

CAMPUS

“Climate Adaptation Plans for UNESCO Sites”

D.2.5.1- Report on the Fourth Regional Conference
Monte Sant’Angelo, Italy

Organizing Partner: Municipality of Monte Sant’Angelo
Date: 01/07/2026

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Introduction

The fourth Regional Conference of the CAMPUS project took place on 25 June 2026 at the City Library “Ciro Angelillis” in Monte Sant’Angelo, bringing together project partners, institutions, and local stakeholders to present the results achieved by the project for the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo and for the other UNESCO sites involved in the Italy–Croatia programme area.

The event, held on the anniversary of the UNESCO inscription of the Sanctuary (25 June 2011), marked the closing milestone of the CAMPUS project's activities on the Italian side, with the project set to conclude by the end of July 2026.



Agenda

Below the agenda of the workshop in detail. See Annex 1 for the official Agenda.



PROGRAMME

09:00 - 09:15 Arrival and registration

09:15 - 09:30 Welcome and opening remarks

*Pierpaolo d'Arienzo, Mayor of Monte Sant'Angelo
Rosa Palomba, City Commissioner for Culture
Rectorship of the Sanctuary of Saint Michael the Archangel*

09:30 - 10:00 **Keynote speech**
Preservation of UNESCO Heritage: the perspective of
Foresta Umbra and Gargano National Park

*Raffaele di Mauro, Commissioner of the
Gargano National Park Authority*

10:00 - 10:15 Interreg Italy-Croatia Joint Secretariat

Marin Miletic

10:15 - 10:30 **Overview of CAMPUS project**
Main outputs and highlights

Municipality of Ferrara (LP)

10:30 - 11:00 **Keynote speech**
UNESCO Heritage sites' impact on climate: Let us flip
the perspective!

Eng. Marilina Azzarone

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 **Local Heritage Workshop session:**
Local Climate Adaptation Policies & Actions

All partners

The agenda has been produced both in English and Italian and printed for participants.

Participants and targeted groups

Municipality of Monte Sant'Angelo successfully executed an extensive public outreach campaign of formal invitations, with the specific objective of engaging and involving the maximum number of stakeholders possible.

Summary table of participants and target groups

TARGET GROUP	NUMBER	DETAILS
LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY	3	- Municipality of Monte Sant'Angelo - Municipality of Ferrara - Municipality of Alberobello
GENERAL PUBLIC	22	Citizens and participants
SECTORAL AGENCY	8	- LIRA – Development Agency of Lika-Senj County - RERA – Regional Development Agency of Split-Dalmatia County - Gargano National Park - Po Delta Veneto Regional Park - Marilina Azzarone, Architect and Engineer for the Sanctuary of Saint Michele Arcangelo
EDUCATION/TRAINING CENTRE AND SCHOOL	3	- I.I.S.S. "Gian Tommaso Giordani" - Istituto Comprensivo "Giovanni XXIII" - Istituto Comprensivo "G. Tancredi - V. Amicarelli"
SME	3	- Villa Simone - ELDA Hotel - Officina del giorno dopo"



INTEREST GROUP INCLUDING NGOs	26	- CISL - Michele Trotta, Tourist Guide - AVIS Monte Sant'Angelo - Gargano Natour - ACLI Monte Sant'Angelo - Festa Ambiente Sud - ASD Accademia Calcio Monte - ASD Olympia Monte Sant'Angelo - Federico Scarabino (musician) - Associazione Culturale Rhymers Club - Associazione Italiana Giovani per l'UNESCO - Associazione Bantù - Gargano Guide - Associazione Insieme per - - Monte Sant'Angelo - La Pacchianella - Matteo Falcone Guida Ambientale Escursionistica - Amici della Musica Monte Sant'Angelo - GAL Gargano - Associazione Un Monte di Idee - Associazione "Monte Sant'Angelo Francigena" - Associazione U.G.R. 27 - Teniamoci per Mano ONLUS - ASD Nuovo Basket Monte Sant'Angelo - Pro Loco Monte Sant'Angelo - ARCI NUOVA GESTIONE - EcoGargano
HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS	3	- IUAV University



		- Guido Cappelletti (University of Foggia) - Immacolata Aulisa (University of Bari)
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Summary table of invited stakeholders

TARGET GROUP	NUMBER	DETAILS
LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY	8	- Municipality of Monte Sant'Angelo - Municipality of Ferrara
GENERAL PUBLIC	11+ 6	Citizens and participants
SECTORAL AGENCY	8	- LIRA – Development Agency of Lika-Senj County - RERA – Regional Development Agency of Split-Dalmatia County - Gargano National Park - Po Delta Veneto Regional Park
INTEREST GROUP INCLUDING NGOS	6	- Marilina Azzarone, Architect and Engineer for the Sanctuary of Saint Michele Arcangelo - CISL - Michele Trotta, Tourist Guide
HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS	2	- IUAV University

The event has seen good participation from the invited stakeholder with a total of 35 participants (24 in person and 11 online through the ZOOM Platform).

Summary table of participants

TARGET GROUP	NUMBER	DETAILS
LOCAL PUBLIC AUTHORITY	2	- Municipality of Monte Sant'Angelo - Municipality of Ferrara



GENERAL PUBLIC	25	Citizens and participants
SECTORAL AGENCY	5	- LIRA – Development Agency of Lika-Senj County - RERA – Regional Development Agency of Split-Dalmatia County - Gargano National Park - Po Delta Veneto Regional Park - Marilina Azzarone, Architect and Engineer for the Sanctuary of Saint Michele Arcangelo
INTEREST GROUP INCLUDING NGOS	2	- CISL - Michele Trotta, Tourist Guide
HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS	1	- IUAV University

The event witnessed good participation from stakeholders across both public and private sectors. Key participants included the Commissioner for the Gargano National Park. See Annexes 2 (Attendance sheet) and 3 (List of participants).



Opening of the Conference and Introduction

The conference opened with institutional greetings from the Mayor of Monte Sant'Angelo, Pierpaolo d'Arienzo and from the Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Culture and Tourism, Rosa Palomba, who underlined the importance of UNESCO recognition for Monte Sant'Angelo - which holds two such recognitions - and the value of projects such as CAMPUS in supporting their protection.

Keynote – Safeguarding UNESCO Heritage: The Perspective of the Foresta Umbra and the Gargano National Park

Raffaele di Mauro, Commissioner of the Gargano National Park, underlined the need for a scientific and cooperative approach to climate adaptation, involving both local communities and European-level institutions, and confirmed the Park's commitment to the objectives of the CAMPUS project.

He also noted that the Gargano National Park is involved in a separate Interreg Italy-Croatia project, highlighting the value of synergy between neighbouring institutions and projects sharing the common goal of protecting and enhancing the territory's natural and cultural resources.



Keynote – The Interreg Italy-Croatia Joint Secretariat Perspective

Marin Miletic, of the Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Italy-Croatia 2021-2027 Programme, addressed participants describing CAMPUS as a concrete expression of the Programme's priority on climate change adaptation and resilience in the Adriatic area, based on ecosystem approaches. Key points raised included:

- UNESCO heritage sites represent emblematic and vulnerable territorial systems, whose value is strategic rather than purely representational;
- adaptation measures need to be tested and demonstrated, supported by new multi-level governance models;
- CAMPUS translates policy objectives into operational tools, through risk-monitoring systems, adaptation plans and pilot actions based on nature-based solutions and lighting infrastructure measures;
- the project strengthens governance by creating structured cooperation frameworks between public authorities, heritage site managers and research institutions;
- cross-border cooperation is, in itself, a policy tool: it enables the harmonisation of methodologies, the exchange of good practices, and the development of shared adaptation standards across the Adriatic area.



Miletic concluded that the Programme expects CAMPUS's outputs to be integrated into policies, frameworks and planning tools on both sides of the border, contributing to a long-term structural impact and reinforcing links with future Interreg and EU initiatives.



Overview of the CAMPUS Project: Main Results and Highlights

Emilia Badau, representing the Municipality of Ferrara (Lead Partner), presented an overview of the project's achievements across the six UNESCO sites involved - three in Italy (Po Delta Regional Park Veneto, Ferrara, Monte Sant'Angelo) and three in Croatia (Trogir, Stari Grad, Plitvice Lakes) - supported throughout by the technical-scientific expertise of Iuav University of Venice.

She described the project's methodology as structured in three phases:

- construction of risk scenarios through territorial, urban and architectural-scale analysis;
- shared elaboration, with stakeholders, of Climate Adaptation Plans and of a cross-border monitoring tool;
- identification and, where possible, implementation of concrete adaptation solutions (nature-based solutions, building interventions and adaptive reuse), together with community-awareness activities targeting younger generations.

Among the main results presented were:

- six Climate Adaptation Plans developed for the involved UNESCO sites;
- a monitoring tool with indicators integrated into the plans, designed to keep them dynamic and usable over time;
- a shared framework of adaptation strategies and measures, together with a set of good practices for impact assessment;
- the involvement of six local communities and around ten schools in awareness-raising activities.



Keynote – The Impact of UNESCO Heritage Sites on Climate: Reversing the Perspective

Eng. Marilina Azzarone presented a technical analysis that reversed the usual perspective, examining the Sanctuary's own impact on the climate rather than only climate impacts on the Sanctuary. She described the complex, multi-layered structure of the site - liturgical spaces, museum areas, pilgrim-reception facilities, offices and private residences - each with distinct energy needs.

Key points of the presentation included:

- an overview of the Sanctuary's main energy consumption sources: lighting, elevators, security systems, heating, hot water production, audio-visual equipment and IT networks;
- visitor-flow data for the second half of 2025 and the first half of 2026, showing strong seasonality linked to the patronal feasts of 8 May and 29 September, and a marked preference among visitors for using the elevator to leave the cave rather than the stairs, which has a significant impact on energy consumption;
- efficiency measures already implemented, in particular the conversion to LED lighting, which can reduce consumption by up to 70% while better protecting surfaces from heat damage and improving the enhancement of architectural details;
- further efficiency opportunities under consideration, including presence sensors, daylight-responsive automation and building-management integration;
- the microclimatic fragility of the cave environment, where visitor flows alter humidity and CO2 levels and contribute to the spread of pink biological patinas on stone surfaces, pointing to the need for continuous environmental monitoring (temperature, humidity, condensation, air quality) and controlled ventilation;
- a proposal to replace the gas boiler serving the Reconciliation Chapel's underfloor heating system with a heat pump, ideally powered by renewable sources such as photovoltaic panels or an energy community.

She concluded by describing the Sanctuary's ambition to become a permanent laboratory of climate resilience for UNESCO sites, combining heritage conservation, energy sustainability and continuous





monitoring, and linked her analysis to the CAMPUS-funded pilot project for the Sanctuary's Buffer Zone, presented later in the workshop session.



Final discussion and conclusions

The morning session concluded with an open discussion involving participants both in the room and online, followed by closing remarks by Deputy Mayor Rosa Palomba.

Palomba underlined the symbolic significance of the date: 25 June 2026 marked the anniversary of the UNESCO inscription of the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo in 2011. She noted that the Site Management Plan is due to expire in 2027, requiring dedicated work on its update, with particular attention to environmental impact and climate risk.



Communication and visibility

The conference achieved visibility through a multi-faceted communication strategy implemented by the Municipality of Monte Sant'Angelo.

The primary communication effort focused on social media engagement, with the Municipality publishing promotional posts across its official channels to create anticipation and encourage participation among local communities interested in UNESCO heritage preservation and climate adaptation. The event was also posted on the Municipality website



(<https://www.montesantangelo.it/en/news/monte-santangelo-longobarda-dal-25-al-27-giugno-la-citta-celebra-i-15-anni-dal-primo-riconoscimento-unesco>)

A targeted email campaign reached key stakeholders and organizations. Relevant associations active in Monte Sant'Angelo's territory received direct invitations, ensuring broad local participation.

This comprehensive outreach approach ensured the conference reached a diverse audience representing multiple sectors, from local associations to regional institutions, from educational organizations to private businesses, creating a multi-stakeholder platform for discussing climate adaptation strategies.



ANNEXES

- **Annex 1** Agenda
- **Annex 2** Attendance sheet
- **Annex 3** List of online participants
- **Annex 4** Photos

