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ADRIADAPT Newsletter - Issue no. 3

2020

With this issue of our newsletter we wish to inform you that, due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy and Croatia, some of the ADRIADAPT project activities had to be postponed.

Most of our project partners are now working from home. Until the safety notice will be in our favor to organize our planned meetings and events live - our next project meeting and other internal meetings will be held online and the information will be, as always, delivered to you through our website and social media, as well as with the next issue of the ADRIADAPT Newsletter.

ADRIADAPT – A Resilience information platform for Adriatic cities and towns started officially on January 1st 2019, and will unite technicians, policy makers, planners and scientists from Italy and Croatia in their efforts for **creating a knowledge base for cities and towns in adapting to climate change**. Supporting cities in creating good and sustainable strategies, building resilience and preparing for climate change is increasingly important also for cities and towns in the Adriatic area; climate change impacts are becoming progressively concrete with more extreme weather events as well as with slow onset impacts on the population, habitats in and around cities and in consequence, on local economies.

Cities and towns, as concentrations of cultural, social and economic activities along the Adriatic coasts, need to prepare for coastal and river flooding, coastal erosion and

subsidence in order to maintain and enhance their ability to support livelihoods, local and regional economies and infrastructures. Further challenges for the Adriatic coastal areas are connected to freshwater availability under threat by the salinization of aquifers and fires related to droughts and heat waves.

One of the main outputs of the ADRIADAPT project will be an Italian-Croatian adaptation platform – a tool to support municipalities in both countries in developing adaptation plans or progressing their ongoing work on climate change adaptation.

ADRIADAPT project partners

Expert partners:

- [Fondazione Centro Euro-Mediterraneo sui Cambiamenti Climatici \(CMCC\)](#)
- [Agenzia regionale per la prevenzione, l'ambiente e l'energia dell'Emilia-Romagna \(ARPAE\)](#)
- [Universita luav di Venezia \(IUAV\)](#)
- [Centar za regionalne aktivnosti Programa prioritetnih akcija \(PAP/RAC\)](#)
- [Državni hidrometeorološki zavod \(DHMZ\)](#)

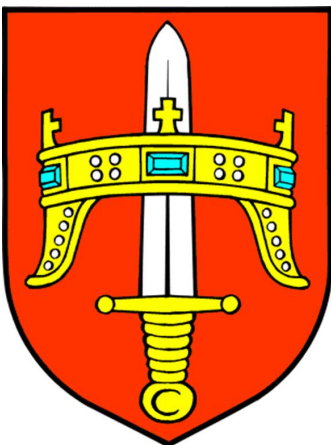
Local partners:

- [Unione Dei Comuni Valle Del Savio](#)
- [Comune di Cervia](#)
- [Comune di Udine](#)
- [Šibensko-kninska županija](#)
- [Grad Vodice](#)

Communication partners:

- [Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja \(DOOR\)](#)

Local partner-municipality: Šibenik-Knin County



- [Local community - basic info](#)

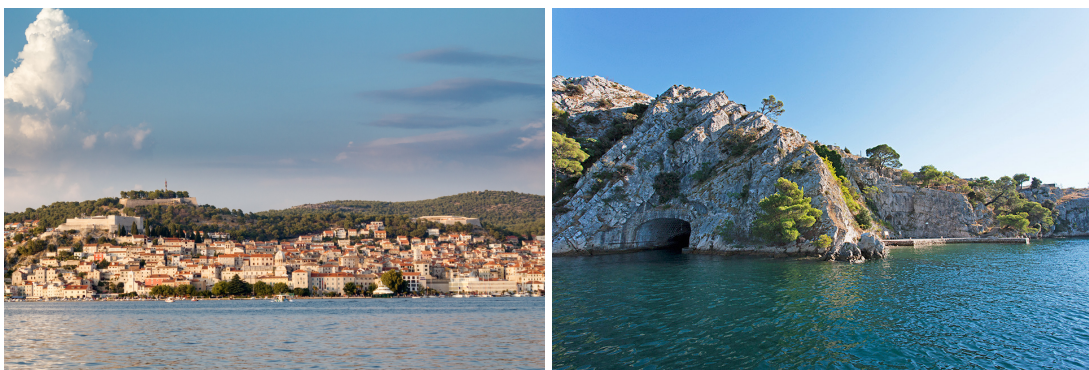
Šibenik-Knin County is situated in the central part of the Croatian Adriatic coast. Its coastal area is highly indented, with numerous islands, islets and rocks. There are two national parks “Krka” and “Kornati”, with “Kornati” being particularly valuable as the “densest” archipelago of the European Mediterranean.

Šibenik-Knin County covers 5 cities (Šibenik, Knin, Drniš, Vodice and Skradin) and 15 municipalities. The County is rich in cultural and historical heritage with two UNESCO monuments (Cathedral of St. James and St. Nicolas Fort).

Exquisite natural values include two national parks, seven protected natural values, two monuments of natural heritage, two nature parks and over 60 Natura 2000 sites.

Tourism is a very important economic activity for the County, with steady growth every year, especially nautical tourism. This sector of the economy is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Šibenik-Knin County wants to achieve sustainable development of the coastal area and development of common management policies and procedures.



- Major concerns regarding climate change

In the Šibenik-Knin County the biggest concerns regarding climate change are:

- increase in mean temperature;
- warmer climate, especially in summer and spring;
- increasing rainfall in autumn and winter, decreasing in summer;
- more weather extremes;
- more frequent and stronger extreme precipitation;
- longer and more severe droughts;
- rise in sea surface temperature, acidification and migration of species;
- sea level rise, which is particularly threatening for the coastal area of the County.

The results of using the “DIVA method” showed that both Šibenik and Vodice are among the cities with highest expected damages from the sea floods. There is already a serious problem of waterfront flooding and flooding of other parts of the cities and municipalities on the coast.

Projections show that:

- 7.8 % of the population affected by floods in Croatia is located in Šibenik-Knin County
- 18.75 % of sea flood damage in Croatia is expected to happen in Šibenik-Knin County

Over the past few decades, coastal urbanization has increased, especially for tourism purposes, which resulted in pressures on space, water resources, and sustainable development in general.

This problem has a new meaning seen in the context of climate variability and change, especially with regard to the strength and frequency of extreme weather events.

Another important topic is the issue of water resources and water infrastructure. The area which is extremely rich in water during the winter becomes poor during the summer, especially as the result of tourism development.

Climate change will bring an additional decrease in water availability, which will additionally put pressure on hydro-energy producers.

In order to adapt and improve the existing management system, efforts and resources need to be invested.

- *Current status in development of planning documents*

With the aim of alleviating the problems and building coastal resilience, a Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County (“A Road to Resilience”) was developed.

The Coastal Plan has defined a management system for coastal areas which can ensure the building of resilience of coastal systems to the impacts of climate change. Particularly endangered areas have been identified and measures have been proposed for the definition of a policy for the adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

The Coastal Plan is also a strategic document that represent the basis to withdraw funds from the EU and other sources for climate change adaptation projects.

The Spatial plan for the area of significant landscape of the “Žužsko-sitska” island group (“Gornji Kurnat”) was also developed. That is the first spatial plan in Croatia that regulates exclusively the area of significant landscape (Natura 2000) in the island area.

Recommendations for strengthening coastal resilience to the impacts of climate change were developed.

- *Implemented measures*

The Šibenik-Knin County has a County Committee for coastal and marine management which among other topics also deals with the issue of climate change.

Significant progress has been made in the field of fire protection through the implementation of projects “Holistic” and “Stribor” that have enabled the installation of modern video surveillance over the most part of the County. Many years of effort have been put into the preparation work for the irrigation project “Donje polje – Jadrtovac” which will soon start with the implementation. This project will significantly improve the issue with drought during the summer.

Port of Šibenik Authority is implementing the project of “Vrnaža” port renovation which is in its final phase, while several other projects that will deal with the problem of flooding in coastal areas of the County are in preparation phases. These projects are in line with the recommendations from the Coastal Plan.

Šibenik-Knin County is currently implementing the project “PEPSEA” that aims to strengthen response system in case of sudden and unforeseen events happen.

The implementation of ADRIADAPT project is also one of the activities carried out in accordance with the Coastal Plan.

Expert partner: Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)



Priority Actions Programme Regional Activity Centre ([PAP/RAC](#)), established in 1977, is one of the six Regional Activity Centres of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), itself part of the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UN Environment). PAP/RAC's mission is to support Mediterranean countries on their path towards sustainable coastal development, through ratifying and implementing the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management ([ICZM Protocol](#)). Two articles of the Protocol are in particular relevant for enhancing coastal resilience:

- Article 8, which calls for the establishment of a zone where construction is not allowed, stating that “taking into account, *inter alia*, the areas directly and negatively affected by climate change and natural risks, this zone may not be less than 100 meters in width”;
- Article 18, which calls for the preparation of national ICZM strategies, coastal plans and programmes.

PAP/RAC has developed, in collaboration with the regional government, the first county coastal plan in Croatia – [Coastal Plan of the Šibenik-Knin County](#), with a specific focus on climate variability and change. The Plan was adopted at the County Assembly in 2016, and received the 'Mediterranean Climate Change Adaptation Award' in 2019 at the largest European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA 2019) held in Lisbon, with 28 candidates from 9 countries competing. PAP/RAC has also been involved in the process of preparation of the Croatian Marine and Coastal Strategy. Within the GEF ClimVar project (2012-2015) PAP/RAC implemented a number of vulnerability assessments including assessment of the banking and insurance practices related to climate change; prepared a special run of the online MedOpen course on climate variability and change; developed the guidelines on adaptation along the Mediterranean coastal zone; and implemented awareness raising campaign “Coast Day” 2014 on the topic of climate change.

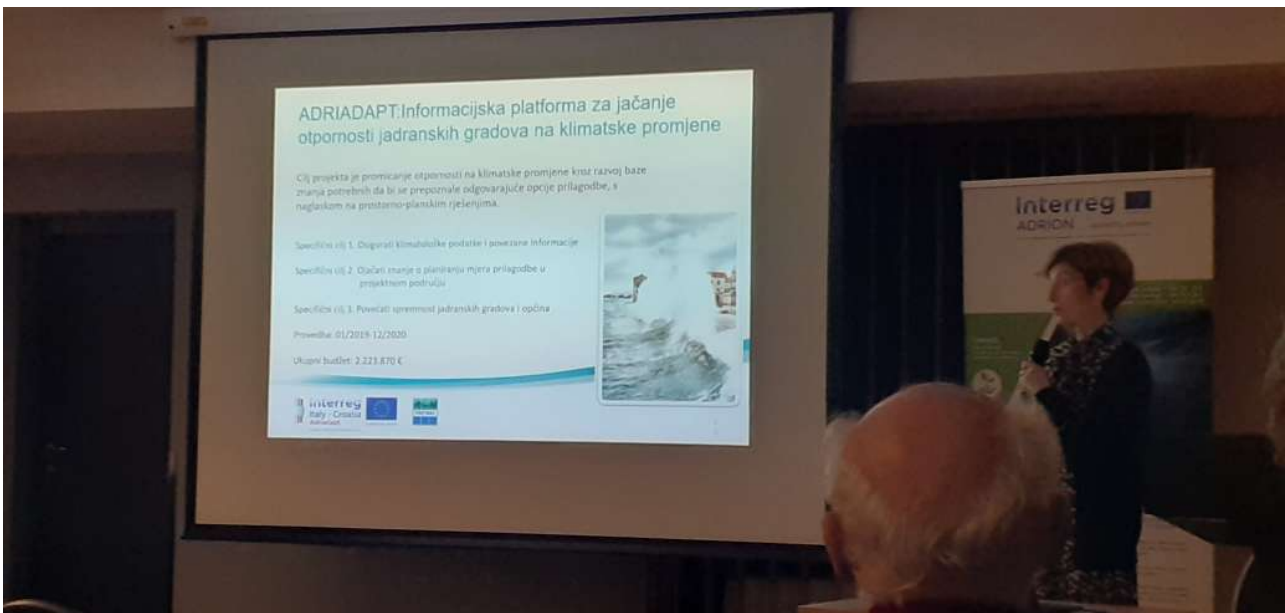
The Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County was based on the ICZM Protocol's Article 18, but also had foundation in the County spatial plan. Upon completion of this Plan the City of Kaštela prepared their ICZM Plan within the EU Interreg project CO-evolve, and the County of Split-Dalmatia is currently preparing their Coastal Plan. One more county and one more city in Croatia have launched the preparation of their plans based on the ICZM Protocol.

Within the Adriadapt project, PAP/RAC is responsible for the Work Package 4 of the Project – “Tools and strategies for a Climate resilience knowledge base in the Adriatic”. This WP aims at providing selected, user-friendly information for the Adriatic cities, provinces and counties, and all other interested stakeholders, in the form of best practice examples, guidance documents, legal frameworks, as well as specific climate and vulnerability tools and studies, adaptation options and policy solutions for local resilience. Some of the important outputs of this WP are: Guidelines for Mainstreaming Adaptation into Coastal Management, Coastal Resilience Handbook; catalogue of adaptation options (with description of options and case studies) and tools for policy guidance.

PAP/RAC will also support Croatian partners, through WP5, in developing innovative climate change adaptation plans and measures based on a common methodological framework created using the guidelines and tools developed in WP4.

Participation in this project enables PAP/RAC to build on previous experiences; to continue developing support for enhancing coastal resilience and mainstreaming climate action into coastal management; to build the ground for further dissemination of the policy solutions in Mediterranean and to secure replication of the successful practices in other coastal counties/regions/cities.

Project activities & events



11th of December, 2019

National workshop of the “I-STORMS” project held in Zagreb, Croatia

On 11 December, a national workshop of the “I-Storms” - Integrated Sea sTORm Management strategies” project was held in Zagreb, Croatia. At the workshop, the Croatian Hydrological and Meteorological Institute presented project results, including the establishment of the I-STORMS network, the creation of the Sea Storm Atlas, the development of an interoperable information platform for oceanographic measurements and the development of a common Adrion strategy for management and protection of coastal areas.

Ms. Povh Škugor from PAP/RAC presented the Adriadapt project, in particular the future information platform for building resilience to climate change along the Adriatic. She emphasized some of the I-STORMS products as valuable tools for the Croatian and Italian cities and regions for enhancing their resilience. Ms. Povh Škugor informed about different guidelines, a catalogue of adaptation options, case studies, methodologies and tools which will be available at the Adriadapt platform. Exchanges during the development of the platform will improve its future quality and usability.

Ms. Povh Škugor also presented the awarded Coastal Plan for the Šibenik-Knin County, the methodology used during its development as well as its current status of its implementation. She briefly

introduced the findings of the DIVA assessment of the costs of sea level rise along the Croatian coast and concluded with several dilemmas opened after implementation of these projects.

In addition to PAP/RAC and DHMZ, DOOR also participated to this workshop, so that the three Adriadapt partners used the opportunity to discuss some on-going project activities.



ADRIADAPT training courses in Italian partner cities

After the training event held in Cervia in September, interactions with stakeholders and technicians in the Italian partner cities proceeded with several training events held in Cervia, Cesena and Udine. These meetings focussed on the identification of potential areas of intervention and exploring potential strategies and occasions for intervention. Having in mind the advantages offered by green and blue solutions for adaptation, a focus was put on potential positive immediate impacts guiding decision making for the design of an adaptation plan.



20th of February, 2020

ADRIADAPT training course held in Vodice, Croatia

The Adriadapt training course on adaptation to climate change was organised for the experts and technicians of the City of Vodice (local partners in the Adriadapt Project). It took place on 20 February at the Vodice City hall. The training course, led by IUAV Venice (with support of CMCC and PAP/RAC), aimed at providing knowledge and scientific and regulatory references to identify relevant adaptation options, tailored to climate change effects that impact the most: urban heat and flash floods of Vodice.

The meeting resulted in active exchange of information and experience on the actions needed to make future project activities more operational.



3rd of March, 2020

ADRIADAPT training course held in Udine, Italy

The Adriadapt training course on adaptation to climate change was organised for the experts and technicians of the City of Udine (local partners in the Adriadapt Project). It took place on 3 March in Udine. The training course was set on working with local stakeholders on identifying potential areas of intervention and places where to intervene. An important issue discussed were potential positive immediate impacts which was the political decision in favour of implementing especially green and blue adaptation options.

Update on project's recent activities

- A collaboration was established with the Interreg Italy-Croatia [ASTERIS](#) project - Adaptation to Saltwater intrusion in sEa level Rise Scenarios.
- Adriadapt has agreed to be part of the project network of the LIFE [VEG-GAP](#) - VEGetation for Urban Green Air quality Plans.
- Online platform for climate adaptation planning has been set into development and is now nearly finished.
- The ADRIADAPT leaflet has been produced in:
 - English: [open here](#)
 - Italian: [open here](#)
 - Croatian: [open here](#)



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Project partners



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The project is coordinated by the Euro Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC). Project participants include local authorities from Croatia and Italy, together with knowledge providers from the Adriatic Sea basin in the fields of climate science, climate adaptation and urban planning.

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