

AAP and EU

a joint venture

the location: Adriatic sea, the junction between East, West, North and South of the world.
the mission: to define and practice an Adriatic sustainable way-of-life, starting from the local level

“Contribution to good urban governance and local empowerment”

by **Andreas G. Karavolas** - Mayor of Patras (Greece)

Good urban governance and local empowerment are crucial factors for increasing the quality of life in towns and cities and for managing them in more sustainable ways.

Urban governance can be improved by better vertical integration of activities of different levels of government and better horizontal integration within and between various organisations at the local level and involvement of stakeholders and citizens in urban policies. The issue is how institutions and structures can develop shared strategic goals and meet new demands for collective action. Our actions should particularly contribute to the following objectives:

- Increase information for local authorities and other urban actors, including citizens, on EU policies and build dialogue with them in the formulation of EU policies.
- Involve towns and cities more fully in the implementation of EU policies.
- Promote policy integration and synergy between and within all levels of government within functional urban areas.
- Support local capacity-building so as to increase the quality and effectiveness of urban governance, including exchange of good practice between cities, transnational co-operation and networks.



Andreas G. Karavolas

- Promote innovative approaches to the extension of local democracy, participation and empowerment and to partnership-building involving the private sector, communities and residents.

- Improve collection and use of comparative information on urban conditions across Europe, the diagnosis of urban problems and the identification of effective policy solutions, enabling actors at all government levels to tailor their policies to local needs and to monitor and assess the performance of their policies in terms of quantitative and qualitative outcomes on the ground.

The city of Patras as the largest urban area in the Peloponnese, the capital of the region of Western Greece and the country's major gateway to western Europe can make an important contribution to improving urban governance by promoting strategy building, policy integration, partnership, and linkage within the wider functional urban areas and with regional strategies.

Through the Aap2020 project will encourage and manage the implementation of Agenda 21, involving all local governments of the two sides of the Adriatic region, through a participative process meant to encourage and create local sustainability tools which will serve as instruments of governance and public administration.

The International Conference “Adriatic Action Plan 2020 - two years later”

by **Nikola Horvat** - Municipality of Split (Croatia)



Nikola Horvat

The international conference for AAP2020, held in Split the 17th and the 18th of June 2005, was organized by the City of Split, under the aegis of the Italian Office in the European Parliament and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the lead partner of the project, the City of Ancona. The organization of the conference was divided in two parts.

The first part of the conference took place in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce of the Split and Dalmatia county, where the lecture dealt with the following topic: **European Union and Adriatic region, development and prospects.** The topic we dealt with, was mostly technical, referring to the future of the eastern Adriatic countries, especially about the role/function/ that the Adriatic Cities and Regions have to develop. During the afternoon, we discussed about the policies of the Sustainable Development, where Mr. Remitti, the project manager AAP2020, made a situation report of the project, where we discussed about the management of the indicators A.C.I. (collecting the data, displaying and updating) in the eastern Adriatic. It was made a particular overview on the maritime accident prevention as constant danger and on the role that the cities and regions have to perform in this prevention. The second part of the conference took place in the rooms of the Faculty of Economy, University of Split. The title of the topic was “Towards The Adriatic Forum; the Split Test. It was firstly targeted towards the local partners and users (stakeholders) for their better understanding and representation of the AAP2020project. Professor Grcic, the vice dean of the Faculty of Economy, elaborated that topic with success. There were also introduced the experiences of the Baltic Union Cities, the Foreign Affairs Office and The European Integration Ministry of the Republic Of Croatia made an overview on the interregional cooperation. With a particular regard it was presented the

integral project, “Eco Kastela's Bay”, for the care and the protection of the Kastela's Bay. The arguments were actively discussed by numerous representatives of the ecological associations as well as by the representatives of the scientific institutions: Center for Regional Activities UNEP-Priority Action Program; Port Authority; Faculty of Economy- Split; European Movement- Split; Non-governmental organization Sunce; Regional center for the Maritime Accident Prevention and others. The convention was participated by more than one hundred delegates coming from numerous towns all over the countries participating the AAP2020 project; by the representatives of the Foreign Affairs Office and The European Integration Ministry of the Republic of Croatia; the representatives of the Italian Consulate in Split; the Chamber of Commerce and by the others numerous institutions and associations.

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THE TRAVELLING FORUM FOR THE FINAL ADRIATIC ACTION PLAN 2020

Directions for a better use

The next 13/18 June 2006 the final act of the Aap2020 operation will take place, travelling between Pescara, Zadar, Rijeka, Koper, Venice, Rimini and Ancona. The third Adriatic Forum (the first one was held in Rijeka, October 2003, and the second one in Venice, October 2004. Take a look on Aap Guidelines on <http://www.aap2020.net/toolkit/guidelines/04.pdf> for any detail about definitions, functions and targets of the Adriatic Forum) will give the opportunity to all the Aap Adriatic partners to define the final Adriatic Action Plan, to be transmitted to all the Adriatic countries, regions and local authorities for its implementation by the year 2020.

The Adriatic forum's task is the promotion, implementation and management of a strategy for the sustainable development of the Adriatic region, defined and contained in the Adriatic Action Plan. The forum activity must be considered as a process of mutual acknowledgement and learning, in which key roles are played by experimentation and innovation...

Each Adriatic partner has to take part to the meetings of the Adriatic Forum, proposing, discussing and sharing contents and actions to be implemented through the Plan. Each Adriatic partner has to commit itself in the direct implementation of one or more actions, in partnership with other Adriatic cities and regions. (Aap Guidelines, ch. 4a)

Definitively, all the Adriatic partners must take part to the shipping Forum with at least two representatives (a political and a technical one), but they are warmly requested to invite on the ship also local "motivated" stakeholders. Furthermore, a lot of EU and international bodies and organi-

zations, operating or interested on our sea, will be invited to take part to the works of the shipping Forum: CSD (UN Commission on Sustainable Development), MCSD (Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development), DG Region from EU Commission, Interreg Secretariat, etc.

At the moment, a lot of operative details are still "in progress". A detailed agenda will be soon available. Furthermore, we can anyway resume some basic pre-requisites for the final Aap event.

1. An "Action Plan" is composed (obvious) mainly with actions. In our case, they must be actions aimed to the sustainable development of the Adriatic region, interesting all the levels of the regional and local bodies of the 7 Adriatic countries.

All the actions must be directed to the pursuit of an Adriatic sustainable way-of-life, based on viable local economies, and must be able to let grow-up and improve the environmental, social and cultural conditions of each local community. All the actions proposed must be coherent with the problems and the situation defined by the Reports elaborated by the implementation of the LSD set of tools of the Aap project.

It is very important to keep in mind that to be inserted in the Plan, each action must be proposed by an Adriatic partner, discussed and shared during the Adriatic Forum and approved by all the Adriatic partners taking part to the third Adriatic Forum, even if it will be implemented only by a little part (or only one) of them. (Aap Guidelines, ch. 4b).

A first list of actions, compiled by the second Adriatic Forum in Venice and by all the Aap partners, is already available on



<http://www.aap2020.org/actions.php>. Please take a look on it, to have a very operative idea about the shipping Forum's tasks. And also keep in mind that the wide framework of the Aalborg Commitments (<http://www.aalborgplus10.dk>) can be used as mainstreaming.

2. The Aap Expert Group + Expert Group have defined an Action Form, already available on our SEA (<http://www.aap2020.org/actions.php>), to be used for the online presentation of Actions not only by the Aap partners, but by all the "interested" world.

For each part or topic, the Adriatic Forum will have to define 1. Sustainability targets to be reached for the making real of the Adriatic Action Plan and 2. The actions to be implemented to pursuit the aimed targets, plus 3. which indicators between ACI are referred to each single target, able to monitor the ongoing trends and to verify the success (or not) of our ac-

tions. Each part will be edited by mean of compressive forms containing, as well targets, actions and indicators, the Adriatic partners directly involved in the implementations of the single actions and the foreseen deadlines for any action. The Sector Forms will be compiled by the AapAgency with the support of the Expert Group. The meetings of the Adriatic forum are reserved to the proposals and the discussion of the contents of the Plan. (Aap Guidelines, ch. 4b)

3. All of us know that knowledge is not given only by quantitative aspects, but any Action Plan needs anyway a strong data base of quantitative information to support any action and, above all, their trend in the future evolutions.

The Aap data base will be given by the ACI set of indicators, already available on our SEA on <http://www.aap2020.net/ACI.htm>.

The Aap Report, containing the ACI evaluation for each partner city and territory, must be considered as the basic documentation for the Adriatic Forum under the analytical point of view, providing data and quantitative elements and for the best definition of the actions. (Aap Guidelines, ch. 4b) Finally, we must remember that each Adriatic partner has to involve all the stakeholders operating in the local community at any level and in any sector (culture, economy, social activity, etc.) in the process of elaboration and proposal of the actions to be inserted in the Adriatic Action Plan. This could be done by means of local Agenda 21 processes, or by means of single initiative, as round tables, workshops, training courses, and so on... The Adriatic Action Plan, as defined in its final version, must be submitted and discussed to the City (or Regional) Council by each Aap's partner. The City (or Regional) Council must approve the actions for which the City (or the Region) is directly committed, and must integrate them in its planning and management acts and procedures.

PERIOD	MEETINGS	WHERE AND WHEN
1 - 2003	Kick-off meeting + EG	Ancona, 27/28 Jun
2 - 2003	First meeting of the Adriatic forum + EG TW: the LSD set of tools TW: renewable energies in the Adriatic region	Rijeka, 23/24 Oct Bari, 23 Jan Casarano, 24 Jan
1 - 2004	TW: the ACI set (Adriatic Common Indicators) + EG SC: first updating of the project TW: approach to Environmental Management Systems	Bristol, 4/5 Mar Ancona, 19 Mar Baden, 13/16 May
2 - 2004	Second meeting of the Adriatic forum + SC TW: the ACI implementation in Eastern Adriatic countries TW: the ACI implementation and the sustainability accounting system	Venezia, 17/18 Sept Shkoder 15/16 Oct Ravenna, 23 Oct
1 - 2005	TW: sustainable tourism and local agenda 21 TW: biodiversity: conservation and protection International meeting + EG	Lloret de Mar, 25/26 Feb Koper 01 Apr Split 16/17/18 Jun
2 - 2005	TW + SC TW	Bar 13/14/15 Sept Patras 14 Oct
1 - 2006	International meeting for the presentation of the result Last meeting of the Adriatic Forum (travelling meeting)	Aap2020 ferry 13/18 Jun

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) IN THE ADRIATIC REGION

by Piero Remitti - Aap project manager

In the last years the EU Commission addressed the management problems related to the coastal areas, mainly in two very focused documents:

- A Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on "Integrated Coastal Zone Management: A Strategy for Europe" (COM/00/547 of 17 Sept. 2000);
- A proposal for a European Parliament and Council Recommendation concerning the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (COM/00/545 of 8 Sept. 2000)

The Communication explains how the Commission will be working "to promote ICZM through the use of Community instruments and programmes". The Recommendation urges Member States to draw up 'coastal strategies' by Spring 2006, based on ICZM principles and practices together with a timetable for rolling out the strategies in the succeeding years. The Recommendation was adopted by Council and Parliament in May 2002. An EU ICZM Expert Group, advised by the EU Working Group on Indicators and Data, was set up in October 2002 to assist Member States in producing their national strategies.

In spite of that clear approach, at the moment the perception of ICZM tools in the Adriatic region is still in a very beginner step. Even if some planning tools have been implemented, the knowledge of ICZM is still limited only to a part of the administrative and technical personnel of the regional bodies and the local authorities. As the Aap partners had seen and heard in detail during the Aap workshop n.6 held in Ravenna on 23rd of October 2004 (www.aap2020.net/), in Emilia – Romagna, Marche and Abruzzo (Italian Regions) the regional ICZM plans had been defined and implemented in the last years, but with very different methodological and technical approaches, creating more difficulties for a comprehensive and integrated "one sea" approach.

With the aim of increasing the spreading of ICZM, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns had recently set up its annual assembly in Bar (Montenegro), last 12/13 September 2005, just on ICZM implementation in the Adriatic Region, with the final result to establish a working group, starting from the basic assumption that today the sustainability mainstreaming must be oriented to define an operative ICZM approach that can be spread and implemented (after testing and local "personalization") in all the Adriatic coastal areas. Look at www.adriatic-ionian.net for all the results of the Bar assembly, including an exercitation on a set of indicators provided by the Expert Group of the EC on ICZM implementation.

The basic steps for an integrated process of ICZM implementation on Adriatic level could be given by:

- the technical improvement of the personnel (political, administrative and technical) of the Regions and Local Authorities of all the Adriatic countries.
- the establishment of a networking activity specialized on ICZM, supporting and supported by the working group of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns

Speaking for example about the tourist sector, the most important in Adriatic regions, the first beneficiaries of the ICZM implementation on Adriatic level will be given by all the beach economic operators and workers, creating more and better employment opportunities in all the areas of future implementation of ICZM best practices, as well as the beach users and consumers, creating an higher quality of the tourist services.

But the final aim of all ICZM activities must be oriented to set up the Adriatic sea as "only one sea", and not a boundary between different countries. "Only one sea" means more competitiveness on the global markets, and more competitiveness also for any Adriatic local situations.

On the environmental point of view, a restoration and a following sustainable use of all the environmental resources of the beach ecosystems are needed, and expected by means of an ICZM approach, in a lot of Adriatic coastal zones: improvement of water quality, air quality and soil quality, noise reduction, improvement of the coastal landscape, etc...

Finally, the innovation process of ICZM introduction in the Adriatic region must be characterized by:

- a very transnational character of the operation, involving in the networking activities people and institutions from 7 different countries, 4 of which are not EU Members. An ecological approach to the regional planning is in this way integrating the ordinary approach, replacing many "political" boundaries with only one "ecological" boundaries.
- a "governance" approach for the design and implementation of detailed projects at local level, involving from the first activities all the private stake-

holders operating in the beach and on the whole coastal areas, including also the users.

Moreover, it must be able to integrate all the institutional levels operating on the coastal settings, from the national level (for the law aspects), to the regional level (for the planning tools), up to the local level for the implementation and actions.

The Adriatic Action Plan that will be defined by our partners in the next shipping Forum (April '06) will be for sure very concerned and interlinked with the ICZM approach in several Adriatic areas. In this direction, the activities started up at the last assembly of the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns gives to all the Aap partners a very important opportunity to address their local problems in a larger Adriatic perspective. We must exploit at the best this new occasion, putting on the basis for further Aap operative steps.



AAP's crumbs

AAP2020 AT THE UNITED NATION CONFERENCE

Last 16 December the Aap project was presented to the Second Regional Implementation Meeting on Sustainable Development of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva (CH).

The request for an Aap 2020 presentation came directly from the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, due to the endorsement of the project by the UN as a Type 2 Partnership since the 2002 World Summit in Johannesburg.

The Meeting held in Geneva will provide a substantial contribution to the Fourteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14), which will be held in New York, 1-12 May 2006. The Aap participation to the UN framework of partnerships is of great importance in order to enlarge the project's and Forum (of Adriatic and Ionian Cities and Towns)'s partnerships all over the world, as well as to find new and further donors and funding supports for future development and evolution of the Adriatic Action Plan 2020. For any detail of the UNECE meeting in Geneva and the Aap presentation, held by Piero Remitti, please try http://www.unece.org/press/pr2005/05env_p11e.htm.

ACI DATA BANK

New utility for AAP2020 project, reachable at the web address www.aap2020.org/databank. A simple tool able to collect all the A.C.I. data from AAP2020 partners useful to build-up an Adriatic oriented data bank.

Partners could insert, print, benchmark and view in graphic mode their data, selected by partner, year and subindicator, helped with a step by step support, for an easy management of the data collection.

The application is designed for probable implementation with a GIS (Geographic Information System) and for this AAP Agency made connection with Marche Region for research and development of innovative solutions.

Following the share mode, one of the main task of AAP2020 project, the optimization phase of the application registered an high participation of the technicians from the local partners with good standard of co-operations and useful feed-back for the designers/programmers.

AAP FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT: SUMMARY SITUATION

By Anna Laura Lacerra

Up to 30.6.2005, Vth Progress report deadline, the Adriatic Action Plan has registered the expenditure equivalent to 60.00% of the budget (non EU partner included). This percentage means an under spending of 10% respect the threshold planned on the beginning of the project. The remaining 40% of the budget includes also 5% of expenditures already sustained by Italian and Greece partners in the past, but not enough audited, and the amount spent in the second semester of 2005 not enough reported.

This is a positive result achieved thanks to the commitment and constancy needed to render more fluid complicated administrative procedures, moreover if we consider the numerous partnership and all changes occurred to modify and render more complicated the initial path.

The major news of 2005 was represented by:

The entry of two new partner from the 1st May 2005: the Municipality of Senigallia, that replaced the Municipality Mogliano Veneto, and the Municipality of Patras, that replaced the Municipality of Corfu;

The approval of the budget lines reallocation by the Joint Technical Secretariat of Vienna, necessary step to rationalize the use of funds and to maximize the results to better achieve the project goals;

The remaining 2006 budget will be almost entirely destined to the final Adriatic shipping meeting, a technical, political and environmental event, forwarded for the end of the April 2006. This expensive, but very important event, will resume the project results and want to aware the institutions, the technicians and the populations of the 20 Adriatic Municipality about the importance to continue to work together for the definition and the implementation of the Adriatic Action Plan within the year 2020.



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di Ancona
Assessorato all'Ambiente



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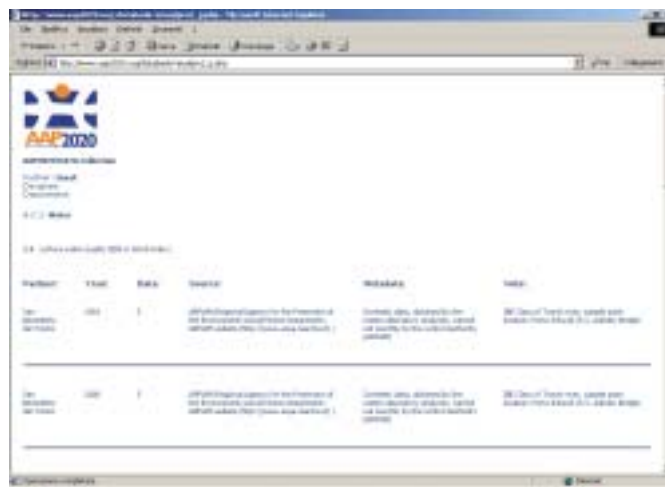
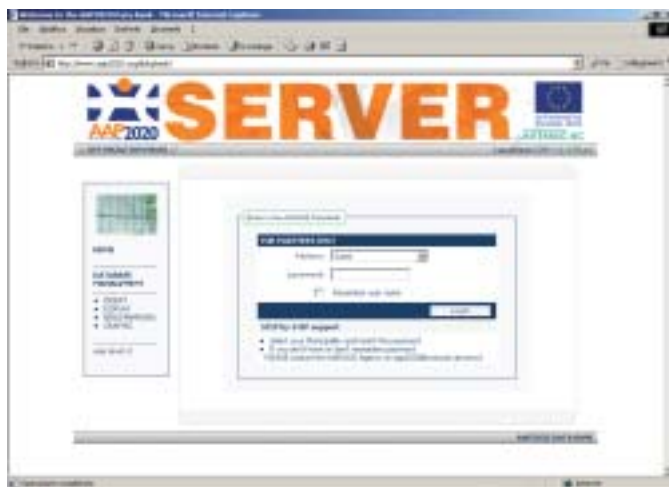


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All partners are warmly invited to present any communication, or documentation, or anything you think that can be useful for our project, for its publication on the website and/or on the next newsletter. Thank you.

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The Aap Adriatic partners are: **Albania:** Shkoder - **Croatia:** Rijeka, Split - **Greece:** Patras - **Italy:** Ancona (lead partner) - Alessano - Bari (Province) - Brindisi - Casarano - Marche (Region) - Molfetta - Pesaro - Pescara - Ravenna (City and Province) - San Benedetto del Tronto - Senigallia - Tricase - Venezia - **Slovenia:** Koper - **Yugoslavia-Montenegro:** Bar

The Aap technical partners are: **UK:** Bristol - **Austria:** Lower Austria (Region) - **Spain:** Lloret de Mar, Xativa - Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias - **Baltic Countries:** Union of Baltic Cities