

# **GROWING COOPERATION IN THE SOUTH EAST EUROPE AREA**

PROJECTS  
FUNDED  
WITHIN  
THE FIRST  
CALL FOR  
PROPOSALS

**Jointly for our common future**



# Cooperation in South East Europe is underway

The implementation of the first generation of transnational cooperation projects financed through the South East Europe Programme began in 2009, after more than one year of preparation and selection.

The 40 innovative projects help the integration process of the area and contribute to making South East Europe a more competitive place. The projects benefit from the exchange of experience and the joint work on new and interesting ideas, while developing new opportunities for the region.

The total ERDF funds allocated to the 40 projects amount to € 76.628.855. The size of the projects ranges between € 1-5 million. They are covering all four Programme Priority Axis areas (innovation, environment, accessibility, and sustainable urban growth) and tackle a wide scope of problems: from river waste management to spatial planning exercises; from protected-areas management to transport optimisation and development of innovative business parks. More than 500 partners from the 16 countries participating in the Programme are involved in the projects, presenting a good picture of the extent and dynamism of the cooperation.

We invite you to take a closer look at the work that's been done by these interesting projects and follow the partnerships that have been developed so far in the South East Europe region. Cooperation here is producing some valuable results for our common future!

# AsviLoc Plus

INNOVATION SYSTEMS CAN BRING AN ADDED VALUE FOR REGIONAL AND LOCAL ECONOMIES OF SEE

**MAKING ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTS** of less-developed areas more innovation-friendly, AsviLoc Plus creates supportive frameworks that motivate small to medium-sized enterprises toward modernisation while bringing them closer to the results of research and development activities. More economically advanced countries have the competencies necessary for innovation, and thus employ a great variety of actors and generate strong interactions. In order to facilitate mobilisation of innovative actors in South East Europe by increasing their experience and understanding of innovation

mechanisms, AsviLoc Plus establishes regional laboratories to detect and match the needs of innovative stakeholders. Designed in collaboration with regional development agencies, successive experimentations with new approaches enable public decision-makers to operate within a new role as a catalyst of policies. Through the development of transnational innovation clusters and training networks in polycentric areas, AsviLoc Plus enables partners from different countries to make better use of their innovation potential by addressing specific needs and promoting strengths.

**AGENCIES SUPPORTING VALUE OF INNOVATION SYSTEMS IN REGIONAL AND LOCAL ECONOMIES**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Sviluppo Marche SpA, Italy*

**PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.000.000,00

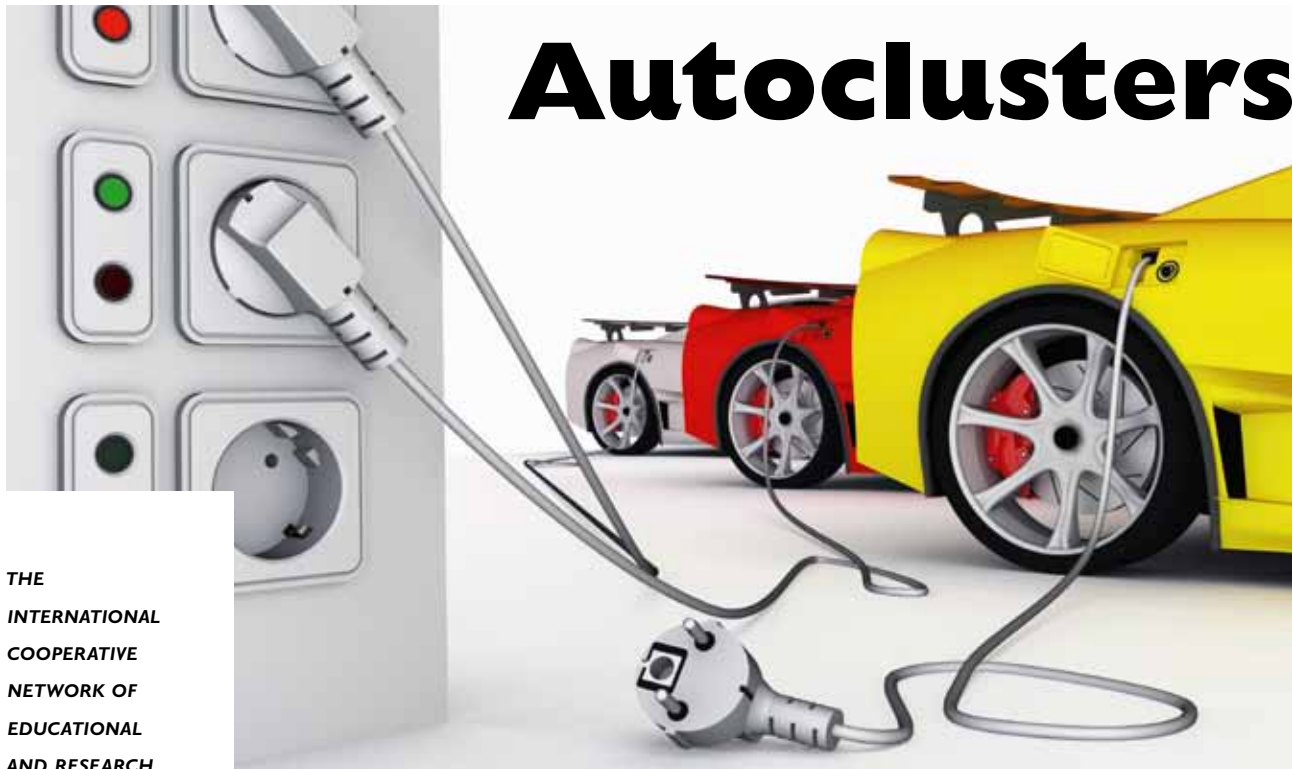


“

*The capacity to turn knowledge, skills, and competencies into sustainable competitive advantages is crucial to a region's economic performance.*

”

# Autoclusters



**THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATIVE  
NETWORK OF  
EDUCATIONAL  
AND RESEARCH  
INSTITUTIONS  
WITH  
SUBCONTRACTORS  
AND OTHER  
BODIES ACTIVE  
IN THE  
AUTOMOTIVE  
INDUSTRY**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Automotive  
Cluster West  
Slovakia,  
Slovakia*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Hungary,  
Italy, Romania,  
Serbia, Slovakia,  
Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.398.250,00

## CONNECTING INNOVATIVE PARTNERS TO DEVELOP THE SEE REGION'S FIRST AUTOMOTIVE NETWORK

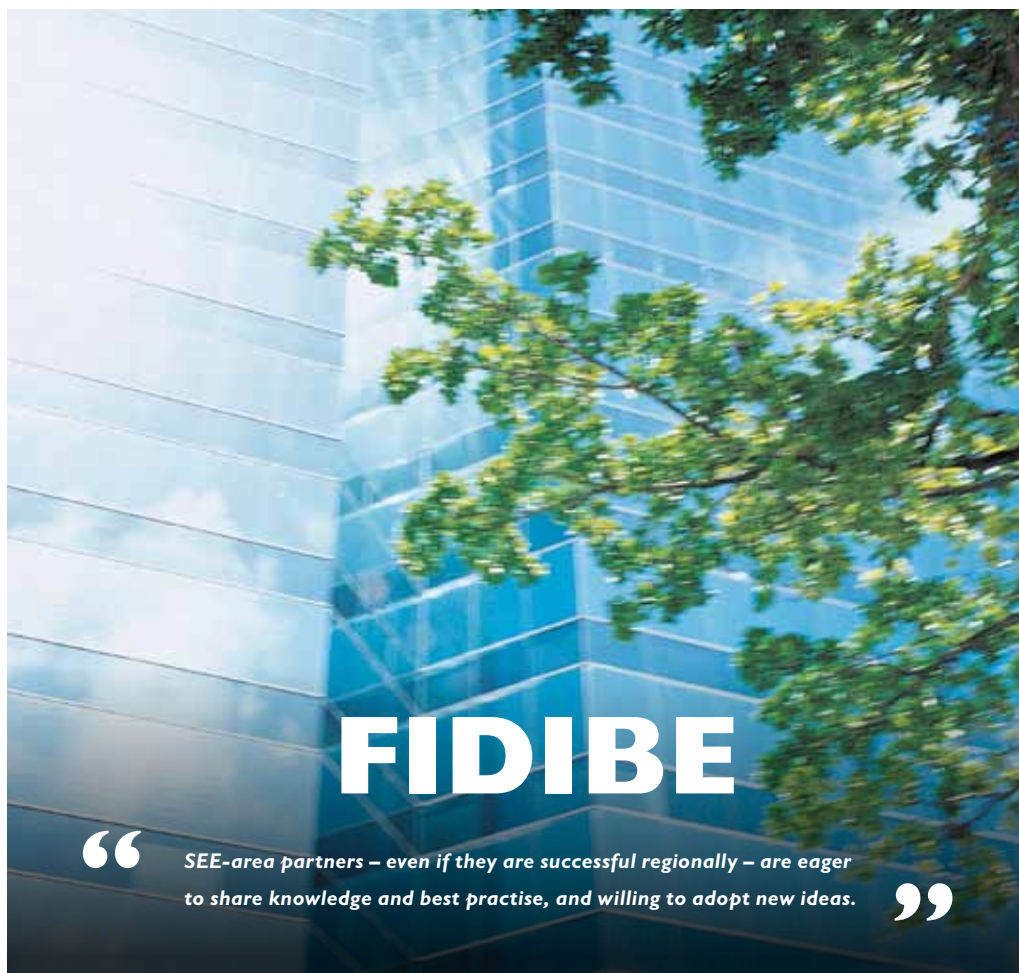
AUTOCLUSTERS IS DRIVEN TO REV UP THE automobile industry throughout South East Europe by boosting communication between universities, research and development institutions, and small to medium-sized enterprises, all working to design and create a modern innovative network. With a goal of forging transnational partnerships to increase innovation capacities and technology transfer, the project is oriented on improving mutual connections and knowledge among researchers and universities with existing SME facilities, who can collectively develop new and better technologies,

equipment, and products. Autoclusters aims to improve the innovation circle throughout the SEE's auto-making sector, facilitating knowledge economy and best-practise transfer. This will foster the development of advanced automotive technologies that should deliver positive impacts on environmental sustainability. Through active cooperation of smaller regions in the development of research, innovations, and knowledge transfer, our partners can advance within the European auto industry, and SEE can become a more attractive area in the world of auto manufacturing.

“

*The future of the automotive industry is inseparably connected  
with the development of new and better technologies and products.*

”



“

SEE-area partners – even if they are successful regionally – are eager to share knowledge and best practise, and willing to adopt new ideas.

”

## RAISING STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS PARKS THROUGHOUT SOUTH EAST EUROPE

**THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SOUTH EAST** Europe is constrained by the region's low performance in innovation and in the research and development sector. Many national and regional policies now make a priority of developing innovative business parks that could provide a favourable environment for small and medium-sized enterprises. However, because of poor coordination, cooperation, and transfer of knowledge and best practise, the effectiveness of business-park development is often insufficient to suit regional needs. By establishing standards and providing mechanisms of ex-

change of experience and cooperation, FIDIBE is facilitating the development of innovative business parks, beginning with analysis of the innovation potential for regions participating in the project, and promoting the selected best practises with the creation of a manual acting as a guide on how to establish new facilities and further develop existing parks. With the collection and distribution of unified standards, methods, and experience in this endeavour, the project also encourages improvement of services and operational procedures within innovation parks to increase their efficiency.

**DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE BUSINESS PARKS TO FOSTER INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SEE AREA**

### LEAD PARTNER

Mid-Pannon Regional Development Company, Hungary

### PARTNERSHIP

**COUNTRIES**  
Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

### ERDF BUDGET

€ 1.887.000,00

# I3E

**PROMOTING  
INNOVATION IN  
THE INDUSTRIAL  
INFORMATICS  
AND EMBEDDED  
SYSTEMS SECTORS  
THROUGH  
NETWORKING**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Industrial Systems  
Institute / Research  
Centre ATHENA,  
Greece*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria,  
Greece, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia, Ukraine*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.795.115,00



## PROMOTING MODERNISATION OF SEE'S TECHNOLOGY SECTORS TO INCREASE THEIR COMPETITIVENESS

**“** *Periods of economic turmoil highlight the need for change, so that economies become more competitive and enterprises are able to withstand global competition.* **”**

AS THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE struggle to emerge from recent years of economic crisis, these regions have an obvious need for innovative changes brought about by competitive enterprises to withstand global competition and increase enterprise flexibility. Promoting the cutting-edge, export-oriented technology sectors of industrial informatics and embedded systems, the I3E project acts as a catalyst for the SEE area's transformation into a knowledge-based and innovation-driven economic zone, aiming to create a competitive advantage in these growing fields. While SEE has good human potential because

of efficient education, the region's research teams often do not align their activities at a transnational level. By establishing a strategic research agenda in industrial informatics and embedded systems – thus fostering aligned research efforts area-wide – I3E lays the groundwork toward achieving shared goals and enhancing SEE on the European research map. Additionally, I3E is producing guidelines to promote innovative products and services, including a methodology guide on innovation to provide insight about common problems encountered in the process of turning research into products or services.



# InterValue

ENCOURAGING COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOURS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE



**INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR VALORISATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (URENIO Research Unit), Greece

**PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Serbia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.470.080,00

ALTHOUGH THE COUNTRIES OF South East Europe have considerable research and development potential, many of the results produced cannot find a way to the marketplace because of hindrances caused by the area's limited R&D purchaser base. Because the size of each country limits the extent of R&D applicability, transformation of research results into marketable products is constrained, making a transnational approach necessary to increase the area's innovation base. To promote interaction between R&D creators, producers, financiers, and marketers in the framework of a valid and sustainable collaboration mechanism, InterValue provides a multilingual platform for communicating the findings of R&D efforts, following gradual processes for valori-

sation of results that are establishing up to 39 agreements for research cooperation and investment. As a conclusion to the project, the partners will prepare a scientific paper that can provide policy recommendations for researchers and regional institutions regarding the experiences gained through this process of achieving valorisation agreements, along with details about difficulties of the process and deficiencies of regional systems.

“

*The SEE area includes countries with remarkable potential, providing that inter-regional cooperation actions will be stimulated and mutually developed.*

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# IPRforSEE

## UPDATING SYSTEMS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AMONG TRANSNATIONAL PARTNERS

### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR SEE**

#### **LEAD PARTNER**

Chambers of  
Commerce Industry  
Craft and Agriculture  
of Venice, Italy

#### **PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

Austria, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia

#### **ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.076.500,00

THE INNOVATION OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE'S small to medium-sized enterprises lags behind the dynamism of their counterparts in Western Europe partially because of poor performance in terms of the number of patent applications submitted – a consequence of the region's lack of support services for intellectual property rights, despite the increasing importance of this field at an international level. With the development and implementation of pilot actions, IPRforSEE is reviewing six different multilevel services for specific targets to support SMEs: Intellectual Property (IP) for start-up businesses; IP coaching addressing issues related with intangible assets; IP pre-diagnosis for creative industries, followed by counselling activities with experts; using IP to gain competitive advantage; guidance for IP

protection at trade fairs; and an IP club for firms with a higher maturity level in related topics. After the development of a clear and consistent methodology for pilot-action implementation, IPRforSEE drafted two guidebooks aiming to foster cohesive communication and an international approach toward modern issues of protection of intellectual rights.

**“ Every country bears different experiences and ways of approaching the project activities – harmonisation of intellectual property rights requires deep cooperation. ”**





## A TRANSNATIONAL APPROACH TO SOLVING LOCAL PROBLEMS WITH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE RAPIDLY INCREASING SECTOR OF SOCIAL entrepreneurship provides many opportunities as a vector of change for positive growth throughout South East Europe. The establishment of social enterprises that offer concrete solutions to local needs can have dynamic impacts like stimulation of regional job markets and increased social cohesion. By setting up a transnational network to share information and diverse local experiences in a multilevel framework, ISEDE-NET advances this innovative approach with the help of financial instruments for social enterprises and by providing business services supporting their expansion. ISEDE-NET conducts extensive analysis of market areas that may be suitable and profitable for social enterprises, including feasibility studies on new potential market niches and

the utilisation of innovative financial tools. Ultimately, the project goal is to create a transnational community that makes a constant flow of information possible, forming a more competitive Europe with better knowledge about driving forces of social entrepreneurship in the participating countries. On a stakeholder level, the project created a permanent transnational public-private network committed to SEE's regional development.

**INNOVATIVE  
SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISE  
DEVELOPMENT  
NETWORK**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Province  
of Brescia  
– Economic  
Development  
Area, Italy

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Austria, Bulgaria,  
Greece, Hungary,  
Italy, Serbia,  
Slovenia, Ukraine

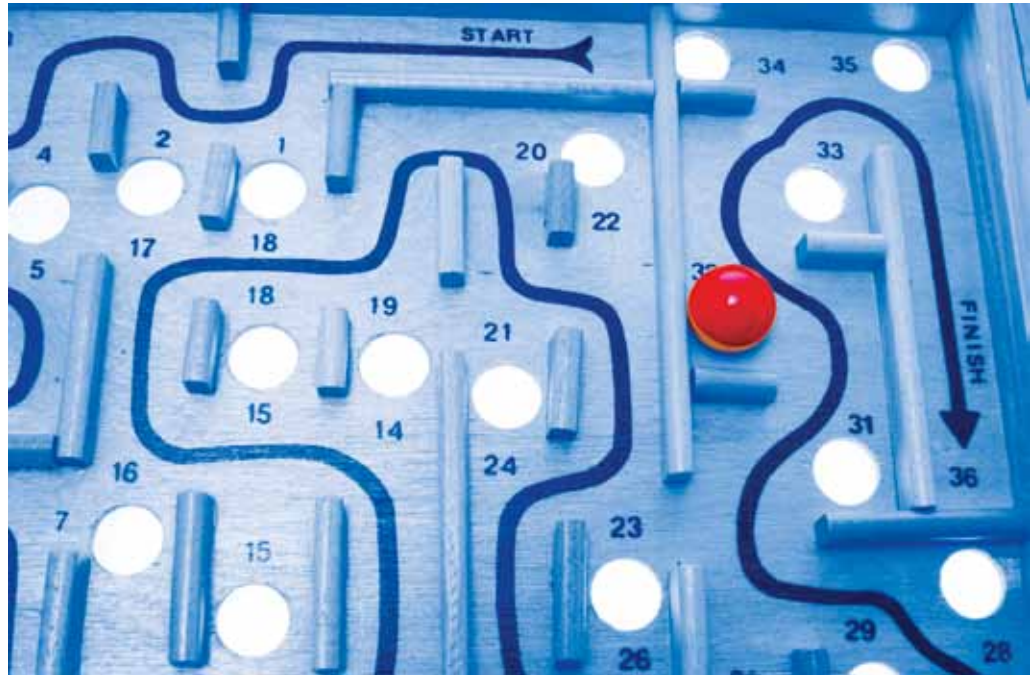
**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.062.772,00

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*The project will help to make market analyses more operational and useful as they will be combined with support services and potential financial resources.*

”



**EUROPEAN  
NETWORK FOR  
THE SHARING  
AND DISSEMINATION  
OF TECHNOLOGIES  
AND KNOWLEDGE  
IN THE INNOVATIVE  
FIELD OF  
GAME-BASED  
LEARNING**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Business Innovation  
Center of Epirus,  
Greece*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Bulgaria, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.341.889,00

# LUDUS

THE NEW FIELD OF SERIOUS GAMES PRESENTS AN INNOVATIVE GROWTH OPPORTUNITY FOR SEE

SERIOUS GAMING IS A DYNAMIC 21<sup>ST</sup>-century growth industry that utilises the engaging medium of electronic games to create interactive resources for learning, advertising, simulation, and numerous other purposes beyond entertainment. With the regions of South East Europe needing to boost their knowledge in the field of modern technology development, LUDUS establishes a network for the transfer of best practises and experiences in

this innovative sector, joining eight competent institutions (including universities, innovation centres, and social partners) from six SEE countries for cooperation to advance shared skills in the development and use of serious games. Project activities include analysis of the field and modern breakthroughs; surveying the views of information technology companies, educational institutions, and local development organisations; and catalysing open training labs, European competitions, conferences, and workshops and events for training and networking. LUDUS is the first project of SEE to foster networking and knowledge transfer in serious gaming, leading to new approaches while offering new opportunities and benefits for researchers, developers, and users.

“

***As serious gaming is a new field, there is a very strong need for transferring knowledge, offering training, promoting networking, and raising awareness.***

”

# SEE-IFA Network

## BUILDING A NETWORK TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR INNOVATIVE SEE ENTERPRISES

WITH OVER 95% OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE'S companies at the micro, small, or medium-sized enterprise level, the majority of innovative actors in regional and transnational economic growth endeavours will come from these businesses. Nevertheless, they are facing structural deficits like limited access to information, low resources for innovative entrepreneurship, and an insecure operating framework. With cooperation between multilevel innovation and finance agencies, authorities, and universities, SEE-IFA Network strengthens the capacity of project partners to effectively provide innovation and technol-

ogy support for developing and implementing innovative procedures and products. The network provides access to relevant information, know-how transfer, and training that stimulates innovation and facilitates access to funds for innovative projects. Meanwhile, SEE-IFA Network identifies needs in the technology support systems of partner countries, assesses existing instruments, and enhances the operating innovation environment by locating funding possibilities. The project will conclude with the development of at least one new instrument, one institution for innovation support, and a pilot SEE cross-border patent fund.

“

***Innovation and development of technologies are of crucial importance for the competitiveness of companies and regions, building the basis for future growth.***

”

**SOUTH-EAST  
EUROPEAN  
COOPERATION  
OF INNOVATION  
AND FINANCE  
AGENCIES**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Austria  
Wirtschaftsservice,  
Austria

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy, the  
former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.216.821,00

# TECH.FOOD

**SOLUTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS FOR THE TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFER AND THE INNOVATION OF THE AGRO-FOOD SECTOR IN SOUTH EAST REGIONS**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Province of Modena, Italy

**PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.032.123,00

## STIMULATING PROSPERITY OF SEE'S AGRO-FOOD INDUSTRY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS

BEYOND PROVIDING THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH East Europe with their daily sustenance, the agro-food industry is important as one of the entire area's main economic sectors, stemming from the huge number of small to medium-sized enterprises and employees involved. Promoting common best-practise strategies and tools that allow regional agro-food businesses and institutions to experience opportunities for innovation and discover possibilities to promote research in the agro-food sector, TECH.FOOD establishes shared development targets between the industry's related enterprises and research groups. The

project is strengthening collaboration among researchers, public institutions, and food enterprises on transnational and local levels. This helps to establish new supply chains and cooperation networks to set up mechanisms allowing for the sharing of key technologies, skills, experiences, and knowledge. By harmonising the needs of SMEs with innovative knowledge from institutional support, SEE's agro-food actors can participate more effectively in EU programs, and renew public confidence in food quality and safety by promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly and healthy agricultural methodologies.

“ Consumers' needs for quality, convenience, diversity, safety, and sustainable food production highlight the need and the opportunities for innovation. ”



# Tex-EASTile

## STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMIC FABRIC OF SEE'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY WITH GREEN INNOVATION

**SOUTH EAST EUROPE'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY** is in need of mending after the sector experienced a severe downturn in world markets during recent years, followed by the global recession's widespread impacts. Textile manufacturers must integrate research and innovation into their practises to further develop and boost a newly sustainable and competitive industry. To contribute to the strengthening and expansion of Europe's market for eco-friendly fabrics, Tex-EASTile creates a community of excellence by promoting and consolidating knowledge exchange and developing sustainable cooperation by means of common methodology and shared instruments. The project conducts surveys on the current state of textile manufacturing, market trends, and green public procurement regulations of each partner country, using the findings to create an eco-design hand-

book for small to medium-sized enterprises considering textile-industry tools focused on sustainable techniques. Tex-EASTile is also defining a set of common tools for environmentally sustainable principles to be promoted among SMEs and public administrations, facilitating exchange and cooperation processes around technology and innovation in textile enterprises.

“

**More competitive and transparent public procurement practices will allow SMEs to unlock their growth and innovation potential.**

”

**SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION FOR TEXTILE IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Euroimpresa Legnano, Italy*

**PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES**

*Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.470.500,00

# CC-WaterS

**CLIMATE  
CHANGE AND  
IMPACTS ON  
WATER SUPPLY**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Municipality  
of the City  
of Vienna –  
MA31 Vienna  
Waterworks,  
Austria

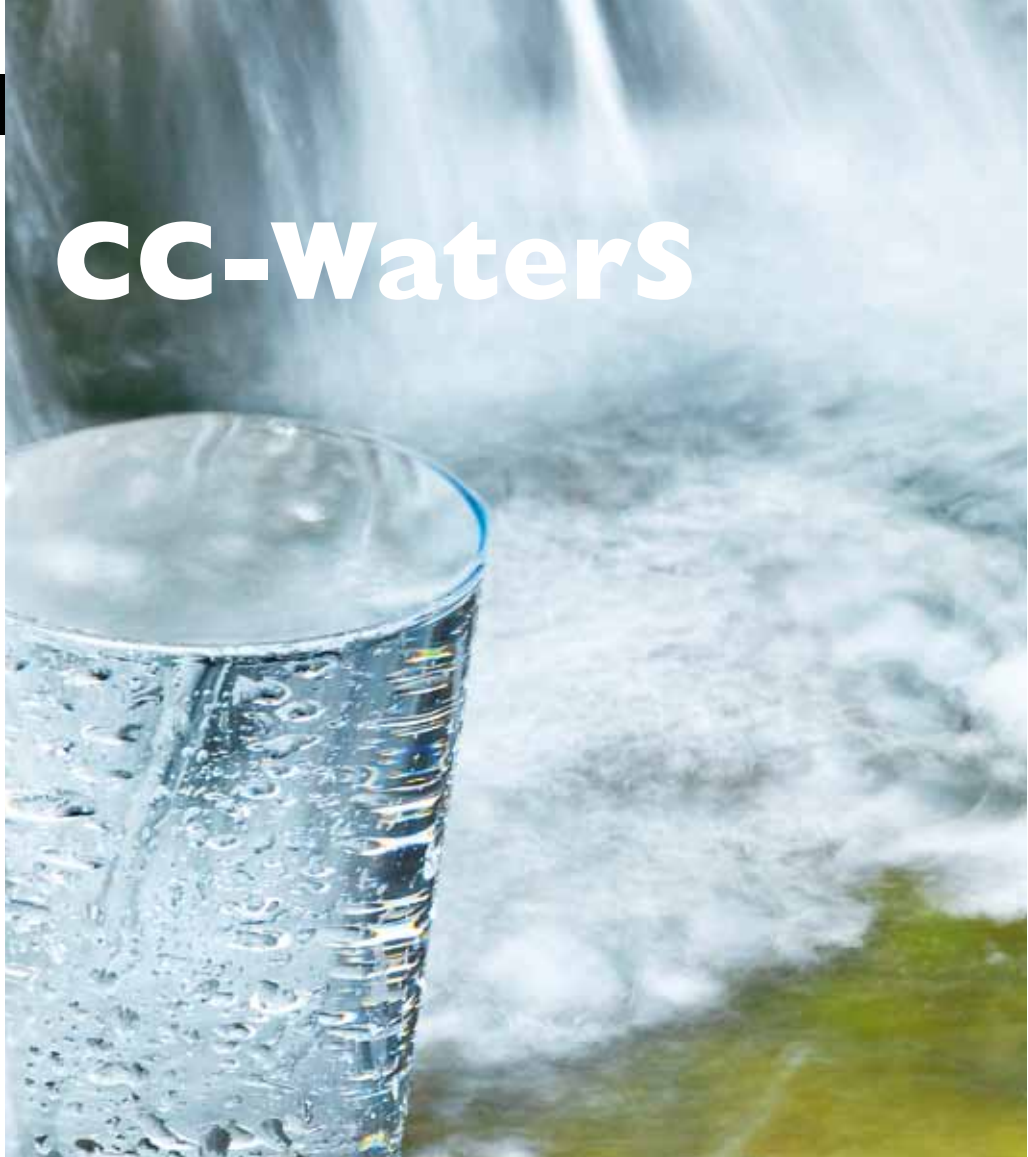
**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 3.317.748,00



## IMPROVING WATER-SUPPLY MANAGEMENT TO PREPARE FOR THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

“ **The cooperation of water suppliers, governments, and scientific institutions offers the possibility to cover different aspects of problems.** ”

THE CONTINUAL DEPLETION OF SOUTH EAST Europe's fresh water resources threatens the entire region's long-term stability, as anticipated impacts of climate change are expected to further diminish future water supplies and force drastic restructuring of land-use practise among many interlinked nations. By developing sustainable management practices to safeguard the public water supply throughout SEE for several decades, CC-WaterS aims to mitigate potential conflicts that could arise from destabilisation of fresh water availability. The project promotes transnational coordination of water

suppliers, government agencies, and scientific institutions while carrying out evaluations of the area's climatic parameters and socio-economic factors, and determining an effective water-management system based on cooperation and communication between the project partners. After establishing local test areas in several landscapes throughout the SEE region and analysing the findings, CC-WaterS encourages the gradual modification of land-use policies in agriculture and urban development to ensure that the stakeholders involved will strategically manage their potable water supplies.



**CC-WaterS**

[www.ccwaters.eu](http://www.ccwaters.eu)

# Danube Floodrisk

## DEVELOPING PROACTIVE FLOOD-PREVENTION STRATEGIES WITH TRANSNATIONAL METHODOLOGIES

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EU'S DANUBE Strategy goal to provide a framework for policy integration and coherent development of the Danube region, the Danube Floodrisk project develops advanced databases to support flood prevention for the most deluge-prone areas along the river's banks. By focusing on the most cost-effective measures for flood-risk reduction on a transnational level – determined by assessment and mapping, involvement of relevant stakeholders, and adequate spatial planning – the project's implementation is expected to minimise flood risks while simultaneously safeguarding and promoting lo-

cal economic activities. Danube Floodrisk has already finalised two major reports regarding requirements on flood-mapping procedures for the Danube River to harmonise data management and good practise among the region's stakeholders, advancing the project's objectives to bring unity to the many different flood prevention and mitigation measures employed by all of the countries along the Danube. With cooperation between all partners involved, Danube Floodrisk can successfully combine their experiences to help determine a common methodology in the transnational fight against floods.

**STAKEHOLDER  
ORIENTED FLOOD  
RISK ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE DANUBE  
FLOODPLAINS**

**LEAD PARTNER**  
Ministry of  
Environment,  
Romania

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**  
Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Hungary,  
Italy, Romania,  
Serbia, Slovakia

**ERDF BUDGET**  
€ 4.131.622,15



**Risk reduction in large international river basins can only be achieved through transnational, interdisciplinary, and stakeholder-oriented approaches.**





# Danubeparks

**DANUBE RIVER  
NETWORK OF  
PROTECTED AREAS –  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
IMPLEMENTATION  
OF TRANSNATIONAL  
STRATEGIES FOR  
THE CONSERVATION  
OF THE NATURAL  
HERITAGE AT THE  
DANUBE RIVER**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Donau-Auen National  
Park, Austria*

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria,  
Hungary, Romania,  
Slovakia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.312.808,00

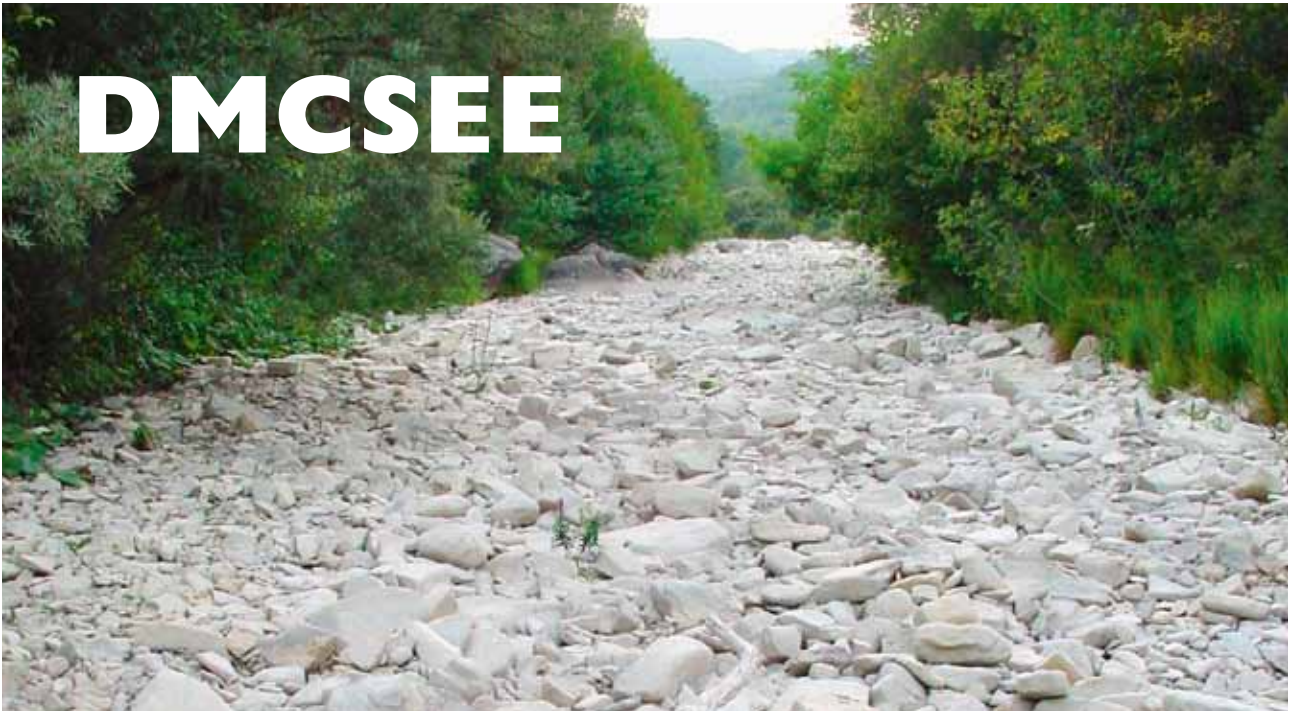
## TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION TO PROTECT CROSS-BORDER ECOSYSTEMS ALONG THE DANUBE RIVER

AS THE DANUBE RIVER WINDS THROUGH many regions of South East Europe, it is the centre of varied protected habitats ranging from wetlands and meadows to dry grasslands and forests. Danubeparks is working to develop several conservation concepts to ensure aligned management activities in neighbouring countries, while also fostering nature tourism along the Danube with a focus on experience exchanges and the training of rangers and guides. The completed efforts of Danubeparks include monitoring and conservation initiatives to document and protect the status of area species like white-tailed eagles and Danube sturgeons, while other specific activities implemented are the creation of a fish database, joint monitoring for endangered species such as little-ringed plover and sandmartin, and also production of handbooks regarding beaver and European mink. On the level of

transnational policymaking, Danubeparks acts as a promoter to establish coherence in natural habitats' management based on knowledge transfer, shared guidelines, and jointly developed future strategies for conservation of different sites along the Danube. Through these actions Danubeparks encourages a living Danube to serve as a green lifeline for the SEE region.

**“ Fauna, flora, habitats, and rivers do not recognise state borders. Natural ecosystems therefore need international approaches for their effective protection. ”**





# DMCSEE

## MITIGATING FUTURE IMPACTS OF DROUGHTS THROUGHOUT SEE WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

DROUGHT DIFFERS CONSIDERABLY FROM most natural disasters linked to weather conditions – because of its inherently extended time dimensions, there is no single variable that could measure and forecast severity of drought. Aiming to establish a successful early-warning system to make all transnational actors become aware of the potential threats of drought and proactive

to mitigate future impacts of water scarcity, DMCSEE works to bring together institutions dealing with all aspects of drought (including hydro-meteorological services, agricultural institutes, and universities) to produce an SEE regional monthly drought bulletin containing overviews of current situations. DMCSEE's organisation of an international network was crucial in preparation of regional drought monitoring, and work within the project has already revealed a large heterogeneity in the area's exposure to drought impacts. Forecasts for the SEE region predict a long-term decrease in summer precipitation and consequent stress on water supplies throughout the region in forthcoming decades; without a transnational approach toward tackling this challenge, these areas don't have a chance for success in planning against drought threats.



**Lack of cooperation between neighbouring countries and missing integrated approaches of drought monitoring, assessment, and management are serious problems.**



**DROUGHT  
MANAGEMENT  
CENTRE  
FOR SOUTH  
EAST EUROPE**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia*

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

*Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.452.705,00



# Ecoport 8

AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ECO-FRIENDLY STANDARDS FOR PORTS ON MAIN SEE TRANSPORT AXES

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT OF  
TRANS-BORDER  
CORRIDOR PORTS**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Bari Polytechnic,  
Italy

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Albania, Bulgaria,  
Greece, Italy,  
Montenegro,  
Romania

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.534.930,00

WHILE MARITIME TRAFFIC HAS AN IMPORTANT role in European transport strategies partly because of its relatively low impact on the environment, the intensification of nautical haulage creates a threat of increased ecological damage to coastal zones and seawater, especially for ports located on main transportation networks. Ecoport 8 has set up a framework for cooperation between research centres and local port authorities to improve environmental management of port activities in SEE and to define reference actions to prevent pollution and preserve natural resources in port areas. To achieve these goals, Ecoport 8 supplies SEE's port authorities with shared tools for environmental management and monitoring. The project also works to define a common sustainable protocol on transnational standards over environmental parameters

within the ports. The project's efforts include encouraging collaboration among local authorities, enterprises, and citizens with a view to enhance both environmental protection and economic growth. New professionals are trained on the design and ecological management of port areas, and an increasing number of maritime authorities are being approached to expand the project.

“ **The development of the competitiveness of contemporary ports is linked directly to the implementation of the principles of sustainable development.** ”



# ENER SUPPLY

“ *Energy efficiency and the utilisation of renewable energy sources are among the top energy priorities of the countries in South East Europe.* ”

## IMPROVING ENERGY CONSERVATION BY BOOSTING LOCAL AWARENESS WITH PROACTIVE TRAINING

THE ENERGY-INTENSIVE ECONOMIES OF many nations in South East Europe are overly reliant on fossil fuels, hindering the region's ability to achieve ambitious energy-efficiency goals and impeding the utilisation of renewable energy sources. By strengthening the knowledge of local government officials in modern energy management and green-technology breakthroughs, ENER SUPPLY aims to develop the capacity of SEE's regional administrations and consequently attract investments in the selected territories. The ENER SUPPLY strategy begins with training provincial representatives in effective methods of energy management

and renewable energy technologies, with courses adapted to the particular needs of trainees. These educational programmes are followed by the development of maps identifying potential renewable-energy sources in specific regions, and the creation of feasibility studies for projects that harness eco-friendly resources like biomass, geothermal, and wind, which will subsequently be presented to local and international investors. Furthermore, ENER SUPPLY provides assistance to local authorities to collect energy-consumption data that is used to develop territorial energy balances.

**ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY AND  
RENEWABLES –  
SUPPORTING  
POLICIES ON  
LOCAL LEVELS  
FOR ENERGY**

**LEAD PARTNER**  
*Municipality of  
Potenza, Italy*

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**  
*Albania, Bosnia  
& Herzegovina,  
Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Greece, Hungary,  
Italy, the former  
Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovakia*

**ERDF BUDGET**  
€ 1.320.386,00

**TRANSNATIONAL  
INTEGRATED  
MANAGEMENT  
OF WATER  
RESOURCES IN  
AGRICULTURE  
FOR THE  
EUROPEAN  
WATER  
EMERGENCY  
CONTROL**

**LEAD PARTNER**

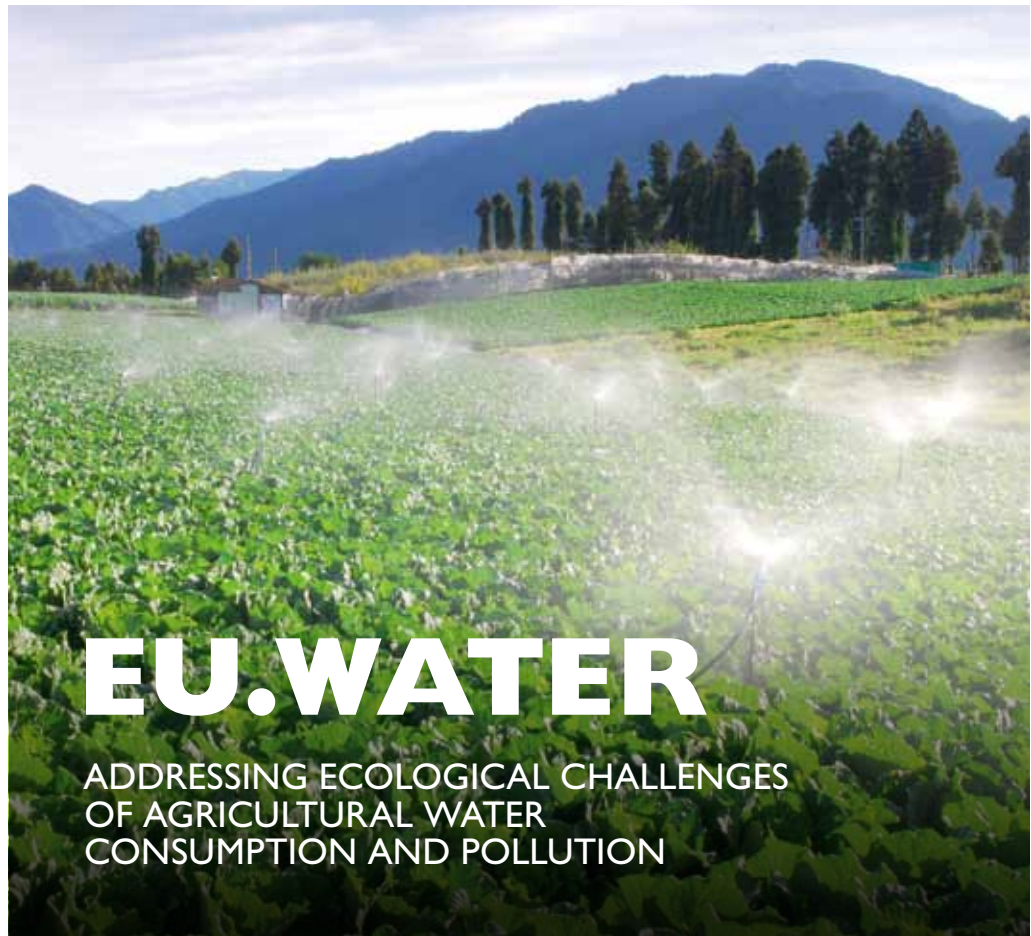
Province of  
Ferrara, Italy

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

Croatia, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Republic of Moldova,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Ukraine

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.014.543,00



THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IS BOTH THE primary consumer and threat for the world's water resources, with the industry's massive demand compounded by inefficient usage practices and related water pollution from fertilisers. In the countries of South East Europe, agriculture represents a major component of local economies, and as they strive to modernise with good farming practises, water-management issues present major chal-

lenges to rural reform. Tackling the problems of agricultural water rationalisation and the reduction of pollution in the water basin and groundwater tables, EU.WATER aims to develop joint strategies and implementation of pilot actions to promote better water management and natural resources in SEE's rural areas. After a preliminary analytical phase of elaborating maps of vulnerability and sensitivity to nitrates, EU.WATER delivers innovative models for nitrate prediction that optimise farming practises for accordance with the EU's soil-nitrate abatement policies, and pilot-area experimentations test the scientific validity of such models. These findings are organised in a database for integrated water management, increasing the capacity of both policymakers and farmers.



***The project sets good farming practises to maintain – and possibly increase – the competitiveness of South East Europe's agricultural economies.***





# MONITOR II

PREPARING FOR SEVERE NATURAL HAZARDS WITH ENHANCED PROCEDURES AND COMMUNICATION

NATURAL DISASTERS ARE AN INEVITABLE occurrence in every region worldwide, but in South East Europe the state of hazard risk management is often needlessly fragmented between neighbouring countries, with expertise in disaster mitigation and response not being directly communicated on a transnational level. This is leading to information loss in hazard mapping and contingency planning. MONITOR II follows up on the findings of a predecessor project that developed a methodology for monitoring hazard processes while also uncovering dangerous gaps in regional risk management. The new project serves as a platform for the public, politicians, emergency services, and hazard experts to share their knowledge and discuss their needs, fostering a system of continuous

situation awareness among stakeholders that supports planning, decision making, and documentation of natural hazards. MONITOR II also aims to implement regular update procedures for emergency preparation and to integrate real-time situation maps in case of disasters, and while the project specifically addresses floods and landslides, concepts and solutions that are developed can also be adapted and applied to other types of natural hazards.



**The project will integrate communication between hazard experts, decision makers, and civil protection services with an improved flow of information.**



**PRACTICAL  
USE OF  
MONITORING  
IN NATURAL  
DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Austrian Federal  
Ministry of  
Agriculture, Forestry,  
Environment and  
Water Management,  
Forest Department,  
Austria

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Austria, Bulgaria,  
Greece, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.004.300,00

**MANAGING  
NATURAL ASSETS  
AND PROTECTED  
AREAS AS  
SUSTAINABLE  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Institute of  
the Republic  
of Slovenia  
for Nature  
Conservation,  
Slovenia*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

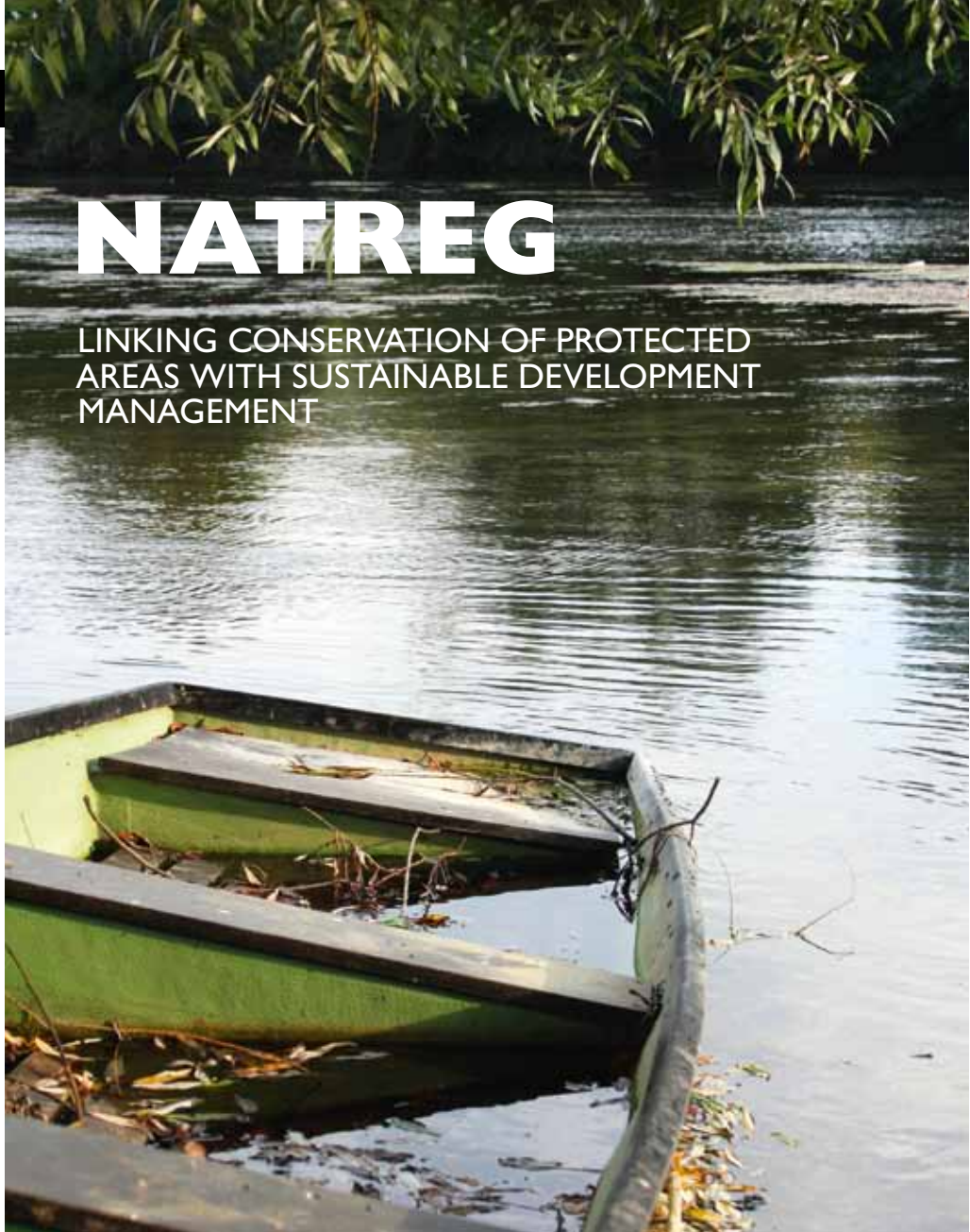
*Austria, Croatia,  
Italy, Serbia,  
Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.842.691,00

# NATREG

**LINKING CONSERVATION OF PROTECTED  
AREAS WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
MANAGEMENT**



**“ Stake-  
holder engagement  
is a means  
to enable local  
people to become  
involved in  
planning and  
to deliver  
innovative  
local solutions  
to local  
problems. ”**

ALTHOUGH A BOUNTIFUL VARIETY OF NATURE preserves can be found throughout South East Europe, these protected areas are often underutilised for their significant social and economic development potential, usually due to a lack of transnational coordinated management. By connecting six natural areas in five countries from the Adria-Alps-Pannonia region – which varies drastically both geographically and culturally – the NATREG project is preparing a joint strategy for integrated management of protected zones by building constructive dialogues among all parties involved, while drafting dynamic manage-

ment plans for pilot sites in different levels of development. With cooperation in fields of nature conservation and spatial planning, the local stakeholders can become involved in sustainable development and deliver innovative solutions unique to these habitats, determined through NATREG-organised consultations, trainings, and meetings. An important mission of NATREG is to spread the perception of nature preservation as a valuable asset – educating the public about the importance of conserving natural wealth for future generations – with various events, publications, websites, and workshops.

# SARMa

DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FROM THE GROUND UP



THE TERRA FIRMA OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE possesses a wealth of construction aggregates like sand, gravel, and other granular materials, but the regional industries extracting these resources lack coordination across the entire area, resulting in site-level problems like environmental damage, illegal quarrying, limited recycling, and inadequate stakeholder engagement. To encourage more efficient practices that minimise the socio-environmental impacts of quarrying, SARMa is developing policies for sustainable aggregate resource management (SARM) that address transnational issues at multiple spatial scales.

On local, national, and international levels, project partners collect data, complete case studies, solicit input from public authorities, and meet with stakeholders, striving to establish a common approach to SARM while ensuring a sustainable supply of these crucial construction materials. By assisting public authorities in the creation, implementation, and monitoring of their aggregates policies, strategies, and management plans, SARMa acts as a catalyst for more harmonised and sustainable approaches to resource administration throughout SEE's communities, countries, and economies.

**SUSTAINABLE  
AGGREGATES  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Geological  
Survey of Slovenia,  
Slovenia*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Albania, Austria,  
Bosnia and  
Herzegovina, Croatia,  
Greece, Hungary,  
Italy, Romania,  
Serbia, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.533.400,00

“

**The project is important because there is an increasing need to discuss and implement sustainable policies for both the management and extraction of aggregates.**

”

**SEE HYDROPOWER,  
TARGETED TO  
IMPROVE WATER  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT FOR A  
GROWING RENEWABLE  
ENERGY PRODUCTION**

**LEAD PARTNER**

ERSE S.p.A, Italy

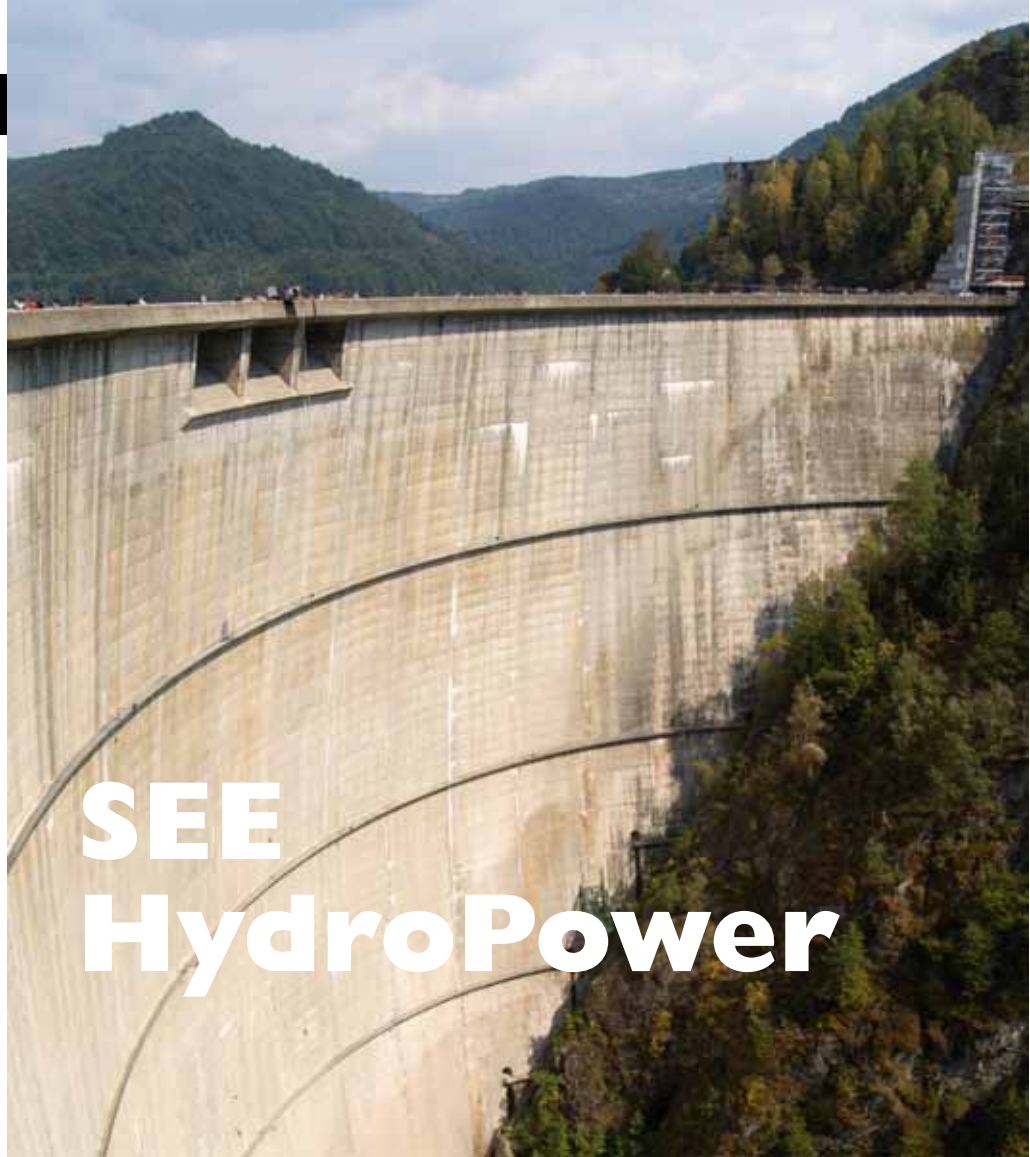
**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Austria, Greece, Italy,  
Republic of Moldova,  
Romania, Slovenia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 2.158.830,00



## ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION STRENGTHENED WITH SHARED KNOWLEDGE

“ **The project aims to promote sustainable exploitation of water for increasing hydropower production in SEE countries while preserving river environmental quality.** ”

AS THE MOST IMPORTANT RENEWABLE resource for energy production in South East Europe, hydropower is a crucial aspect of the entire area's socio-economic prosperity, with varied transnational consumers drawing from interconnected waterways with ever-increasing demand. The consequent competition between water users – prompting water withdrawal on river systems that damages watershed connectivity – requires accurate planning and water-management optimisation to prevent severe hydrological changes that can injure river ecosystems. The SEE HydroPower project links diverse stakeholders to

promote experience transfer between local and transnational target groups in topics such as water-resources planning and management, hydropower production, policies concerning environmental issues, and river-system recovery. Through this collaboration, SEE HydroPower defines specific needs and test methodologies to help public bodies make decisions about planning and management of water and hydropower concessions, taking into account the related environmental, technical, and economical factors. To achieve these goals, six geographically different pilot basins are analysed for verification of project results.





# WANDA

## A CLEAN DANUBE REQUIRES MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND POLLUTION CAUSED BY INLAND NAVIGATION

THE DANUBE RIVER IS A FLOWING LIFE force for South East Europe, both as the centre of a comprehensive ecosystem providing for diverse flora and fauna, and as an international waterway of high economic importance for people living in the Danube corridor. River transportation is considered as an environmentally friendly mode of mobility, but with ever-increasing volumes of cargo and passenger traffic, the Danube is suffering from negative side effects – particularly escalating levels of ship-borne waste, which can harm the riparian ecology when discharged illegally. To develop modern effluent-man-

agement concepts that are harmonised on a transnational level with the aim to achieve sustainable and efficient shipping, WANDA is implementing pilot actions for the collection, treatment, and disposal of ship wastes, as well as the elaboration of a financing model for the responsible handling of oily and greasy ship waste based on the “polluter pays” principle. These endeavours will raise awareness among skippers about the necessity to dump ship waste exclusively at authorised collection sites, which are provided free of charge at locations along the upper and lower Danube during a trial period.

**WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
FOR INLAND  
NAVIGATION ON  
THE DANUBE**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Via Donau – Austrian Waterway Company, Austria*

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.417.154,00



*It is the very nature of a river to stream beyond national borders, and accordingly inland waterway navigation is of a cross-border nature.*





# Wide the SEE

**WIDENING  
THE THERMAL  
SOLAR ENERGY  
EXPLOITATION BY  
THE SUCCESSFUL  
MODELS**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Province of  
Teramo, Italy*

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy, the  
former Yugoslav  
Republic of  
Macedonia, Republic  
of Moldova, Romania,  
Slovenia, Ukraine*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.783.300,00

## A SHINING MODEL FOR SEE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS POWERED BY SOLAR-ENERGY INNOVATION

SOLAR POWER IS A CLEAN AND SAFE resource that is broadly available throughout the sunny regions of South East Europe, yet while the use of solar-energy panels is widespread in some nations like Austria and Greece, in many other countries this endlessly renewable commodity is left unexploited. Wide the SEE is a project that promotes the installation of rooftop solar panels in these areas to provide substantial financial savings for users while benefiting the environment thanks to reduced greenhouse-gas emissions. Wide the SEE is developing a transnational partnership that contributes to economic and social

cohesion by promoting a culture of respect for the environment. Having produced a teaching manual for installing and maintaining modern solar thermal systems, Wide the SEE is establishing integrated initiatives and events based on awareness campaigns and financial consulting for homeowners on a local level. However, the project's ultimate aim is to stimulate regional and central governments in countries that are most in need of cost-effective green energy to support solar-power providers and facilitate the growth of solar thermal plants that can contribute to the growth of sustainable communities in SEE.



**The biggest challenge was to communicate to the general public the importance of using alternative energy, explaining the environmental opportunities.**



# NELI

## CHARTING A COURSE TOWARD IMPROVEMENT OF INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT AND NAVIGATION



WHILE TREMENDOUSLY INCREASING TRAFFIC flows have voyaged on the Danube routes of South East Europe over the last two decades, the region's inland maritime management is not advancing to meet modern river-transport needs, bringing about problems like discrepancies between national systems, lack of interaction and communication among training institutions and stakeholders, and insufficient promotion of the inland-waterway transport sector. The NELI project establishes cross-functional working teams to stimulate collaboration between research, training, and transport sectors toward shaping innovative inland-waterway transport policies. NELI contributes to greater Danube-wide cooperation between partners and stakeholders involved, particularly among

institutions committed to provide more experienced and qualified personnel for inland navigation and transport. By creating framework conditions for cooperation between SEE's education and training entities that are focused on river traffic, NELI is establishing a transnational network that enhances cooperation, promotes innovative e-learning services, and helps the actualisation of information and training centres along the Danube corridor.

**COOPERATION  
NETWORK FOR  
LOGISTICS AND  
NAUTICAL  
EDUCATION  
FOCUSING ON  
INLAND WATERWAY  
TRANSPORT  
IN THE DANUBE  
CORRIDOR  
SUPPORTED  
BY INNOVATIVE  
SOLUTIONS**

**LEAD PARTNER**

CERONAV –  
Romanian Maritime  
Training Centre,  
Romania

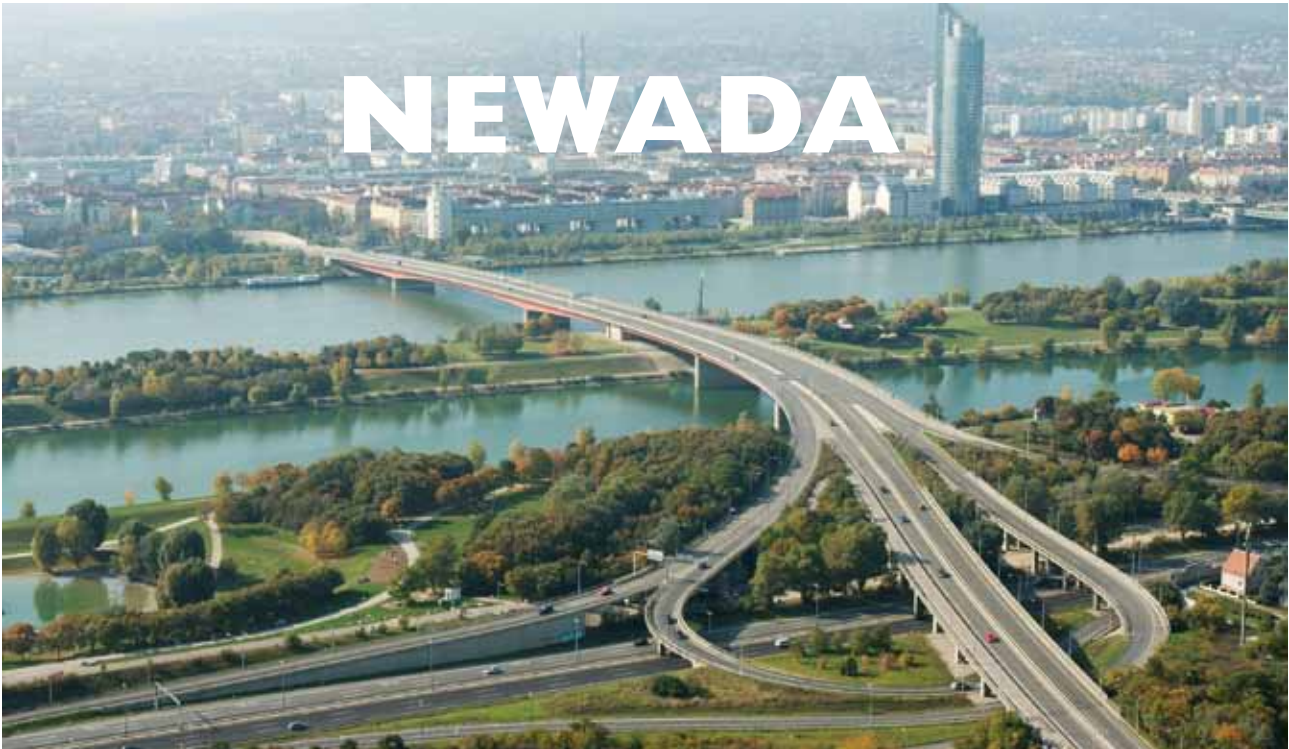
**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**  
Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Hungary,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Ukraine

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.624.646,00

“ **Cooperation creates the perfect framework for the transfer of knowledge and experience, which leads to finding common and viable solutions for all people involved.** ”



## CLEARING THE WAY FORWARD TOWARD INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN DANUBE NAVIGABILITY

**NETWORK  
OF DANUBE  
WATERWAY  
ADMINISTRATIONS**

**LEAD PARTNER**  
Via Donau –  
Austrian Waterway  
company, Austria

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**  
Austria, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Hungary,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Ukraine

**ERDF BUDGET**  
€ 2.224.960,00

THE DANUBE RIVER PROVIDES SOUTH EAST Europe with a major corridor for the inland navigation sector, and the objective of the region's waterway administrations is to maintain and improve navigability of this flowing transport channel while protecting it as a natural habitat for flora and fauna. The river authorities of SEE are hampered by a lack of international cooperation and coordination between waterway agencies, preventing harmonised decision-making processes. The NEWADA project addresses these issues by linking waterway administrators from all countries along the Danube, bolstering interactions between them to promote and support inland navigation by improving physical accessibility of waterway infrastructure and the quality of riparian information available. By providing a common platform to exchange know-how, experiences,

expert observations, and research updates, NEWADA's project team is establishing a network to harmonise activities and action plans in the fields of waterway maintenance, hydrography, and hydrology. Through these efforts concepts are developed for common pilot activities that provide the basis for initiation and implementation of innovative projects.

“ **There is a strong will to work together to improve the current situation and harmonise activities where possible with a common approach.** ”

# SEE MMS



## DRIVEN TO REDUCE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF GROWING CAR TRAFFIC IN SEE'S GROWING CITIES

EVERY ECONOMIC UPTURN EXPERIENCED BY South East Europe's cities is followed by development and expansion, which can be good for a region's dynamic growth, but inevitably causes increases in traffic flows that quickly overwhelm the pre-existing infrastructures of many municipalities. The consequences of insufficient transport planning include congested streets, higher accident rates, and negative environmental impacts from exhaust emissions and noise pollution. To support cohesive mobility management and promote alternative transport, SEE MMS is creating a development strategy to ensure continued economic growth and the process of increasing mobility while mitigating the ecological footprint of such expansion with concern for affected social groups. The project encourages local and regional authorities to participate in transna-

tional cooperation, with an aim to establish a greater shared understanding of mobility management and contribute to the improvement of access in SEE's urban communities. The efforts of SEE MMS will increase the quality of life for city residents while preserving environmental assets that can be a draw for tourism, another growing sector of the SEE economy.

“ **The project partnership will encourage regional and local authorities to view transnational cooperation as a means of enhancing their multi-modality for the promotion of alternative transport.** ”

**SOUTH EAST  
EUROPEAN  
MOBILITY  
MANAGEMENT  
SCHEME**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Municipality of Athens Development Agency Sa, Greece*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.219.750,00

# SEETAC

**SOUTH EAST  
EUROPEAN  
TRANSPORT AXIS  
COOPERATION**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Central European  
Initiative – Executive  
Secretariat, Italy

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

Albania, Austria,  
Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Greece, Italy,  
the former  
Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia,  
Montenegro,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.700.471,00



**SEETAC**  
South East European  
Transport Axis Cooperation

## DRAWING UP A ROAD MAP FOR INTEGRATION OF EU TRANSPORT SYSTEMS IN THE BALKAN REGION

AS THE ECONOMIES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE expand to meet the development capacities of more advanced West European nations, the transport infrastructure capabilities of these growing countries – particularly those in the West Balkan region, where Western and Eastern Europe meet – must rise to overcome obstacles like cross-border bottlenecks and a lack of policy harmonisation. With an ultimate goal of facilitating the inclusion of Western Balkan countries into the European single market, SEETAC conducts analysis of possible integration between existing transport systems from varied regions to generate

continuity and infrastructure development. Through the identification of relevant industrial and population centres, the project determines where important logistics terminals could be located in future, and what different transport subsystems would best catalyse potential growth. To obtain these findings, SEETAC established a unique database management system that is harmonised with existing regional, national, and transnational transport databases, allowing the project to establish common safety, security, and environmental standards that can solve existing traffic problems.



**A close cooperation among the main actors will facilitate investments, cross-border projects, and measures for the elimination of non-physical barriers.**



# WATERMODE

## MOVING TOWARDS COHESIVE CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN TRANSPORTATION BY LAND AND SEA

MANY OF THE CONTINENT'S GREATEST ports are found across South East Europe – from historic harbours lining the Mediterranean, Aegean, and Black Sea coasts to the metropolitan banks of the Danube River – and these transport hubs are becoming increasingly important for transnational commerce. The European economic focus is now shifting towards eastward countries, but this is often constrained by road infrastructures incapable of handling high traffic volume. WATERMODE supports the improvement of connections between ports and hinterland logistics centres by calling a census of 204 multimodal facilities in

ten SEE countries, with a foresight perspective on investment plans for supporting the decision-making process of policy actors and business operators. The comparison of multimodal transport solutions with all-road solutions, including the impact of externalities and social costs, will provide clear information along three routes: Constanta-Vienna; Port Said-Vienna and other sub-routes; and Bari-Belgrade and Bari-Skopje. With the valorisation of potentials for sea- and land-based multimodal logistics cooperation, WATERMODE can increase the competitiveness of alternatives to road transport.

“

*In the SEE Programme area, the water-borne transport modes are the alternatives to road traffic with the most relevant growth potential.*

”

**TRANSNATIONAL  
NETWORK  
FOR THE  
PROMOTION  
OF THE WATER-  
GROUND  
MULTIMODAL  
TRANSPORT**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Venice Port  
Authority, Italy*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Albania, Austria,  
Bulgaria, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Montenegro,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

*€ 2.461.600,00*



# A.D.C.

“ Clusters may act as catalysts for regional development thanks to their capacity to create strong and stable economic, social, and institutional connections. ”

## STRENGTHENING THE ADRIATIC-DANUBIAN AREA'S TERRITORIAL MARKETING IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

### ADRIATIC-DANUBIAN CLUSTERING

#### LEAD PARTNER

Region of Veneto,  
Italy

#### PARTNERSHIP

##### COUNTRIES

Bosnia and  
Herzegovina,  
Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Montenegro,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 1.581.000,00

THE A.D.C. PROJECT IS AN EXCELLENT example of mobilising public support for entrepreneurial cooperation in the strategic productive sectors of South East Europe. To overcome the fragmented state of SEE's economic landscape – which hinders its visibility on the global market as a cohesive environment for small to medium-sized enterprises – the Adriatic-Danubian Clustering project establishes reciprocal awareness of existing territorial assets by developing cluster networks that foster integration of local systems. Furthermore, the project aims to enhance knowledge for potential cooperation across national borders, granting greater visibility of SMEs in the region. A.D.C. shapes partnership agreements with the goal of building up a common platform to ease connection and cooperation. To further the potential of coor-

dination at a transnational level, these cluster networks can enhance innovation and competitiveness by expanding existing processes to new products and markets. The creation of a local help desk in countries participating in the project ensures permanent support to those clusters and cluster companies willing to establish transnational cooperation within the ADC platform.







# Datourway

**TRANSNATIONAL  
STRATEGY FOR  
THE SUSTAINABLE  
TERRITORIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE DANUBE  
AREA WITH  
SPECIAL REGARD  
TO TOURISM**

**LEAD PARTNER**  
VÁTI Hungarian  
Public Non-  
profit Company  
for Regional  
Development  
and Town  
Planning,  
Hungary

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**  
Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovakia

**ERDF BUDGET**  
€ 2.355.727,00

## CREATING ECO-SENSITIVE STRATEGIES FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN SEE'S DANUBE REGIONS

AS AN ATTEMPT TO ENHANCE APPRECIATION and promotion of the abundant attractive sights found in South East Europe's regions straddling the Danube River, Datourway works to create a joint strategy to propagate transnational cooperation linked to the varied potentials for tourism along the waterway, including the enhancement of architectural assets in riverbank communities. Currently tourism-development prospects are underutilized among the countries lining the Danube River's middle and south-eastern sections. Throughout these areas, Datourway is committed to develop an information base for destination

management while implementing a commonly adopted and ecologically sensitive strategy for bolstering sustainable tourism. By providing a forum for the exchange of expertise and the formulation of new and transferable approaches in tourism development, the project fosters economic growth and social prosperity in SEE's Danube regions. These efforts will encourage interconnected actions such as the rehabilitation of dead channels and riverside ecological systems, improvement of water quality, restoration of damaged landscapes, and upgrading poor-quality infrastructure and transport modes.

“ The aim of the project is to enhance and promote transnational cooperation in tourism linked to the various touristic potentials of the river.” ”

# Donauregionen+

**THE SPATIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
CONCEPT OF  
INTERREGIONAL  
COOPERATION  
IN THE DANUBE  
SPACE**

**LEAD PARTNER**

Ministry of  
Construction  
and Regional  
Development  
of the Slovak  
Republic,  
Slovakia

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

Bulgaria, Croatia,  
Hungary, Republic  
of Moldova,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovakia, Ukraine

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.770.380,00

## FACILITATING COOPERATION AMONG DANUBE REGIONS TO EXPAND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

THE DANUBE RIVER REPRESENTS ONE OF THE most important conduits for the entire European economy, and great potential exists for strengthening the development corridor lining the middle and lower stretches of this crucial waterway where it flows through South East Europe. By acting as a transnational catalyst for common cooperation of planners from varied SEE countries, Donauregionen+ establishes elaboration activities with a bottom-up approach based on identification and evaluation of existing Danube-region development strategies in cities and ports. After identifying and evaluating relevant spatial-planning poli-

cies, the project integrates national, regional, and local strategies to support the Danube regions, ports, and towns that are suffering from negative economic factors but have potential for sustainable development. This collected data is provided to public administrations along with comments and recommendations to promote strategies toward forming new Danube growth areas, while the project's meetings and workshops encourage the potential of further support for spatial development of the Danube regions, thus enhancing their importance and competitiveness within Europe's economy.



“

**Danube regions, towns,  
and ports which are  
in a bad economic  
situation can have the  
potential for sustainable  
development.**

”



# F.A.T.E.

“ Europe has plenty of former military brownfields to convert for economic purposes, but for local authorities it is not easy to do that. ”

## ABANDONED MILITARY BASES CAN BECOME INNOVATIVE BUSINESS-DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL LED TO THE dismantling of many military facilities throughout South East Europe, leaving behind numerous brownfield sites that are located in proximity to populated areas, retain good



transport accessibility, and are connected to modern infrastructure. The F.A.T.E. project facilitates the transformation of these sites to become business incubators or support centres, and serve as key assets for local entrepreneurial development. Thus, in their new capacity, the former military barracks can be used to promote both public interest and private-sector development in the areas concerned through expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises. The process of transforming brownfields is a complex one that requires many actors. To ease the process of transferring national military land to local government agencies for establishing low-cost enterprise zones within these parcels, F.A.T.E. sets up ties with relevant supporting agencies and shares knowledge and methodologies to make business-facility creation more efficient. These collaborations have allowed F.A.T.E. to identify and share the necessary steps in the process of converting army bases into dynamic centres for SMEs.

### FROM ARMY TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#### LEAD PARTNER

Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

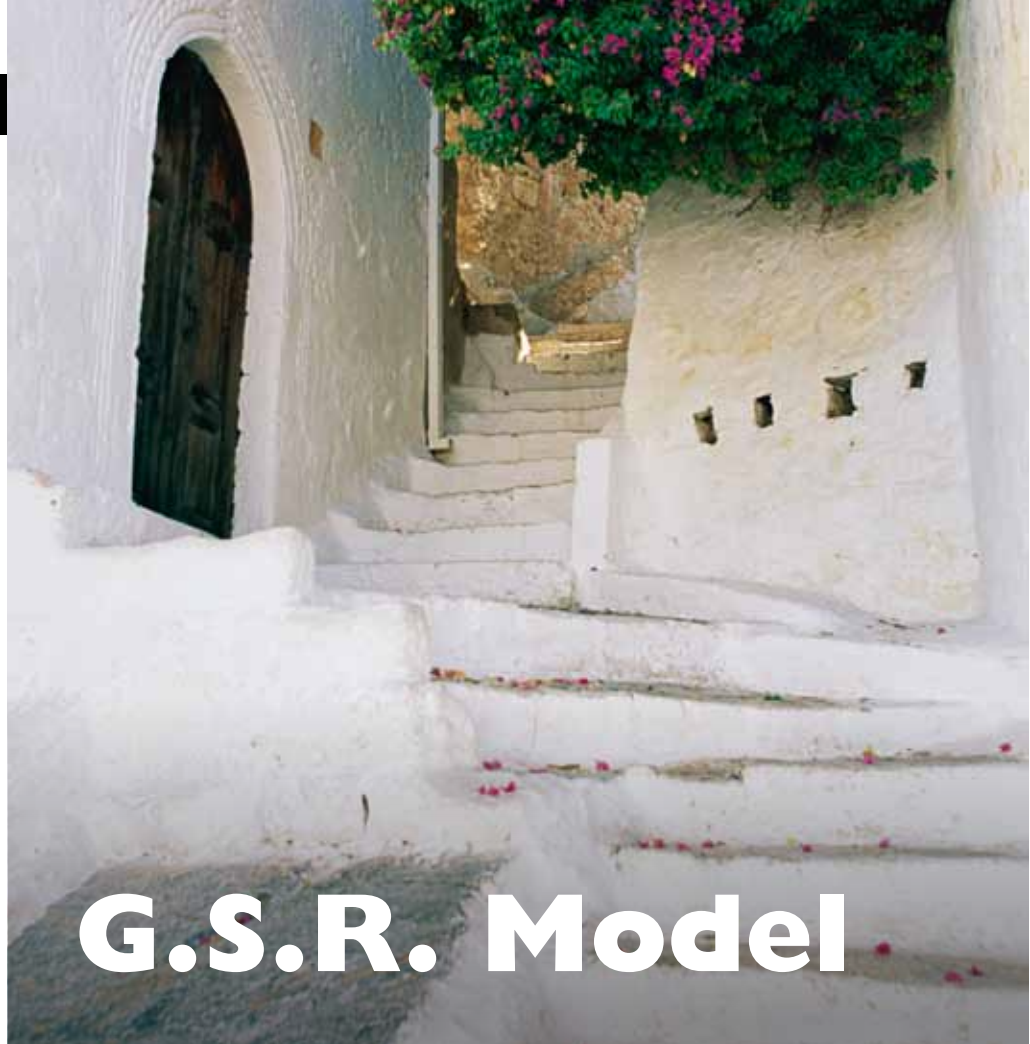
#### PARTNERSHIP

**COUNTRIES**  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 1.725.500,00

**GOVERNMENTAL  
SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY  
MODEL: AN  
INNOVATIVE  
APPROACH OF  
QUALITY IN  
GOVERNMENTAL  
OPERATIONS AND  
OUTCOMES**



# G.S.R. Model

#### LEAD PARTNER

*Hellenic Organisation  
For Standardisation,  
Greece*

## CONCEPTS OF EXCELLENCE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CAN DEFINE PUBLIC-SECTOR AGENCIES

#### PARTNERSHIP

##### COUNTRIES

*Bosnia and  
Herzegovina,  
Bulgaria, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania*

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 1.623.500,00

AS MODERN PRIVATE-SECTOR BUSINESS practises increasingly embrace concepts of total quality, continuous improvement, and corporate social responsibility, the public sectors of many countries – particularly in South East Europe – are continually obstructed by serious problems with issues like low productivity, poor quality of services, and lack of impartiality. To overcome these consequences of obsolete management strategies, G.S.R. Model is build-

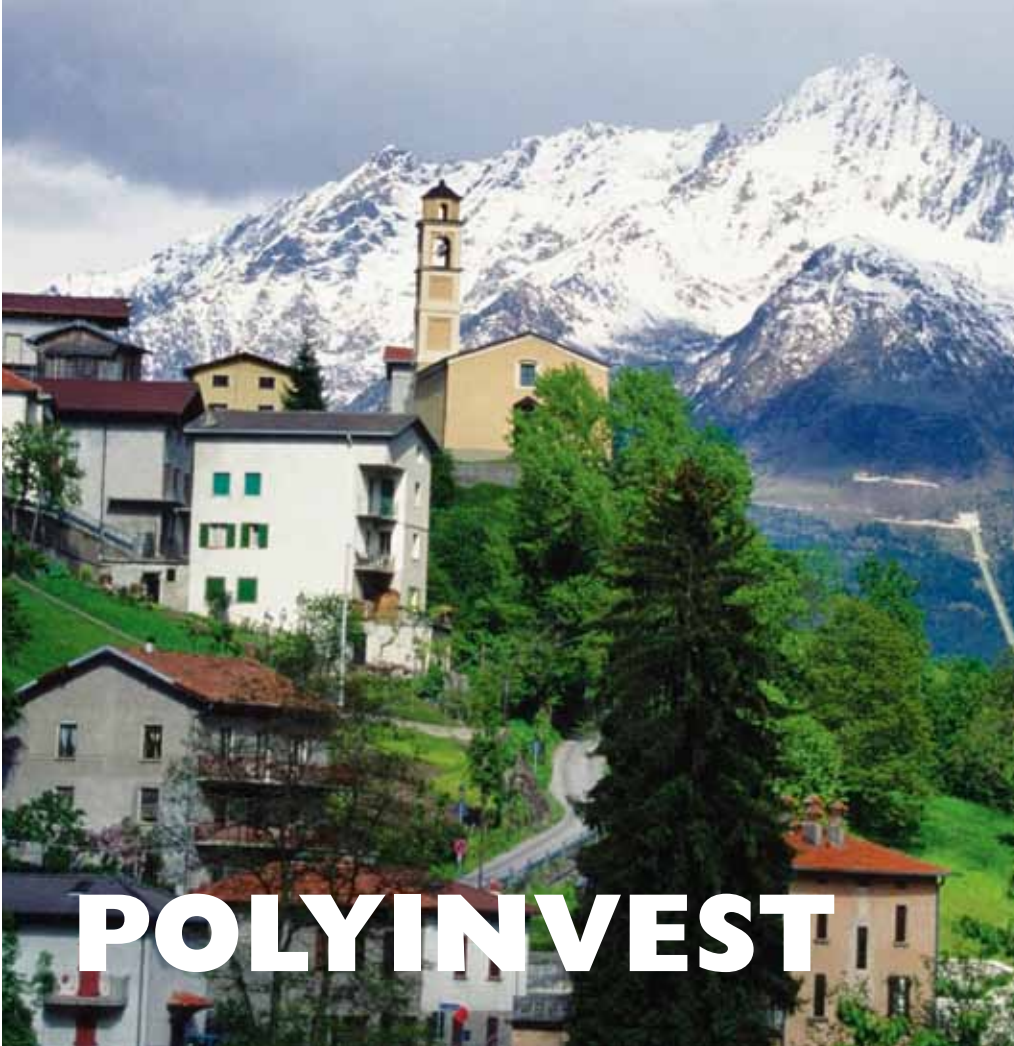
ing an approach to transplant dynamic recent concepts from the private sector to SEE's governmental agencies through integration of relevant best practises, standards, and codes. By developing a model management system and supportive methodological tools, the project addresses outdated organisational cultures that hobble operational capacity in the public sector's quality and effectiveness. Following initial consultations with government executives and important stakeholders in each target region, G.S.R. Model is organising training seminars for public-sector employees that promote excellence and social responsibility, and overseeing the design and execution of a communication plan for widespread distribution of the project's products and results.

“

*The process could lead to results like a change of attitudes and a commitment towards continuous quality improvement and a socially responsible organisation.*

”





# POLYINVEST

## MAXIMISING THE LANDSCAPE OF RURAL REAL ESTATE TO SUPPORT REGIONAL SEE DEVELOPMENT

THE DIVERSE SOCIETIES OF SOUTH EAST Europe include many rural communities that are underdeveloped despite the fact that many of these areas bear valuable assets and land with potential for productive uses. By responding to the needs of public administrations interested in realising income from their real estate by promoting the market entry of a broad offer of unused public properties, POLYINVEST encourages the development of regional polycentrism while promoting investment opportunities in various territories. After conducting intensive market analysis and data collection regarding available properties through a public-private cooperation network, the project studies legal and administrative procedures for each participating country, while implementing

and managing an internet-accessible platform for management of the findings. POLYINVEST also carries out pilot actions that will provide potential investors with SEE real estate availability accompanied by completed administrative and legal procedures and planning simulations, presenting complete territorial offer packages that could favour the realisation of private investments and help diminish development gaps among regions.

**IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS FOR INVESTMENTS IN ORDER TO FOSTER POLYCENTRIC DEVELOPMENT BY LEVERAGING LOCAL PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS' UNEXPLOITED REAL ESTATE**

### LEAD PARTNER

Veneto Region  
– Directorate  
for Projects and  
Investments  
Evaluation, Italy

### PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES

Austria, Bulgaria,  
Greece, Hungary,  
Italy, Romania,  
Serbia, Slovakia,  
Slovenia

### ERDF BUDGET

€ 2.022.305,00

“

**The objective of the project is to develop an active approach to the real estate market by public administrations.**

”



# PROMISE

**MUNICIPAL  
PROPERTY  
MANAGEMENT  
IN SOUTH-  
EASTERN CITIES**

**LEAD PARTNER**

University of  
Thessaly, Department  
of Planning  
and Regional  
Development,  
Greece

**PARTNERSHIP  
COUNTRIES**

Albania, Bulgaria,  
Croatia, Greece,  
Italy, Romania,  
Serbia, Slovakia

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.155.000,40

## TURNING UNUSED MUNICIPAL REAL ESTATE INTO A DYNAMIC RESOURCE FOR LOCAL GROWTH

THE FALL OF COMMUNISM IN SOUTH EAST Europe left huge tracts of land abandoned to municipal ownership, and many of these potentially valuable parcels have remained unused while often representing a financial burden on city budgets because of expensive property maintenance. Building awareness of the important asset that real estate can be in municipal management and planning, PROMISE encourages economic and social territorial development through solutions for optimal utilisation of public lands. The project is realising the creation of integrated methods and tools for itemising, classification, economic performance evaluation, and property development to facilitate municipal growth, while promoting proper land management through cooperation among partners from different nations with experi-

ence exchanges and capacity building. After creating a comprehensive and computerised real estate inventory and an accounting-management system on a property-by-property basis, PROMISE implements pilot projects related to the development of municipal parcels, elaborating the results in a best-practises guide including recommendations for administrative improvement and methods to overcome problems.

“ **The efficient management of real estate constitutes an important lever for the economic and social territorial development of any city.** ”

”

# ReTInA

## FINDING POTENTIAL FOR BROWNFIELD REVITALISATION IN CITIES ACROSS THE SEE AREA

**MANY CITIES OF SOUTH EAST EUROPE** are scattered with ruined industrial areas where urban decline and pollution prevent the growth of entire regions, and can even absorb significant funding from the administrations overseeing the economy, environment, and social life of these deteriorating locations. By providing tools and methodology to ensure growth, competitiveness, and quality employment in SEE's brownfields and industry zones, ReTInA facilitates the transformation of these neglected sites into motors for job creation through establishing a series of revitalisation and investment plans that contribute to a quality urban environment. With a goal of boosting the economy and social growth in areas that are now in decline after a major presence of heavy industry ceased operations, project partners are developing a common brownfield-revitalisation method that incorporates integrated master planning and stakeholder engagement, and each partner carries out a case study using jointly developed project materials. To enable these efforts, ReTInA task forces are developing transnational benchmarks and peer reviews, along with training sessions for the brownfield stakeholder groups.



### REVITALISATION OF TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIAL AREAS IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE

#### LEAD PARTNER

Municipality of Budapest 21st District – Csepel, Hungary

#### PARTNERSHIP

##### COUNTRIES

Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 2.828.375,00



**Brownfields and industrial zones can become excellent actors of an area's economic and social development if they are properly rejuvenated.**



# SEPA



## INTEGRATING MITIGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS INTO SEE'S INDUSTRIAL PRACTISES

### SUSTAINABLE AND EQUIPPED PRODUCTIVE AREAS

#### LEAD PARTNER

Town Hall of the  
Municipality Baia  
Mare, Romania

#### PARTNERSHIP

##### COUNTRIES

Bulgaria, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy,  
Romania, Serbia,  
Slovenia

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 1.626.203,00

THE INDUSTRIAL AREAS OF SOUTH EAST Europe are growth poles that can advance regional economies among various countries, but the quality of life can decline in communities adjacent to enterprise zones when their actions are primarily concentrated on productive efficiency and profit maximisation without considering the environment that they operate in. Working to raise awareness about the impact of manu-

facturing sites on their surroundings, SEPA proposes viable solutions for the adoption of new development models that balance economic criteria and sustainability. The project analyses varied industrial zones, greenfields, and brownfields within partnership territories, with knowledge drawn from consultation among regional and local governments, chambers of commerce, industrial consortiums, and trade unions. These discussions will lead to the establishment of a shared management methodology tailored on specific pilot areas, along with the creation of tools and procedures for the management of productive sites in sustainable ways. SEPA's activities culminate with an international seminar where investors are informed about the development potential of selected project areas.

“

**Models have to be tailored by screening all aspects of the day-to-day life of productive areas from both an economic and social point of view.**

”





# TICAD

## MARKING A TURNING POINT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR A MAJOR SEE RIVER-CATCHMENT AREA

STRETCHING ACROSS THE CARPATHIAN Basin's eastern half and far beyond, the Tisa River catchment area is rich in natural resources, attractive landscapes, and cultural monuments, but the region is also beset with severe natural disasters (such as flooding, forest fires, drought, and windstorms) and man-made problems like toxic pollution. With a commitment to sustainable integrated territorial development of the Tisa region, TICAD promotes optimal use of natural and cultural resources, a balanced distribution of competitive growth areas, and enhancement of the internal and external functional relations in the settlement system. Since international cooperation is required for tackling the interrelated problems along the Tisa River basin, TICAD is establishing a transnational network of spatial planning institutions

and authorities that formulates common approaches towards possible solutions. By creating a common database that includes information about the Tisa area's demographics, economic situations, environment, and infrastructure, TICAD is fostering synthesised territorial analysis and an integrated development strategy for the entire river region to reduce its disaster vulnerability.

“ As an integrated project it covers aspects of river management, ecology, land use, nature protection, and economic, social, and environmental issues. ”

### TISA CATCHMENT AREA DEVELOPMENT

#### LEAD PARTNER

VÁTI Hungarian Public Non-profit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning, Hungary

#### PARTNERSHIP

##### COUNTRIES

Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

#### ERDF BUDGET

€ 2.307.397,00

“ *The integrated approach, cooperation measures, and visible outputs support sustainable development of the participating towns by improving their attractiveness.* ”

# ViTo

## THE CHARM OF SEE'S HISTORICAL TOWNS IS ENHANCED WITH INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

**INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF VITAL HISTORIC TOWNS AS REGIONAL CENTRES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE**

**LEAD PARTNER**

*Municipality of Ptuj, Slovenia*

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COUNTRIES**

*Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia*

**ERDF BUDGET**

€ 1.954.552,00

AS SETTINGS OF UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE found in every country spanning South East Europe, charming historical towns encapsulate regional identities while providing their societies with centres for public and private services, acting to sustain entire regions with their time-tested establishment of mixed functions. Based on an up-to-date analysis of conditions at participating small and medium-sized towns, ViTo focuses on promoting transnational urban governance structures and implementing pilot measures to enhance the attractiveness of historic communities and thus foster their economic development. Each project partner is developing local strategies for implementation and management of integrated urban development, encompassing analysis of the town's existing policies in addition to innovative approaches attained from transnational dialogues on good practices. By encouraging a culture of planning marked by architectural

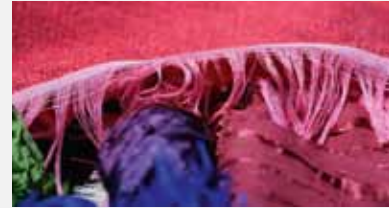
consideration and public engagement, ViTo establishes a common vision on integrated revitalisation and guidelines for the development of management strategies that are transferable within SEE, such as upgrading of public space and preservation of historic buildings.



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