

# D.2.4.3. FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT

## WP 2 - Communication activities

### Activity number 4 - events

Deliverable 2.4.3 – English summary

Final vers. 1.0

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Author: Public institution for the management of protected natural areas of Dubrovnik-Neretva County

<b>Project Acronym</b>	CREW
<b>Project ID Number</b>	10044942
<b>Project Title</b>	Coordinated Wetland management in Italy-Croatia cross border region
<b>Priority Axis</b>	3 Environment and cultural heritage
<b>Specific objective</b>	3.2 Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity
<b>Work Package Number</b>	2
<b>Work Package Title</b>	Communication activities
<b>Activity Number</b>	2.4.3.
<b>Activity Title</b>	The Final Conference
<b>Partner in Charge</b>	Public Institution for the Management of Protected Natural Areas of Dubrovnik-Neretva County
<b>Partners involved</b>	ALL partners
<b>Status</b>	Final
<b>Distribution</b>	Public

The final conference event of the project CREW was held online on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, from 09.00 to 13.30. The meeting was held in Croatian, Italian and English, with simultaneous translation. It could not be held in Croatia, Dubrovnik, as formerly envisaged in the project application form, due to the prolongation of the pandemic restrictions, which still did not allow the organization of event in person.

The main aim of the meeting was to present the main outcome of the project, Crew Observatory and Cross – Border Strategy as well as river contracts methodology, and discuss the plans for its long-term maintenance with relevant representatives of policy, governance and research and monitoring institutions.

To this purpose a short agenda document was prepared and shared before the meeting with all the invited. The selection of the invited participants to the meeting was shared and agreed with all the partnership, thus providing a list of around 60 names, from Italy and Croatia. All the persons in the list were contacted by email and, then, directly by the coordination team and the partners, to better explain the structure and aims of the meeting and foster their participation.

Also, Conference had other outputs:

- raise awareness among interest group and general public about the value of wetland ecosystems and the project results;
- inform local key stakeholders about project results and enhance their engagement in the Wetland Contract participatory process also after the sign;
- strengthen synergies among partners;
- disseminate at EU level project outputs and results.

A total of 25 persons registered to the meeting first day and 26 second one.

During 2 days conference 51 participant joined and exchanged their experiences in line with the river contract management preservations along with the project CREW main goals and results. Each of the partners presented their activities within CREW project and aims achieved along with the other things to be done until the end of the project.

Redni broj	Ime organizacije	Adresa	Telefon	E-mail
1	Università Ca' Foscari Venezia	Venezia, Italy	+39 41 2635111	info@univca.it
2	Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto	San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy	+39 0862 43111	comune@sanbenedetto.it
3	Comunità Riviera Friulana	Marano del Friuli, Italy	+39 0433 86111	comunita@rivierafriulana.it
4	Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature	Dubrovnik, Croatia	+385 21 511111	info@znp.hr
5	Public Institution Natura Histrica	Palù, Italy	+39 0432 43111	info@natura-histrica.it
6	Public Institution Natura Jadera	Veliko Blato, Croatia	+385 21 511111	info@natura-jadera.hr
7	Patto Territoriale per l'Occupazione Nord Barese/Ofantino	Ofanto, Italy	+39 0884 43111	info@pato-nord-barese.it
8	University of Camerino	Camerino, Italy	+39 0735 43111	info@univcamerino.it

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The agenda was drafted according to the list of contributors: Welcome address from Alberto Ferlenga (Rector University Iuav of Venice) and a presentation of the CREW project (aims, goals, results) by prof. Maria Chiara Tosi (IUAV), emphasizing its aims, structure, and future perspectives.

The Italian strategy for Wetland Governance by Teresa Federico (Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition) followed after where participants could hear how actually River Contract methodology works in Italy.

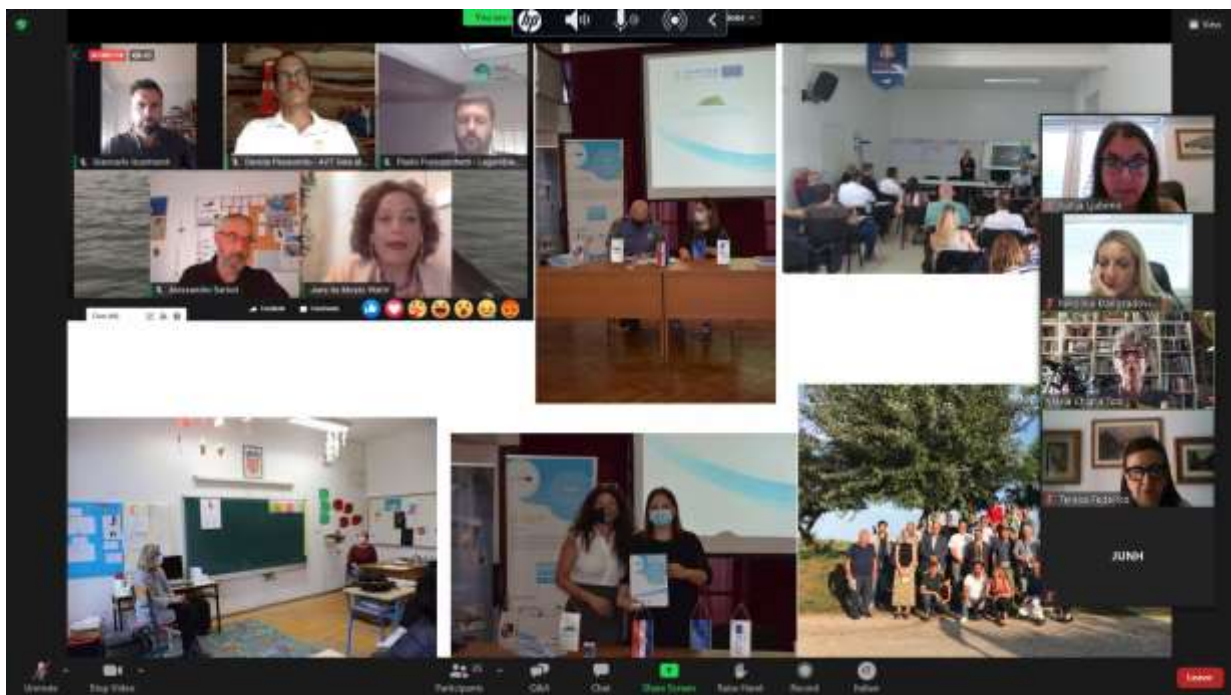
Then, the contributions from the partners followed, organized as appeared within the application form emphasizing their main implemented activities within the CREW project:

- University Iuav of Venice (Laguna di Nord Venezia) – lead partner
- Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto (Protected Area of Sentina)
- Comunità Riviera Friulana (Marano and Grado Lagoon)
- Public Institution Dubrovnik-Neretva County Nature (Neretva River Delta)
- Public Institution Natura Histrica (Special ornithological reserve Palud – Palù )
- Public Institution Natura Jadera (Special ornithological reserve Veliko and Malo Blato)
- Patto Territoriale per l'Occupazione Nord Barese/Ofantino (Regional park of Ofanto River)
- University of Camerino (CREW Observatory)

All the contributors expressed their appreciation for the work done within the project for the establishment of the river contract management structure and observatory, emphasizing its relevance for the general and crucial issues of restoration and conservation, for the governance,

and for the technological development. The main aim of River Contract is to propose some perspectives for its medium- and long-term maintenance.

The two days meeting was attended by two representative of the Ministries: Teresa Federico, from the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition and Aljosa Duplic, Director of Institute for Environmental and Nature Protection, form the Croatian Ministry of Sustainable Development and Economy.





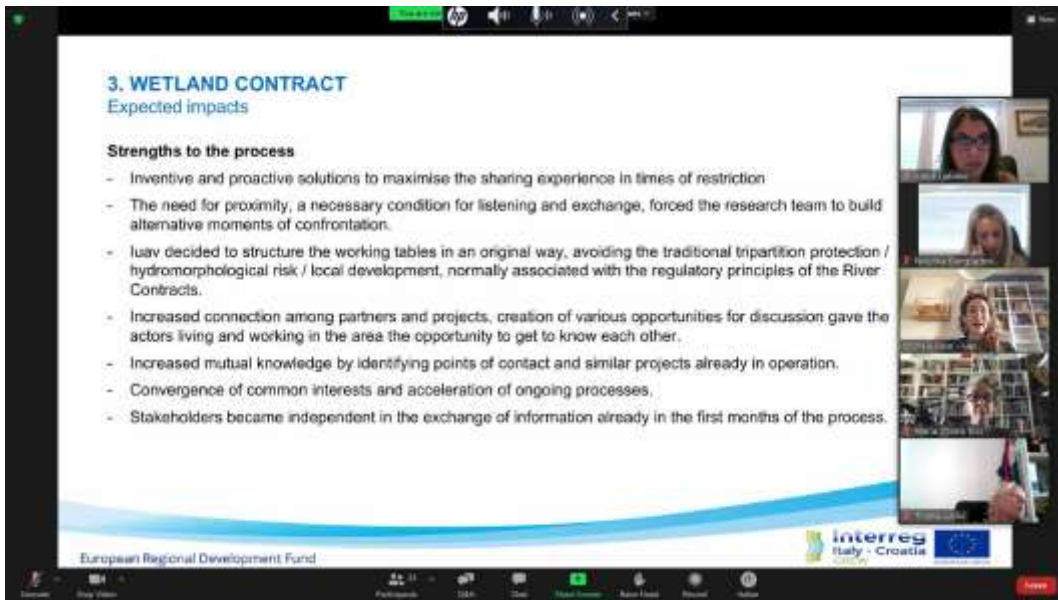
The presentations given during the meeting have been shared among the participants and have been uploaded on the project website.

Second day (23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021) of the final conference was reserved for the Round Table – Strategy and Cross Border Cooperation for Wetlands preservation where experts from Italy referred to their experience and knowledge - Flavio Monti (Medwet), Serena Muccitelli, (Università di Roma Tre, Tune up project) and Giancarlo Gusmaroli (expert Wetland Contract).

After the Welcome speech from Aljosa Duplic, Director of Institute for Environmental and Nature Protection Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, round table took its place.

Therefore, current structure of CREW Observatory, its main components and its potential relevance in relation to the main European and global strategies for biodiversity and for marine observation for the next decade was discussed. It suggests as well some steps that could be undertaken for future development, offering some perspectives in different macro-regional, national and European strategic contexts. Strategy and Cross Border Cooperation for Wetlands preservation round table presented main impacts and achieves within River Contract activities

already existed in Italy with the aim of implementing the same model in Croatia. Many of the Italian experts shared their experience with the aim to direct Croatian partners for doing the similar thing in their protected and Natura 2000 sites.



**3. WETLAND CONTRACT**  
Expected impacts

**Strengths to the process**

- Inventive and proactive solutions to maximise the sharing experience in times of restriction
- The need for proximity, a necessary condition for listening and exchange, forced the research team to build alternative moments of confrontation.
- Iuav decided to structure the working tables in an original way, avoiding the traditional tripartition protection / hydromorphological risk / local development, normally associated with the regulatory principles of the River Contracts.
- Increased connection among partners and projects, creation of various opportunities for discussion gave the actors living and working in the area the opportunity to get to know each other.
- Increased mutual knowledge by identifying points of contact and similar projects already in operation.
- Convergence of common interests and acceleration of ongoing processes,
- Stakeholders became independent in the exchange of information already in the first months of the process.

European Regional Development Fund

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**2. ACTIVITIES**  
Activities and Territorial Labs

Timeline of activities:

- Apr - May 20 (Defining the steps and dynamics)
- July 20 1<sup>st</sup> territorial LAB
- July 25 Preliminary analysis of the situation and stakeholders
- July - Sep 20 Defining the Scenario
- Sep 20 2<sup>nd</sup> territorial LAB
- Individual meetings with stakeholders (Sep - Feb 21)
- April 21 3<sup>rd</sup> territorial LAB
- April 21 4<sup>th</sup> territorial LAB
- July 2021 Staging Costs

2014 - 2020 Interreg V-A

## Italy - Croatia CBC Programme

Priority Axis: 3. Environment and cultural heritage  
Specific objective: 3.2 Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity

# Event follow up report



<b>Work Package:</b>	<i>2. Communication activities</i>
<b>Activity</b>	<i>2.4.3. Final Conference Report</i>
<b>Deliverable:</b>	<i>2.4.3. Final Conference Report – The Report will contain the project outcomes and put the basis for the project follow up</i>

<b>Project Partner:</b>	<i>Public institution for the Management of Protected Natural Areas of Dubrovnik-Neretva County</i>
<b>Name of event:</b>	Final Conference Report
<b>Date:</b>	22 – 23. July 2021.
<b>Event type:</b>	<i>Final Project Conference</i>
<b>Event venue:</b>	<i>Online</i>
<b>Short description of the event:</b>	The main aim of the meeting was to present the main outcome of the project, Crew Observatory and Cross – Border Strategy as well as river contracts methodology, and discuss the plans for its long-term maintenance with relevant representatives of policy, governance and research and monitoring institutions.
<b>Speakers speeches, brief summary and conclusion:</b>	<p>The agenda was drafted according to the list of contributors: Welcome address from Alberto Ferlenga (Rector University Iuav of Venice) and a presentation of the CREW project (aims, goals, results) by prof. Maria Chiara Tosi (IUAV), emphasizing its aims, structure, and future perspectives. The Italian strategy for Wetland Governance by Teresa Federico (Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition) followed after where participants could hear how actually River Contract methodology works in Italy.</p> <p>Second day of the final conference was reserved for the Round Table – Strategy and Cross Border Cooperation for Wetlands preservation where experts from Italy referred to their experience and knowledge - Flavio Monti (Medwet), Serena Muccitelli, (Università di Roma Tre, Tune up</p>

	<p>project) and Giancarlo Gusmaroli (expert Wetland Contract).</p> <p>Conclusions: raise awareness among interest group and general public about the value of wetland ecosystems and the project results, inform local key stakeholders about project results and enhance their engagement in the Wetland Contract participatory process also after the sign, strengthen synergies among partners, disseminate at EU level project outputs and results.</p>
<b>Role of CREW partner in the event:</b>	WP 2 Communication activities leader
<b>Type of audience/target groups involved:</b>	Stakeholders, regional organizations, institutions for protected areas management, research organizations

Annexes:

- Screenshots, Agenda, Participation list