**Project title:** Capitalization and Harmonization of the Adriatic Region Gate of Europe

**Project acronym:** CHARGE

**Funding programme:** Interreg CBC Italy – Croatia 2014 – 2020

**Project number:** ID 10042161

**Total project value:** € 965.615,00 (co-financed by the EU with € 820,777,75)

**Project partners:**
- RAM - Logistics, Infrastructures and Transport SPA, Central Adriatic Ports Authority, North Adriatic Sea Port Authority, KIP - Intermodal Transport Cluster, Port of Ploče Authority, Split Port Authority, Southern Adriatic Sea Port Authority, Croatian Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure
- Italian ports: Central Adriatic Ports Authority, North Adriatic Sea Port Authority, Southern Adriatic Sea Port Authority, Split Port Authority, Port of Ploče Authority
- Croatian ports: Port of Ploče Authority, Port of Ploče Authority (PP4), Port of Ploče Authority (PP5), Port of Ploče Authority (PP6), Port of Ploče Authority (PP7)
- Other partners: KIP - Intermodal Transport Cluster, Port of Ploče Authority, Split Port Authority, Southern Adriatic Sea Port Authority, Croatian Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure

**Target groups:**
- General public
- Local, regional and national public authorities
- Regional development agencies
- Enterprises
- Transport/logistics operators and associations
- Regional innovation agencies | NGOs
- Education and training organisations, universities and research institutes

**Timeframe:**
- Project duration: 18 months
- Project start date: 01/01/2018
- Project end date: 30/06/2019

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Project description

CHARGE is a project aimed at fostering the connectivity between the Adriatic regions and improving decision-making process coordination at CB level in maritime transport for joint strategies implementation and infrastructural investments, with specific attention to ‘Adriatic Motorways of the Sea’ improvement between Italy and Croatia.

CHARGE was conceived with the goal to tackle the following territorial challenges:
- Need of increasing knowledge for better monitoring of traffic-related issues between the two shores;
- Test the feasibility of port services so as to design and deploy the Adriatic Gate integrated with PCS;
- Defining a common Policy Framework for the Adriatic Freight Transport Sustainability;
- Reinforcing cohesion and encouraging mutual economic development.

In order to accomplish these challenges, 8 partners will work together for:
- Updating the joint transnational bottlenecks database impeding the intermodal transport development of the Adriatic area
- Fostering traffic flows and connectivity through a common methodology, supporting the decision-making process in the adoption of infrastructure investments and pilot activities.
- Analysing practices to define actions to support intermodality within the Italian-Croatian legislative framework and foster integrated planning approach for infrastructure developments.

Project CHARGE Objectives

CHARGE overall objective is to foster traffic flows and sustainable connectivity between Adriatic ports involved, to contribute to competitiveness of territories served by the existing maritime links with a common approach, which can be extended to other fields.

Specific objectives are:

**SO 1: Bottlenecks/missing link identification and shortcomings removing in transport services functioning**
CARICA reports on bottlenecks and traffic flows will be reviewed and expanded. The goal is to develop solutions for remove shortcomings in the functioning of transport services both at a national and transnational level.

**SO 2: Adoption of standardized information system and processes along the Italian-Croatian logistic chain**
After having identified a common methodology for potential traffic flow analysis, project partners will carry out several pilot actions to improve the automatic data exchange of freight traffic among the Italian-Croatian ports and pave the way for further broader investments.

**SO 3: Foster integrated planning approach for infrastructure developments/joint roadmaps for investments**
Regional and national legislative framework will be analysed in order to define actions and facilitate a common proposal policy instrument supporting intermodality. A CB Action Plan will outline financing schemes and tools suitable to support infrastructural investments and foster integrated planning approach.

Project CHARGE expected results

- A methodology for bottleneck collection will generate a report on physical and non-physical bottlenecks and missing links in IT and HR. An Action Plan for ‘Motorway of Sea’ development in the selected area will be developed and implemented in order to boost short sea shipping between IT and HR.

- A methodology for potential traffic flow analysis will be elaborated and will generate a strategic report on future scenarios of traffic flows between IT-HR ports in line with the EUSAIR action plan.

- A central node will be developed in order to aggregate standardized information from the ports and to make certain services and information accessible in a single platform.

- A common proposal policy instrument to support modal shift will be defined. It will be followed by a CB Action Plan to foster integrated planning approach for infrastructure developments defining joint roadmaps for intermodality structures and services investments.

Capitalization Description

CARICA project represented an important opportunity to produce relevant studies aimed at providing the best environment for the activation of intermodal rail-sea transport services between the ports and their own hinterlands. The final results of CARICA Common Proposal underline that it would be necessary to implement pilot and institutional actions, supporting the set-up of combined legislative/operational measures to incentive and promote the modal shift. CHARGE will try to overcome this study phase and go towards the implementation of new services and businesses that are compliant with CARICA’s recommendations and coherent with the European strategies for 2030 and 2050.