

First Routes4U meeting for the Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR)

"Fostering regional development through the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe"

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(Centro Congressi San Servolo, San Servolo Island)

Workshop 2: Transnational networks for cultural cooperation

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INTRODUCTION INTO THE TOPIC

Transnational networks for cultural cooperation are the key to a healthier regional development in the wider context of the Adriatic and Ionian Region. **Cultural Routes certified by the Council of Europe give testimony of transnational cultural networks.**

The **Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society of the Council of Europe, 2005 (FARO Convention)** is the leading document which highlights the need for the appreciation of heritage as well as the inclusion of communities and society in this process. This convention stresses that *"cultural heritage [is] as a factor in sustainable economic development"*. **No regional development can be sustainable if it does not take into consideration the cultural aspects** that constitute the common identity of the people.

Cross border cooperation is the natural outcome of the diverse but yet full of energy networks which shape the way how information is processed and circulated amongst the countries, with its final aim to **protect and safeguard for the future generations our common cultural heritage**. In the Adriatic and Ionian Region exist differences in nature, characteristics and conditions of individual sites as well as differences in local and national socio-political, legal, cultural and economic contexts in which the sites are situated.

Cross-border cooperation programmes are well placed to **identify opportunities for our common growth and find innovative solutions**. The **transnational cooperation is the precondition for the overall objectives of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) to promote sustainable economic and social prosperity of the Region** through synergies and coordination among all territories and stakeholders in the Adriatic and Ionian Region. Transnational networks for cultural cooperation are not only testimonies of our common points of interests and of our common cultural heritage, but they also provide the basis for future cooperation in the political and economic context.

The sustainable protection and use of heritage to the sustainable development of tourism and the strengthening of local communities is of utmost importance. With the beginning of the 21st century there has been a shift in paradigm, the **approach and related practices of heritage protection in most of the countries in Europe aimed at making a more sustainable and long-term use of cultural heritage locations**. This shift requires not only seeing heritage sites as a cultural value to be protected, but as a **common public asset which, if rehabilitated, used and properly managed, can generate additional cultural, social, human and economic capital**. Some of these elements are still to be achieved in the Adriatic and Ionian Region, since some of the AIR-countries receive almost full state support, public financing, and have a **high level of institutionalization of heritage which makes it hard for other stakeholders, such as policy makers, business, education and non-governmental sectors to build capacities and get actively involved in the heritage protection and management**.

Routes4U Project

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MAIN OBJECTIVES

This workshop brings together all those working on transnational networks for cultural cooperation in Adriatic and Ionian Region. The aim is to **exchange on diverse aspects of the transnational networks with a specific focus on Cultural Routes in the Adriatic and Ionian Region**. Cooperation and specifically transnational networks have proven to be vital to our common understanding of culture. If the processes of preparatory actions, creation of management tools, plans and strategies for heritage protection and sustainable use are participatory from the very beginning, they will most certainly **built the awareness, mutual understanding, knowledge, and diversify the skills of stakeholders** involved and create the conditions for the long term management of the common heritage of the region and its sustainable use.

EU and non EU countries can further discover the joint but also opposite views of the transnational networks in the Adriatic and Ionian Region and how they function. It also allows to exchange on lessons learnt and best practices of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia. All AIR-countries can profit of this exchange of experience and expertise.

This workshop focuses on how the social aspects, political, economic and the cultural heritage have interacted in various countries and regions by looking at the below aspects:

1. The **protection and promotion of heritage across the borders of the AIR-countries and through the Cultural Routes**
2. Transnational links which focus on the **exchange of ideas, practices, things, goods, capital** and people for sustainable regional development
3. **Best practices and lessons learnt on social inclusion** as well as religious, cultural and economic networks.
4. Fostering ties – (arts, literature etc) and **creating sustainable transnational networks of cultural cooperation in the Adriatic and Ionian region**
5. Why **cultural cooperation is useful**, how you can ensure transborder cultural cooperation
6. Transnational movement of material, cultural, literary and scientific practices and the ways in which they shaped local identities and institutional politics in various countries.

KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED

1. “Innovative” ways of **how to improve the cooperation between the Adriatic-Ionian region countries through the Cultural Routes?**
2. **Cooperation between EU and non EU countries;** benefits and challenges? Which are the key instruments to be used in the process of cooperation?
3. **What are the most effective tools for cultural cooperation** to be used in the Adriatic and Ionian region?
4. What can be the **impacts of a stronger cooperation between the Adriatic-Ionian region countries?**
5. How can **networks become sustainable** and what are the impediments of their functioning?
6. Describe the type of change we would like to see in our region - What does it look like?
7. What’s working? What’s not working well?
8. How **does EUSAIR benefit from the results of our cooperation as a whole?**
9. What would networks, stakeholders, beneficiaries even our governments miss out if the cooperation is not sufficient?

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