

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST ONLINE MEETING OF THE ADRIPASS TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION NETWORK

On 2 March the first meeting of the ADRIPASS Transnational network was held virtually with the aim of promoting dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders and relevant actors in the ADRION region, jointly with the results achieved in the ADRIPASS project.

The meeting was organised in the framework of the ADRIPASS PLUS project, as a follow up of previous ADRIPASS project to further update the ADRIPASS transnational strategy, upgrade and enhance already developed ICT platforms at the ports of Koper and Bar and disseminate all results achieved in the ADRIPASS project at European, national, regional and local level.

During the meeting relevant speakers such as Mr. Roberto Antonione, CEI Secretary General, Ms. Barbara Di Piazza, Head of the Interreg ADRION Programme Joint Secretariat, Mr. Alain BARON, European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport, Mr. Gilles Kittel, Team Leader at European Commission - DG REGIO - EUSAIR, IPA and Enlargement Negotiation, Ms. Tatjana Jovanović Štiglić, Head of Division in charge of Project Preparation and Financing at the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat expressed their support to the ADRIPASS PLUS objectives and foreseen activities.

In the first introductory part of the meeting several relevant speakers underlined the importance of the ADRIPASS achievements starting from the ICT improvements in the ADRIPASS ports, ADRIPASS transnational strategy and their further enhancement in the new ADRIPASS plus project.

The round table discussion on the other hand focused on the updating of the ADRIPASS transnational strategy, taking into account, among others, the resilience to COVID-19 and the consequent economic crisis. Several speakers underlined the importance of the regional cooperation, exchange of information, and sharing of best practices with the aim of streamlining national, regional and local policies, leading to more sustainable, efficient, smart and multimodal connections to the benefit of the entire region. COVID-19 proved to be an important lesson on the need for joint and immediate action to allow seamless transnational connections to support all freight supply chains. TEN-T extension and further revision has also been considered as a relevant element for ensuring a more connected, smart, multimodal and resilient Europe.

The ADRIPASS PLUS partners collected all relevant inputs, which will be used for the revision of the ADRIPASS Transnational strategy in the occasion of the next meeting of the ADRIPASS Transnational network foreseen in May 2022.

The ADRIPASS PLUS project is a follow up of the previous ADRIPASS project, funded under the Interreg ADRION Programme with the aim of further improving maritime - hinterland freight connections to boost growth and economic development of the transport sector in the ADRION region. The follow up projects started in January 2022 and it will end in June 2022.