

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

Adriatic Ionian Euroregion

ANNUAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2019



This Annual Activity Programme is a working document prepared in view of the AIE General Assembly of the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion in Mostar. It provides updated information about the first semester of the present year and the activities that the association will carry out in the second semester of 2019.

The document gives an overview of the initiatives related to the EUSAIR, the several EU cooperation projects involving the AIE and/or its Members, the internal organisation of the Euroregion (Thematic Commissions, Secretariat, etc.) as well as the communication tools of the association (website, social media and newsletters).

For clarity, this document is divided into 2 main sections:

The first section is dedicated to the current and next initiatives related with EUSAIR and EU cooperation projects. This part includes the following four subsections:

- The first sub-section is dedicated to EUSAIR and the AI-NURECC initiative;
- The second sub-section is dedicated to ongoing projects;
- The third sub-section is about projects under evaluation;
- The forth sub-section is highlights relevant calls or programmes under which the AIE plans to submit project proposals or supports its Members in submitting project proposals.

Each sub-section is organised by cooperation programme. Th projects in which the AIE participates as full partner or, alternatively, as associated partner are clearly identified.

The second session is dedicated to the Association's internal organisation and is divided into the following five subsections:

- membership and statutory meeting;
- thematic commissions;
- Secretariat;
- communication: website, social media and newsletter;
- Brussels office, traineeship and mobility.

1st Section

EUSAIR Initiatives and EU Cooperation Projects

1. EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN REGION (EUSAIR) and the AI-NURECC INITIATIVE

The EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), endorsed by the European Council in October 2014, is the third EU Macro-Regional Strategy, after the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (2009) and the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (2011). Considering the number of potential and

candidate countries that participate to the strategy, enhancing cooperation can be a great opportunity for the development of the region.

The main event of the Strategy in 2019 was the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSAIR, held in Budva (Montenegro) on 7-8 May 2019, co-organised by the European Commission and the Government of Montenegro, holding the Presidency of the AII/EUSAIR, under the slogan "Integration for the people, development for the region. The event aimed at enhancing the visibility of the EUSAIR and at reflecting on the progress made since the 3rd Forum held in Catania in May 2018. The 4th EUSAIR Annual Forum was focused on Tourism and Blue Growth. In this framework, the AI-NURECC Initiative contributed through the organisation of an official side-event falling within the AI-NURECC "Skills Development and Training Action". The seminar aimed at promoting access to EU programmes/funds and focused on Industrial Transition and Entrepreneurial Discovery within the Smart Specialisation Strategies". The event brought together representatives of the academic and business sectors and launched a dialogue to examine the industrial transition and entrepreneurial discovery within the framework of the Smart Specialisation Strategies. The 4th Forum attracted numerous stakeholders, such as the European Commission and other EU institutions, National ministries and the participation of Regional and Local authorities, the business sector and the academia.

All these stakeholders shared their views on the strategy and new ways of cooperation. In particular, it was highlighted as the EUSAIR, based on an EU maritime strategy, could also constitute a pilot strategy for the rest of the Mediterranean.

The AIE is strongly committed to being involved in the Strategy and its initiatives as well as in relevant cooperation programs active in the area, and intends to keep contributing to debating on the possible application or extension of this macro-regional approaches and instruments to include the whole Mediterranean.

On this regard, the association is supporting the Mediterranean Cooperation Alliance, a new joint strategy put in place by local and regional partners of the MED area. In particular, the MED Cooperation Alliance supports the creation of a governance platform to promote the sustainable and integrated territorial development of the Mediterranean basin. The MED Cooperation Alliance is a declaration that calls networks active in the Euro-Mediterranean region to redouble their efforts towards better integrated macro-regional strategies and stronger cooperation instruments, in order to build a common, more cohesive and co-owned Euro-Mediterranean region.

As far as the EUSAIR and the AI-NURECC, the following activities will be pursued by the Euroregion in 2019:

- actively participate in the implementation of the EUSAIR Strategy with reference to the four EUSAIR pillars, strengthening the role of regional and local governments in the decision-making and governance of the EUSAIR;

- contribute to the EUSAIR implementation process by means of the AI-NURECC study/communication/networking activities and events;
- strengthen the relations with the European Parliament on EUSAIR issues, e.g. participating to the Friends of the EUSAIR and other initiatives;
- provide competent authorities with support and tailored measures to implement the Strategy;
- insist, in particular, on the development of projects in the transport and connectivity sectors;
- urge the European Commission to find solutions for the mobilisation of financial resources for migration-related activities, including cooperation with third countries;
- coordinate and collaborate with other European networks, such as CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions), to foster the implementationa and capitalisation of the Strategy;
- monitor ETC Programmes and Projects (such Italy-Croatia, Interreg MED, IPA Italy Montenegro Albania) and analyse how these Programmes are interlinked with the EUSAIR for a better coordination and use of related financial opportunities;
- explore possible future projects and initiatives;
- actively participate in the structures and initiatives of the EUSAIR such as the Annual Fora and the EUSAIR Stakeholder platform;
- actively participate to the European Week of Regions and Cities that will take place in October 2019 in Brussels;
- actively contribute and collaborate with the Adriatic-Ionian Interregional group of the Committee of the Regions.
- promote the building-up of a long-term integrated sea basin strategy, complementary to the EUSAIR and WestMED initiative, for the entire Mediterranean area.

2. ONGOING COOPERATION PROJECTS

All the ongoing European Territorial Cooperation projects in which the AIE participates as full or associated partner directly involve several AIE Member Regions together with other European, Mediterranean and macro-regional key players.

Especially in the last three years and thanks to EU cooperation projects, the Euroregion collaborated with several EU organisations such as other Mediterranean networks of local and regional authorities, thematic networks, universities, research centres and institutes, NGOs, national, regional and local authorities.

Implemented in accordance to the AIE Presidency and Assembly directives, these projects have a clear strategic financial and political relevance for the Association and its Members.

Member regions can benefit from these projects through the participation of the AIE, which constantly promotes the projects results among its Members. To this end, the Secretariat provides support to its Members to build partnerships, by circulating in "partners searches" among its Members and external partners in relation to different calls, programmes and opportunities.

To date, the Euroregion participates in 10 EU Cooperation Projects. Five fall within the framework of Interreg programmes (3 as full partner and 2 as associated partners), one is co-financed by HERCULE III Programme and three projects are financed under the Erasmus+ Programme. The AI-NURECC initiative is financed through a direct grant by DG-REGIO.

Project	EU Programme	Role of the AIE	Website
BlueTourMed_C3	Interreg MED, 1st call for	Full Project	https://sustainable-
	Horizontal projects	Partner	tourism.interreg-med.eu/
PANACeA	Interreg MED, 1st call for	Associated	https://biodiversity-
	Horizontal projects	Partner	protection.interreg-med.eu/
InnoBlueGrowth	Interreg MED, 1st call for	Associated	https://interreg-
	Horizontal projects	Partner	med.eu/thematics/blue-growth/
Blue Kep	Interreg Italy Croatia, 1st	Full Project	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregi
	call for Standard+ projects	Partner	on.eu/projects/blue-kep-project/
E-CITIJENS	Interreg Italy Croatia, 1 st	Full Project	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregi
	call for standard projects	Partner	on.eu/category/projects/e-citijens/
AI-NURECC	Direct funded by EC DG	Full Project	https://cpmr.org/policy-
	REGIO	Partner	work/cohesion/ai-nurecc/
ECO for PIF	Programme HERCULE III	Associated	PDF description
		Partner	
CREATE	Erasmus+	Full Project	www.projectcreate.eu
		Partner	
SWEEP	Erasmus+	Full Project	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregi
		Partner	on.eu/projects/sweep-project-
			description/
ProADAS	Erasmus+	Full Project	https://www.adriaticionianeuroregi
		Partner	on.eu/category/projects/proadas/

The projects BlueTourMed_C3, BLUE KEP, AI-NURECC, CREATE, PANACeA and InnoBlueGrowth will end by the autumn 2019. The other projects, such as E-CITIJENS, SWEEP and ProADAS will continue also in 2020.

In the next pages of this document we provide an overview of each Cooperation Project, including some details about the activities to be planned and performed in the second semester of 2019. For more information and to learn more about the results achieved the AIE website has an ad-hoc project section at the following link: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/cooperation-projects/

BlueTourMed C3

Title and Acronym: BlueTourMed_C3 - Maritime and Coastal SustainaBLE Tourism in the Mediterranean - Community building, Communication and Capitalisation.

Key words: Sustainable Tourism

Programme: Interreg MED 2014-2020

Starting date: 01/11/2016 - Ending date: 31/10/2019

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

AIE Budget: 159.530,00 Euro - EU co-financing: 85% of the total budget

Partners: Arco Latino (Spain), Diputació de Barcelona (Spain), Plan Bleu (France), UNIMED (Italy), PANTEION - University of Aegean (Greece), Adriatic and Ionian Euro-region (Croatia).

Description: Built on a transnational partnership with strong knowledge and experience on integrated coastal management and sustainable tourism policies, BleuTourMed_C3 aims at supporting and ensuring synergies between the modular projects selected under the SO3.1 with the objective of creating a cluster of projects able to enhance jointly solutions for the protection and promotion of natural and cultural resources in the Med area through a coherent strategy of Community Building, Communication & Capitalisation.

The project develops monitoring and community building activities aiming at collecting the main results of the Modular Projects (MPs) as well as at stimulating the co-ownership of data and results. The project is also working for ensure the capitalisation of project results. The Euroregion is involved mainly in capitalisation activities, especially targeting the Adriatic Ionian macro-region.

Website: https://sustainable-tourism.interreg-med.eu/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

- Organisation of no. 1 "Capitalisation Workshop on Sustainable Tourism" in Split on 27-28 March 2019;
- Coordination of the capitalisation Working Group 4 "Governance mechanisms to guide stakeholders towards sustainable and responsible tourism" for the elaboration of Policy factsheets and a Policy paper;
- Contribution to the organisation of the Final Conference in Barcelona on 4-7 June 2019;
- Contribution to the application for a BlueTourMed_C3 2020-2021 under the 2nd call for horizontal projects (June 2019).

Main activities to be performed -2^{nd} semester 2019:

- Organisation of no. 1 "Capitalisation Event on Sustainable Tourism" in Brussels on 9 October 2019, during the European Week of Regions and Cities;
- Organisation of no. 1 "Capitalisation Event on Sustainable Tourism" in Bari / Matera in September 2019;
- Contribution to the project's communication and capitalisation activities.

PANACEA

Title and Acronym: PANACeA - Streamlining Networking and Management efforts in Mediterranean Protected Areas for Enhanced Natural Conservation and Protection

Key words: Protected area management, biodiversity, conservation, protection, community, knowledge platform, data, science policy interface, natural resources, environment, ecosystems, networking.

Programme: Interreg MED 2014-2020 – First call Horizontal Project

Starting date: 01/11/2016 - Ending date: 31/10/2019

Role of the Euroregion: Associated partner

Partners: University of Málaga – ETC-UMA (ES) - Lead partner, Plan Bleu (FR), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission CPMR-IMC (FR), Mediterranean Universities Union – UNIMED (IT), Barcelona Metropolitan Area, acting as MEDCITIES General Secretariat (ES), Regional Environmental Centre – REC (ME).

Description: The project aims at assisting relevant Mediterranean stakeholders, ensuring synergies and increasing the visibility and impacts of their projects' results towards common identified strategic targets. PANACeA acts as a Science-Policy-Interface (SPI) to foster the exchange of experiences and knowledge sharing and, thus, to influence a behavioural and policy change in the Mediterranean region. Expected outputs:

- Engaging its stakeholders in the tailoring of their outcomes as synthesised evidence-based tools that support multilevel management and policy;
- Providing a series of recommendations based on the results of the Interreg Med Modular projects focusing on S.O. 3.2, emphasising the importance of increasing the Protected Areas implementing management strategies in the MED region and beyond;
- Providing means to reinforce regulations & enhancing the effectiveness of protection awarded by legal means in the Mediterranean, supporting the efforts done so far to prevent deterioration & enhancing the conservation of both natural and cultural resources;
- Guiding the legal management measures of natural resources in the Mediterranean Sea that actually protect biodiversity but whose main purpose is not strictly biodiversity conservation;
- Addressing transboundary cooperation and integration of PAs in territorial development strategies to achieve interconnected protection measures to tackle current and future pressures on coastal and maritime ecosystems of the Mediterranean.

Website: https://biodiversity-protection.interreg-med.eu/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

- Regional workshop "Managing Transboundary Impacts in Priority Areas – Towards an Action Plan for Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) in the Southern Adriatic Sea Ecoregion" held in Herceg Novi (Montenegro) on 31 May 2019.

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

- Participation in the Final Conference of the Interreg Med Biodiversity Protection Community in Malaga on 14-16 October 2019.

InnoBlueGrowth

Title and Acronym: InnoBlueGrowth - Horizontal Communication & Capitalisation project for Innovation in Blue Growth at Mediterranean level

Key words: Communication, Capitalisation, Blue Growth, Clusters, Transnational, Innovation, Marine renewable energies, Maritime surveillance, yachting

Programme: Interreg MED 2014-2020 - First call Horizontal Project

Starting date: 01/11/2016 - Ending date: 31/10/2019

Role of the Euroregion: Associated partner

Partners: National Inter-University Consortium for Marine Sciences – CoNISMa [IT] (Lead Partner), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions - Intermediterranean Commission CPMR-IMC [FR], Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry – ASCAME [ES], University of Montenegro – Institute for marine biology [ME], National Technical University of Athens – School of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering – NTUA [EL], Plan Bleu [FR]

Description: InnoBlueGrowth proposes concrete activities to build a real community of modular projects, dealing with Blue Growth. This innovative community aims to allow the reinforcement of the cross-cutting and integrated approach between modular projects and transnational key stakeholders, which is a sine qua non condition to support Mediterranean clusters in their transnational activities processes. Moreover, its role is to enhance the dissemination and transferability of the modular projects' results in order to ensure a wider and deeper impact towards external multilevel stakeholders, contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Mediterranean area through innovative investments in the Blue economy. InnoBlueGrowth also aims at ensuring a close communication and coordination with the Axis 4 "platform project" of the Programme, in parallel of which it was developed. The project intends to have an impact not only at projects and programme scales, but also beyond, at Member States level.

Website: https://blue-growth.interreg-med.eu/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

- 16 17 April 2019 Strengthening the Science-Practice-Policy Interface in Blue Growth: Developing policy and education strategies based on the outputs of the Blue Growth community projects, Marseille (France)
- 16 18 May 2019 Blue Growth Community: European Maritime Day 2019, Congress Center Lishoa
- 22 May 2019 iBlue: iBLUE Methodology Training, Lasithi, Crete
- 1 5 July, Blue Growth Community: Blue Growth Community Summer School. "Blue Growth: emerging technologies, trends and opportunities" Kotor (Montenegro)

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

Participation in the Final Conference of the Interreg Blue Growth Community (TBC)

BLUE KEP

Title and Acronym: BLUE KEP — BLUE Knowledge Exchange Program and integration of education systems

Key words: Blue economy, Education systems

Programme: Interreg Italy-Croatia

Starting date: 01/01/2018 - Ending date: 30/06/2019

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

AIE Budget: 112.990 € - EU co-financing: 85% of total budget

Partners: Informest, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Region of Istria, Marche Region, Public Institution Development Agency of Šibenik Knin County, Public Institution RERA SD for Coordination and Development of Split Dalmatia County

Description: The topic of BLUE KEP is the Blue economy and its value chain (nautical, shipbuilding, and maritime technologies). The project aims at enhancing the framework conditions for innovation in nautical and maritime sectors within the cooperation area, by strengthening integration of education systems in the cross-border area through the harmonization of the technical education systems.

This goal will be achieved through the standardisation of school curricula and methods for the assessment and recognition of educational and professional skills of students. The project will produce cooperation agreements, teachers exchanges, student mobility and training programs that will not only provide students with valuable educational and professional experience, but they will also contribute to providing companies with future specialised labour force.

The added value of the project's cross border approach stems from the exchange of good practices among different education systems in Italy and Croatia which will be achieved through the strict cooperation among involved actors. BLUE KEP has a strong involvement of nautical and technical institutes as the main recipient of the project. Students participates in traineeships and mobility exchanges.

Website: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/blue-kep-project/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

- Participation in the third project coordination meeting in Pula on 23 January 2019;
- implementation of communication horizontal tools in compliance with Programmes' visibility rules and Communication and Capitalisation Plans;
- social media profiles' implementation: management of the social media profiles;
- website' implementation;
- coordination of communication activities and support to other parties;
- prepare and submit periodic activity and financial progress report.

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

- Continue implementation of communication horizontal tools;
- Organisation of no. 2 "Capitalisation Workshops" in Rome (1st week of September 2019) and in Zagreb (2nd week of September 2019) - with respective education Ministries - for presentation of project results in order to raise awareness of project's good practices at institutional level;
- Contribute to project visibility both locally and through organisation's communication channels;
- Contribute to communication activities with one publication on EU relevant paper magazine and guide book for capitalisation: summarising of initial goals and main achievements, recommendations and lessons learnt;
- Contribute to elaborating opinion surveys on involved stakeholders (in coordination with LP);

E-CITIJENS

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

Key words: Civil protection, safety and resilience

Programme: Interreg Italy Croatia – Standard Project

Starting date: 01/01/2019 - Ending date: 30/06/2021

Role of the Euroregion: Project Partner

AIE Budget: 210.000,00 - EU co-financing: 85% of total budget

Partners: Molise Region as LP, Split Dalmatia County, Veneto Region, Split University, EEIG EURelations, University of Bologna, Pescara Municipality, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion, Zadar County Rural Development Agency, Region of Istria.

Description: E-CITIJENS aims at increasing the safety of the Croatian and Italian Adriatic basin from natural and man-made disaster by improving monitoring and emergency management measures and by harnessing the characteristics of the social media to significantly enhance Civil Protection's capacity in reducing disaster risk.

It pursues the above goal through cross-border cooperation among Civil Protection organisations from both countries. The specific objectives of the project are to:

- make available to the Civil Protection chain of command an advanced and efficient decision support system for a more efficient observation/ prediction of risks and management of emergencies. The system is based on a semantically enriched web platform, integrating information from both institutional sources and the social media
- increase the level of involvement of the population by including citizens into a participatory process of data gathering, thus stimulating their role of "active sensors" of emergencies, while informing them about safe and resilient behaviours
- harmonise the current Civil Protection Regulatory System and legislation in the cross-border area by comparing national systems so to identify similarities and differences, critical issues to be dealt with as well as by developing common technology-based operational models.

Main Responsibility of the Euroregion: The Euroregion is responsible of Communication as WP2 leader and it will be committed in transposing the good practices developed by the project, in order to strengthen the knowledge and capacities of its Members.

Website: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/projects/e-citijens/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

Main activities performed – 1stsemester 2019:

- Coordination of internal and external communication;
- Elaboration of graphical identity of the project graphical design of template of internal and external promotion documents in digital version (presentation template, folders, posters, brochures and Roll-ups, Newsletters, Social networks pages and Project site's dynamic pages), based on supplied Logo.
- Activation of web and social media communication channels;
- Project dynamic pages initial content filling and activation of Social networks account (Facebook) and initial content filling;
- Participation to Kick-off Meeting in Campochiaro (Italy) on 18 June 2019;
- Participation to Thematic Crossborder Conference in Civitacampomarano (Italy) on 19 June 2019;
- n° 1 Press Conference with newspapers and local TVs on the occasion of Kick-off Meeting;
- n° 1 Press release to local and online newspapers and specialized press during KoM;
- digital activities: live streaming of project launch.

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

- drafting of the Communication Plan for external and internal communication;
- activation of social networks accounts (Linkedin, Twitter and YouTube) and initial content filling;
- Contribution to designing of an Awareness Campaign devoted to citizens;
- Activities relating to the survey and assessment of risk management legislation;
- Press Conferences with newspapers and local TVs on the occasion of SC & project meetings;
- Press releases to local and online newspapers and specialised press during local events, workshops, info days and Works Cafès;
- Participation to Works Cafès, seminars and conferences;
- Innovative project digital content created to appear in different social media networks and in the Programme website, such as newsletters, video on emergency storytelling, cinemagraphs and infographics on exercises and simulations.
- Preparation and submission periodic activity and financial progress report.

AI-NURECC

Title and Acronym: Al-NURECC - Adriatic Ionian Network of Universities, Regions, Chambers of Commerce and Cities – Al-NURREC Initiative

Key words: EUSAIR

Source of EU-financing: Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) - Grant Agreement number: 2017CE160AT117.

Starting date: 01/03/2018 - Ending date: 30/12/2019

Role of the Euroregion: Project partner

Budget of the Euroregion: 159.785,00 Euro - EU co-financing: 97% of the total budget

Partners: Conference of Peripheral and Maritime Regions (CPMR), Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (AIE), Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC), Forum of the Adriatic and Ionian Chambers of Commerce (FORUM AIC), Association of Universities of the Adriatic Ionian area (UniAdrion).

Description: The initiative is based on a common effort of all partners to build a more structured and stronger cooperation among Adriatic Ionian public and private key stakeholders through the development of a specific technical and political agenda. It will promote exchange of expertise, capitalise project ideas and best practices, and it will enhance business to business solutions.

By these means, AI-NURECC is aimed at contributing to the development of an effective multi-actor and multi-level governance of the EUSAIR, for a smoother achievement of its political objectives and implementation of its Action Plan. The partnership intends to be facilitator in filling the gap between the EUSAIR TSGs Members and the local level/community by stimulating a bottom-up approach and bridging with the Western Balkan initiative (Berlin process).

Main actions: The final goal is to promote a structured dialogue and a stronger, more effective cooperation among Regional & Local Authorities, Universities, Chambers of Commerce, youth associations and networks, entrepreneurs and civil society.

Four preparatory actions: the AI-NURECC Youth Action, the AI-NURECC Creative and Cultural Industries Action, the AI-NURECC Task Force on Tourism and Cultural Heritage and the AI-NURECC Skills Development & Training Action. These actions are accompanied by two specific actions, to be developed in cooperation and synergy with the AI Stakeholder platform, aimed at fixing the conditions to operate across the whole macro-region: the AI-NURECC-focused Communication Campaign and the AI-NURECC Observatory on Multilevel Governance.

Main Responsibility of the Euroregion: The Euroregion is responsible of organising seminars within the Al-NURECC Youth Action, the Al-NURECC Skills Development & Training Action and the Al-NURECC Observatory on Multilelvel Governance. Furthermore, it is responsible of contributing to the Al-NURECC-focused Communication Campaign, with particular reference to the implementation of the Ai-NURECC Direct Info Point in Vasto (IT).

Website: https://cpmr.org/policy-work/cohesion/ai-nurecc/

Main activities performed – 1stsemester 2019:

- Collaboration to the inauguration of the Al-NURECC Direct Info Point in Vasto (IT) on 8 March 2019;
- Organisation of a "Networking Aperitif with Stakeholders" as part of the AI-NURECC focused communication campaign, held in Campobasso (IT) on 2 May 2019;
- preparation and submission of periodic activity and financial progress reports.

Main activities to be performed -2^{nd} semester 2019:

- Contribution to the organisation of activities in the framework of the AI-NURECC Direct Info Point in Vasto (IT);
- Organisation of no. 1 "EU-project Design Training Action to promote access to EU Programmes/funds" as part of the AI-NURECC Skills Development Action, to take place in Mostar on 16-17 July 2019;
- Organisation of no. 1 seminar on Multilevel Governance, as part of the AI-NURECC MLG Observatory, to take place back-to-back to a similar event organised by the AI-NURECC Lead Partner in Italy in October 2019;
- Organisation of the "Adriatic Ionian Youth Organisations Forum", as part of the AI-NURECC Youth Action, to take place in Albania in November 2019;
- Participation in the "Adriatic Ionian Youth Games", organised by the AI-NURECC partner FAIC, to take place in Ancona (IT) on 27-30 September;
- Preparation of an Analysis/Study on Multilevel Governance in the Adriatic Ionian area;
- Participation in the AI-NURECC Final Conference in December 2019;
- preparation and submission of periodic activity and financial progress reports.

ECO for PIF

Title and Acronym: ECO for PIF - Early Correcting Operations for Preventing Irregularities and Fraud through administrative measures and active learning

Key words: Preventing Irregularities and Fraud, training activities in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Italy

Programme: Hercule III 2014-2020

Starting date: 01/03/2019 - Ending date: 31/05/2020

Role of the Euroregion: Associated partner

Budget of the Euroregion: No budget

Partners: Abruzzo Region (IT) – lead partner.

For the purpose of providing specific technical guidance, the Abruzzo Region has involved some Italian institutions as Associates such as the Anti-fraud Unit of Guardia di Finanza to Italy's Presidency of the Council of Ministers — European Policies Department, the Italian Court of Auditors and the Anti-corruption Authority. On the technical-scientific side, the collaboration with the universities of Shkoder (Albania) and Banja Luka (Bosnia-Herzegovina), as well as the Master Degree course on Anti-corruption of the University of Roma Tor Vergata (Italy).

Description: ECO for PIF, financed by the EU Programme HERCULE III (2014-2020), has the general objective to enhance the level of protection of the EU financial interests with a combined action at both administrative and training level. The project intends to ensure capillary cooperation in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Italy, with a potential benefit extending to the Adriatic-Ionian Region as a whole. ECO for PIF stems from the long-term experience of the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013 and aims to capitalise the best practices on preventive actions and to reduce the error rate in financial reporting of EU funds by the Member States. The project is divided into several actions, such

as: Problem/need assessment; 4 classroom events (conferences/seminars); 5 on-line seminars; an on-line community aiming at networking the stakeholders from the involved area;

The project intends to reach out for a large target audience by activating the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion organisation (involving the 33 Member regions. Such a synergy ensures an extremely qualified target for the actions of prevention and early correcting operations envisaged by the project.

Website:

https://www.regione.abruzzo.it/system/files/paginabase/99937/ECO%20for%20PIF_scheda_ENG.pdf

Main activities performed -1^{st} semester 2019:

- Participation in the first meeting of the project held in L'Aquila on 25-26 June 2019: "La protezione degli interessi finanziari dell'UE: capitalizzazione delle buone pratiche amministrative e cooperazione investigativa - Presentazione del Progetto ECO for PIF"

Main activities to be performed -2^{nd} semester 2019:

Still in definition.

CREATE

Title and Acronym: CREATE - Competitive Regions Employability of Adult through Education

Key words: Adult Education

Programme: ERASMUS+. KA2 Adult Education

Starting date: Nov. 2017 - Ending date: Oct. 2019

Role of the Euroregion: Project partner

Budget of the Euroregion: 27.382,00 Euro - EU co-financing: 100% of the total budget

Partners: NBEB, Niedersächischer Bund für freie Erwachsenenbildung e.V represented by German Agency for Adult Education and Training (DE), Baden-Wuerttemberg – Ministry for Culture, Youth & Sport (DE), VYS EDU Public Adult Education Provider (CZ), Vidzeme, regional authority (LV), Adriatic Ionian EuroRegion (HR), NUIM National University of Ireland Maynooth (IE), IHF asbl (BE), Italian Development Partners - IDP (IT), Internet Web Solutions - IWS (ES).

Description: CREATE originates from the need to identify and exploit success factors to improve effectiveness and impact of Adult Education with the overall objective of reducing geographic disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes across and within EU regions by developing a toolkit for local policy makers for more efficient adult education. CREATE will enhance policy formulation and promote evidence-based Adult Education policy and practice, also by further aligning strategy, policy and funding of Adult Education.

Website: http://www.projectcreate.eu/

Main activities performed -1^{st} semester 2019:

provided contents for the platform;

- provided inputs on the selection of the most suitable policy tools to be included in the CREATE ToolBox;
- discussed options for evaluating and key-wording the tools;
- analysed the materials provided in the survey for their country according to the categories indicated in the "Toolkit Evaluation Table" provided by AEWB (transferability, updating, accessibility, practical relevance);
- AIE mapped and selected the most relevant policy tools, best practices, case studies, lessons learned and compiled/developed the CREATE toolbox; then translated the toolkit section into Croatian;
- contributed to the review process of the toolbox;
- translated the ToolBox in Croatian;
- AIE collaborated in general management of project:
 - attending the skype call,
 - answering project correspondence and elaborating report;
- preparation and submission of periodic activity and financial progress reports.

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

- Organisation of no. 1 "Multiplier event" to involve and engage stakeholders and participants to the domains of Adult Education and Training;
- Implementation Package CREATE Tool Box (IO4);
- Translation of the CREATE Implementation Package and ToolBox into Croatian;
- Participation to the Final Meeting that will be held in Brussels on 11 October 2019, during the European Week of Regions and Cities, to close the project and disseminate/exploit results with regional/local policy makers.
- Preparation and submission final activity and financial progress report.

SWEEP

Title and Acronym: Select Waste for the EU Eco-system Protection

Key words: Adult Education

Programme: ERASMU+. KA2 Adult Education

Starting date: October 2018 - Ending date: October 2020 – 24 Months

Role of the Euroregion: Project partner

Budget of the Euroregion: 23.747 € - EU co-financing: 100% of the total budget

Partners: 1 Romania - Socio-Cultural Asociatia "Sfantul Ioan Botezatorul" - Berbesti; 2 Croatia - Jadransko jonska euroregija- Pula; 3 Slovenia- Lindska univerza Zavod za izobrazevanje odraslih in mladine - Lendava; 4 Turkey- Akhisar Halk Egitim Merkezi ve Aksam Sanat Okulu- Manisa; Italy-Eurelations Geie- Campobasso; 6 Austria- U.F. B.- Wien, 7 Centrul de Pregatire Montana Himalaia prin Asociatia Club Spaortiv Eco-Alpin - Romania, Brasov

Description: The project is aimed to: 1) increase the sense of responsibility of the adults regarding the importance of waste separation by training the them to use of digital tools and technology related to the recycling/reuse of waste through an e-learning model provided on an interactive digital project platform; 2) raise the awareness of the local communities about the importance of improving

environmental protection; 3) increase the access to the information of the current European legislation relying on the Circular Economy and innovative perspectives until 2030; 4) implement a training model designed for a target of people aged 50+ with the purpose of updating / increasing their digital skills and train them to use digital tools to separate the collection of waste for their recycling / reuse; 5) exchange and capitalisation of good practices and innovative experiences focused at chosen target; 6) increase of the effectiveness of a European cooperation aimed at an issue of concrete interest for citizens in order to build up a Europe of people.

Main Activities

- to programme a training model for adults, target 50 +, aimed at motivating citizens to collect organic waste for recycling.
- to present, in the training model, the current European legislation based on the circular economy and innovative perspectives up to 2030.
- to promote EU community collaboration on the theme of recycling / reuse of solid urban waste.

Expected Results

- 1. development of a logical approach to the problem and the different systems of separate waste collection in EU countries;
- 2. creation of an interactive learning platform;
- 3. innovative research contents on the recycling / reuse of solid urban waste;
- 4. e-learning course: 3 gamified training modules available through the platform.

Website: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/projects/sweep-project-description/

Main activities performed – 1stsemester 2019:

- Survey about waste management in Croatia on February 2019;
- Identification of 21 elderly Croatian people as targets of the the e-learning course about waste collection;
- Participation at the project meeting in Campobasso between 29 April 2019 and 3 May 2019

Main activities to be performed – 2nd semester 2019:

- Organisation of a multiplayer event in Pula on 30 September 2019;
- Organisation of a project meeting in Pula on 1-2 October 2019;
- Creation of an e-learning course about waste collection.

ProADAS

Title and Acronym: Promotion of Active Digital Ageing Skills

Key words: Adult education and digital literacy

Programme: Erasmus+ - Strategic Partnerships for adult education

Starting date: Nov. 2018 - Ending date: Oct. 2020

Role of the Euroregion: Project partner

Budget of the Euroregion: 19.446 € - EU co-financing: 100% of the total budget

Partners: European University Cyprus (Cyprus), E-Seniors: Initiation des Seniors aux NTIC association (France), Erasmushogeschool Brussel (Belgium), Center for Social Innovation LTD (Cyprus), Diciannove Società Cooperativa (Italy), Xenios Polis. Culture, Science and Action (Greece), Adriatic Ionian Euroregion (Croatia)

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

Website: https://www.adriaticionianeuroregion.eu/category/projects/proadas/

Main activities performed – 1st semester 2019:

- Participation in the Kick-off Meeting in Athens on 5-6-7 February 2019;
- Summarising of questionnaires for 30 people including elderly experts, seniors, adult educators and caregivers in Croatia in February 2019;
- Research activity about IO2 and drafting of PPT "Nutrition Module" in April 2019;
- Elaboration of third good practice about elderly system in Croatia in May 2019.

Main activities to be performed -2^{nd} semester 2019:

- Research activity and elaboration of third output of the project "ProADAS handbook" in August 2019;
- Participation at second meeting in Paris on 5-6 September 2019;
- Creation of a platform to share contents in October 2019;
- Dissemination of all material about promotion of Active Digital Ageing Skills in December 2019.

3. COOPERATION PROJECTS UNDER EVALUATION

At MED level, the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion is nowadays recognised as an important Mediterranean network with competences and expertise in capitalisation activities and in transferring good practices at regional level and locally in its geographical area of competence.

The Euroregion actively participated in the 2nd Call for MED Horizontal projects, joining 4 project partnerships. One out of these four proposals involves the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion as full partner, namely the STC - Sustainable Tourism Community, which is the continuation of BleuTourMED_C3. The project is aimed to support the mainstreaming of the MED modular projects results of Priority Axis 3.1. by communication, transferring & community building, and capitalisation activities. The project is built upon the results of the previous horizontal project and it is managed by a sound partnership with capacity to reach the main stakeholders of the tourism sector and to pool, at the same time, different expertise and profiles: sectoral European networks (NECSTouR), Mediterranean networks (Arco Latino, Adriatic Ionian Euroregion), destination management organisations (DIBA, RDA Green Karst),

academic Mediterranean networks (UNIMED), Mediterranean research centre (Plan Bleu) and universities (Thessaly).

The Euroregion applied as associated partner in other three MED horizontal projects for supporting the other three MED Communities on Blue growth, Biodiversity Protection and Renewable Energy.

As associated partner, the AIE has not been assigned a budget, but it will have the possibility to support the dissemination of project events, the transposition of project results and being involved in other capitalisation and mainstreaming activities. Notwithstanding the participation as associated partner does not imply any financial obligations, nevertheless, if admitted to funding, the project can cover expenses related to the attendance of meetings and events to which the associated partners are invited.

All these 4 MED Horizontal Projects will be evaluated by the MED Programme during summer 2019 and the final evaluation is expected in September / October 2019. The projects finally selected would start in November 2019.

In the framework of the 3rd Call for Modular projects of the Interreg MED Programme, the Euroregion submitted candidature of PROMETHES (Priority Axis 3 - 3.2. Biodiversity Protection). The initiative deals with Maritime Protected Area and is led by the Abruzzo Region. The final evaluation is also expected in September / October 2019. Under the same call, the Euroregion appears as associated partner of the THESYS, a modular project on Blue Growth.

Concerning Interreg ADRION Programme, four transnational projects involving the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion as full partner were submitted in 2018 in the frame of the 2nd Call of priority axes 2. Three out of four proposals passed the eligibility checks so they were admitted to the full assessment. The final evaluation is expected in July 2019.

The following tables summarise the project under evaluation.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COMMUNITY - STC		
Programme	Call of proposal	
Interreg MED	2nd call for Horizontal project	
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities	
Sustainable Tourism, transferring and	Project partner.	
capitalisation	Mainly responsible for transferring and	
	capitalisation in macro regional area	
Lead Partner	AIE Budget	
Diputació de Barcelona	183.100,00 €	
Status	Submitted in June. The project is under	

evaluation which is expected in Sep/Oct 2019.
Project will start in November 2019

BLUE GROWTH COMMUNITY	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg MED	2nd call for Horizontal project
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Capitalization & Communication activities addressed to the Blue Economy Innovation Community of MED modular projects.	Associated Partner. Supporting the dissemination of events, contribution to transferring results, capitalisation & mainstreaming activities.
Proposed by	AIE Budget
CPMR Intermediterranean Commission	0,00€
Status	Submitted in June. The project is under evaluation which is expected in Sep/Oct 2019. Project will start in November 2019

BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION COMMUNITY	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg MED	2nd call for Horizontal project
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Capitalization & Communication activities addressed to the Biodiversity Protection Community of MED modular projects.	Associated Partner. Participate in stakeholder community building events. Dissemination of project results regarding the protection, conservation of terrestrial and marine environment, preservation of biodiversity, and spatial arrangements.
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
University of Malaga (ES)	0,00 €
Status	Submitted in June. The project is under evaluation which is expected in Sep/Oct 2019. Project will start in November 2019

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg MED	2nd call for Horizontal project
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Capitalization & Communication activities addressed to the Renewable Energy Community of MED modular projects.	Associated Partner
Proposed by	AIE Budget

Arco Latino	0,00 €
Status	Submitted in June. This is the only application received by the Programme. However the project is under evaluation which is expected in Sep/Oct 2019. Project will start in November 2019

PROMETHES	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg MED	3 rd Call for modular projects
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Protected marine areas in Mediterranean Territory: Habitat network and Ecosystem Services. Activities: testing, transferring and capitalisation	Project Partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
Abruzzo Region	263.750,00 €
Status	Project is under final evaluation which is expected in Sep/Oct 2019.

THESYS	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg MED	3 rd Call for modular projects
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Boosting aquaculture as a driver of Blue Growth and Innovation in MED maritime ecosystems	Associated partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
University of Camerino (IT)	0,00€
Status	Project is under final evaluation which is expected in Sep./Oct 2019.

A3C	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg ADRION	2nd Call – priority axes 2
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Ecosystem-COmmunity based Adaptation (A3C) approach to increase communities local resilience and adaptive capacity informing and involving local communities on climate change.	Project Partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
ARPAE - Agenzia regionale per l'ambiente e l'energia dell'Emilia Romagna (IT)	220.000,00€
Status	Project is under evaluation which is expected in

July 2	019.
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C-ROOTS	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg ADRION	2nd Call – priority axes 2
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Creative tourism in a responsible model for valorising heritage identity in small destinations of the Adriatic-Ionian region	Project Partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
University of Thessaly (Greece)	210.100,00€
Status	Project is under evaluation which is expected in July 2019.

MITOUR	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg ADRION	2nd Call – priority axes 2
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Strategy and Tools for the Mitigation of tourism pressures on ADRION Cultural destinations	Project Partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
University Ca' Foscari, Venice (Italy)	198.780,04 €
Status	Project was rejected during the administrative check. LP sends a request to the Programme to review this decision. The final decision is expected in July 2019.

MUSE4YOU	
Programme	Call of proposal
Interreg ADRION	2nd Call – priority axes 2
Topic	Role of the Euroregion and main activities
Creation of open networks at regional and transnational level involving key players of museum systems and engaging new audiences.	Project Partner
Lead Partner	AIE Budget
Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Department for culture, sports and solidarity	145.990,00€
Status	Project is under evaluation which is expected in July 2019.

4. OTHER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities offered by European programmes and the different EU projects recently implemented enhanced the relations between the two sides of the Adriatic. In the meantime, European projects brought about additional financial resource and new activities to the Association.

Several Interreg Programmes in which the Adriatic Ionian Euroregion participates as partner or associated partner will not lunch any call for proposals until 2021. However, the AIE Secretariat will obviously look for other opportunities through the participation in cooperation projects in the areas of interest of its Members.

Other EU programmes, such as Erasmus+, will launch new calls for proposals in the upcoming months. Furthermore, there is a concrete possibility to candidate a brand new project as the continuation of the AI-NURECC Initiative.

This said, the Association will have to carefully ponder its management and financial capacities in relation to both already running projects and future opportunities.

The AIE is also strongly committed to provide its Members with the necessary technical support to build partnerships, especially where the Association is not directly eligible as full partner, such as for example the Interreg IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro programme. In such kind of programmes, the Association could help Members with projects implementation, being involved as external expert.

2nd Section

INTERNAL ORGANISATION OF THE ADRIATIC IONIAN EUROREGION

1. MEMBERSHIP

The Adriatic Ionian Euroregion will continue to search new associates and in particular regional and local authorities of the macro-regional area. As a result of the evolution of EUSAIR, the Euroregion should seek to enlarge its geographical coverage southwards, to include in particular the Ionian Sea, by involving for instance the Ionian Greek regions.

In the last years, the Euroregion has accepted requests of new membership by local and regional authorities especially from Bosnia Herzegovina, Montenegro and Italy. During the last General Assembly held in Termoli 2018, the Euroregion admitted as full Member the West Heerzegovina Canton (BiH), Hercegbosanska Županija (BiH), Una Sana Canton (BiH), the Municipality of Budva (Montenegro) and Regione Calabria (IT). The association now counts 33 Members and it is the largest network of regional and local authorities in the area.

In order to improve its impact, be more efficient organisationally and in the involvement of its membership, the AIE will:

- strengthen the coordination among the Presidency and Vice-Presidencies, the thematic commissions and the Secretariat. The Presidency, the Vice-Presidencies and the Secretariat will jointly identify a common division of roles based on criteria such as the representativeness of the network and the political follow-up of topics of particular relevance;
- develop synergies with other organisations of both the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region and the Mediterranean;
- consolidate the membership, reach out to new potential members from the Ionian area, commit to a closer relationship with the IPA countries such as Albania, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina;
- develop specific partnerships for EU projects in the framework of EU programmes, with specific reference to the Mediterranean area.
- encourage the emergence of sea-basin and macro-regional strategies in the Mediterranean area and promote the MED Cooperation Alliance.

2. THEMATIC COMMISSIONS

To support the work of the Thematic Commissions of the Euroregion represents a primary goal for the Association. During the latest Statutory Meetings, the importance to relaunch the activities of the Thematic Commissions was stressed as a crucial activity of the Euroregion. The Presidents of the Thematic Commissions were called to restart the activities of their respective Commission and to schedule meetings. The activation of TCs is pivotal at this stage of the Cohesion Policy package negotiation process and take proactive part in following and contributing to the discussions around the future of Cohesion policy.

The Thematic Commissions should meet at least annually in view of developing common strategies. Any Member can ask to organise not only a Statutory Meeting, but also an event linked to the Thematic Commissions. Also international events, already planned by Members, can become useful occasions to multiply the opportunities to convene the Thematic Commissions. A good strategy would be to combine the events planned by AIE Members in their respective territories with the sessions of the Thematic Commissions. In 2019, the Secretariat is willing to help the Members who want to organise and host the Thematic Commissions in their territory.

The Euroregion welcomes the opportunity to use financial resources allocated under European and ETC projects, in which many Members are involved, for organising meetings of the Thematic Commissions.

3. SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is led and coordinated by the Secretary General who is responsible for the functioning of the structure. The Secretariat is assisted by the staff, external consultants and trainees as well as by volunteers made available by AIE Members.

Over recent years, some adjustments in the structure of the Secretariat have been done in order to:

- improve the value of the network by ensuring the continuity of the work, activities, projects, preparation of reports, position papers and declarations.
- facilitate the work of the AIE bodies in the organisation of at least two annual Statutory Meetings (Assembly and Executive Committee) as well as project meetings;
- lighten the administrative tasks of the Secretariat allowing it to devote greater time to substantial work.

In 2017, the AIE adopted an Internal Regulations laying down indications on the organisation and functions of the Secretariat according to the rules already fixed in the AIE Statutes. This internal regulation is supplementary and subordinate to the Statutes. The Euroregion has adopted also an Internal Guideline for the mission trips of the Secretariat's staff as well as an Internal Guideline for the procurement of services and goods.

In 2019, the activities of the Secretariat will be carried out by the staff of the Secretariat, by some experts with a short-term remuneration contracts as well as by trainees and volunteers.

The staff of the Secretariat will work mainly at the premises of the Secretariat in Campobasso, in strong collaboration with the Presidency.

In 2019, the Secretariat will explore the possibility to open new job positions necessary for the implementation of European projects. In the future the organisation of the Secretariat could be extended and improved according to needs.

4. COMMUNICATION: WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEWSLETTER

The Secretariat manages the internal and external communications of the Association. The main activities are: networking and institutional communications, AIE website and social media, relations with stakeholder. In 2019, the Secretariat will keep improving the definition of the key messages according to the targets of internal and external communication.

The Secretariat will continue to implement the association's website with new and updated contents, giving visibility to the AIE activities, project and events, as well as external events that affected the macro-region and making the website more interesting and graphically appealing.

The website has now several specific sections such as: Description, Members Map, Documents, Event and News, AIE Bodies, Library, Projects, Video and Image Gallery etc. and periodic news have been

published at least on a weekly basis with regard to several topics such as the EUSAIR, EU policies, projects.

Regarding the social media channels, in 2018 the Euroregion opened a Twitter and Facebook accounts even if they weren't implemented fully and their use was not consistent. In 2019, there is ample room for an improvement of social media activities. The Euroregion should define how to use social media to achieve its communication aims and how to promote the activities through key messages conveyed via social networks.

Another priority for 2019 will be the creation of a quarterly Newsletter addressed to AIE Members and/or external stakeholders. In the upcoming months, the Secretariat will define a Communication and Social Media Strategy for defining how the organisation will use its website, social media and Newsletter to achieve its communications purposes, reaching out to a widest public and making the Association more visible.

In order to make a better use of the communication instruments and tools, the AIE will in particular:

- exploit the new tools (such as Facebook and Twitter) by undergoing a deep reflection on the use of social network;
- improve communication through the AIE website with articles, news, links, etc.;
- release Newsletters to disseminate AIE's activities and projects.

5. BRUSSELS ACTIVITIES AND TRAINEESHIPS

Over the years, the activities carried out by our Liaison Office in Brussels have become increasingly numerous. For instance, many events were organised in Brussels, such as General Assemblies, Executive Committees, Statutory Meetings, workshops. The Euroregion participates also in the European Week of Regions and Cities. The activities in Brussels represent an important issue for the Association because they are decisive in strengthening and deepening the relations with European Institutions (European Parliament, European Commission, Committee of the Regions, etc.) and in promoting the exchange of the experiences with other EU regions. In this regards, the Euroregion thanks the Molise Region for hosting the office of the Secretariat in Brussels.

In 2019, the lobbying and networking activities need to be strengthened in order to take full advantage of the possibilities offered by the EU policies and financial instruments.

Concerning the traineeships, the work carried by young interns hosted in Brussels was positive and brought about new ideas and added value to the Association. In 2019, we will continue to promote internships in Brussels in cooperation with AIE Members and other organisation such as Universities.