



# ADRIATIC CONNECTIVITY FORUM

## PROMOTING CONNECTIVITY IN SOUTH ADRIATIC AREA

*17 - 18 February 2021*

An online event in collaboration with



### *Background Note*

The Forum aims to bring into focus the transport connectivity and the opportunities that may arise from the development of the Connectivity Agenda in the Adriatic and Ionian Macro-regional area; in particular, the intersection of the North - South route of the Adriatic - Ionian Corridor with the East - West route, that goes from the Black Sea to the Italian Adriatic regions, can give a great boost to the movement of goods and people from the East towards the heart of Europe and vice versa.

The goal is to promote and support the institutional dialogue between different actors and key stakeholders towards an integrated approach between the EUSAIR Strategy, the Trans-European Corridors and the Connectivity agenda in the Western Balkans, in the attempt to place this area in the global map of transport networks.

Which opportunities may emerge in the Adriatic Ionian Macroregional area from a joint vision of the large connection networks? How to benefit from the current transport infrastructure? How to plan an infrastructure that promotes the region and directly contributes to its growth? What is the



state of the art of the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor, the Corridor VIII that connects the Adriatic to the Black Sea? Moreover, what is or might be the role of the Apulian, Albanian and Montenegrin ports in the global transport connectivity network?

The Forum will try to answer all these questions.

This event marks the closure of SAGOV project activities. It will consist in different presentations and panel discussions amongst transport specialist, actors, policy-makers, think tanks and other stakeholders.

### AGENDA

**VENUE: ONLINE EVENT**

<https://zoom.us/j/96308885961?pwd=bVpXNDhwVWVWZrZrMFc3TGtIS3YxUT09>

Working languages: English and Italian

**17 FEBRUARY 2021**

**14:00 – 14:15**     **Welcome Notes**

- **Alessandro Delli Noci** - Apulian Regional Minister for Economic Development and International Policies.

**14:15 – 14:45**     **Keynote Address**

- **Alberto Petrangeli** – Deputy Head of Mission - Embassy of Italy to Albania
- **Belinda Balluku** - Minister of Infrastructure and Energy – Albania (tbc)
- **Mladen Bojanić** - Minister of Capital Investments - Montenegro



### Forum framework within the Interreg IPA Programme

- **Crescenzo Marino** - Puglia Region, Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA Italy - Albania - Montenegro Programme

14.45 – 16.15

### PANEL 1 – Improving the Connectivity Agenda in the Western Balkans and the cooperation with EU: policies and investment projects

#### PANEL MEMBERS

- **Matej ZAKONSEK** - Director of Transport Permanent Secretariat
- **Donald Mishaxhiu** – Director – Senior banker - infrastructure projects at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development – EBRD, London
- **Michael Voegele** - European Commission - DG NEAR
- **Amb. Traian Chebeleu** - Deputy Secretary General, Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – BSEC PERMIS

#### MODERATOR

- **Ardian Hackaj** - Cooperation and Development Institute (Lead Partner of Sagov Project)



16.15 – 17.20

**PANEL 2 – The multimodal Corridors system within the EU Strategy for the Adriatic – Ionian region (EUSAIR)**

**PANEL MEMBERS**

- **Giuseppe Catalano** – Head of Technical Department for Strategic Infrastructure, Italian Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure
- **Thimjo Plaku** - Director for Development of Transport and Infrastructure Policies and Strategies, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy and Albanian Representative to Regional Steering Committee of Transport Community Treaty
- **Danijela Kapa** - designated Head of the Department for International Cooperation, Ministry of Capital Investments - Montenegro

**MODERATOR**

- **Giorgio Fruscione** - ISPI - Italian Institute for International Political Studies

17.20 – 17.30

**Conclusions of 1st Day**

- **Mauro Novello** - Coordinator of Joint Secretariat of the Interreg IPA Italy-Albania-Montenegro Programme



18 February 2021

09.30 – 10.15 **Talk with European Institutions – TEN T - “The Adriatic–Ionian Corridor and the Orient– East / Med Core Network (Corridor VIII) in the framework of TEN-T revision process”**

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

**Bujar Osmani** - Minister of Foreign Affairs – Republic of North Macedonia (pre-recorded)

- European Commission, DG MOVE
- **Giuseppe Ferrandino** - Member of the European Parliament – Working group on Transport

MODERATOR

- **Angela Stefania Bergantino** - University of Bari and Italian Association of Transport Economics

10.15 – 10.45 **Relevance of SAGOV main results**

- **Djordje Otasevic** – Advisor, Implementation manager for EU funds, Ministry of Capital Investments - Montenegro
- **Edesa Gega** - Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy -Albania
- **Claudio Polignano** - Puglia Region, Delegation for Balkans area - Italy

**Highlighting Connectivity within the trilateral Interreg IPA Programme**

- **Crescenzo Marino** - Puglia Region, Managing Authority of the Interreg IPA Italy Albania Montenegro Programme



**10.45 – 12.00**    **PANEL 3. The role of South – Adriatic ports in the global transport connectivity network**

### PANEL MEMBERS

- **Elio Sannicandro** - General Director of the Apulian Strategic Agency for the territorial sustainable development (Asset) - Italy
- **Luca Bosser** - Director for Transport and Accessibility, Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)
- **Pirro Vengu** - CEO Durres Port - Albania
- **Alessandro Panaro** - Director of Maritime and Mediterranean Economy dept. at Studi & Ricerche per il Mezzogiorno - SRM

### MODERATOR

- **Enrico Fardella** - TWAI - Torino World Affairs Institute, ChinaMed Project

**12.00**                    **Conclusions and closure of the event**