA – Horizontal Med Project on Biodiversity Protection

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
All the deliverables on biodiversity preservation.	The webpage has several documents focused on the biodiversity protection in MED area, such as publication, Guidelines, thematic papers, knowledge platform, etc.	Link

InnoBlueGrowth – Horizontal Med Project on Blue Growth

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
All the deliverables	Discover all the MED projects results. It is available a catalogue of several documents focused on the Blue growth.	Link

AI-NURECC

The Secretariat was the promoter of the signature of the Declaration of Campobasso and produced a Study on Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations including a list of policy recommendations to decision-makers.

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
Declaration of Campobasso	A new development model for Albania and Montenegro	Link
Study on Multi Level Governance	Analysis: State of play of multi-level and multi-factor governance in the Adriatic-Ionian area	Link
Final Brochure	Brochure synthetizing all the outcomes of the project	Download
Study on Youth Organisations	The youth organisations in the Adriatic Ionian Macro-region	Download

BLUE KEP

Within the framework of the BLUE KEP project, as partner in charge of communication, the Secretariat produced several promotional materials, including a final project Guidebook.

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
Catalogue of Project Deliverables on Education System in Blue Growth Sector	Download here all the project documents and tools such as the Recommendations and Lessons Learnt on Education and Blue Growth	link
Project Guidebook	Summary of the challenges tackled by the project, the methodology to establish a shared education system and the results of the exchange programme	Download

E-CITIJENS

Under the E-CITIJENS project, the AIE is in charge of external communication and, along with managing all project's social media profiles, taking care of media relations and of the production of project-related promotional materials, it is implementing an Awareness Campaign, including the release of periodic Newsletters as well as the organisation of events.

Deliverable Title	Description	Link
Newsletters	Download here all project newsletters	Link

4th Section

COMMUNICATION

1. External Communication

The Secretariat manages both the internal and the external communication of the Euroregion, through its website and social media profiles. In 2019, the Secretariat began to think and implement communication activities in a strategic way, in order to increase the Association's visibility and to allow a more effective engagement of stakeholders as well as a greater impact in the Adriatic Ionian area and in Europe, especially with regard to territorial and macroregional cooperation.

The Secretariat improved the external communication, creating a more appealing Association's brand image and putting the spotlight on its role and activities in the Macroregional and European context.

In order to do so, the Secretariat constantly and regularly updated the Association's website and social media profiles with content related to EU projects, internal and external events linked to the Macroregional Strategy and other territorial cooperation initiatives. Moreover, the Secretariat implemented the graphic identity of the Association through the visual elements already present (logo, font, colour palette, slogans etc.) and promotional materials.

Social media profiles (Facebook and Twitter) were synchronised and were managed as to increase the level of activity, also through the interaction with social media pages of the various stakeholders (members, institutions, project pages, programme pages, organisations, initiatives, networks, individuals etc.) and by creating new connections to help reach new potential partners.

In 2020, more social media profiles will be created, according to a proposed Social Media Strategy, including LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube. A homogenous and harmonised social media communication system will attract more stakeholders and social media users and increase the international visibility of the Association.

Moreover, the Secretariat will assess the feasibility of creating and managing a Newsletter that could be used also for internal communication purposes.