

CREATE

Follow up report of the Kick-Off conference “CREATE the future we need” held on 20 October 2022 and event promotion

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1. Introduction

This document contains a follow up report of the event – Kick-Off Conference “CREATE the future we need” as well as its promotion. The purpose of the event was to present the objectives of the CREATE project to a wider public (from policymakers, NGOs, scientists and technicians to stakeholders and wider society), including involved project partners and all other interested parties. The idea of the Conference was to discuss main topics such as coastal zone planning and management, nature-based solutions in the frameworks of green and blue infrastructure, possibilities for financing the climate change adaptation and adaptive measures that are contributing to mitigation of climate change. The aim of the event was to discuss among participants the achievements made in the cluster projects and to formulate further needs for action in order to accelerate the systematic transformation of our society in the direction of resilience and sustainability. The event was organized in a panel discussion form, enabling the fluency of the discussion and to facilitate possible future cooperation.

2. Event - Kick-Off conference “CREATE the future we need”

2.1. General information

The Kick-Off Conference “CREATE the future we need” was held in Split (Croatia), at the Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences (MedILS) on 20 October 2022. It was organized in a hybrid form, enabling the participation of online and in-person guests. Working languages were Croatian and Italian with simultaneous translation provided for all guests. The Registration of all participants opened at 09:00 CET, and the Programme ran from 09:30 – 16:00 CET. During the event, one Coffee Break and a Lunch was provided. The Conference was livestreamed throughout the day via ZOOM platform. Registered attendees received a link for the venue’s livestream system ahead of the event. In total, there were 107 participants, of which 56 were in person, and 51 were online. Participation lists of online and in person guests are provided in the Appendix B within this Document.

Main organizer of the event was Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF) in collaboration with Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC), Split-Dalmatia County (SDC) and Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP). Host of the conference was Natalija Dunić (IOF).

The conference Programme was organized as follows:

- Welcome notes
- Opening speech

- Sessions 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Closure Session

After the Closing session, Steering Committee Meeting was held for the Steering Committee members and project partners.

For the Conference, three documents were produced (Full Programme, Agenda and Practical Information Guide) in three languages (Croatian, Italian and English) - available on the web page of the Conference.

2.1. Welcome notes

Welcoming notes were given by **Martin Bućan** (SDC), **Vedrana Franić** (City of Split), **Živana Ninčević Gladan** (IOF), **Margaretha Breil** (CREATE project Coordinator) and **Stipe Čogelja** (SDC). All speakers emphasized the importance of continuous climate monitoring, its awareness and actions, as well as the necessity of mutual collaboration between scientists and policy-makers.

Martin Bućan reminded the guests of new financial opportunities for climate change adaptation, while **Živana Ninčević Gladan** highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring of climate change indicators, as well as other oceanographic parameters that are crucial for the wellbeing of marine environment. **Margaretha Breil** gave an overall view of the CREATE project and introduced all future activities that will be held within the project: monthly webinars, workshops and the Final Conference of the project that will take place in Venice. She mentioned the main goal of the project, which is to analyze the outputs of all clustered projects and detect real obstacles that were occurring during the implementations of climate change actions. Adriatic Adaptation Award, as Margaretha said, will be a reward for local authorities that succeeded to carry out adjustments in a light of climate change adaptation projects. Finally, for **Stipe Čogelja**, deputy prefect of Split Dalmatia County, this is a highly important subject since his field of work



relates to climate change adaptation. His message to all guests was to “*leave the planet to our children as we had it in our childhood*”.

2.1. Opening speech

Opening speech was given by **Natalija Dunić** (IOF) on the topic *The latest scientific findings on climate emergency and its consequences – IPCC AR6*.

Natalija Dunić is a physical oceanographer working on the topic of climate change impact on the Adriatic Sea, especially thermohaline circulation and its variability. In her speech, she voiced up that the time for climate denial should be over, because the time for actions is now. In general, changes in climate over the Mediterranean area are slightly worse compared to the rest of the world, with higher increasing trends of air and sea temperatures, sea surface height, and evaporation. The highest changes are detected in the Eastern and Central Mediterranean, including Croatia and Italy.

She stated that if society continues to live their life as usual without any changes in a sense of mitigation, by the end of year 2100 global temperature will rise above 4 °C, and one of the consequences might be the lack of chilly summer nights over the entire Adriatic region. Adriatic Sea surface height has already risen ca. 10 cm during the last four decades and even in a best-case climate scenario it will continue to rise up to 30 cm by the end of this century which will increase the strength of local floods.

Natalija Dunić greeted all guests, and called them to gather their knowledge and use the available technology to jointly collaborate and make the needed actions to preserve our living areas as much as possible.



2.2. Session 1 - Planning for resilience & sustainability



Session 1 was moderated by **Ivan Sekovski** (PAP/RAC). An introductory speech was given by **Daria Povh Škugor** (PAP/RAC) on the topic *Coastal plans – way to design the future we need*. The Session was followed by a discussion within the panelists: **Matea Dorčić** (SDC), **Mili Novak** (RERA S.D. – regional development agency of SDC), **Giorgio Filomena** (Marche Region) and **Daria Povh Škugor** (PAP/RAC).

Relevant projects of the Session 1 are: AdriAdapt, CHANGE WE CARE, AdriaClim, Co-Evolve.

At this Session the advantages of integrated planning in the coastal zones were introduced by presenting different efforts around the Mediterranean region and the entire globe.

As the introduction, **Daria Povh Škugor** presented lessons learned from more than 40 years of integrated planning carried out by the PAP/RAC. She emphasized the importance of the data on coastal land use, recently available through satellite imagery and open data policies. PAP/RAC has more than three decades of experiences in developing CAMPs – Coastal Area Management Programmes all over the Mediterranean region. CAMPs showed that only with an integrated approach we can find solutions for the future that



will not cause any additional burden on the fragile coastal environment. Daria mentioned Split-Dalmatia County, City of Kaštela and Vodice, having coastal management and adaptation plans, as positive examples of integrated coastal plan management, which makes our region a progressive area when it comes to climate change adaptation. Second important approach is a participative one, through which besides experts and local authorities, all actors are actively involved in future planning. The key obstacle in achieving the goals of climate change adaptation is the lack of collaboration and deficiency of overall knowledge. CREATE project will strive to cut back these obstacles.



An introductory speech was followed by a panel discussion on the main question: “*What is needed to ensure a safe future?*”

The session demonstrated how systemic approaches to planning ensured recognition of key priorities, understanding interlinkages of different climate and environmental challenges and proposed sound solutions to various issues that coastal zones are facing.

Matea Dorčić introduced the guests with the project “*Maritime Domain is Good – Pomorsko je dobro*” that she co-founded for the SDC with an aim to provide support for local self-government units, by prioritizing the protection and preservation. The realization of the project presented a good example of responsible and efficient maritime domain management for other counties as well. However, in order to make a successful implementation, continuous investments are necessary mostly because of new

changes. Split-Dalmatia County also developed a Coastal Plan which was adopted by the County assembly in 2021. To ensure the Plan implementation, SDC established three different councils, one of which gathers the representatives of 32 administrative units working together. Plan priorities were: spatial planning and in particular maritime domain management, better coherence with the plans developed by the local self-government units, protection from landscape destruction, climate change adaptations, marine litter and sea pollution, and water management. Matea mentioned the obstacles that they encountered while carrying out the project, of which the lack of communication between administration and with the stakeholders was the most important one.

When it comes to coastal area management, local authorities need to take into account the development of nautical tourism and economy. The reality is that we cannot halt its development, and therefore the next step is the development of marine docks and anchorages, making the appropriate investments into undeveloped areas and constructing the resorts and other touristic contents away from the coasts as an aid to avoid future mass tourism in touristic hotspots. The idea is to not concentrate the most important economic resources in the areas most at risk of climate change impacts. “*The coast cannot be the only resource of tourism.*” Matea reminded guests to read the Coastal Plan, because climate change adaptation is a subject that is poorly discussed. She also suggested establishing a Reference Centre which could help us to move in the right direction.

Mili Novak introduced the project “*Coast Gap*” for which RERA made Guidelines for coastal management for the City of Kaštela, one of the most vulnerable coastal cities to climate change, as well as the City of Solin through which river Jadro is flowing - a fresh water source for more than 300 000 people. His suggestion was to find the political will to address climate change impacts. All coastal cities share similar problems, precisely difficulties with local floods coming from the sea together with storm waters from inland. Because of that, there is an urgency in constructing the coastal walls and to control torrential flows. As a result of the Co-Evolve project, Kaštela City developed and adopted the Coastal Plan for the City of Kaštela. Furthermore, within the CHANGE WE CARE project, RERA established a Cadaster for Coastal Infrastructure for the Kaštela Bay, in which they listed all surrounding buildings that are vulnerable to future climate changes with possible solutions to adaptation. RERA also created a brochure for citizens to present ways for each person to make an individual effort to climate change adaptation and mitigation, which was later capitalized in the AdriAdapt project.



Giorgio Filomena presented another good example of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Marche region. In 2019 the region finalized integrated Coastal Plan after 7 years of work. The need for protection of the coast is, inter alia, connected to a railway line of national importance running along the whole regional coast, further to important settlements and tourism structures. The region has already experienced major marine inundations in the recent past, as for example in Pesaro in 2015. The regional plan, which is already the second plan of this kind, establishes a coastal respect zone of 100m where construction is not allowed, foresees relocation of buildings built too close to the shoreline and foresees funding for beach nourishment mostly sourcing from river deposits. Marche region is continuously monitoring the performance of the Plan and makes monitoring data accessible to technicians and citizens on their website.



At the end of the Session, Daria Povh Škugor mentioned the example of Šibenik-Knin County for whom they suggested the development of cattle breeding as a way to lower the risk of local fires, the upgrade of public transportation in a form that is adjusted to cyclists,

and the extension of touristic season. *“It is important that all adaptation measures also include the recommendations on CO₂ emission reductions.”*

2.1. Session 2 - Green infrastructure and NBS



Session 2 was moderated by **Margaretha Breil** (CMCC). Introduction speech was given by **Martina Baučić** (Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy) on the topic *Coastal cities – necessity for green infrastructure and NBS*. The Session was followed by a discussion within the panelists: **Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić** (SUNCE), **Elena Farnè** (freelance architect) and **Martina Baučić**.

Relevant project of the Session 2 is ADRIADAPT.



Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) is a collective term for green and blue solutions for adaptation to climate change, in particular for storm water management, and reduction of urban-heat islands which provide multiple benefits to society and environment including biodiversity protection and carbon removal. **Margaretha Breil** started the Session by pointing out the ADRIADAPT project collected and showcased good examples for the use of NBS, for creating areas resilient to climate changes, using artificial reefs that stem biodiversity and reduce CO₂ emissions, urban green areas that absorb heavy rains and reduce temperatures as well as urban gardens which as a further benefit could manufacture food and serve as healthy places for hangouts.

In the introduction, **Martina Baučić** presented the importance of NBS when it comes to climate change. Adaptations to future climate changes based on expected climate changes will not be sufficient if we as a society do not consider CO₂ emission reductions. Croatian coastal cities share the same problems when it comes to future climate vulnerability. The consequences of local floods are (already) leaving us with enormous damages. Martina pointed out the reality of existing infrastructure of Croatian coast, where coastal spaces are mostly worn out in a sense of over-use. *“We need better solutions for increased storm waters, instead of the “dotted” attempts of interventions.”* This is especially important during the tourist season, when the population of Croatian coast increases by three times. Even though tourism is an important economic sector, because of its irrational management it cannot be sustainable in a long-term. Martina reminded us of a chance to create a smart infrastructure adjusted to CO₂ emission reductions. *“With smart planning we can transform cities from grey to green ones, by imitating or protecting natural processes”*. River Jadro could be a good example where the existing concrete embankments could be replaced by NBS. Other example could be the

naturalization of wild garbage landfills. The expansion of tree alleys would reduce health issues for ageing societies by reducing an increased air temperature in the cities. Moreover, NBS could serve as a good solution addressing flood risks. To implement NBS in existing cities, Martina suggests to make prior assessment of possible areas of intervention, starting with public facilities. However, the major obstacle today is the lack of institutional solutions.

Introductory speech was followed by a panel discussion guided by main question: “*How to accelerate the implementation of NBS and green infrastructure along the Adriatic coast?*” Panelists and participants discussed on potential applications of NBS, some previous experiences in its implementation, and what is needed to highlight the application of NBS in the area during the next programming period.

Gabrijela Medunić-Orlić is a representative of the Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development SUNCE who is concerned about different Coastal Plan implementations, as most of the actions are lacking the process of monitoring and evaluation. Her opinion is that the problem is not only the fact that most of the citizens lack awareness about climate change, but also because of lack of knowledge among scientists. Major problem in City of Split are grey areas, and the lack of will to make necessary changes towards NBS. Most of the schools in the city have concrete playgrounds, through which she believes that we are sending the wrong message to children. She pointed out a good example of botanical garden made by elementary school Skalice.



Most of the schools in the city have concrete playgrounds, through which she believes that we are sending the wrong message to children. She pointed out a good example of botanical garden made by elementary school Skalice.

Elena Farnè mentioned an example of a good working method – a learning programme regarding climate change adaptation called REBUS. With other experts, she co-authored the manual on urban regeneration which served as an educational tool on the topic of NBS implementation in urban areas. This tool encouraged local authorities to actualize subject-related projects. Because of the REBUS, collaboration and coordination of future activities was stronger. Another good example comes from a project called SOS4life - a game designed for pupils and students with an aim to provide lessons on climate change adaptation. In the case of the City of Medicina, Elena worked in the areas of low standard residential buildings and abandoned parts of the city. These areas were reconstructed with NBS by creating natural parks and green spaces, however reducing the number of car parking spaces. At first, the citizens were against the project because of the reduced parking

lots, though with time they accepted NBS restorations especially because they were involved in the selection and design of the areas to be transformed into green areas. Additional gain was increased shaded areas providing healthy places for social interaction.

2.2. Session 3 – Financing for resilience & sustainability



Session 3 was moderated by **Martin Bučan** (SDC). Introductory speech was given by **Mislav Kovač** (MRDEUF) on the topic *What are the possibilities to get funding?*. The session was followed by a discussion within the panelists: **Piero Pelizzaro** (City of Bologna), **Giovanni Fini** (City of Cesena), **Helena Brčić** (RERA) and **Mislav Kovač**.

Relevant project of the Session 3 is AdriAdapt. However, all other future projects are considered relevant for the topic of the Session 3.

Objective of this Session was to present different financing possibilities for climate change adaptation. At the very beginning **Martin Bučan** stated that European Union will invest ca. 23 billion EUR for climate neutral economy transition.



As the introduction to the Session, **Mislav Kovač** presented the newest information regarding the possibilities in future financings for the climate change related projects. During the next programming period (2021 – 2027), Croatian share from the EU funding will be ca. 9 billion EUR for financing the projects related to the environment in general. Priority in budgeting will be given to those projects that will be dedicated to energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, public

water supply and waste water reclamation. Out of this budget, 407 million EUR will be dedicated to future climate change adaptation measures. For that reason, Croatia plans to additionally invest in research related to adaptation solutions by establishing a National

Centre for Climate Change Monitoring whose main role will be to strengthen the Institutions, and to assess hazard risk management. For the Italy-Croatia CBC Programme, during the next programming period particular attention will be given to a specific goal - promotion of sustainable economic development through green and blue innovation policies, along with other priorities: climate adaptation strategies and risk prevention measures, sustainable cross-border mobility and valorization of cultural heritage through sustainable and diversified touristic products. In total, Italy-Croatia CBC Programme for the programming period 2021-2027 will award ca. 173 million EUR. European Commission has approved the Programme, and first calls for proposals are expected in November 2022. Mislav emphasized that climate change adaptation measures were recognized as the greatest need for investment. Fundamental grounds to achieve all goals are mutual cooperation, establishment of institutional frameworks, transfer of knowledge and good practices, as well as the encouragement to raise the awareness.

Participants of the Session were invited to exchange their good practice experiences, as well as their ideas on the future needs that could make part of the next programming period. Main question of the Session discussion was: “*What are financing possibilities for climate change adaptation?*”.

Within the AdriaAdapt project, the Union of Municipalities of the Savio Valle, a union of between medium size city of Cesena and seven small other municipalities, had developed and adopted a SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan). As **Giovanni Fini** stated, Union of Municipalities is now working on finding the ways to implement the Plan. As stated, neither big cities nor small municipalities like those of the Union have allocated budget for implementing actions to climate change adaptation. As these adaptations are still not regulated by policies, the administration is investigating ways to mainstream adaptation actions within existing planning and management tools. The goal is to transform economic sectors by necessary interventions that will increase the resilience and reduce climate risks for all urban sectors. Giovanni singled out public work and civil protection as fields in which municipalities can make an impact, as they share a certain autonomy in these fields, thus making them easier to dedicate their proper municipal resources. Such a strategy of mainstreaming climate action into on-going municipal strategies, as Giovanni reported, requires a certain level of awareness among sectoral technicians on how to make interventions that can be efficient in increasing the local resilience. For that reason, they organized training and awareness raising courses for the municipal staff regarding the content and objectives of the SECAP. These actions were activated as a result of the the AdriaAdapt project on strategies for mainstreaming. These types of interventions that municipalities are undertaking are also contributing to risk reduction, thus can present an efficient way to finance adaptation at local level. Another strategy that Giovanni and his team are implementing is directed towards the relationship and interactions between public administrations and private actors. Cities use different types of regulations to regulate and

influence private actions, for instance in the form of building regulations, or regulations for soil management and conservation. For one municipality of the Union which faces a large landslide, in collaboration with landowners and private associations, the Union co-created innovative practice of transforming the “care for the soil” into an economic resource for the municipality. The area was named “*Castagneto*” - a large chestnut wood which is used for chestnuts production, and at the same time has a potential for tourist attraction. The strategic plan and the guidelines created within this project contains actions which increased the attractiveness of the area as well as the economic potential, thus making a measure that protects the soil from erosion more alluring for implementation to landowners. This was a difficult process, which at the end produced a feasible and realistic strategy. Giovanni concluded that the size of the municipalities in Italy doesn’t matter, and despite the obstacles they also share a proper range of competences. Even though in particular small and medium size municipalities have restricted capabilities due to limited resources in terms of staff, knowledge and economy, thus narrowing the capacity for any actions going beyond day-to-day management necessities, they have better knowledge and awareness of the local needs. The Union of Municipalities was created to overcome some of these limits, i.e. to pool and optimize proper resources and address some of the limitations regarding the acquisition of financial resources.

Piero Pelizzaro is now working for the city of Bologna after several years of experiences as a Chief Resilience Officer of the City of Milan. He confirmed the statements made by Giovanni and added that regarding resilience policy, Bologna is acting at larger territorial scale together with Bologna Metropolitan Area, as well as with the authorities responsible for river basin management and with regional authorities. Still, some issues in Bologna need to be tackled at local level, such as the case of 2022 when heat wave and drought manifested at local level. Piero stated that in this case to resolve the issue more quickly, with proper funding it should be made at local level. This underlines the necessity of strong interaction between different administrative levels, achieving an “administrative federalism” rather than “unitarism”. Both Giovanni and Piero convened on the importance of spatial planning, yet with the need of rethinking both timeframes for implementation and ways of planning. The project “Blue Up”, initiated by Giovanni during his service at the city of Bologna, is a good example of mainstreaming approach when it comes to implementation of climate action into different urban sector policies as building regulations. However, as Piero cited, “*some national laws present obstacles for local policies aiming to make cities more resilient*”. For instance, national rules regarding the extent of parking spaces are mainly driven by the vision for transport based on individual cars, thus limiting the possibilities for planting more trees and construct additional green areas. Piero agrees with Giovanni regarding potential financial resources, stating that “*we are searching for funding,*



while in many cases the money is already there, it just needs to be used in a proper way". As examples, he presented cycle paths which will become useless if not planned together with tree-paths providing the necessary shade, and renovation of urban drainage systems that needs to be integrated with urban trees and green areas which would allow for water infiltration, thus mitigating impacts from stormwater flooding. "If we are spending our own resources like this, we are not spending our money well" - Piero stated.



Helena Brčić is an experienced project manager and coordinator of various projects referencing cross-border cooperation. As a head of department for Program Preparation and EU projects at RERA S.D., she spoke about their achievements on the topic. RERA took part in almost 20 projects via Italy-Croatia CBC Programme. Through all the projects, the topic of adaptation to climate change was included. Now they are establishing an intervention system for all emergency services in Vučevica, with special attention to firefighters. She stated that plans for SDC exists, and recently they adopted the Development Plan of SDC that was performed in accordance to adaptation measures. Helena credits National Recovery and Resilience Plan aimed at entrepreneurs, for which she believes is a big step forward.

2.3. Session 4 – Adaptation measures that contribute to mitigation

Session 4 was moderated by **Ilja Drmač** (EIHP). Introduction speech was given by **Ugo Toić** (IDA) on the topic *Implementation of SECAP – challenges faced by island municipalities*. The Session was followed by a discussion within the panelists: **Martin Bućan** (SDC), **Piero Di Carlo** (UNICH) and **Ugo Toić**.

Relevant projects of the Session 4 are Joint SECAP and RESPONSE.



If we do not manage to reduce our GHG emissions, adaptation in the coastal zones will be very difficult. As **Ilja Drmač** stated at the beginning of the Session, Joint SECAP was a project with which our knowledge about climate change was increased, especially when it comes to energy – an important element when talking about climate change. *“When we are discussing climate change impacts, usually we refer to local levels. However, climate change in general must be observed globally.”* Droughts are affecting agriculture, forestry, tourism, but also human health. For that reason, it is important that

methodology and approach to SECAPs prioritize measures that will have a multi-sector effect. For instance, green roofs will reduce the risk of flooding and temperature rise, create building insulation, produce oxygen and improve human health.



In other words: every adaptation effort presents the possibility for mitigation of drivers of climate change and transition. This is even more relevant in the light of current energy crisis. Participants of this Session discussed about mitigation possibilities, especially adaptation measures that have also mitigation effects.

Introductory presentation was given by **Ugo Toić**, a Director of the Island Development Agency (IDA) in Island of Cres. Ugo’s opinion is that energy transition mostly relies on social aspects, rather than the technological ones. For example, on Island of Cres only four out of 2200 people are sending their applications to public tenders for solar panels. Major holdback is the slow administrative procedure in Croatia from local to national levels. In addition to this, several laws are not adequately written. Islands Cres and Lošinj engaged in energy transitions in 2019 with “Clean energy transition agenda” – document

that contains elaboration on electrical energy production, heating and cooling systems, maritime and road transport and the horizontal measures. SECAP were one of the implemented plans that included climate change adaptation. Even though measures were adopted, local authorities haven’t included them into a yearly budget because of the lack of the financial and administrative capacities. Moreover, urban planners still don’t integrate SECAPs into spatial planning instruments. As a positive example, Ugo mentioned the electrical power plant on Island of Cres. In 2019 they began the construction of the plant.

Since Croatian Electrical Utility refused to participate, they started a local campaign in which after one week 100 000 EUR was collected. A joint effort through organized participative events in which they discussed climate change as well as the possibilities to mitigation processes adjusted to practical field situation resulted in a good collaboration between local authorities and citizens and achieved objectives. Ugo's experience is that we as a society need less major plans that usually end up unclaimed and more field implementations. It is important to share the information and to engage in discussion with local citizens to adjust the practical methodology regarding the field reality. To get to zero-carbon energy on Island of Cres, each citizen will have to make its own energy transition.

Martin Bućan stated that there are many documents that are adopted at the level of Republic of Croatia. Some of them are compulsory by the law, however SECAP was not one the compulsory one. This is the main reason why SECAPs are rarely set up and implemented.

Piero Di Carlo believes in the importance of effective communication regarding climate data information to decision makers and citizens. He recommended a participative process as a start that includes a session for scientists to provide an understanding of the climate systems and interactions between observed and projected trends and extreme events risks. *“It is not easy to interpret the values of climate change indicators in a way that allows decision makers and citizens to*

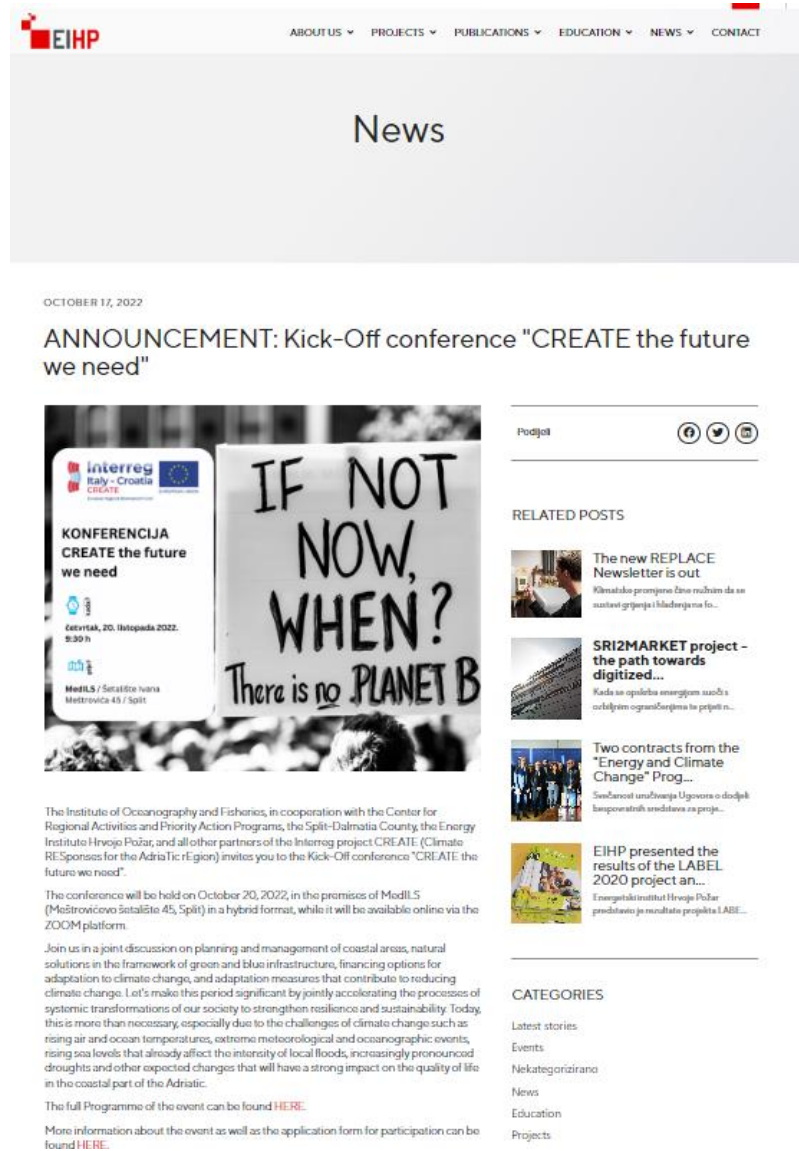


comprehend the meaning of climate data and its indicators, as well as their relation to climate change risks.” People living in the northern Adriatic coast are now starting to experience some impacts of climate change, such as sea level rise or rising temperature, however for them is still difficult to understand the important relationships between climate trends and extreme events. *“Unless we don’t find a way to convey an understanding climate trend consequences, it will be hard to create future motivations for behavioral changes and raise the awareness among decision makers to take the right decisions.”* Well informed citizens are crucial when it comes to decision making. Piero believes that adaptation and mitigation processes must be jointly integrated, and that integrated climate plans like SECAPs need to inform any other local policies instruments including plans for accommodation and integration of migrants, as well as that the objectives need to be shared with all citizens.

3. Prior promotion of the event – Kick-Off Conference “CREATE the future we need”

Prior to the event, the Kick-off Conference “CREATE the future we need” was promoted on the web-page of the CREATE project (<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/create/-/create-the-future-we-need-kickoff-conference>). The page contained a general invite, information on when and where, the links to the Full Programme, the Agenda and Practical Information Guide in three languages (English, Croatian, and Italian), as well as the registration link. Full Programme in English language is attached in the Appendix A in this Document.

The event promotion was also published on CREATE social media accounts



The screenshot shows a news article on the EIH Project website. The article is titled "ANNOUNCEMENT: Kick-Off conference 'CREATE the future we need'" and is dated October 17, 2022. It features a main image of a protest sign that reads "IF NOT NOW, WHEN? There is no PLANET B" and a smaller image of a flyer for the conference. The text of the article describes the event, its location at ModILS in Metković, and provides details about the hybrid format. It also includes a call to action for registration and links to the full programme and application forms. The website layout includes a navigation menu, social media sharing options, and a list of related posts.

(<https://www.facebook.com/InterregProjectCreate/photos/a.115744434615363/119472237575916/>). Special video in Croatian language was made as an invitation to general public (<https://www.facebook.com/InterregProjectCreate/videos/640458860869345>). All partners of the CREATE project shared the information on their Institutions’ websites, while some of them promoted the event on their social media accounts.

Full Programme document was created for the event, that included general information, agenda of the programme and short CVs of the panelists and moderators. On the day of the event printed version of the Agenda was shared among on-site participants. Practical Information Guide included general guidelines of the event and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

NOVOSTI

“CREATE the future we need” Kick-Off konferencija Interreg Italija-Hrvatska projekta CREATE



Omogućimo međusobnu razmjenu iskustava i ideja da bi zajednički pronašli rješenja za nadolazeće klimatske izazove

The event was also promoted via official work e-mail addresses. The invite was sent to more than 1000 Croatian, and more than 700 Italian stakeholders, scientists, policy-makers, NGOs, journalists and general public.

Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo u suradnji s Centrom za regionalne aktivnosti i programa Prioritetnih Akcija, Splitsko-dalmatinskom županijom, Energetskim institutom Hrvoske Požar, te svim ostalim partnerima Interreg projekta CREATE (Climate REsponses for the AdriaTic rEgion) vas poziva na Kick-Off konferenciju “CREATE the future we need”.

Konferencija će se održati 20. listopada 2022. godine u prostorijama MedILS-a (Mestrovljevo šetaliste 45, Split) u hibridnom obliku. Online prijenos će se odvijati putem ZOOM platforme.

Pridružite nam se u zajedničkoj diskusiji o planiranju i upravljanju obalnim područjima, prirodnim rješenjima u okviru zelene i plave infrastrukture, mogućnostima financiranja prilagodbe klimatskim promjenama, te mjerama prilagodbe koje pridonose smanjenju klimatskih promjena.

Učinimo da ovo razdoblje bude značajno tako da zajednički ubrzamo procese sustavnih transformacija našeg društva u vidu jačanja otpornosti i održivosti. Danas je to i više nego potrebno, posebice zbog izazova klimatskih promjena kao što su porast temperature zraka i oceana, ekstremni meteorološki i oceanografski događaji, porast razine mora koja već utječe na intenzitet lokalnih poplava, sve izraženije suše i ostale očekivane promjene koje će imati snažan utjecaj na kvalitetu života u obalnom dijelu Jadrana.

Više informacija o događaju kao i obrazac sa prijavu za sudjelovanje možete pronaći [OVDJE](#).

Kontakt osoba: dr. sc. Natašja Dunić (email: dunic@izor.hr)

4. Follow-up promotion of the event – Kick-Off conference “CREATE the future we need”

Prior the start of the Programme, statements to the local press were given by Daria Povh Škugor and Natalija Dunić (Radio Dalmacija, TV Dalmacija, HRT-Radio Televizija, HINA, etc.). Press invitations were performed by the PAP/RAC. During the event, live promotion was made on several social accounts (IOF official Facebook page, CREATE official Facebook page, and on several personal accounts) with included photos and videos. After the event, promotion of the Conference and CREATE project was given on numerous media services, from regional to national news portals (dalmacijadanas.hr, dalmatinskiportal.hr, dalmacijanews.hr, poslovni.hr, tportal.hr, kastela.org, sibenskiportal.hr, turizmoteka.hr, novelist.hr, vecenji.hr, slobodnadalmacija.hr, juzni.hr, more.hr, gorgonija.com, total-croatia-news.com, energetika-net.hr, telegram.hr, radio.hrt.hr, glas-slavonije.hr, morski.hr, and kastela.org). Special attention to the CREATE project was given in a published article in *Magazin More* – a popular nautical national magazine, written by Natalija Dunić (IOF). During the event, professional cameraman was filming interviews performed by Ottavia Carlon with the participants. Videos were collected and processed in a form of a short video clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMzhS50AIEE&t=303s>). Whole event was also filmed, and published on the official YouTube channel of the CREATE project (<https://www.youtube.com/@createclimateresponses/videos>). More on the event follow-up promotion of the Kick-Off Conference “CREATE the future we need” could be found in D.2.2.3.



“CREATE the future we need”

Kick-Off Conference

Split, 20th October 2022, Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences &

Online (ZOOM video platform)

PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROJECT

"CREATE - Climate REsponses for the AdriaTic rEgion" Interreg project is a result of cooperation between leading Croatian and Italian institutions and organizations in the field of climate research and other related activities along the Adriatic coast. The particularity of the CREATE project is that it unites the results of existing and recently completed and thematically related projects with the aim to share the knowledge and experiences to various target groups: from regional and local authorities, development agencies, academic and business communities, non-governmental organizations, to the general public, in order to establish the appropriate measures to deal with current and expected climate changes in the Adriatic region.

Website: <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/create>

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOF)

IOF is a Croatian research institution dedicated to all aspects of oceanography, fisheries and aquaculture. It conducts regular monitoring of the Adriatic, including the assessment of climate change impacts. Besides scientific work, IOF supports educational and cultural activities, and provides professional services to the private sector and decision-makers.

Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC)

Established in 1977 in Split, Croatia, PAP/RAC is one of the six Regional Activity Centres acting within the Mediterranean Action Plan of the UNEP. PAP/RAC's mission is to support Mediterranean countries on their path towards sustainable development of coastal zones.

Split-Dalmatia County (SDC)

The SDC has a long experience in implementing multidisciplinary projects that require regional and international cooperation skills, particularly in the fields of regional development, environmental protection, balanced development of public utilities, County infrastructure, research and development of green economy projects.

Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP)

The EIHP's Department for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection includes research of RES potential, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation, environmental impact assessment of

power plants, economic and financial analyses, development of appropriate legislative environment and implementation of EU funded projects.

AGENDA

09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Welcome coffee /Livestream link opens	
09:30 – 10:00	Opening: Welcome notes	County representative, SDC Vedrana Franić Head of the City Development Department, City of Split Živana Ninčević Gladan IOF Director Margaretha Breil CREATE Project Coordinator
10:00 – 10:15	Opening speech: The latest scientific findings on climate emergency and its consequences – IPCC AR6	Natalija Dunić, IOF
10:15 – 11:15	Session 1: Planning for resilience & sustainability¹ (Relevant projects: ADRIADAPT; Change we care, AdriaClim, Co-evolve)	Moderator: Ivan Sekovski, PAR/RAC
10:15 – 10:30	Coastal plans – way to design the future we need	Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC
10:30 – 11:15	Panel discussion with questions from audience on “What is needed to ensure a safe future?”	Matea Dorčić, SDC Mili Novak, RERA Giorgio Filomena, Marche Region Daria Povh Škugor, PAP/RAC
11:15 – 12:15	Session 2: Green infrastructure and NBS² (Relevant projects: ADRIADAPT)	Moderator: Margaretha Breil, CMCC/IUAV
11:15 – 11:30	Coastal cities – necessity for green infrastructure and NBS	Martina Baučić, FGAG
11:30 – 12:15	Panel discussion with questions from audience on “How to accelerate the implementation of NBS and green infrastructure along the Adriatic coast”	Gabrijela Medunić – Orlić, SUNCE Elena Farnè, freelance architect Martina Baučić, FGAG
12:15 – 12:30	Networking and coffee break / Online breakout room for networking	
12:30 – 14:00	Session 3: Financing for resilience & sustainability³	Moderator: Martin Bućan, SDC

	(Relevant projects: ADRIADAPT)	
12:30 – 12:45	What are the possibilities to get funding?	Mislav Kovač, MRDEUF
12:45 – 14:00	Panel discussion with questions from audience on “What are financing possibilities for climate change adaptation?”	Piero Pelizzaro, City of Bologna Giovanni Fini, City of Cesena Helena Brčić, RERA Mislav Kovač, MRDEUF
14:00 – 15:00	Group picture & Lunch / Online breakout room for networking	
15:00 – 16:00	Session 4: Adaptation measures that contribute to mitigation⁴ (Relevant projects: Joint SECAP, RESPONSE)	Moderator: Ilja Drmač, EIHP
15:00 – 15:15	Implementation of SECAP – challenges faced by island municipalities	Ugo Toić, IDA
15:15 – 16:00	Panel discussion with questions from audience on “What can be done to adapt to climate change?”	Martin Bučan, SDC Piero Di Carlo, UNICH Ugo Toić, IDA
16:00	Closure Session	

16:15 – 17:00	Steering Committee Meeting	CREATE SC and TC members only

1. At this panel the advantages of integrated planning in the coastal zone will be introduced by presenting different planning efforts around the Mediterranean and the entire globe. PAP/RAC will provide an insight into lessons learned from more than 40 years of integrated planning. Lessons learned from the process of preparation of the Coastal Plan for Split-Dalmatia County, Coastal Management plan for Kaštela, River Jadro management plan and of the Marche region Coastal Plan will be introduced, as well as the progress of their implementation. This session will demonstrate how systemic approach to planning ensures recognizing key priorities, understanding interlinkages of different climate and environmental challenges and proposing sound solutions to various issues that coastal zones are facing. Finally, the need for coastal plans in the future programming period of EU Interreg programme will be discussed.
2. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) is a collective term for green and blue solutions which provide multiple benefits to society and environment: adaptation to climate change, storm water management, reduction of urban-heat island, biodiversity protection and carbon removal. Panelists and participants will elaborate on potential application of NbS, some previous experiences in its implementation, and what is needed to highlight the application of NbS in the area during the next programming period.
3. Objective of this session is to present different financing possibilities for climate change adaptation. Participants will be invited to exchange their good practice experiences, as well as their ideas on the future needs that could make part of the next programming period.
4. If we do not manage to reduce our GHGs emissions, adaptation in the coastal zones will be very difficult. In other words: every adaptation effort presents the possibility for mitigation, for transition. This is even more relevant in the

light of the current energy crisis. Participants will learn more about mitigation in this session, including examples when adaptation enabled mitigation. Participants will be invited to brainstorm on this topic and to deliver ideas that might be included in the next programming period.

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Moderators

Mr. Ivan Sekovski

Programme Officer at UNEP/MAP - PAP/RAC

Ivan is a Programme Officer at PAP/RAC of UNEP/MAP. He has an MSc degree from University Department of Marine Studies in Split, Croatia, an MSc degree in Water and Coastal Management from University of Faro, Portugal, and a PhD in Marine and Coastal Management from University of Cadiz, Spain. During the PhD he focused on the topic of vulnerability of coastal ecosystems to storm surges impacts and sea level rise in Ravenna area, Italy, and since then actively worked with PAP/RAC on projects related to climate change impacts on coastal zones (e.g. GEF MEDPartnership project, ClimVar&ICZM project, EU Interreg AdriAdapt project, GEF MEDProgramme etc.)



Mr. Margaretha Breil

Senior Researcher at CMCC@Ca Foscari

Margaretha is a Senior Researcher on Urban Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation at CMCC@Ca Foscari in Venezia, which is a part of the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate change (CMCC). Her work focusses on the assessment and the design of climate adaptation policies at urban and local level. Since 2014 she became a part of the European Topic Centre which supports the work of the European Environment Agency (EEA), as a part of the working groups on urban and local adaptation, social justice and on Nature Based Solutions (NBS). From 2019 to 2021 Margaretha coordinated European project ADRIADAPT and, since 2022, the follow-up project



CREATE - both financed under the INTERREG CBC programme Italy-Croatia.

Mr. Martin Bućan

**Assistant Head of the administrative department
for energy, transport, and EU projects at Split-Dalmatia County**

Martin has been working for Split-Dalmatia County since 2004. Currently he is acting as the Assistant Head of the Administrative department for energy, transport and EU projects. As a project manager, he participated in the implementation of large number of EU projects regarding sustainable energy management, energy planning, analysis, strengthening the smart and green mobility sector, introducing IT solutions in traffic monitoring etc. He was involved in many projects such as FP-7 Solution, Aleterenergy, Intermodal, STEP- UP, Joint SECAP, GRRENMIND and PEFMED PLUS. Moreover, Martin is and will participate in numerous panels and pillars regarding the financing model for energy transition in the next perspective until 2030.



Mr. Ilja Drmač

Senior Researcher at Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar

Ilja is a certified mechanical engineer and energy auditor with 15 years of experience in scientific research and expert work in the field of energy efficiency and environmental protection, and a member of Croatian Chamber of Mechanical engineers. He participated in various projects for Croatian public sector dealing with energy efficiency, renewables and environmental protection, managed and coordinated projects in Croatia (Zagreb), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mostar) and Iran (Tehran), among which are HVAC, H2020, Interreg Central Europe and Mediterranean and cross-border cooperation Italy – Croatia. Ilja is also contributing to the energy auditing of buildings, estimation of GHG emission savings, giving lectures at seminars and workshops for informational and educational purposes (GIZ, UNESCO, UNDP).



Speakers and panelists

Ms. Natalija Dunić

Postdoctoral researcher at IOF, Split

Natalija is an ocean physicist whose primary focus of research is Adriatic Sea circulation and climate change impact. During her PhD, Natalija started the investigation of the Adriatic Sea thermohaline circulation using several regional climate models. Currently, she is undertaking a Postdoctoral programme at IOF, in which her main research is the assessment of different climate change scenarios impact on the Adriatic Sea thermohaline properties, the latter conditioning the life of marine habitants, in particular of those who have low tolerance levels for temperature and salinity changes.



Ms. Daria Povh Škugor

Senior Programme Officer at UNEP/MAP - PAP/RAC

Daria is a Senior Programme Officer at PAP/RAC of UNEP/MAP, dealing with integrated coastal zone management for about 20 years and focusing on adaptation to climate change and coastal resilience for almost 15 years. She coordinated the implementation of UNEP/MAP, GEF and EU projects, in different Mediterranean countries, from the local, national to multi-country level. In her work, she is committed to creating an enabling environment for action towards sustainability and resilience.



Ms. Matea Dorčić

Head of the Department for Tourism and Maritime Affairs of the Split-Dalmatia County

Matea is a law graduate, born and raised in Split, Croatia. Since 2014 she has been working for the Split-Dalmatia County. Until 2021, Matea was the Head of the Planning Subdivision of the County's Administrative Department for Tourism and Maritime Affairs, with a special focus on the intense protection of maritime domain. She was the co-founder of the "Maritime Domain is Good – Pomorsko je dobro" Project, with the aim to achieve more transparent, responsible and efficient maritime domain management and valorisation, that provides support for local self-government units and brings order valuable resource utilization prioritizing the protection and preservation. In 2020, the Project received the most prestigious professional award in Croatia – the Grand PRix 2020.



Mr. Mili Novak

Senior Advisor/Project Manager at Regional Development Agency of SDC (RERA)

Mili is a Senior Advisor/Project Manager at Regional Development Agency of Split-Dalmatia County. He has MSc in Economics and has experience in managing EU projects dealing with adaptation to climate change and integrated coastal zone management. In his previous work as a Deputy Mayor of Kaštela, he performed tasks related to the coordination of projects related to EU funds and other sources of financing, urban development of the city, economy and tourism.



Mr. Giorgio Filomena
Officer at Marche Region - Protection,
Management and Territorial Planning Service

Giorgio is a civil engineer with nearly 30 years of experience working in fields of civil engineering, coastal monitoring, coastal defence works and coastal planning. He is working for the Marche Region in Italy since 1997, and was actively involved in the implementation of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (GIZC) plan for the Marche region.



Ms. Martina Baučić
Associate Professor at Faculty of Civil Engineering,
Architecture and Geodesy, Split

Martina is currently acting as the Vice-Dean at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Geodesy in Split. For about 30 years, her primary field of work is based on geoinformatics and spatial analyses for various application domains. She co-ordinated the elaboration of two climate change adaptation plans and cooperated on several other projects as well as published several works on the same topic.



Ms. Gabriјela Medunić-Orlić
Executive Director at Association for Nature, Environment and Sustainable Development SUNCE

Gabriјela holds a MSc in Chemistry from Faculty of Natural Science, Zagreb and a BSc in Science and Technology of the Environment and Territory from University of Molise. Since 2002 she has been active in the field of environment and nature protection, development of civil society and general improvement, particularly on topics related to sustainable waste management, education, and public engagement to overall environmental protection, using an interdisciplinary approach. Gabriјela's focus is to encourage the organizational development and strategic planning. Her experience emerged from management and participation in numerous national and international environmental projects, and her involvement in creation of numerous local and national environmental policies.



Ms. Elena Farnè
Freelance Architect

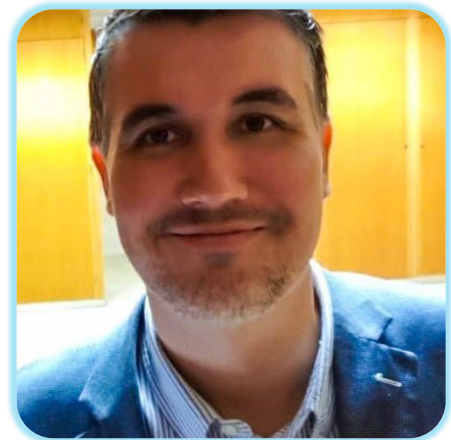
Elena is freelancer working in the fields of urban and landscape regeneration, climate adaptation, reuse of abandoned areas and the activation of local communities using participative and co-creations processes. She mainly works with public administrations, and professional and independent associations. Among her most recent activities, Elena carried out the Action Plan for Green Infrastructures for the Municipality of Ferrara, the Urban Regeneration and Climate Adaptation Project along the Medicina Canal in the province of Bologna, and the Home-School mobility action plan using NBS. She co-authored the REBUS learning programme on climate change adaptation, a manual on urban regeneration, and participated in creation of the guidelines for climate resilience in urban areas in the context of SOS4life project.



Mr. Mislav Kovač

Head of Sector for Coordination of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and Macro-Regional Strategies in Croatia

Mislav holds a MSc in geography and history from the University of Zagreb. For most of his professional career he worked in the field of regional development and EU funds. During this period he was appointed in different expert groups dealing with policy making and as a National representative in the Monitoring Committees for various Programmes. He joined Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds in 2014 and since then has been working in the European Territorial Cooperation field. Mislav currently performs duty as a Head of Sector for Coordination of European Territorial Cooperation Programmes and Macro-Regional Strategies.



Mr. Piero Pelizzaro

Director of Europe and International Relations – City of Bologna

Piero has 13 years of experience in climate change policies and urban resilience planning. Currently he is a Director of the European and International Relations Office of the City of Bologna, mainly engaged in climate change adaptation related initiatives and projects. Previously he was the a Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Milan. Furthermore, he acted as an advisor of the Italian Ministry of Ecological Transition for the National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change. Among other achievements, he was co-founder of Climalia – a specialized consulting company providing climate related services in Italy, where he operates as a Resilience Specialist. He has extensive expertise in projects financed by the European Commission and is specialized in Urban Resilience, Environmental Economic Accounting, Energy Scenario and Climate Change Impact Models. Piero is also a writer for different specialized magazines and web-portals dealing with climate change issues.



Mr. Giovanni Fini

Head of the Environment and Territory Protection sector - City of Cesena

Giovanni is a civil engineer and holds a PhD in spatial planning. From 1988 to 2020 he has worked for the city of Bologna holding various roles in environmental and urban planning. He coordinated the group of experts working on the Local Adaptation Plan approved in 2015 and was involved in the coordination of the European Urban Agenda partnership on Sustainable Land Use and Nature Based Solutions. Since 2020 he is working for the City of Cesena, the first Italian city to join the European Green City Accord initiative. He has been an adjunct professor of design at the University of Bologna.



Ms. Helena Brčić

Head of Department for Program Preparation and EU project at RERA S.D.

Helena is an experienced project manager and coordinator of various projects referencing cross-border programmes (IPA Adriatic, Adrion, SEE, HR-CG, HR-BiH, IT-HR), rural development programmes for the local communities (water supply and drainage systems, ungraded roads and strategic plans and programmes) and structural funds. Through her career, she also gained expertise as an assistant director at DUNEA Ltd - Regional Development Agency of Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Currently, Helena is acting as a Head of department for Program Preparation and EU projects at RERA S.D., a public institution that is managing and coordinating the development of Split-Dalmatia County.



Mr. Piero Di Carlo

Full Professor at University “G. D’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara

Since 2021 Piero is a Full Professor of atmospheric physics and climatology at the “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara. He graduated with honors in the field of physics from the University of L’Aquila, and obtained a PhD in Atmospheric Physics at the same University carrying out most of his doctorate at Pennsylvania State University researching the Michigan forest (USA) and urban areas of Houston (Texas). Until today, his research fields are mostly connected to the study of the Earth’s atmosphere, in particular the variations of trace gases composition and the effects on climate and human health, both from an experimental and modelling point of view. Moreover, Piero was directly involved in the activities of the JOINT-SECAP project of the Municipality of Pescara.



Mr. Ugo Toić
Director at IDA

Since 2011, Ugo has been Director of the Island Development Agency (IDA) and manager of many different projects dealing with issues on the Cres-Lošinj archipelago. In the last years, IDA is mainly focused on projects regarding sustainable tourism and energy transition. In 2019, Ugo coordinated the elaboration of the Energy Transition Agenda of the Cres-Lošinj archipelago. He is also the president of the assembly of the energy cooperative Apsyrtieds and is strongly committed to sustainable development and green transition of the archipelago.



CREATE – partners

lead partner



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DALMATINSKA
ŽUPANIJA**

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