

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

Activity Report 2021-2022

Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

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1st Section

STATUTORY MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

1. Executive Committee - September 2021

As required by Article 22 of the Statute, by letter dated 09/23/2021 (Ref. No. 25), the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion initiated a written procedure of the Executive Committee aimed at sharing and approving the following documents, which were also discussed at the subsequent IEA General Assembly: Official Budget 2020 and annex “summary of bank account movements 2020”, Activity Report 2020, Report on the activities and the organization of the General Secretariat, Proposal for Amendments to the Statute.

Ten calendar days were then allotted to the members of the Executive Committee for any thoughts, suggestions, or amendments to the documents.

After reviewing the documents as required by the procedure, no comments were received from the members of the Executive within the allotted time, so the written procedure was concluded and the documents are considered approved by the Executive Committee, as formalized by letter dated 11/10/2021 (Ref. No. 26).

2. XVIII General Assembly of AIE - 26th October 2021



The **XVIII General Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion** was successfully held on-line on **26 October 2021**. The President Nikola Dobroslavic and the Secretary General Francesco Cocco led the Assembly which was attended by a good number of representatives of the AIE Member regions.

The occasion was useful to share experiences and information as well as to set the agenda for an ambitious future of the Association.

The Assembly approved different documents such as the Activity Report 2020, the Report on the activities and the organization of the General Secretariat, the 2020 official financial statement and the annual membership fee 2022 that was reconfirmed in the same amount.

The Assembly discussed also on the proposal of amendments to the AIE Statute, taking different decisions such as the decision to transfer the registered head office from Pula to Dubrovnik, the replacement of the Thematic Commissions with Thematic Working Groups and the establishment of the figure of the Auditor. It was also set as operational headquarters the Secretariat of the AIE in

Campobasso – Italy. All the amendments to the AIE statute were approved unanimously by the General Assembly.

The Secretary General presented his report on the activities of the Secretariat, and illustrated the projects presented and implemented during the year by the AIE.

The **General Assembly** was followed by two thematic side events organised with the support of the AI-NURECC PLUS Initiative. A High-Level Conference on Circular Economy and a back-to-back event dedicated to Youth Organisations of the 9 EUSAIR countries, as second Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum.

2nd Section

European Projects

1. Overview

The Euroregion continued the project activities that it has been carrying out for several years now, albeit with some important contextual changes.

The new cohesion policy will provide additional development tools for the territories of the Association and opportunities for renewing the European Territorial Cooperation Programmes, and the Euroregion will continue to follow these developments.

In this context, the Euroregion, one of whose main objectives is to approximate and accelerate the process of European integration, intends to give new initiatives and impetus to its own participation in the Adriatic-Ionian Macroregional Strategy, to contribute to the resumption of relations with the European Parliament, to relaunch the activities of the Adriatic-Ionian Intergroup within the Adriatic Ionian Intergroup. Ionian-Adriatic Intergroup within the Committee of the Regions with the renewal of the Delegation and the Intergroups.

2. Participation of AIE Secretariat in EU project events

In 2021 and 2022, the Secretariat was actively involved in the organisation, participation and communication of several events, which represent an important moment of the projects as they are excellent opportunities for the partners to exchange information on the development of the project, to present their outputs or results, to discuss issues and ideas and to plan future project activities.

The role of the Euroregion, as a transnational actor and a key institutional stakeholder of the EUSAIR Strategy, focused in particular on communication, networking and dissemination of results.

Sustainable Tourism

Length: from 1st November 2019 to 31th December 2022

Programme: Interreg MED

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Maritime and Coastal Sustainable Tourism

Coordinated by Diputació de Barcelona (Spain) Latin

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

In a nutshell: Sustainable Tourism project aims to enhance the development of a sustainable and responsible coastal and maritime tourism in the Med area. In particular, the project will support the mainstreaming of the INTERREG MED modular projects results of axis 3.1 (sustainable tourism) by communication, transferring & community building, and capitalisation activities.

Its objective 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 uptaking of their outputs and results, mainly in the field of tourism policies and cohesion policies.

CREATING VALUE WITH SUSTAINABLE TOURISM: NEW CHALLENGES FOR ITALIAN REGIONS



On Monday, July 12, 2021, the event "Creating value with sustainable tourism: new challenges for Italian regions for more innovative and inclusive European programming and planning" was held as the Italy national debate of the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism project.

The event was organized by the Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion with the support and collaboration of the Emilia-Romagna Region and was mainly dedicated to those responsible for ERDF programming, policy programming on tourism and European projects of the Italian regions.

Tourism, severely damaged by the COVID-19 pandemic, remains one of the cornerstones of the economies of countries bordering the Mediterranean and Italy in particular. Economic and social recovery must compulsorily pass through the recovery of the tourism sector, which is in turn called upon to innovate in a sustainable way.

The objective of the event was twofold: on the one hand, we tried to make an overview of the opportunities that the new European programming offers to those who want to focus on sustainable

tourism. On the other hand, an attempt was made to stimulate discussion between representatives of some of the main INTERREG programs, which affect Italy, and representatives of the Regions in order to understand how challenging, and at the same time important, it is to try to coordinate territorial policies on tourism with the expectations of European programs and managing authorities in order to capitalize on the innovative potential of European projects in the best possible way.

WEBINAR ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN SMALL TOWNS AND PROTECTED AREAS

On September 30, from 4 to 6 p.m., a webinar on sustainability in tourism was held, presenting useful tools to achieve greater sustainability of tourism packages dedicated to small towns and inland areas.

The training event was organized by the SuSTowns project, in collaboration with DestiMed Plus and the



Sustainable Tourism Community - Interreg

Med. The initiative is part of actions funded by the European transnational cooperation program Interreg MED, which promotes sustainable growth in the Mediterranean area by stimulating the creation of innovative concepts and practices and

rational use of resources. The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, partner in the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism project, has coordinated this webinar together with ANCI Lazio as a transfer activity of the DESTIMED project results.

The aim of the seminar was to make available to those working in the sector and municipalities the tools to calculate the CO2 footprint emitted by tourist packages and to promote the sustainability of the tourist services offered through a methodology of participatory planning of such packages.

EWRC "THE TRANSITION TOWARDS A SMARTER AND GREENER SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ECOSYSTEM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN"

On 12th October 2022 / 14:30-16:00 / NECSTour in the framework of the Sustainable Tourism Community is organized an online workshop at the European Week of Regions and Cities dedicated to the transition towards a smarter and greener Sustainable Tourism Ecosystem in the Mediterranean.

This workshop aimed to promote dialogue on the transition towards a greener and more digital sustainable tourism, with a focus on the Mediterranean basin and the concrete case study of the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism:



- What are European decision-makers expecting to happen in the European regions?
- Can the experience of the Interreg MED Sustainable Tourism be considered a case study, an example to be replicated elsewhere?
- What do the stakeholders need to be supported in this transition?

The panellists debated these aspects, with a view to drafting proposals. Participants heard success stories with concrete examples of Digital and Green Tourism and of how this contributes to sustainable and balanced growth in the Mediterranean region.

THE MED DECLARATION FOR A SMARTER AND GREENER SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ECOSYSTEM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION (12th October 2022)

The document “**MED Declaration for a smarter and greener sustainable tourism ecosystem in the Mediterranean region**” has been officially launched during the workshop “the Transition Towards a Smarter and Greener Sustainable Tourism Ecosystem in the Mediterranean” organised by NECSTour in the framework of the Sustainable Tourism Community and within the [European Week of Regions & Cities](#) on October 12th, 2022.

The Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, as partner of Sustainable Tourism project, has contributed to the workshop in Brussels.

Mr. Josep Rodriguez, coordinator of the Sustainable Tourism Community, has introduced with these words the MED Declaration “*the MED Declaration is the final policy document elaborated after six years of work and collaboration and this is the legacy that we want to leave for the future of the mediterranean area*”. The Declaration is an updated version of the Athens Declaration launched by the Community in the previous phase of the project.

E-CITIJENS “Civil Protection Emergency DSS based on CITIzen Journalism to ENhance Safety of Adriatic Basin”
Length: 01.01.2019 – 30.06.2022
Programme: INTERREG Italy Croatia CBC Programme 2014 – 2020
Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner
Topic: Civil Protection, Safety and Resilience
Coordinated by: Molise Region
More at: https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/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. It pursues the above target through cross-border cooperation to: (i) reinforce the

Civil Protection (including Coast Guard) chain of command in both countries with Crossborder Functional Centers equipped with an advanced and efficient decision support system to more efficiently monitor risks, manage emergencies and co-ordinate the involved forces during emergency interventions; (ii) keep open a real-time update channel on risk occurrences by collecting and using citizens information voluntarily provided via Social Media (citizen journalism) to report hazardous situations and events and signal their progress. The above objective will be sought by promoting cross border policies that can harmonize and improve both countries' risk management current legislations and their overall efficiency.

3RD PROJECT MEETING AND STEERING COMMITTEE

The **3rd E-CITIJENS Project Meeting and Steering Committee** were held on 27 and 28 July in hybrid form at the Aurum - La Fabbrica Delle Idee in Pescara (IT), organised by the Municipality of Pescara.

The meetings were aimed at assessing the progress of activities as presented by responsible partners and at planning forthcoming deadlines. Regione Molise, Lead Partner of the project, updated the consortium about management, steering and monitoring activities as well as financial reporting.

The **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion' Secretariat** presented communication activities including media relations, digital activities and events linked to the E-CITIJENS Awareness Raising Campaign.

The University of Bologna updated about the "social media based" model for a Civil Protection Emergency Management System, which is at the basis of the EDSS platform.



During the “Workshop on social-media based Emergency Decision Support System platform and Pilot Operational plan”, the Civil Protection Molise Region, supported by technical developers, presented the state of the art in the development of the EDSS platform.

The workshop saw the contribution of other partners involved in the activity, such as Civil

Protection Veneto, the University of Split and the University of Bologna.

One year ahead the closure of the project, the E-CITIJENS consortium will make sure to finalise and test of the EDSS platform, by implementing a pilot deployment plan, and to stimulate its endorsement and possible adoption by decision-makers and stakeholders.

4th PROJECT MEETING AND STEERING COMMITTEE

On December 2-3, 2021, the **4th Project Meeting and Steering Committee** was held in Venice, IT, and gathered project partners and technical experts to discuss the progress of the project implementation and set the final plans for achieving the expected results.

The event was organized by the Veneto Region and its Civil Protection Department.

After having reviewed management and financial issues, the partners got into a thorough assessment of all activities and actions that are crucial to the project.

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion Secretariat presented every detail of the communication activities, including the creation of promotional materials, the management of project's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), the implementation of the project's website, and the coordination of the Citizens Awareness Raising Campaign.



The first results of the pilot activities were presented by the Veneto Region, assisted by a communication expert. These activities have included the creation of a webapp that is being devised by partners to test the EDDS platform by directly involving citizens as “active sensors” of emergencies.



Partners have also discussed how to involve decision-makers and stakeholders in a capacity building action aimed at collecting their feedback on the possible legislative adoption of the platform.

To this end, under the supervision of the Split and Dalmatia County, the consortium will produce a Platform Adoption Plan, based on a comparison of the current Italian and Croatian legislation

E-CITIJENS CROSS BORDER FINAL CONFERENCE ON “THE SOCIAL MEDIA-BASED EMERGENCY RESPONSE DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM”

The E-CITIJENS CROSS BORDER FINAL CONFERENCE on “The social media-based Emergency Response Decision Support System” took place on 14th June 2022 in Dubrovnik (Croatia).



The event opened with greetings from **Mr. Nikola Dobroslavic**, President of the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region and President of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, and was hosted by Grad Dubrovnik at the Creative Hub Lazareti. The main theme was "Social media-based emergency response decision support system." All partner representatives attended to present the project's achievements.



The E-CITIENS Consortium presented the main results of the project to local and regional stakeholders, including decision makers, civil defense officials and experts. The conference was published at livestreamed.

At the same time as the conference, the 6th Project Meeting was held, which served to take stock of the project results and lay the foundation for continued collaboration to increase safety and resilience in Italy and Croatia.

Youth for Cohesion

Length: 12 Months - January – December 2021

Programme: Direct Grant from DG Regio (EC)

Role of the Euroregion: Sole beneficiary

Topic: Cohesion Policy and youth

Coordinated by: Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

More at: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/progetti/youth4cohesion-it/?lang=it>

In a nutshell: The YOUTH4COHESION (Y4C) project and the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE) will promote the involvement of Adriatic Ionian Youth into developing a sense of ownership of the new Cohesion Policy. Project activities will involve young people from AIE's members including 2 EU Member States (Greece and Italy), 1 EU Member State finishing its first European programming period (Croatia) and 3 Candidates Countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro).

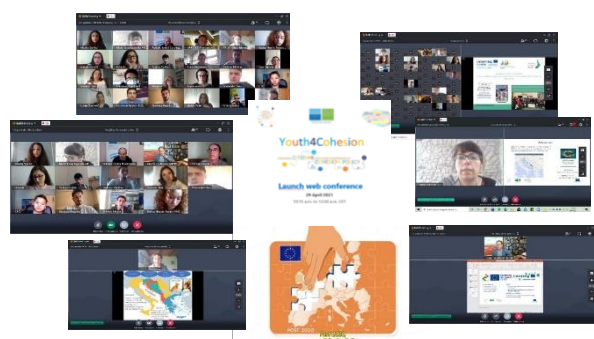
Moreover, young people from other countries participating in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR: Slovenia, North Macedonia and Serbia) will be sought.

To this end, involved young people will be trained about EU top policy priorities (a Smarter Europe; a more Connected Europe; a Greener, carbon free Europe; a more Social Europe; a Europe closer to citizens). They also will be stimulated to discuss the local impact of Cohesion Policy interventions and to identify existing initiatives most close to them, so that also those who feel distant from the benefits and opportunities linked to Cohesion Policy develop a better knowledge and awareness of it. As a result of the project, young people will be part of a permanent transnational network of *cohesion builders*.

YOUTH4COHESION LAUNCH WEB CONFERENCE (29/04/2021)

Based on its long-lasting commitment to support youth engagement and participation in decision-making, the **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion** organized the **Launch Web Conference of the Youth4Cohesion (Y4C) project**.

The event took place on **Thursday 29 April from 10:15 to 12:30** and saw the participation of **young people and youth organisations from across the Adriatic Ionian region**.



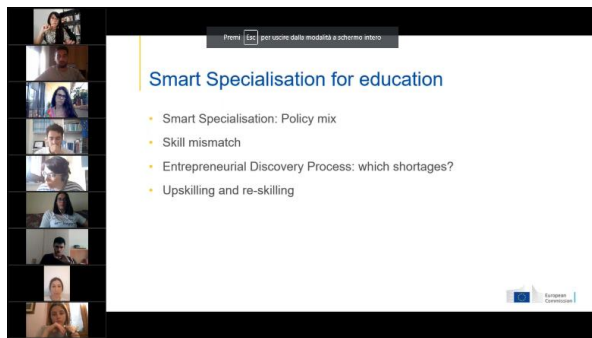
Youth4Cohesion

Through a Call for Expression of Interest addressed to young people and youth organisations in 10 countries of the area, young people were called to engage in a path that will lead them into becoming **“Cohesion Builders”**. The project is in fact funded by the European Commission – Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regio) – within the **“Engaging citizens in Cohesion policy”** initiative, and aims at equipping young people with the knowledge and skills for participating in **Cohesion Policy** actively and meaningfully.

Participating in the Y4C Launch Web Conference, they will be introduced to the background of the project, its objectives and activities and they will be engaged in subscribing to a sustained programme of webinars focusing on the 5 policy priorities of the new Cohesion Policy 2021-2027.

[YOUTH4COHESION FIRST WEBINAR ON A "SMARTER EUROPE" \(29/06/2021\)](#)

After the success and high participation of the Youth4Cohesion Launch Web Conference, the Adriatic



Ionian Euroregion is implementing a series of **webinars** focusing on **cohesion policy's top investment priorities**. The webinars are addressed to the **young people and youth organisations** from **10 countries of the Adriatic Ionian area** that were previously selected through a Call for Expression of Interest.

The first Youth4Cohesion webinar on "**Smarter Europe**" took place on **Tuesday 29 June from 10:15 to 12:15 via the GoToMeeting platform**. It provided an overview of European innovation policies, how they are supported in the frame of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR) and as implemented by European Territorial Cooperation Programmes (e.g. Interreg CBC IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro) and projects (Interreg Adrion OIS-AIR project and Interreg It-Al-Me NEST projects).

Emphasis was placed on the role of young people in innovation and the related concrete opportunities offered to them by EU-funded projects. Discussions and a live poll aimed at collecting participants opinions and stimulate them into taking on the role of stakeholders in building a more innovative Adriatic Ionian area.

[YOUTH4COHESION WEBINAR ON "A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE" \(2/08/2021\)](#)

After the first **Youth4Cohesion** webinar on Smarter Europe, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organized the second webinar which took place GoToMeeting platform on **02/08/2021 from 10:00 to 12:00 (CET)**.



The webinar focused on "**A More Social Europe**".

By following this event, young people were able to understand how international cooperation contributes to building a more social Europe. The webinar focused on opportunities for young people, academics and professionals under cooperation networks, initiatives and mobility Programmes.

It included a practical session on how to apply for mobility under the Western Balkan Alumni Association and the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs.

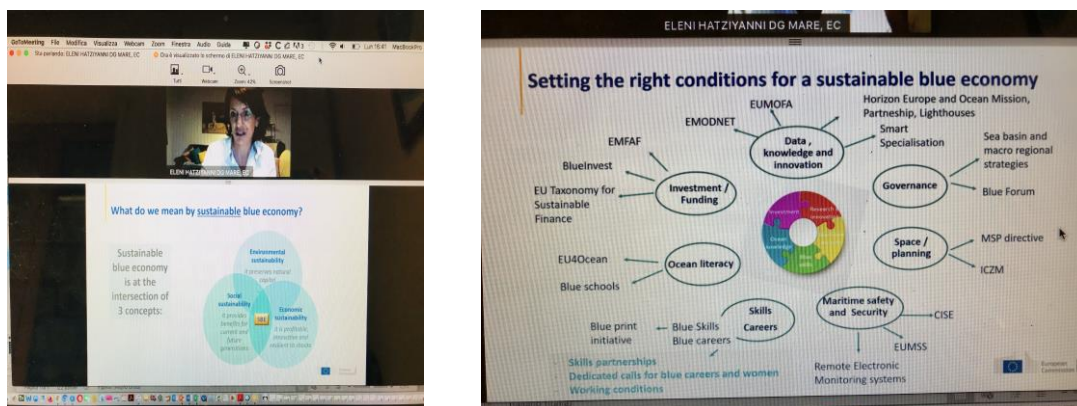
YOUTH4COHESION WEBINAR ON A GREENER, CARBON FREE EUROPE (29/11/2021)

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organized the webinar “**A Greener, carbon free EU**”, the third of a series of events launched in the context of **Youth for Cohesion** project.

The webinar took place on 29/11/2021 from 16:15 to 18:10 (CET) via the GoToMeeting platform.



The webinar focused on providing an overview of the EU’s policy priorities and development strategy as linked to the implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



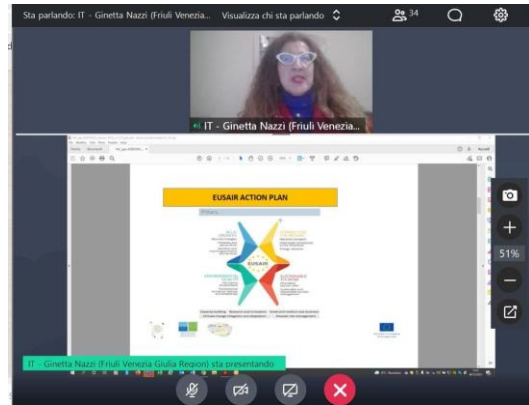
A macroregional perspective with insights about EUSAIR Pillar 1 “Blue Growth” provided, followed by two regional experiences from Emilia-Romagna Region (IT) and Ionian Islands Region (EL). Experiences from young environmental activists stimulated discussion about the role of youth in climate action. By following this event, participants could understand of how the EU Green Deal is relaunching the economy after Covid19, as well as the role of blue economy-blue growth in building a more sustainable economic and productive system. Also, they learned how Adriatic Ionian regions are harnessing the blue potential of the Adriatic Ionian Sea for a sustainable recovery. Lastly, they had the opportunity to meet young climate activists that made their voice heard by participating in international climate negotiations.

YOUTH4COESHION WEBINAR ON “A MORE CONNECTED EU” (06/12/2021)

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion implemented the **webinar “A more Connected EU”**, the fourth of a series of events organized in the context of Youth for Cohesion project.

The webinar took place on 06/12/2021 from 16:45 to 18:30 (CET) via the GoToMeeting platform.

This time, the topic of discussion was how the EU is stimulating the development of sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal connectivity. A macroregional perspective is addressed by illustrating how the EUSAIR is promoting a more sustainable energy sector. An overview of the Connectivity Agenda for Western Balkans was provided as well, especially with reference to an extended access to TEN-Ts and core networks.



Implementation of sustainable infrastructures at territorial level covered through the Italian experience with the promotion of the Adrioncyclerroute flagship as embedded in the IPA/ESIF programming documents. Sustainable connectivity pointed out as a socio-economic driver for maritime tourism and development of tourism destinations in the Adriatic Ionian Region. To this end, Italian and Albanian local public and private stakeholders engaged into illustrating practical evidences of connectivity challenges in the area.

YOUTH4COHESION FINAL EVENT AND WEBINAR ON “A EUROPE CLOSER TO CITIZENS” (20/12/2021)

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organised the last and fifth **Youth4Cohesion webinar on “A Europe closer to Citizens”**. The webinar took place on 20 December between 10:15 and 12:30 (CET) and was



followed by the **Final web conference**, from 12:30 to 13:30 (CET). The fifth Youth4Cohesion webinar was held in the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe as to stimulate a reflection on how young people can have a key role in determining the priorities of the European Union towards a more integrated and sustainable territorial development. High-level decision-makers representing the main European fora of political debate (European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions) addressed

young people and shared with them the challenges ahead. Active involvement of young participants

was planned in a debate session where they could share their views for the future of the European Union and how to relaunch its founding values for a full integration of Western Balkan countries.

The **Final Web Conference of the Youth4Cohesion project** provided evidence of project results and was an occasion to explore new possible developments for continued youth engagement in the Adriatic Ionian area.

The Conference brought together representatives of EU institutions and EUSAIR stakeholders, who were invited to share their priorities in the fields of youth and delineate possible multilevel cooperation to support youth engagement at grass-root level.

After the debate, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, organizer of the initiative, awarded the title of **“Cohesion Builders”** to up to 60 Adriatic Ionian young people that engaged in the project.

With these two events and by promoting a broad and inclusive engagement of Adriatic Ionian Youth in the Y4C project, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion actively contributed to the identification of the next European challenges and priorities.

The Y4C events saw the participation of AIE Members’ representatives as speakers: Mr. Paolo CALVANO, Emilia Romagna Region; Ms. Ginetta NAZZI, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region; Ms. Linda MAÇI, County of Lezha. Also, students of the Gymnasium of Kotor participated in discussions about priority “A Europe Closer to Citizens”.

THE YOUTH4COHESION MENTIONED BY COMMISSIONER FERREIRA AS A GOOD PRACTICE OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN COHESION POLICY (17/03/2022)

On 10 March 2022, from 10:00 to 12:00, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) organized the debate **“Citizens participation in cohesion policy”** under the political leadership and with the participation of Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms Elisa Ferreira. The debate was part of a series of virtual events organized by DG REGIO to present the results of the pilot project “Engaging Citizens for Good Governance in Cohesion Policy” run in cooperation with OECD, ESIF authorities and Civil Society Organizations.

The event was the occasion to discuss good practices for strengthening citizen engagement in Programme implementation as strategic to EU policy making.

Commissioner Ferreira mentioned the Youth4Cohesion project, an initiative of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, as a good practice of closer cooperation between local and regional authorities and young people as key stakeholders of a better governance and implementation of Cohesion Policy as well as of the accountable management of dedicated EU funds. She encouraged panelists and participants to “go beyond traditional stakeholders and include all citizens, including young people (..) to go beyond

traditional participation methods, such as public consultations” ... and “use innovative approaches that can make citizen engagement successful”.

With the Youth4Cohesion project the Euroregion involved more than 60 young “Cohesion Builders” in 9 Adriatic Ionian countries into a sustained training programme that was aimed at stimulating youth participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of EU cohesion-policy projects, with specific reference to evidence from territorial cooperation. The project was an occasion to continue reflecting on the priorities, challenges and needs of youth in a transnational perspective, also with a view to aligning the Euroregion’s youth engagement actions with the objectives of the Conference on the Future of the EU and the European Year of Youth.

To this end, the Euroregion and the “Cohesion Builders” created the **Adriatic Ionian Youth Network** a permanent, cross-border network open to all youth, aimed at supporting youth engagement and cooperation across the Adriatic Ionian region with knowledge, expertise and opportunities.

TECHERA

A new technology era in the Adriatic Sea – Big data sharing and analytics for a circular sea economy

Length: 01.04.2022 – 30.06.2023

Programme: INTERREG Italy Croatia CBC Programme

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Topic: Blue economy

Lead partner: Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

Website: <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/techera>

In a nutshell: A sustainable Blue Growth may be undermined by the unavailability of scientific and socio-economic observations related to the status of marine environment. The TECHERA project will tackle this problem by promoting the adoption of emerging technologies such as big-data sharing and analytics to increase the smart specialization of companies operating in the blue economy, and to attract the interest of young people in smart and blue careers.

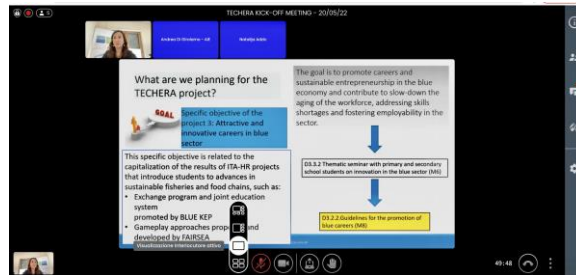
Products of previous projects will be interconnected into study examples that will promote sharing of experience, and provide evidence of potentials and benefits of integration and complementary of approaches. Operational and knowledge gaps will be identified as well.

To achieve a consistent, meaningful, and successful communication, TECHERA will identify relevant stakeholders for thematic area 1, involving also other Standard and Strategic IT-HR projects operating in the same domain, and adopt different approaches (frontal lectures, participatory discussion, gaming) targeting the transferability of results in the Programme Area and beyond.

Finally, TECHERA will propose potential inputs for the next programming period in order to contribute to the definition of a strategy for digitization and to the identification of key innovations to improve the competitiveness in the blue economy.

TECHERA: KICK-OFF MEETING IN RAVENNA

On May 20, the Kick-off meeting of the **TECHERA project** "A new technology era in the Adriatic Sea - Big data sharing and analytics for a circular sea economy" took place in Ravenna at the hall of the Municipality of Ravenna - Palazzo Rasponi Dalle Teste, Via Luca Longhi n. 9, Ravenna (Italy), from 14:15 to 18:00.



The **TECHERA project** is co-funded by the **Interreg Italy-Croatia CBC Programme under Cluster 1** "Connectivity from the sea: data-driven solution in the sea economy" and is the result of the capitalization of 6 projects **ADRIREEF, BLUE KEP, FAIRSEA, ITACA, PRIZEFISH** and **SUSHIDROP** that have tested innovative data-driven practices and approaches in the context of the Blue Economy.



TECHERA, with a duration of 15 months (April 2022 - June 2022), is coordinated by the Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna, Department of Electrical and Information Energy Engineering "Guglielmo Marconi" and involves the following partners: Marche Agricoltura e Pesca - Agenzia per



l'Innovazione nel settore agroalimentare e nella pesca (Italia), Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion (Croatia), Municipality of Ravenna (Italy); OGS - National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (Italy); Veneto Agricoltura (Italy); Zadar County (Croatia); Ministry of Agriculture (Croatia).

Based on these assumptions, TECHERA main goal is to pave the ground to the reduction of the carbon footprint of fishing fleets and seafood markets by data-driven optimization of fishing pressures and development of sustainable productions.

More specifically, the project aims to:

- Develop a cross-sector cluster for data sharing, capitalizing on the approach, models and results of the **FAIRSEA**, **SUSHIDROP** and **ADRIREEF** projects;
- Contribute to smart specialization and the adoption of advanced technologies to increase the competitiveness of fisheries enterprises, capitalizing on the APP developed under the **ITACA** and **PRIZEFISH** projects as well as the ecological indicators for the purpose of certification of fisheries products developed by the latter;
- Promoting innovative career paths in the blue economy, capitalizing on the Mobility programs and Education System developed by the **BLUE KEP** project and the approach of the **FAIRSEA** project.

At the first project meeting the Lead partner presented the project, and the partnership defined the work plan, schedule of activities, and future project events. The Euroregion Secretariat presented the Communication WP and its main activities.

TECHERA PROJECT PROMOTED AND PRESENTED AT ADRIATIC SEA FORUM 2022



The TECHERA project was presented in Bari on Oct. 6 and 7 at the 5th edition of Adriatic Sea Forum- Cruise, Ferry, Sail & Yacht 2022 with the aim of showcasing the latest developments and meeting stakeholders from the blue economy and the nautical sector.

The forum, conceived and organized by Risposte Turismo, offered the Secretariat of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion the opportunity to give visibility to the Techera cluster, to

meet with operators, companies, associations and organizations representing the most important figures involved in maritime tourism in the Adriatic, to interact with them, with stakeholders and to explain them the background and objectives of the project, including through the distribution of promotional materials.

The TECHERA project is co-funded by the Interreg Italy-Croatia Cooperation Program 2014-2020 under Cluster 1 "Connectivity from the sea: data driven solution in the sea economy" and stems from the capitalization of 6 previous projects ADRIREEF, BLUE KEP, FAIRSEA, ITACA, PRIZEFISH



and SUSHIDROP that have experimented with innovative data-driven practices and approaches in the context of the blue economy.

The novel interfaces, data analysis procedures and acquisition methods developed in these projects will be pooled to showcase how they can converge in a unique "Infosphere" to compensate for the lack of marine data and improve the blue economy by ensuring cost-savings and sustainability.

TECHERA's main goal is to pave the ground to the reduction of the carbon footprint of fishing fleets and seafood markets by data-driven optimization of fishing pressures and development of sustainable productions.



TECHERA PROJECT AT INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA ANNUAL EVENT



From 24th to 25th October 2022, Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme organized its annual event.

This event emphasised the achievements of 2014-2020 Programme implementation and introduced the new opportunities of 2021-2027 Programme, its topics and novelties, as well as the key aspects of the first call.

Coherence with EUSAIR Strategy, capitalisation opportunities and synergies with other EU funding instruments and Programmes were discussed among high level institutional representatives.

The TECHERA project organized a thematic workshop "How to preserve the Adriatic Sea ecosystem and allow a sustainable exploitation of its resources" on the second day of the Interreg Italy-Croatia Annual Event "Our Shared Blue Basin".

The first part of the workshop briefly presented the main results of the previous projects that Techera and Resistance intend to capitalize on, as well as the background, specific objectives, main activities and expected results of the Techera and Resistance projects.



The second part of the workshop presented "The approaches investigated by Techera and Resistance:

1. Novel tools for increasing awareness,
2. Technological and data-driven innovations,
3. Science-stakeholders-policy makers, the triple helix,
4. Socio-economics sustainability patterns."

This workshop was followed by a roundtable discussion entitled "What's next? Exploring new project ideas".

AI-NURECC PLUS

Adriatic Ionian Network Of Universities, Regions, Chambers Of Commerce And Cities Initiative Plus
Length: from April 2021 to September 2023

Co-founder: DG-REGIO - European Commission

Co-financed by: EC DG REGIO

Topic: Capacity Building and EUSAIR - Sub-topics: Sustainable Tourism, Circular Economy, Cultural and Creative Industries, Youth participation in EUSAIR

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

Partner: Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – CPMR, Adriatic and Ionian Euroregion, Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce, Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities, Association of Universities of Adriatic and Ionian area – UniAdrion

Website: <https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/ai-nurecc-plus-initiative/>

In a nutshell: The Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities Initiative PLUS (AI-NURECC PLUS) is a preparatory action financed by DG REGIO that will capitalise on the results of the AI-NURECC Initiative, ended in December 2019. This project is coordinated by the CPMR in partnership with four stakeholders from the area: the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC), the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (FORUM AIC), and the Association of Universities of the Adriatic Ionian area (UniAdrion).

The AI-NURECC PLUS partners have joined their efforts to support the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Sea Region (EUSAIR) implementation, ensuring deep and broad territorial coverage while enhancing Regional and Local Authorities' appropriation of the EUSAIR main objectives and opportunities in the EUSAIR cross-pillar topics: "Research and Innovation", "SMEs Development", and "Skills Development". AI-NURECC PLUS therefore supports entrepreneurship, transnational clusters, and digital innovation hubs activities for the EUSAIR.

Special attention is paid to Youth, also through initiatives addressed to sport, integration and social inclusion, tools that are expected to further encourage community sustainable development, cohesion and solidarity in the area. AI-NURECC PLUS also aims at encouraging multi-actor networking

and collaboration among representatives of the private and public sectors and civil society to foster coordination among EU, national, regional, and local policies to develop Circular Economy.

In this context, AI-NURECC PLUS operates in the following fields: Sustainable Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries, and Circular Economy.

AI-NURECC PLUS activities also contribute to the implementation of the Cultural and Creative Regional Ecosystems (CCRE-S3) thematic area's objectives in the EUSAIR area. CCRE-S3 is an AI-NURECC deliverable and the first thematic area with a specific focus on a Macro-Regional Strategy.

AI-NURECC PLUS HIGH-LEVEL LAUNCH EVENT – 2 JULY 2021

The CPMR, Coordinator of the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities PLUS (AI-NURECC PLUS Initiative), has organized virtually its high-level launch event on 2 July



2021, from 10.00 to 12.30 (CEST). The other partners, among them the **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion**, attended and contributed to the launch event, which

focused on the challenges to be addressed and the priorities of this productive multilevel cooperation to also support the post-pandemic recovery.

Speakers included: Secretary General of the CPMR, Representatives of DG REGIO EC, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Republic of Albania, Presidents and Secretary Generals of partner networks, including **Mr. Nikola Dobroslavic, AIE President, and the Mayor of Tirana as European Youth Capital 2022.**

AI-NURECC PLUS is a preparatory action financed by DG REGIO – EC that will capitalise on the results of the AI-NURECC Initiative, ended in December 2019. The project is coordinated by the CPMR with the support of four partners from the area: the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC), the Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (FORUM AIC), and the Association of Universities of the Adriatic Ionian area (UniAdriatic). AI-NURECC PLUS will operate in the following fields: Sustainable Tourism, Cultural and Creative Industries, and Circular Economy, and it is expected to support entrepreneurship, transnational clusters, and digital innovation hubs activities in the EUSAIR area.

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ADRIATIC IONIAN YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FORUM

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organized an online *High-Level Conference on Circular Economy* that took place on *26 October 2021*, and the second *Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum*, a back-to-back event dedicated to Youth Organisations of the 9 EUSAIR countries.

The events are part of the Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities PLUS (AI-NURECC Plus), a multi-level partnership aimed at promoting the appropriation of EUSAIR's main objectives and opportunities among Regional and Local Authorities as well as among youth of the Adriatic Ionian area.

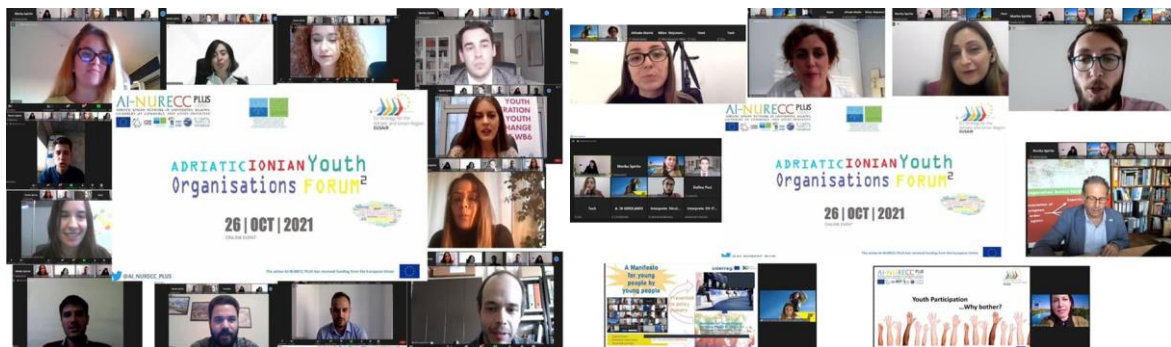


The *High-Level Conference on Circular Economy* focused on the challenges and priorities of an efficient transition to a more innovative, sustainable and inclusive development in the Adriatic Ionian area, as addressed by EUSAIR policy-makers, stakeholders and implementers.

The event included as speakers, Mr. Guido Castelli, Regional Minister of Marche Region, and Ms. Elena SICO, Abruzzo Region.

The second *Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum* was an outstanding platform for youth to meet EUSAIR Stakeholders, to network and to be informed about forthcoming opportunities promoted by the AI-NURECC Plus such as the *Internship Fund* for Creative and Cultural Industries, the *Summer School* on Sustainable Tourism and *thematic events*.

The event explored the role of EUSAIR youth in territorial cooperation and in shaping the transition to an innovative, more sustainable and resilient development of the Adriatic Ionian region.

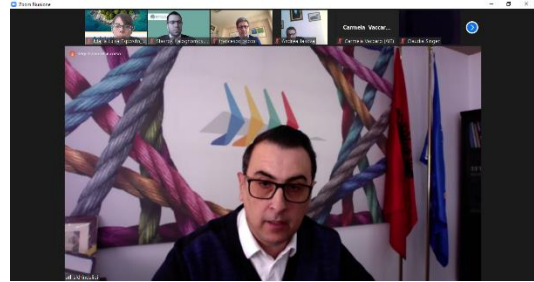


AI-NURECC PLUS: HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE ADRIATIC IONIAN REGION – 2ND SESSION

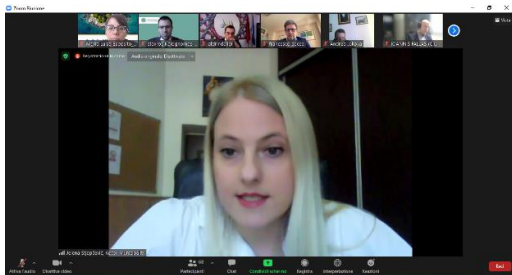
The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organized the second High-Level Conference on Circular Economy in the Adriatic Ionian Region. The event was held online on Monday 11 April from 9:30 to 13:15 CET.

he event is part of the AI-NURECC Plus initiative, an outstanding platform for Adriatic Ionian stakeholders to network and discuss topics that are crucially momentous for the innovative, sustainable and inclusive development of the Adriatic Ionian area.

Based on the results of two preparatory events, the Conference discussed the uptake of circular principles in the context of multi-actor and multi-level governance.



Key stakeholders of the Adriatic Ionian Macroregion such as the OECD, national-level governing structures supporting the EUSAIR, the EUSBSR and the EUSDR provided their inputs. Representatives of Western Balkan youth organizations presented their concrete actions to create awareness, facilitate community engagement in embracing circular economy and sustainability.



Finally, a round table explored how the circular economy works for Adriatic Ionian local and regional authorities and paved the way to present two case studies of industrial symbiosis and explain how waste or by-products can become raw materials.

The event was opened by Mr. Aldrin Dalipi, Deputy-President of the AIE, attended included as speakers Ms. Jelena Stjepcevic, Municipality of Kotor, and Mr. Ivo Benzon, RERA SD - Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County.

THE EUROREGION AND AI-NURECC PLUS AT THE 7th EUSAIR ANNUAL FORUM IN TIRANA

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organised a number of AI-NURECC Plus events held in Tirana (Albania) within the context of the 7th EUSAIR Annual Forum.

The AI-NURECC Plus events in Tirana were an outstanding platform for Adriatic Ionian stakeholders to network and discuss momentous topics such as the revision of the EUSAIR, the role of youth and youth engagement in the Strategy and Cultural and Creative Industries as key to cross-border cooperation.

Specifically:

- The **3rd Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum “Youth building a common vision for the future of the EUSAIR”**, held on from Monday 16 May from 14:15 to 16:30 CET;
- The **High-Level Conference “Cultural and Creative Industries as key to cross-border cooperation in the Adriatic Ionian Region”**, held on Tuesday 17 May from 08:45 to 10:30 CET.

Both events were held in hybrid form. They included as speakers Mr. Nikola Dobroslavic, AIE President; Mr. Ervis Mocka, Municipality of Vlora; Mr. Aldrin Dalipi, President of the Regional Council of Tirana and AIE Deputy-President.



The AIE also organized the **Speakers' Corner**, in collaboration with the European Commission. Aimed at collecting ideas for the revision of the EUSAIR, the Speakers' Corner was hosted at the EUSAIR Networking Fair and was managed by the Adriatic Ionian Youth Network (AIYN).



3rd Section

EUSAIR Initiatives and Conferences

1. 5th ANNUAL EUSAIR FORUM

The 5th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), jointly organized by the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the European Commission with the support of the EUSAIR Facilitation Point, took place in Belgrade (Serbia) on January 28-29, 2021 under the slogan "Strengthening the Resilience of the Adriatic and Ionian Region through Cooperation."



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and concerns regarding the situation during this year, the 5th EUSAIR Forum was organized as an online event, with inspiring speakers in the live program and providing networking opportunities through a virtual conference platform. In addition, it was possible to learn more about initiatives and projects in the Adriatic and Ionian region at virtual exhibition booths.

The Forum brought together Ministers of Foreign Affairs and European Funds, European Commission officials, stakeholders and the general public to discuss the future of the Strategy and its role in addressing key issues in our region. The annual event also aimed to raise the visibility of EUSAIR and reflect on the significant progress made in the Strategy over the past year.

Cooperation is a central concept for the post-2020 programming period. This COVID-19 pandemic appears more and more as a disruptive and changing crisis. It has become therefore even more important to join our forces and to try to find common solutions to the generational challenges.

The plenary and thematic sessions focused on the digital and green transition, the regional response to the COVID-19 crisis, macro-regional cooperation in relation to the EU post-2020 strategic and legal framework, the new methodology for enlargement and the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, as well as the recovery of the cultural and creative industries in the region.

2. MAINSTREAM, TRANSNATIONAL & CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMMES MEET EUSAIR (15/04/2021 - Virtual event)

The embedding process in EU Strategy for Adriatic Ionian region (EUSAIR) started in 2018 with Catania Declaration in which the ministers of the EUSAIR countries called on the national and regional authorities responsible for the ESI and IPA funds in their countries to closely coordinate among them across the Region, since the very early stages of 2021-2027 strategic planning, so as to jointly agree on the macro-regional priorities to be included in the ESIF Partnership Agreements and IPA Strategy Papers and, subsequently, in the ensuing, relevant programming documents. In that respect, they urged the ESIF and IPA programme authorities and the EUSAIR key implementers to jointly work to identify at the earliest convenience pilot macro-regional actions and projects which require, for their implementation, a coordinated planning and programming of national/regional ESI and IPA funds across the Region.

After two years of intensive discussions and coordination in spring in spring 2020 all 4 EUSAIR Pillars proposed the Flagships that were agreed by them with consensus of all EUSAIR countries.

At the Meeting of the EUSAIR Governing Board on 10 June 2020 National Coordinators from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia were requested to present their opinion regarding the EUSAIR final list of proposed flagships for embedding. After all countries had an official say, chair announced that consensus had been reached in time. Governing Board thereby approved the EUSAIR final list of flagships for embedding and Slovene EUSAIR Presidency committed itself to, on behalf of the EUSAIR Governing Board, share the list in line with Catania and Belgrade Declarations with all relevant mainstream Programming and Managing Authorities, as well as with EU delegations in order for every actor to be properly informed and able to support the implementation of projects.

EC (DG REGIO and DG NEAR) supported the proactivity of EUSAIR key implementers to reach an agreement and adoption of the flagships in the perfect moment, since the process of preparing the programming documents has just started. Although it cannot be assured that all flagships will be fully integrated in the documents prepared for the programming period 2021-2027, an important work in the long macro-regional embedding process was done.

Flagships are understood as solutions for the main challenges of macro-regional importance consistent with national needs as well as with the EU policy objectives for a greener, low-carbon and more connected Europe.

They are however, not relevant only for the mainstream programme, but can only develop to their full potentials if also cross border and transnational programmes support the implementation of their objectives to harmonize the approaches, exchange the knowledge and experience or pilot their actions at the CB / TN level.

The goal of the webinar was to get familiar with the EUSAIR Flagships and to understand their national/cross-border/transnational potentials and relevance for the region.

In this way the countries will meet concrete actions at national and macro regional level in coordinated way, to pursue common goals/solutions for the region.

The event shall continue in following months, when selected planning authorities will be invited to present the relevant programming content and its relevance to the EUSAIR. The discussion of common ground of cooperation and practical and operational procedures for the coordinated actions thereafter should continue and relevant Network(s) of Managing Authorities could be established. In this vein, the Council Conclusions of December 2020 that called “on all participating countries/regions, with the support of the Commission and as soon as possible, to establish networks of (managing) authorities of relevant 2021-2027 EU funding programmes (Cohesion Policy Funds, EAFRD, EMFF, IPA, NDICI)” will be followed.

3. 6th Annual EUSAIR Forum

The 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) took place virtually on 11-12 May 2021, jointly organised by the Republic of Slovenia, the European Commission and with support of the Facility Point.



The EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region brings together four EU member states (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) and five aspiring countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia and Serbia). It was at this year's forum that the Izola Declaration adopted a new, tenth member, the Republic of San Marino.

The ministers of the nine countries or their deputies discussed behind closed doors the most pressing issues in the region, including the response to the epidemic and ambitions for faster integration of candidates from the region into the EU. They adopted the Izola Declaration, which concludes the one-year Slovenian presidency of EUSAIR.

Foreign Minister **Anže Logar** said: “Only by being connected and responsible for the environment can we contribute to the green and smart development and recovery of the Union. This also applies to the

countries of the Western Balkans, which participate equally with us in the Strategy, which is an important contribution to the European Union's enlargement policy”.

In his video address Slovenian minister, responsible for development and the EU cohesion policy, **Zvone Černač** has mentioned the importance of the dialogue between countries and institutions and pointed out on the role of the EUSAIR Facility Point as “the joint strategic project that provides constant support to our common process”.

Detailed discussions took place in four thematic areas (transport and energy connectivity of the region, blue growth, quality of the environment and sustainable tourism).

At the press conference, the European Commissioner for Reform and Cohesion, the Portuguese **Elisa Ferreira**, emphasized that after the pandemic “we should not just build back the same, but build better. It will be only possible if we think strategically, sharing the seas and sharing the future”.

State Secretary for development and EU cohesion policy **Monika Kirbiš Rojs** underlined the importance of embedding regional development project in the Recovery and resilience plan.

The inspiring tone of the ministerial round table was provided by guest speakers, co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize and leading Slovenian expert on climate change, Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, and Ambassador of the EU Climate Agreement, daily newspaper Delo journalist Boštjan Videmšek.

The sixth EUSAIR Forum, which has brought together almost 1.000 officially registered participants through a special interactive platform, touched on circular economies on the first day, with a rich discussion, and on the second day they will award Windmills of Excellence to individuals from civil society who have been especially distinguished in spreading the idea of EU regional strategies (Slovenia is an active member in three of the four, in addition to the Adriatic-Ionian also the Alpine and Danube). The award ceremony will also conclude the competition for the best entrepreneurial ideas among high school and university students from the region, Young POPRI.

At the closing of the 6th EUSAIR Forum Slovenia handed over the presidency to Albania. On this occasion, Albanian minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs **Olta Xhaka** emphasized that Albania will continue to focus on young people. With Tirana, being the European Youth Capital of 2022, EUSAIR will synergize efforts to support youth involvement in the region.



4. 7th Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), under the motto “EU-Youth-AIR cultural exchange”.

The 7th EU Strategy Forum for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, was organized by the Republic of Albania and the European Commission with the support of the EUSAIR Facilitation Point. The Forum took place in Tirana (Albania), on 16-18 May 2022 and was designed as a great networking event and experience, featuring inspiring speakers and offering opportunities to share and exchange good practice. In addition, it was possible to find out more about initiatives and projects in the Adriatic and Ionian region to be joined regarding your field of expertise or interest. As cooperation is a central concept also for the post-2020 programming period.



The Forum brought together ministers in charge of foreign affairs and European funds, officials of the European Commission, relevant stakeholders and general public to take part in discussing the future of the Strategy and its role in addressing the key issues in our region. The annual event also aimed to raise the visibility of the EUSAIR and reflect on the significant progress made in the last year within the Strategy.

Run under the motto EU-Youth-AIR cultural exchange, Albania has put the spotlight on youth with many side events. In line with the fact that 2022 is the EU Year of Youth and Tirana is this year's capital of Youth, a great focus in the sessions of the Forum focused on youth and all-inclusiveness in Adriatic-Ionian region!

Yet sustainable tourism was also form part of the programme given Albania’s coordinating role for the pillar.

Another topics discussed are related to European Integration and Green Agenda, Tourism and Culture, Connectivity either with digitalization or transport and infrastructure. Novelty to be added in this year's Forum edition was a revision of EUSAIR and the enlargement of the Strategy to yet another new participating country.

5. AIE EXPERIENCES THE INTERREG VOLUNTEER YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG ACTIVE EUROPEANS



The Interreg Volunteer Youth (IVY) is an initiative launched in 2017 by the European Commission in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps. The Initiative offers to young Europeans (18 and 30 years old) a chance to volunteer in cross-border, transnational or interregional Programmes and in organisations involved in INTERREG projects. IVY is coordinated by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and funded by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Regional & Urban Policy, since all the volunteers receive EU financial support as well as an insurance coverage.

The objective of the initiative is to involve young Europeans in supporting, promoting and reporting the achievements related to ETC projects and Programmes. Young students and professionals have the opportunity to assist the work of organisations involved in the management of Interreg Programmes or Projects over a period of two to six months. As ETC project beneficiary, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion became hosting organisation in 2020, in order to give young students and professionals the opportunity to assist the work of the association in the management of Interreg Projects.

In autumn and winter 2020 the first IVY volunteer, Alfredo Marini, was hosted at the office of the Secretariat for a period of 6 months during which he learnt more about Territorial Cooperation and the Interreg Projects implemented by the Euroregion, in particular the Project Sustainable Tourism (Interreg MED Programme). From January 2021 also Marika Spirito has joined the Secretariat as Interreg Volunteer.

Thanks to the adhesion with the IVY, the AIE is involving two Italian young volunteers as Interreg Project Partners.

6. EVENT: “THE MEDITERRANEAN: WHY WE NEED A MACROREGIONAL STRATEGY”

The Dubrovnik Neretva Region organized on Thursday 13 October 2022 from 11:00 to 12:30 CET the event “The Mediterranean: why we need a macroregional strategy”. It took place at the European Committee of the Regions building in Rue Belliard 101, Brussels (Conference room JDE 63).



The hybrid workshop was organized in the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) which is the biggest annual Brussels-based event dedicated to local and regional authorities and communities that celebrates its 20th edition this year.



CoR Members, MEPs, EC officials and regional stakeholders and networks (such as the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, the MedCopAlliance, the CRPM) attended the workshop to advocate the creation of a Macroregional Strategy through the reinforced cooperation of all mediterranean countries as well as neighbouring countries.

The **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion** will be a strategic actor in allowing IPA countries and regions to cooperate with Mediterranean countries to promoting and enhancing economic, social, and territorial cohesion in the area, while enabling reform processes in candidate countries.

The event followed the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) which on 11 October voted and approved the opinion entitled “Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean”.

The Opinion was prepared by **the President of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Mr Nikola Dobrosavić**, as rapporteur and full member of the CoR.

4th Section

MED COOP ALLIANCE

The Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance (MCA) is an initiative that groups together different networks of local and regional authorities and substate governments from around the basin. As a network of networks cooperating together, the MCA is an example of co-operation among different organizations representing several Mediterranean regional and local authorities with the purpose to promote the sustainable and integrated territorial development of the basin.

[MEDCOOPALLIANCE: HOW MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE FOSTERS GREEN TRANSITION – WORKSHOP ON-LINE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 19TH EDITION OF THE EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES](#)

On 14 October 2021 from 09.30 to 11.00 the **Adriatic Ionian Euroregion**, in collaboration with Euroregion Pyrenees Mediterranean (EPM) and the other partners of the MedCooperationAlliance (Intermediterranean Commission of CPMR, Arco Latino and MedCities), jointly organised the online workshop “MedCoopAlliance: how multilevel governance fosters green transition”.



Enhancing green transition requires a coordinated and synergistic approach where fostering innovative and collaborative governance models is a key issue. Through concrete experiences, local and regional authorities from the **MedCoopAlliance**, a unique platform of networks in the Mediterranean, presented how they are working to improve coordination among the different levels of governance as well as ensuring better consistency between strategies and projects in order to implement green transition.

The Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance, a coalition of Euroregions, regions, local authorities and cities, believes in multilevel governance and Mediterranean cooperation as fundamental drivers for ensuring a better future for people in the Mediterranean and the European Union.

The workshop presented practical examples of multilevel governance and innovative approaches to fostering green transition.