

CONFERENCE “GREEN ECONOMY AND VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET”

WP 2 Communication activities

Activity 2.4 Dissemination activities, seminars and special
events organization

Report

GECO2 – Green Economy and CO2

Priority Axis: Safety and resilience

Work Package:	2. Communication activities
Activity:	2.4 Dissemination activities, seminars and special events organisation
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Summary

On December 3, 2021, the GECO2 Croatian Project Consortium : AGRRA, DNR and RERA hosted a Conference **“Green Economy and Voluntary Carbon Market”** at the Hotel Kolovare, Zadar, Croatia. The Conference was attended by 55 participants among which were national bodies, local and national press. Despite the challenging times of the pandemic, it was successful among all the participants. The event was held under preventive measures due to Covid. The event was published in various local media. The local event was held in Croatian and a translator was provided for Mr. Antonio Cinti, and in the following report, the agenda, minutes, PPT presentations and event follow-up are provided.

Agenda



Project Consortium GECO2
is pleased to invite you to the conference:
Green Economy and Voluntary Carbon Market

WHEN
03.12.2021. at 9.30 a.m.

WHERE
Hotel Kolovare Zadar, Ul. Bože Peričića 14

09:30	Registration of participants
10:00	Welcome speech <i>(Ivana Dević -AGRRA, Marica Babić-RERA and Čedo Vučković -DNR)</i>
10:10	Introductory speech <i>(Šime Erlić, State Secretary - Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds)</i>
10:30	Presentation of the GECO2 project <i>(Antonio Cinti, ARPAE)</i>
10:50	From agricultural practices to carbon credits <i>(doc.dr.sc.Boris Lazarević- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb)</i>
11:20	Development and state of greenhouse gas emissions <i>(Roman Danko- CO2cut, Cooperative Granum Salis)</i>
11:45	Interactive learning activity for participants
12:30	Lunch break
13:30	Overview of pilot activities Dubrovnik-Neretva County <i>(Maja Celinščak, M.Sc.- Cooperative Granum Salis)</i>
13:40	Overview of pilot activities Split County <i>(dr.sc.Frane Strikić- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Split)</i>
13:50	Overview of pilot activities Zadar County <i>(Ivan Vrdoljak-Alcina d.o.o.)</i>
14:00	Panel discussion – Panelists: <i>prof.dr.sc.Milan Poljak- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb,</i> <i>dr.sc.Frane Strikić- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Split and</i> <i>doc.dr.sc.Tomislav Kos - Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zadar</i>

*** COVID certificate or negative test is required for participation**
European Regional Development Fund

Invitation



Dear,

within the INTERREG V-A CBC program Italy-Croatia 2014-2020. The Green Economy-GECO2 project is being implemented, which aims to introduce innovative measures for monitoring and compensating for CO2 emissions through effective cross-border cooperation.

The project directly involves the agricultural sector, encouraging it to adopt sustainable agricultural practices and connect with industrial and service companies to ensure the start of a voluntary carbon credit market, with benefits from both an economic and environmental point of view. GECO2 will guide industry and consumers towards new green market opportunities and help local governments improve strategies to combat climate change.

The project is implemented from 01.01.2019. to 31.05.2022.

As part of the project activities, we are organizing a conference for national bodies on December 3, 2021 at the Hotel Kolovare Zadar.

The Croatian representatives of the Project Consortium composed of:

- Zadar County Rural Development Agency - AGRR
- Dubrovnik-Neretva County
- Public institution Rera S.D. for coordination and development of SDC

are pleased to invite you to the conference
"Green Market and Voluntary Carbon Market"

Please confirm your participation by 29.11 via e-mail ivana.devic@agrra.hr or mobile phone 099 880 3482



European Regional Development Fund

www.italy-croatia.eu/geco2

Minutes of the Conference “Green Economy and Voluntary Carbon Market”

The Croatian Project Consortium composed of the Zadar County Rural Development Agency - AGRR, Dubrovnik-Neretva County and Rera SD Public Institution for Coordination and Development of Split-Dalmatia County in cooperation with the Italian Regional Agency for Prevention, Environment and Energy Emilia Romagna (ARPAE) is implementing the project Green Economy - GECO2 within the INTERREG VA CBC Italy-Croatia program. The project has been implemented since January 1, 2019 to May 31, 2022.

A Conference of the Consortium was held on December 3, 2021 in Zadar in order to inform the representatives of the national sector about the activities that produce or reduce CO2 emissions into the atmosphere and what the future price of greenhouse gas emissions is.

The European Union has released the "Fit for 55" legislative package, a key element of the European Green Agreement, which envisages a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and the whole of Europe should become climate neutral by 2050. This is a major challenge for all member states. Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change are key issues at European Union level. Croatia is also involved in this very ambitious EU plan. There are a number of measures, activities and projects that follow this goal, and through which a number of sectors are committed, given the horizontality of green policies. The ultimate goal is to make Europe green and sustainable, said State Secretary of the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds Sime Erlić. In recent years, we have witnessed rapid climate change, and the current approach to the development path is unsustainable. The position of the European Union is that if a sudden turnaround is not made now, life will become unsustainable globally in the next decade. The set of measures will support a number of sectors in the transition to green. More funds have never been available to support both the public and private sectors - so far, we have had 10.7, and now over 25 billion Euros, much of which is going green. We are on average in the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, and our plan is to be at 65% by 2030, Erlić emphasized.

GECO2 will guide industry and consumers towards new green market opportunities and help local governments improve strategies to combat climate change. The Lead Partner of the INTERREG project from the Italian ARPAE, Antonio Cinti, said that two agricultural sectors were involved in the project - viticulture and fruit growing. Farmers are experimenting with the possibility of obtaining carbon credits based on CO2 capture. Given that there are still no legal possibilities to exercise such rights, we have created the only such a project in the world in the agricultural sector.

It is very important to work on reducing CO₂ production, given the state of climate change. Our goal is to create a system that maintains itself in agricultural and economic terms. In this way, farmers would get another additional source of income. Companies would get a new tool to increase the added value of their own production, but also marketing value. In the end, we come to a closed cycle in which everyone is satisfied, Cinti pointed out.

The GECO2 project intends to intervene through a multilateral approach to recover capacity and increase resilience to climate change by establishing a regional monitoring system, which collects data on resilience, emissions and absorption of greenhouse gases by introducing and promoting innovative policies and techniques for climate adaptation and mitigation change. Through this project we want to offer innovative methods and tools to influence better environmental policies and a cleaner and healthier environment by absorbing CO₂ in the agricultural sector.

We conducted a pilot phase in which we have, so far, developed a calculator to investigate how much CO₂ each farmer on their farm captures. We used this calculator to valorize that CO₂ into a monetary unit. In line with all European guidelines for reducing CO₂ emissions and impacts, we have found interested potential buyers who, in order to reduce environmental pollution, have the opportunity to buy back these captured CO₂ credits from our farmers. The more farmers turn to organic production and the more they respect agri-environmental and agro-technical measures, the more CO₂ they capture.

The captured CO₂ could be valorized financially, so through such a way of encouraging they could have a healthier environment together, said Ivana Dević, Deputy Director of AGRRA and Project Manager. All collected data is currently being entered into the project database, and in March next year it will be presented how much CO₂ was captured during the project, i.e., how much the environment has become cleaner and better. What makes this project specific is its experimental character. It is the first project in the world to try to establish a CO₂ exchange from the agricultural sector. We want to set up a methodology that could be applicable in the new European programming period. We are in talks with policy makers so that this becomes a strategic guideline that could "spill over" to all farmers in the European Union, Dević added. The innovative idea of the GECO 2 project is to link these urgent measures with the creation, at cross-border and international level, of a voluntary carbon market, capable of making environmental measures economically viable.

The project partners are: International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies - Mediterranean Agronomic Study Bari, Molise Region, Marche Region, Rera S.D. for Coordination and Development of the Split-Dalmatia County, the Zadar County Rural Development Agency, Legacoop Romagna and the Dubrovnik-Neretva Region.

Event Photos





Event follow-up

The event was published in several local media at the following links:

<https://www.057info.hr/vijesti/2021-12-03/agrra-domacin-konzorcija-projekta-burze-co2-u-poljoprivredi>

<https://www.hina.hr/vijest/10846801>

<https://www.noviradio.hr/zavrсна-konferencija-u-zadru-agrra-i-arpeae-talijanska-regionalna-agencija-za-prevenciju-okolis-i-energiju-provode-projekt-green-economy-geco2/>

<https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/inovativni-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti-1544600>

<https://www.glasistre.hr/hrvatska/zadar-završena-konferencija-geco2-inovativne-mjere-za-poljoprivredu-762222>

<https://www.nacional.hr/projekt-green-economy-geco2-inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobit-ce-co2-i-uciniti-okolis-ciscim-i-boljim/>

<https://www.zadarskilist.hr/clanci/05122021/zarobljavanje-co2-iz-poljoprivrede-za-cisci-okolis>

<http://metro-portal.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2/135447>

<https://redakcija.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti/>

<https://lokalnevijesti.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti/>

<https://mojevijesti.com.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti/>

<https://klikaj.com.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti/>

<https://zanimljivo.com.hr/inovativni-i-samoodrzivi-sistem-zarobljavanja-co2-doprinosi-ostvarenju-eu-cilja-o-klimatskoj-neutralnosti/>



<https://ezadar.net.hr/dogadaji/4151000/mozemo-li-uvesti-inovativne-mjera-za-poljoprivrednike-u-nacionalnu-provedbu/>