

BLUE KEP Kick-off-Meeting Press conference

Project communication and capitalization activities

BLUE KEP PROJECT

MEETING INFORMATION	1 st BLUE KEP Project Kick off Meeting Press conference
ORGANISATION RESPONSIBLE	LP – INFORMEST (IT)
DATE	08 th March 2018
VENUE	De Rinaldini Hall, Regional Council of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Piazza Oberdan - Trieste (IT)
MEETING PARTICIPANTS	The participants' list is displayed in Annex of the current deliverable

KoM Press conference

Mrs. Sanson introduces the Press Conference involving six representatives of the local and regional press.

The initiative is presented in all its details by the General Director for Work, Training, Education, Equal Opportunities, Youth Policies, Research and Universities of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, **Ms. Ketty Segatti**, by the Secretary general of the Adriatic-Ionian Euroregion, **Mr. Francesco Cocco**, and by the technical Secretary of the 2014-2020 Interreg VA Italy-Croatia Programme, **Mr. Marin Miletic**.

According to **Ms. Segatti**, BLUE KEP is about mobility, maritime value chain and professional qualifications: because BLUE KEP is innovative. In particular, its focus is on promoting new jobs linked to the maritime value chain through the provision of highly qualifying and accessible training paths. The Project intends to integrate and harmonise the educational systems of the Adriatic-Ionian area with a series of targeted actions that take into account their strengths and weaknesses. The final objective will be to involve about forty students from all areas of the project partnership in international exchanges dedicated to the “maritime value chain”.

BLUE KEP takes steps from the KEPASS project, part of the 2007/2013 IPA Adriatic Programme, and the BlueSKILLS projects, financed in 2016 by the same programme. It builds upon the previous experiences of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, which, with almost 150 students involved in EU-financed international exchanges, holds almost a decade of experience in the field of international mobility applied to upper secondary schools and tailored in particular for technical institutes and strategic sectors such as the nautical/maritime sector and tourism.

BLUE KEP, led by Informest, an Agency that supports the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in several of its activities, aims to capitalise these results and develop new guidelines for the accreditation of schools, the selection procedures of students, the recognition of the competences (training credits) acquired abroad, the implementation of internship programmes, the training of both teachers and students.

According to **Ms. Segatti**, the BLUE KEP project covers three fundamental aspects of local smart specialisation: the so-called blue growth, the professional development of youth, and innovation through integration, inasmuch as the project not only benefits both students and teachers, but bets on young generations and the sea as resources we share with our neighbouring countries.

Mr. Cocco introducing AIE as a network of Adriatic-Ionian regions and its contribution in implementing EU policies at regional level, reaffirms the importance for young generations and the need to enable all measures fitted to fully facilitate their mobility within the cross-border cooperation, as made possible by EU projects. Best practices and experiences already exist, but they have to be better coordinated, valorised and shared, the requisite is to create the conditions

to enable their sustainability even after the projects' end guaranteeing a fruitful transferability also to close countries of the region. An example proposed by Mr. Cocco could be the institution of a regional-dedicated programme similar to the Erasmus favouring the mobility of youth in education and training.

The opportunity to ensure the sustainability of the acquired results and experience in EU projects is also highlighted by **Mr. Miletic** from JS Italy-Croatia Programme.

The Press Conference is closed by the President of Informest Prof. **Claudio Cressati** explaining that there is a very long preparation behind an international student mobility programme, entailing to find a mediation between diverse educational systems and map new professions. An efficient management aims not just at making students travel, but at investing on them, solid institutional relations and skills are hence crucial. If it is true that today kids travel a lot more than once, it is also true that interactions between schools of Europe and between schools and the labour market are still too few. International mobility in the field of higher education, and particularly of technical sectors, will be a decisive lever to address the challenges posed by the labour market to European new generations.

The Press conference ends at 12.00