



NEWSLETTER

CYROS

IMPLEMENTATION, IN THE PROGRAMME AREA, OF THE EUSAIR FLAGSHIP AND CROSSPILLAR PROJECT IDEA ADRIATIC IONIAN CYCLE ROUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Round tables on sustainable mobility and maritime passenger transport

Project partners organised a series of round tables focused on Sustainable Mobility and Tourism and Maritime Passenger Transport, bringing together relevant stakeholders, public authorities, and experts to discuss current challenges and possible solutions at cross-border level.

The meetings focused on improving connectivity, accessibility, and sustainable transport solutions, while also contributing to the development of future cross-border strategies in the field of mobility and tourism.

In this newsletter, you will find the key conclusions and recommendations from each partner's round table discussions on Maritime Passenger Transport and Sustainable Mobility and Tourism.





PPI – LP – Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

The round tables organized by the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region highlighted the growing importance of sustainable mobility and maritime passenger transport for the development of cycle tourism in the Adriatic area. Discussions focused on improving multimodal connections between cycling routes, ferry services, and rail transport, while addressing infrastructure gaps and service discontinuities. Stakeholders emphasized the need for better booking systems, harmonized signage, increased bicycle capacity, and stronger cross-border cooperation. Pilot actions implemented within the CYROS project confirmed strong user interest and demonstrated the potential of integrated, user-oriented mobility solutions.



PP2 – Puglia Region

The CYROS project discussions in Puglia focused on developing an integrated system connecting Adriatic–Ionian cycling networks with maritime passenger transport through sustainable, cross-border, and intermodal solutions. Stakeholders highlighted opportunities for improving coastal connectivity through “water taxis”, strengthening bike-friendly port infrastructure, and enhancing ship-bike intermodality between Puglia and Croatia.

The round tables also emphasized the transition from isolated cycling routes toward a comprehensive multimodal system integrating ship, train, bus, and bicycle transport. Key priorities identified during the discussions included overcoming “last mile” connectivity gaps, improving bicycle capacity on public transport, and developing unified digital platforms providing real-time information on routes, transport schedules, and available services.

Stakeholders further stressed the importance of cross-border cooperation and the creation of a complete “bike-friendly destination” ecosystem, combining cycling infrastructure with tourism services, specialised operators, and coordinated long-term management.



PP3 – Abruzzo Region

The round tables held in Pescara focused on strengthening maritime transport and sustainable mobility as key drivers of regional development in Abruzzo. Discussions emphasized the transformation of ports into integrated mobility hubs connecting bicycle, rail, and maritime transport systems, while improving connections between coastal and inland areas through “valley corridors” and multimodal solutions.

Stakeholders highlighted the strategic importance of the “Costa dei Trabocchi” as the central axis for cycle tourism development, together with the need for better infrastructure continuity, unified ticketing systems, MaaS (Mobility as a Service) platforms, and improved on-site services such as e-bike charging stations and route signage. The integration of infrastructure with the Marche Region was also recognised as an important opportunity for strengthening cross-border cooperation and creating a more competitive Central Adriatic mobility network.

The discussions further underlined the need for coordinated governance and unified planning in order to overcome fragmentation and support the long-term development of sustainable tourism and integrated mobility solutions across the region.



PP4 – Marche Region

The round tables organised within the CYROS project highlighted the strategic importance of the Port of Ancona as a key Adriatic hub with strong potential for cycle tourism. Although currently perceived mainly as a transit point, stakeholders emphasized the need to improve sea-land intermodality through better inland connections and coordinated transport schedules. Recommendations included upgrading port infrastructure with bike-friendly facilities such as e-bike charging stations and secure storage, enhancing on-board services, and developing integrated digital booking platforms.

The discussions also established a roadmap for integrating sustainable mobility and cycle tourism within the Marche Region. Particular attention was given to improving multimodal connections between rail transport and cycling infrastructure, while recognizing operational challenges related to bus integration. Stakeholders presented the development of the new CYROS digital application based on OpenStreetMap and WebGIS data, aimed at supporting trip planning, navigation, and intermodal connections for cyclists. The importance of coordinated governance and cross-border cooperation with Croatian partners was highlighted as essential for developing sustainable and integrated mobility solutions throughout the Adriatic region.



PP5 – Institute for Transport and Logistics (ITL)

The CYROS project stakeholder roundtable highlighted the Emilia-Romagna region's leadership in specialised cycle tourism while emphasizing the need to better connect fragmented infrastructure and integrate data in order to improve regional and cross-border connectivity. Key achievements included the CYROS WebGIS platform and the “Adriatica Bike Tour 2025”, together with strengthened cooperation with Croatian partners.

Discussions on maritime passenger transport highlighted strong demand for bike-friendly maritime services between Emilia-Romagna, Istria, and Kvarner, despite current technical and seasonal limitations. Stakeholders emphasized the importance of extending seasonal operations, improving bicycle facilities and “last-mile” infrastructure, and strengthening coordination between public and private stakeholders.

A key objective identified during the round tables is the transformation of ports into multimodal hubs that better integrate bus, ship, and bicycle connections in support of sustainable tourism and mobility.



PP6 – Dubrovnik-Neretva County

The presentation attended by County Prefect Blaž Pezo highlighted Dubrovnik-Neretva County's strong commitment to the development of sustainable mobility and cycle tourism. Through the MIMOSA and CYROS projects, a network of more than 1,600 km of cycling trails has been established across Dubrovnik, Pelješac, Neretva, and the islands, further strengthening the region's tourism and mobility offer.

Discussions emphasized the growing economic importance of cycle tourism within the European market and its potential to support year-round tourism development and attract international visitors. A five-year Action Plan was presented, setting European standards for route equipment, signage, and infrastructure development, while institutional support at regional level confirmed the county's long-term commitment to becoming a leading sustainable cycling destination in the Adriatic region.



PP7 – Primorje-Gorski Kotar County

The round tables organised in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County focused on strengthening sustainable mobility, maritime passenger transport, and cycle tourism through better multimodal integration and regional cooperation. Discussions highlighted investments in port infrastructure, the development of maritime passenger lines, and the digitalisation of transport services aimed at improving user experience and accessibility.

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of improving connections between ferries, buses, trains, and cycling routes, together with further development of bike-friendly infrastructure such as bicycle racks, info points, and facilities at ferry terminals. Existing maritime connections supporting the Adriatic-Ionian cycling route were recognised as valuable examples contributing to year-round tourism and better accessibility to islands and inland destinations.

Particular attention was also given to the growing demand for outdoor tourism, the role of digital tools and route signalisation, and future opportunities for stronger bike-and-train and bike-and-boat solutions, as well as closer cross-border cooperation within the Adriatic region.



PP8 – Region of Istria

The round tables organised by the Region of Istria focused on strengthening sustainable mobility, cycle tourism, and maritime passenger transport within the Adriatic–Ionian area. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of improving multimodal connections between cycling routes, ferries, buses, and rail transport, while further developing bike-friendly infrastructure and safe access to ports and transport hubs.

The discussions also emphasized the need for better coordination between transport operators, stronger digital integration, and harmonised bicycle transport standards. Existing initiatives such as the Bike&Bus Poreč–Trieste connection and maritime links supporting bicycle transport were presented as valuable examples of cross-border cooperation and integrated mobility solutions in the Adriatic region.