

\_\_\_ Project **HAZADR** will be implemented under **IPA Adriatic Cross Border Cooperation Operational Programme**. It's fully coherent with Programme's general objective – *Strengthening of sustainable development capabilities of the Adriatic region through a concerted strategy of action between the partners of the eligible territories*, within which it supports Priority 2 – *Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention*, Measure 2.2 *Natural and Cultural Resource Management and Prevention of Natural and Technological Risks*.

The main objective of the project is the establishment of a cross – border network for the prevention of risks and the management of emergencies, in order to reduce the risk of pollution and contamination of the Adriatic Sea and the strengthen a common reaction capacity of the communities belonging to the Adriatic Region against environmental and technological hazards due to collisions, shipwrecking and spillage of oil and toxic material into the sea.

**The specific objectives, to be achieved through the active cooperation of port authorities, coastal guards and military corps, are:**

\_\_\_ upgrading the knowledge framework on the estimated environmental and socio-economic risks in the most vulnerable Adriatic areas due to natural and human-induced factors, as well as the harmonization of laws governing the protection of the sea from pollution in Adriatic countries, to support decision – making process in preventing, reacting and overcoming emergencies (also for the benefit of countries not directly involved in the project but treated by oil spillage contamination in case of shipwrecks or collisions),

**OBJECTIVES**

\_\_\_ the harmonization, improvement and shortening deployment time of the cross – border reaction capacity in the event of oil, toxic and hazardous substances spill by enhancing the coordination / reaction capacity in the Adriatic EUROREGION of those corps entrusted to respond to ecological hazards (to be further applied by all partners according to each national law, in compliance with the EU and international agreements and in connection with the land civil protection corps),

\_\_\_ the set up a common database on the state of readiness and spatial distribution of pollution preventing equipment along the Adriatic coasts as well as the improvement of the operational instruments to cope with the environmental and technological hazards,

\_\_\_ the improvement – through 2 cross – border joint exercises in Adriatic and the establishment of an Adriatic Training and Research Centre – of the cross – border coordination reaction capacity. This will be done by training of command personnel, operational staff and other actors involved in contingency plan & pollution prevention, to expand their knowledge and decision making capabilities as well as chain of command and usage of equipment and other issues,

\_\_\_ the improvement of the early warning system – through a joint radar monitoring program based on a set of radar systems and VHF devices – and the consequent the capacity of the entrusted Euroregion actors to identify potential sources of risks menacing ecosystems (mainly located in the most sensitive economic poles of Adriatic) and trigger coordinated intervention procedures.

**LONG LASTING EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT**

\_\_\_ Upon the project completion, there will be a continuation of activities related to enhancing the preparedness and response capacities for response mechanisms at sea, both at cross-border and regional and county levels.

The key role will be played by the Research and Training Centre that will continue its operation even after the finalization of the project. The Centre will be in the ownership of Primorsko-goranska County. Since the project partners are public institutions highly motivated by the establishment of the Training Centre, the Centre's extra-funding is considered easily sustainable.

On the whole, the acquired knowledge and experiences gained through cross-border cooperation shall be used in the future so as to maintain the high level of preparedness for the future emergency situations at sea. Upon the finalization of project activities, the work on the elaboration of regional and county contingency plans continues for those regions and counties where such plans have yet been elaborated; the implementation of cross-border exercises will also carry on.

HAZADR provides a good basis for the particular purpose: Guidelines for the elaboration of contingency plans shall serve as a reference for the drafting of contingency plans in the regions and counties where such plans have not been elaborated or adopted; Methodology for the implementation of cross-border exercises shall be used as a reference for the organization of future exercises as well as for the assessment of the efficiency.

The most important structural impact of this project will be the Guidelines for the elaboration of contingency plans, but also the proposals that the project partners will submit to the competent national, regional and EU bodies and international organizations where they point to the need for the enhancement of the legislation, which is basis for marine protection, including the harmonization of response procedures.

The Adriatic Sea is one of the most endangered areas in the Mediterranean. It faces serious environmental challenges, especially because of major oil transport routes to the North – Adriatic ports of Trieste, Venice, Koper and Omišalj. From an economic point of view, the Adriatic region plays an important role in tourism and recreation. At the same time it is one of the most developed industrial areas. Consequently, the risk and threat of oil, toxic and hazardous substances can have disastrous consequences for the delicate environment as well as for sea – based economic activities.

Until now this area has been affected by numerous maritime incidents which luckily caused no significant damage to the environment. Although these incidents caused no consequences, they revealed numerous shortcomings in the existing sea protection system. This applies first of all to the available equipment in the regions / counties, which is not sufficient to cope with large and / or simultaneous environmental disasters.

Other problems affecting both coasts of the Adriatic are the lack of trained and coordinated response teams able to deal with complex accidents at sea, as well as modest cross – border coordination among bodies involved in the implementation of contingency plans. This situation is due to the fact that there is no available training and research centre in the Adriatic region, while some Adriatic countries as well as some regions have no contingency plans, thus making matters even worse.



The project duration is 30 months, starting from October 2012, under the leadership of Apulia Region – Civil Protection Service from Italy in cooperation with partners:

- Primorsko-Goranska County (CRO)
- Zadar County (CRO)
- Split – Dalmatia County (CRO)
- Istria County (CRO)
- Emilia – Romagna Region (IT)
- Marche Region (IT)
- Italian National Research Institute – CNR IRSA (IT)
- National Institute of Oceanographic and Experimental Geophysics – OGS (IT)
- Institute of Oceanographic and Fisheries of Split (CRO)
- Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Directorate of Maritime Transport Policy (Albania)
- Marine Biology Station of Piran MBSP, National Institute of Biology NIB (SLO)
- University of Montenegro – Institute of marine biology – IBMK (MNE)



# HAZADR

**STRENGTHENING  
COMMON  
REACTION  
CAPACITY  
TO FIGHT  
SEA POLLUTION  
OF OIL, TOXIC AND  
HAZARDOUS  
SUBSTANCES IN  
ADRIATIC SEA**

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