

Mediterranean Coast and EU Macroregional Strategies Week

Slovenian Coast, 2016

Slovenia is located at the junction of the Alps, Pannonian Plain, Dinaric Range and the Mediterranean. Its geographical position as well as its rich natural and cultural heritage provide numerous opportunities and pose challenges which are common and disregard borders.

With the knowledge and experience gained in the Danube, Adriatic and Ionian, and Alpine macroregions, Slovenia is able to create synergies between strategies and contents, and establish connections which contribute to knowledge and innovations, sustainable mobility, and the growth and prosperity of the people living in these regions.

*After the successful EUSALP Launch Conference and the constitutive session of the EUSALP General Assembly in January 2016 at Brdo, the **Mediterranean Coast and Macroregional Strategies Week** is the second in a series of events organised by Slovenia during its chairmanship of EUSALP. From **23 September to 1 October 2016**, the Slovenian Coast will be the venue for numerous events with the linking theme of environmental connectivity and the meeting place of various stakeholders co-creating our common space in the region. Meetings, talks, exchanges of views and experience as well as varied presentations help raise the awareness that every individual, institution and organisation can contribute to a better and more meaningful life in harmony with nature; only together can we change our way of thinking and acting, and make a leap forward.*

You are invited to join us.

Andreja Jerina, MSc

National Coordinator for EU Macroregional Strategies

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Slovenia

*This time, the Mediterranean Coast Week is dedicated to **connectivity**, for we believe that only successful integration can lead to comprehensive nature conservation. In the series of this year's events we are connecting the governmental and non-governmental sectors, managers of protected areas and local communities, planners and implementers of conservation measures, and project partners. We draw attention to the advantages of integral spatial planning, particularly on the sea, the habitat that knows no borders. Since January this year, the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation has led, in cooperation with the Bavarian Ministry of the Environment and Consumer Protection, one of the action groups of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. The group is dedicated to establishing ecological connectivity in the whole territory of EUSALP which, however, demands strengthening of connections among people. We wish that this year's events that are to take place on the Slovenian coast will also contribute to improved cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations and experts and the public, also for the nature conservation purposes.*

Darij Krajčič, PhD

Director of the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation

***Izola** is a lively Mediterranean town known for its warmth, hospitality and modesty of its residents. One of the most important economic activities in Izola, as well as in other Istrian seaside towns today, is tourism. But Izola has a soul which derives from preserving an old fishing mentality and this is what distinguishes it from other nearby towns. Picturesque countryside with many valleys and long hills offers gourmet delights with a wonderful view on the Gulf of Trieste, Italian coast and Alps. Those viewpoints can be magical as well during winter.*

Izola is a multicultural town where Italian community and institutional bilingualism have a great effect on the territory and make us even more connected to our neighbour Italy. Beside Italians, people from other parts of Adriatic-Ionian, Alp and Danube region live in Izola. This is why our efforts for implementation of structures, such as Facility point for Adriatic-Ionian region, should be understood as an opportunity for integration and as a search of new mutual development opportunities that will assure new green and blue jobs and furthermore, new mutual projects for an even better enforcement of synergies in the region.

You are more than welcome to get to know our town with its Slovenian fishing and gourmet tradition.

Igor Kolenc, MSc

Mayor of the Municipality of Izola