

**Subject: MIMOSA contributes to the improvement of cross-border connections between Italy and Croatia: presentation of main achievements in Venice**

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the University of Ca Foscari, MIMOSA project partner presented the main achievements related to the improvement of cross-border connections between Italy and Croatia as well as studies performed in the framework of the project to reduce the carbon footprint and incentive Intermodality.

Ana Sinkovic, CEI-ES, presented the MIMOSA project and how it contributes to the improvement of cross-border connections between Italy and Croatia. The case studies presented by Josip Dujmović, from the University of Rijeka – highlighted how *“railway and maritime transportation modes clearly have a lower carbon footprint impact than using road transportation by public or private means of transport”*. Best practices were illustrated also by Enzo Volponi, Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia regarding specific initiatives to support intermodal transport and maritime connections developed by the region.

Silvia Comiati from the Joint Secretariat of the Italy-Croatia Interreg Programme praised the main results achieved in the framework of the project and stressed the need for their capitalization to ensure that project results are used and transferred, giving also an insight of the new Programming 2021-2027. Promoting and encouraging synergies with maritime and multimodal transport projects and funds is at the heart of the new Programming priorities.

The second part of the event consisted in a round table discussion on the relevance of territorial cooperation programmes in solving cross-border problems.

Highlights of the discussion were that dialogue is the basis for cross-border cooperation to find ways to learn from each other and face the future challenges which will be more global, economically, environmentally and socially.

EU programmes in that sense are key to help to identify and build solutions at international level.

Aspects that need improvement in the future, are *“communication with the end user who is used to move in a fast-paced world”* according to Alessandro Morace from Liberty Lines. Unfortunately, most of the times passengers are just not aware of all the possibilities available. Moreover, *“mobility shouldn’t target only tourism but also serve the community to facilitate the life of citizen”* as stressed by Pier Paolo Pentucci, Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. Veljko Radić from the Croatian Ministry of

Regional Developments and EU fund also noted that digitalization is a key element that needs constant improvement: *“All the services should be accessible from our smartphones”*.

According to James Orlandi, Venice Port Authority, future challenges will require to have strong innovative capacities and a sustainable and energy friendly approach to the transport sector as well.

Stakeholders agreed that the next step is the creation of a solid network based on common interests beyond the MIMOSA project, which can be a strong and natural amplifier for cooperation, guaranteeing the continuous confrontation of stakeholders.

Looking ahead, Andrea Stocchetti from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice, said in his closing remarks, that *“visionary objectives with concrete steps on the way allow to move forward over time”*.

*MIMOSA project is funded under Interreg cross border Italy-Croatia Programme and aims at improving cross border connections between Italy and Croatia through sustainable and intermodal solutions, based on analysis and studies performed by the scientific partners. The CEI-ES coordinates the project activities and guides the consortium of 17 partners towards the common objective of a more sustainable and coordinated cross-border mobility.*