

Output 2.2 “Joint visits set up” within Reporting Period 3

Summary:

This report outlines the organisation, implementation, and outcomes of three cross-border events under the MONI.CA project, aimed at addressing transboundary environmental challenges through collaboration and innovation. These events contribute directly to achieving the output indicator **RCO115 – Public Events across Borders Jointly Organised** by fostering cooperation among participants from Italy and Croatia. The events were designed to promote youth engagement, stakeholder collaboration, and the application of innovative technologies for air quality monitoring and environmental sustainability.

Youth Exchange Visit

The Youth Exchange Visit was a two-part event conducted in Padua, Italy (September 27–29, 2024) and Zagreb, Croatia (October 3–5, 2024). It brought together 10 youth participants from technical fields, from Croatia and 10 youth participants from environmental and business fields from Italy, fostering cross-cultural learning and skill development. Key activities included:

1. Participant Selection and Engagement:

- Participants were chosen based on academic achievements, motivation, and willingness to collaborate across borders, where open call was published on web pages of the project partners and project website.
- A tailored program provided hands-on training on UAV technologies, with activities such as UAV flight demonstrations, mentoring, and a competitive hackathon on real-time air quality monitoring solutions.

2. Collaboration and Innovation:

- Joint efforts between RIT Croatia and the University of Salento enabled the successful integration of smart technologies into air quality monitoring.



- The hackathon encouraged participants to develop Python-based GIS applications for real-time air quality visualization, promoting technical innovation and environmental awareness.

3. **Support Materials:**

- Promotional packages were distributed to participants, including eco-friendly items like reusable mugs and recycled-paper notebooks, reinforcing the project's sustainability goals. Hackathon winners received solar-powered power banks.

The event strengthened youth competencies in innovative technologies, cross-cultural communication, and environmental problem-solving, creating a foundation for future cooperation.

Thematic Event on Air Quality Monitoring

The Thematic Event was held on December 5, 2024, in a hybrid format, enabling participation from 10 stakeholders representing government agencies, municipalities, SMEs, and academia from Italy and Croatia. Key highlights include:

1. **Roundtable Discussions:**

- **Capitalization of Results:** Focused on leveraging EU-funded project outcomes to address air quality challenges.
- **Opportunities for SMEs:** Explored innovative solutions for integrating air quality monitoring into entrepreneurial ventures.

2. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

- Representatives shared expertise on topics such as policy integration, health implications, and technological advancements.
- Contributions from institutions like the European Commission and national ministries emphasized the importance of evidence-based policymaking and regional cohesion.

3. **Outcomes:**

- The event highlighted the potential of cross-border cooperation in advancing environmental monitoring technologies and fostering sustainable economic growth.





Italy – Croatia



- Stakeholders identified opportunities for future collaborations and funding to expand the project's impact.

