

Summaries of Approved Projects from the 4th Deadline of the Open Call in the Frame of Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A Slovenia - Croatia

Summaries of the projects were prepared by the applicants in the context of submitted project applications.

Priority Axis 3 Healthy, safe and accessible border areas (specific objective 3.1. Building partnerships among public authorities and stakeholders for healthy, safe and accessible border areas)

Project acronym: MAX AID (375.136,47 EUR ERDF)

Lead Partner: Splošna bolnišnica Izola / Ospedale generale di Isola

Project Partners: Nastavni zavod za hitnu medicinu Istarske županije – Istituto formativo per la medicina d'urgenza della Regione Istriana, Opća bolnica Pula – Ospedale generale di Pola

A mass casualty incident (MCI) is every sudden event with a large amount of injured or suddenly taken ill that cannot be managed at the time of an incident with given resources. In the cross-border (CB) area of the Istria County and the Coastal–Karst Region road accidents or fires pose a high risk for MCIs. There is no agreement on mutual assistance in the event of MCI between emergency services and hospitals in this area. Until the key services agree on cooperation, the head of intervention in the event of MCI in the CB area won't be able to activate extra resources located only a few minutes away from a location of a MCI.

The project main objective is to establish a permanent cross-border network of key institutions to ensure joint response in the event of a MCI in the CB area. The realization of the project goal will reduce the difference in access to optimal healthcare between rural areas and urban centres.

The project's first direct effect is creating a CB network for joint response at the time of a MCI in the CB area that will consist of emergency services from Slovenian and Croatian part of Istria as well as of Izola and Pula General Hospitals. The network will enable the development and long-term implementation of a joint protocol for partner network response in the event of a MCI in the CB area, including the implementation of a pilot phase. The project will meet the preconditions for implementing DEMONSTRATION activities of the above-mentioned protocol (e.g. the purchase of a vehicle with a MC supply trailer).

The employees in the partner network present the other direct effect. The knowledge and skills required for providing response at the time of a MCI will be improved for 100 employees min. by successfully completed trainings.

The CB area residents will receive unified and improved care in the area when they need it.

Besides many associated partners, institutions at the national and local levels also support the project.

Project acronym: IstraConnect (397.080,89 EUR ERDF)

Lead Partner: Občina Piran

Project Partners: Grad Buje, Občina Izola, Grad Umag

The project aims to strengthen partnership between public authorities and stakeholders by developing multimodal public passenger transport model for residents and visitors of the border area. The developed mobility model will be tested by introducing a pilot bus line to transport daily migrants and visitors (students, employees, health care users). There is no cross-border bus line, which makes it difficult for them to travel. The use of cars creates congestion at border crossings and has a negative impact on sustainability and environmental protection. Strengthening cooperation between PPs will jointly address the problem of lack of sustainable mobility services. The aim of the project is to strengthen cross-border cooperation by developing a multimodal cross-border public passenger transport model. The development of mobility will increase the quality of life of the entire population in cross-border area, increase the availability of all facilities, reduce congestion at border crossings and ensure sustainable mobility by contributing to environmental protection. The main outcomes are the signing of the Cooperation Agreement that will strengthen the cooperation of cross-border national, regional and local institutions, the development of Guidelines for dealing with sudden traffic jams at border crossings that will strengthen the cooperation of local authorities, border police and service users, and through education and establishment of cross-border mobility, all residents and visitors will develop awareness of the benefits of using cross-border public transport. The approach is horizontal – cooperation is developed from national, regional and local government institutions to end users (population and visitors). There is public transport at local level, but there are many people who travel across the border for various reasons, which makes cross-border access necessary. The project is innovative because there is no cross-border public transport currently available.

Project acronym: CRO-SI-SAFE (628.670,40 EUR ERDF)

Lead Partner: Zagorska razvojna agencija

Project Partners: Krapinsko-zagorska županija, Razvojna agencija Sotla, Občina Rogatec

With the earthquakes in Croatia, which were felt in Krapina-zagorje County and Savinjska region, and the increasing frequency of elemental disasters in the vicinity of this cross-border region, the partners saw the need to establish systematic coordination and improve the existing system of emergency interventions based on the principles of joint cross-border cooperation. Common challenges detected relate to insufficient operational connectivity and lack of joint cross-border coordination of emergency services, and inadequate preparedness of the rural population to respond effectively during and after disasters and accidents. Therefore, the main goal of the CRO-SI-SAFE project is to improve the cross-border partnership of emergency services by establishing a joint cross-border cooperation protocol of the CRO-SI-SAFE team to improve the civil protection system and increase resilience to disasters and accidents in Krapina-Zagorje County and Savinjska region. The key project result is an increased level of quality in the area's health and safety. The direct project outcomes are 1) improving the cross-border partnership of emergency services through the establishment of CRO-SI-SAFE team and 2) increasing the level of knowledge, skill and competence of emergency services. The cross-border approach to the project is necessary to establish a single coordinated team, and the planned approach is based on participation and use of resources in compliance with legal provisions and national agreements, creation of long-term sustainable activities, and focus on creating preconditions for effective emergency response to specific situations. The innovativeness of the project is reflected in the establishment of the CRO-SI-SAFE team as a new cross-border structure with a defined model of organization and operation and the arrangement of two simulation experience rooms that will serve to better prepare emergency services and the general public to react during and after a mass accidents.