

SOUTH ADRIATIC CONNECTIVITY GOVERNANCE SAGOV

IN A NUTSHELL

South Adriatic Area is an important transport connectivity nod between Italy, Albania and Montenegro. It is crisscrossed by maritime routes that from Puglia ports of Bari and Brindisi link the TEN-T Scandinavian - Mediterranean Corridor with the Core Network ports of Durres and Bar, (both part of Corridor VIII and of Adriatic - Ionian Highway). Meanwhile, many smaller projects connect businesses and peoples from each side of the border between the three countries.

In this context, different mechanisms such as National Investment Committees, Single Project Pipelines, Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) and Infrastructure Project Facilities, etc., have supported the ability of Western Balkans countries to prepare mature connectivity project proposals. The Berlin Process has provided the necessary political support to their financing. EU has set aside up to €1 billion for connectivity investment projects and technical assistance for the period of 2014-2020.

The macro-regional strategy EUSAIR has promoted synergies and interaction with the "Berlin process" projects by harmonizing different connectivity axis and supporting of relevant soft measures. Since more than two decades, the INTERREG program has funded hundreds

of p2p, b2b and g2g cross-border cooperation actions between Italy, Albania and Montenegro.

Improving connectivity within the Western Balkans, and of the region with the EU is a key factor for higher growth, more jobs, and more intensive trade and cultural exchange in the region. However, there is an insufficient joint vision, joint coordination on planning, preparation and financing, or of joint-promotion of those endeavors. South Adriatic Region is also lacking a comprehensive map of all the infrastructure and related soft measures in place.

In this crisscross of connectivity initiatives, a better coordination mechanism is needed. The identification, cross-border preparation, financing, timely implementation, and synergy with other cross-border actions will increase the efficiency of regional connectivity infrastructure. Moreover, the SAA region needs to be more preminent in the pan-European map of WB6 connectivity investments.

In this context, at policy level SAGOV will promote an integrated governance approach supporting a joint vision and higher efficiency of policymaking regarding the cross-border connectivity infrastructure. At project level, SAGOV will provide innovative tools and procedures that may be used by all stakeholders in connectivity policymaking and project

preparation and implementation in the rest of EUSAIR area.

During its lifecycle, the project will set up an inclusive connectivity platform for stakeholders in the South-Adriatic Area, where know-how and competences can be enhanced, transferred and coordinated amongst the partners. This construction will put a specific focus on increasing the efficiency of existing coordination mechanisms of connectivity projects that link the three countries.

SAGOV will also involve stakeholders other than government of IFIs - such as businesses, local governments and NGO - in the strategic project cycle. Moreover, the project will build up an organic interlinking of policy-making in the SAA and Western Balkans with existing EU cohesion and territorial programs.

South Adriatic Connectivity Governance Project has been designed and will be implemented under the aegis of Berlin Process and Connectivity Agenda. As such its intended outputs are designed to fit and be used by Berlin Process and connectivity stakeholders.

1. Map of Transport Connectivity initiatives in South Adriatic – in the first phase, SAGOV will conduct a comprehensive identification and classification of transport connectivity initiatives and projects in the SA, of the connectivity actors, and of the existing connectivity dynamics. On top of providing a comprehensive view of what is happening in-between the three countries in the transport sector, this will allow for a better understanding of potential synergies among infrastructure, soft-measures and other CBC initiatives in the area, them being p2p, b2b or g2g.

2. Support to bring to maturity of one pilot maritime transport connectivity

initiative. The project will contribute to the maturation of Vessel Traffic Monitoring Information System (VTMIS) project targeting the acquisition of finance for the Phase I in Albania. This expected output will be aimed through exchange of best practices between technical staff of Montenegro and Albanian respective institutions wherever required. A side product will be the construction of a best case on cooperation in transport connectivity projects;

3. SA Connectivity Governance Platform. It will consist on a built-up e-platform, web-based and publicly available, reflecting the stage of advancement (with semaphore system) of main connectivity projects in the SAA. The e-platform will also serve as a Connectivity Repository, including studies (the project will prepare different studies on SAA connectivity and Berlin process; SAA in the BRI & 16+1 Initiative; on Regional Governance Approach on Connectivity; on success factors; etc.); a toolbox; didactic videos and other communication and advocacy tools.

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The project duration is 24 months, from April 2018 to March 2020.