

CREATE

Two project ideas for the 2021-2027 programming period

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1. Introduction

This document presents outlines for two project concepts that have been formulated as a result of the CREATE project's efforts. These ideas encompass both a standard project and a strategic project, both of which are designed to address pertinent issues in the 2021-2027 programming period.

The genesis of these new project ideas can be traced back to the ongoing discussion that have transpired throughout entirety of the CREATE project's duration. A critical catalyst for these ideas has been the engagement with project stakeholders, a one-year process that has been enriched through events such as the Adriatic Adaptation Award. In-depth interactions have also taken place with representatives of past relevant INTERREG projects, where knowledge-sharing sessions were conducted during the knowledge development phase, notably, a workshop held as a side event during the programme annual event in October 2022. In many occasions two key gaps have emerged. The first one regards the preparedness of technical personnel of local authorities, starting from professional education and culminating in broader engagement of civil society. The second argument centers on improving data accessibility. This doesn't merely entail creating additional knowledge platforms but rather embarking on a systematic endeavor to structure and collaboratively create a mechanism for all stakeholders, i.e. citizens, technicians and scientists, to access existing data comprehensively.

2. Standard project “Innovative strategies for knowledge creation and training for adaptation in coastal zones and the maritime space”

Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem based approaches

2.1. Abstract

The project primary objective is to enhance **sharing methodologies and approaches for developing novel and improve existing adaptation strategies** for straightforward integration of adaptation among practitioners of all relevant sectors: urban, coastal and maritime spatial planning. A key focus lies in expanding knowledge into the utilization of nature-based solutions. To achieve this, the project will forge novel collaborative frameworks among public authorities, research institutions, and private enterprises, who will facilitate the dissemination of cutting-edge scientific findings and promote multidisciplinary synergy across diverse institution. In this way a project will foster knowledge transfer processes to accelerate integrated planning for adaptation of urban and coastal domain while fostering sustainable growth and resilience.

2.2. Description

The results obtained from the CREATE project underscore a crucial aspect: in order to increase resilience in the Adriatic coastal areas, it is imperative to effectively address the challenge of knowledge and capacity transfer. This involves a catalyst of widespread targeted dissemination of knowledge and fostering the capacity-building initiatives. In such wise, adaptive capabilities and climate literacy can be elevated within local administrations and civil society, reinforcing existing frameworks and establishing new forms and channels for the exchange of knowledge. A key emphasis will be placed on integration of adaptation strategies into urban, coastal and maritime spatial planning among practitioners, with a particular focus on harnessing the benefits of nature-based solutions. This includes initiatives such as coastal re-naturing, establishment of biodiversity sanctuaries, and the exploration of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) .

The project will develop a layered network of channels that will serve to the evolving knowledge, by addressing the knowledge and needs for knowledge inputs emerging from each of the pilot-cases. This system of channels will provide access to existing knowledge repositories while pinpointing platforms and other sources that align with the requirements of local stakeholders including the wider public co-designing forms of knowledge transfer with technical experts from local institutions.. This will encompass seminars and informative webinars, knowledge exchanges among partner administrations, including cross-border interactions across participating institutions,

as well as targeted coaching sessions within local administrations. Beyond these specific knowledge gaps identified in partner administration and among technical staff, the project will explore dissemination options targeting climate literacy among the wider public and in particular in the secondary education system, organizing summer schools for university students, design modules for technical knowledge for university courses and secondary technical schools, taking particular care for the creation of hands-on experiences and co-creation of demonstrative implementation of measures. This approach aims to generate a robust and sustainable framework for knowledge dissemination and equip stakeholders at different levels with the insights needed to effectively integrate adaptation strategies also on the long term.

These forms of knowledge transfer will undergo testing in collaboration with the local partners responsible for drafting coastal adaptation strategies at local level. Specifically, the testing will involve 1 or 2 partners per country, focusing on climate change adaptation and land-sea interactions in coastal (touristic) locations. The formulation of curricula for localized training endeavors will be an outcome of close collaboration with local partners and will address all phases of the planning process for local strategies, encompassing the identification of scenarios, assessment of present and future risks, selection of responsive actions, and more. The ultimate outcome will be curricula and recommendations that will pave the way for localized training courses for administrations and technical staff.

For example, for university students, immersive summer schools will be crafted to provide in-depth understanding and hands-on experience. Simultaneously, efforts aimed at enhancing climate literacy will be channeled towards professional education institutions. This will encompass professional educational facilities, such as technical secondary schools, as well as universities specializing in training technicians, architects and planners. These types of programs will engage participants in meaningful ways, fostering a profound grasp of climate change adaptation strategies through practical engagement. The idea is to create a holistic and nature-based comprehension of climate change adaptation strategies y nurturing the future technical workforce within local administrations and civil society, these initiatives will forge a generation adept at harmonizing sustainable practices with real-world challenges.

Courses and activities designed for this category will be tailored to meet the specific characteristics of the educational institutions involved. The provisions will encompass both theoretical and hands-on forms of engagement, including dynamic components such as teacher-student exchanges and collaborative undertaking centered around climate change adaptation. Noteworthy facet will be the incorporation of practical experiences in comprehensive summer school (or autumn equivalent), focused on planning and execution of small-scale nature-based solutions (NBS) initiatives. This school would merge a diverse array of engagements, bounding potential cross-border exchanges between the two participating countries. The overarching objective is to pave the way for gradual evolution of existing curricula over the long-term initiating discussions with educational personal and teachers.

For the broader public, the project will encourage community-driven initiatives grounded in citizen science principles. Involving citizens in forms of monitoring of key parameters of climate change impacts which can support scientific monitoring techniques (e.g. photographic documentation, etc.), alongside the and renovation of local ecosystems with the imperative for their conservation. Integral to these undertakings is the monitoring of implemented NBS as a dynamic measure for cultivating a profound sense of ownership and a stewardship within single communities and across networks of citizen science projects that involve local communities in monitoring climate impacts, ecosystem changes and perhaps climate related parameters in different places.

2.3. Outputs

- 2-4 collaboratively developed coastal adaptation strategies (RCO83).
- Education programmes for integrated coastal and maritime adaptation within touristic coastal regions. The programmes will be jointly developed and piloted in 2 distinct cases (RCO85).
- Formulation and development of climate change adaptation modules (guidelines and/or recommendations) designed for integration into university and secondary school existing curricula. This includes comprehensive curricular resources aimed at preparation, dissemination, and education, and will consider diverse forms of educational institutes (specialized courses, workshops, and training materials for professionals and educators). Drafts for the integration of climate change adaptation into specific curricula will also be developed.
- Carrying out educational avenues such as summer schools and extracurricular practices targeting different forms of educational institutions and students. These avenues will facilitate a cross-border collaboration and exchanges between universities.
- Creation of hands-on initiatives and engagements regarding adaptation measures for students of secondary school and university, contributing to practical learning experiences (RCO85).

2.4. Partnership

Based on a continuity between coastal region/zupanje – local coastal local authority – protected area

- 1 – 2 Italian regions 1-2 Croatian provinces
- 3-4 Local authorities located on the coast for each country, in the area of participating regions
- 2 higher education institutions, one per country

- Authorities managing terrestrial and marine protected areas
- Civil society representatives, NGOs
- (If possible): representatives of marine sectors (harbours, aqua culture, tourist harbours),
- secondary schools in the area

2.5. Contribution to the EUSAIR strategy

The project will contribute to pillar 3 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - Promotion of sustainable growth of the Adriatic-Ionian area which is complementary with aspects like climate change adaptation, risks prevention, public participation, open decision-making process of territorial planning, risk management, protection of sensitive biodiversity in the A-I region, setting up of transboundary marine protected areas; Setting up of ecological networks of marine protected areas, improving water quality, decreasing marine pollution (marine litter, micro plastic).

2.6. Correspondence with the programme intervention logic

Expected results	Topics addressed	Indicative actions	Output indicators	Result indicators
Sharing of methodologies and approaches to define new or improved adaptation strategies	Adaptation strategies and solutions	Promoting cooperation between public authorities, research institutions and private companies in order to take advantage of new scientific results and multidisciplinary research to improve observation of climate change effects and plan and define the related adaptation strategies in line with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with the European Green Deal	RCO 83 Strategies and action plans jointly developed	RCR 79 Number of joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations RCR 81 Number of completions of joint training schemes RCR 104 Number of solutions taken up or up scaled by organisations
		Studying and testing integrated climate-adaptation solutions for different domains/target groups of population and enhancing the definition of common datasets on atmospheric parameters for climate analysis and impact assessment or improving the usability of existing ones	RCO 116 Jointly developed solutions	
		Exchanging good practices to monitor, manage, mitigate and support the adaptation to climate change effects on the most relevant economic sectors	RCO 115 Public events across borders jointly organized	
Increased effectiveness of joint monitoring systems	Data gathering and exchange	Encouraging the development or capitalisation of data gathering tools (i.e., sensor systems, web-based platforms) and small-scale infrastructure for observing climate change effects, especially where monitoring systems are absent at cross-border level	RCO 84 Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	
		Promoting networking activities and exchanges in order to define common indicators and increase the usability of existing database	RCO 115 Public events across borders jointly organized	

Improved awareness about climate change effects on natural and cultural heritage and on local economic activities	Training courses	Developing training courses for policy makers and general service providers on relevant topics linked to climate change and its consequences in order to better design new policies and promoting workshops/seminars dealing with new sustainable and adaptive climate smart models	RCO 85 Participations in joint training schemes	
	Awareness raising	Integrated cross-border community-based initiatives aiming at fostering active awareness about anthropogenic changes on local ecosystems and related adaptation measures Students and teachers' exchanges aimed at developing common projects on climate change adaptation	RCO 115 Public events across borders jointly organized	
Source: INTERREG ITALY-CROATIA PROGRAMME 2021 – 2027; Programme Intervention Logic Version 1.0 – 17th November 2022 https://www.italy-croatia.eu/documents/555109/576296/Programme_intervention_logic.pdf/626227a6-e930-cd1b-6718-127ed7f26ba7?t=1683652088851				

3. Strategic Project: “Data for Climate action in the Adriatic Region”

Reference to the Programme 2021 -2027

2.1.1. Specific objective: RSO2.4. Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience taking into account ecosystem-based approaches

Strategic theme:

Improve the availability of homogeneous and comparable meteo-oceanographic data, topographic data (slope, elevation), land cover changes data, population exposed etc. in the Adriatic area; Enhance adaptive capacity increasing climate literacy in local administrations and civil society.

3.1. Abstract

To address limited availability of meteo-oceanographic, topographic and socio-economic data at the local level for consistent climate change planning, a comprehensive approach is needed. One approach is to train local technicians and civil society to enhance their understanding of climate data, i.e. promoting climate literacy. Simultaneously, the project aims to close data gaps by collecting and consolidating fragmented data from multiple funded projects into a centralized database, to provide access to more accurate future scenarios and climate indicators for local-level adaptation planning.

The aim of the project is to recognize the importance of optimizing existing institutional monitoring of climate science in collaboration with environmental agencies responsible for statutory monitoring activities. The goal is to develop a strategic plan for a climate monitoring system in the Adriatic region. This involves establishing of joint climate data platform specifically for the Adriatic, building upon the progress made in the ADRIAclim project. The platform will create a regional network of climate data observations and a permanent accessible. The ultimate objective is to improve data availability, accessibility, and usability, especially for project-generated data from short-term measurement campaigns.

3.2. Project Description

The project aims to enhance the existing knowledge gathered from cluster projects, in particular the CREATE project. The CREATE project has been instrumental in systematically recognizing the available data sources. New project will carefully evaluate the data and develop a strategy to provide access to data using a single portal (e.g. portal of portals, map based portal) for homogenizing and integrating past and future data sources into a regional database. This database shall provide simple access to relevant information for relevant actors and standardized data for scientists using previously defined protocols. While functioning as a one-stop portal, it should provide access to reports in a user-friendly form accessible for non-scientists as well as to climate

data for scientists stored on specific platforms. The process will involve assessing which data can be standardized for consistency and determining whether integration is feasible with existing databases. By updating and consolidating the data into one standardized regional database, the project aims to improve accessibility and usability including the promotion of more comprehensive understanding of the region's climate and environmental factors.

The information collected from previous projects and other existing data sources will be used to identify spatial and thematic gaps and develop strategies for filling these gaps. The aim is to allow for better assessment of existing climate-related trends in the region, needed for a better definition of the local and regional needs or climate adaptation. At the same time, the project needs to address the problem of the data collection funded in projects, thus for a limited period of time, is often followed by abandonment of established stations at the conclusion of the project, and therefore address the need and opportunities in the form of existing infrastructures for long-term climate-related data collection. These gaps will be addressed through discussion with end users in the area, (scientists, regional institutional data providers, NGOs Universities, etc.). This database will serve as a platform to integrate a basin-wide climate monitoring network specifically designed for the Adriatic region. By engaging with institutional data providers and leveraging their expertise, the project aims to enhance data coverage and ensure the inclusion of critical climate and environmental information.

To complement these activities, the project will start a pilot for data collection based on citizen science or other innovative forms of data collection (e.g. distribution of sensors to private volunteers, schools, etc.). Such information will be made available in a special section of the platform dedicated to "citizen science". In this way, collected data could be used for mapping of the occurrence of invasive species, erosion visual documentations of climate extremes, or the distribution of temperature data collected with loggers used to monitor marine heat waves. This latter activity will contribute to the awareness raising activities aiming at increasing climate literacy among citizens, working in particular with higher education institutes.

At the local administration level, there is a crucial need to enhance "climate literacy" by raising awareness and improving understanding of the interconnection between current and projected climate impacts, vulnerabilities and future risks. This involves fostering knowledge among local technicians and policymakers to assess and address the challenges posed by climate change adaptation. By increasing climate literacy, local administrations can better evaluate the potential risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change and develop effective strategies to mitigate its impacts. This will enable them to make informed decisions and implement appropriate measures to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity within their communities. Ultimately, this will lead to an effective climate change adaptation planning and decision-making at the local level.

The project will develop awareness-raising activities targeting public administrations through partnerships between more experienced and less experienced local administrations involved in the project. This will be facilitated through a twinning program that pairs administrations or scientific

institutions from both countries, as well as cross-border training programs aimed at fostering innovation and facilitating the exchange of knowledge creation and dissemination experiences. These activities will create opportunities for knowledge-sharing, capacity building, and the transfer of best practices between administrations at different stages of climate change adaptation, alongside the mitigation activities. The idea is to enhance the overall effectiveness of public administration in addressing climate change challenges.

Advanced local authorities that have already developed climate strategies will receive support in implementing these strategies into practical executive plans, such as coastal management and urban plans. Simultaneously, “newcomer” administrations will begin their initial foray into climate planning. Emphasis will be placed on the sustainability of the implemented adaptation options, with a focus on enhancing knowledge about Nature-based Solutions (NbS).

Both groups of local administrations will engage in the design of bankable projects aligned with their new or existing climate strategies, with a particular emphasis on integrating NbS practices. The project partners will provide targeted assistance to local authorities, including vulnerability analysis, selection of climate indicators, coaching, thematic seminars, and informative webinars on key aspects of adaptation planning. By receiving support and guidance from project partners, local authorities will be equipped to address climate change challenges in a sustainable and resilient manner.

Another aspect of the awareness-raising activities centers around engaging secondary education, including universities and secondary professional schools. These institutions will play a crucial role in developing small-scale pilot projects focused on designing, and if appropriate, implementing adaptation initiatives as part of their activities. Additionally, they will explore the integration of climate change planning into their curricula to address future professional requirements in this field. The objective is to involve secondary education institutions in practical projects that allow students to gain hands-on experience in climate change adaptation. This involvement will also foster discussions and encourage the development of innovative concepts for curriculum changes that align with the evolving needs of professionals in the context of climate change planning. With this approach, secondary education institutions can ensure that students are well-prepared to address the challenges posed by climate change in their future lives and professional careers. The awareness-raising activities will foster a culture of sustainability and resilience among the younger generation, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to tackle climate change effectively.

The project aims at implementing various forms of targeted (and tested) knowledge transfer integrated with activities aiming at the increase of climate literacy targeting professional education (e.g. technical secondary schools) as well as universities catering for education of technicians, architects and planners, to create on the long term, an understanding integrated and nature based approaches for climate adaptation among future technical staff in local authorities and in civil society.

Courses and activities to be created for this type of activities will differ between types of institutions, including both theoretical and practical activities, as summer schools and short courses for universities, teacher and student exchanges as well as common projects on climate change adaptation, hands-on experiences on planning and realization of small scale NBS solutions, for secondary school students, etc. on an extra-curricular basis with the aim of paving the way for triggering actualization of existing curricula which will include these arguments.

Regarding the wider public, the project will promote community-based initiatives for citizen science regarding key parameters for impacts of climate change and transformation of local ecosystems and their conservation and the monitoring of implemented NBS as a measure for creating a sense of ownership.

3.3.Outcomes:

- Concept for a regional data platform,
- Concept for an Adriatic network for climate monitoring data strategy
- implementation of small infrastructures for data collection;
- programme for a summer school for training activities for climate adaptation (universities)
- programme for two adaptation workshops and courses in primary and secondary education institutions

Corresponding to: (programme output indicators)

- Strategies and action plans jointly developed
- Jointly developed solutions
- Public events across borders jointly organized
- Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
- Participations in joint training schemes
-
- enhanced climate change adaptation capacity
- increased climate literacy
- establishment of the enhanced monitoring network
- integration of climate change adaptation in education
- fostering a generation of professionals who are proactive in addressing climate challenges and contributing to a sustainable future

3.4.Outputs:

Advanced concept for an Adriatic network of climate monitoring

Further development of the Climate Data Platform

- Number of joint strategies and action plans taken up by organizations,
- Number of completions of joint training schemes,
- Number of solutions taken up or up scaled by organizations.

3.5.Partnership

- Institutions in charge of environmental monitoring and management,
- Research institutions,
- Universities,
- Members of the Adriatic Network of practitioners (local and regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs),
- Schools (secondary school, professional education).

3.6.Contribution to the EUSAIR strategy

The project will contribute to pillar 3 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - Promotion of sustainable growth of the Adriatic-Ionian area which is complementary with aspects like climate change adaptation, risks prevention, public participation, open decision-making process of territorial planning, risk management, protection of sensitive biodiversity in the A-I region, setting up of transboundary marine protected areas; Setting up of ecological networks of marine protected areas, improving water quality, decreasing marine pollution (marine litter, micro plastic).

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