SuS_AGRI Project

SuStainable AGRIculture and climate change: impacts, strategies, and mitigation actions

Activity 1.3: Joint Training Model to contrast the climate change impacts in the South Adriatic

STEP 4: Memorandum of Understanding

Version n.1

REGIONAL NATURAL PARK OF THE COASTAL DUNES

Sus_Agri

SuStainable AGRIculture and climate change: impacts, strategies, and mitigation actions

Small project

INTERREG PROGRAMME IPA SOUTH-ADRIATIC 2021/2027

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The South Adriatic area is characterized by favorable natural conditions for the development of agriculture productions. However, in the last years this area is also exposed to drought, floods, frost, strong winds and rising salinity level of agricultural lands. Due to climate change effects, water scarcity, change in precipitation regime, bacteria and rising temperature have been identified as major climate risk factors across the agriculture sector of the South Adriatic area. SuS_AGRI aims to strengthen the base knowledge of farm producers in the South Adriatic area on agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of global warming. The main objective of this MoU is to operationalize and adopt the Joint Training Model for improving rural resilience exchange of data and best practices to contrast the impacts of climate change in Programme area.

The Parties, recognizing the added value of the Joint Training Model and the necessity of long-term cooperation beyond the lifetime of the project, hereby agree to formalize their mutual understanding and intentions to adopt and implement the model in their territories, in accordance with the principles of sustainability, territorial cohesion, and climate resilience.

Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU)

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION

- EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

- EU Rural Vision

- EU Green Deal

- European CAP Strategic Plans

-The Sustainable Goals of the Agenda 2030

HAVE DISCUSSED AND AGREE ON THE FOLLOWING

Article 1: Purpose and Scope

The MoU aims to support the operationalization of the Joint Training Model within the institutional and operational frameworks of the Programme area, ensuring that the model is integrated into local and regional strategies for agricultural development, climate adaptation, and rural resilience.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes the terms and mutual understanding among key stakeholders to foster knowledge exchange and long-term collaboration. Its primary goal is to strengthen the capacity of farm producers in addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture in the Adriatic Region.

Article 2: Background

Overcoming borders reinforces the added value of territorial cooperation and helps better address similar threats as well as promote more balanced and sustainable development of agricultural sector.

Based on their experience of cooperation in the previous periods, the convening partners came together to share the common goals to consolidate the capacity of local agricultural systems to respond to climate risks.

The Memorandum recognizes several cooperation and funding instruments as a shared strategic foundation that coherently and integratively connect Italy, Albania, and Montenegro. First and foremost, the IPARD III programme, within the IPA III framework, plays a key role for Albania and Montenegro by supporting rural development through targeted measures on training, technical assistance, advisory services, and cooperation for innovation in the agricultural sector.

In parallel, the Interreg IPA CBC South Adriatic programme facilitates concrete initiatives among the three countries, such as seminars, cross-border workshops, and training programmes focused on climate adaptation and the sustainable management of water resources. The SuS_AGRI project has already delivered workshops and an intensive training course, which culminated in the definition of a Joint Training Model to support local farmers in addressing climate change through sustainable agricultural practices and efficient irrigation systems. Complementing this, the Interreg Adrion programme offers cooperation opportunities among all Adriatic countries and specifically addresses issues of climate change and sustainability.

Moreover, the transnational Interreg Euro-MED programme covers 69 regions across 14 European countries, including Albania, Montenegro, and most Italian regions. This programme pursues key missions such as the promotion of innovation, climate adaptation, and environmental governance, translating into specific objectives aimed at strengthening territorial and agricultural resilience. Its environmental and climate-related priorities—including climate change adaptation and the prevention of ecosystem-related risks—make it a tangible opportunity to finance innovative training, the exchange of agro-environmental technologies, and joint project development across the Mediterranean region.

This integrated framework provides a solid foundation for the Memorandum: IPARD III ensures targeted measures for training and innovation in the candidate countries; Interreg South Adriatic activates joint training pathways and workshops on water management, climate adaptation, and resilient farming practices; EUSAIR offers a macro-regional institutional framework that fosters synergy between national policies and European funding; while Interreg Adrion and Euro-MED offer

a broad transnational platform with projects on climate, environmental innovation, and territorial governance, open to joint action among the three nations.

In this way, the Memorandum promotes a shared and sustainable training model capable of integrating research, education, advanced agricultural techniques, and institutional cooperation between Italy, Albania, and Montenegro, thereby strengthening the skills of local farmers in addressing climate and environmental challenges.

Article 3: Content of the Memorandum of Understanding

The mutual goals to be achieved by signing this MoU are:

1. To promote the adoption of the Joint Training Model in their respective institutions or territories;
2. To include the Joint Training Model recommendations and results in their respective development or environmental strategies where applicable;
3. To deliver regular training activities for farmers, advisors, and public officers based on the methodologies and tools developed by the Joint training model of SuS_AGRI;
4. To share knowledge and lessons learned through cross-border events, working groups, and field visits;
5. To integrate climate-smart agricultural practices into rural policies and development strategies;
6. To collaborate with other Parties in order to share ideas, expertise, and resources in potential follow up actions or some other fields of common interest
7. To identify and communicate of potential funding sources (especially at European level), to develop new project proposals that capitalize the Joint Training Model;
8. To promote the outcomes and best practices of SuS_AGRI at local, regional, and national levels;
9. To actively involve stakeholders, including farmers' associations, advisory services, research institutions, and civil society organizations.

Article 4 Institutional framework

After the signature of this Agreement, each Party will appoint a representative who will act as a focal point for the implementation of this Agreement. The focal point will promote the implementation of the cooperation and facilitate exchange of information between the Parties on matters of common interest.

Article 5 Financial aspects

Each Party will bear its own costs incurred in the implementation of this Agreement. This agreement does not represent a commitment of funds on the part of either Party.

Article 6 Duration and Effectiveness

This agreement is effective upon signature of all Parties for a period of 5 (five) years after the Projects completion. It may be renewed and/or amended by mutual written agreement between the Parties.

Article 7 Termination of the Agreement

This agreement may be terminated by either Party by providing 6 (six) months prior written notice to the other Parties.

Article 8 Dispute settlement

All disputes arising from the interpretation and/or implementation of this Agreement shell be settled through diplomatic means.

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to any approvals and/or ratifications of competence, in order to proceed with the signing and at a later time to provide for the decisions of the individual entities involved.

SIGNATURE'S PART

Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Provisional management consortium of Regional Natural Park Coastal Dunes

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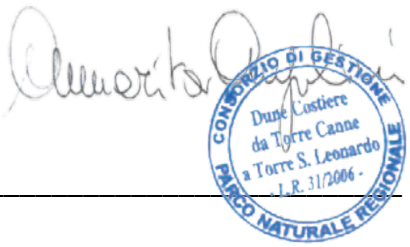
Name of legal representative

Annarita Angelini

_____

Signature



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Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

LEGAMBIENTE MOLISE APS

Name of legal representative

ANDREA DE MARCO

Signature

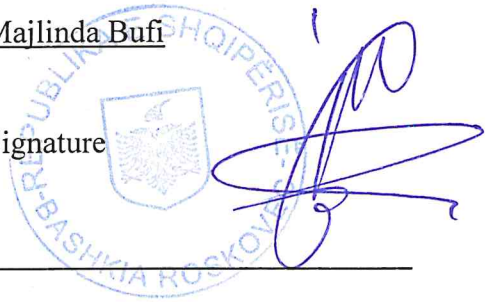
Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Bashkia Roskovec/Roskovec Municipality

Name of legal representative

Majlinda Bufi

Signature



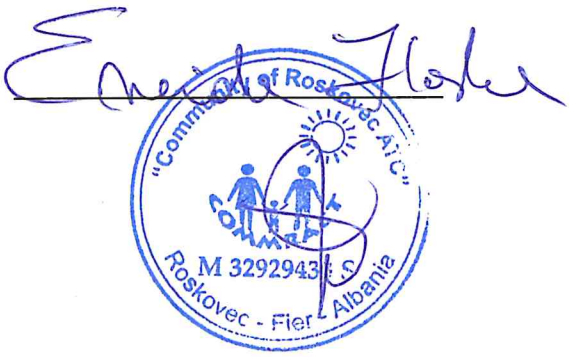
Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Komuniteti i Roskovecit Aktiv/ Community of Roskovec Act

Name of legal representative

Eneida Hoxha

Signature



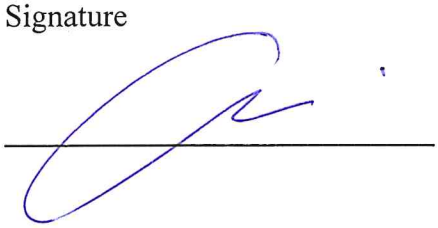
Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Qendra "Gruaja, Komuniteti, Mjedisi i Harmonizuar për Zhvillim"/ Women's Center, Community, Harmonized Environment for Development

Name of legal representative

Ronada Hoxha

Signature



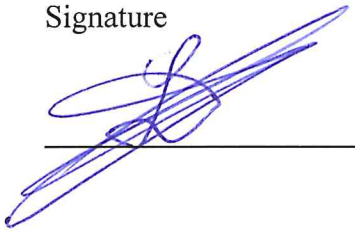
Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Ferma "Dulla"/ Dulla Farm

Name of legal representative

Lulzim Dulla

Signature



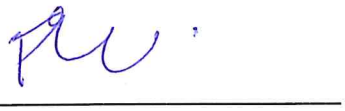
Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

RiART

Name of legal representative

Farushe Hoxha

Signature



Interreg Co-funded by the European Union
IPA South Adriatic
SuS_AGRI

Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Municipality of Danilovgrad / Opština Danilovgrad

Name of legal representative

Aleksandar Grgurović, Mayor of the Municipality of Danilovgrad

CRNA GORA OPŠTINA DANILOVGRAD PREDSJEDNIK DANILOVGRAD

Signature

Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Protection and Rescue Service Danilovgrad / Služba zaštite i spašavanja Danilovgrad

Name of legal representative

Dejan Marunović, Commander of Protection and Rescue Service Danilovgrad

Signature

Name of the organisation (Original language / English)

Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Rural Development / sekretarijat za poljoprivredu, vodoprivredu i ruralni razvoj

Name of legal representative

Darko Burić, Secretar of Secretariat for Agriculture, Water Management and Rural Development

Signature