

Meeting of thematic network on climate change and risks

30 November - 1 December 2018

Venice, Italy

Report and follow-up of the meeting

Outline and purpose of the event

In recent years, Interreg programmes have been addressing the topic of environment protection, climate change, biodiversity and risk prevention. In the current programming period 2014-2020, a set of thematic objectives have been defined for interventions in the cohesion policy. Thematic Objective 5 specifically addresses the issue of promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management. In 2017, Interact launched a thematic network addressing this topic in order to improve thematic expertise to help the result orientation of projects and programmes, to identify substantial evidence of results and ensure higher visibility of those results.

The specific objective of the network is to establish a live exchange and cooperation platform network between Interreg, Interreg-IPA CBC and ENI CBC Programmes, implementing a series of activities such as regular meetings and training, on-line platform for discussion and debate where members can participate. The network shall also be a natural place to share success stories as well as discuss challenges that Interreg programs face when implementing projects in the field of climate change and risks.

Building on the ideas put forward by participants in the launch of the network in June 2017, Interact organised the **first meeting of the thematic network on climate change and risks**, in order to help reaching common understanding of the topic and all related issues and implications for Interreg Programmes. In order to facilitate discussion and exchange, Interact provided some background information based on the analysis of available project data related to climate change in previous periods.

The meeting objectives were:

- to learn more about EU policies regarding climate action both on EU and regional level
- to foster exchanges on climate change-related measures and projects by different stakeholders;
- to facilitate a debate on common challenges faced by programmes;
- to address the important discussion on how we together can enhance the visibility of Interreg.

In addition, the second day of this meeting was dedicated to a special site visit to the City of Venice Tide Center, in order to get a better understanding of activities that are already put in place to address climate change and risks.

Topics and discussions

The meeting gathered around 15 participants and started with welcome words by Ms. Silvia Majer, Head of Managing Authority [Interreg CBC Italy-Croatia](#) Programme, who expressed the importance and interest of the Managing Authority (Regione Veneto) in the topic of climate change adaptation and risks.



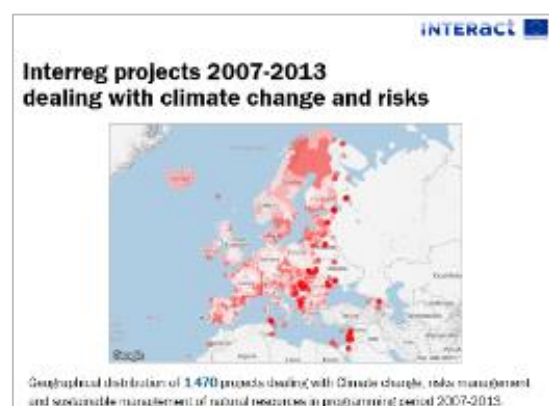
Participants carried out a round of introductions where each one expressed his/her interest in the meeting and the expectations for the session.



The main results can be summarised in the following table:

CAPITALISATION	LEARNING	SHARING EXPERIENCES
Interaction of different fields	Get new knowledge	Sharing experiences and learning
Learn about capitalisation	Learn on climate change trends	Learn and share experiences on projects about coastal zone
Potential of TransNational Initiatives	Learn on safety and experience	Sharing experiences of projects in local communities
	Challenges of a good project proposal	

Afterwards, it was the moment for presentations, and first, Interact made a brief [presentation](#) on the Working Paper and analysis of available project data related to climate change in previous periods, showing the main findings for the previous programming period. The presentation focussed on the main results extracted from the [KEEP.EU](#) database, showcasing the programmes where the highest number of projects in the field of climate change were financed.



The next presentation was done by Ms. Margaretha Breil, about the activities of the European Topic Centre on Climate Change Adaptation on transnational Adaptation Policies, who did an overview of the partnership of the ETC/CCA and the activities in TransNational Regions.



The meeting proceeded with two presentations done by programme [CBC Italy Croatia](#), at programme and project level.

- A presentation was done by Ms. Matilde Cassin, project manager at the Interreg Programme Italy Croatia, about the Standard+ Call for Proposals
- Mr. Bepo Schira, from [IRENA](#) - Istrian Regional Energy and Lead Partner of IDEAL, a capitalisation project from the CBC Italy-Croatia Programme



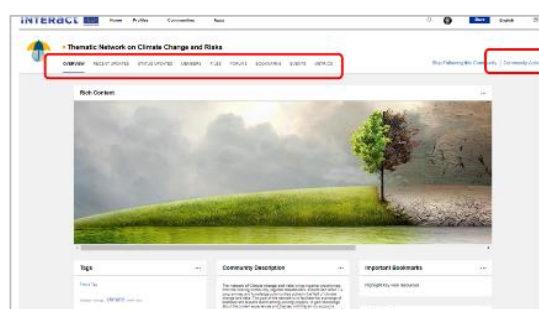
This was followed by a lively debate between participants on management practices from application to evaluation of proposals, sharing practices and experiences. Participants also discussed about challenges and bottlenecks of current projects in the field of climate change and risks.

The main ideas put forward were:

- ✓ Communication about project calls should be reinforced;
- ✓ Better guidelines about the general policy objectives should be available from applicants;
- ✓ Project ideas need to be better streamed through project development talks;
- ✓ Support to beneficiaries through online search forum;
- ✓ The quality assessment of proposals should be clearer to applicants;
- ✓ The administrative burden should be reduced and made as flexible as possible;
- ✓ Increase flexibility in project implementation phase: flexibility of starting date and project activities;
- ✓ Encourage continuation of projects through capitalisation activities;
- ✓ Promote the participation of academic and scientific partners in projects;
- ✓ Foresee the possibility of small profit organisations to be part of project (and also LP).

Open discussion about the role thematic network and enhancing visibility

The afternoon session was dedicated to sharing experiences among members in terms of communication and visibility. The online community of the network on Climate Change and Risks was presented and a short introduction/presentation was done to participants. Participants discussed about what are the programmes' needs and how can these challenges be better tackled.



Main outcomes of the discussions can be found in the table below:

COMMUNICATION	VISIBILITY	CAPITALISATION
Different tools to address different targets	Monitoring of what we do in dissemination	Create a serious assessment of results
Create figure of project communication	Tools and events to aggregate results to communicate at higher level	Cluster and capitalise results of local activities locally done
Climate change: communicate the improvement of quality of life	Increase relation of programmes and projects with local actors	Cluster per topic and territory
Peer-to-peer communication		Show aggregated results to MC members

Site visit: Venice City Tide Center

The City of Venice Tide Center was born as a city office, deeply rooted in the local Venetian reality. The need to carry out their duties led it to start a network of partnerships with several entities, acting in Venice, national and European level, being them environmental protection agencies, such as ISPRA or ARPA, research institutions as CNR or Universities, or international centers.



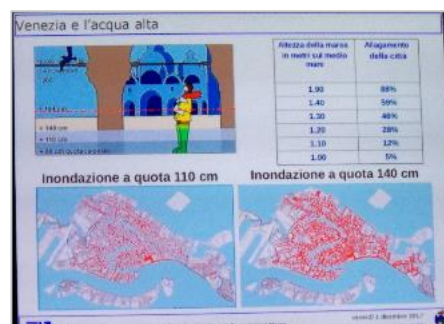
The center activities include:

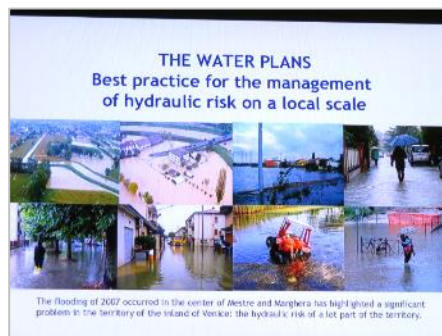
- Observation of sea level and meteorological parameters related to it (eg. pressure and wind) in the Venice area, the observation of meteorological parameters in the Adriatic, the Tyrrhenian Sea and the Mediterranean basin;
- the prediction of sea level in Venice;
- the information to the city and the warning in case of events of high water;
- other services to the citizens.

The observation of meteoric and marine parameters is implemented through a monitoring network, which provides a real-time view of the sea level and the weather in Venice Lagoon and in the northern Adriatic. In addition to data collected through its measuring stations, the ICPSM uses in predicting the sea level a large volume of meteorological data collected by other entities (CNMCA Air Force, ECMWF Meteorological Center of Reading, ARPA Veneto, Friuli ARPA, Platforms ENI), on the area of the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas.



For information on tide the institution uses largely automated systems: web site, light panels (LCD) placed in strategic points, bulletin in major newspapers. An answering machine, updated several times a day, provides information on maximum and minimum tide expected in town for the next three days. In addition, the technical staff of the trading desk can be contacted directly by telephone, to provide useful information on the phenomenon of tide or tidal prediction. The alert for events of high water is carried out through a network of sirens. In addition, interested users are notified automatically by phone or through SMS. ICPSM finally ensures the timely warning and continuous contact during emergencies, with the companies that manage public services, rescue and public safety.





The ICPSM tends to constantly to improve the quality of services it offers to the city: there are numerous ongoing projects, the enlargement of the monitoring network in the effort to improve the quality of observed data, conforming to European standards, from the testing of new numerical models to the use of new generation of weather products (satellite data and output high-resolution atmospheric models), the innovative system of speakers, the study on the diffusion of information of the tide on smartphones.



The City of Venice participates in several EU-funded activities concerning climate change adaptation such as:

