

Interreg GO!

Disaster Risk Management |
Disasters knows no borders:
Interreg's role in supporting
disaster risk management

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#Interreg

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NOVA GORICA - GORIZIA

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Effective disaster risk management (DRM) is key to ensure European cities and regions from all sizes are prepared to face ever-growing shocks and stresses. Unprecedented climate related events such as repetitive devastating floods, heatwaves, and forest fires are the new normal and should increase as the effects of climate change are further felt. New geopolitical, technological, and health hazards equally enhance the need for effective disaster risk management within a multi-disaster approach.

Disasters know no borders and Interreg provides key tools to address DRM related challenges. Interreg has been at the forefront in supporting DRM initiatives for cross-border and transnational collaboration in the EU and beyond under the framework of the Cohesion Policy. Successful Interreg projects demonstrate the importance of collaboration, innovation, and nature-based approaches in building resilience and enhancing preparedness for various hazards and threats which are becoming very frequent.

This session will showcase examples from Interreg projects which are successfully supporting EU cities and regions to be more prepared for current and future disasters. It will also promote a dialogue amongst Interreg programmes, European Commission, and practitioners on current challenges Interreg programmes face when supporting DRM projects. Finally, it will inspire programmes to prepare for a post-27 DRM programme implementation framework.

Venue: OBČINA NOVA GORICA, Trg Edvarda Kardelja 1, 5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Project visit:

Location: PALMANOVA (CIVIL PROTECTION)

Address: Protezione Civile, Via Natisone, 43, 33057
Palmanova UD, Italy

Projects to be presented:

- **CROSSIT SAFER**

Cross-border cooperation between Slovenia and Italy for a safer region

- **KARST SAFE**

Preventive measures for a safe Karst

- **IN4SAFETY**

Strengthening cross-border cooperation with the development and implementation of joint emergency action plans in the cross-border area for a more resilient territory

CROSSIT SAFER | Italy-Slovenia – Standard project 2014-2020¹

The common challenge faced by CROSSIT SAFER was to create an institutional level able to manage natural risks, i.e. to reduce the risks related to geomorphological characteristics of the territory and climate change that require better coordination of prevention, warning and response measures to natural emergencies in the Programme area.

- **Main project objectives**

The overall objective of the project was to build capacity for cross-border institutional cooperation between public authorities and key civil protection organisations by promoting joint emergency response planning with coordinated natural emergency prevention, warning and response measures.

- **Key results and lessons learned**

The project contributed to an increased intensity of cross-border cooperation for effective emergency management in the cross-border area. A cooperation protocol was signed for coordinated civil protection interventions in the event of natural emergencies and other disasters (coordination of prevention measures and response capacity, joint operational rescue and risk management procedures, coordinated training for civil protection teams)

- **Ideas for the future**

The outcome of the project, i.e. improved coordination of prevention measures, increased preparedness and response capacity of civil protection units in the event of natural emergencies and other disasters are key

items in the crossborder area: they will be capitalized, transferred, and empowered through increased intensity of cross-border cooperation with involvement of all relevant actors, including municipalities.

- **Description of the collaboration method**

The approach to the common challenges in the Programme area was aimed in particular at strengthening the institutional cooperation capacity, which was pursued through the signature of the cross-border cooperation protocol, the harmonisation of procedures and measures in case of natural emergencies and the organisation and implementation of joint training and education programmes for civil protection units in both countries. The need for cross-border cooperation stems from the awareness that natural emergencies know no borders. CROSSIT SAFER built on the knowledge and experience of PPs from other EU projects, which has been updated with new and improved forest fire early warning systems, using seismic vulnerability models of buildings and damage assessment, as well as a cartographic software and an application that allows geographical information systems to be shared in the cross-border area.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1ST January 2019 to 30th September 2022

BUDGET: EUR 2.492.976,83 (ERDF), EUR 2.932.913,94 (TOTAL)

LEAD PARTNER: PROTEZIONE CIVILE DELLA REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

PROJECT PARTNERS: 9

¹See project website:

<https://2014-2020.ita-slo.eu/it/crossit-safer>



KARST-SAFE | Italy-Slovenia – Standard project 2021-2027²

Due to climate change and the resulting ever-increasing risk of fire in the natural environment, the project is aimed at preparing preventive measures against fires in the cross-border area of the Karst, with an emphasis on the protection of the population and settlements.

Thanks to their experience with the recent fire in the Karst (2022), project partners are aware of the importance of prevention, therefore, in cooperation with different expert institutions, as well as other stakeholders, they will develop joint solutions to prevent the risk of accidents and strengthen preparedness to react to fires.

- **Main project objectives**

An action plan will be drawn up with the aim of unifying measures in the cross-border area of the Karst.

Based on the action plan, public tenders will be held in the pilot area to encourage the implementation of preventive measures, in various fields - agriculture, forestry, protection of nature and cultural heritage, social entrepreneurship.

Also, a pilot example of preventive fire protection measures will be implemented in the area. Due to the configuration of the terrain, the Karst area requires appropriate equipment, which is provided for in the project. Training for preventive fire protection measures will also be provided as well as special emphasis will be placed on communication for awareness-raising on the target public aiming at changes in their behaviour .

- **Expected Output**

The project widens and capitalises on outputs of the 2014-20 project CROSSIT SAFER by improving its impact and transferring its outputs to new target groups.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1ST October 2023 to ongoing

BUDGET: EUR 599.535,20 (ERDF), EUR 749.419,00 (TOTAL)

LEAD PARTNER: Občina Sežana

PROJECT PARTNERS: 6

²See project website:

<https://www.ita-slo.eu/en/karst-safe>



IN4SAFETY| Italy-Slovenia – Standard project 2021-2027³

The common challenge addressed by IN4SAFETY is to build cooperation for disaster risk prevention and climate change risk reduction, through a more coordinated response to natural disasters in the programme area. The vulnerability of the area and the need for cooperation was particularly demonstrated by the fires in the cross-border area of the Karst in the summer of 2022.

- **Main project objectives**

The overall objective of the project is to promote resilience capacities to climate change and the prevention of risks related to natural disasters by strengthening cross-border cooperation between local authorities and rescue teams through the development of 2 action plans, the integration of territorial data and joint training of rescue teams.

The innovation of the project lies in the establishment of a helicopter emergency plan for faster and more efficient rescue operations, while complementing the existing territorial platforms with electronic data on the terrain and high obstacles useful for air rescue.

- **Expected Outputs**

The main expected project outputs are joint emergency action plans in the cross-border area, and project expected results are improved capacities for climate resilience and natural disaster risk prevention, benefiting governance authorities at all levels, civil protection and emergency responders, research and education institutions and the local community. The project capitalises 2014-20 projects CROSSIT SAFER and HARMODATA.

PROJECT DATA

DURATION: 1ST October 2023 to ongoing

BUDGET: EUR 599.967,76 (ERDF), EUR 749.959,70 (TOTAL)

LEAD PARTNER: Občina Ajdovščina

PROJECT PARTNERS: 6

³See project website:

<https://www.ita-slo.eu/it/in4safety>

