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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING **for the capitalization of results of** **CROSSCONNECT project**



**Memorandum of Understanding
on cross-border cooperation for sustainable and technologically advanced
solutions to interconnect Adriatic ports with their
urban areas and airports, and improving passengers' mobility**

PREAMBLE

In accordance with the principle of mutual benefit and common development and in order to reinforce and develop cross-border cooperation, the following CROSSCONNECT (*"Cross-border coordinated sea-land approach interconnecting ports of the Adriatic Sea with airports and urban areas"*) project Partners Dubrovnik Airport Ltd, Port of Dubrovnik Authority, North Adriatic Sea Port Authority – Ports of Venice and Chioggia), Save Spa, Pula Regional Port Authority, Pulapromet d.o.o, Southern Adriatic Sea Port Authority (Ports of Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta and Monopoli), Public Transport Company Brindisi SpA, hereafter called "the Parties":

1. **acknowledging** the joint strategic vision outlined in the CROSSCONNECT Roadmap and its Actions, aimed at strengthening the cross-border cooperation between ports, airports and urban transport service providers for environmental sustainability and intermodal passengers' efficiency;
2. **recognizing** the European Strategy for Adriatic and Ionian region (EUSAIR), endorsed by the European Council on 24 October 2014, aimed at promoting economic and social prosperity and growth in the region by improving its attractiveness, competitiveness and connectivity;
3. **recalling** the EUSAIR Action Plan adopted in May 2025 (*Commission staff working document accompanying the document Communication from the commission to the European Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Revised Action Plan of the EU macro-regional Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region - SWD(2025) 114 final*), whereas the thematic Pillar n. 4 "Sustainable Tourism" in particular promotes actions shaping a resilient, innovative, and future-ready tourism sector in the Adriatic-Ionian Region, along with a balanced approach that connects economic growth with environmental sustainability, tourism planning and operations, promoting responsible resource use, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience, strengthening the region's capacity to respond to global challenges such as climate change and

geopolitical uncertainty, while enhancing the long-term competitiveness and sustainability of Adriatic-Ionian tourism;

4. **recalling** the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Italy-Croatia, priority *Sustainable maritime and multimodal transport* and the *Specific objective SO 3.1 - Cross-border mobility*;
5. **considering** “*The EU Blue Economy Report 2020*”, drafted by European Commission, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries that underlines how the innovation driver has the potential of boosting the economic and social development in the “blue sectors” (as listed in: Marine living resources; Marine non-living resources; Marine renewable energy; Ports activities; Shipbuilding and repair; Maritime transport; Coastal tourism”;
6. **considering** the guide of good practices “*Plan the city within the port*” published in 2015 by AIVP (*Association Internationale Villes et Ports*), that outlines a balanced port-city relationship, through joint economic and development strategies and governance;
7. **bearing in mind** the outcomes of the Conference “*Paths That Last–Collaborating for a Sustainable Tourism in the Mediterranean*” held on 25–26 June in Split (Croatia), organized by the *Mediterranean Multi-Programme Mechanism - MMM*, and the MMM Action Plan, fostering a permanent collaboration to reach even greater ambitions with future coordinated calls, to exchange experiences and to leverage the results achieved transferring tools and methods, and building on them with a shared responsibility that helps shaping common goals and supports long-term change in the tourism of Mediterranean region;
8. **bearing in mind** the positive outcomes of the cross-border cooperation of the CROSSCONNECT project framework, and the potential of jointly designed Pilot Actions’ solutions, each serving as a “living laboratory” for a specific connectivity archetype such as port/airport and port/city, carried out in four well established and internationally renowned destinations such as Venice, Pula, Dubrovnik and Brindisi;

reached the following understanding

ARTICLE 1 - Common objectives

- a) According to CROSSCONNECT pilot actions' results, the Parties commit to keep a high-level interest and to be open to future developments aiming at improving ports, airports and local transport environmental sustainability, innovative data sharing practices and energy efficiency in a broader scope, as addressed in the project pilot actions:
1. in Venice: deployment of a new regulatory and technological procedure for streaming passenger and luggage logistics (port/airport);
 2. in Dubrovnik: a resilience-focused deployment of digital flow management and electric ground handling equipment (port/airport);
 3. in Pula: the creation of a green public transport link connecting the port to the urban core (port/city);
 4. in Brindisi: the digital optimization of existing transport networks through real-time data integration (port/city).

ARTICLE 2 – Thematic and geographical scope of cooperation

- a) Through the signature of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) the Parties agree to pursue cooperation and establish a permanent network of cooperation in the following main domains:
1. **decarbonization and energy transition:** aiming at low emissions transport systems and intermodal solutions both for passengers and operators, along with the production of clean energy and Smart Grid concepts (not limited to, but encompassing solar-powered charging systems, other renewable energy generation and operational solutions lowering the GHG emissions of port, airport and urban transport operations);
 2. **digitalization and interoperability:** promoting full interoperability of port/airport and urban transport data related to passengers through the adoption of shared standards and protocols for data exchange and management, as well as the definition of technical and organizational rules designed to ensure information continuity, platform reliability, integration between transport modes and traceability;
 3. **better mobility and better passenger experience:** reducing operational disruptions and friction points along the intermodal

passengers' travel chain, through the integration of services, the simplification of intermodal transfers, the coordination of connection times and the introduction of organizational and technological solutions capable of ensuring greater predictability, accessibility and service quality.

- b) The Parties agree that the opportunity of using INTERREG funds would be a concrete chance to boost future joint cooperation initiatives, thus contributing in identifying sustainable transport solutions and investment priorities to be tackled with other funds and to leverage their own financial and funding tools.
- c) The scope of future local cooperation is locally implemented thanks to the bilateral signature of four specific MoUs for the Capitalization of the CROSSCONNECT pilots that are, respectively, signed among the following Parties:
 - 1. **for the Venice area**, SAVE Spa and North Adriatic Sea Port Authority ;
 - 2. **Pula area**, Pulapromet d.o.o. and Pula Regional Port Authority;
 - 3. **Dubrovnik area**, Dubrovnik Airport Ltd and Port of Dubrovnik;
 - 4. **Brindisi area**, signed by Southern Adriatic Sea Port Authority (Ports of Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia, Barletta and Monopoli) and Public Trasport Company Brindisi SpA.
- d) The present MoU, as well as the local MoUs, shall be open to future adhesion of private and / or essential stakeholders if their participation is beneficial to the achievement of common thematic goals (as listed in Art.2,a). Additional future signees of the present MoUs shall be presented by either Party to the Coordinator, through a written motivation explaining the mutual benefits. The approval is subject to the acceptance in writing of all Parties of the relevant MoU. The procedure, e.g. the approval or the rejection of the new candidate shall be closed in written within 60 (sixty) days from the date of the request.

ARTICLE 3 – Settlement of disputes, duration and final terms

- a) Disputes, which may arise between the Parties regarding the interpretation and /or application of the provisions of the MoU shall be resolved through negotiations between the Parties.

- b) The Parties are committed to securing confidentiality and non—disclosable information and to protect the legitimate rights and interests, in the scope of the cooperation, of the other Parties.
- c) Additional future matters of cooperation not covered by the MoU shall be agreed in written between the interested Parties.
- d) The MoU will be effective for n. 2 (two years) after the signature (26.06.2026), and it may be amended or extended with a written proposal from either Party and the agreement of the majority of the other Parties.
- e) The amendments must be in writing and will enter into force on the day of the signature as a supplement to the present MoU.
- f) If any Party wishes to terminate the MoU before the natural duration, a three-month advance notice, with due motivation in writing, shall be communicated to all the other Parties.
- g) The capacity of Coordinator of CROSSCONNECT MoU is borne by Dubrovnik Airport Ltd until the closing date of the project (31.12.2026). After that date, the North Adriatic Sea Port Authority takes over the role of Coordinator until the end of the validity of the MoU (26.06.2028).

This MoU consists in 14 (fourteen) pages and exists in n. 8 (eight) original copies.

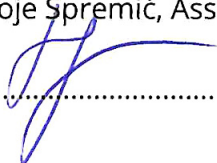
Each Party holds an original one.

Done in duplicate on 26.06.2026 in Venice

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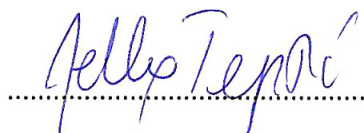
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advanced solutions to interconnect Adriatic ports with their
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Dubrovnik Airport Ltd
Mr. Hrvoje Spremić, Assistant General Manager


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Port of Dubrovnik Authority
Mrs. Jelka Tepšić, Deputy Director


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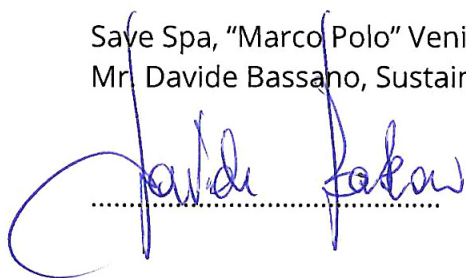
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North Adriatic Sea Port Authority – Ports of Venice and Chioggia
Mr. Gianandrea Todesco, Director Administration, Finance and General
Services Department



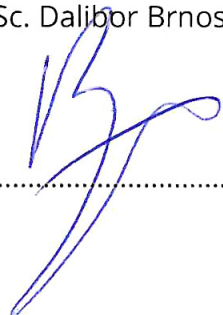
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Save Spa, "Marco Polo" Venice Airport
Mr. Davide Bassano, Sustainability Director


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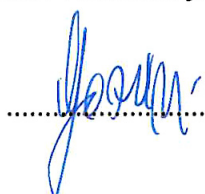
Regional Port Authority of Pula
Ph.D.Sc. Dalibor Brnos, MBA


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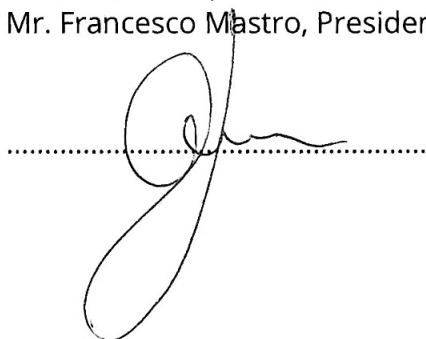
Pulapromet d.o.o

Mr. Tomislav Josipović, Director



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Southern Adriatic Ports Authority (Ports of Bari, Brindisi, Manfredonia,
Barletta, Monopoli and Termoli)
Mr. Francesco Mastro, President



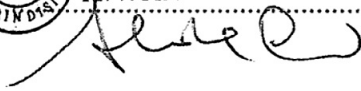
A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'F' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke, positioned above a dotted line.

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advanced solutions to interconnect Adriatic ports with their
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Public Trasport Company Brindisi SpA
Mrs. Alessandra Cursi, President



Il Presidente
Avv. Alessandra Cursi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Alessandra Cursi", written over a horizontal dotted line.

LUČKA UPRAVA DUBROVNIK

DUBROVNIK PORT AUTHORITY

Obala Pape Ivana Pavla II, br.1. 20 000 Dubrovnik Hrvatska Tel: +385 20 313 333 Fax: +385 20 418 551

OIB: 51303627909 e-mail: padubrovnik@portdubrovnik.hr www.portdubrovnik.hr

Dubrovnik, 02.06. 2026.

KLASA:

URBROJ:

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Hereby I, Zrinka Kulušić, General Director of Port of Dubrovnik Authority, authorize Mrs. Jelka Tepšić, Deputy Director of Port of Dubrovnik Authority from Dubrovnik, to sign the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING for the capitalization of results of CROSSCONNECT project.

Zrinka Kulušić
General Director





ZRAČNA LUKA
RUĐER BOŠKOVIĆ
AIRPORT

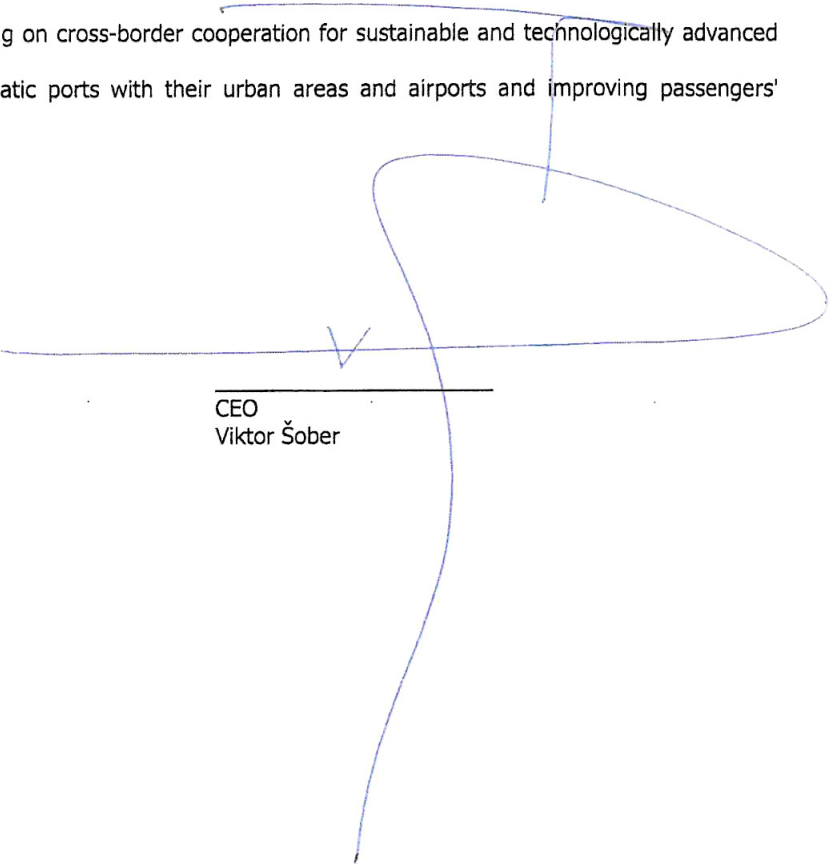
Vrata
od Grada.

CEO of Dubrovnik Airport Ltd. OIB 63145279942, Dobrota 24, Čilipi, on 2 June 2026, hereby issues the following

POWER OF ATTORNEY

authorizing employee Hrvoje Spremić, Assistant to CEO, OIB 65109850412, residing at Bana Josipa Jelačića 63, Dubrovnik, acting on behalf of Dubrovnik Airport Ltd. in the capacity of project partner to sign the:

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CEO
Viktor Šober

Zračna luka Dubrovnik d.o.o.
Dubrovnik Airport Ltd.

A Dobrota 24, Mošćeni, 20213 Čilipi, Croatia
T +385 (0)20 773 222
F +385 (0)20 773 981
E headoffice@airport-dubrovnik.hr
W www.airport-dubrovnik.hr

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• Direktor: Viktor Šober • IBAN: HR8724020061100554933 • SWIFT: ESBCHR22
• Erste & Steiermärkische Bank d.d., Rijeka

ČLAN
MEMBER OF

