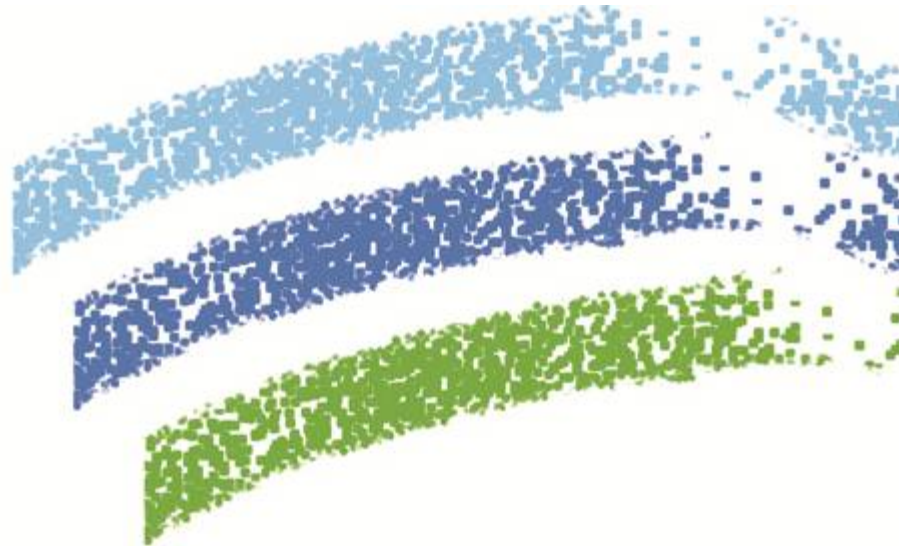




ADRIATIC-IONIAN EUROREGION ACTIVITY REPORT DECEMBER 2013 – DECEMBER 2015



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1. IX General Assembly – Bologna, 4th December 2013



The IX AIE General Assembly was held in Bologna on 4th December 2013, at the premises of the Regional Assembly of the Emilia Romagna Region, and unanimously elected the Molise Region President, Paolo di Laura Frattura, as the new AIE President. The Governor thanked the outgoing President, Mr. Michele Iorio for the work of the strengthening of the Association carried out in these last years.

During his speech Frattura highlighted “the significant moment” and declared “to make the Euroregion the reference point for the common strategies which will be implemented to boost all the institutional and territorial cooperation activities”. Exploiting the opportunities that will arise during the next EU programming 2014-2020”, the new President also thanked all the members of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion who confirmed the Presidency of the Molise Region. The Dubrovnik president, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavic, was re-elected as Vice president for a second term mandate.

2. Forum of the Adriatic-Ionian Universities - Bologna, 5th-6th December 2013

In order to ensure an adequate territorial dimension to the definition of EUSAIR strategic issues, the Emilia-Romagna region, the University of Bologna, DISCI Department and IECOB from Forlì have constituted a *Regional lab on macro-regional issues* under the framework of AdriGov project. The Regional lab on macro-regional issues organised the



Forum of the Adriatic-Ionian Universities in Bologna on December 5th and 6th.

The Forum aimed to involve the academic world of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Regional area in the EUSAIR consultation process. The purpose was to understand what the universities think about the 13 structures and the contents of the draft EUSAIR Action Plan. This initiative was intended to give an adequate territorial dimension to the policy-making process of the EUSAIR and to the implementation of the principles of subsidiary and democratic participation. The Forum allowed a debate between the regional and local authorities from the Adriatic Ionian Countries; the two days event was attended by

academic institutions, public administrations of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-regional area, Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion Members (26 local and territorial entities that represent 7 of the 8 EUSAIR Countries) and partners of the AdriGov project (13 partners from 6 EUSAIR countries). The Forum aimed to support the creation of a macro-regional "community of knowledge", to share a common understanding about the possible benefits of a macro-regional strategy in the Adriatic-Ionian territories, and compare the views of the scientific community with the public administrations on EUSAIR.

3. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion Contribution to the EUSAIR Consultation Process - Athens, 6th-7th February 2014



The AIE, along with its members and AdriGov partners, had carried out during those months an internal consultation process on the EUSAIR strategy. The results were presented and sent to European Commission through the document "Adriatic Ionian Euroregion Contribution to the EUSAIR". The paper collected the AIE position on the action plan for the Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion, so that the future strategy can be realistic and have objectives consistent with the citizens needs. The AIE contributions, along with other inputs from interested stakeholders, were presented at the stakeholder conference held in Athens the 6th and 7th of January. The event was organised by EC and the Greek presidency of the Council of the European Union.

4. Thematic Committee for Transport and Infrastructure - Rijeka, 4th April 2014

The third meeting of Transport and Infrastructure Committee of Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, was held in Rijeka the 4th of April 2014 and saw participation by regional representatives from 6 AIE member countries, as well as institutional representatives from the transport sector, from Slovenian municipalities and the academic community.

During the meeting, the AIE Secretary General underlined that the idea of AIE implies an international, cross border, interregional cooperation and represents an institutional framework for the solutions of the most common important issues for the regions which board on the Adriatic and Ionian sea. Seven thematic committees, he continued, were carrying out project activities with an added value for the whole area. During the

meeting it was presented the potential development of Rijeka airport and its impact on the economic development of the whole region; moreover the participants got information about the importance and the integration of the Northern Adriatic Ports, about the role of society of the Croatian rail system and on the airport network of the AIE.

5. Workshop on Small and Medium Enterprises and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – Development of Comparative Analysis in IPA Countries – Podgorica, 13th – 14th May 2014

In the framework of Adrigov project and in collaboration with Municipality of Kotor, Informest and Regional Council of Tirana, it was organised a 2-Days working meeting that took place in Podgorica (Montenegro) on the 13th and 14th of May, 2014.

In the afternoon it was held a Workshop on Small and Medium Enterprises and Foreign



Direct Investment (FDI) development - Comparative analysis in IPA Countries; during the workshop, Informest presented a detailed analysis focused on the general economic conditions of the countries of the western Balkans and the situation of SMEs, underlying their features and their role in the national systems of production.

On May the 14th, in the morning it was held a Committee session of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion - Commission on Economic Affairs and SMEs.

6. “United Nations and Protection of Fundamental Rights” and “Legal Regional Instruments” - Dubrovnik, 22nd-23rd May 2014

The 2-days event took place in Dubrovnik within the cycle of seminars on human rights, in the framework of AdriGov project. During the first working day it was debated about international law and historical and legal evolution of Human Rights. The second working day was dedicated to analyse themes such as the European Convention for the Protection of human rights and Fundamental Freedom, about its origins and structure, its territorial field of application, its derogations, exceptions and terms and its application in the national legal systems.

7. Thematic Session of EAI on Environment and Welfare - *Bologna, 26th - 27th May 2014*

The two joint thematic sessions of AIE took place in Bologna on 26th and 27th May 2014 and focused on Welfare and Environment. The event gathered a significant number of technical and political representatives of AIE, with the participation of the President of Dubrovacko-Neretvanska Region, President of Šibenik-Kninska region and Vice President of Dalmatia Region.

Simonetta Saliera, Vicepresident of Emilia Romagna Region, and Mr. Dobroslavic, Vice President of AIE, opened the thematic sessions; the participants discussed and proposed the Thematic and Joint Political Documents.

The above mentioned documents were the outcome of the concerted action between the AIE members and the other relevant territorial stakeholders that took part in the initiative.

Eventually, the documents were formally communicated, after a further contribution of the absent members, to DG REGIO contact person for the EUSAIR strategy, in order to enhance visibility to the joint political position stated by the AIE Regions and municipalities, concerning the more pertinent issues for the common interest of Adriatic Ionian area.

8. Training Seminar on Human Rights - *Campobasso, 27th - 28th May 2014*

Molise Region planned, in the framework of AdriGov project, along with Veneto region and the Interdepartmental Human Rights Research Centre of Ca' Foscari Venice University, a training seminar about the principles of fundamental Human Rights, addressed to regional staff and local public bodies, as well as to volunteering organisations. The seminar, divided into 16 hours, was organised by teachers from University of Venice.

9. "United Nations and the Safeguarding of Fundamental Rights" and "the Main Regional Instruments and Human Rights Protection in the EU Regional Policies" - *Kotor, 9th - 10th June 2014*

During the seminars held on the 9th and 10th of June at Bizanti palace in Kotor, at the premises of town council, the following topics were debated: International Law on Human Rights and the UN Universal Declaration: origins and contents, exceptions and derogations in the treaties of human rights, the different kind of human rights (individual and collective), death penalty, how European countries defend human rights, the different kind of human rights (civil, politics, economic, social or cultural), the right to peace, development and environment.

10. "United Nations and the Safeguarding of Fundamental Rights" and "the Main Regional Instruments" - *Mostar, 19th -20th June 2014*

The seminars of 19th and 20th June were held at the conference hall of Hotel City in Mostar. In the first working day it was presented to the participants a general picture of the historical-legal development of International Law on human rights. More specifically it was analysed the system of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: origins and contents, exceptions and derogations in the treaties of human rights, the different kind of human rights (individual and collective). During the second day, the main features of the EU regulation for the safeguarding of human rights were outlined. It was discussed this new legal instrument and also the role of European Council, where several international regulations were adopted, such as the European Convention for the prevention of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

11. EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and Synergies with the EU Direct Funding Programmes - *Brussels, 26th June 2014*



In the framework of AdriGov project, Molise Region organised in Brussels on 26th June 2014 at the Committee of the Regions, the conference "EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and Synergies with the EU Direct Funding Programmes". The purpose was to open a debate on the forthcoming European Union Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian region (EUSAIR).

The conference aimed to involve the stakeholders active in the Adriatic-Ionian area in order to find innovative approaches to mobilize funding opportunities in order to cover the cross-cutting priorities of the EUSAIR.

The theme of the conference was to present the main EU Programmes and initiatives and to explore how the EU funds, directly managed by the European Commission, could



be functional to the implementation of the strategy. During the meeting the European commission presented the main EU programmes (Creative Europe, Erasmus +, Horizon

2020, Cosme etc.)

The conference was attended by the President of the Molise Region and the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Mr. Paolo di Laura Frattura, directors and head of units of the European Commission, representative of CoR and EU institutions, regional and local administrators, and the Albanian Minister of Innovation, Ms. Milena Harito.

12. "United Nations and the Safeguarding of Fundamental Rights" and "the Main Regional Instruments" - Pula, 3rd – 4th July 2014

United Nations and safeguard of fundamental rights and the main regional instruments are the themes of the seminar that took place at Castle of Soardo-Bembo, at the premises of Istria region in Bale (Croatia). On the first working day it was presented a general picture of the historical-legal development of International Law. During the second day it was showed the documentary "The conscience of Europe" about the activities of the European Court of Human Rights. Moreover, the teacher Ms Vido spoke about the development of the structure of the Court and the typology of appeals presented to the Court.

13. EXPO 2015 - A Good opportunity for the Agricultural and Cultural Heritage of Molise region - Termoli, 26th July 2014

In the framework of AdriGov project a round table was organised in Termoli, on the 26th of July 2014. During the day all the growth opportunities that Milano Expo could offer for the development of the entire country were discussed. The event was held within the Agri Summer Food 2014 Fair, organised by Molise Region.

14. Journalism and EU Policies - Campobasso, 29th September - 1st October 2014

Molise Region, within the framework of the Adrigov project, organised the training course on "Journalism and European Policies", which was held at the "Parlamentino" hall of the Presidency of the Molise Region in Campobasso, from Monday 29th September to Wednesday 1st October 2014. The workshop was addressed to professional journalists, publicists and practitioners, as well as to young people interested in journalism and communication, or bloggers who wanted to gain skills in the sector of European policies.



15. Seminar "What Future for Fisheries in the Adriatic-Ionian Basin?" - Termoli, 29th - 30th October 2014

The Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion was an associate partner of the project COM&CAP MarInA-Med. The Lead Partner of the project was the Government of Catalonia, while the other partners were:

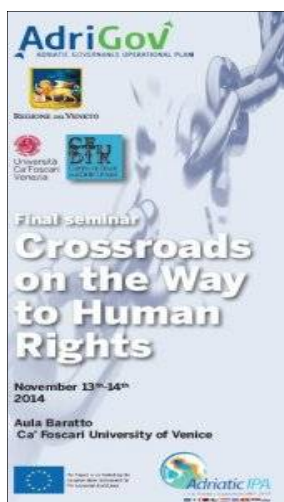


Molise Region, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), Arco Latino and the French Agency for sustainable Mediterranean cities and territories (AVITEM).

The seminar was organised with the financial support of the European Commission in the framework of the projects COM&CAP MarInA-Med (MED programme

2007-2013) and AdriGov (IPA programme 2007–2013). The main stakeholders in the field of fisheries and aquaculture exchanged their views on strategies and good practices to be implemented in order to foster the development of an integrated maritime policy in the Adriatic-Ionian basin. The initiative aimed to create an informal platform in order to bring together the main actors responsible for the definition and the implementation of fisheries and aquaculture policies in the basin. The platform represented a first step meant for the creation of a concrete dialogue between the EC, the EU Parliament, the regions, the national governments, the fisheries sector, the NGOs, the academic world and the representatives of territorial cooperation projects from the same sectors.

16. Crossroads on the Way to Human Rights" - Venice, 13th-14th November 2014



Within the AdriGov project, funded by the IPA Adriatic Cross Border Cooperation 2007-2013, the Veneto Region organised, in collaboration with the University Ca' Foscari of Venice, the seminar for civil servants "Crossroads on the Way to Human Rights" which was held at the "Aula Baratto" in the Cà Foscari University of Venice during the 13th and 14th of November, 2014.

The event was focused on issues related to human rights, including European citizenship, violence against women, equality, corruption and the application of humanitarian law.

17. The Role of the Youth Guarantee - *Campobasso, 28th November 2014*

The High-Level Conference on “The Role of the Youth Guarantee in the Implementation of the Structural Funds Programmes 2014-2020” was organised by Molise Region along with the CRPM and Formez Pa, under the auspices of the Italian EU Presidency, with the aim to offer a full picture of the youth employment situation in the EU by discussing on-going trends and practical options for implementing the Youth Guarantee and investigating potential synergies with European Structural and Investment Funds.



18. The Role of Language and Culture for the Strengthening of Interregional Cooperation - *Mostar, 4th – 5th December 2014*

The Herzegovina-Neretva Canton organised a 2-Days workshop in Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina). The first seminar focused on the linguistic training for the AdriGov staff and other public stakeholders, teachers and young, coming from the partner regions, with the aim to facilitate the intercultural dialogue in the Adriatic area and to strengthen the interregional cooperation. The second seminar intended to gather the selected stakeholders and potential partners with the aim to create transnational partnership in the field of culture.

19. X General Assembly of AIE – *Rome, 14th January 2015*

The 14th of January the X general assembly of the association approved a joint declaration which asks to recognise the contribution from the Euroregion to the definition of EUSAIR, and to further implement the multilevel governance model, tested during the consultation phase with the stakeholders, through the participation of the president and vice president of the association to the Governing Board Meeting.



20. Kick-off meeting of CLAVET project - Malaga, 5th – 6th February 2015

The AIE is trying to boost its experience in European financial instruments and programmes co-funded by the European Commission. In this regard, the AIE Secretary General participated in Malaga (Spain) at the launching event of the CLAVET project on the 5th and 6th of February 2015.

The CLAVET project, financed under ERASMUS+, the EU funding programme for education and training, has recently started the implementation phase bringing together 10 partners (local authorities, academia, private sector and NGOs) from 8 countries. The project aims at developing a platform for structured cooperation among local authorities for the qualitative development of education and training initiatives with the overall objective of overcoming geographical and border barriers. It was the first time that the AIE participated as partner in a European project.

21. Promotion of the Territorial Excellences in EUSAIR – Round Table with the Managing Authorities of ETC Programmes and Experts - Venafrò, 16th – 18th 2015

The eleventh Task force of EUSAIR came to the conclusion after the technical working group on the territorial governance objective. Members from the European Commission, the managing authorities and a delegation of partners coming from Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia, Greece and Albania participated in the meeting that was concluded in Venafrò and where Molise Region played the role

of organizer of the event as one of the main actors of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-regional strategy.

It was a great opportunity for the Managing Authorities represented by Mrs. Salvatore Di Paola for the IPA ADRIATIC CBC Programme, Mrs. Laura Comeli for the Italy – Slovenia Programme, Mrs. Eleni Katsiyianni for the Italy – Greece Programme and Mrs. Silvia Grandi for the ADRION Programme, to share their individual experiences by providing details on the progress of international cooperation projects, outlining the scenario for the next programming period 2014/2020.



22. Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion: the Priorities of the Abruzzo Agenda - Pescara, 28th March 2015



The event was organized by the Abruzzo region, in the framework of the AdriGov project (IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013), and took place on Saturday 28 March 2015, at the "Aurum" complex in Pescara from 17.30 onwards.



The meeting was attended by Mr. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Ivan Jakovcic, Rapporteur of the European Parliament for the Strategy of the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion, and Mr. Paolo di Laura Frattura, President of Molise Region.

23. Officina Cultura 2020: from Idea to Project - Bari, 29th April 2015

The Apulia Region - Policy area for the promotion of territory, knowledge and talents, in the framework of the AdriGov project, organised along with Informest and Molise Region, an info-day in the sector of cultural heritage, named "Officina Cultura 2020: from idea to project".

The event was addressed to 30 stakeholders (representatives of territorial bodies and cultural operators from Apulia and Molise) and was aimed to create transnational partnership and to inform the participants about the EU funds related to the preservation and valorisation of cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.

24. Integration and Implementation of EUSAIR policies for the Albanian Regions – One Step to Europe - *Shkodër, 13th May 2015*

The Shkodër Regional Council, in the framework of AdriGov project, organised a conference with the project partners and the presidents of regional councils from Albania, to boost the role and the initiatives of Albanian districts for the integration and implementation of EUSAIR strategy. The meeting contributed to a greater exchange of information and to improve the cooperation between regions, the Adriatic- Ionian institutions and the CPMR.



25. Conference: "The European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region: Challenges and Opportunities for the Balkans in the Future" - *Tirana, 13th – 15th May 2015*



The role of Regions and their Governance was at the core of the discussions held in Tirana during the conference "European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and its challenges and opportunities for the Balkans in the Future". The works were organised in the framework of the project AdriGov and with the participation of Maxhid Cungu, President of the Regional

Council of Shkodër, CPMR Political Bureau Members and Paolo Di Laura Frattura, President of Molise Region.

Milena Harito, Minister of Innovation and Public Administration, and Arben Ahmetaj, Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Commerce and Entrepreneurship represented the Albanian Government in the works, while Michela Giuffrida, shadow rapporteur for the Adriatic-Ionian strategy in the S&D group, took the floor on behalf of the European Parliament.



The Italian Ambassador to Albania, Massimo Gaiani, and the Head of the Political Economic and Information Sector of the EU Delegation to Albania, Clive Rumboldr, also participated in the works, both underlining the role that regional authorities can play in the implementation of the EUSAIR strategy.

26. Conference “Targeting Integration and Development Policies in the Adriatic and Ionian Region: Balkans 2020 Toolkits” - *Campobasso, 25th May 2015*



Innovation as a tool for fostering the attractiveness, competitiveness and connection of the Adriatic and Ionian Region, and the strategic role of capacity building were the main topics of the conference “Targeting Integration and Development Policies in the Adriatic and Ionian Region: Balkans 2020 Toolkits” organized by Molise Region, at the EX-GIL Palace in Campobasso on 25th May 2015, in the framework of AdriGov, a European project of territorial cross-border cooperation co-financed by the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013.

27. The Implementation Pathway of the EUSAIR - *Ancona, 21st July 2015*

The EUSAIR Macroregional Strategy was approved in November 2014. The Italian regions, coordinated by Marche, have defined and implemented a system of connections with all the national representatives through a Control Room. The strategy envisaged the creation of Thematic Steering Groups composed by representatives from all the countries of the area, whose task is to identify and decide what Macroregional projects have to be applied for funding in the next programming period. The aim of the day was to define the next topics to be presented, as Italian system, at the next Thematic Steering Groups

28. Thematic Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture - *Ioannina, 22nd - 23rd July 2015*

The main purpose of the thematic committee was to launch a joint study on the development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region. It should lead to a concrete deliverable within the project AdriGov and to a joint action plan for fisheries and aquaculture in the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region. The thematic workshop aimed to inform both local and international participants on crucial issues related to the above mentioned sector such as Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, Processing, Labelling and Certification of Fishery and Aquaculture products, Fisheries/Aquaculture Activities, Protected Areas and Biodiversity Preservation.



29. XI Extraordinary Plenary Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion – *Milan, 21st September 2015*

It took place in Milan, in the framework of the Universal Exhibition EXPO 2015, at the EU Pavilion, the Extraordinary Plenary Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion.

The Assembly accepted the membership to the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion of the Municipality of Herceg Novi (Montenegro)

Afterwards, some updates on European territorial cooperation programmes such as IPA Adriatic, Adrion and Italy-Croatia were clarified, and some of the results of AdriGov and INTERMODAL projects were presented.



The work continued with the endorsement by the Assembly of a policy paper focused on Integrated Maritime issues produced by CAP COM & MarInA-Med Project.

At the end of the meeting, the AIE representatives signed a document called Charter of Milan in order to work together to

define the best conditions for political decisions for the benefit of the entire Adriatic-Ionian macro-area concerning the guide lines of EXPO 2015 and contributing in a concrete and essential way to achieve the aims of the EUSAIR strategy.

30. The planning under the New ETC programmes in the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region – Pescara, 20th October 2015

The 20th of October 2015, in the framework of AdriGov project, the Abruzzo Region organised a seminar entitled “The planning under the New ETC programmes in the Adriatic Ionian Macro-Region” addressed to project partners, members of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion and all local, regional and national stakeholders.

The aim of the seminar was to develop new guidelines for the macro-regional approach in order to verify the possibility of redirecting the 2014-2020 operational programmes within this territorial cooperation area, in order to solve problems related to the previous programming period.

The AdriGov Steering Committee, that took place the day before the meeting, was focused on the activities of the last months, the overall spending level, the scheduling of events and other administrative and financial issues.