

Study visits to selected Blue Growth best practice locations in ALBANIA

8th /12th November 2021

DAY I - 8th November

16.00- *Departure from Tirana to Ishem*

Study Visit and Dinner Reception- Duka Winery and Vineyard

#EXTRA B2B to strengthen exchanges of experiences to enhance quality products and services for sustainable development of tourism in the Blue Economy of South Adriatic area.

Extended across the hills of Ishmi, “Duka” vineyard lies at the heart of the forest, embraced by fresh southern winds. This agronomic and engineering work consists of 5 hectares and is home to a beautiful scenery visited by local and foreign tourists alike, who appreciate the combination of an out of the ordinary tourism and above all want to taste the three varieties of Duka wine: Cabernet, Merlot and Tempranillo. The care for these wines starts with its vines and soil, which are prepared by adding only organic fertilizers, and continues with the protection of vine and grapes with registered bio-farming products. Meanwhile, the grapevine is watered using water from a reservoir isolated from the drainage system of neighbouring parcels. The vineyard is located in the heart of the forest, away from fumes and pollution

DAY II - 9th November

9:30 -*Departure to Durrës*

11:00 - 19.00 Trend-watching activity “**Innovation as a booster of efficiency for the maritime transport and inter-connectivity - A regional perspective**” and Study visits in Durres



11:00-13:00 Trend-watching Activity

Venue: Adriatik Hotel, Durrës

The project partners "SMART ADRIA Blue Growth", the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Albania and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs are pleased to invite you to the Discussion **Forum Innovation as a driver of efficiency for maritime transport and interconnection - a perspective regional "**.

This activity is realized within the inter-territorial project "SMART ADRIA Blue Growth", supported by the INTERREG IPA CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro Program, co-financed by EU funds, implemented by Italian, Montenegrin and Albanian partners. The aim of the project is to promote economic development, inclusive and sustainable and to intensify cooperation in the lower Adriatic area, by undertaking joint initiatives between public and private sector actors, at national and regional level.

The aim of this activity is to initiate a discussion among stakeholders, especially SMEs and business associations on the potential of innovation, particularly of the IT based innovation to improve the efficiency of the maritime transport, given that there are many strategic and traditional investment in the sector. Private or public investments in the value chain of maritime transport, ports, navy, service and maintenance of ships for transport or tourism purposes are returning to the region, especially in Albania and Montenegro. With strategic investments in the ports of Durrës and Shëngjin investments in the construction of tourist boats or yacht ports, the sector is in significant structural dynamics and modernization. Supporting these changes in innovation and technology, using the best examples of the region or beyond, would help structural transformation, sustainable development and the efficiency of the sector in the future.

The event will bring together representatives of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs in Albania, the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Albania, local authorities, the Ministry of Economic Development in Montenegro, the region of Puglia and Molise, representatives of business and organizations of civil society.



11:00-11:10 Greeting Remarks

Representative, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs

Representative, Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry UCCIAL

11:10-11:30 Maritime Transport Developments-Sectorial Strategy and Challenges in Albania and Montenegro

Mr. Elson Thana, Expert, Maritime Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure of Albania

Mrs. Rosanda Jocović, Senior Adviser, Department for EU Integration, Programming and Implementation of EU Funds, Ministry of Economic Development Ministry of Economy and Development of Montenegro

11:30-11:40 Cooperation between academia and the business sector, the role of human capital, the restoration of tradition in shipbuilding and maintenance

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Osman Metalla, Dean of the Faculty of Professional Studies and Professor in the Department of Engineering and Maritime Sciences, “Aleksandër Moisiu” University

11:40-12:00 Open discussion with participants and guests

12:00-12:10 Presentation of the Blue Economy Study with a focus on maritime transport

Mrs. Mimoza Agolli, Researcher and Expert, SMART ADRIA Blue Growth Project

12.10- 13.00 Investments in innovation and information technology that support the efficiency of maritime transport

Mr. Driton Musolli, Best practice and case study from DigitSapien, innovation and technological development in maritime transport

Mrs. Genta Ahmeti, Best Practice Cases from Life on a Boat, Initiative to Develop and Invest in the Shipbuilding Tradition



Mr. Agim Beluli, Albanian National Association of International Road Carriers (ANALTIR)

The Activity is moderated by Mona Xhexhaj - TA to P2, UCCIAL

15.00-16.30 Study visit and discussion in Port of Durres

Port Infrastructure Improvements - Strategic plans and current investments (Presentation of the strategic projects for port infrastructure and other supporting infrastructure for the sector)

17:00 Study visit to Koral sh.p.k fishing and processing company

DAY III – 10th November

9:00 *Departure to Elbasan*

11.00- 13.00 Study Vizit at Rozafa Sea Food sh.p.k (TBC)

A presentation of best practice in Aquaculture and Fishing, which operates in collection, processing and wholesale and retail trade of seafood, inside and outside the country. The company engages in scientific research in the field of fisheries, opening of maritime and forwarding agencies, opening of Fish markets and active processing of all seafood. The company operates also in tourism-hotels and recovery of non-hazardous water waste.



18.00-21.00 Night of Researchers

Place: Tirana - Plaza Hotel

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To ensure the sustainability of cross-territorial development, it is necessary to improve institutional capacities and fund management mechanisms. The project partners "SMART ADRIA Blue Growth", the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Albania and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs are pleased to invite you to the activity "**Night of Researchers**" to discuss research related to the blue economy, regional cooperation and sustainable development.

The event aims to bring together representatives of state institutions, academia, business and other stakeholders to promote joint initiatives between public and private sector actors, at national and regional level with a special focus on the Development of the Blue Economy.

Projects' and Researchers' Presentation (Each lasting 7-10 min):

Mirela Kamberi -UNDP - Team Leader, UNDP Climate Change Program

Odetta Cato- Team Leader of the project "Enhancing the Development of Albanian Maritime Sector through Technical Assistance and Increased Partnership"

Mirdaim Axhami - University of Tirana, Erasmus + BlueWC project

Kristofor Lapa - University of Vlora - Department of Marine Sciences

Perseta Grabova and Elona Pojani, projects in the field of Education and Climate Change



Brunilda Licaj, University of Durrës, Department of Tourism

University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences

The Activity is moderated by Gledis Gjipali - TA to P2, UCCIAL

DAY IV - 11th November

Visit for the Italian partners in Vlore - Coordinated by UCCIAL

8:30 *Departure to Vlore*

11.00- 13.00 Visit at Alb Adriatico Fish Farm

The Alb Adriatico fish farm is located in the bay of Ragusa (Karaburun) 3.5 km north of the ancient city of Orik and is composed of bathtubs or swimming baskets. Also, the farm is located offshore. The aquaculture sector is expanding rapidly in Albania in recent years. "Alb-Adritico 2013", cultivates seabass and other seafood products, products highly demanded by local and regional markets.

- Visit to the artisan factory of canned sardines.
- Excursion to the island of Zverec and to the Byzantine church dedicated to Santa Maria.
- Meeting with the fishermen's cooperative of the lagoon.

DAY IV – 12th November

Return in Tirana



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