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IPA ADRION

IPA ADRION Programme

Informal MC meeting

online, 9 September 2025



Goal of the Informal Monitoring Committee meeting



- Ensure the Monitoring Committee is updated on the current state of play of the strategic call for transnational university masters, with emphasis on the challenges encountered by some projects.
- Explore with the Monitoring Committee members practical solutions to facilitate proposal submission by partnerships and safeguard the call's objectives.



ADRION 2014-2020

- DG Research asked ADRION to explore the possibility of promoting the implementation of university transnational masters in the programme area to ideally complement the EU support on research infrastructures in the IPA countries
- The MC accepted this input and the fifth call for proposals was addressed to their preparation (allocation of the last released funds from finalized projects)
- The fifth call granted 5 projects; DG Research supported the projects assessment by sharing its roster of experts



ADRION Programme 2014-2020: Granted partners and allocation of resources

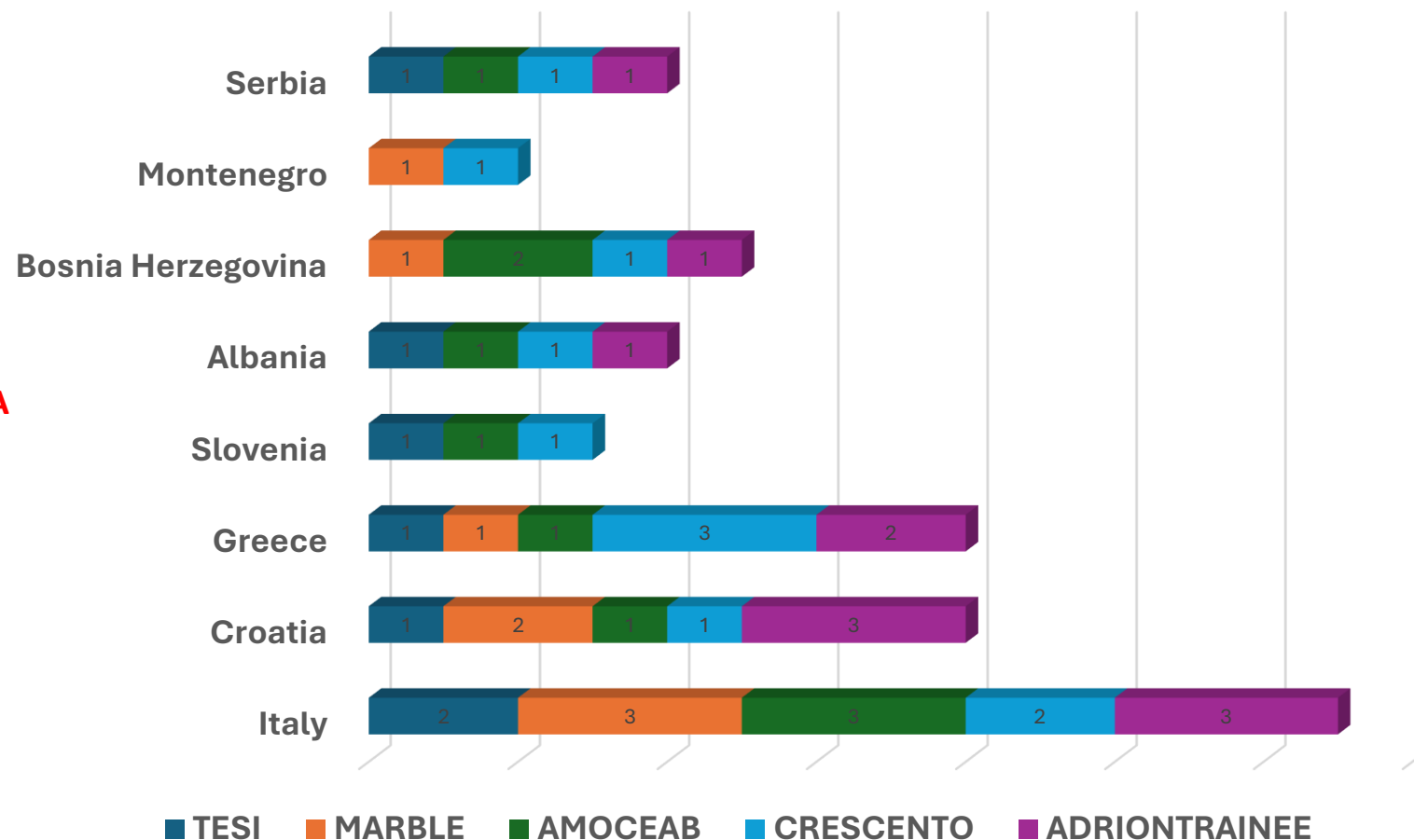
ADRION 2014-2020:

47 beneficiaries involved

4,12 MEUR allocated out of which 3,15 MEUR ERDF and 0,97 MEUR IPA II

IPA ADRION 2021-2027:

6,85 MEUR (INTERREG funds expected to be allocated)



Overview on project partnerships



	Italy	Croatia	Greece	Slovenia	Albania	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Montenegro	Serbia
TESI	University of Bologna (IT); University of Venice (IT)	University of Zagreb (HR);	Hellenic Open University (GR)	Science and Research Centre Koper (SI);	University of Tirana (AL);			University of Belgrade (RS);
MARBLE	University of Trieste (IT); Maritime Technology Cluster FVG S.c.a.rl. (IT); National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (IT)	University of Zagreb (HR); Digital innovation hub (DIH) Agrifood Croatia (HR)	National Technical University of Athens (GR);			University of Sarajevo (BA);	University of Montenegro (ME);	
AMOCEAB	Polytechnic University of Marche (IT); University of Bologna (IT); CNA Emilia-Romagna (IT)	University of Zagreb (HR);	Special Research Funds Account of Technical University of Crete (GR);	School of Advanced Social Studies in Nova Gorica (SI);	Agricultural University of Tirana (AL);	University of Sarajevo (BIH); Chamber of Economy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA);		University of Belgrade (RS);
CRESCENTO	Polytechnic University of Milano (IT); National Confederation of the Craftmanship and Small and Medium Enterprises(IT)	University of Zagreb (HR);	Athena - Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communications and Knowledge Technologies (GR); Aegean University (GR); European Public Law Organisation (GR)	University of Nova Gorica (SI);	Aleksandër Moisiu University of Durrës (AL);	University of East Sarajevo (BA);	University of Montenegro (ME);	University of Kragujevac (RS);
ADRIONTRAINEE	University of Bologna (IT); University of Venice (IT); Solar Info Community srl (IT).	University of Zagreb (HR); Algebra University College (HR); Ergo-data (HR);	University of Patras (GR); GREEN TECHNOLOGIES LTD (GR);		University of Tirana (AL);	International University of Sarajevo (BA);		University of Novi Sad (RS)

Strategic Call for Transnational Master's Programmes and new programming period



To ensure the necessary follow up – i.e.: the implementation of the university transnational masters - , the 2021-2027 programming Task Force approved to consider these projects as strategic and to include them in Appendix 3 - List of planned operations of strategic importance with a timetable of the programming document):

«**SUPPORT TO KNOWLEDGE SHARING**

Indicatively, four transnational university masters regarding blue economy, renewable energy, circular economy and social innovation should be granted under PO1 SO iv). These projects will be implemented in accordance with the preparatory projects granted under the programming 2014-2020 for this purpose.

[...]

***Support to knowledge sharing** will be granted in the first quarter of 2024 at the latest. The exact timetable of these projects of strategic importance will be decided at a later stage by partner countries”.*

Strategic Call for Transnational Master's Programmes and new programming period

Main MC decisions on the dedicated expression of interest

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10th IPA ADRION MC meeting (Sibenik) decisions:

- The call shall be based according to the «rolling basis» until December 2025 (from December 2024)
- The accreditation process assessment shall take place before the quality assessment but after the submission of the expression of interest (i.e.: once the project presents its expression of interest)
- In addition to proposed Associated Partners from North Macedonia and San Marino, beneficiaries from other participating countries can be involved as Associated Partners
- The duration of the new strategic projects shall be:
 - up to 27 months (15 months' master)
 - up to 39 months (24 months' master)
- The minimum number of students shall be 25
- Sustainability plan shall be mandatory and included in the Application Form (including a reliable funding scheme from public/private resources, students fees ext. for the next generation of masters);
- Maximum Interreg budget shall be up to MEUR 0,85 for 15-months masters and up to MEUR 1,5 for to 24 months masters;
- It is recommended that the accreditation shall take place in at least two countries

11th IPA ADRION MC meeting (Ljubljana) decisions:

- Information on the partnership to be included in the Application Manual shall not include the associated partners as they do not contribute to the eligible partnership requirements and new associated partners can be involved
- Include in the text that no partner changes within the partnership shall be possible (consistency with the subsidy contract and the partnership agreement must be ensured; these two documents must be attached to the minutes)

Current Status of Strategic Project Preparation



In view of the present meeting lead applicants were asked to update IPA ADRION on the state of art of the elaboration of the project proposals (July 2025)

- 5 out of 4 projects: **ADRION TRAINEE, TESI, MARBLE, CRESCENTO** expressed their intention/willingness to submit their project proposal in the framework of the Expression of Interest
- Out of them one project already submitted its candidature (**TESI**)
- No information has been received from the project **AMOCEAB** yet.

State of play on 05/09/2025



Project acronym	ADRION 2014-2020 EU funds contracted (ERDF+IPA)	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Accreditation/recognition state of play; duration; degree and academic year	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Partnership	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Master Content	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 EU expected funds
TESI	0,59 MEUR	<p>Project proposal submitted to the programme</p> <p>Professional Master degree (Master of 1st Level) as foreseen in the preparatory phase ADRION 2014-2020</p> <p>Accreditation: University of Bologna (IT) that needs to be renewed</p> <p>Recognition: University of Tirana (AL) and University of San Marino (Agreement among the three universities provided)</p> <p>Joint Degree: (University of Bologna/University of Tirana/University of San Marino)</p> <p>Duration: 13 months</p> <p>Implementation year: September 2026/2027</p>	<p>Partnership confirmed;</p> <p>New associated partner involved: University of San Marino</p>	<p>Master content confirmed</p>	0,85 MEUR



State of play on 05/09/2025

Project acronym	ADRION 2014-2020 EU funds contracted (ERDF+IPA)	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Accreditation/recognition state of play; duration; degree and academic year	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Partnership	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Master Content	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 EU expected funds
CRESCENTO	0,95 MEUR	<p>Project proposal submission: expected Dec 2025</p> <p>Master of Science in line with the preparatory phase (ADRION 2014-2020) – Accreditation process embedded into two existing accredited MSC degrees - option 1 Accreditation institutions: Polytechnic University of Milan (IT) and University of Sarajevo (BA) Accreditation: University internal approval is expected to be completed within December 2025. Duration: 2 years Implementation year: September 2026 (2026/2027)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Professional Master degree (1st Level) – Fastest accreditation process - option 2 Accreditation institutions: Polytechnic University of Milan (IT) and University of Sarajevo (BA) Accreditation: University internal approval is expected to be completed within December 2025. Double degree Duration: 2 years Implementation year: March/April 2026 (2026/2027)</p>	Partnership confirmed with the exception of Aegean University (GR) that has withdrawn	Master content confirmed	1,5 MEUR



Project acronym	ADRION 2014-2020 EU funds contracted (ERDF+IPA)	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Accreditation/recognition state of play ; duration; degree and academic year	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Partnership	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Master Content	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 EU expected funds
ADRION TRAINEE	0,79 MEUR	<p>Project proposal submission: expected Oct 2025</p> <p>Master of Science (as foreseen in the preparatory phase (ADRION 2014-2020)) Accreditation: University of Patras (Greece) and University of Venice (Italy) Internal approval/accreditation at University level is so far concluded by University of Venice and will be concluded in September 2025 by University of Patras. The request for accreditation at national level (Greece) will be submitted in October 2025.</p> <p>Finalization of the accreditation process is expected to occur after the proposal submission.</p> <p>Joint degree Duration: 2 years Implementation year: 2026/2027</p>	<p>Partnership confirmed</p> <p>Necessity to include in the partnership, not only the faculty level, but also the University level responsible for diploma signature, in the case of Croatia and Serbia</p>	Master content confirmed	1,5 MEUR



State of play on 05/09/2025

Project acronym	ADRION 2014-2020 EU funds contracted (ERDF+IPA)	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Accreditation/recognition state of play ; duration; degree and academic year	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Partnership	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Master Content	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 EU expected funds
MARBLE	0,93 MEUR	<p>Project proposal submission: expected Dec 2025</p> <p>Master of Science (as foreseen in the preparatory phase ADRION 2014-2020) Accreditation: University of Zagreb (HR) and University of Trieste (IT) Recognition: University of Sarajevo/National Technical University of Athens; University of Montenegro Internal approval at University level has been concluded. The partnership is in the process of signature of all the necessary documents (consortium agreement and with the University of Trieste) to be submitted to the Croatian Accreditation Agency. The delay is due to the fact that the Croatia Agency asked for signed physical versions of the agreements in order to start the procedure. Finalization of the accreditation process is expected to occur after the proposal submission. Joint degree (University of Zagreb/ University of Sarajevo/National Technical University of Athens; University of Montenegro) and Double degree (University of Zagreb/University of Trieste) Duration: 2 years Academic year: 2026/2027</p>	Partnership confirmed	Master content confirmed	1,5 MEUR



State of play on 05/09/2025



Project acronym	ADRION 2014-2020 EU funds contracted (ERDF+IPA)	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Accreditation/recognition state of play ; duration; degree and academic year	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Partnership	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 Master Content	IPA ADRION 2021-2027 EU expected funds
AMOCEAB	0,85 MEUR	<p>Professional Master degree (Master of 1st Level) Accreditation: Polytechnic University of Marche (IT) Recognition: by all the partner Universities Multiple Title/degree Duration: 2 years Academic year: 2025/2027</p> <p>No updates received</p>			1,5 MEUR



Overall, main encountered difficulties are linked to:

- Accreditation/recognition process
 - **Withdrawal of the project partner** in charge of providing the accreditation – CRESCENTO
 - impossibility of the initially appointed project partner to proceed with the recognition due to **exogenous circumstances** (demonstrations in Serbia) – TESI
 - **Longer and demanding accreditation process** than initially envisaged/expected (ADRION TRAINEE; CRESCENTO; MARBLE)
- Changes in partnership
 - **Withdrawal of the project partner** in charge of providing the accreditation – CRESCENTO

Lessons learned



- IPA ADRION strategic (and experimental) call responds to the need to explore new paths of cooperation
- Connecting the academic and Interreg worlds is difficult due to intrinsic complexity.
- Innovative processes must anticipate unexpected obstacles and put in place mitigating measures.
- Key principles of transparency and flexibility to be followed

Horizon Europe (Teaming For Excellence) Project "MARBLE - Centre of Excellence in Maritime Robotics and Technologies for Sustainable Blue Economy"

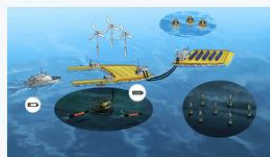


The project main goal is to establish a world-class **Centre of Excellence** that develops and demonstrates breakthrough solutions in four key areas:

- **Maritime Robotics and Autonomous Systems**
- **Maritime Green Endurance**
- **Maritime Internet of Things**
- **Maritime Digital Twins**



Maritime Robotics and
Autonomous Systems



Maritime Green Endurance



Maritime Internet of Things



Maritime Digital Twins

Lead Partner:

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing (UNIZG-FER);

Research & Industry Partners

- **Centre of Excellence MARBLE d.o.o. (CoE MARBLE)**
- **Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI)**
- **Maritime Innovation Cluster (MARINN):**
- **DIH Agrifood Croatia (AFC)**

Policy and International Partners

- **Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Youth (MZOM)**
- **Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)**
- **National Research Council (CNR, Italy)**

Total funding grant of €14,999,495.00 received from the European Union under the *Horizon Europe Widening Programme – Teaming for Excellence*

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How to better connect the academic and Interreg worlds?



The MA would like to start an informal discussion with the Monitoring Committee about how much flexibility can be accepted and on which topics (e.g., accreditation, partnership, master content).