

Interreg



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Italy – Croatia

ITHR0600727

FRESH

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A - Project identification

A.1 Project identification

Project id (automatically created)	ITHR0600727
Name of the lead partner organisation	AGENZIA PER L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	Agency for Energy and Sustainable Development
Project title	Future Resilient Coastal Cities
Project acronym	FRESH
Programme priority	Green and resilient shared environment
Specific objective	2.1: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches
Project duration in months	30

A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project and describe:

- the common challenge(s) of the programme area you are jointly tackling in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change(s) your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a cross-border approach is needed;
- what is new/original CB solution the project proposes.

A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Jointly developed solutions	1,00	solutions	Output 3.1	FRESH Climate Adaptation Platform	1,00	Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	0,00	1,00	solutions
Strategies and action plans jointly developed	1,00	strategy /action plan	Output 3.2	FRESH Cross-Border Strategy for long term use of Digital platform and School Engagement	1,00	Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	0,00	1,00	joint strategy /action plan
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	1,00	pilot actions	Output 2.1	FRESCH Cross Border Pilot Action	1,00				

B - Project partners

Partners overview

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in english	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Associated organisations	Partner total eligible budget
1	Active	Agency for Energy and Sustainable Development	Italia (IT)	AESS	LP		467.900,00
2	Active	Metropolitan City of Bari	Italia (IT)	CMBA	PP		144.000,00
3	Active	Zadar County Development Agency ZADRA NOVA	Hrvatska (HR)	ZADRA NOVA	PP		344.045,00
4	Active	IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency	Hrvatska (HR)	IRENA	PP		337.000,00
5	Active	Province of Rimini	Italia (IT)	PoR	PP		360.706,00

B.1 Lead partner	
Partner number	1
Partner role	LP
Name of the organisation in original language	AGENZIA PER L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE
Name of the organisation in english	Agency for Energy and Sustainable Development
Organisation abbreviation	AESS
Department / unit / division	Bari Operative Branch
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)
NUTS 3	Modena (ITH54)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Enrico Caruso 3 41122 Modena
Homepage	https://aessenergy.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Bari (ITF47)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Orfeo Mazzitelli 270 70124 Bari
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	M.71.12
VAT number (if applicable)	IT02574910366
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	02574910366
PEC address	
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	997153502
Contact	
Legal representative	Ms Benedetta Brighenti
Contact person	Mr Stefano Sorrentino
Email	stefano.sorrentino@aessenergy.it
Telephone no.	+39 3461663734
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

AESS is the Lead Partner of the FRESH project, bringing extensive thematic competences and experience and the necessary management capacity.

AESS is a non-profit organisation bringing together over 160 Italian public local authorities, to support energy and ecological transition to fight climate change, working with public bodies, SMEs, cultural and educational institutions but also citizens. AESS has over 25 years of experience in supporting local governments to draft strategic plans to tackle and adapt to climate change. Since 2015, as an official supporter of the Covenant of Mayors initiative, AESS has worked with 89 signatories (local administrations) providing analysis and data management and had edited around 150 Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs). AESS supported the Metropolitan City of Bari (PP2) in joining the Covenant and drafting the SECAP guidelines for the 41 municipalities in the metropolitan city area and the Metropolitan City of Rome in drafting a territorial energy and climate strategy. Furthermore, AESS Academy provides training to public officers, students, technicians and citizens on energy transition solutions, sustainable design, climate mitigation and adaptation.

Of direct relevance to the FRESH project, AESS supports design and implementation of green and blue urban infrastructure to improve microclimatic well-being, with a focus on public spaces and schools. Some notable projects delivered since 2023 include the implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in the municipalities of Castenaso, Ravarino and Nonantola in Emilia-Romagna (ERDF ER-IVB) and Lecce in Apulia (ministerial funds).

AESS's headquarters are in Modena, whereas the operational office in Bari is dedicated to the coordination of the Apulian associates working with ERDF-ER and Next Generation EU Funds.

AESS has internal technical capacity to coordinate the FRESH project

AESS is currently involved in 20 European projects supported by different programmes and initiatives (Urban Mobility KIC, HORIZON, LIFE, EIB ELENA, Creative Europe, NZC, Scalable cities, DG ENER tender, ERASMUS+). Among them, AESS is currently coordinator of 6.

AESS has the necessary operational capacity, with the ability to perform the required tasks or services effectively with a staff of 40 technical experts organized in 7 departments. AESS is equipped with a project management system to support projects management, monitoring the staff's efforts and responsibilities, and controlling budget expenditures. AESS will procure external consultancy for the development of the FRESH platform.

AESS has also financial capacity with a cash flow of 4,5M€ and a positive financial history.

AESS coordinates RENAEL, the Italian national network of energy agencies, is an accredited Innovation Centre of the Regional High Technology Network of Emilia-Romagna and member of the Greentech Clust-ER. This will support into Communication and Transfer activities within FRESH.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

In its role as LP of the FRESH project, AESS is responsible for overall coordination and quality assurance of the project, as fully described in Sections C.7.1, 2 and 4 and confirmed in formal documentation (subsidy contract/consortium agreement). In this role, AESS works in close cooperation with WP and activity leaders and chairs the Steering Committee.

In WP1, AESS is WP leader, in charge of framing and planning activities, coordinating and preparing deliverables. AESS is in charge of procuring external support for the platform. AESS is also in charge of the COPERNICUS data analysis for all 4 territories, with external support. AESS also works in close cooperation with PP2 CMBA to support them in running all baseline activities in their territory (census of actions from the territory, supporting platform development and managing local engagement - local councils/schools).

In WP2, AESS supports PP2 CMBA to plan, implement and monitor the pilot action in the metropolitan city territory (coastal municipalities). AESS participates in work with the schools, supports local councils in selecting blue/green measures and monitors progress of implementation (providing input to Impact study in WP3).

In WP3, AESS supports PP2 CMBA and the 5 coastal councils involved to integrate results into their local programming documents (e.g. SECAP). AESS also helps to transfer results to other local councils in the area. AESS is in charge of finalising the FRESH platform and of defining, with partners, the formal measures for its adoption and continuation.

Throughout the project, AESS coordinates and participates in all cross-border exchange and development. AESS supports communication, using their extensive national network.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	374.320,00	80,00%
FdR	93.580,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	467.900,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
AESS	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No
Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 2	
Partner number	2
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Città Metropolitana di Bari
Name of the organisation in english	Metropolitan City of Bari
Organisation abbreviation	CMBA
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Bari (ITF47)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Lungomare Nazario Sauro 29 70121 Bari
Homepage	www.cittametropolitana.ba.it
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	01204190720
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	01204190720

Legal and financial information			
PEC address			
PIC (from EC Participant Register)		921221223	
Contact			
Legal representative		Mr VITO LECCESE	
Contact person		Mr TOMMASO DEPALMA	
Email		t.depalma@cittametropolitana.ba.it	
Telephone no.		+39 0805412339	
Motivation			
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?			
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?			
Co-financing			
Source		Amount	Percentage
ERDF		115.200,00	80,00%
FdR		28.800,00	20,00%
Partner contribution		0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget		144.000,00	100,00%
Origin of partner contribution			
Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
CMBA	Public	0,00	0,00%
Total			
Sub-total public contribution		0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution		0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution		0,00	0,00%
Total		0,00	0,00%
State Aid			

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No
Criterion II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 3	
Partner number	3
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Agencija za razvoj Zadarske županije ZADRA NOVA
Name of the organisation in english	Zadar County Development Agency ZADRA NOVA
Organisation abbreviation	ZADRA NOVA
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Zadarska županija (HR033)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Put Murvice 14 23000 Zadar
Homepage	https://zadra.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	95315590590
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	95315590590

Legal and financial information	
PEC address	
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mrs Marina Dujmović Vuković
Contact person	Mrs Valentina Knežević
Email	valentina.knezevic@zadra.hr
Telephone no.	0038598813523
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

ZADRA NOVA is the regional development agency of Zadar County, performing public tasks as a regional coordinator. Its responsibilities include drafting and aligning regional development strategies, providing expert support to public bodies and institutions in preparation and implementation of development projects (particularly projects co-financed by EU funds), and implementing regional and national programmes for balanced territorial development. The agency supports sustainable territorial growth through activities related to risk management and stakeholder engagement at local and regional levels.

ZADRA NOVA covers the territory of Zadar County, located along the central Adriatic coast of Croatia. The region includes a mix of coastal towns, urban centres and inhabited islands, several of which are expected to be involved in the project through awareness-raising and adaptation-related initiatives. Key climate challenges affecting the area include coastal and pluvial flooding, rising sea levels, droughts and water scarcity on the islands, along with infrastructure stress due to tourism-related seasonal fluctuations and limited local adaptation capacities.

Concerning the specific topic covered by the FRESH project, the agency brings highly relevant experience from the STREAM project (Interreg Italy–Croatia, 14-20), which addressed increasing flood risks in coastal urban areas. ZADRA NOVA was involved in strengthening local preparedness and response by development of flood cadastres, hazard and risk models and local risk management plans. STREAM also included public awareness activities and the development of early warning systems.

Other relevant experience in the environmental field comes from the PEPSEA project, (Interreg Italy–Croatia, 14-20) that included emergency coordination in sensitive coastal environments and the APOLLO project (Interreg HR-BiH-ME 21-27) on the creation of local energy communities based and the IRENE project (Interreg HR-BiH-ME 21-27) on improving energy efficiency and implementing RES solutions in public buildings across cross-border areas.

ZADRA NOVA has an experienced team, reliable administrative and financial systems and the capacity to engage external expertise where appropriate. ZADRA NOVA has an internal team with experience in stakeholder engagement, awareness-raising and public communication, gained through its role as communication and visibility partner in several EU-funded projects, as well as Lead Partner in projects addressing environmental protection and climate-related risks. This includes coordinating local campaigns, supporting public authorities and engaging educational institutions.

Where appropriate, the agency may involve external experts to support participatory workshops with schools and municipalities, to assist with the production of communication materials and facilitation of engagement activities and for data collection and pilot support.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

By participating in FRESH, ZADRA NOVA aims to build on ongoing actions in the coastal areas and further develop knowledge and methodologies gained through previous initiatives (such as the STREAM project). The project is an opportunity for cross-border exchange and practical measures for urban adaptation, participatory mapping and blue/green adaptation approaches. As the regional development agency established by Zadar County, ZADRA NOVA maintains strong cooperation with all local self-government units (JLS) in the territory and is well positioned to support their involvement in the project's adaptation and engagement activities.

In WP1, ZADRA-NOVA runs all baseline activities in their territory (census of actions from the territory, supporting platform development and managing local engagement - local councils/schools).

In WP2, ZADRA-NOVA manages the pilot action in the Zadar County territory. The Call for Actions is addressed to the coastal councils (in its role as regional coordinator, ZADRA NOVA expects to involve approximately 3 to 5 JLS, depending on thematic fit). Secondary schools are engaged (A2.3). Several coastal urban secondary schools from the cities of Zadar and Biograd na Moru have expressed interest in climate-related initiatives. Selection of schools will be made in cooperation with the County Department for Education.

In WP3, ZADRA-NOVA will support consolidate activities in their county area. ZADRA-NOVA will define how the FRESH platform can continue to be used, with participation of local councils. This work will be grounded in existing strategic frameworks, including the Development Plan of Zadar County 2021–2027) and the Development Plan for the Islands of Zadar County 2021–2027. Both documents explicitly recognise the importance of climate adaptation, sustainable territorial development and stakeholder participation.

Throughout the project, ZADRA-NOVA participates in all cross-border exchange and development. They host 1 meeting (Period 04).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	275.236,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	68.809,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	344.045,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
ZADRA NOVA	Public	68.809,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	68.809,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%

Total		
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	68.809,00	20,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

B.1 Project Partner 4	
Partner number	4
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	IRENA – Istarska Regionalna Energetska Agencija d. o.o.
Name of the organisation in english	IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency
Organisation abbreviation	IRENA
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Istarska županija (HR036)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Rudarska 1 522220 Labin
Homepage	www.irena-istra.hr
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	M.70.22
VAT number (if applicable)	HR15317120721
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	HR15317120721
PEC address	
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	950650926
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Dalibor Jovanović
Contact person	Mr Nikola Petrić
Email	nikola.petric@irena-istra.hr
Telephone no.	+385 52 351 554
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

IRENA was founded in 2009 by the Istrian Region to provide advisory service to public and private actors, and on energy and environmental protection issues. As responsible for development of the regional energy action plan, IRENA supports regional and local public authorities and stakeholders in the energy transition by proposing measures and monitoring their implementation.

IRENA with its scope of work, covers all cities and municipalities in Istrian County (10 cities and 31 municipalities), and will invite them to participate in the projects, specifically the ones on the coastal part of Istrian peninsula.

Istria, like many Mediterranean regions, is already experiencing the effects of climate change; rising temperatures and occasional heatwaves, water scarcity and droughts, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, forest fires. There are related socio-economic impacts. FRESH project fits into this context, seeking to help Local councils to adapt to this kind of changes.

IRENA has extensive knowledge and experience participating on various EU projects both as project partner and as lead partner, contributing to projects dealing with a lot of different topics, including climate change adaption. Through such projects, IRENA has gained significant knowledge about climate adaption planning, risk and vulnerability analysis, development of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, and know-how about technical solutions that can be synchronised with climate adaption measures. Specifically, through the Interreg IT-HR project IDEAL, where IRENA was LP, a decision support system was developed with the goal of helping local councils in making appropriate decision related to climate adaption planning and implementation of planned measures.

IRENA has the internal experience and expertise to ensure correct financial management of the project, local level coordination and leadership of WP2. They have internal expertise on developing studies and reports related to climate adaptation, communication with local stakeholders, media and local community, organisation of seminars, workshops and conferences, organisation and implementation of educational workshops with students. For several years, IRENA has been running practical "Kids can do it" workshops with high school students, which will be adapted in this project.

External expertise will be needed to Implementation of Climate Adaptation measures in coastal areas; professional instructors and installers, related to specific selected bids. Additionally, experts will be needed for data collection - baseline study WP1 and Impact study WP3.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

The FRESH project is in line with IRENA's scope of work, and by participating IRENA will have the opportunity to help Local Councils in planning and implementation of climate adaptation measures, educate students and young people about climate issues and raise general awareness of people in Istrian region. IRENA as regional agency can invite 10 cities and 31 municipalities from Istrian County to participate in project activities. During project implementation (Call for Action – WP2) a selection of participants will be done, with a greater focus on councils that are on the coastal area (19 councils).

In WP1, IRENA runs all baseline activities in their territory (census of actions from the territory, supporting platform development, and managing local engagement - local councils/schools).

In WP2, IRENA is the WP Leader, with the overall coordination role. In addition, IRENA manages the pilot action in the Istrian regional territory. The Call for Actions is addressed to the 19 coastal councils.

Through A2.3, IRENA will engage high schools from Istrian County in the selected local councils in the design, implementation and monitoring of the selected climate actions. In Istria, 25 high schools could participate in project activities. IRENA has already collaborated with four technical schools (from Labin, Pula, Buzet, Rovinj) in "Kids can do it" initiative and multiple others in educational and awareness-raising activities.

In WP3, IRENA will support consolidated activities in their county area. IRENA will define how the FRESH platform can continue to be used, with the participation of local councils.

Regarding policy documents, the main regional document is the County Development Strategy which includes green transition and climate change resilience goals. On the local level, many towns and municipalities (eg. Pula, Labin, Poreč, Rovinj, Buzet, Kršan, Vrsar etc.) have SECAPs - Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan that have set off measures that should be implemented at the local level.

Throughout the project, IRENA participates in all cross-border exchange and development. They host 1 meeting (Period 02).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	269.600,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	67.400,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	337.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
IRENA	Public	67.400,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	67.400,00	20,00%
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Total		
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	67.400,00	20,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

B.1 Project Partner 5	
Partner number	5
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Provincia di Rimini
Name of the organisation in english	Province of Rimini
Organisation abbreviation	PoR
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)
NUTS 3	Rimini (ITH59)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Dario Campana 64 47922 Rimini
Homepage	https://www.provincia.rimini.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Local public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.1
VAT number (if applicable)	IT91023860405
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	IT91023860405

Legal and financial information	
PEC address	
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Jamil Sadegholvaad
Contact person	Mr Antonio Gabellini
Email	staffprogetti@provincia.rimini.it
Telephone no.	+39 3398318113
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

The Province of Rimini (PoR) is the southernmost province of the Emilia-Romagna region and it covers 27 municipalities. On the North-East, the province borders the Adriatic Sea, with 5 coastal cities (Bellaria-Igea Marina, Rimini, Riccione, Misano Adriatico, Cattolica). These 5 coastal cities, with over 230,000 inhabitants and 15 million overnights, are highly urbanised, with thousands of tourist accommodation facilities and residential buildings. Partly due to phenomena linked to climate change, including extreme heat, the creation of usable green space in these urban areas has become increasingly important. These should have the double role of recreational spaces and tools to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Province has jurisdiction in various thematic fields, including spatial planning and territorial governance, schools and education.

PoR has extensive experience in environmental management of the territory and has participated in various EU funded projects (some as Lead Partner) on relevant topics. These include topics of renewable energy, circular economy, reuse of materials, enhancement of biodiversity, among others. PoR has 2 projects currently underway in this area: WEEEP (Central Europe) on the production, collection and disposal of electrical and electronic waste, and GIFT (Interreg Europe) on green infrastructure. The GIFT (Green Infrastructure for forests and trees) project is directly relevant to FRESH, as it seeks to integrate green infrastructure into large-scale spatial planning and programming documents through an integrated and cross-sectoral approach.

Thanks to previous and ongoing projects, PoR has internal expertise in management (coordination, progress reporting, financial reporting/management). For the actions foreseen in the Work Plan, PoR will draw on internal expertise from the European Office and the Offices for Public Infrastructure. The office for School and Education is well placed to involve higher education institutions in the area (teachers and students). External expertise will be activated for specific actions (as foreseen in the project budget).

PoR will take on the role of Communication Manager for the FRESH project, as in the dozens of projects developed in the past it has often dealt with communication and dissemination actions.

PoR has the necessary financial capacity, including the ability to manage advance payments.

PoR participates in the Interreg IT-HR programme for the first time, representing a newcomer as encouraged by the call.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

Given the climate impact on coastal areas, and particularly the “heat island” phenomenon, policy makers and citizens in PoR seek climate adaptation solutions in urban areas. Hottest areas ever more difficult to live in, particularly for more vulnerable people. Various macro (sea park, urban park redevelopment) and micro measures (small green space maintenance) have been implemented in the past 10 years. With FRESH, PoR intends to build on these, strengthening them with cross-border exchange and practical methods to identify and classify new blue and green adaptation measures for the most urbanised coastal areas.

In WP1, PoR runs all baseline activities in their territory (census of actions from the territory, supporting platform development and managing local engagement - local councils/schools). PoR also coordinates the FRESH baseline study at project level (with all partners managing local level input).

In WP2, PoR manages and implements the pilot action in the provincial territory. The Call for Actions is addressed to the 5 coastal councils. Secondary schools in PoR are engaged (A2.3), creating working groups on topics such as design of green points (art institutes), connection to tourism (tourism institutes), social interventions (pedagogical institutes) economic costs and sustainability (business institutes).

In WP3, PoR can consolidate activities in their spatial planning documents and in policy documents of the 5 coastal municipalities. PoR will define how the FRESH platform can continue to be used (in the 5 local councils & extended to others), with participation of municipalities, schools and their internal offices for Spatial Planning and Schools/Education. PoR coordinates the final FRESH impact study.

Throughout the project, PoR participates in all cross-border exchange and development. They host 1 meeting (Period 03).

PoR has the role of FRESH Communication Manager. They manage development, implementation and monitoring phases of all Communication Actions (as foreseen in the work plan – C4 & Section C.7.3).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	288.564,80	80,00%
FdR	72.141,20	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	360.706,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
PoR	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total		
Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

Associated organisations

No associated organisations

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

Below, you can see the Programme priority specific objective your project will contribute to (chosen in section A.1.).

2.1: Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

Project overall objective

Now think about your main objective – what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember your project needs to contribute to the programme’s objective.

Your objective should:

- be realistic and achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- specify who needs project results and in which territory;
- be measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

FRESH aims to boost climate adaptation in urban Adriatic coastal areas in Italy and Croatia, using a cross-border, community-based digital hub to gather, analyse and implement concrete blue and green adaptation projects. By achieving this objective, FRESH will bring measurable change in participating territories, addressing the need for bottom-up measures that engage local public authorities and schools in climate action.

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1 What are the common territorial challenge(s) that will be tackled by the project?

The applicant should demonstrate the real need for the project in respect to the identified challenges taking into consideration the challenges reported in the IP 2021-2027 (chapter 2. Priorities and in the Programme Intervention Logic document). In case a SO has more than one identified challenge it is not obligatory to target all of them. The focus should be on the quality and the effectiveness of the intended impact of project activities on the challenge/s.

CHALLENGE 1. CLIMATE IMPACT IN COASTAL AREAS IN THE CROSS-BORDER (CB) AREA (ACT. ADAPTATION)

The Interreg IT-HR Programme shows that the maritime CB area between Italy and Croatia is increasingly affected by critical climate impact. Pressing challenges include rising sea levels and growing frequency and intensity of extreme meteorological events (storms, floods, prolonged droughts). The Programme notes risks to natural ecosystems and human settlements, particularly in coastal zones where infrastructure, cultural heritage and economic activities (e.g. tourism / fisheries) are vulnerable.

The 4 FRESH territories recognise this challenge:

- BARI METROPOLITAN CITY – The coastal area (c.100 km) is affected by increased coastal erosion and rising sea levels, along beaches and port infrastructures, and extreme weather events / flooding. Rising temperatures, frequently +40°C in summer, affect public health (especially elderly / vulnerable people), energy demand and marine ecosystems.
- ZADAR COUNTY – Coastal urban areas are increasingly affected by frequent droughts and sudden extreme rainfall, leading to flash floods. Contrasting climate patterns threaten infrastructure, water supply, and the functioning of urban systems.
- RIMINI PROVINCE – Rimini is afflicted by climate change consequences (drought / temperatures well above seasonal averages alternating with torrential rains and storm surges, which cause flooding and coastal erosion) with consequences for the economy (agriculture, fishing, tourism) and health (especially elderly or weaker people).
- ISTRIA COUNTY – Average temperatures have increased over the past decades. Summers are becoming hotter and longer, with more frequent heatwaves. Rainfall is becoming more irregular, with longer dry periods interrupted by intense storms. As the Adriatic Sea is gradually rising, coastal urban areas (e.g. Poreč, Rovinj) face erosion and flooding risks.

CHALLENGE 2. CONSTRAINTS TO IMPLEMENTING BLUE AND GREEN ADAPTATION MEASURES, WHICH ARE CENTRAL TO ADAPTING TO CLIMATE IMPACT (ACT. ADAPTATION AND ACT. CC SCHOOLS)

The unique characteristics of urban, coastal areas require measures that merge blue and green adaptation, understood as:

- "Blue" measures: utilise and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to build climate resilience, ranging from actions to conserve or restore coastal habitats, to water-efficient irrigation systems or early warning systems.
- "Green" measures: offer natural barriers and ecosystem services for sustainability in coastal environments, with living shorelines and innovative approaches utilising native vegetation and natural materials (e.g. green belts, wetlands, vegetated buffers).

Potential impact ranges from the possibility to sequester/store blue carbon, protect against storm surges and coastal erosion, support water management (e.g. natural drainage systems to mitigate flood risk) and help moderate temperatures and the urban heat island effect.

Implementing such adaptation measures in local councils is not simple. Various sources (e.g. Interreg Europe 2024 policy brief / ENABLE project) associate constraints with resource limitations,

limited mandates / long-term political support, management of multiple stakeholder expectations and need to measure, quantify and raise awareness on benefits.

Studies from various territorial situations (e.g., Consumer Scotland, Urban Europe JPI) point to need for early and continuous community engagement in climate adaptation, include attention to youth and social-inclusion. There should be genuine opportunities to increase awareness, co-design measures and incentivise action at household and community level, particularly when local authorities face delivery constraints.

The 4 FRESH territories recognise this challenge:

- In BARI METROPOLITAN CITY, cities lack competences in climate adaptation strategies and capacity to assess local climate risks and vulnerabilities and prioritise green-blue interventions. It is complex to engage local stakeholders, encourage public-private partnerships and increase community awareness on resilience especially among youth.
- ZADAR COUNTY faces limited local capacities to plan and implement nature-based solutions. Smaller coastal municipalities often lack technical staff, financial resources and tools to engage communities in designing green-blue adaptation measures.
- In RIMINI PROVINCE interventions are being carried out in the province to contain the effects of climate change (over 10 km of sea park, to contain river floods, barriers against storm surges), but more is required to build institutional capacity, ensure ongoing funding and engage the population living in these areas)
- In ISTRIA COUNTY, though coastal have developed SECAPs, they often lack knowledge to implement concrete measures and involve citizens in decision-making. The situation is worse in municipalities, which lack the human capacity and financial resources to implement adaptation measures.

C.2.2 What is the new CB solution proposed by the project?

In this section applicant should describe which are the new cross-border solutions outlined by the proposal and explain why the solutions go beyond the existing practice in the sector/Programme area /participating Countries.

FRESH introduces an innovative, cross-border solution centred around creation and pilot-implementation of a digital, interactive platform to facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange and co-creation of climate adaptation measures across the Italy–Croatia maritime area.

The platform, shadowed by intense engagement, has been identified as an effective means of addressing the integrated challenges highlighted above: impact of climate change and need to overcome constraints to implementing blue and green adaptation measures. It is aligned with the call's thematic focus Act. Adaptation and Act. CC schools.

It builds and extends on an example from another Italian territory (FORESTAMI platform, Milan – See Section C.2.7). By leveraging digital technologies and interactive functionalities, the platform is a shared, dynamic space for transfer of measures and data and an integrated, cross-border and participatory approach to climate adaptation, fostering stronger ties between institutions, experts, and communities on both sides of the Adriatic Sea.

This platform is a novelty in participating territories, as is the matching of a purely digital approach with a phase of extensive engagement and co-creation with local councils, schools and teachers. FRESH represents an innovation with regards to the original FORESTAMI platform in that: a) FORESTAMI covered tree-planting, while FRESH covers green / blue climate adaptations; b) FORESTAMI does not have the cross-border element that FRESH integrates as a central element. FRESH will test innovative functionalities such as machine learning for anomaly detection, query

optimisation and data-analytics. It will also test AI-Driven data story-telling, using natural language processing and advanced visualisation techniques to ensure effective communication of information (to beneficiaries of the call for action (local councils), schools and for wider communication).

The FRESH solution (and related output/results) is achieved through phases of development (WP1), pilot testing (WP2) and consolidation (WP3).

The initial development phase provides a transnational census of climate data provided by Copernicus and of blue and green climate adaption measures, which are analysed and categorised. In parallel, platform functionalities are defined and the platform is developed, tested and integrated with content of the census. This phase is flanked by the early engagement activities, with local councils and schools, and wide communication actions. An important element of the development phase is the creation of a base-line study, covering all territories, to ascertain the starting point in terms of environmental variables (Climate parameters/Climate Impacts/Adaptation Actions /Adaption Results), but also awareness and participation rates and well-being indicators.

In the pilot phase, the platform is used to collect, analyse and disseminate data; enhance science communication; and strengthen stakeholder collaboration. Public administrators and municipal technicians are the primary target group. They are invited to participate through a “call for action”, encouraging them to select from the blue and green urban adaptation measures provided through the platform. In parallel, local schools are engagement to provide their input on the selected measures, suggesting how they could be implemented in their local, coastal area. Building on the “Kids can do it” initiative from partner IRENA, each territory creates working groups with different schools. Adaptation measures are put into action, with continuous involvement of the schools in support actions, monitoring and transnational learning. The project has included budget for up to 5 climate adaptation measures of different scales and costs in each participating territory. It is noted that local councils will select two typologies of action: 1) short-term, small-scale measures that can be implemented within the project time-frame, as described above; 2) selection of mid/long-term measures, which cannot be implemented the project time-frame, but can be analysed and planned for future implementation, thus encouraging actions after the project life-time.

To ensure project outputs do not die with the end of programme funding, WP3 integrates results into policy documents and funding schemes. The platform is updated and finalised, with agreements formalised for cross-border continuation. Each local territory defines an uptake and continuation strategy, including funding options (with the possibility for Crowd-Funding, already experimented in other contexts – see Section C.8). This is supported by finalisation of the project level impact study (comparative analysis from the base-line study) and a specific action to transfer the FRESH platform to other territories.

All activities are supported by communication actions, including use of platform data for science communication activities (see Section C.7.3).

C.2.3 What added value does cross-border cooperation bring to your project?

The applicant should demonstrate: a) why cooperation between Italy and Croatia is important for the topic addressed; b) the result cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation between Italy and Croatia; c) the effective CB nature of each activity proposed; d) the benefit deriving from cooperation for all PPs and for both side of the border.

On both sides of the Adriatic Sea, urban coastal areas are facing similar climate related impacts. These are introduced in section C.2.1. The cross-border region presents a Mediterranean climate,

with hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters. A 2024 research and foresight exercise (Tojčić et al) provides a perfect summary of projected climate trends in this area. The indicate several challenges that cover the cross-border region: strong land-sea contrasts in the atmosphere, intensification of heatwaves and increased likelihood of extreme rainfalls and droughts, potential intensification of the surface saline lake effect during summer. Some changes are already clear, with rising sea-levels, high-temperatures, more frequent and prolonged heatwaves and changes in precipitation patterns. The same article notes connected impact on environment, society, and economy.

The main project outputs (platform and strategy) could be achieved at local level. However, they would operate with much reduced impacts and reach and with reduced cost-efficiency. Platform development in cooperation allows us to go beyond local information. We pool green / blue adaption measures, running a joint. We propose measures that are more robust, innovative, and applicable across similar territorial contexts. This is the central added value of producing just one, common platform. It also represents a financial saving, the possibility to test innovative functionalities and enhances possibilities to continue after the project, with a wide support base.

FRESH proposes a cross-border approach in all activity phases:

- In WP1 – common approach to run census of climate data provided by Copernicus to map climate vulnerabilities and of blue / green adaptation measures. Data covers Italy and Croatia, territories in the project and other territories in the programme area. The platform is developed with functionalities agreed at cross-border level and tested with focus groups in both countries. The base-line study gathers and compares data from all territories.
- In WP2 – the pilot action follows a common approach and uses the cross-border and multi-lingual platform. Each territory selects from a cross-border pool of adaptation measures, selecting the most appropriate, which may be from Italy or Croatia. School engagement activities, based on a common initiative (from IRENA) and adapted to a common overall methodology, include cross-border exchange and mobility actions. Transnational exchange runs throughout.
- In WP3 – we consolidate the cross-border platform and its functionalities and define a joint strategy for its continued operation and cross-border input and governance, including continued animation of content and long-term school collaboration. The final impact study gathers and compares data from all territories.

FRESH expects to bring benefit to all partners, who create a cross-border network capable of supporting local councils and communities to co-designing and implementing effective responses to shared climate challenges. Expected benefits are:

- LP AESS: Platform to support other territories in the definition of blue-green adaptation actions and crowdfunding, best practices of communities and school engagement
- PP2 CMBA: Exchange knowledge to implement climate change solutions and coordinate climate adaptation strategies at metropolitan level
- PP3 ZADAR-NOVA: Tools and knowledge to better support local councils in climate adaptation planning.
- PP4 IRENA: Through cross-border cooperation and increased knowledge, IRENA will even further increase its capacity to help local councils tackle the problems of climate change.
- PP5 PoR will benefit from designing tools of intervention for small urban areas also engaging groups of students and supporting local councils in planning interventions to monitor and deal with heat waves.

FRESH also expects to benefit involved territories. FRESH foresees data collection, a base-line study and a final impact study, which should demonstrate impact on climate parameters, adaptation parameters and well-being indicators. Indicators are chosen to ensure that short-term changes can be monitored. In each territory, FRESH should increase awareness among communities and active community engagement and achieve climate adaptation goals through concrete initiatives, with

- relative environmental and socio-economic effects. In both countries, this is achieved by:
- availability of a catalogue of cross-border assessed blue / green adaption measures;
 - an open call for action, implementing up to 5 climate adaptation measures in each territory;
 - active engagement of schools and teachers;
 - the innovative, digital-platform and its various functions.

Descriptions / numbers of specific target groups that benefit thanks to active involvement in FRESH activities are described at C.2.4. Other indirect beneficiaries (i.e. general public) are reached through Communication activities.

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?

Choose from the dropdown menu the target groups addressed by the proposal. In “specification” column applicant should: a) identify TG needs b) Indicate with details how the selected TG will benefit from a specific project activity c) quantify the target values (e.g. 50 schools, 20 NGOs). Take care to include young people with suitable activities as an explicit TG. For TG “General public”, individual people are counted while for other TGs the individual organisations are counted. Please avoid double counting: one organisation can be counted only once.

Target Group	Specification
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Target Group	Specification
Local public authority	<p>Local public authorities—including municipalities and metropolitan cities—are key actors in urban and territorial governance. They are directly responsible for planning, implementing, and maintaining climate adaptation strategies. However, they often lack integrated tools and updated methodologies to effectively address the complex and evolving challenges posed by climate change. Their involvement in the project is essential to ensure the institutional uptake of innovative solutions and to support systemic, long-term transformation of coastal and urban areas.</p> <p>Needs: Lack of integrated tools for climate adaptation planning. Limited technical knowledge on nature-based solutions and green/blue infrastructure. Need for stronger cross-border cooperation to face shared climate challenges.</p> <p>Project Activities Addressing Needs: Access to the interactive digital platform enabling data sharing, mapping, and exchange of methodologies (WP1-3) Participation in pilot project identification via the Call for Action (WP2) Implementation of blue/green adaptation measures in the local area (WP2) Consolidation of measures in local policy documents (WP3)</p> <p>Quantified Target Values (number organisations): 2 local public administrations participating as partners: Bari Metropolitan City / Province of Rimini 38 local public administrations actively involved in Call for Action, located in the coastal area of participating territories: • 7 from Bari Metropolitan City: Bari, Bisceglie, Molfetta, Giovinazzo, Mola di Bari, Monopoli, Polignano a Mare • 5 from Rimini: Bellaria-Igea Marina, Cattolica, Misano Adriatico, Riccione, Rimini. • 7 from Zadar County: Zadar, Biograd na Moru, Nin, Sukošan, Posedarje, Starigrad, Ražanac, Kolan • 19 from Istria region: Labin, Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Vodnjan, Novigrad, Umag, Brtonigla, Tar-Vabriga, Funtana, Vrsar, Bale, Fažana, Medulin, Ližnjan, Marčana, Barban; Raša; Kršan</p>

Target Group	Specification
Education/training center and school	<p>In line with the thematic focus “Act. CC schools”, schools are one of the main target groups of the FRESH project. They are critical stakeholders in building long-term climate resilience in urban Adriatic coastal areas. By fostering environmental awareness and participatory learning from a young age, schools play a dual role: preparing future generations to live sustainably, and acting as local hubs for community-based adaptation actions.</p> <p>Needs: Lack of structured content on climate adaptation within existing curricula. Need for interdisciplinary teaching materials tailored to the urban Adriatic context. Limited teacher preparedness to cover complex climate topics in an engaging, practical way.</p> <p>Project Activities Addressing Needs: Informed of project during early engagement campaign (WP1) Engagement in co-design activities for blue/green measures (WP2) and continued contribution to the pilot implementation, including cross-border exchange (WP2)</p> <p>Quantified Target Values (number organisations): Total 16 actively involved - at least 4 Secondary Schools per participating territory involved actively in the pilot actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 from Bari Metropolitan City: 1 tourism school, 1 pedagogical school, 2 technical schools. • 4 from Rimini: 1 art institute / 1 tourism institute / 1 pedagogical institute / 1 business institute. • 4 from Zadar County: 1 general upper secondary school (gymnasium), 3 vocational upper secondary schools (four-year programmes). • 4 from Istria region: 2 gymnasiums, 2 technical schools.

Target Group	Specification
Other	<p>TARGET GROUP: YOUNG PEOPLE.</p> <p>Local communities and citizens are at the heart of climate resilience. As those most directly affected by environmental changes, they often face barriers to accessing relevant information and participating in decision-making processes.</p> <p>In line with the thematic focus “Act. CC schools”, the FRESH project places a particular focus on engagement of young people and their teachers. Recognising that youth represent not only the future but also active agents of present change, the project is committed to ensuring that their voices, ideas, and aspirations are meaningfully included in the development and implementation of territorial strategies.</p> <p>Needs:</p> <p>Low awareness of climate change issues and adaptation strategies Limited involvement in community-based environmental actions Desire for greener, healthier, and more resilient living environments</p> <p>Project Activities Addressing Needs:</p> <p>Informed of project during early engagement campaign (WP1) Engagement in co-design activities for blue/green measures (WP2) and continued contribution to the pilot implementation, including cross-border exchange (WP2) Participation in educational workshops, school labs, and awareness campaigns (all WP).</p> <p>Quantified Target Values (number people):</p> <p>An average of 8 teachers per pilot area will be actively involved in the pilot action (2 per school) – total 32. Others will be informed. An average of 80 students per pilot area will be actively involved in the pilot action (20 per school) – total 320. Others will be informed.</p>

Target Group	Specification
Interest groups including NGOs	<p>Environmental NGOs and civil society organisations (CSOs) are vital partners in promoting ecological awareness, community engagement, and sustainable practices. They often possess deep expertise and local knowledge, but may lack structured opportunities to contribute to policy design and implementation. This project values their role by integrating them into work to populate the data on the platform, in addition to participation in the studies and a potential role in pilot actions.</p> <p>Needs: Opportunities for collaboration with public institutions. Involvement in policy advocacy and project co-creation. Platform for showcasing local best practices and innovations.</p> <p>Project Activities Addressing Needs: Inclusion in stakeholder working groups and cross-border forums, including submission of blue/green adaptation measures to census (WP1) and provision of data for baseline /impact studies (WP1/3) Participation in the definition and promotion of pilot actions (WP2) Access to digital platform for promoting local initiatives (WP3)</p> <p>Quantified Target Values (number organisations): An average of 4 NGOs/CSOs per territory will be directly involved to support all phase of work (total 16).</p>

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?

a) Describe the contribution to specified EUSAIR macro-regional strategy pillar objectives and flagships (describe how you intend to involve the Pillar Coordinators & National Coordinators in a systematic way (e.g. meetings, info)). b) If applicable, describe the contribution to wider strategies on all three policy levels (EU / national / regional).

Strategy	Contribution
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Strategy	Contribution
<p>EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region</p>	<p>FRESH is particularly relevant for the PILLAR 3 of the EUSAIR Strategy - ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY - Protection and enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems of the EUSAIR flagship. It contributes to the enhancement of natural terrestrial habitats and ecosystems, with particular attention to blue and green adaptation measures in urban, coastal areas.</p> <p>The 5th biennial report on EU macro-regional strategies confirmed that the Adriatic-Ionian region is a global climate crisis hotspot, characterised by the impact of climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, droughts and episodes of extreme weather. Operating within the sensitive and climate-exposed Italy–Croatia coastal area, the project implements cross-border, community-based, and ecosystem-oriented actions that support environmental restoration, resilience, and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>By addressing the increasing urbanisation and heat island effect in coastal areas, the project aligns with EUSAIR efforts to manage human impact and promote sustainable territorial development that respects natural carrying capacities.</p> <p>Through transnational coordination, the project facilitates the identification and joint planning of adaptation actions that benefit shared ecosystems, such as coastal areas. This cross-border perspective enhances the protection of habitats that extend beyond administrative boundaries, supporting EUSAIR's integrated ecosystem-based approach to environmental management.</p>
<p>European Green Deal</p>	<p>FRESH makes a concrete contribution to the European Green Deal by directly supporting several of its key objectives and principles, with a focus on climate resilience, biodiversity protection, sustainable urban development, and citizen engagement. Through its cross-border and multi-stakeholder approach, the project aligns with the Green Deal's vision of a climate-neutral, fair, and prosperous Europe that safeguards the health of people and the environment. The project directly addresses climate change impacts in coastal urban areas—particularly urban fabric—through the design, testing, and implementation of blue and green adaptation solutions.</p> <p>Within the Green Deal, the European Commission announced its intention to define a new EU Adaptation strategy. This EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change COM/2021/82) emphasises the need to promote nature-based solutions and calls for their implementation on a larger scale thus increasing climate resilience and contributing to multiple Green Deal objectives. The Strategy identifies a need for better quantification of the benefits of Blue and Green Infrastructure and better communication of those benefits to decision-makers and practitioners at all levels.</p> <p>Another element of the Green Deal to which FRESH can contribute is the Nature Restoration Law (Regulation (EU) 2024/1991), part of the biodiversity strategy, which sets binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters. Of direct relevance to FRESH is the target on “no net loss of green urban space and tree cover by 2030, and a steady increase in their total area from 2030”.</p>

Strategy	Contribution
Other	<p>GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY / COM/2013/0249</p> <p>FRESH fits into the context of EU investments to promote the use of green and blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions for the benefit of EU citizens and biodiversity.</p> <p>The EU Green Infrastructure Strategy is aiming “to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas”. Adopted in 2013, the progress of the implementation was reviewed in 2019. The review concluded that while the Green Infrastructure Strategy had built some momentum, GI is still implemented at a small scale, not giving due recognition to the potential economic and social benefits of using green instead of grey infrastructure solutions. It stated that wider integration of GBI across policies could be achieved with the help of the Urban Agenda for the EU, which focuses on a more effective and coherent implementation of existing policies, legislation, and instruments.</p>
Other	<p>ITALIAN NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT</p> <p>FRESH is aligned with the National Plan for Climate Adaptation for Italy (PNACC), adopted in 2023, contributing to the national strategic framework for managing climate risks and increasing climate resilience across sectors and regions. The main objective for the Northern Italy (Rimini) is to focus on drought and river flooding, while for the Southern Italy and islands (Bari) are coastal erosion, sea level rise, desertification and saltwater intrusion.</p>
Other	<p>CROATIAN NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT</p> <p>FRESH is aligned with the Integrated national energy and climate plan for the Republic of Croatia (2021-2030), hoping to contribute to the target of Reducing GHG emissions by at least 40% by 2030 (compared to 1990). It is also aligned with the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of Republic of Croatia (until 2040 with a view to 2070). FRESH is aligned with the main objectives; strengthening the resilience of sectors and communities, assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities at local and regional levels, promoting ecosystem approaches (e.g. green infrastructure), and mainstreaming climate risks into spatial planning, local development and construction.</p>
Other	<p>REGIONAL / LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT – BARI / PUGLIA</p> <p>FRESH is in line with the Puglia Regional Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation (Strategia Regionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici (SRACC), which supports all local administrations to define their climate scenarios within Adaptation Plans.</p> <p>The Metropolitan City of Bari contributes with Axis 10 of their Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan City, entitled “Ecological Transition and Climate Change Adaption – Sustainable Communities”.</p> <p>Various local councils within the Metropolitan City of Bari have adopted their SECAP (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan) and the pilot actions proposed within FRESH can provide a concrete and measurable contribution to achieving climate targets in these plans.</p>

Strategy	Contribution
Other	<p>REGIONAL / LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT – ZADAR</p> <p>FRESH is in line with the following strategies in Zadar County. Plan razvoja Zadarske županije za razdoblje 2021.–2027. (Development Plan of Zadar County 2021–2027): Development Direction 3 – Green and Digital Transition, Strategic Goal 8 – Ecological and Energy Transition towards Climate Neutrality, Specific Objective 12 – Improvement of environmental protection systems, preservation of natural heritage and sustainable management of spatial resources, through: Measure 12.1 – Improvement of monitoring systems and protection of all environmental components (air, water, sea, soil, landscape, flora and fauna, and geological structure); Measure 12.4 – Integrated management of the sea and coastal areas; Measure 12.6 – Development of green infrastructure in urban areas and creation of green cities.</p> <p>These measures directly support the objectives of the FRESH project, which promotes urban climate adaptation through nature-based solutions and active community engagement. In particular, the focus on green infrastructure in urban areas (Measure 12.6) and integrated coastal zone management (Measure 12.4) corresponds with the project’s pilot activities, while improved environmental monitoring (Measure 12.1) complements the platform-based approach to data collection and planning.</p> <p>Plan razvoja otoka Zadarske županije 2021.–2027., Teritorijalna strategija razvoja otoka (Development Plan for the Islands of Zadar County 2021–2027): Operation 1: Sustainable management, preservation and use of island space, Measure 1.2: Improvement of protection and management of natural resources and the environment on the islands. Relevance for FRESH: development of green and blue infrastructure on the islands, creation and restoration of green areas, protection against the effects of climate change (sea level rise, droughts, wildfires), and application of smart and sustainable environmental solutions.</p>
Other	<p>REGIONAL / LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT – ISTRIA</p> <p>FRESH is in line with the following strategies in Istria Region. Development Plan of the Istrian County for the period 2022 to 2027. Special objective 1.1. Energy transition and coping with climate change consequences, 1.1.2. Adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>Plan proposes measures for reduction of the harmful effects of climate change, establishing a system for monitoring, forecasting and planning adaptation measures to climate change. The region strives to recognise and then mitigate the negative consequences resulting from global warming, with particular attention to the challenges arising from sea level rise. Finally, as an additional effort in the green transition process, it is planned to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Additionally, many cities and municipalities have developed SECAPs (e.g. Labin, Pula, Rovinj, Poreč, Vrsar, Novigrad, Brtonigla), through which they plan to implement a series of measures aimed at adapting to climate change.</p>

Strategy	Contribution
Other	<p>REGIONAL / LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT – RIMINI</p> <p>FRESH is in line with the following strategies of relevance to the province of Rimini.</p> <p>The Pact for Work and Climate of the Province of Rimini (March 2022) promotes sustainable development in the territory, in line with the objectives of the Emilia-Romagna Region. It is the result of a participatory process that involved all 27 municipalities of the province, trade unions, businesses, universities and associations, through thematic co-design groups. Divided into nine strategic areas and guided by four transversal axes, the Pact represents a shared basis for designing sustainable and innovative interventions.</p> <p>The Wide Area Territorial Plan (PTAV) is a new general planning tool that the Province of Rimini is preparing pursuant to regional urban planning law no. 24 /2017. the Plan starts from three fundamental lines of innovation related to the themes of climate change, ecosystem benefits and urban and territorial metabolism and outlines a common and inclusive strategy promoting a new alliance with the territory and the community.</p> <p>TUSS - Urban Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development. Rimini of green and blue, a city by the sea for the green and blue economy is the new urban development strategy, in line with the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>An investment programme financed with European resources from the regional ERDF and FSE+ 2021-2027 Program of the Emilia-Romagna Region. In addition to the strong “green” urban renaturalization, the dimension of water is also acquiring a new prominence. Rimini’s ATUSS strategy simultaneously creates a cohesive governance model through the active prominence of the new generations.</p>

C.2.6 Which synergies and complementarities with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

Project or Initiative	Synergy

Project or Initiative	Synergy
<p>Interreg Italy-Croatia 2014-2020 AdriAdapt - a Resilience information platform for Adriatic cities and towns https://adriadapt.eu/</p>	<p>The AdriAdapt project aimed at supporting local and regional resilience by developing the knowledge base required to identify and plan appropriate climate change adaptation options. This knowledge platform for the Adriatic region contains an overview of different adaptation options, case studies, guidance documents, legal frameworks and other useful material on climate change adaptation. The knowledge platform was tested during the implementation of AdriAdapt pilot projects. AdriAdapt focused on producing informative tools and models, collected in the information platform, with the final aim of boosting Adriatic cities and towns towards the drafting of adaptation plans at local/regional level. The FRESH community-based digital hub is intended to gather, analyse and implement concrete blue and green adaptation projects, addressing the need for bottom-up measures that engage local public authorities and schools in climate action. FRESH will build on AdriAdapt (WP1 – A1.1), by connecting to the information available on the previously developed platform, including “Adaptation options” on different areas (societal, green and gray). These cover different pilot areas that those in FRESH, so can widen the scope of information collection and input. FRESH Lead Partner will make contact with PAP/RAC (AdriAdapt coordinator) and invite to the KOM.</p>
<p>INTERREG Italy Croatia 2021-2027 AdriaClimPlus - Adriatic coastal areas science-based solutions for climate adaptation https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/adriaclimplus</p>	<p>AdriaClimPlus to enhance climate change monitoring and adaptation by building upon recent findings from Interreg IT-HR and international initiatives. It seeks to develop a unified methodology for effective climate monitoring and to provide stakeholders with improved simulations and tools via an upgraded data distribution system. Additionally, the project focuses on raising awareness of climate change impacts on natural and cultural heritage, as well as local economies, through training courses, workshops, seminars, and exchange programmes for students and teachers. Synergies can be established with FRESH, with particular reference to the monitoring activities foreseen by AdriaClimPlus. FRESH foresees a baseline and impact monitoring, using (for example) short-term indicators proposed by the Horizon Europe project UNDERPIN. FRESH can also assess use of the monitoring tools proposed by AdriaClimPlus to further assess their use in different contexts. Additionally, the two projects could exchange material and methodology for the awareness raising activities, in that both addresses students and teachers as part of their target groups for these initiatives. Contact is assured by the participation of ZADRA-NOVA in both projects.</p>

Project or Initiative	Synergy
<p>INTERREG Italy Croatia 2021-2027 CRESCO Adria - Climate RESilient COastal planning in Adriatic https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/crescoadria</p>	<p>The CRESCO Adria project focuses on addressing climate change through enhanced city and land planning, emphasising both mitigation and adaptation strategies. It encourages local and regional communities to participate actively in reducing emissions while adapting to climate impacts based on local needs. The initiative aims to provide knowledge and tools for spatial planning, helping Adriatic communities improve their resilience to climate change.</p> <p>The overall objectives of the two projects are synergic, through CRESCO Adria focuses on strategic guidelines for spatial planning and higher education curricula for climate adaptation, while FRESH focuses on the analysis and selection of specific measures and a younger (school) target group. In this context, the two projects can merge in the planning phase: FRESH seeks to integrate findings into policy documents (WP3), so the spatial planning element of CRESCO Adria is central. The partners and pilot areas differ, so the Lead Partner of FRESH commits to engaging with CRESCO Adria LP (University of Rijeka).</p>
<p>INTERREG Euro-MED EnerCmed - Testing energy-community & climate-resilient integrated paradigm for carbon neutrality and energy poverty shielding in MED city-port hinterlands https://enercmed.interreg-euro-med.eu/</p>	<p>Project enables the energy regeneration and climate adaption planning of marginalized neighbourhoods in the port hinterland, which are often inhabited by people at risk of energy poverty. EnerCmed will test whether the risk of energy poverty in the detected areas can be addressed by establishing renewable energy communities (RECs).</p> <p>Of direct relevance to FRESH, particularly in the early phases of development and data collection, the project analyses and attempts to address the urban heat island phenomenon by applying climate change measures like nature-based solutions (NBS).</p> <p>PP IRENA is project partner in EnerCmed and can guarantee cooperating with EnerCmed consortium. Synergies can be found by a comparative analysis of the data on urban heat island (FRESH Copernicus Data and baseline study) and of the measures identified.</p>

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?

Applicant should explain whether and how the project proposal is based on previous results already achieved and/or available knowledge, by specifying and describing exactly which outputs and available knowledge the proposal is based on. The latter need not necessarily derive from previous or other INTERREG projects but can also be related to external initiatives or other types of programmes/projects.

Section C-2-6 has been used to describe the projects that represent potential synergies with FRESH, as funded by public programmes of relevance in partner territories (particularly Interreg).

Other programmes, particularly the LIFE programme have funded a wealth of projects on climate adaption and synergies with these is important. Among the many projects, one examples is VENETO ADAPT (LIFE PROGRAMME 2014-2020, <https://www.venetoadapt.it/>). It presents important space for learning, given particularly its multi-level approach (regional, metropolitan city, union of municipalities, municipalities) that can provide inspiration for FRESH, which works at supra-municipality level to support active engagement of local councils.

In addition to the above-described projects, FRESH capitalises directly on two main initiatives, as described here.

Firstly, FRESH draws its inspiration from the "FORESTAMI" project (<https://forestami.org/>), based on the research on the potential and benefits of urban forestation in the Milan metropolitan area, then turned into a concrete goal of planting 3 million trees by 2030, growing the natural capital of the urban and peri-urban fabric, helping to mitigate air pollution and improve the quality of life in greater Milan while counteracting the effects of climate change. The community-led approach of encouraging people, organisations and companies to know, design, maintain and actively enhance the Natural Capital of the Metropolitan City of Milan is of particular interest for our project. We will build on the know how already developed within the FORESTAMI platform, in order to adapt it to the Adriatic coastal area and to the need of transforming the platform for cross-border cooperation initiatives on multiple areas. The FORESTAMI platform regards only tree planting initiatives, whereas this project intends to focus on a wider range of blue and green measures for adaptation. A representative of the FORESTAMI initiative will be invited to the KOM (WP1) to demonstrate the platform.

Secondly, FRESH builds on a research project to support the effective and swift implementation of the baseline study (WP1) and follow-up impact study (WP3). Critical gaps have been identified in monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) for climate adaptation across Europe. The UNDERPIN project has recently been funded (Horizon Europe) to address this, by developing indicators that evaluate both short-term results and long-term impacts, helping stakeholders assess how well adaptation actions reduce vulnerabilities and enhance resilience. The indicators will align with EU and global reporting standards (EU Adaptation Strategy / UNFCCC). At the time of launch of projects funded by the Interreg Italia-Croatia Programme, this project should have some early indicators to propose. These can be applied in the baseline study for FRESH and monitored throughout, leading to the final impact study. This will save time and resources and provide a solid, evidence-based methodology for the study.

C.3 Project partnership

Describe the structure of your partnership and explain why these partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve project objectives. What is the contribution of each partner to the project?

The FRESH partnership has 5 partners, from the 2 countries (Italy / Croatia), covering 4 territories (Puglia, Emilia Romagna, Zadar County, Istria). All territories cover urban, coastal areas.

The partnership was formed to ensure that project objectives can be achieved thanks to:

- Thematic knowledge – expertise in climate change / adaptation, provided particularly by LP AESS and PP4 IRENA, who offer multi-year expertise and experience in developing local strategies in this field.
- Policy input – 1 partner in each territory capable of ensuring policy change. In Puglia, PP2 CMBA is public authority responsible for the metropolitan area, working with 41 local authorities. In Zadar County, PP3 ZADRA-NOVA is the agency responsible for supporting sustainable economic development, working with all local councils. In Istria, PP4 IRENA has the mandate to support local authorities with sustainable development planning. In Emilia-Romagna, PP5 PoR has responsibility for spatial planning at provincial level, in cooperation with local councils for sustainable development.
- Capacity to engage key target groups (local councils, schools, other stakeholders) and ensure active stakeholder engagement. PP4 IRENA brings experience of the “Kids can do it” workshops with secondary school students (basis of methodology to be developed in FRESH for school involvement). All partners can engage schools directly (e.g. PP5 PoR with administrative mandate for higher education) or through local councils.
- Project / communication experience – LP AESS has extensive project management expertise, including Interreg, covering relevant topics (e.g. climate adaptation, NBS). All partners have project and coordination experience. PP5 PoR, as Communication Manager, brings institutional and project experience to this role.
- Mix of newcomers and experienced partners – PP3 ZADRA-NOVA and PP4 – IRENA have participated in the Interreg IT-HR Programme and can support efficient implementation of all activities. LP AESS, PP2 CMBA and PP5 PoR are newcomers to the programme, as encouraged by the call. Where required, PP3 and PP4 can offer tutoring to the new partners.

All partners are involved in the 3 WPs, in cross-border planning, exchange and implementation and ensuring local activities run as planned. In summary:

LP AESS: Project coordinator. WP1 Leader, bringing thematic and coordination expertise, research and analytical capacity and knowledge of FORESTAMI platform. Responsible for platform development (WP1) and update (WP3) after pilot actions, hiring external expertise. Responsible for COPERNICUS data study for all territories (WP1). Supports PP2 CMBA in pilot actions: content collection from Bari Metro area and engagement campaign (WP1), participation in work with schools, supporting local councils to select blue/green measures (WP2). Supports PP2 CMBA and coastal councils to integrate results into local programming documents (WP3), in addition to defining measures to ensure cross-border Platform continuation and uptake.

PP2 CMBA – WP3 leader, building on institutional expertise and work to support sustainable development in the local councils in their territory. In charge of pilot activities in the area, with LP AESS for thematic expertise. Runs all baseline activities (census of actions, mapping) and manage local engagement (councils/schools) (WP1). Manages all pilot activities in CMBA, in coastal municipalities (WP2), with local council and school engagement. Ensures consolidation in their metropolitan area, defining how FRESH platform and strategy can be adopted and committing to continued cross-border actions (WP3).

PP3 ZADRA-NOVA: In charge of all activities in Zadar County (WP1-WP3), as described for PP2.

ZADRA-NOVA will lead stakeholder engagement, census of existing local adaptation actions and contribute to platform development (WP1). 7 coastal local councils are expected to participate in the Call for Action. Several upper secondary schools, both general and vocational, will be involved.

PP4 – IRENA: WP2 leader, building on the internal thematic expertise and experience of school engagement. In Istria, they are in charge of all activities (WP1-WP3), as described for PP2/PP3 above. IRENA will invite 19 coastal cities and municipalities to participate to participate in Call for Action and submit their bids. After evaluation, the best and most concrete bids will be chosen for further phases. IRENA has good cooperation with high schools and will involve them in Phase 2 of WP2.

PP5 – PoR: FRESH Communication Manager, ensuring development and implementation of a Communication Plan to support achievement of communication objectives in WP1, 2 and 3. In Province of Rimini, in charge of all activities (WP1-WP3), as described for PP2/PP3/PP4 above. The pilot focuses on 5 coastal cities, though transfer in WP3 will extend to the other local councils. In change of the FRESH baseline (WP1) and final impact (WP3) study, with external support.

C.4 Project work plan

Number	Work package name
1	Setting the foundations for Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic
2	Pilot Testing tools for Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic
3	Consolidating Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic

Work package 1

Work package title

Setting the foundations for Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

To prepare for the concrete implementation of Cross-Border Climate Actions (WP2), by drafting technical documents to enable a common vision, selecting relevant initiatives and developing the digital platform.

In relation to the work package specific objective, identify one or more communication objectives that will contribute to its achievement. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge, or belief. A communication objective should include a description of what you aim to communicate, why, and to whom.

To prepare for the concrete implementation of Cross-Border Climate Actions (WP2), by launching a campaign towards local councils and schools, while initiating wider communication at local and programme level.

Activities

Activity 1.1	
Title	Census of climate data and existing initiatives for Climate Adaptation in urban, coastal areas
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12
	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This activity sets the foundations for subsequent activities, with a cross-border understanding involved from the perspective of climate change urban, coastal areas. It produces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a map of the climate vulnerabilities and risks • a map of the existing green infrastructures at

Activity 1.1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border engage on findings, through document exchange and online meetings. • Analysis of findings, including preparation of analysis of replicability / costs and resource requirements. • Continuous monitoring (Activity Leader with partner support) to feed into the project Quality Assurance system. • Finalisation of technical documents and census and preparation of Deliverable. These are ready early in period 2. <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: LP AESS – coordination and deliverable preparation + Copernicus data study / PP2 CMBA host of KOM / PP5 PoR in charge of base-line study / Partners in each territory in charge of Census, local activities, local monitoring.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.1	Cross-Border technical documents on Climate Adaptation	Full report with map of CB green areas, COPERNICUS data and potential transformation areas and census on climate data and existing initiatives for Climate Adaptation, including analysis of costs (including maintenance) and replicability Target Value: 1 full CB report	Period 2 , 7 - 12
D.1.1.2	Base-line study on FRESH territories	Data based report, using indicators selected from the UNDERPIN project, to demonstrate the individual and comparative base-line study in each FRESH territory in relation to climate adaptation parameters. Target Value: 1 CB study	Period 2 , 7 - 12

Activity 1.2	
Title	Development and testing of Digital Platform
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 1.2	
Description	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This activity sets the foundations for subsequent activities, with development of the beta and release candidate versions of the digital platform that operates as a hub for project activities.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KOM (Bari - IT) to learn about the original inspiration for this platform (FORESTAMI, with invited representative to present the initial platform) and discuss adaptations. Meeting joint with A1.1/1.3. • Design and publication of procurement procedure for external software developer for platform development. • Preparation of platform architecture and functionalities (activity running in collaboration with A1.1, to ensure compatibility with the technical documents content). Full web sustainability and accessibility measures are designed. • Preparation of Alpha version (English) for internal testing with documented results, followed by necessary updates. • Preparation of Beta version – ready by the beginning of period 2 (Deliverable 1.2.1 – multi-lingual) for testing in focus groups with local councils (1 group per territory) with documented results, followed by necessary updates. • Finalisation of Release candidate version (Deliverable 1.2.2), ready for pilot testing in WP2 (including the Call for Action ready for publication – A2.1). <p>PARTNER ROLES:</p> <p>All involved. Activity Leader: LP AESS – coordination and deliverable preparation / LP AESS coordinates platform development with external support / All partners contribute to designing architecture and organise 1 focus group for testing.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 1.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period

Deliverables 1.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.2.1	Beta version of Platform for internal testing and focus groups	Digital Platform prepared in BETA version ready for internal testing and focus groups, with full guidelines Target Value: 1 platform (beta version)	Period 2, 7 - 12
D.1.2.2	Release candidate version of Platform for WP2	Digital Platform prepared in Release candidate version ready for full pilot testing, with full guidelines. Target Value: 1 platform (release candidate version)	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 1.3	
Title	Engagement Campaign
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12
	<p>This activity sets the foundations for subsequent activities, with the design and launch of engagement campaigns in each local territory, designed using a common format and benefiting from Cross-Border input. This is based on the Communication Strategy, developed by PP5 PoR, and related tools (obligatory tools at programme level + project tools, as detailed in Section C.7.3).</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of draft communication strategy. • KOM (Bari - IT) to discuss strategy, a common engagement methodology and gather best practices from partner organisations. Meeting joint with A1.1 /1.2. • Development of common engagement methodology, with two sections: Local Councils / Schools, as an integrated part of the final communication strategy (D1.3.1) and joint project material (info-graphics, videos, images). • Preparation of local engagement campaign, with concrete work plan (common methodology and local plans integrated into D1.3.1). • Implementation of local engagement campaigns, according to the defined methodology and targeted

Activity 1.3	
Description	<p>towards local councils and schools. This includes at least: video-snippets, social media campaign, presentation workshops, selection of participants (local councils) for focus groups in A1.2, use of participative methodologies during territorial initiatives. A focus on gender (equal engagement of girls and boys/men and women) and on different demographics runs through the campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border interaction throughout for peer-review of activities and involvement of other partners in local campaigns. • Updates during Meeting 02 (Labin, HR), held with WP2 – A2.1 and including cross-border participation in a local engagement event. • Continuous actions to ensure wider communication at local and programme level: website, social media focused on audio-visual news (Instagram/TikTok), participation at programme events and other relevant events on climate adaptation. • Continuous monitoring (Activity Leader with partner support) to feed into the project Quality Assurance system and development of D1.3.2 (Report on engagement). <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP5 PoR (Communication Manager) – coordination and deliverable preparation / All partners contribute to designing common strategy and methodology / All partners design and implement local campaign / PP4 IRENA hosts Meeting 2.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.3.1	FRESH Communication Strategy, including Engagement Plan (CB methodology and Local Campaigns)	<p>Project level strategy for Communication (as described in Section C.7.3) and including full plan for engagement campaign detailing common cross-border approach and adaptation to each local context</p> <p>TARGET VALUE: 1 Strategy</p>	Period 1, 1 - 6

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.3.2	Report on engagement campaign in each territory	Report, with full qualitative and quantitative indicators, on first stage of engagement, including local results and cross-border analysis TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report (with input from each territory)	Period 2, 7 - 12

Investments

Work package 2

Work package title

Pilot Testing tools for Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

To put into place Cross-Border Climate Actions based around the Digital Platform, through a call for Actions and concrete implementation measures and participation of schools

In relation to the work package specific objective, identify one or more communication objectives that will contribute to its achievement. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge, or belief. A communication objective should include a description of what you aim to communicate, why, and to whom.

To support the Call for Actions and Pilot implementation, with continued engagement of Local Councils, Schools, Young people and NGOs and communication of project activities to other groups in participating territories (general public, Enterprises operating in coastal areas/in environmental sector)

Activities

Activity 2.1	
Title	Pilot Action Phase 1 - Preparation of Call for Action
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 2, 7 - 12

Activity 2.1	
Description	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This activity prepares the Cross-Border Call for Action, preparing for the launch (A2.1), detailing how local councils will be able to “bid” for activities that they wish to implement in their coastal territory.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting 2 (Labin, HR) to define the content of the Call for Action and the format for the Platform (in synergy with A1.2). Meeting held with A1.3. • Preparation of content of Cross-Border Call for Action (English) and definition of measures to disseminate the call (when launched A2.2). • Preparation of an Evaluation form for assessing and ranking the received bids and Establishment of FRESH Evaluation board (2 appointed internal or external experts per PP) • Exchange on content, approval and translation into local languages (IT/HR). (Cross Border call and local translations used to prepare D2.1.1). • Upload of Call for Action onto Digital Platform (A1.2), with full functionalities tested and ready for launch. • Continuous monitoring (Activity Leader with partner support) to feed into the project Quality Assurance system. <p>PARTNER ROLES:</p> <p>All involved. Activity Leader: PP4 IRENA – coordination and deliverable preparation / Partners in each territory contribute to Call and prepare local versions / LP AESS (with external provider) in charge of updating the Platform.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 2.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.1	Cross Border Call for Actions and local translations	Full text and procedures for the Cross-Border call, including the translated versions (IT-HR) TARGET VALUE: 1 CB Call text and material (2 translations)	Period 2 , 7 - 12

Activity 2.2	
Title	Pilot Action Phase 1 - Launch of Call for Action
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 18
End period	Period 3, 13 - 18
Description	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This activity launches the Cross-Border Call for Action, through the Digital Platform. Local Councils are invited to bid for an action (available on the Platform) that they wish to experiment in their territory, to boost climate adaptation in their coastal areas. When bidding, they will be required to demonstrate contact made with teachers in local schools and their willingness to be involved (A2.3).</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the Call for Action, through the Digital Platform, accompanied by a wide dissemination and engagement campaign at local level. Partners also provide support to potential applicants. • Monitoring of application process and submission of Bids by the established deadline. • Local evaluation of Bids received (each territory evaluates bids from their local territory), if they are acceptable, bids are sent to FRESH Cross-Border Evaluation board before meeting 3. Bids cover: 1) short terms demo-actions to be implemented in the project time-frame; 2) suggested mid-long term actions to be planned for / funding to be sought (see also WP3 for consolidation of long-term actions). • Cross-border evaluation of Bids: to ensure coherence and to match bids on relevant topics, FRESH Evaluation board makes final evaluation and rankings of received bids. Evaluation held during Meeting 3 (Rimini, IT) to confirm selection of Local Councils and allocation of funds. • Publication of results, including 1 meeting per territory with selected Councils and follow up meetings with councils not selected. • Definition of concrete work plan with each selected Local Council to define implementation of concrete pilot actions (short-term measures) in the local areas. This includes implementation of school engagement campaign (A2.3) and plans for installation of pilot (A2.4). Implementation of all necessary procedures required at partner level to

Activity 2.2	
	<p>formalise next activities and funding (ready for implementation in A2.4).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring (Activity Leader with partner support) to feed into the project Quality Assurance system. • Preparation of Deliverable to document process and results. <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP5 PoR – coordination and deliverable preparation / Partners in each territory disseminate call, support participants, evaluate bids and work with selected councils / LP AESS (with external provider) in charge of ensuring full operation of Platform / PP5 PoR hosts meeting 3</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 2.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.1	Report on Call for Action	Full report detailing the procedure undertaken to launch and evaluate the call for action and the results, in terms of participation, feedback and selected bids TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Activity 2.3	
Title	Pilot Action Phase 2 - School participation in selected Climate Actions
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 18
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
	<p>“ACT. CC SCHOOLS”</p> <p>This activity engages schools in the selected local councils in the design, implementation and monitoring of the selected climate actions. School students are asked to provide their input on the selected measures, suggesting how they could be implemented in their local, coastal area. They are then involved in support actions and in monitoring the activity (including, for example, public surveys on perceptions, clean-up in the selected area, or data</p>

Activity 2.3	
	<p>Activity finishes in M26, allowing time for consolidation in WP3.</p> <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP4 IRENA – coordination and deliverable preparation / Partners in each territory support student engagement activities / PP3 ZADRA NOVA hosts meeting 4 / PP2 CMBA hosts Final Meeting / PP5 PoR manages project communication and supports partners.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 2.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.3.1	Report on Pilot Action Phase 2 - School participation in selected Climate Actions	<p>Full report detailing the procedure undertaken to engage schools, with indicators on participation and actions, and main focus on the contributions provided by schools to the Climate Actions</p> <p>TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report</p>	Period 5, 25 - 30

Activity 2.4	
Title	Pilot Action Phase 3 – Implementation of Climate Adaptation measures in coastal areas
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This activity implements the Climate Action in each selected coastal area, based on the selected bids and adaptations from school input. In each local territory, an external contractor with a set amount per local council manages the procedures, payments and implementation.</p> <p>The pilot actions can be examples of tactical urbanism initiatives, such as guerrilla gardening, pop-up greening of open spaces or green acupuncture projects. The pilots will be low-cost, temporary change to the built environment, aiming to improve local microclimate in neighbourhoods and gathering places near schools. In each territory, costs are</p>

Activity 2.4	
Description	<p>allocated to external expertise, so that an external company can manage the initiatives (include purchase costs) in an effective manner.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation in each local council (in coordination with A2.3) of the short-term demo actions defined and planned. • Monitoring of implementation according to specific indicators related to process and impact (socio-environmental indicators; economic indicators). • Cross-border exchange throughout, to peer review and learn, using exchange functions on the Platform, online meetings and sessions at Meeting 4 (Zadar – HR) and Final Meeting (Bari-IT). Meeting held with A2.3 and WP3. • Ongoing communication to share activities and outcomes with wider public and other areas. Main tools are website and social media, alimented with videos, photos and infographics and with interviews. • Updates to census on Digital platform, with reports on Climate Actions tested in each territory. • Continuous monitoring (Activity Leader with partner support) to feed into the project Quality Assurance system. • Preparation of Deliverable to document process and results. <p>Activity finishes in Month 26, allowing time for consolidation in WP3.</p> <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP4 IRENA – coordination and deliverable preparation / LP AESS – updates to platform / Partners in each territory support implementation work with selected councils / PP5 PoR manages communication at project level and supports partners.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 2.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period

Deliverables 2.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.4.1	Report on Pilot Action Phase 3 – Implementation of Climate Adaptation measures in coastal areas	Full report detailing Climate Actions in each local territory, cross-border analysis and monitoring results. TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Outputs

Output 2.1	
Output Title	FRESCH Cross Border Pilot Action
Programme Output Indicator	RCO84_2.1: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Measurement Unit	pilot actions
Target Value	1,00
Delivery period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Output Description	This output refers to the Cross Border Pilot Action running in various phases in WP2. It is the set up and testing of the FRESH digital platform matched with school engagement activities in the 4 territories involved in the partnership.

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Work package 3

Work package title

Consolidating Cross-Border Climate Action in the Urban Adriatic

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

To ensure the long-term financial and institutional durability of the outcomes and outputs of the project, at local and Cross-Border level.

In relation to the work package specific objective, identify one or more communication objectives that will contribute to its achievement. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge, or belief. A communication objective should include a description of what you aim to communicate, why, and to whom.

To ensure that project outcomes and outputs are widely disseminated, in order to raise awareness (target: general public and stakeholders in participating territories) and to encourage transfer to other territories – participation in Digital Platform (target: local authorities / climate actors in other territories in the IT-HR programme area).

Activities

Activity 3.1	
Title	Finalisation of Gold Version of Digital platform
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30

Activity 3.1	
Description	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>The Activity updates the Digital Platform with any required changes and improvements following the pilot actions in WP2.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP AESS, with external support, monitors pilot (WP2) and ensures full functionality of platform / resolution of any bugs. • All partners monitor platform performance and provide feedback to LP AESS and external support. This includes 1 focus group per territory (local council representatives / other stakeholders) to gather their feedback on usability and functionality. • LP AESS with external support provides updates to the heat island mapping (Copernicus data) and provides user-friendly visualisations, including any changes over the life-time of the proposal. These are used for widespread communication activities (primary target groups, but also as part of the communication to wider public and other territories). • LP AESS with external supports prepares the Gold Version release of the platform, ready for continued operation after the project. • Based on a proposal by LP AESS, all partners define their role in maintaining the platform (this will vary from partner to partner – See also Section 7.8). This includes: covering server costs (LP AESS), updating content (all partners), continued cross-border calls for actions (all partners). This proposal includes suggestions for funding: internal partner resources (e.g. human resource allocation), local /regional public funding, crowd-funding. Exchange runs on-line and during Project Meeting 4 (see WP2). • Proposals are confirmed and integrated into the Long -Term Action Plan (A3.3). <p>PARTNER ROLES:</p> <p>All involved. Activity Leader: LP AESS – coordination and deliverable preparation / LP AESS – updates to platform / PP5 PoR manages project level communication (e.g. social media publications of data visualisation / on-line platform demos shared on social media / Partners in each territory support with input, organise one focus group and commit to post- project actions.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 3.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.1.1	Gold version of FRESH Platform	Digital Platform prepared in Gold version ready for long-term use (as detailed in D3.2.2), with full guidelines TARGET VALUE: 1 Final platform (Gold version)	Period 5, 25 - 30

Activity 3.2	
Title	Consolidation of Cross-Border Climate Actions – engagement of schools
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30

Activity 3.2	
Description	<p>“ACT. CC SCHOOLS”</p> <p>Continued implementation of engagement activities until end of project.</p> <p>This action consolidates FRESH outcomes and outputs, in terms of continued engagement of schools and an attention to continued cross-border school exchange.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued implementation of engagement activities until end of project, working with schools to analyse their experience and to co-structure proposals for continued work at local level (community engagement in local climate actions) and cross-border (school twinning, mobility, exchange). • Definition of content feeding into the Long-Term action Plan (A3.3 - D3.3.1 / Output 3.1), focused on the agreements for school action. Exchange runs on-line and during Project Meeting 4 (see WP2). • Communication moment during final meeting, with student representatives – public session (session joint with A2.3). Ongoing communication activities throughout the whole activity, to provide information to the wider public in pilot territories and in other areas. On-line and off-line tools are used. <p>PARTNER ROLES:</p> <p>All involved. Activity Leader: PP2 CMBA – overall coordination and deliverable preparation / PP3-5 in charge of school engagement, co-creation of plans for continuation in each local area & participation in cross-border exchange / LP AESS support in Bari area / PP5 PoR coordinates project communication and supports partners in local communication.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 3.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.2.1	Long term action plan for Student Engagement	The report documents the terms agreed for long-term actions to ensure continued student engagement in climate actions, and continued cross-border work through the platform (with D3.3.1 this is part of Output 3.1) TARGET VALUE: 1 CB action plan	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 3.3	
Title	Consolidation of Cross-Border Climate Actions – Local Council engagement and long-term use of the Digital Platform
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Description	<p>“ACT. ADAPTATION”</p> <p>This action consolidates FRESH outcomes and outputs, in local policy documents and funding measures. This action also sees the completion of the final impact study, measured against the baseline study (A1.1), with results used to inform decisions on consolidation of project outputs.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PoR (with external support) runs impact study, with data provided from all local pilot sites, in order to measure changes from baseline study (A1.1). Content is presented for local results (feeding into decisions at local level) and as a comparative, cross-border assessment. Results are widely communicated, using info-graphics, videos, interviews. • Continued implementation of engagement activities until end of project, working with local stakeholders and local councils to define how they can continue initiated climate actions. This includes technical support, on specific content, and analysis of how local policy documents can be adapted. It includes a focus on funding (see also A3.1 for funding of platform), for continued climate action (details in Section C8). • Definition of the Long-Term action Plan (D3.3.1 / Output 3.1), which defines how the project actions will continue at local level (policy change) and at cross-border level (see results from A3.1 and 3.2). Work at local level to ensure all necessary procedures for formal approval at policy level. This includes analysis with project climate experts of the mid/long-term measures selected in the Call for actions, to consider how they could best be designed, implemented and funded in the local context. Exchange runs on-line and during Project Meeting 4 (see WP2). • Communication moment during final meeting –

Activity 3.3	
	<p>public session (with local authorities involved in pilot) – Public session joint with A3.2/A3.4. This is a symbolic moment for formal signature of the long-term action Plan (leading to achievement of Result 1). Communication actions are ongoing at project and local level.</p> <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP2 CMBA – overall coordination and deliverable preparation / PP3-5 in consolidation in local area / LP AESS supports in Bari area / PP5 PoR in charge of impact study (all partners provide data) and communication activities).</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 3.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.3.1	Long term action plan for Climate Action, with Cross-Border use of Digital Platform	The report documents the terms agreed for long-term actions to ensure climate actions and use of the Digital platform after the conclusion of the project (with D3.2.1 this is part of Output 3.1) TARGET VALUE: 1 CB Action Plan	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.3.3.2	Final impact report	Data based report, tracking process since base-line report (D1.1.2) at individual territory and comparative level, in relation to climate adaptation parameters. TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report Period 5 (Month 25-30)	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 3.4	
Title	Transfer Action to other territories
Start period	Period 5, 25 - 30
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30

Activity 3.4	
Description	<p>This activity has the aim to ensure that FRESH outputs and results are known in other territories facing similar challenges. This includes: non-coastal areas in the participating territories; other regions in the IT-HR programme area; other regions outside the programme area.</p> <p>Activities are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication Manager (PoR) prepares content (including flyer, short video, presentation) that can be used to share information on FRESH outputs/ results. • Partners prepare a mapping of areas for potential transfer and contacts. • Communication Manager (PoR) organises 1 webinar to present the FRESH platform. • Partners, on the basis of the mapping, make personal contact with identified organisations and discuss their potential integration into the Platform / merging of activities for cross-border school engagement on climate action. • Communication moment during final meeting – public session, with invited representatives of other territories interested in transfer (session joint with A3.2/3.3). • Documentation of all activities (D3.4.1), including signature of agreements with organisations that commit to transfer / post-project engagement. <p>PARTNER ROLES: All involved. Activity Leader: PP5 PoR – Communication Manager / LP AESS supports with platform presentation / All partners support in their local area and with contacts in other areas.</p>
Partner(s) involved	AESS, CMBA, ZADRA NOVA, IRENA, PoR

Deliverables 3.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.4.1	Final report on Transfer actions and results	Report detailing the transfer activities carried out and the results, including commitment of other territories to participate in ongoing platform operation and school cooperation. TARGET VALUE: 1 CB report	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Outputs

Output 3.1	
Output Title	FRESH Climate Adaptation Platform
Programme Output Indicator	RCO116_2.1: Jointly developed solutions
Measurement Unit	solutions
Target Value	1,00
Delivery period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Output Description	This output represents the final (Gold Version) of the FRESH Digital Platform, as tested in WP2 and consolidated in Action 3.1 / Deliverable 3.1.1.
Output 3.2	
Output Title	FRESH Cross-Border Strategy for long term use of Digital platform and School Engagement
Programme Output Indicator	RCO83_2.1: Strategies and action plans jointly developed
Measurement Unit	strategy/action plan
Target Value	1,00
Delivery period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Output Description	This output represents the consolidated, cross-border strategy defining how FRESH outputs / outcomes will be taken forward at local level and at cross-border level. It is the result of work carried out in WP1 and WP2, consolidated in WP3 (activities 3.1-3.2 and relative deliverables, including action plans in A3.2 and A3.3).

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C.5 Project Results

What do you expect to change because of the activities you plan to implement and the outputs you plan to deliver? Please take a look at the programme result indicators and select those that you will contribute to.

Result 1	
Programme result indicator	RCR104_2.1: Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Measurement unit	solutions
Baseline	0,00
Target value	1,00
Delivery period	Period After project implementation
Result description	The FRESH solution is represented by the Digital Platform (Output 3.1), which is tested in the joint pilot action (Output 2.1). Uptake is foreseen at cross-border level, by FRESH partners. PP2-PP4 commit to its continued use in their territories, LP AESS commits to continued support and transfer (expected mechanisms are detailed in Section C.8 and will be confirmed in the joint strategy - Output 3.2/Result 2).
Result 2	
Programme result indicator	RCR79_2.1: Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
Measurement unit	joint strategy/action plan
Baseline	0,00
Target value	1,00
Delivery period	Period After project implementation
Result description	The FRESH joint strategy is represented by Output 3.2, which brings together the plans and commitments related to school engagement, platform use and continued climate action. Uptake is foreseen at cross-border level, by FRESH partners. PP2-PP4 commit to uptake, by the symbolic signature at the final event and by integration of key elements into their relevant policy documents and funding schemes (policies are detailed in Section C. 8, along with potential funding options).

C.6 Project Time Plan

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	After End
WP1 Setting the foundations for Cross-Border...	[Orange bar]					
A1.1 Census of climate data and existing...	[Orange bar]	D1.1.1 D1.1.2				
A1.2 Development and testing of Digital ...	[Orange bar]	D1.2.1 D1.2.2				
A1.3 Engagement Campaign	D1.3.1	D1.3.2				
WP2 Pilot Testing tools for Cross-Border Cli...		[Dark Blue bar]				
A2.1 Pilot Action Phase 1 - Preparation ...		D2.1.1				
A2.2 Pilot Action Phase 1 - Launch of Ca...			D2.2.1			
A2.3 Pilot Action Phase 2 - School parti...			[Dark Blue bar]		D2.3.1	
A2.4 Pilot Action Phase 3 - Implementati...				[Dark Blue bar]	D2.4.1	
RCO84_2.1					O2.1	
WP3 Consolidating Cross-Border Climate Actio...				[Green bar]		
A3.1 Finalisation of Gold Version of Dig...				[Green bar]	D3.1.1	
A3.2 Consolidation of Cross-Border Clima...				[Green bar]	D3.2.1	
A3.3 Consolidation of Cross-Border Clima...				[Green bar]	D3.3.1 D3.3.2	
A3.4 Transfer Action to other territori...					D3.4.1	
RCO116_2.1					O3.1	
RCO83_2.1					O3.2	
Result indicator						
RCR104_2.1						R1

RCR79_2.1						R2
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C.7 Project management

In addition to the thematic work you will do in your project, you will need time and resources for coordination and internal communication. Please describe below how you plan to organise yourself to ensure the project work runs smoothly.

C.7.1 How will you coordinate your project?

a) Describe the management procedures, structures and internal coordination. b) Describe the financial management of the project and reporting procedures. c) Demonstrate to possess the capacity to coordinate, manage and monitor the project implementation, including financial management. d) Describe how you are going to ensure effective coordination of the project internal communication and external communication.

FRESH Management system covers the necessary procedures and structures for effective coordination and monitoring.

In the start-up phase, LP AESS sets up the Project Management Group (PMG), composed of Project Manager (PM, also leader of WP1) and Financial Manager (FM) from within their staff, and Communication Manager (CM – from PP5 PoR). All partners allocate a local PM, FM and CM. Leaders of WP2 (PP4-IRENA) and WP3 (PP5-PoR) support for content related and planning aspects.

Through the project, management and coordination covers daily project management, technical reporting (Partner and Project Reports), internal communication, risk and quality management (detailed in C.7.2). The PMG prepares the Management Guidelines, detailing procedures, responsibilities and tools for:

- Internal communication: on-line (GDPR compliant) repository, emails, regular on-line meetings, Steering Group (SG) meetings (1 every 6 months).
- Daily project Management, monitoring tasks and deadlines, providing support and advice.
- Technical reporting (Partner and Project Reports – see below)
- Risk Management and Quality Assurance (detailed in C.7.2).

The Steering Group - SG (1 member * partner, chaired by PM) is responsible for project monitoring and guidance. SG meets at the project meetings (total 5, including 1 kick off in start-up phase) and at other virtual meetings if necessary. PM updates SG on daily monitoring, risk management and quality management (See also Section 7.2 below).

The Management guidelines will provide partners with all necessary information for successful Financial Management, including budget monitoring throughout the project. The Financial Manager (FM) from LP AESS will share all documentation available from the programme about reporting, costs and the use of JEMS. The FM will organise a specific on-line session for local FM and PM, ensuring they are familiar with the content of the latest version of the Programme Implementation Manual. Partners will be encouraged to attend programme level seminars. The FM will support Italian partners in selecting and confirming their National Controllers at the start of the project (Croatian partners have centralised controller).

For each partner/project report, the FM will set internal deadlines for PP to send their List of Expenditures and their technical content, seeking to respect the 15-day deadline indicated at programme level. The FM will check that partners costs are coherent, request any integrations and provide confirmation that this can be submitted to the National Controller. The PM will be in charge of preparing the Project Report, with specific input from WP leaders and all PP will contribute with

territorial specific information (e.g. input from their engagement campaign, dates of events organised, pilot specific information).

The PM and FM will prepare and submit the report, manage any clarifications from the JS/MA, with partner contributions. The FM will manage payment to partners. Project financial performance will be constantly monitored by the FM, checking for periodic updates on partners' needs for eventual budget changes, and ensuring compliance with programme rules.

Concerning the capacity to coordinate, manage and monitor, FRESH Lead Partner (LP) AESS has experience in managing Interreg projects (as described in Section B). They participate as a newcomer in the Italy-Croatia programme, but build on this extensive experience and adapt it to the specific characteristics of the programme. They are supported in this by two partners that already know the programme (PP3 ZADRA-NOVA / PP4-IRENA) and by their knowledge of the JEMS system from other programmes. PP3 and PP4 can offer tutoring to other partners, as required. As per Section B, LP AESS has strong internal financial management structure and is used to managing public funding. WP leaders (LP AESS WP1, PP4-IRENA WP2, PP2 CMBA WP3) all have thematic and coordination competences.

The LP PM is responsible for contact with the Programme Joint Secretariat/Managing Authority, supporting their monitoring activities by inviting them to participate in project meetings, ensuring that the project website and supporting documentation is complete and updated and ensuring direct contact (through formal and informal meetings and calls, as foreseen at programme level). The PM will also be in charge of organising content for the Mid-Term project review meeting with the Programme.

The LP is in charge of internal communication at project level, setting up and managing the tools described above. The WP Leaders are in charge of internal communication on the thematic content of their WP, using the same tools provided at project level and ensuring synergies between content (e.g. project meetings covering more than one WP, with well-integrated sessions). PP5 PoR is in charge of external communication (see Section C.7.3), building on their institutional and project related experience in this field.

C.7.2 Which measures will you take to ensure quality in your project?

Describe the set-up and functioning of management structures that guarantee the proper implementation of the project (such as Steering Committee, PMU), but also the provision of a risks (including risks associated with investments) management plan including mitigation measures to address possible project's modifications, and an evaluation plan taking into account project's monitoring and assessment to determine its success and effectiveness.

FRESH puts into place a quality assurance and risk management system designed to manage quality in relation to activities, deliverables, outputs and results.

FRESH allocates daily responsibility for quality assurance and risk management to the LP AESS (specifically the PM) and to WP Leaders. Activity leaders are also appointed to manage tasks, so will contribute to quality assurance by monitoring their specific activity. Partners are responsible for ensuring quality in their local activities. They are required to inform WP Leader well in advance of any issues that emerge in completing the documentation within the set timescale. They can request individual meetings to discuss problems that may arise. This strong coordination structure and open communication should help to mitigate risks and need for modifications.

Final responsibility for Quality Assurance lies with the Steering Group, in charge of overall monitoring, including quality control. The SG convenes to take stock on project progress, any critical issues, risks and mitigation measures. SG meetings are held once every 6 months (with project meetings) and on-line if required. The SG discusses a monitoring report, prepared by the PMG with WP leader input, with an overview of monitoring, risk and quality management. The SG takes decisions based on consensus as far as possible, or a 2/3 majority if consensus cannot be reached. Any eventual modification will first be discussed and approved by the SG, before approaching the topic with the JS /MA and undertaking all necessary procedures.

The quality assurance and risk management measures are defined in the Management Guidelines (See Section C7.1), including description of roles, tools, procedures and specific indicators. The guidelines include a risk matrix with level/likelihood of risk, preventative measures and contingency plans. They also include checklists for quality of deliverable and outputs and a deadline monitoring tool.

Implementation of these measures is supported by monitoring tasks foreseen in each Work Packages and by the solid internal communication system. All project deliverables/outputs are cross-checked before final release, using the above-mentioned check list to control format, linguistic and content related quality. In case of any significant needs for improvement, the WP Leader activates the relevant partners.

Elements to monitor quality and to determine success and effectiveness of the project will be included in the project evaluation plan. At the time of writing, they can be summarised as:

- WP1 – number / quality of mappings completed; number / quality of measures included in the census; completion of baseline study with all relevant indicators; completion of Copernicus data analysis on heat islands, with relevant data; development of platform, with positive feedback from user testing; implementation of engagement campaign, with quantitative indicators on participation (including just-transition/gender perspective); KPI on communication achieved; All activities completed within set deadlines and budget.
- WP2 – call for action successfully launched and completed, with quantitative indicators on participation; schools in each territory successfully involved, with quantitative and qualitative indicators on participation (including just-transition/gender perspective); demonstrative blue/green adaptation measures successfully implemented in each local site, with quantitative and qualitative indicators; KPI on communication achieved; All activities completed within set deadlines and budget.
- WP3 – finalisation of platform; confirmation of platform uptake; confirmation of long-term actions for school engagement (local and cross-border); confirmation of long-term action plans (local and cross-border); completion of impact study, with all relevant climate / socio-economic indicators (including just-transition/gender perspective); transfer to other territories, with quantitative indicators; KPI on communication achieved; All activities completed within set deadlines and budget.

Finally, in line with the need to adapt to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in all spheres of life, partners will ensure an ethical and appropriate use of all AI tools in the design and implementation of project activities and in monitoring and reporting. LP AESS will be in charge of defining guidelines, included in the management document, and of ensuring that all partners are aware of them.

C.7.3 What will be the general approach you will follow to communicate about your project?

Describe how communication will contribute to transfer your project results and to reach wider strategies, policies, and synergies. According to the identified communication objectives and activities mentioned in each WP, describe what communication approach you plan to adopt to reach the project target groups and specify what communication channels you are going to use. Include what feedback mechanisms and evaluation measures are envisaged for the communication activities. Please note that all communication activities should be included in the work packages, as an integral part of your project. There is no need to repeat this information here.

The Communication Strategy is prepared at project outset by PP5 PoR (Communication manager). It details objectives, messages, tools, monitoring procedures/KPI and roles. It includes a focus on how communication support the gender and the just transition perspective. It details measures to ensure green communication (including web-sustainability) and events. It details measures to ensure accessibility (physical and digital).

Communication Manager PP5 PoR brings consolidated experience in communication at local authority and EU level and proven methods of informing / engaging target groups (see also Section B). All partners participate in designing / implementing activities and in the extensive engagement campaigns.

As shown in the Work Plan, communication objectives are:

- WP1 - To prepare for the concrete implementation of Cross-Border Climate Actions (WP2), by launching a campaign towards local councils and schools, while initiating wider communication at local and programme level.
- WP2 - To support the Call for Actions and Pilot implementation, with continued engagement of Local Councils/ Schools/Young people/NGOs to support content and communication of project activities to other groups in participating territories (general public, Enterprises operating in coastal areas/in environmental sector) and programme level.
- WP3 – To ensure that project outcomes and outputs are widely disseminated, in order to raise awareness (target: general public and stakeholders in participating territories) and to encourage transfer to other territories – participation in Digital Platform (target: local authorities / climate actors in other territories in the IT-HR programme area).

The FRESH project differentiates between the primary target groups (indicated in Section C.2.4) whose active engagement is necessary to achieve project objectives (Local public authorities, Educational institutes/schools, Other – Youth, NGOs) and secondary targets, which are other organisations / wider public that should be informed about the project.

For the primary target groups, FRESH foresees an engagement plan in WP1 (A1.3) and continued engagement in WP2 (pilot action) and WP3 (consolidation). For secondary target, each WP includes a series of on-line and off-line activities designed to catch their attention and spark interest.

Communication channels, that can be adapted to the primary and secondary targets, include:

- User-friendly promotional material (short videos, interviews with pilot beneficiaries and stakeholders / students, flyer, poster/roll-up, interactive slide-show, infographics) to use at events and initiatives, contributing to all CO (with different content / messages). Attention will be paid to science communication: communicating data (e.g. from baseline study / copernicus data) to audiences in a clear and effective format.
- Digital activities, running through website/social media (on-line articles and webinars, e-learning sessions, video and audio drops) contributing to all CO (with different content / messages). Attention will be placed on use of social media appropriate to a young target group, based on audio-visual material (Instagram / TikTok).

- Public Events at local level (small scale sessions, linked to other local initiatives / climate manifestations; workshops with students (WP2), final local event).
- Student representatives from each territory, including in cross-border exchange and as climate ambassadors in the local areas.
- 1 final project event (public session at the final meeting, hosted by PP2 CMBA).
- Connection to programme level and EU initiatives, particularly related to climate adaptation.
- Networking with other projects and initiatives.

C.7.4 Do the actions proposed aim to achieve the environmental sustainability objectives of the area?

Before filling this text-box consult the detailed guidelines of the document "SEA extract for beneficiaries" in the programme website which will provide you with a numbers of suggestions related to the cultural and environmental sphere divided into types of interventions.

In line with programme guidelines, as detailed in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - Extract for Beneficiaries, the FRESH project represents:

- A project focused on environmental sustainability (climate adaptation in urban coastal areas);
- A project with high environmental value, as it proposes concrete actions in the cross-border territory (in line with the thematic focuses – Act. Adaptation and Act. CC schools);
- A project that ensures coherence with current policy and planning documents at various levels, including direct mapping of local planning decisions and matching with concrete adaptation measures.
- A project that is coherent with the concept of Integrated Coastal zone management (ICZM), in that it supports information collection, planning, decision, management and monitoring of blue and green adaptation measures, in urban coastal areas. As demonstrated by the baseline and impact study, it seeks to measure impact on climate indicators, but also socio-economic / cultural indicators, thus encouraging an integrated approach.

With reference to Do No Significant Harm (DNSH), we cite the Lines of Intervention indicated for "Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches", as follows:

- Awareness raising actions – this is at the heart of the FRESH project, based particularly around the work with teachers and schools (concrete, measurable impact during the project duration), though other stakeholder groups will also be informed.
- Actions to formulate and/or implement strategies and/or initiatives at cross-border level – FRESH will lead to the development of a joint strategy for climate action, covering cross-border plans to continue use of the digital platform and interaction between schools, in addition to local level commitments.
- Actions for development, innovation, application and transfer of technologies, systems and tools, knowhow and good practices – The FRESH digital platform represents a joint, cross-border system (adapted from an experience in a different territory) to support local authorities to work on climate adaptation. It is designed to transfer knowledge on impact of green and blue adaptation measures, giving local authorities the information required to select the right measure and implement it.
- Preparation and start-up of small-scale investments and material interventions – The blue and green measures on the digital platform represent investments and interventions for climate adaptation. While the project duration does not allow for full scale investments during the timeframe of implementation, local councils will be supported in identifying, selecting and analysing investments (in line with their policy documents) for climate adaptation. The long-term strategy will detail these and expected time-frame and investment.

C.7.5 Cooperation criteria

Please select all cooperation criteria that apply to your project and describe how you will fulfil them.

Cooperation criteria		Description
Joint development	Yes	Joint development of the proposal began in early 2025. LP AESS and PP2 CMBA have been working together for some time, including an analysis of the FORESTAMI portal and a consideration of how it could be adapted to challenges in the metropolitan area. They have close contact with PP5 PoR, who confirmed interest in the project scope. They identified and engaged the two Croatian partners, based on an analysis of the territorial area of interest and partner competences. As each partner, they were engaged in co-developing content. Individual meetings were organised with partners and they completed administrative requirements. The LP shared documentation to gather written input, prepared drafts of the application and shared these with partners for further input and integration. As a result, all sections of the proposal are jointly developed and jointly approved.
Joint implementation	Yes	FRESH is coordinated by LP AESS. WP Leaders coordinate thematic work (WP1 – LP AESS/ WP2 PP4 IRENA / WP3 PP2 CMBA). PP5 PoR is in charge of communication. All PPs are involved in Management through the Steering Group. All PPs contribute to communication activities, ensuring target group engagement. As shown by the Work Plan in Section C.4, all partners are closely involved in technical WPs with complementary roles. They commit to cross-border planning, development, implementation and monitoring of actions. They also commit to undertaking the local actions required to achieve project outputs and results, including implementation and monitoring of the cross-border pilot.
Joint staffing	Yes	FRESH proposes joint staffing, understood as the creation of a project level Management Group (PMG) that ensures effective coordination and supports all partners. The Group includes a project manager, a financial manager and a communication manager. They support local level management teams, who instead have the role of running the project in their own territory.
Joint financing	Yes	As per programme requirements, FRESH's joint budget is organised according to the activities carried out by each project beneficiary. It has been carefully defined with each partner, according to the cost option selected, on the basis of planned efforts per period and of average salary costs of the organisation. The budget was designed to ensure that partners with leadership roles have staff costs to carry this out, in addition to any external costs (e.g. communication material for PP5 PoR as communication manager).

C.7.6 Horizontal principles

Please indicate which type of contribution to horizontal principles applies to the project, and justify your choice.

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
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Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Sustainable development	positive effects	<p>Sustainable development and environment protection are at the heart of FRESH, presented under Priority 2.1 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches.</p> <p>FRESH contributes to better and more integrated climate adaptation actions in urban, coastal areas. Adaptation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forecasting and analysing impacts of climate change • analysing heterogeneous challenges and vulnerabilities of different sectors, regions or social groups to these impacts • assessing social, economic and environmental risks and costs • finding effective responses, actions or adaptation measures • and putting them in action. <p>FRESH uses cross-border actions to support local councils in urban coastal areas to undertake these stages of adaptation. This is done, with support of an advanced digital platform, by mapping, selecting and co-adapting blue and green adaptation measures, in close cooperation with technicians from local councils and with local schools.</p> <p>The project runs a base-line study of climate and socio-economic variables and a subsequent impact study. It also analyses Copernicus data on heat-islands. Thus, impact in terms of sustainable development can be demonstrated. Moreover, it commits to integrating project results into local plans and strategies related to sustainable development.</p> <p>FRESH seeks to implement the principle of sustainability by design, ensuring that activities and products limit negative environmental impact. The digital platform is designed according to Web Sustainability Guidelines (WSG) and seeking to apply principles of digital responsibility. All adaptation measures proposed in the platform will be assessed against sustainability measures. FRESH events will be organised using sustainability criteria. FRESH will strive to achieve green communication where possible (in line with Greening Principles from the Interreg IT-HR programme).</p>

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
<p>Equal opportunities and non-discrimination</p>	<p>neutral</p>	<p>FRESH does not focus directly on equal opportunities and non-discrimination, so impact is indicated as neutral.</p> <p>However, questions of climate adaptation and socio-economic justice are closely linked, as per the EU Green Deal commitment to leave nobody behind. Climate adaptation measures will impact on some of the major economic sectors in the programme area (tourism, fisheries, to name but a few), affecting people's livelihood. There are also public health issues, ensuring that negative health impacts from climate change do not hit disadvantaged groups harder than others.</p> <p>To this end, FRESH must ensure that cross-border learning and policy changes consider these aspects. Policy change may support one sector / demographic group, while negatively affecting others. The FRESH methodology will ensure that the blue/green measures proposed on the digital platform are assessed from the Just Transition perspective and the stakeholders and students involved in the activities are aware of this perspective and consider it in the co-design of actions. The baseline and impact studies include attention to this point.</p> <p>Compliance with EU and national regulation on accessibility will be assured, including respect of accessibility standards for the digital platform and physical accessibility measures for events.</p>
<p>Equality between men and women</p>	<p>neutral</p>	<p>FRESH does not focus directly on promoting equality between men and women, so impact is indicated as neutral.</p> <p>However, policy developments in the field of climate adaptation must avoid the risk of gender blindness and the potentially divergent impact that actions could have on different genders (e.g. gender balance in sectors affected by adaptation measures / gender differences in impact on health and lifestyle). It is important to ensure that relevant gender considerations are included in the selection, design and implementation of climate adaptation measures.</p> <p>To this end, FRESH will ensure that the various territorial analysis and cross-border learning activities incorporate gender-based analysis. The FRESH methodology will ensure that the blue/green measures proposed on the digital platform are assessed from gender perspective and the stakeholders and students involved in the activities are aware of this perspective and consider it in the co-design of actions. The baseline and impact studies include attention to this point.</p> <p>Partners in each local territory will ensure engagement of male and female students in the school activities and will ensure that the evaluation of their experience includes a gender perspective.</p>

C.8 Long-term plans

As a programme, we would like to support projects that have a long-lasting effect in the territory and those who will benefit from them. Please describe below what you will do to ensure this.

C.8.1 Ownership

Please describe who will ensure the financial and institutional support for the outputs/deliverables developed by the project (e.g., tools), and explain how these outputs/deliverables will be integrated in the work of the institutions.

FRESH seeks to ensure financial and institutional support for maintenance of Output 3.1/Result 1 FRESH Climate Adaptation Platform (finalised with Output 2.1 FRESH Cross-Border Pilot Action).

Financial and institutional support is also required for:

- Climate investments in local territories, as selected from the FRESH platform
- Ongoing school engagement, including cross-border activities to support continued climate action.

FRESH dedicates WP3 to ensuring consolidation and financial and institutional support. These are detailed and confirmed in Output 3.2 / Result 2 FRESH Cross-Border Strategy.

For institutional support, there are 2 levels of consolidation: regional/sopra-local and local.

In all territories, the aim is to integrate the cross-border action (platform / community engagement) into the policy framework that can provide necessary conditions for future funding:

- Metropolitan City of Bari: FRESH can contribute to achievement of Axis 10 of the Strategic Plan for the Metropolitan City, "Ecological Transition and Climate Change Adaption – Sustainable Communities". This provides strategic framework to support climate change at metropolitan city level, in cooperation with tlocal councils in the area.
- Zadar County: FRESH will be grounded particularly in Development Plan of Zadar County 2021–27 and Development Plan for the Islands of Zadar County 2021–27, Territorial Strategy for Island Development. Both recognise the importance of climate adaptation, sustainable territorial development and stakeholder participation, making them directly relevant for embedding the results of FRESH into long-term regional practice.
- Istria Region: the main document is the Development Plan of the Istrian County for the period 2022-27, which includes green transition and climate change resilience goals. SO 1.1.2. Adaptation to climate change, plans measures for reduction of the harmful effects of climate change, establishing a system for monitoring, forecasting and planning adaptation measures to climate change. The country strives to recognise and then mitigate the negative consequences resulting from global warming, with particular attention to the challenges arising from sea level rise, droughts, heat waves and air quality.
- Province of Rimini – The main tools are: Territorial Plan of Wide Area (PTAV), a new planning tool that the Province is preparing pursuant to Regional Urban Planning Law No. 24/2017, and its 3 lines of innovation (climate change, ecosystem benefits, urban & territorial metabolism); Jobs and Climate Pact of the Province of Rimini (2022), as a strategic tool that promotes sustainable and inclusive development of the 27 municipalities of the province; Urban Transformative Agenda for Sustainable Development - Rimini in an investment programme (co-funded ERDF and ESF+ 2021-27), including the theme of green urban re-naturalisation.

Local level institutional consolidation is required in the urban, coastal councils that take part in the pilot action. Local strategies for climate action are mostly Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), which set the framework for continued work. During FRESH, local councils work with

schools and select potential blue/green climate investments proposed on the platform. Medium-long term implementation of these initiatives should be fully integrated into local strategies. The outputs will be useful for municipalities to set up social development policies (example *civivo* (civic, neighbour, volunteer), good neighbourhood groups, etc.), to promote the participation of aggregative social realities, in interventions in this matter.

For financial support, the following is required:

- Budget / resources to continue to update and maintain the digital platform. FRESH partners commit to dedicate human resources in the immediate aftermath of the project to continue platform operation and to seek further resources. These may come from the public budgets of partners and local councils, with resources allocated to climate adaptation that can be redirected to this. Moreover, building on experience from the original FORESTAMI platform, crowd-funding and private funding modalities can be experimented.
- Budget / resources for local councils to implement the continued climate adaption measures (including mid/long-term measures selected from the platform). In this case, the council budget for climate action in the first source. These would be matched with private investment (Public - private partnership contracts and Green minibonds) and with public funding at regional/national level (e.g. ERDF or ESF for schools). National funding could come, for example, from the Croatian ITU Mechanism (integrated territorial investments). Alternative funding could come from EU programmes focused directly on the environment, particularly the LIFE+ programme / EIB Climate Adaptation Facility /the New European Bauhaus (all depending on evolution of funding schemes in coming years).

C.8.2 Durability

Some outputs/deliverables should be used by relevant groups (project partners or others) after the project's lifetime, in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population. For example, new practices in urban transport need to be used by local authorities to have cleaner air in the city, and the whole population will benefit from this. Please describe how your outputs/deliverables will be used after the project ends and by whom.

The FRESH Digital Platform, as the central hub for project outputs / deliverables, is designed as a tool that can have concrete impact on territories and their population.

It ensures greater availability of information on tested green / blue adaptation measures, analysed in terms of actions, requirements, potential impact, cost effectiveness, in addition to other variables (e. g. gender perspective). This can be used to select adaptation measures likely to have greatest impact for resources available. By implementing these, territories should see effects in climate resilience, in response to challenges in participating territories documented above (C2.1-2.2). FRESH, and the platform matched with community engagement actions, should fit into strategic plans that seek to address these risks.

Within the project, quantitative achievement will be ascertained: number (n.) of target groups actively involved, n. blue/green adaptation measures collected on the digital platform, n. adaptation measures funded through the call for action. Qualitative impact on participating students will be assessed, through a structured feedback procedure. For climate and socio-economic indicators, impact is measured/documentated in the comparative baseline and impact study, including targets that can be monitored on a short-term basis.

The platform allows each local area to select short-term measures, to be implemented within the project / with project budget. These includes demos and tactical urbanism e.g. pop-up parks in coastal areas, green squares/beaches/ports, small-scale demos, using low cost / natural material to experiment with potential changes to beach or port use, low-costs "sponge city" options for coastal

areas. Alongside, the platform also allows local authorities to select and assess long-term investments (beyond the scope for implementation in FRESH). FRESH ensures concrete impact in its time frame and shows how the platform can help selection of long-term measures.

FRESH partners expect to use project outputs / deliverables as follows:

- LP AESS will continue to use the FRESH platform, expanding experimentation to other vulnerable territories in need of climate adaptation interventions. AESS, being active on EU, National and Regional funding, can capitalise on and enhance the platform in other projects.
- PP2 CMBA will continue to use the FRESH platform to empower existing policies and overcome territorial fragmentation. It will serve as the venue for metropolitan territories to detail climate adaptation efforts, including actions outlined in their SECAPs. School engagement will be integrated into a larger citizen participation strategy, initiated during drafting of the Metropolitan Strategic Plan.
- PP3 ZADRA-NOVA will to use the FRESH digital platform and methodological tools to support local councils in planning and implementing nature-based solutions for climate adaptation. Through cooperation with coastal municipalities and schools, the agency will promote continued use of approaches and results from the pilot action. Participatory models involving secondary schools can be integrated into future regional initiatives on sustainability and education.
- PP4 IRENA's long-term objective is to provide technical help to municipalities on climate adaptation, IRENA will continue to use FRESH digital platform as a useful tool for planning and implementing future NBS solutions. IRENA will continue to involve Istrian schools in education activities and in the implementation of practical workshops related to RES and NBS according to the model established by the project.
- PP5 PoR intends to use local policy tools to ensure durability beyond the duration of the project. PoR can support the spatial planning process (mandatory competence) with the platform and can work with schools (secondary schools under their jurisdiction) to ensure continued climate action.

As shown in Section C2.4, main local target groups that can expect a lasting impact are:

- Local authorities – a tested, carefully designed platform to support the essential action required to adapt to climate impact in urban, coastal areas;
- Educational institutes / schools – a consolidate and structured means of raising awareness among students about climate action and of encouraging their active and meaningful participation;
- Other – Youth – an opportunity for youth to become informed and engaged in the adaptation of their local territory, in addition to providing opportunities for exchange with other schools in the cross-border area, thus widening their skill-sets and experiences;
- NGO/CSO – structured and targeted actions to address climate risks, as per the mission statement of environmental organisations working in each local territory.

C.8.3 Transferability

Describe whether and through which concrete actions the project intends to contribute to the effective transferability of results and promote the re-use of the produced outputs towards new and additional target groups/territories, including, if applicable, through the involvement of Associated Partners (who can facilitate this process, for example, by serving as potential re-users during or after the project).

FRESH focuses on urban, coastal areas in the four territories directly represented in the partnerships (local councils in the metropolitan city of Bari, the province of Rimini, the county of Zadar and the region of Istria). These are the areas that will participate actively in the pilot action and in all related activities.

However, the FRESH project offers significant potential for transfer to:

- Other urban, coastal areas in the Italia-Croatia programme area
- Other urban-coastal areas in the wider Adriatic-Ionian area
- In-land urban areas in the Italia-Croatia programme area.

For example, in the Province of Rimini, the experiences conducted in the 5 coastal municipalities can also be transferred with some adjustments to other municipalities especially of medium urbanised centres in the lowlands (also affected by the heat island phenomenon) and in some cases to hillside municipalities. Meanwhile, AESS is a no-profit association of 180 public authorities where the project can be transferred. More over AESS coordinate RENAEL the national italian network of energy agencies, which can transfer the project results and the platform among other regions in Italy. Another opportunity arises from CMBA, who can present the project results and the digital platform to the Apulia Region to assess the interest in transferring the project in other provinces of the region. Meanwhile, in the case of Croatia, an example comes from IRENA. They transfer project results Istrian County and all other cities and municipalities that are not actively involved in Call for actions. Moreover, through good connections with other development agencies and public officials, project findings will be disseminated to other counties; eg. Primorsko-goranska, Dubrovačko-neretvanska, Splitsko-dalmatinske etc.

The Digital platform is scalable to all of these territories. By the end of the project, the blue/green adaptation measures collected from FRESH territories and other areas will be publicly available, with all the necessary analysis to allow for other local territories to assess them. Each measure will indicate where it has been applied (territorial context) and where it could potentially be applied (transfer potential).

Moreover, the Digital platform can be further integrated with input from other territories. The methodology used in FRESH to map territories will be fully available. The platform itself will have the option to integrate new territorial contexts. Finally, the school exchange activities are open to participation from schools in other territories, on the basis that the wider the exchange, the more profitable the results and impact.

The first step to achieving this transfer is to ensure that all project outputs and related deliverables are published on project website, open for consultation. The project deliverables are prepared using high standards to ensure widest accessibility from outside the consortium. Throughout the project, FRESH adopts a series of measures to support transferability:

1. Wide operability / usability testing of the digital platform, to ensure that it can be easily accessed and used (beta testing foreseen in WP1, pilot testing in WP3, final focus groups in WP3);
2. Communication Strategy that includes specific measures to spread project information outside of the consortium (see section C7.3);
3. A specific activity (A3.4) focused entirely on transfer, using partner networks, programme tools and specific sessions to contact and engage with territories outside of the consortium. With this action, the aim is to ensure formal commitment to transfer (understood as intention to contribute actively to the Digital platform and related activities in the post-project phase) for at least 5 other territories, with contact being made with at least 25. The final public session (WP3) will be the chance to share these agreements.