

SUCCESSFUL OPENDAYS 2012 ON "ADRIATIC-IONIAN MACRO-REGION" LABELLED ABRUZZO

The 2012 edition of the “**Open Days**” on “**Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region**” has just ended and it is already time to set an early assessment.



Looking at the large expectations that preceded this initiative, by - namely - **institutional stakeholders, Member States** and, especially, **European Commission**, who granted large support and direct participation, results can be considered largely positive: at some extents, the 2012 edition may be considered as a real "**milestone**" in the development process of the integrated strategy for **Adriatic-Ionian**. Thanks to all the **Partners of the Consortium**, and - perhaps - also to the **working-method** inaugurated by Abruzzo, as Leader-partner, very focused on **concrete and tangible outputs**, as well as on very **inclusive approach** about objectives and actions to carry-out together with **stakeholders** and all **Consortium partners**.



“Open Days” are the most important annual event organized by European Institutions on EU Regional policies. This year, **Abruzzo Region** celebrated the **tenth anniversary** of those at the helm of the consortium on **"Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region"**.

It was the **seventh time** in a row that Abruzzo took part in an edition of "Open Days". The **third in a consortium on "Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region."** But it was the **first time** that Abruzzo was appointed leader of the initiative. And most importantly, it was the **first time** that the Consortium on the "Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region" featured a partnership so strong and qualified: **12 regional governments and one**

national government representing 5 different Member States, for more than twenty million inhabitants:



Republic of Slovenia (SL), the Regions of Emilia-Romagna, Sicily, Puglia, Basilicata, Marche, Molise (IT) Region Dubrovnik-Neretva (Croatia), the Republic of Srpska and Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina), then districts of Nišava, Toplica and Piroć and Sumadija-Pomoravlje (Serbia).

Under the theme: "**Territorial Cooperation: an asset for Europe**", the consortium led by Abruzzo proposed two different activities:

- Conference-Debate: "**Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion: Transnational, Interregional and Crossborder Co-operation actions paving the way ahead**", at Espace Montepaschi Belgium;

- **OPEN-DOORS EXHIBITION** on the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region, featuring stands to all represented Regions and Member States, their territories and their projects and actions insisting on this area of extraordinary historic, economic and cultural interest.



As for the work-method, Abruzzo build-up a common and shared approach, suitable to go beyond the local and regional particularities. And it may perhaps be acknowledged that their institutional role as **Managing Authority of the European Programme "IPA Adriatic Cross-border Co-operation"** EU programme -the main piece of reference for planning all those **concrete actions and services serving the entire area** - has proved to be very useful.



The theme of the debate: **"Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion: Transnational, Interregional and Crossborder Co-operation actions paving the way ahead"**, aimed to provide institutional partners:

a) **European Commission**

which was represented by three different Directorates General (**DGREGIO, DG MARE** and **DG ENVIRONMENT**), as well as by the **Commissioner for Maritime Policies, Mrs Maria Damanaki**;



b) **European Parliament**

where the report on: **"Evolution of macro-regional strategies European Union: current practice and proposals for the future, particularly in the Mediterranean"**, by **MEP Mr Francois Alfonsi**, approved on July 3 last year, is a very important piece of reference;

c) **Member States (Italy, Slovenia, Greece, Croatia, and Serbia** had all their voice within the initiative)

with a platform of analysis of those **"challenges, urgent needs, and viable solutions"** that represent, along with the **given ceiling of available resources**, the basic principles the European Commission was supposed to comply with when they were setting the two pre-existing macro-regional strategies (Baltic and Danube) .



The initiative was directly supported by the **Representation of Italy to the European Union**, while **Republic of Slovenia** was one of the partners since the beginning.



At the center of the debates - among other very concrete actions - the ambitious project called: "**POWERED" Project Of Offshore Wind Energy: Research, Experimentation, Development**", aimed to exploitation of wind energy in the Adriatic-Ionian basin. The project is funded under the "**IPA Adriatic cross-border cooperation" EU Programme** (Abruzzo is **Managing Authority** of the entire Programme), and involves, in addition to Abruzzo, as Lead-Partner, the **Italian Ministry of Environment**, the **Ministry of Economy of Montenegro**, **Ministry of Economic Affairs of Albania**, the **Marche Region**, the **Regions of Molise** and **Puglia**, **Veneto Agriculture**, **Province of Ravenna**, the **Marche Polytechnic University** and the **City of Komiza**.

Link to the text of the speech by Commissioner Mrs Maria Damanaki:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/damanaki/headlines/speeches/2012/10/20121010_speech_en.htm

Link to the text of the speech by the Italian State-Secretary Mrs Marta Dassù:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Interventi/2012/10/20121012_Macroregione.htm?LANG=IT

Link to the video-contribution which introduced the two panels of the Debate:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?=GTvYWpvfcYKM>

Link to the graphical version of the Final Programme of the initiative:

http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xEuropa/asp/redirectApprofondimenti.asp?pdfDoc=xEuropa/docs/news/334/AIM_2012_programme.pdf

Link to the extended version of the Programme of the initiative:

http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xEuropa/asp/redirectApprofondimenti.asp?pdfDoc=xEuropa/docs/news/334/AIM_2012_programme_extended.pdf

Other documents available at the page of “Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region” on REGIONETWORK2020 platform:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/regionetwork2020/node/15300>

Link to the page dedicated to OPEN-DOORS EXHIBITION:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2012/exhibitions.cfm

Link to the official website of the Open Days 2012:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/od2012/index.cfm

(Regional Directorate for Presidency-Liaison activities with E.U. - 6/11/2012)