



Regeneration of the coastal area of Thessaloniki

Follow-up note

Policy Learning Platform matchmaking session

Date: Friday, 28 October 2022 – 09:00-10:30

Beneficiary: Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia, Greece

Topics: governance and continuity for blue green infrastructure in coastal regions

Participants

Hosts

Regional representatives

- **Chrysanthi Kiskini**, Head of the Department of European Union projects, Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia
- **Lambrini Tsoli**, Department of European Union projects, Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia

Peers and Experts

- **Alexandra Maccario**, Cagnes-sur-Mer Municipality (France)
- **Dr. Marta Jacuniak-Suda**, Department for Regional Development Weser-Ems (Germany)
- **Anda Ruskule**, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia (Latvia)
- **John Jones**, Norfolk County Council (United Kingdom)
- **Francesco Scorza**, University of Basilicata (Italy)
- **James Nicolaï**, Elected of the Municipality of Cagnes-sur-Mer, Europe and innovation
- **Marie-Caroline Vallon**, Région Sud, direction of energy transition and territories

Interreg Europe Programme

- **Mariame Amour**, Interreg Europe Policy Officer
- **Diane Bulon**, Interreg Europe Policy Officer

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

- **Thorsten Kohlisch**, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform Project Manager
- **Astrid Severin**, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform Thematic Expert, Environment and resource efficiency
- **Magda Michalikova**, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform Thematic Expert, Environment & resource efficiency
- **Eugénie Suplisson**, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform Events Expert



Objectives of meeting

On 28 October 2022, the Policy Learning Platform organised a matchmaking at the request of the Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia to explore governance and continuity schemes for the regeneration of the coastal area of Thessaloniki (40km coastline including downgraded West site of the coast). The interventions for the regeneration of the **Coastal Area of Thessaloniki** include **7 municipalities**: Thessaloniki, Delta, Ampelokipoi-Menemeni, Kalamaria, Pulea-Xortiatiss, Thermi, and Thermaikos that all belong to the Regional Unit of Thessaloniki (one of the 7 Units of the Region of Central Macedonia). The new coastal area should create free public spaces, greening of the city, a unified route of 40km, a cycling route and a connection with the sea. The budget for the project is 500 million Euro and will be financed by the Regional Operational Programme of Central Macedonia, public-private partnership and the European Investment Bank. The Region of Central Macedonia planned and will implement the "Regeneration of the Coastal Area of Thessaloniki", which is an environmental,

tourism, and development project, that will create many new jobs during construction, attract new investments, and more visitors from Greece and abroad. The project aims at the promotion and protection of the natural and cultural heritage in the region.

The matchmaking was held in Cagnes-sur-Mer, following the [workshop](#) on '**Natural and cultural heritage in coastal regions**'.

Some key takeaways

- A vision underpinning your long-term objectives is the first step to build a coherent and comprehensive project for the regeneration of the coastal area in Thessaloniki
- From the vision, a number of key fields of action will be identified: e.g. sustainable tourism, nature protection, coastal flood defence and protection. Such identification process should be done jointly with key stakeholders
- Communicate the message in the right way to the right people
- Citizens' involvement is important from the beginning as well as ensuring mechanisms that allow their proactive participation
- Norfolk has established a core management group with the municipalities in order to pool competences and funding: relevant governance structures should be foreseen
- It is essential to balance the interests of the different blue economy sectors such as fishery, tourism, energy production and nature conservation and local communities: the best scenario is to develop an integrated strategy with regional stakeholders: citizens, fishermen associations, harbour authorities, tourism providers, environmental NGOs
- Stakeholder involvement is essential at all stages of the process to ensure transparency and ownership of solutions as well as social learning and collection of local knowledge
- Application of eco-systems framework provides a suitable assessment tool for evaluating scenarios and coastal development trade-offs
- Multi-governance approaches allow cross-sectoral collaborations and integration between different planning levels
- The integration of complementary activities to pure management should also be foreseen: e.g. ongoing research, monitoring, environmental education and awareness-raising

Additional actions

All participants exchange contact details for possible follow-up actions on bilateral basis.

Note circulation: All attendees.