Growing Cooperation in the South East Europe Area

Projects funded within the SECOND CALL for proposals

Jointly for our common future
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The South East Europe Transnational Cooperation Programme

The South East Europe Programme is a unique instrument which, within the framework of the Regional Policy’s Territorial Cooperation Objective, aims to improve integration and competitiveness in an area which is as complex as it is diverse.

The programme supports projects developed within four Priority Axes: Innovation, Environment, Accessibility, and Sustainable Growth Areas - in line with the Lisbon and Gothenburg priorities -, and contributes to the integration processes of the non-EU member states.

It aims to develop transnational partnerships in matters of strategic importance, to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to the cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the region. To this end, the programme seeks to realise high quality, result oriented projects of strategic character which are relevant to the programme area.
General Introduction

Efficient commitment of the available funds and effective selection of the best projects in order to achieve the identified goals of the SEE Programme

These are the two of the main ingredients of the recipe used by the Partner States supported by the Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat to ensure successful implementation, the results of which are beginning to show in the regions of the South East Europe.

Following the enormous success in terms of interest of the first call (more than 800 Expressions of Interest submitted!) the Programme Bodies initiated vivid and intensive discussion to prepare the further steps. The challenge was two-fold: to support the generation of proposals insisting on those Areas of Intervention that were not challenged enough and to encourage applicants to prepare projects better aligned with the requirements of transnational cooperation.

This call also showed some impressive figures: despite the fact that only a specific number of Areas of Intervention within the four operational priorities (Innovation, Environment, Accessibility and Sustainable Growth Areas) were open, more than 500 expressions of interest were submitted.

Out of those 500 expressions of interest, 26 projects were approved, with an overall allocation of EUR 43,480,068.75 ERDF funds and EUR 3,517,123.76 IPA funds.

These figures join the EUR 76.6 million allocated to the 40 projects approved within the framework of the first call.

The steps taken have been significant:

1. a gap analysis, dedicated to assessing qualitatively the results of the 1st CfP in terms of type of operation financed and inadequately developed potential ideas, was prepared by the JTS;
2. a feedback mechanism platform was set up to allow Partner States to update the analysis of their territorial needs;
3. a new selection procedure was prepared using the original approved selection criteria, a simplified process and reduced formalities.

These steps paved the way to the second call for projects, finalized in Spring 2011.
More than 400 institutions belonging to the 16 countries forming the SEE programme are working together in the activities foreseen by the projects, which provides a good picture of the extent and dynamism of the cooperation. Without taking into account the populations of the countries, the lead partners and partners per country in the first and second calls for proposals are broken down as follows:

![Geographical distribution of number of LP and PP per country](image-url)
This publication aims to present to the general public the activities co-funded by the programme, promoting its actions and achieved results and having them possibly implemented by a greater number of entities of South East Europe, other than the direct beneficiaries.

Each section dedicated to a project contains the general data of the project, including the list of partners and the allocated budget, the main objective and the results and outcomes. When this catalogue is published, the activities of the projects will still be in progress, so you will need to search for an updated list of the results and outcomes of all the projects (available in 2013) on the SEE programme website, (www.southeast-europe.net).

The 26 projects included in this catalogue help the integration process of the area and contribute to making South East Europe a more competitive place. The projects benefit from an exchange of experience and joint work on new and interesting ideas, while developing new opportunities for the region.

We invite you to take a closer look at the work that has been done by these interesting projects and to follow the partnerships that have been developed so far in the South East Europe region. Cooperation in this area is producing some valuable results for our common future and this project catalogue is a good example of that.

We hope that it will make an enjoyable read.
The objective of this Priority Axis of the SEE programme is to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and the knowledge-based economy, as well as to enhance integration and economic relations in the area through cooperation among different economic, social and scientific actors.

This objective will be achieved by projects tackling the following Areas of Intervention (AoI):

Aol 1.1: Develop technology and innovation networks in specific fields

Aol 1.2: Develop the enabling environment for innovative entrepreneurship

Aol 1.3: Enhance the framework conditions, and pave the way for innovation
Only proposals challenging needs and solving problems in line with the AoI 1.3 were considered eligible within the framework of the second call. Finally, 6 projects were approved for financing, joining the portfolio with the other 11 projects already selected in the first call. These operations aim to foster innovation, research technologies and ICT in various sectors with a particular focus on the food industry. Special attention to SMEs is ensured by the involvement of numerous entrepreneur associations. The actions put in place have promoted the capacity-building and networking of science centres while improving competitiveness and regional development in an area characterized by the fundamental changes in economic production patterns which occurred in the 1990s. There is a clear need to adapt the economies of partner states to the global market. SEE is a tool for responding to that demand!

Some of the outcomes of the projects are described in this catalogue: capacity-building tools; training courses; evaluation standards on Research, Technology Development and Innovation; a strategy roadmap on regional innovation and entrepreneurship enhancement; good practices guidelines on innovation; networks of cooperation among stakeholders; the offer and demand of innovation maps or virtual SEE Science Centres.
Objective
To improve the enabling environment for food innovation through transnational collaboration by means of increasing the capacity of the supporting institutional framework, to improve their coordination, to reduce the barriers to innovation by promoting the use of ICT solutions and to increase public awareness of benefits of innovation in the food sector.

Achievements
Although the food industry has specific importance in SEE economies, the degree of innovation in the region is unsatisfactory, due partly to the non-favourable environment and partly to the lack of support in society. A SEE forum is established for the exchange of the successful practices of the National Food Technology Platforms and other voluntary initiatives of stakeholders for the enhancement of innovation.

The barriers to innovation will be exploited with institutions in focus groups in 9 countries. Capacity-building tools for improving governance (national innovation strategies, operating industry innovation panels, best practice guides, ICT solutions) and tools for increasing public awareness (communication campaigns, virtual forums) are developed for the support of institutions. ‘Train the trainers’ courses on food chain management, knowledge transfer and using ICT based solutions in the food sector are also provided.

Lead partner
TETALAP-Hungarian Science and Technology Foundation (Hungary)

Partnership countries
Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2,253,178,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1,703,929,00 €
IPA contribution: 211,271,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
To promote the role of Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) evaluations in South East Europe as an important element of strategic policy intelligence for the improvement of national research and innovation systems; to develop needed capacities and competencies and to provide procedural and methodological know-how and tool kits both on the part of the evaluators and of awarding authorities.

Achievements
Evaluations are one of the most essential tools for evidence-based decision-making. This is especially true in the South East European (SEE) region, which is characterized by the emergence of new Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) policies, programmes and (support) organisations as well as funding transformation aimed at competitive schemes. However, a lack of methodological and procedural know-how in the case of both the evaluators and the awarding authorities is clear in relation to the purpose, design and use of evaluations in the region, and the potential for evaluations to build strategic intelligence is not yet being fully exploited.

Therefore, the activities within the EVAL-INNO project aimed at building up RTDI evaluation intelligence in the South East Europe region include publication of evaluation standards, training activities, workshops and conferences and the establishment of exchange platforms and databases, as well as the implementation of pilot evaluations.

Fostering Evaluation Competencies in Research, Technology and Innovation in the SEE Region

Lead partner
ZSI-Centre for Social Innovation (Austria)

Partnership countries
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia

Overall project budget: 1.474.935,00 €
ERDF contribution: 994.776,00 €
IPA contribution: 258.918,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
**Objective**
To contribute to better productivity and to achieve better-comparable levels of innovativeness in the countries in the SEE region. This objective will be achieved with the effective implementation and sustainability of innovation supporting instruments and mechanisms in the participating countries, and at the same time increasing the capacity of key innovation actors in the SEE countries.

**Achievements**
South East Europe (SEE) countries elaborate and implement innovation policies with various degree of effectiveness. There is a lack of cooperation, capacity and common understanding of the innovation performance, policies and supporting instruments in the region.

To improve this situation, the project FINNO first monitored and compared innovation performance in SEE by developing a common methodology and analysing the results of the Technology Innovation Assessment Scoreboard (TIAS) and the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) in the region as a whole and in each participating country. In the second step, it created a communication platform for decision-makers, supported by a sustainable mechanism for fostering innovation in the SEE area and by the FINNO Committee. This is a legal governance body providing constant and relevant common policy recommendations and new or improved tailored innovation-supporting instruments on the SEE level and in each participating country.

**Lead partner**
TIA-Public Agency for Technology of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia)

**Partnership countries**
Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

**Project budget**
Overall project budget: 1.495.537,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1.074.857,00 €
IPA contribution: 196.350,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
FORSEE targets ICT Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) policy reform in the SEE region through the introduction of a foresight culture, and proposes the development of a sustainable foresight mechanism that will provide technological future orientation based on SEE competencies and the exploitation of regional synergies and complementarities.

FORSEE puts forward an innovative approach for the implementation of policy reviews in ICT Research, Development and Innovation by opening a dialogue among regional stakeholders involved and by synthesizing their views. The project takes a ‘hands-on’ approach and conducts a pilot ICT RDI Regional Foresight exercise in the participating countries, aspiring to develop a clear example of a regional vision for the ICT RDI sector. FORSEE endows the SEE region with a uniquely designed Regional Foresight methodology, a concrete framework for cooperation among stakeholders and governments at national and transnational level, recommendations for future actions and a regional innovation and entrepreneurship enhancement strategy roadmap. FORSEE concludes with the development of a viable proposal for sustainability through the development of ‘good-practice’ guidelines for the institutionalisation of a virtual Regional Foresight Centre by participating countries. This sustainability plan defines a governance, business and operating model for the establishment and running of the virtual Regional Foresight Centre.

Lead partner
UoP-ApEL-University of Patras, School of Engineering, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Applied Electronics Laboratory (Greece)

Partnership countries
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

Overall project budget: 1.704.355,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1.375.024,00 €
IPA contribution: 73.661,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
Changing consumer attitudes and emerging trends require the constant update of food products and the personalisation of nutrition. As a result, food innovation provides a competitive edge to the food industry in this challenging and dynamic market. Inno-Food SEE aims to establish mechanisms to coordinate innovation approaches and policies for the food sector, and to increase awareness of food innovation.

Achievements
Focusing on its specific goals, the Inno-Food Project has already produced some significant results: the existing policies and measures on food innovation in the participating SEE regions have been analysed and compared against well-developed food clusters from other European regions. A great number of both Food SMEs and RTD entities have been profiled in order to produce a detailed map of the offer and demand for food innovation in the SEE area.

A SWOT analysis has been prepared in order to produce a valid and cohesive strategy that the region can use in order to draw on its substantial strengths and capitalise on the opportunities that arise in the industry. Additionally, the project aims to raise public awareness of the issue, to create networks of cooperation with other similar initiatives and to produce a grid of stakeholders from the whole region.

Lead partner
EKETA- INA-Centre for research and technology Hellas – Institute of Agrobiotechnology (Greece)

Partnership countries
Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Rep. of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Project budget
Overall project budget: 1.682.245,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1.276.908,00 €
IPA contribution: 153.000,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
To increase public awareness of the importance of the natural sciences, technology and innovation as key determinants of economic growth. The project specifically aims at awakening the interest of young people in science, technology and innovation by building up the capacity of the Science Centres in the SEE region.

Achievements
In today’s changing world, cooperation is becoming even more important in many areas of the economy. Within the framework of the SEE Science project, a network of science centres has developed services to promote the innovation culture of tomorrow by targeting young people today.

The SEE Science Festivals provide a platform for young people and their families to explore various aspects of innovation through “learning by doing” activities. The virtual SEE Science Centre – through an ICT platform – has enabled each partner to use applications that arouse enthusiasm for scientific education, encourage visitors to develop an entrepreneurial spirit, and diminish fears in regard to new technologies. Capitalising on best European practices and introducing new approaches, the SEE Science project has taken an active part in the re-formulation of the role of the Science Centres.

Lead partner
Municipality of Debrecen (Hungary)

Partnership countries
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2.165.130,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1.840.360,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The objective of this Priority Axis is to override the constraints imposed by national barriers, to foresee future environmental threats and opportunities, and to develop common transnational action for the protection of nature and humans within the SEE.

This objective will be achieved by projects tackling the following Areas of Intervention (AoI):

Aol 2.1: Improve integrated water management and flood risk prevention
Aol 2.2: Improve prevention of environmental risks
Aol 2.3: Promote cooperation in management of natural assets and protected areas
Aol 2.4: Promote energy and resource efficiency
Projects covering all Areas of Intervention except 2.1 were considered eligible in the second call for proposals. After the selection process, 6 proposals tackling this priority were approved, joining the 13 already selected operations on environmental issues approved within the first call. These 6 projects cover issues such as the better implementation of Natura 2000 sites, the sustainable development of the Carpathians and other mountain areas in the SEE, regenerating marginal territories into renewable energy sites, including energy efficiency in public procurements and monitoring the transportation of dangerous goods. All these projects aim at the protection and enhancement of the rich biodiversity of the SEE area as a pre-condition of sustainable growth.

Some of the outcomes produced by these projects are: a transnational joint strategy for the better management and improvement of the Natura 2000 network; a Joint Biodiversity Information System for the Carpathians; energy efficient procurement guidelines and memoranda of understanding; a Sustainable Development and Management Model of mountain areas in the SEE; territorial management plans to transform marginal territories into renewable energy source sites; an integrated system for the joint prevention or response procedures for the maritime and river transport of dangerous goods.
Objective
To contribute to the sustainable development and improved environmental quality in the South East European (SEE) area by developing a SEE marine and river integrated real-time system for monitoring the transportation of dangerous goods, focused on improving maritime and river safety.

Achievements
The main project achievements consist firstly of the analysis and transfer of the best practices of information systems related to transport monitoring, the handling and the storage of dangerous goods (DGs) by vessels at sea, on inland waterways and in port areas. Secondly, a support mechanism for the establishment of an innovative, integrated marine and river - the SEE MARINER system - to monitor the transport of DGs and pollution at sea has been created.

Thirdly, an action plan has been put into practice for the continuity and the establishment of common standards for decision and policy makers/planners to support the extended use of the SEE MARINER system and its interactivity with other established European instruments. Finally, some actions have been developed to promote transnational strategies to improve the prevention of environmental and technological risks in the South East European area.

Lead partner
PPA-PIRAEUS Port Authority SA (Greece)

Partnership countries
Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Slovenia

Overall project budget: 2,188,000,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1,732,300,00 €
IPA contribution: 127,500,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
To confront the loss of biodiversity by defining common actions to be undertaken. Specifically, the project aims to influence environmental protection policies, to reduce differences between the partners, to improve environmental quality generating tools, to improve the level of protection of target habitats and species, and to establish balance between social-economic development and environmental protection.

Achievements
To realise the proposed objective, several results have been achieved. At the beginning of the project a gap analysis was performed on the differences between the partners in the implementation of Natura2000 management and was translated into seven languages. After that gap analysis, a Technical Scientific Steering Committee formed by members nominated by the project partners has been created to produce six transnational action plans.

Simultaneously with the preparation of the above-mentioned action plans, each partner organised training sessions and workshops dedicated to the action plans to raise local peoples’ awareness of the project. The transnational action plans have been harmonised according to national requirements and some have been finally adapted by the end of the project.

Lead partner
Nimfea-Nimfea Environment and Nature Conservation Association (Hungary)

Partnership countries
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2.544.900,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2.021.215,00 €
IPA contribution: 141.950,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
In relation to the Carpathian Convention, a well-established framework of cooperation, the project supports the development of an integrated management of the natural assets and protected areas in the Carpathians while fostering regional development through the sharing of experience and capitalising on project results.

Achievements
The Carpathians harbour a unique natural heritage and act as a major ecological link with Europe. As the largest, longest and most tortuous mountain chain on the continent, it is subject to a variety of threats from land abandonment, habitat conversion, deforestation, pollution and the over-exploitation of natural resources. BioREGIO Carpathians aims at enhancing the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the biological and landscape diversity for the improvement of regional development through an effective harmonisation of the region’s management and the promotion of its shared natural heritage.

The completed efforts of BioREGIO Carpathians include supporting cooperative agreements based on the elaboration of common integrated management measures, regional inventories of species and habitats, a joint biodiversity geo-referenced web-based information system, and recommendations for improving ecological connectivity while considering transborder needs. Through these actions, the project enables multi-level governance and cross-sector integration in the Carpathians.

Lead partner
APNPC-NFA (National Forest Administration) ROMSILVA – Piatra Craiului National Park Administration (Romania)

Partnership countries
Austria, Czech Rep., Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2.586.260,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2.028.321,00 €
IPA contribution: 170.000,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
**Objective**
To jointly develop and transfer a sustainable development and management model which can provide an integrated strategy for local, regional and national authorities and national/nature parks, to better promote, manage and preserve the natural assets and resources of mountain areas.

**Achievements**
Thanks to Green Mountain, 11 organisations from 9 countries have jointly developed a common model that will provide mountain territories with strategies and instruments to stimulate the local mountain economy while protecting and increasing the value of the natural/protected areas (e.g., the valorisation of typical mountain products); to raise the awareness of economic and political actors and the public to allow them to better understand the value and the potential of mountain areas and to promote responsible environmental behaviour, as well as to achieve coordinated management of the mountain territories using a multi-actor/multi-sector approach.

The use of such a model in the partner territories and beyond has contributed to a balanced and sustainable socio-economic and environmental development of the mountain areas and to better living conditions for the mountain population.

**Lead partner**
Province of Macerata (Italy)

**Partnership countries**
Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia

**Project budget**
- Overall project budget: **2.138.500,00 €**
- ERDF contribution: **1.647.725,00 €**
- IPA contribution: **170.000,00 €**
- ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
Objective
Public procurement, with a 16% impact on EU GDP, is an important tool with which to address energy efficient policies fostering production and the consumption of energy efficient products and services. EFFECT aims to stimulate the adoption of EU renewable energy policies, upgrading both local authorities and private sectors to improve competitiveness using the leverage of energy efficient public procurement (EEPP).

Achievements
The EFFECT project has prepared a detailed analysis of the application of energy efficiency criteria in public procurement procedures, from the public and private sector aspects, as the starting point for training activities.

A catalogue has been created to provide information on EU Directives, on EEPP requirements, on SEE countries not involved in the project and an overview on project partners EEPP procedures, in order to discover how the EU Directives have been implemented in the cooperation area involved and to define the level of energy-efficient criteria integration in SEE area public procurement procedures. The catalogue is part of an analysis package which predicts the supply side analysis to classify the barriers faced by suppliers, and the weaknesses and threats which discourage the public procurement of EE products and services.

Lead partner
ARAEN - ABRUZZO REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (Italy)

Partnership countries
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

Overall project budget: 2,326,010,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1,977,108,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
From marginal to renewable energy sources sites. Recovering marginal territories, making them regain their lost value by pursuing sustainable development programs.

**Objective**

To regenerate marginal areas (e.g., landfills sites, mines, former military sites/supply-storage areas, contaminated areas) through investment in renewable energy sources. In this way, the M2RES project gives impetus to the sustainable development of the European Union, generating economic and social value for areas which suffer from marginality, having lost their primary functions.

**Achievements**

The M2RES project contributes to the economic development of the South East Europe regions through the development of actions, plans and policies which are sustainable from the environmental point of view. All these actions are based on promoting an enhanced capacity of public administration bodies to identify, promote and stimulate M2RES investments which provide value to terrains which are often irreparably jeopardized.

The series of activities implemented in the project have achieved, among other Achievements, the protection of the landscape and the environment of the areas covered by the project; energy produced from renewable sources where the landscape and the environment are already heavily compromised; and income for both private actors and public administration bodies generated through investments into renewable energy sources.

**Lead partner**

ENEA, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (Italy)

**Partnership countries**

Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

**Project budget**

- Overall project budget: **1.901.875,00 €**
- ERDF contribution: **1.531.128,00 €**
- IPA contribution: **85.465,00 €**
- ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY

The objective of this priority axis is to promote physical and virtual accessibility to the programme area.

This objective shall be achieved by projects tackling the following Areas of Intervention (AoI):

AoI 3.1: Improve coordination in promoting, planning and operation for primary and secondary transportation networks
AoI 3.2: Develop strategies to tackle the "digital divide"
AoI 3.3: Improve the framework conditions for multi-modal platforms
Applications submitted in all these three areas of intervention were considered eligible. 5 projects were approved (5 other operations on Accessibility were also selected in the first call). They deal with topics like sustainable mobility in mountain areas, improvement of transnational accessibility in the SEE cities and regions and railway transport in the area, the development of Danube inland harbours and the speeding up of the introduction of digital television in the South East of Europe.

Among the outcomes produced by the projects are investments and a monitoring base to promote sustainable mobility and tourism in areas of the Alps and Carpathians, an urban mobility toolbox for making SEE cities/regions effective nodes of transnational accessibility, improved policies on logistical and multi-modal port development, harmonization of the activities related to the introduction of Digital Broadcasting services, and a platform of regions to create competitive railway transport quality. All these achievements take into consideration that accessibility is considered to be one of the prime requirements for economic development and growth and for territorial cohesion in the South East Europe networks, i.e., in the mostly heavily fragmented areas or mainly serving single states and regions.
Objective
To increase sustainable accessibility and connections to, between and within, sensitive mountain regions. The sustainable and multi-modal mobility services should strengthen the attractiveness of tourist regions, support regional economic development and help dampen negative environmental impacts. The tourist regions in the Alps and Carpathians involved in the project generate individual solutions and guidelines for improving accessibility and sustainable local mobility.

Achievements
Tourism involves the increasing use of private vehicles which cause negative ecological effects, especially in sensitive mountain areas. Accessibility to, and within, those areas by sustainable public transport and non-motorized mobility is often limited. Both the major European regional mountain agreements and the Alpine and the Carpathian Convention recognise that sustainable tourism, growing together with sustainable mobility services, is a key-element of regional economic development and a source of income and well being. The project has covered investments in the regional and cross border cycle and public transport infrastructure accompanied by master plans and innovative visitor packages. Awareness-raising strategies addressed individuals and promoted political dialogue in relation to sustainable mobility. Exchanges of experts and studies on best practices in the field of railways and multi-modal transport in tourism have provided incentives for concrete pilot actions in the regions. An environmental model has been developed to support regional stakeholders and politicians in their decision-making.

Lead partner
U-AT-Environment Agency Austria (Austria)

Partnership countries
Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2.222.411,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1.889.049,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
**Objective**
To introduce sustainable public transport solutions/services in the regions which will significantly contribute to increasing the use of public transport and thereby reducing bottlenecks in EU transport corridors. The ATTAC consortium (local/regional public transport authorities, service providers, policy makers and networks working in the field of urban mobility) has plotted a new course for public transportation.

**Achievements**
The ATTAC project partners investigated innovative tools in the field of flexible public transport solutions, integrated ticketing.smart card systems and intelligent passenger information. The jointly defined solutions in all themes have been tested in pilot projects to examine the applicability of ideas in various local environments.

The results of testing and other project outputs feed the Urban Mobility Toolbox, a collection of good strategies/tools for making SEE cities/regions effective nodes of transnational accessibility. The implementation of the Toolbox measures in ATTAC locations took place through Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMPs), developed with the active involvement of local stakeholders. SUMPs are long-term political visions of urban mobility using short term measures/actions including funding plans, which have strengthened commitment to sustaining the pilot results, turning them into real investments.

**Lead partner**
Miskolc Holding Plc. (Hungary)

**Partnership countries**
Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

**Project budget**
Overall project budget: 2.452.130,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2.084.310,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
To improve accessibility and logistic workflows along the axis from Vienna/Bratislava to the Northern Adriatic ports and the Western Balkans. The objective has been achieved by the development and implementation of short and medium-term transport infrastructure measures and the improvement of organizational framework conditions.

Achievements
Based on the requirements of the regions and a detailed analysis of existing bottlenecks, short-/medium-/long-term solutions have been elaborated. Following an assessment of possible socio-economic, financial and environmental impacts, the reliability and financial feasibility of the solutions were evaluated and prioritized. In addition, the outcomes of SETA pilot activities such as business cases and demonstrations of new/improved transport services have also been taken into consideration.

The SETA Corridor Development Plan contains a specific action plan for the implementation (activities, milestones, time frame), as well as proposals for the adaption of the respective national/regional/business development plans. The provision of enhanced railway infrastructure and new services along the shortest route between Central Europe and the Northern Adriatic ports will enable efficient and competitive railway transport for passengers and freight operators.

Lead partner
BGLD-Regional Government of Land Burgenland (Austria)

Partnership countries
Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2.835.414,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2.410.101,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Objective
Through the harmonisation of the legal, economic and technical framework, and the raising of public awareness, the project contributes to fostering the transition from analogue to digital broadcasting in South East Europe and the deployment of efficient ICT technologies and services for the benefit of all the citizens in the region, including those in rural areas.

Achievements
The project deliverables stem from the best practices identified in the region and beyond. The first phase offered model policy papers, tools, guidelines and digital receiver specifications, directly implementable in countries that are still in the process of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting. In countries that have already switched off their analogue transmitters, the project has induced renewed public debate on the further development of terrestrial broadcasting.

The activities in the second phase of the project focused on the digital dividends and the deployment of new ICT services. The project has proposed a harmonised approach to the use of the freed-up spectrum, in order to increase the benefits to users and to tackle the digital divide in the region.

Lead partner
APEK-Post and Electronic Communications Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia)

Partnership countries
Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 1.868.750,00 €
ERDF contribution: 966.934,00 €
IPA contribution: 621.503,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
**Objective**

The overall aim of DaHar is in line with the better integration of inland navigation within the transport logistics chain, through focus on the multi-modal and logistical development of ports and port areas in small and medium-sized South East European cities along the River Danube.

**Achievements**

The work towards the strategy development within the DaHar project was supported by an ongoing process of stakeholder engagement for the purpose of continuously soliciting inputs from policy makers and industry and professional organisations. In addition, stakeholder debates on multi-modal cargo transport development were generated, an important element of which was the Brussels Briefing, a high-level EU policy discussion with the aim of soliciting high level political support for the implementation of the strategy.

Policy discussion at all levels was enhanced through policy recommendations for IWT development, while political sustainability has been achieved through improved national policies. To further strengthen political commitment to the results achieved, a Joint Convention on the establishment of a logistical network of Danube ports was also signed by the project partners’ decision-makers.

**Lead partner**

DMJVI-Municipality of Dunaújváros (Hungary)

**Partnership countries**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia

**Project budget**

- Overall project budget: 1,966,100,00 €
- ERDF contribution: 1,441,430,00 €
- IPA contribution: 229,755,00 €
- ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS Priority Axis is to apply various forms of preventive measures and development factors of specific cross-sectoral character, with strongly interlinking economic, environmental, social and governance issues, in sustainable urban and regional settlement development.

This objective shall be achieved by projects tackling the following Areas of Intervention (AoI):

- **AoI 4.1**: Tackling crucial problems affecting metropolitan areas and regional systems of settlements
- **AoI 4.2**: Promoting a balanced pattern of attractive and accessible growth areas
- **AoI 4.3**: Promoting the use of cultural values for development
Only Area of Intervention 4.3 was considered during the second call for proposals. 9 projects were approved within this priority group (11 projects in this priority group were selected in the first call). Most of the 9 projects work with the cultural heritage and values of the areas covered, as a way to promote sustainable growth and tourism, entrepreneurship, territorial governance, urban and rural development and the valorisation of cultural resources like totalitarian architecture or religious buildings.

To attain their goals, those projects aim at achieving, among others, results such as, a manual for the preservation and promotion of forms of cultural tourism for the architecture of totalitarian regimes; an environmental planning model to enhance cultural heritage; a development plan and information services to increase cultural heritage investments; a common methodology and tools to promote sustainable tourism related to cultural garden heritage; a Religious Tourism Common Model for the inclusion of religion-related cultural values in the planning and development processes of urban centres and their surrounding rural areas; a participatory knowledge platform to promote local-level heritage entrepreneurship; a common methodology for the sustainable management of the cultural heritage and for the utilization of cultural potential in less favoured rural regions.
Objective
To create a transnational cultural route to be declared a “European Cultural Route” by the Council of Europe. With this aim, this pilot project focuses on a key element of the twentieth-century European memory: the architectures of totalitarian regimes investigated from the point of view of their functionality, architectural quality, historical, social and political implications.

Achievements
First of all, the project has identified and documented 66 case studies of architecture concerned, carrying out a transnational survey presenting and comparing case studies with graphic supporting materials. Secondly, after testing pilot cultural tourism products, the project partners created a transnational manual of the wise management, preservation, re-use and economic valorisation of the architecture concerned, as well as the digital cataloguing of objects and materials linked to the architecture and epochs concerned.

In addition, some regional training seminars and other events were organised to present and discuss with stakeholders the manual and transnational workshops targeted at specialised Tour Operators to promote cultural-tourism products. Finally, the important results included the plan of a new transnational cultural route to be included in the Atlas of the Council of Europe, and the submission of the dossier to the European Council to obtain acknowledgement as a European Cultural Route.

Lead partner
Municipality of Forli (Italy)

Partnership countries
Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 1,932,044,00 €
ERDF contribution: 1,407,076,00 €
IPA contribution: 235,161,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
**Objective**
To provide a strong basis for ensuring compatibility and synergy between cultural heritage conservation and socio-economic growth, by fostering the adoption of modern Environmental Planning in order to enhance sustainability, protect cultural identity and improve the live-ability of sites.

**Achievements**
Cultural Heritage sites often face the dilemma of the choice between the loss of cultural values and hence loss of identity, due to non-sustainable growth and economic decline and emigration due to inappropriate infrastructure.

To face this dilemma, the project produced the following results: getting partners involved in a transnational learning experience focused on Environmental Planning applied to cultural heritage and to influencing policies addressing cultural heritage across SEE countries; introducing a new planning approach in SEE; increasing awareness of the environmental values of cultural heritage sites; strengthening the capacity of participating authorities to project and build an attractive and competitive culture-based image, involving the local population and economic actors; promoting the sustainable development of cultural heritage sites without exceeding their load bearing capacity; enhancing the visibility and image of cultural heritage sites.

**Lead partner**
FVG-Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia - Rural Development Unit (Italy)

**Partnership countries**
Albania, Austria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia

**Project budget**
Overall project budget: **2,362,120,00 €**  
ERDF contribution: **1,668,150,00 €**  
IPA contribution: **339,651,00 €**  
ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
**Objective**
To produce the tools, resources and practical experience required to improve accessibility to the local cultural heritage. Specifically, to discover new cultural value market segments and new jobs, to create new communication strategies & marketing tools and to raise public awareness of places committed to accessibility.

**Achievements**
All pilot experiences implemented during the project provided a leverage effect capable of increasing local development in economic, cultural and social terms. Each pilot experience is intended to increase the validation of cultural values, augment the flow of tourists and create new job opportunities within the industry, both in the country in which it is applied and in the places to which it could be transferred.

A series of special ‘events for all’ was aimed at individuals who were unaware that the cultural heritage was organized, as many other activities, like a guided museum tour for people with learning difficulties, with an Apple Mobile application to map accessible cultural values in Europe, innovative educational kits to reinforce children’s participation in cultural life, a wireless system of cultural values and the creation of web-based games for EU citizens regarding cultural values in SEE countries.

**Lead partner**
PROVRN IT-Rimini Province (Italy)

**Partnership countries**
Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia

**Project budget**
- Overall project budget: **1.775.000,00 €**
- ERDF contribution: **1.508.750,00 €**
- IPA contribution: **0,00 €**
- ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
**Objective**
To develop a shared marketing strategy to increase cultural heritage investments, by establishing new institutional capabilities and implementing innovative governance patterns capable of reducing administrative, social and economic barriers between cultural heritage and potential investors. The project targets cultural values as a factor in economic growth and sustainable development.

**Achievements**
Starting from the listing and assessment of cultural properties, a pilot business model was defined and integrated into the project partners’ development plans. At the same time, both an experimental action for cultural governance, and a participatory marketing methodology, were also implemented. Opportunities were defined, and promoted to the broader audience. Information services with a general market analysis were delivered primarily through a web platform.

A main achievement of the project was to increase the level of attractiveness of target areas though promoting cultural heritage investments. That involved the inclusion of the cultural heritage and its values into the territorial development strategies and placed heritage at the heart of communities’ rehabilitation initiatives as the driving force of local development. Finalised transnational agreements between the partners and the three permanent Cultema Laboratory Networks ensure continuing follow up of the main achievements.

**Lead partner**
RdV - LLPP-Veneto Region - Department Public Works (Italy)

**Partnership countries**
Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia

**Project budget**
- Overall project budget: **1.816.500,00 €**
- ERDF contribution: **1.212.525,00 €**
- IPA contribution: **331.500,00 €**
- ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
Objective
To identify and compile implementation strategies in order to preserve and valorise the cultural heritage in European sustainable tourism, with favourable effects on regional economy, by transforming cultural sites into interesting tourist attractions.

Achievements
In order to make cultural heritage the focal point of sustainable tourism in the SEE area, a number of activities were developed during project implementation. The project established pilot sites according to transnational themes, reflecting the best practice of integrating cultural heritage into sustainable tourism.

Some feasibility studies were also conducted to consider re-utilisation concepts and product development for future tourism activities. In addition, some policy recommendations modifying the framework conditions for the management of cultural sites and open space heritage were also developed for implementation in the South East of Europe region.

CultTour

Lead partner
AVRIG-Municipality of Avrig (Romania)

Partnership countries
Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2,672,360,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2,271,506,00 €
IPA contribution: 0,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Elaboration of a tool for the inclusion of religious-related cultural values in the planning and development processes of urban centres, systems of settlements and surrounding rural areas

**Objective**
To use the religious cultural values in the involved territories in conjunction with local assets, human resources, infrastructures and services to develop religious tourism creating new jobs and generating additional income.

**Achievements**
First the project created a Religious Heritage catalogue including a map of the religious cultural heritage in the SEE area, and a stakeholder database, identifying all the important players of the sector: decision makers, business actors and religious organizations. Then the project partners identified and selected a series of best practices by capitalizing on the results from previous EU Funded projects and from the restoration, identification and mapping of religious heritage assets made by UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the European Institute of Cultural Routes. Based on those best practices, a SEE Religious Tourism Common Model (RTCM) was developed and jointly implemented with local stakeholders and policy-makers.

Finally, some local Religious Tourism Development Agencies (RTDA) were created, local pilot actions in regard to faith pilgrimages and religious tourism were organized and a number of actions of the internationalization and marketing promotion of local religious tourism products were implemented, along with a request for certification as a “Cultural Route of the Council of Europe”.

**Lead partner**
MIDPAN-Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company Limited by Shares (Hungary)

**Partnership countries**
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia

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SAGITTARIUS

Launching (g)local level heritage entrepreneurship: strategies and tools to unite forces, safeguard the place, mobilize cultural values, deliver the experience.

Objective
To manage heritage assets and safeguard cultural diversity; to mitigate the protection/use conflict; to develop and transfer a practise-validated toolkit to unlock and communicate cultural values; and to improve access to heritage for all. In the project area, SAGITTARIUS applies an activity mix to advance cultural consumption and activate the socio-economic potential of heritage across the SEE.

Achievements
Several results were produced to achieve the project’s objectives. An easily transferable participatory knowledge platform investing in human capital and certifying professional skills, as well as an integrative heritage management model unlocking cultural values and mobilising cultural entrepreneurship, were established.

In addition, the activation of public-private, third-sector-alliance led to the signing of several Non Statutory Project Cooperation Agreements bringing out heritage entrepreneurs and serving as examples of how heritage is valued, protected, communicated and utilized to ecological, economic and social profit. A series of events was also organised, focusing on participatory & social inclusion practices improving economic and social well-being at local level and communicating specific cultural values as a way to raise the awareness of policy makers and the general public, thus mitigating the protection/use conflict.

Lead partner
U Aegean-University of the Aegean - Research Unit (Greece)

Partnership countries
Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Rep. of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia

Project budget
Overall project budget: 2,489,980,00 €
ERDF contribution: 2,012,783,00 €
IPA contribution: 103,700,00 €
ENPI contribution: 0,00 €
Achieving SUSTainability through an integrated approach to the management of CULTural heritage

**Objective**
To improve the effectiveness of heritage site management through the development of a common methodology capable of valorising SEE cultural heritage. The project involves a network of 7 invaluable cultural heritage sites as a means for promoting cultural heritage and implementing effective economic development actions.

**Achievements**
SUSTCULT partners shared a common challenge: to consolidate cultural heritage management as an integrated part of the sustainable planning and development process in urban centres, systems of settlement and their surrounding areas in the SEE region. To ensure the development of effective Management Plans, SUSTCULT partners developed a Common Transnational Methodology to guide the process and provide useful indicators for the management of SEE heritage sites.

To improve the management and preservation of the SEE heritage, another important aspect was implemented: capacity building and training for all managers and stakeholders in order to provide, acquire and exchange know-how. In addition, a further focus of the project was to give an active role to, and engage, stakeholders and communities in the participatory process of Management Plan preparation and implementation, in order to reach effective results.

**Lead partner**
COV-City of Venice (Italy)

**Partnership countries**
Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia

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SY_CULTOUR

Synergy of culture and tourism: utilization of cultural potentials in less favoured rural regions

**Objective**

To improve the management of cultural values in rural areas in order to increase their economic and social development, SY_CULTour developed and promoted a common methodology for managing cultural values in rural areas, based on a participatory approach involving stakeholders.

**Achievements**

The first result produced by the project was an institutional framework analysis accessible through an interactive web-tool, with which all the major documents concerning the management of cultural values can be browsed. Then a survey of cultural values was elaborated. This document describes more than a hundred examples of cultural values, with expert descriptions, photos and videos of how to use their potential, their cultural values and their role in contemporary society and the economy.

The project also compiled a collection of good practices in the management of cultural values and those are all available on the project website. Finally, the project developed guidelines for the management of cultural values in rural areas, with a desire to develop the potential of cultural values in sustainable development, and a virtual chamber of rural tourism where networks, partners and businesses can be created.

**Lead partner**

ZRC SAZU-Scientific Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Anton Melik Geographical Institute (Slovenia)

**Partnership countries**

Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia

**Project budget**

Overall project budget: **2.142.452,00 €**  
ERDF contribution: **1.736.181,00 €**  
IPA contribution: **84.902,00 €**  
ENPI contribution: **0,00 €**
SOUTH EAST EUROPE
TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

CONTACTS

JOINT TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
Gellérthegy u. 30-32
1016 - Budapest - Hungary
Tel: +36 1 224 3180
Fax: + 36 1 224 3129
Email: jts@southeast-europe.net
www.southeast-europe.net

MANAGING AUTHORITY
National Development Agency
Authority for International Cooperation Programmes
Wesselényi u. 20-22
1077 Budapest Hungary
www.nfu.hu