

**Interreg**  
**Italia-Slovenija**



Cofinanziato  
dall'Unione europea  
Sofinancira  
Evropska unija

OPERATIONS OF STRATEGIC  
IMPORTANCE  
INTERREG VI-A  
ITALY – SLOVENIA  
2021-2027

Approved by the European Commission

Decision EC C(2022) 5745 – August, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

**1) Implementation, in the Programme area, of the EUSAIR flagship and crosspillar project idea ADRIATIC IONIAN CYCLE route for sustainable TOURism (ADRIONCYCLETOUR).**

The main objective of the operation is contributing to define the cycling route running along the coast of the Adriatic Sea in Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto regions) and in Slovenia (coastal network), including its main cycle connections to the hinterland areas (inland network), and in contributing to develop, at EUSAIR level, an innovative and attractive cross-border/transnational tourism product on the ADRIATIC-IONIAN Cycle Route. The strategic project will contribute to the sustainable development of the territory at cross-border and at macro-regional scale, promoting both sustainable tourism and mobility and supporting the tourism industry in full compliance with the environmental and historical assets of both the Programme area and the entire EUSAIR area.

**Indicative activities of the proposed project are:**

- developing a diversified cross-border/transnational tourism offer along the cycle routes, based on a “slow tourism” model and on the valorisation of the tangible and intangible heritage existing along them;
- establishing and enhancing the cooperation among public/private tourism service providers at local, regional and cross-border level, to improve and upgrade the overall quality of the tourism offer, in all segments of the tourism supply chain;
- increase the competitiveness of local service providers and stimulate the creation of new services for different segments of the tourism market;
- contributing to insert the entire ADRIATIC-IONIAN Cycle Route in the EuroVelo network;
- contributing, with cycle infrastructures planning, designing, signing and construction, to the completion of the coastal cycle route and the main cycle connections to the inland areas, according to shared quality standards;
- jointly developing a network of cross-border and internal intermodal services (by train, bus and boat), to support the cyclists' journeys, and joint integrated informative tools on cycle routes and timetables of intermodal connections;
- enhancing of physical and non-physical infrastructures (e.g., equipping intermodal exchange nodes, cycling information points, ICT applications/tools/smart app).

In order to boost cycling tourism and make the whole Programme area more attractive from a touristic point of view, project activities (such as designing, signing or infrastructural investments) will focus on the following cycling axis/ sections:

1. Gorenjska region (Tarvisio – Rateče – Kranjska Gora – Jesenice – Bled – Bohinj)
2. Goriška region (Soča corridor towards Kobarid and Italian border, Cividale direction, section Kobarid – Robič, national border)
3. Gorizia – Nova Gorica (section Gorizia – Gradisca d’Isonzo – Punta Sdobba)
4. Parenzana (section along Bertoki)
5. Trieste – Lignano - Venezia

**Relevant partnership:**

Lead Partner: Central Directorate for Infrastructure and Territory – Transport, Digital and Sustainable Mobility Infrastructure Service of Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

Project partners:

Italian side

- PromoTurismoFVG
- VeGAL – Development agency of eastern Veneto

Slovenian side

- BSC, Business Support Center, Ltd, Kranj - Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska
- Regional Development Centre Koper
- Soča Valley Development Centre
- Municipality of Kobarid

Associated partners:

- Veneto Region – Infrastructure and Transport Directorate

**Timetable: from September 1st, 2022; duration: 36 months**

**Budget:** ERDF 3.500.000 Euro.

## **2) Strategic project POSEIDONE - Promotion Of greenSEa Infrastructure Devoted tO a New Environment**

The project is addressing the North Adriatic Sea functional area stretching from Chioggia to end of Slovene coastal area with the main objective of promoting local development on common needs and challenges through interventions in three different fields: protection of nature and biodiversity, development of green and blue infrastructure (in Natura 2000 sites and in the agricultural field) and the decrease of touristic pressure on natural parks.

### **Indicative activities of the proposed project are:**

- strengthening of institutional technical skills and knowledge transfer with the aim of identifying and promoting eco-sustainable and innovative management strategies for the quality of water and beaches;
- the collaboration between institutions and private operators to study coordinated systems against beach erosion and to improve the outflow of flood waters through integrated management systems of inlets;
- the monitoring of coastal habitats important for biodiversity and planning of interventions to remove the causes of environmental alteration.

More in detail, the exemplary actions are:

- *For sustainable, slow, rural tourism:* implementation of tools for the planning of sustainable tourism; promotion activities, knowledge and enhancement of territories; conservation of the natural and cultural landscape; communication activities: increase the knowledge of the territories and the natural and cultural offer.
- *Investments for the conservation and implementation of green and blue infrastructure:* identification of green and blue infrastructure that is important to the EU and also protected species in the cross-border landscape of IT-SI; implementation of green/blue infrastructure; restoration and improvement of environmental conditions of green/blue areas and infrastructures with high naturalistic value; communication activities: increase awareness of environmental conservation and biodiversity protection.
- *Services for the enhancement and protection of biodiversity:* cross-border identification of good practices for the management and restoration of biodiversity; improvement of the use of Green/Blue infrastructures; strengthening of monitoring dedicated to nature protection, air pollutants and biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOC) included, to control on one hand the worsening of the conditions of polluted sites, and on the other the increasing of ozone peaks; memoranda of understanding/public/private collaboration for the safeguard of the littoral and high natural areas, from floating waste; communication activities: increase the involvement of public/private actors through the creation of networks, protocols, shared activities.
- *Pilot projects:* launch of a pilot project of study, design and experimentation on the territory concerned for the evaluation of the carbon footprint of an area and proposals for its reduction; pilot actions in the agricultural sector: farmers as custodians of agro-

food biodiversity, conservation fields and food communities; pilot action in the fisheries/aquaculture sector for the monitoring and conservation of marine biodiversity.

**Relevant partnership:**

Lead Partner: VeGAL – Development Agency of Eastern Veneto

Italian side

Project partners:

- Veneto Region, Tourism Directorate, O.U. Regional Strategy for Biodiversity and Parks
- Eastern Veneto Consortium for Land Reclamation
- CORILA, Consortium for Coordination of Research Activities Concerning the Venice Lagoon System
- Municipality of Staranzano
- WWF Italy, Marine Protected Area of Miramare

Associated partners:

- Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Central Directorate for Agri-food, Forestry and Fishery Resources - Biodiversity Service
- OGS National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics
- Legambiente
- Municipality of Marano Lagunare
- Veneto Region - Department for Spatial Planning

Slovenian side

Project partners:

- The Regional Development Centre Koper (RDC Koper)
- Public Institute Landscape Park Strunjan
- DOPPS -BirdLife Slovenia (Škocjanski Zatok Nature Reserve)
- Municipality of Ankaran (Debeli rtič Landscape Park)
- The Science and Research Centre Koper (ZRS Koper)
- Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Agricultural and Forestry Institute Nova Gorica, OE Koper

Associated partners:

- Sečovlje Salina Nature Park
- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Directorate for the Environment, Nature Conservation Division

**Timetable:** from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023; duration: 36 months.

**Budget:** ERDF 3.500.000 Euro.

### **3) Strategic project KRAS-CARSO II**

The Classical Karst or Karst Plateau, land border functional area between the Gulf of Trieste and the Vipava Valley and between the Soča Valley and Brkini, is an area of 700 km<sup>2</sup>, about 60,000 inhabitants, with predominantly rural area with few smaller towns and many nucleated villages with clustered settlements and intensive architectural use of stone.

Cross-border cooperation of the local community worked through Interreg projects for over 20 years: Kras Carso Project developed strategic cross-border documents and initiative to establish a Karst geopark, GeoKarst Project is developing a joint management plan for the cross-border geopark.

The main objective of the operation, taking care of intention of the local authorities and the sustainable development of the Classical Karst at the cross-border level, is the establishment of Kras Carso EGTC.

The strategic project contributes to the sustainable development of the cross-border functional area of the Classical Karst, promoting sustainable tourism, supporting the slow tourism industry in full compliance of the environmental and historical assets of the local area, exploiting the experiences gained within previous Interreg projects.

#### **Indicative activities of the proposed project are:**

- Establishment of a common structure for joint sustainable management of the Classical Karst cross-border functional area;
- Establishment of funding flows to support the Karst geopark management structure identified within the GeoKarst project and for the procedure support of the candidacy to UNESCO Global Geopark Network;
- Enhancement of the common information and reservation system for the joint marketing of products and development of a communication platform;
- Development of innovative, integrated tourist products based on the natural and cultural sights of the Classical Karst area:
  - upgrading existing reception centres;
  - establishment of cross-border tourist trails (e.g. geo trails and bora trails) and a network of hiking trails;
  - establishing cross-border cycling connections;
  - preparation of cross-border tourist packages;
  - development of experience tourism with the involvement of the creative sector.
- Preservation, revitalization, maintenance and promotion of tangible and intangible heritage:
  - gastronomy (cuisine);
  - agriculture (viticulture);
  - local customs;
  - Karst geodiversity and geosites;

- karst drywall construction;
  - karst architecture;
  - karst water resources and springs;
  - Candidacy to Global Heritage Stones (GHS);
  - thematic routes;
  - cultural monuments.
- Organization of cross-border events;
  - Integration of providers from rural areas at local and cross-border level;
  - Implementation of scientific studies about geology, karstology, geomorphology, hydrogeology and paleontology of the Classical Karst area;
  - Documentation and popularization of geoheritage via innovative methods as, e.g., 3D digital modelling, virtual reality, interactive expositions;
  - Awareness raising and training or education of providers, tourism actors, schools, local population;
  - Integration of the economic and cultural sector with innovative or creative content;
  - Digitization in the tourism sector in order to contribute to product diversification and provide assistance in the recovery after the pandemic;
  - Promotion of the sustainable mobility and the use of public transport for residents and visitors;
  - Environmental protection (protection of the geodiversity and awareness raising).

**Relevant partnership:**

Lead Partner: Karst and Brkini Regional Development Agency

Project partners:

Slovenian side

- Municipality of Sežana
- Park Škocjan Caves, Slovenija
- The Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Karst Research Institute
- Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation
- Geological Survey of Slovenia
- University of Primorska, Faculty of Tourism

Italian side

- LAG Carso
- FVG Region – Geological Service
- PromoTurismo FVG
- University of Trieste, Department of Mathematics and Geosciences
- University of Padua – Department of Geosciences
- CNR – National Research Council

- Civic Museum of Natural History – Trieste

Associated partners:

- Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning (Slovenia)
- Ministry of Economic Development and Technology; Tourism Directorate
- Veneto Region – Soil and Coastal Defence Directorate
- Municipality of Divača
- Municipality of Hrpelje-Kozina
- Municipality of Komen
- Municipality of Miren-Kostanjevica
- Municipality of San Dorligo della Valle
- Municipality of Doberdò del Lago
- Municipality of Duino Aurisina
- Municipality of Sagrado
- Slovene touristic organisation
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, Department of Geology

**Timetable:** from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023; duration: 36 months.

**Budget:** ERDF 3.500.000 Euro.