

The BLUE KEP main beneficiaries were students and teachers from secondary nautical and technical schools, which, together with local companies of the blue sector, were the protagonists of the BLUE KEP Exchange Programme.

Here's some insights into the concrete changes produced by the project.

The BLUE KEP project:

- Produced **standardised school curricula in 12 SCHOOLS** from Istria Region, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Marche Region, Sibenik-Knin County and Split-Dalmatia County
- Promoted the creation of a **transnational network of 43 TEACHERS** who exchanged ideas, experiences and identified common grounds for testing a shared scheme for the assessment and recognition of education and professional skills
- Increased the transfer of knowledge between the education system and the business sector by promoting synergies between technical and maritime schools and **20 COMPANIES** and major **Croatian and Italian blue economy clusters**
- Implemented a mobility plan, including training programmes and hands-on training at local companies, for **38 STUDENTS**, **28 accompanying TEACHERS** and **15 mobility tutor TEACHERS**
- Valoured **targeted blue economy clusters** and emphasised the attractiveness and international dimension of **involved companies**
- Provided a set of **policy recommendations and key lessons learnt** for dissemination and future initiatives



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Partners



Social



INCREASING THE BLUE GROWTH POTENTIAL OF THE CROSS-BORDER AREA THROUGH TANGIBLE CHANGES

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The **Blue Economy** value chain represents one of the main socio-economic assets of the Adriatic area and has an incredible potential for development and growth. The **BLUE KEP project** aimed at unlocking such potential by taking concrete action to remove the regulatory barriers that hamper the mutual recognition of competences, diplomas and professional paths, while fostering both technical skills and innovation.

The project was co-funded by the EU under the **INTERREG Italy-Croatia CBC Programme 2014-2020**, with the aim of contributing to the increase in the prosperity and innovation of the blue sector, through partnerships able to achieve tangible changes. Coordinated by Informest, the partnership included the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, the Istria Region, the Marche Region, the Public Institution Development Agency of Šibenik-Knin County and the Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split-Dalmatia County.



PROJECT LENGTH

1.01.2018 - 30.09.2019



ERDF

782.963,90 €



TOTAL BUDGET

921.134,00 €

BACKGROUND

Italy and Croatia share astonishingly rich and diverse natural and cultural heritage. They are united by historical trade relations as well as socio-economic processes. Both countries have a **significant long-standing maritime tradition**. Shipbuilding, in particular, represents a regional specialisation as well as an area of mutual interest in terms of cross-border cooperation.

Shipbuilding has remained an asset to the Italian and Croatian blue economies even after the crisis that struck the sector in 2008. Local SMEs could rely on high levels of specialisation, experience and knowhow. However, to unlock their **blue growth** potential as defined by the EU 2020 Strategy goals and in Pillar 1 of the European Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR), they still need the skills and human resources to enable modernisation and innovation.

The BLUE KEP project **enhanced the transfer of knowledge between higher education institutions and the business sector**, thereby strengthening education systems' capacity to match labour market needs, while providing the private sector with an opportunity to trigger innovation through the development of a skilled future labour-force. It also to positively impact the current regulatory framework for the mutual recognition of competences, diplomas and professional paths, thus producing improvements at policy level.



PROJECT AIM

The BLUE KEP project main aim was to create the framework conditions for the innovation of the nautical and maritime sectors by strengthening the integration between technical education systems of the cross-border area through the standardisation of schools' curricula and a common scheme for the evaluation and recognition of mobility credits.

The activation of local, regional and national public authorities allowed a full endorsement of the BLUE KEP methodology, results and achievements.

In a nutshell, the project:

- encouraged the standardisation of technical and maritime secondary schools' curricula and promoted mobility of 38 students;
- increased students' skills in innovative sectors of the blue economy and recognised these skills transnationally, thereby creating better trained future professionals;
- improved cross-border cooperation among targeted blue economy systems, clusters and complementary specialisations.