

CREATE

Report from the Final Conference

“Responding to climate change: how to adapt and build solutions in the Adriatic area”

Deliverable 2.1.2

Work Package no 2

Activity no 1

Authors: Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change Foundation, National Research Council, Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar, IUAV University of Venice, Abruzzo Region, PAP/RAC Priority Action Programme Regional Activity Centre, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, County of Split-Dalmatia

28/06/2023

Contact: Margaretha.breil@cmcc.it

Public

Document History

Name (Institution)	Date	Change	Version
Breil (CMCC)	28/06/2023	draft	V01
CMCC	17/08/2023	final	V1.0

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1. Introduction

This document provides a brief summary on the CREATE final conference held in Venice on June 14th. It is complementary to the video and dissemination material produced in the context of the conference and published on the create YouTube channel (<https://ytube.io/3i9K>)

The Final conference of the project CREATE – “„Climate REsponses for the AdriaTic rEgion“ presented the opportunity for putting hands on how the knowledge collected can be used by local actors for increasing climate resilience on both sides of the Adriatic. The CREATE Toolbox which collects recent knowledge, instruments and guidance on climate change adaptation will be presented as one of the key project results, developed based on the analysis of knowledge collected from recent INTERREG projects and experiences with local climate adaptation projects in the Adriatic area. In particular, during the conference, the award ceremony of the A3-Adriatic Adaptation Award for good practice will take place.

The A3-Adriatic Adaptation Award invited for the submission of adaptation solutions developed and implemented in the Adriatic area. It aims at providing visibility to the best implementations, showcasing good practices and encouraging replications of actions which can enable the Adriatic Region to thrive under a changing climate.

2. Conference Agenda

Venue: NH Rio Novo Hotel, Calle Larga Ragusei, 3489/E-C, 30123 Venezia VE

9:30: 10:00 Registration

10:00 – 13:00 Presentation of the project and its achievements

- Short presentation of the project activities
- Experiences from Sister Projects: HATCH

11:00 coffee break

- Presentation of the CREATE **Toolbox of Knowledge**: instruments and guidance on climate change adaptation and resilience collected

13:00 – 14:00 Light Standing Buffet

14:00 15:30 CREATE A3 Adriatic Adaptation Award Ceremony

- Presentation of the awarded adaptation initiatives

15.30 – 16:00 Wrap up and conclusions: What's next?

16:00 – 16:30 Farewell coffee and Networking

3. Conference Report

Margaretha Breil, the project coordinator gave a brief overview on the scope of the project and the activities undertaken, underlining that the scope of the “cluster” project was not to produce new knowledge, but to select, organize and disseminate knowledge products from previously financed Interreg projects, both those represented in the project by project partners and by other relevant initiatives. Among the dissemination activities, the series of webinars Thursday CREATiVe Talks dedicated to key arguments relevant for local adaptation in the Adriatic area was of particular importance. Among the specific topics addressed during the project, further to the collection and availability of scientific knowledge on climate change particular importance was given to the challenge of finding suitable solutions for the governance of climate adaptation, with two workshops and an appointment in one webinar dedicated to this argument.

3.1. Sister projects

Sabina Susmel from the University of Udine illustrated the results achieved by the Hatch project a cluster project she was coordinating. The main product of this project consists of an open database, which collects geospatial resources capitalizing from the 7 ITHR Std projects involved into the HATCH project (AdSWiM, CREW, ECOMAP, ECOSS, SASPASS, SOUNDSCAPE, WATERCARE). This database shall support public administrators (and other relevant stakeholders) in taking decisions related to Maritime Spatial Planning in the Adriatic Sea, and is open for future integration by other transboundary projects and data sources generated, providing a stepstone to an more integrated geodatabase which could enhance the availability of data for the Adriatic region.

3.2. Knowledge products presented

Davide Bonaldo, representing the project partner CNR, explained the work undertaken in the CREATE project and the most important added values created. The efforts made to distill a focused fraction of support tools, guidance and information from a huge amount of information that had been created during the past programming period, selecting and condensing the information, instruments and knowledge into products which are immediately applicable for adaptation and able to increase the response capability of coastal systems in the Adriatic area and beyond. Providing support for immediate response of coastal systems and communities to climate change and the threats that are affecting our times has a high urgency is there which will require also additional knowledge and capacities to avoid maladaptation or negative responses and reactions. He presented the two forms of outputs created from the analysis performed throughout the project activities, which has entered in the systematic inventory of knowledge and the adaptation handbook which represents a selection of good practice examples.

3.3. Adriatic Adaptation Award ceremony

The Adriatic Adaptation Award had been launched by the CREATE project with the aim of showcasing successful examples of implemented adaptation action from the programme area. A Jury consisting of 5 members represented, during the conference, by Francesca Giordano from the Italian Environment Agency (ISPRA) selected four particularly interesting examples from the 11 projects submitted. Representatives of the winning projects presented their activity during the conference. (see videos with presentations of the four winners on YouTube <https://ytube.io/3i9j>)

Margaretha Breil mentioned that the selection of best practices among the project submitted was a hard task due to the very different and very interesting implementations, and that also some of the proposals not retained eligible because either still in the planning phase or not directly focused on adaptation to climate impact, yet very important for a more sustainable development of the Adriatic region.

Mr. Zaccaria, from the municipality of Lovran in Croatia has worked in collaboration with an NGO and a private farmer promoting the reintroduction of dry walls as a means for protection against land slides and protection of the traditional landscape. As Ms Giordano explained, the Jury appreciated in particular the engagement for recovering traditional agricultural techniques which have the capacity, among others, of preventing land-slides and reducing fire risk and support biodiversity. This example has been considered having a high potential to be a role model for the maintenance of the landscape and agriculture in many parts of the Adriatic area.

Mr. Montanari from the Emilia Romagna region presented the new regional strategy for the Integrated Management for Protection and Adaptation of the Coast to climate change (GIDAC) and in particular the participated procedure of this policy document for the Emilia-Romagna coastal area, which aims to reduce the vulnerability of the coastal territory and the exposure to risk of natural and anthropic elements, in relation to the danger and related impacts on the territory of current and expected meteo-marine phenomena due to climate change (erosion, SLR, storm surges, river/costal floodings, salinization of the groundwater). As Ms Giordano referred, the Jury appreciated in this proposal in particular the ambitious integrated and holistic approach to climate change adaptation based on ecosystem-based adaptation, the coherence with ICZM methodology for the Mediterranean region and the participative approach implemented involving in particular young people and establishing an inter-generational dialogue.

Ms Silvia Capelli from the City of Rimini presented the realization of the Parco del Mare which is transforming the City's 16 km of coastline in depth. The transformation of the area between beaches and urbanized areas aims providing protection for the city against marine intrusion and is combined with renovation of the sewage system which prevents sewage overflows and out spills of sewage into the sea. The heavy transformation has been combined with an attractive design which creates

new attractive spaces for outdoor activities, walking, cycling, sports and playgrounds. The Jury appreciated the courageous transformation of the seafront area into a green space which aims at protecting the urban area from flooding from the sea while creating a highly attractive urban space.

Finally Anja Ademi from the Municipality of Pula described the city's new concept of storm water drainage using Nature Based Solutions which is focused, since several years, on retaining rainwater and purified as much as possible of this water at the place where it originates in the city. The aim was to drastically reduce the amount of rainwater entering the sewage system by retaining it on green areas (free water level on green areas and/or underground retention) and, after purification, further infiltrating the terrain. This was achieved in a cooperation across different departments of the municipality. The Jury registered positively not only the number of sites already transformed with nature-based solutions to adapt the city for more intense precipitation and increased run off, but also the extent of cross-sector collaboration within your administration which made this transformation possible.

This concept and its consequent application was awarded as the best project among those submitted and awarded with the first prize of the Adriatic Adaptation Award.