

Joint PROTOCOL for Territorial Cross- Border Co-operation

Between:

- **A.R.P.A.V.** – **R**egional **A**gency for **E**nvironmental **P**revention and **P**rotection – which address is Via Matteotti, 27 – 35137 Padova (PD) Italy, Represented by its General Director, Mr. Andrea Drago, hereafter called ARPAV;

and

- **REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA SLAVONIJE I BARANJE d.o.o.**, which address is Stjepana Radica 4.31000 Osijek – Croatia, Represented by its Director, Mr. Stjepan Ribic, hereafter called RRASB;

- Hereafter jointly called the PARTS;

Considering

- That on the 28th, 29th and 30th January 2008, in Osijek (Croatia), a meeting was held between the representatives of A.R.P.A.V. and the representatives of REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA SLAVONIJE I BARANJE d.o.o., assisted by Consulmarc Sviluppo S.r.l., to assess the possibility to start joint activities of cross-border environmental co-operation;
- That the PARTS confirmed the actual existence of their intentions and their concrete interest to start an interregional co-operation, aiming at the joint implementation of projects for sustainable territorial development;
- That these projects will involve different both private and public subjects at regional and local level, in those sectors in which neighbourhood policies for cross-border territorial development should be more essentially enhanced;

After verifying

- That this aim is consistent with the European Union Policies for the achievement of Lisbon Strategy aims, with particular reference to the territorial dimension of the “cohesion policy” for the 2007-2013 period, and with the priority aims of the structural funds actions, such as “convergence”, “regional competitiveness and employment”, “territorial European Co-operation” officially approved by the European Parliament on the 4th July 2006;
- That, within this framework, the concept of “territorial partnership” is an objective to be aimed at, to achieve financial support for good practices which are highly likely to be duplicated on the European Territory, and for which the European Commission has planned financial support within the framework of “cross border co-operation, interregional co-operation and decentralised co-operation”;

After considering all that:

1) the PARTS with this PROTOCOL, express their aim to develop a shared co-operation and agree on the need to increase knowledge and well established best practices exchange concerning regional policies in the environment, balanced and sustainable economic development, also through the implementation of projects supported by community funds, through the creation of active public-private partnerships and through the mutual availability of know-how, specific professional technical and scientific skills and, if needed, specific training.

2) To this extent the PARTS agree to create a Technical Committee, represented by the heads of their internal staff technical and administrative departments, having the task to study and plan aims to be achieved and intermediate activities, to be developed to achieve the aim of this Protocol with particular reference to:

- a) Collection of information to identify common interests and the added value of a trans-regional action, on the basis of the priorities of the European programmes for the 2007-2013 period;

- b) Study of the needed and most favourable conditions to elaborate and effectively implement projects and/or other forms of mutual co-operation;
- c) Co-operation to define a programme of projects faisibility studies;
- d) Research of synergic partnerships, both public and private, to support the project implementation;
- e) Shared definition of the specifications and of the technical and scientific contents concerning projects to be implemented, with their economic and financial budgets and their supervisors;
- f) Joint definition of the co-ordination methodologies for the projects in the different phases of their presentation.

3) The PARTS agree on the definition of a meeting calendar, to be held at their headquarters or in other offices to be identified on purpose, for the monitoring and assessment of the developments in the co-operation.

4) The PARTS agree on the fact that the costs for the missions to start the activities mentioned in this Protocol will be respectively in charge of each of them. They agree as well on the fact that forms of agreement will be identified to define how economic benefits for co-operation actions will be distributed.

This act is written in two copies, in Italian, Croatian and English languages.

Osijek, 30 January 2008

Read , approved and signed.

A.R.P.A.V.
Agenzia Regionale per la Prevenzione
e Protezione Ambientale del Veneto

Avv. Andrea Drago

**REGIONALNA RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
SLAVONIJE I BARANJE d.o.o.**

Dr. Stjepan Ribic
