

Mid-Term Conference

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D.2.2.2

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Sommario

<i>Introduction</i>	4
<i>Agenda of the event</i>	5
<i>Minutes of the event</i>	7
<i>Photos of the event</i>	12

Introduction

The Lead Partner Corila organized the project Mid-term conference (D. 2.2.2) “*Greener, smarter, more connected: towards a new era for small ports*” on 14th December in Venice (Italy). The event was held in dual mode, virtual and in presence.

The event has been an opportunity to describe the state of the art of the FRAMESPORT project that aims at promoting an integrated and sustainable development of the Adriatic small ports and marinas. It has also marked the beginning of the second phase of the project, launching an in-depth dialogue with the stakeholders that will allow to highlight priorities and main challenges to be tackled, in order to develop a common strategy to support the overall development of small ports.

The event registered a total number of 37 participants from 13 entities, of which n. 1 Local public authorities, n.2 Regional public authorities, n.1 National public authorities, n.4 Enterprises, n. 1 Education organisations, n. 4 Universities.

Agenda of the event

GREENER, SMARTER, MORE CONNECTED: TOWARDS A NEW ERA FOR SMALL PORTS

Mid-term event of the
Interreg IT-HR FRAMESPORT strategic project

14.12.2021

Tolentini - **Aula Magna**

IUAV University of Venice

Santa Croce 191 30135 Venice

AGENDA

GREENER, SMARTER, MORE CONNECTED: TOWARDS A NEW ERA FOR SMALL PORTS

FRAMESPORT PROJECT MID-TERM EVENT

Venice (IUAV University – Aula Magna Tolentini), 14 December 2021

9:30	Registration
10:00	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (TBC), Benno Albrecht, Rector of the University IUAV - Andrea Menin, Director of Logistics and Transport Planning at Veneto Region - Nina Perko, Director of Maritime Affairs at the Croatian Ministry of the Sea, transport and Infrastructure - Anna Flavia Zuccon, MA of the Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme
10:30	The FRAMESPORT project in a nutshell, where we are, what we're expecting to achieve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pierpaolo Campostrini, CORILA Managing Director and Project Coordinator
10:45	Framing small ports in the Programme area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jana Boric, Croatian Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
11:00	A Green and Sustainable Future for Adriatic Small Ports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alessandro Bove, University of Padova (UNIPD)
11:15	FRAMESPORT significant examples of piloting initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giuseppe Luppino, General Director at ITL Foundation
11:30	Coffee break
12:00	Collaborate for a better competition: the stakeholders' point of view (round table) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University of Rijeka (Alen Jugovic) - Assonautica (Marino Masiero R) - Assomarinis (Roberto Perocchia) - ICARUS Project (Lucio Rubini) - Assonat (Luciano Serra TBC) - ACI Marinas (Kristijan Pavić) - Croatian Touristic Bord (Martina Srnc, Jure Galić) - HRVATSKA GOSPODARSKA KOMORA (Renata Marević R)
13:10	Building a new strategic perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marco Mazzarino, IUAV - University of Venice
13:30	Light buffet (and in parallel press meeting)

The event will be held **in presence**, in compliance with the rules related to COVID 19. **Registration is required** through the following [LINK](#). The participation is possible only for those who will present a valid "EU Super - Green Pass". The event will be **streamed**, too and the link of the streaming will be sent out to registered participants.

[LINK FOR SPEAKERS / ROUND TABLE PARTICIPANTS](#)

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Minutes of the event

Welcome and greetings from CORILA and institutional representatives

- Mr. Campostrini (CORILA) started the meeting by thanking everybody for their presence and gave the floor to the institutional representatives opening the meeting.
- Ms. Saetta (vice dean of IUAV University) opened the session by bringing the welcome of the IUAV University, hosting the meeting in its premises.
- Ms. Perko (director at the HR Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure) then took the floor to bring the greetings of the Croatian Ministry of maritime affairs and to underline once again the importance of the blue economy and thus of the FRAMESPORT project.
- Ms. Zuccon (MA of the Interreg IT-HR Programme) intervened to give the greetings of the MA of the Interreg IT-HR Programme, underlining the importance of FRAMESPORT, which is one of the strategic projects that will guide the Programme towards the new programming period, which has just started. To this end, Ms. Zuccon presented¹ some news on the development of the new Programme. At the moment, the MA is working towards the approval of the final version of all documents and implementing acts related to it. The programme strategy for the new programming period, in particular, is the result of several needs assessments and territorial analyses that have been carried out by the MA, resulting in four specific objectives focusing on digitalisation, innovation, protection of the environment and adaptation to climate change, improvement of mobility and of a more sustainable tourism.
- Mr. Menin (director at the planning and mobility department of the Veneto Region) took the floor to bring his greetings and of the whole infrastructure and transport department of the Veneto Region, which strongly supported the FRAMESPORT projects since its very beginning, recognising its strategic nature and relevance for the development of Adriatic small ports and marinas.

The FRAMESPORT project in a nutshell, where we are, what we're expecting to achieve (Pierpaolo Campostrini - CORILA) (CORILA)

- Mr. Campostrini took the floor to give a brief presentation² of the FRAMESPORT project, including its partnership, objectives, expected results and main structure.
- The project was set to start at the beginning of 2020, but due to the pandemic the activities actually started in January 2021. Despite this, FRAMESPORT has now entered its core and more strategic phase with the second step of WP3, as the data about small ports phenomenon are almost finalized and the stakeholders' involvement has been launched. As a matter of fact, the role of stakeholders is very relevant, as they provide important both input

¹ See PPT "00_ZUCCON_Framesport_MA".

² See PPT "01_CAMPOSTRINI_14.12.2021".

and feedbacks on the FRAMESPORT strategy that is being developed as one of the main results of the project.

Framing small ports in the Programme area (Jana Boric - HR Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure)

- Ms. Boric took the floor on behalf of the HR Ministry of the sea, transport and infrastructure to provide a brief overview of WP43, named “Conveying knowledge of macro-themes into actions”, starting from a brief description of the Programme area.
- The Programme area involves the Adriatic coasts of both Italy and Croatia, two countries with extensive coastal areas that heavily rely on tourism to sustain their economies, especially in Croatia where tourism makes 20% of the national GDP. To this purpose, the environmental aspect is very important to preserve the natural resources of this area.
- The situation of small ports and marinas located in these territories has been outlined in one of the deliverables foreseen in WP4, namely D.4.1.2 – Joint report on status quo. This document has been drafted based on the data gathered through the questionnaire distributed earlier this year (for a total of 429 small ports and marinas) and on the 14 Report on small ports phenomenon (D.4.2.2) received from PPs.
- Looking at the joint report, it seems that the most pressing issue is definitely the implementation of a shared categorization of small ports and marinas and standardization of services and facilities offered. Moreover, the SWOT analysis has shown that ports on both sides on the Adriatic have similar strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. In addition, common areas for development of small ports should be self-sustainability and turning to green technologies.

A Green and Sustainable Future for Adriatic Small Ports (Alessandro Bove - UNIPD)

- Mr. Bove took the floor to introduce some of the activities developed within the WP44, including the development of an ecolabel dedicated to small ports, which is a tool and a certificate scheme that allows to certify products or services with excellent environmental performances. This would represent a driver for a more sustainable development of small ports, also adding value to existing sustainable behaviours and best practices. By the end of the project, the request for the recognition of the ecolabel will be presented, while the finalization of the certifying scheme will continue even after the closure of FRAMESPORT.
- Looking at the roadmap for the development of the ecolabel, the first three phases have been already completed, dealing with scope and objective, stakeholders involvement and data gathering through surveys and visit to small ports and marinas. The following phases of the process include the LCA analysis, the definition of environmental targets, the collection of

³ See PPT “WP4_FRAMESPORT_14.12.2021 (004)”.

⁴ See PPT “03_BOVE_14.12.2021”.

feedbacks and finally the submission of the procedure for the approval of the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC).

- In this framework, the FRAMESPORT portal represents an instrument gathering the data on small ports and making it available for potential users and tourists. At the same time, it works as a data lake, a concept that indicates a massive scalable storage repository holding a vast amount of raw data in its native format. From this data lake, a consolidated knowledge on the phenomenon of small ports will be created. This topic is relevant even in the framework of the Next Generation EU and the Italian PNRR, which contains a chapter especially dedicated to “data sharing and repository facilities” as well as one on mobility as a service (MAAS).

FRAMESPORT significant examples of piloting initiatives (Francesco Paolo Nanni Costa - ITL)

- Mr. Nanni Costa (ITL) took the floor to introduce the pilot activities⁵ that have been developed within the FRAMESPORT project, underlining how these are integrated within the general structure and aim of the project.
- The aim of the pilot actions is to test technical and innovative solutions and experiment initiatives to solve existing problems and to drive small ports towards a sustainable growth.
- After the start-up activities and preparatory studies, almost all the pilot actions have already started and are now in their testing phase, which will be followed by a report on the transferability and replicability of solutions tested. All these phases have and will be conducted in parallel to the consultation of relevant stakeholders. The results of pilot activities will also lead to the development of the FRAMESPORT toolbox, summarizing the lessons learned and the best practices tested.
- The 25 pilot actions developed by the 14 FRAMESPORT PPs can be divided into 5 macro themes:
 - ICT application and service development (ICT)
 - Spatial planning and management (P&M)
 - Business oriented aspects (Business)
 - Training and knowledge aspects (T&K)
 - Environment and energy aspects (E&E)
- In addition, the category of ICT, with 12 pilot actions, has been divided into 5 sub-topics:
 - Harbour and safety navigation (1)
 - ICT Service for local mobility transport (1)
 - Management of port operations (5)
 - Monitoring of sea/land side of port areas (3)
 - Promotion of port resources and territory (2)
- As for the geographical coverage of pilot actions, while some are located in the territories of FRAMESPORT project partners, some others include even areas that are not directly part of

⁵ See PPT “04_NANNI COSTA_14.12.2021”.

the FRAMESPORT partnership, representing an added value for the project which is able to involve even a larger group of actors and stakeholders.

- The first example of pilot action presented involves the small port of Vallugola, where a free e-bus service connection was implemented to connect the small port to the center of Gabicce Mare. The second example is focused on the port of Rimini, where several opportunities and critical issues for the sustainable development of the port have been identified in the framework of a dedicated report. The third and last example regards the Umag-Novigrad Port Authority, which implemented several initiatives on the ports managed to improve the available technologies for a more efficient management system. More specifically, the pilot action will involve the testing of a new system for the management of small ports, making them safer and more accessible for users and tourists.

Collaborate for a better competition: the stakeholders' point of view (ROUND TABLE)

- Mr. Mazzarino (IUAV University) took the floor to introduce and launch the round table gathering stakeholders of the sector of small ports and marinas. He started the discussion by presenting the stakeholders and introducing the first question, focusing on how to support the competitiveness and sustainable development of small ports of the Adriatic coasts. To guide the discussion, he presented a list of potential areas for strategic actions, including:
 - Planning, regulation and governance
 - Training and EDU
 - Communication
 - ICT tools
 - Sustainability and the environment
 - Economic and financial strategies
- The floor went to Mr. Jugovic (Faculty of Maritime Studies - University of Rijeka), who started his intervention by underlining that, at the level of regulatory and legislative systems, relevant differences still exist between the Italian and Croatian frameworks. To this end, the FRAMESPORT project would be a good occasion to think about developing a standard categorization for small ports and marinas of the two countries. This would allow to foster a balanced development of small ports along the Adriatic coasts.
- Then Mr. Masiero (Assonautica) intervened to underline once again the necessity for small ports of both Adriatic coasts to cooperate, rather than see each other as competitors.
- Mr. Perrocchio (Assomarinas) gave a brief presentation about current trends and expectations of Italian marinas. 2021 marked an important year for small ports and marinas of Italy, as for the first time since 2010 the number of customers, and especially of younger users, increased, generating a higher income for small ports and marinas. This is mainly due to the covid-19 restrictions, driving a new trend in Italy for tourism of proximity that led to a higher number of registered boats. These numbers are expected to increase even more in 2022, but not as much as the Croatian small ports and marinas, where the number of Italian tourists is very

high. This is also due to the dredging issue, which affects almost all small ports of the Italian coast, which in turn are often not able to host bigger yachts. To this end, this kind of projects are extremely useful to keep discussing about marinas and drive the change towards more sustainable practices.

- Then, the floor went to Ms. Srnc (Croatian National Tourist Board), who is an expert of the promotion of nautical tourism in Croatia. She stressed how this kind of promotion is extremely important for Croatia and the national economy, which highly rely on boat and nautical tourism. The nautical tourism of Croatia is mainly promoted in European countries, including Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Germany. But Croatia does not only have proximity tourism, as users from farther countries are also increasing, including the US.
- Mr. Galić (Croatian National Tourist Board) then mentioned the ICT and innovation side of nautical tourism, which Croatia has been trying to further develop in recent years. One of the initiatives include the development of a digital portal at the disposal of Croatian citizens and tourists.
- Mr. Rubini (VIU - ICARUS Project) presented the point of view and the outcomes resulting from the ICARUS project, with a special focus on the transnational cycling path linking Venice to Porec, which combines the use of bicycles as well as boats and ferries. The pilot initiative carried out within the ICARUS project allowed to test such cycling path, taking note of which are the bottlenecks and obstacles for users, as well as the missing links, which could definitely be implemented by boat in some cases.
- According to the questionnaire filled in by stakeholders and participants of the event, it seems that for what concerns the economic and financial management, the most pressing issue is the need for a new and updated business model, followed by the need of additional funding. Looking at the communication and attractiveness side, the need for an improved connectivity to the territory resulted as the most challenging topic, followed by promotion of facilities and affiliation of users.
- When it comes to sustainability and environmental management, the most pressing issue is waste management, closely followed by meeting environmental requirements set by EU, energy savings and renewable energy production, as well as the provision of sustainable mobility options to reach small ports' facilities.
- In the field of ICT tools and innovation, the implementation of innovative sustainable sharing services was the most voted field of action, followed by the development of digital tools for users attending the port facilities.
- When asked which are the elements that mostly hamper the cooperation among small ports of both coasts of the Adriatic area, the most voted option by stakeholders was the lack of a joint definition and harmonized regulation between Italian and Croatian small ports and marinas, followed by the lack of joint communication about services and facilities available for users.







