

**ADRION - ADRIATIC IONIAN
COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2014-2020**

Programming Process

Report on the Transnational Thematic Workshops



Programme cofinancé par le Fonds Européen
de Développement Régional
Programme cofinanced by the European Regional
Development Fund

Report on the Transnational Thematic workshops

Ancona (Italy) and Split (Croatia)

September 3rd and 5th, 2014

After the first phase of the consultation progress, the Task Force of Adrion Programme has organized **2 Transnational thematic events in Italy (Ancona) and Croatia (Split)** in the first week of September addressing **more than 200 stakeholders** and focused on the presentation of main findings of the territorial analysis (few relevant data), their identified needs and challenges, the Indicative list of proposed eligible actions for the relevant Investment priority and Priority Axis.

The thematic events aimed at collecting inputs from the public about their expectation from Adrion Cooperation and the possible additional results and actions for a fine-tuning of the Programme Strategy.

Both the events have been opened with a general presentation on behalf of the Future Managing Authority Region Emilia Romagna (Italy) of **the background and Strategy of the Programme, the next steps until the submission of the draft Programme to the EC in the coming weeks and the launching of the implementation phase(early 2015).**

Following the Commission decision drawing up the list of eligible regions and areas for the transnational strands of the European territorial cooperation objective, the ADRION Programme covers the following areas:

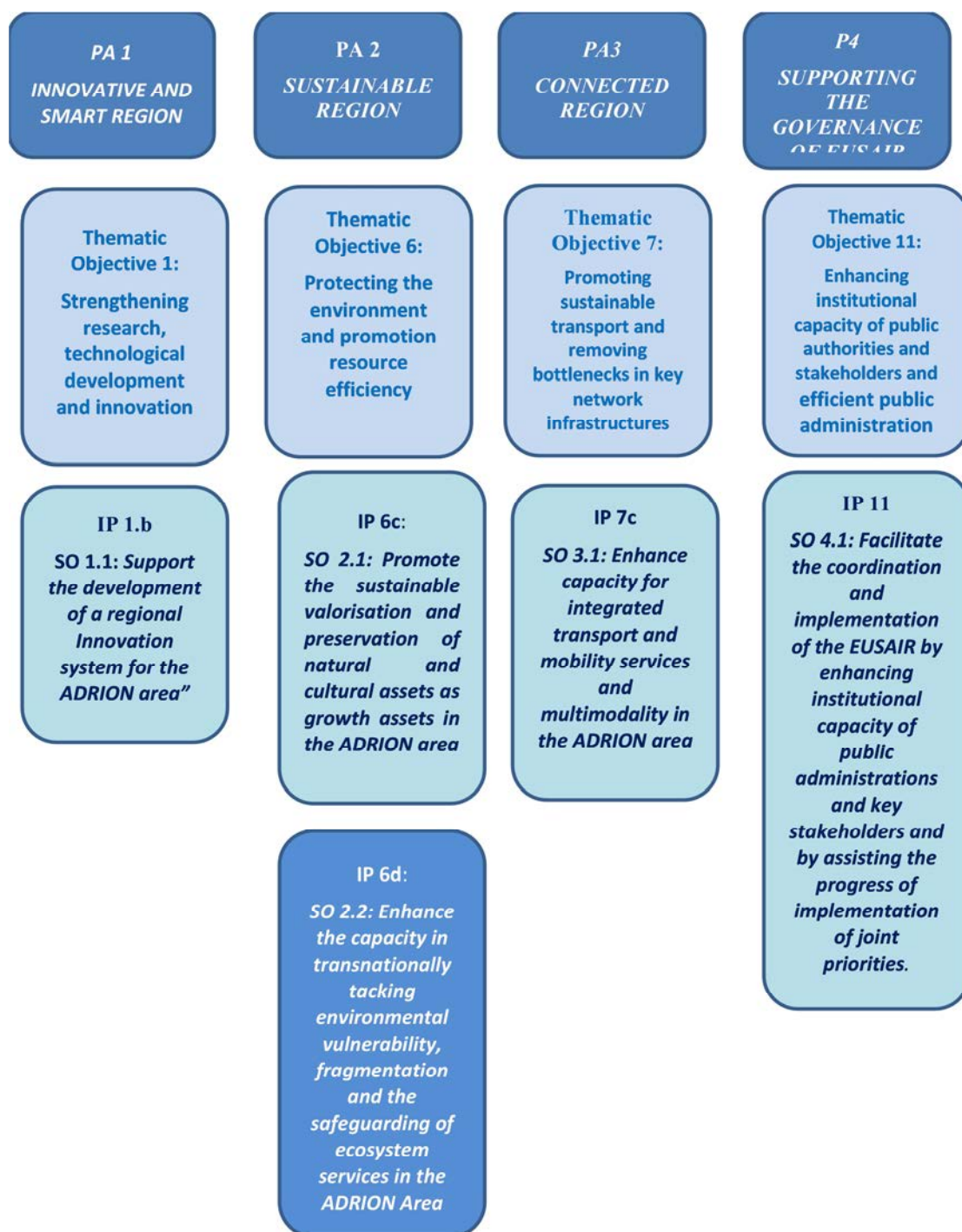
- a) The Member States:
 - IT Italy : 12 regions and 2 provinces
 - SI Slovenia: 2 regions
 - EL Greece . 13 regions
 - HR Croatia: 2 regions
- b) IPA countries
 - AL Albania
 - BA Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - ME Montenegro
 - RS Serbia

The programme is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund ERDF (EUR **83.467.729**) and IPA (EUR **15.688.887**) for a total amount of **EUR 99.156.616** for the 2014-2020 period, plus the national co-financing of **18.998.074**).

For the overall cooperation area, a co-financing rate of 85% ERDF/IPA is applied.

The Programme Strategy focused on 4 Priority Axis (PA) and 5 Specific Objectives (SOs) related to the Thematic Objectives and Investment priorities set up in the EU regulation 2013 is summarised in the table here below.

Priority Axis (PA) and 5 Specific Objectives (SOs)
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The participants (142 in Ancona and 66 in Split) have been organised in Thematic Working Groups for each of the Priority Axis.

The Working groups have been managed by a Thematic expert and a moderator on behalf of the Managing Authority : creative and lateral thinking techniques were used to facilitate the collection of inputs.

The participants represent a balanced a mix of backgrounds, i.e. from Academia, Local authorities, Development Agencies and Private Groups. The participants were active and contributed opinions and ideas to all components of the Programme.

These inputs have been translated in concrete revision of the draft version of the Cooperation Programme and mainly focused on the needs of the Programme area, the additional thematic area to be included as focus of the Priority axis as well as some suggestion for improving the Programme management and implementation

All the presentations both of the plenary sessions and the Working groups as well as the list of participants are available on the SEE Programme website. www.southeast-europe.net

Here below a synthesis of the main Inputs collected from the WGs per each PA

PRIORITY AXIS 1 INNOVATIVE AND SMART REGION

INPUTS FOR THE PROGRAMME SWOT ANALYSIS

Weaknesses:	Strength
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Existing cluster policies and in general policies like SPINNER global convention – Good skills on food-security Existing industrial centres and clusters, e.g. Lombardy – Also some companies are world leaders – In some countries good systems of PRODUCT QUALITY CERTIFICATION, good facilities and labs with international accreditation – Private investors networks supporting SMEs – Excellence in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Geographic divide (West/East) – Declining urban areas as poles for innovation – Low entrepreneurial skills nad low knowledge about innovation – Little start-ups – Very inhomogeneous needs among countries – Low exchange of innovation approaches in education – Poor IP protection also in relation to academia and enterprises – Different priorities of mainstream IPA and ERDF – Entrepreneurs drain, especially in the Western Balkans
Threats	Opportunities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Projects to become theoretic and stay at drawers. – Administrative and financial burdens might impact on smooth execution (lack of advance payment). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The existence of strong ICT institutes as well as of a significant number of young people competent in ICT, could foster employment and business creation in this sector. – The use of ICT as enabling sector and as a means to involve the citizen in the quadruple helix model (eg. living labs). – Increasing skills in research through financial support and training opportunities in the field of enterprise creation, technology transfer, organizational and management innovation – Very high potential of renewable energy sources in the area
<p>General comments on the SO1.1</p>	<p>Some indicative alternative formulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>“Support the development of a regional Innovation system for the ADRION region”</i> (coming from: “Foster the rise of the Adriatic-Ionian Innovation systems”, “Supporting NOW systems of Innovation in the ADRION region”, “Development of an added value ADRION innovation system”, “Support the strengthening of interconnections within the quadruple helix actors, foster cooperation for innovation and sustainable development”, “Create innovative solutions for the ADRION region”, “Support the development of an innovation driven socioeconomic system in the ADRION area and strengthening quadruple helix”). – Supporting a more efficient cooperation of innovation networks and clusters among territories, research bodies and enterprises



Indicative areas of intervention

- The food security and food related items should be added
- Transfer of knowledge of best practice of public administration technologies, in e-governance.
- Emphasize creative industries as an indicative area on itself
- Adding social dimension, e.g. addressing all ages
- Matching offer and demand, which are the innovation needs of the companies in order to adapt to the innovation support supply
- Special focus on SMEs and small and micro companies
- Innovation as a framework, not only technological innovation
- High priority of networks

Type and examples of actions to be supported

- Prioritize actions networking Researchers and Industry at cross-country level at the ADRIAN region. Support mobility of Researchers and PhD candidates in the ADRIAN region. Enhance knowledge of capacities and excellences of the various Research and Innovation nodes of the Region, throughout the Region, thus, contributing to the “Innovation image” of the Region, that needs enhancement both within and outside of it (in contrast with the well acknowledged tourist and nature beauty richness).
- Promote new instruments for competitiveness of SMEs and especially of ICT, SW enabling platforms in the Agribusiness sector.
- Promote innovative products, testing platforms, including open labs.
- Promote innovative approaches for job creation networks in the ADRIAN region.
- Promote innovation and quality in the health and social services and give certain focus on problems/opportunities with addressing elder groups wellbeing issues.
- Improve transfer of knowledge among Public Administration operators on technological solutions.
- Improve access to financial engineering for proof of concept mechanisms for start-ups.

- Support the elaboration of integrated smart urban planning
- More on micro-SMEs, i.e. process and management and market innovation

Results

- New instruments for competitiveness increase of ADRION SMEs.
- New product and process innovation.
- Advanced regional mobility and cross country knowledge of Research and Innovation potential.
- Advance the knowledge of ADRION SMEs for new export markets (within and outside of the region).
- Modernization and introduction of entrepreneurship in education.
- Advancement of the Innovation image of the Region.
- Make a differentiation between strategic and operational results
- Improved structures for innovation supporting services
- Transnational start ups, social innovation pilots, common products

Target groups and beneficiaries

- Associations of citizens and private associations of public interest (consumers, financial sector, cultural, etc.)
- Chambers of Commerce in business support organizations.
- Include LAG Local Action Groups if not clearly included in others
- Consider enterprises
- Banks/International Financing Institutions as target groups are not mentioned
- International organizations, e.g. UNESCO and 6c



PRIORITY AXIS 2 SUSTAINABLE REGION

The main inputs collected from the 2 Thematic Working groups were focused on some key area to be considered as a separate focus and to be better highlighted in the Strategy elaboration, even if almost of them have been already translated in the actions and results proposed in the more advanced version of the Cooperation Adriatic Programme not yet published.

- The immaterial dimension of Cultural heritage should be also stressed
- The integration among preservation, sustainability and economic growth of cultural heritage
- The risk prevention should include also the sea-floods events and the setting up of a common early warning system
- The exploitation of thematic tourism areas also by improving the connection between inland and coastal areas
- Organisation of knowledge transfer, exchange of good practice examples, networking and development of innovations concerning also the immaterial cultural heritage and related to the creative industries.
- Supporting the networking activity also setting up a sort of Trip Advisory system
- The abandon of rural area and consequent soil erosion/degradation should be considered as a key factor of the area vulnerability
- The waste management policies shouldn't be related only to the sea pollution but also a part of the urban planning policies
- Need to improve the decision making-tools and skills (decision supporting system base on interoperability of data and integrated monitoring system)

PRIORITY AXIS 3 CONNECTED REGION

The main inputs collected from the 2 Thematic Working groups were focused on Challenges and needs to be better highlighted in the Strategy elaboration, even if almost of them have been already translated in the actions and results proposed in the more advanced version of the Cooperation Adriatic Programme not yet published.

Challenges	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing the gap between Adriatic ports and North European ports relates in the global logistics chain including ICT, transit times, inland connectivity, intermodality, interoperability, etc. - Tackle the poor logistics and infrastructure image of Adriatic ports and weak interconnection between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - need to Simplify maritime transport procedures and to Harmonize inland National transport legislations (Border Cross improvement) - need to Improve the road network conditions for tourism (safety, security,...) before anything else (WBs) - Need to focus on the City logistics:

<p>ports and inland intermodal and logistics nodes (intermodal: water-rail, rail-road)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing the Tourists seasonal peaks to avoid congestion by providing a more integrated mobility supply thanks to ICT – ITS innovative tools extended to the Adriatic region (a common cruising “master plan” a useful tool for managing the flows and avoiding bottlenecks)The poor air supply and the scarce interconnection among the Adrion airports is key issue for interoperability 	<p>cooperation platforms and nodes integration among Adriatic cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to better connect the Ariatic sea N-S with the Mediterranean freight flows, and E-W for passengers - Need to improve the professionals skills of the transport operators - Need to improve the port Greening (monitoring system for the quality of emissions by Shipping activities , adoption of common quality standards etc
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