

# Fit4Co – Fit for cooperation

New paths for cross-border projects  
Project findings



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Fit for Cooperation

[www.fit4co.eu](http://www.fit4co.eu)

Texts by Simon Mariacher (elaborated in the framework of his Voluntary Service with Fit4Co made possible by the IVY Program of the E.U.) and Stefan Graziadei. Texts of the Fit4Co tandems by Maria Messner and EGTC Euregio Senza Confini team. Translation into the German language of the tandem descriptions of EGTC Euregio Senza Confini m.b.H. by Esther Horner.

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## Foreword of the Provincial Governors

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More than a century ago, the border area between Austria and Italy was one of the sites of World War I. Today, we view the Alpine region as a dynamic habitat and economic area straddling Europe's great cultural regions.

In order to intensify the cross-border cooperation between Italy and Austria, two European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) were set up in 2011 and 2012 – the European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol - Trentino and the Euregio Senza Confini (including the states of Carinthia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, and Veneto). On the basis of the European statutory regulations, it was possible for the first time for the regions to establish their cooperation on a legally firm foundation.

Starting in 2016, the project Fit for Cooperation – Fit4Co – was elaborated as the foundation for closer, project-oriented cooperation between the two EGTCs. On the basis of this first joint project of the two EGTC, the political and legal prerequisites for stronger cross-border cooperation were to be created and the institutional resources of public administration organizations strengthened.

As the current situation caused by Covid-19 has made clear to us, numerous different challenges and threats don't stop at national borders. In order to meet these challenges, we need strong cross-border cooperation between the regions. Fit4Co provides the prerequisites for this.

The goal of Fit4Co is to make our European regions more felt and impactful for citizens by means of joint projects. Projects range from improved protection of the populace against heavy rainfall and catastrophes to the creation of foundations for joint spatial planning along the Brenner axis and all the way up to improving tourist

options in the Interreg program area of Italy-Austria. But besides the projects themselves, we are also expanding sustainable networks between our administrative organizations which will prove advantageous in the future.

Thus, we view the “Fit for Cooperation” project as an investment in the future of all of the citizens of our six states. The Fit4Co Project Tandems are so to speak the pioneers for a new kind of cross-border cooperation. On the basis of this, we want to continue intensifying the cooperation between our Euregios – with the goal of assuming the role of a vanguard in helping the regions of Europe to grow together.

The provincial / regional governors of the Fit4Co regions are encouraged by the accomplishments already achieved and are confident that this joint pilot project will deliver long-term added value in the future.



From left to right  
**Maurizio Fugatti,**  
 Provincial Governor of Trentino  
**Günther Platter,**  
 Governor of Tyrol  
**Arno Kompatscher,**  
 Provincial Governor of South Tyrol



From left to right  
**Luca Zaia,**  
 Governor of the Region of Veneto  
**Massimiliano Fedriga,**  
 Governor of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia  
**Peter Kaiser,**  
 State Governor of Carinthia

## Fit4Co – An interim report

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*“Whoever wants to cooperate will find a way.  
Whoever doesn’t want to cooperate will find an excuse.”*

“Fit for Cooperation (Fit4Co)” is a unique program in two ways. Firstly, a systematic approach to developing cross-border projects in a multi-level government framework was developed. Secondly, it represents the first joint initiative of the two European regions at the Austrian-Italian border.

When it was launched in 2016, the proponents of “Fit4Co” were well aware that they were venturing into a new frontier with this cross-border project. That’s why the regional coordination units of the Italy-Austria INTERREG-Program were included in the development process from the very beginning. Their feedback formed an essential basis for elaborating the “Fit4Co” project.

The thorough groundwork done for “Fit4Co,” the commitment of policy-makers, and the stringent implementation by the project team were the main factors for the implementation of this program. On the basis of the communications and cooperation structures, it has been possible – even during the “lockdown” – to continue the work in the cooperation tandems and between the two Euroregions.

The goal of the “Fit4Co” program was to accompany a series of projects in the project planning phase. From the project idea all the way up to the finished project plan – which must be both ready and suitable for implementation.

We are very happy to be able to report that this five-phase process has been embraced and carried out by most of the tandems. For example, in the European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino, 18 project tandems were initiated to this one-year process at the kick-off meeting in Toblach (South Tyrol); and 14 tandems managed to reach the final stage, taking place in Stams Abbey in Tyrol on October 1, 2020.

In the Euregio Senza Confini, 12 project tandems were launched and will continue working on the development of their projects into the first half of 2021.

In the next phase, "Fit4Co" will focus on the evaluation of the experience gained by the project tandems and their project coaches in the one-year project planning phase, on the systematic identification of barriers in cross-border cooperation, and on accompanying those projects most suitable for implementation in the transition phase to project implementation.

With "Fit4Co," the cooperation between the two Euroregions as well as the cooperation of each Euroregion with local and regional entities has achieved a new quality. We would like to thank all of the project coordinators, project team members, and project coaches for their commitment and many exciting meetings. We would also like to wish all project tandems the greatest success in the implementation of their projects, and can firmly voice our assurance that our Euroregions will be available to handle any questions and provide support in this phase, too.

We are especially grateful to the INTERREG Councils of the CLLD regions of "Dolomiti live" and the Wipptal / Alta Valle Isarco, who have submitted their own projects for inclusion in Fit4Co. Together, we have thus attained a new level of successful cooperation in a multi-level governmental system in the Euroregion.

As Euroregions in the border area between Austria and Italy, we will continue to work together to overcome legal, political, and organizational barriers to cross-border cooperation.

**Matthias Fink**

*General Secretary of the EGTC European  
Region Tyrol – South Tyrol - Trentino  
Project lead "Fit for Cooperation (Fit4Co)"*

**Sandra Sodini**

*Director of the EGTC Euregio  
Senza Confini m.b.H.*

# 1. Project description of Fit4Co

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## 1.1. Fit4Co - The Euregio start-up package for project development

The Fit for Cooperation (Fit4Co) project is a joint project of two Euroregions: The European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino and the Euregio of Senza Confini (comprised of Carinthia, Veneto, and Friuli Venezia Giulia). It is the first project of two EGTCs in the Italy-Austria Interreg program area and one of the first joint projects of two EGTCs in Europe at all.

These two Euregios were formed in 2011 and 2012 as European Groupings for Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) for the purpose of deepening cross-border cooperation to promote governance in the multi-level system.

The goal of Fit4Co is to merge the administrative forms in the public area in the states/provinces of the participating Euroregions and, by means of concrete projects, to achieve their synthesis. Cross-border cooperation is exciting, but also difficult. Different languages, administrative cultures, and legal system represent barriers that make transfrontier projects challenging. To ensure their success, we need techniques and skills permitting transfrontier projects to be implemented in the interest of citizens. In the case of Fit4Co, the goal is to search for and promote commonalities in the complexity of the various different functional methods.

The central challenge is to promote the awareness of the public administrative organizations – the system partners for cross-border cooperation – and to accompany them during their first steps in cooperation projects. The common goal of Fit4Co is to support public administration organizations in project planning, which is the cornerstone of project management.





The Euregio Program supports administrative organizations, in the context of workshops, to elaborate transfrontier projects with the help of experts. This is done in the framework of cooperation tandems. A cooperation tandem is composed of two or more administrative partners from the program area (Tyrol, South Tyrol, Trentino, Carinthia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Salzburg), with at least one Austrian and one Italian partner. In summary, we can regard Fit4Co as a blacksmith for forging transfrontier projects.



*"With Fit4Co, we want to provide the prerequisites for turning cooperation tandems into experts of cross-border cooperation."*

*Matthias Fink, General Secretary of the European Region Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino*

## 1.2.

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### Preparation and foundations of the project

In order to obtain an overview of the existent positive examples of cross-border cooperation in the project area and to isolate the ingredients necessary for their success, a preparatory scientific study was commissioned to provide a starting-point for Fit4Co.

In doing this, the two Euregios decided at the kick-off event in Trieste which model projects for cross-border cooperation should serve as a starting-point for the EURAC study.

On this basis, researchers at EURAC's Institute for Minority Rights produced a high-quality "Analysis of success factors for cross-border cooperation."



Start of the Fit4Co Interreg project, with representatives of the INTERREG Italy program agency.

This analysis served as a design basis.

Additionally, a “Project Sketch – Descriptive Guideline for Elaborating and Designing Projects” was prepared. In essence, this represented a summary of all the steps necessary for the successful completion of a transfrontier project.

In the area of project structure and communication, the European Region commissioned the communications company clavis G.m.b.H. with the elaboration of feasible procedures for Fit4Co. This led not only to the communication strategy, but also the to the tandem system. These preparatory steps were necessary to provide this exciting project with the professional basis it needed.



Publication entitled “Analysis of success factors for cross-border cooperation.”

## 1.3.

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### **Encouraging participation: The Fit4Co communication campaign**

Especially in the case of pilot projects, communication is often revealed to be a big challenge. The awareness campaign which clavis developed targets three groups needed for success in the advertisement phase. These groups include potential participants, political representatives, and multipliers in leadership positions acting as independent communicators. The goal of this large-scale campaign was to motivate people to participate in Fit4Co.

The success yielded by advertising can thus be credited largely to the previous communication offensive. Prior to and during the advertisement phase, the Fit4Co team actively searched for ways to convey information to potential interested parties. Methods included official info days in the three capital cities of the Euroregions, an information campaign via a large-scale e-mail database, and advertising of the project via media coverage.

Likewise, a Fit4Co info day was conducted in Klagenfurt to stimulate interest in cooperation across EGTCs. Among the 18 approved cooperation tandems, two tandems plan trans-EGTC projects.

The selected tandems were invited to come to attend a two-day launch event in September of 2019 at the Euregio Cultural Center in Toblach / Dobbiaco.

The cooperation of the project partners resulted not only in the project attaining greater diversity; it also enabled different approaches to be used to achieve the same goal of promoting cross-border projects. The EGTC European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino pursued a “bottom-up” approach and chose not to limit the thematic areas. The EGTC Euregio Senza Confini laid down the topics together

with the stakeholders in the context of exchange meetings.

The awareness campaign's activities focused on the inclusion of organizational units in project tandems. Besides the aforementioned info event in Klagenfurt, Fit4Co info meetings were held in various different local administrations in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto. The awareness campaign was supplemented with the exchange of information by e-mail and direct conversations of the EGTC with interested administrative organizations. The EGTC was also active in the transboundary search for project partners for interested administrative organizations.



Preparing the campaign: From left to right: Boglarka Fenyvesi-Kiss, Fit4Co project lead Matthias Fink, Paolo Chiochetti, Astrid Kühn, Dietmar Eder, Georg Mackner, Elena Rado, Stefan Graziadei, and the then- Secretary General, Christoph von Ach.



The information event in the ceremonial hall of the Tyrolean "Landhaus" in Innsbruck in April of 2019, moderated by Euregio employee Karin Gschnitzer.



Fit4Co info event in Klagenfurt in May of 2019.

## 1.4.

### Project structure

The Fit4Co project works with the tandem system. The project proceeds in five phases through which the individual tandems progress.

The organizational entities in public administration are defined as the target group of Fit4Co. This includes specialized departments of the regions and states, municipal and community-level administrations, the administrative bodies of public institutions like universities or district governments, publicly-owned utilities, social partners, and government agencies (e.g., law enforcement).

Cooperation tandems find each other



#### Launch

Becoming acquainted, networking, and motivation

Information on the cooperation process, separation into workshop groups, presentation of project ideas with clarification of goals.

Network of regions

Sept. 2019  
2 days / CW 38

Continuous clarification and agreement within the individual partner organizations



#### Phase 1

Shaking hands

Cooperation tandems define their ideas more concretely on the basis of the project sketch and lay down further cooperation.

Concrete formulation of project sketch

Oct. 2019  
1 day / CW 43



#### Phase 2

Jointly developing and planning visions

Elaboration of goals, milestones, and project plan, project organization, communication paths, budgeting, etc.

Detail planning

Jan. 2020  
2 days / CW 5

For many partners, Fit4Co is their first cross-border cooperation project. Besides the great added value of the exchange, however, the partners must also reckon with new challenges, as well.

For this reason, the Fit4Co project assigns a coach to each tandem. This coach is responsible for structuring the progress of the project and giving it the necessary impetus. In this context, a market study was carried out and ten freelancers were selected from among the applicants in the area of project support and consulting. This system ensures that the partners receive the necessary professional support.

### Start of project implementation



#### Phase 3

**From the idea to the project**

Finalization of the project sketch and/or application, Clarification of budget, organization of further steps.

**Finalization**

March/April 2020  
0,5 day / CW 14



#### Conclusion

**Celebrate and launch**

Making the results visible, exchange, and celebrate successes.

**Cooperations between regions**

June 2020  
1 day / CW 24

## 1.4.

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The project coaches with the Fit4Co project lead Matthias Fink at the Fit4Co kick-off meeting: Back row: Susanne Delle Karth, Michael Bockhorni, Karin Lindner, Matthias Fink, Christoph Fuchsbrugger; mid row: Georg Senoner, Sonja Karbon, Annelies Pichler; front row: Micki Gruber, Liebgard Fuchs, Ilse Egger.



Teamwork: Euregio-General Secretary Matthias Fink and project coach Susanne Delle Karth talk in Alpbach with the Interreg contact partners Christian Stampfer (Regional Coordination Unit - RCU - Tyrol) and Gudrun Schick (RCU Salzburg) about possible funding channels for the UMIT-EU-RAC Tandem "Cross-border cooperation in civil protection in the Alpine Region."

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The coaches assume the function of process support: They are responsible, inter alia, for the structure and progress of the workshops. They determine the individual needs and requirements of the tandems and adapt the implementation of the workshop to the group's concrete needs. At the same time, they raise the group's awareness of the special role of cross-border cooperations and intercultural cooperation.

The coaches support the tandems, but the cooperation tandem itself is responsible for the project's overall progress and results. The tandem elaborates the project and acts as an interface to the participating administrative organizations. The roles and tasks are laid down in the tandem.



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The project coordinator is the motivating force behind the project and also the central contact person for the Fit4Co team.

The Fit4Co team provides the tandems with organizational support. The Fit4Co project managers Maria Messner and Stefan Graziadei prepare the tandem meetings with regards to organization and technical aspects (selecting the conference venue, arranging for language interpreters, determining the need for lodgings in the case of multi-day conferences, etc.). If external expertise is required, the Fit4Co team will provide it. In doing so, the Euregio makes use of internal resources (on the level of directors and staff) as well as of external experts. The Fit4Co team is the connecting link between the tandems, the Euroregion, and the Interreg Program.

This comprehensive support enables the tandems to focus on their concrete goals.

The five phases were deliberately designed as physical meetings. Especially at the beginning of the project, it is important that the partners have physical contact. The informal character of such meetings allows the participants to become acquainted with each other and gain trust within the tandem team.

The goal of the individual tandems is to elaborate a project sketch. During the Fit4Co process, the roles of the individual partners are clarified, the project's goals are defined, and the funding strategy is elaborated. At the conclusion, there should be a finished project plan or project application on the basis of which work can continue.

But the added value of the Fit4Co process is not restricted to the elaboration of the concrete project sketches. Rather, it is the basis for future cooperations and the creation of a sustainable transboundary network.

## 1.5 Fit4Co project plan

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### 1.5.1. Launching - Becoming acquainted, networks, and motivation

The first step of the Fit4Co process took place in September of 2019 at the Euregio Gustav Mahler Cultural Center in Toblach / Dobbiaco (South Tyrol). The partners met there for the first time in a two-day conference. In the corresponding workshops, they elaborated their project's first profile. The objective of this launch event was in particular to create a connection between the project partners in the respective tandems, to provide room for informal interactions, and to develop a common spirit. This created the important basis for trust right at the beginning of project elaboration.

The evening event was carried out in cooperation with the Dolomiti Live CLLD Region. It was based on the topic of "European Cooperation Day 2019" under the



The participants of the two EGTCs at the launch conference in Toblach / Dobbiaco in September of 2019.

motto of “Europe is for you.” The participants were thus able to acquire insight into the region’s activities and projects. The CLLD Regions have an important role with Fit4Co, too: as partners, in providing impetus, and in promoting cross-border cooperation on the local level.

Toblach / Dobbiaco is also where the first meeting of the potential tandems of the EGTC Euregio Senza Confini took place. The participants there were trained with regards to existent transfrontier projects, best practices, and strategic priorities of the EGTC. The goal was to define thematic areas and to bring the participants closer together so as to nourish an interest in cross-border projects.



Depicted are the three partners of the CLLD Dolomiti Live: Irmgard Hitthaler representing the Local Action Group (LAG/GAL) of the Pustertal Valley, Iolanda Da Deppo of the Local Action Group of Alto Bellunese, and Gina Streit for Regional Management of Eastern Tyrol.



Launch event of the EGTC Euregio Senza Confini in Toblach / Dobbiaco with representatives of public administration entities from Austria and Italy. Depicted is Andrea Ballarin, project consultant for the Euregio Senza Confini.

## 1.5

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### 1.5.2. 1st Phase: Shaking hands

The first phase had already been scheduled shortly after the launch event; this was to utilize the high motivation generated by the first meeting while it was still fresh. This time, however, the participants did not all come together for a general meeting; rather, each tandem worked independently on its project together with its respective coach.

The concrete findings of the kick-off were again discussed and the targeted vision more concretely formulated. To do this, the tandems work on their project

sketch and thus start their individual process. This included, e.g., the definition of stakeholders, possibly also the obtaining of expert opinions, and establishing the different roles of the partners.



The Brenner-Basis-Raum (b.b.r.) tandem during the first phase at the Cusanus Academy in Brixen / Bressanone. The directors of Spatial Planning for the State of Tyrol, Robert Ortner, and for South Tyrol, Frank Weber. Project coordinator Christian Drechsler and coach Karin Lindner are also depicted.

As always, the work steps to be completed by the next phase were also defined. That's because, between the phases, work and communications continued (largely via e-mail or by telephone).

## 1.5

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### 1.5.3. 2nd Phase: Development and planning of joint visions

In January of 2020, the second phase of the Fit4Co process was conducted at the Alpbach Congress Center. This village – known throughout Europe on account of the Alpbach European Forum – seemed like the optimal venue for bringing all of the project tandems together for the two-day halftime meeting. The tandems reported on their successes and the challenges they had to grapple with. In this context, it became clear that there were certain parallels between all of the tandems with respect to project development. This gave the project partners an improved perspective on cross-border cooperation and led to a sharing of the best practices that had been found.

At the same time, differences between the various different tandems became apparent. Some of the tandems had already begun work with a clearly structured



The participants of the Fit4Co halftime meeting in Alpbach in January of 2020.

goal, while others were able to concretize their intentions by means of sharing and discussing with the project partners and coaches. Those tandems that were already able to build upon a trusting relationship based on existent cooperation and whose composition remained unchanged displayed accelerated project development. Those two tandems which did not attend the midterm meeting in Alpbach chose to abandon, as a consequence, the Fit4Co path. It became apparent in Alpbach whether the Fit4Co form was the appropriate form for elaborating projects for project tandems.

In particular funding represents a big challenge for many project tandems. For this reason, the Fit4Co team procured several experts to present the various different options and funding channels to the project partners. Because of the transbound-



Presentation of the projects during the joint dinner at the Alpbach Congress Center. Depicted: Hubert Ungerer during the presentation of the project on the E5 long-distance hiking trail.





Martin Marek, of the EuroVienna consulting firm, explains in Alpbach the various different European funding channels.

dary nature of the projects, such European programs as INTERREG are of course of special interest.

In doing this, the second phase combined this training course on funding options with a deepening of the tandem cooperation. The halftime meeting also provided important informal moments between partners and between the different tandems. This boosted motivation and strengthened trust in the respective project partners. Now it would be the goal to convey this motivation into Fit4Co's third phase and the final dash.

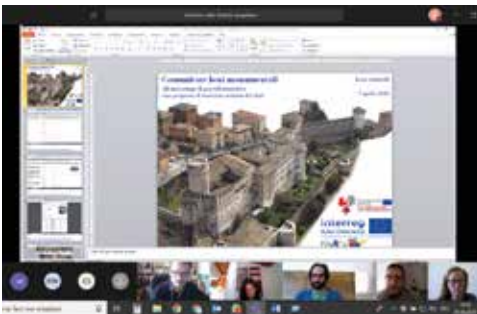
## 1.5

### 1.5.4. 3rd Phase: From the idea to the project

Between the second and third phases, the Corona virus brought society as a whole but also work activities in the area of Euroregions to a halt. Usual work processes ceased, and the work of the Euregio tandems also had to be suspended for a period of three months. This made it necessary to divide the third phase into two parts. The first part was carried out digitally, in the form of virtual conferences, while the second part took place largely on the basis of actual physical meetings.

This challenge of closed borders was solved by holding the first part of the third phase in the spring of 2020 in a new form. To do this, each tandem sought a new platform on which – despite all difficulties – it would be possible to continue working together on a joint project. In this context, the groups – together with their coaches and the Fit4Co team – quickly developed their own, practical solutions.

The tandems were able to work very productively and held video conferences to discuss the progress they had made, the challenges they faced, and the further steps that would have to be taken prior to project completion.



A digital workshop of the tandem on the Euregio Culture Portal (EureCHA), in which best-practice examples from other regions were presented.



A virtual workshop of the "Sproch-Inn. The story of a language" Fit4Co tandem project.



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This revised phase was characterized by both difficulties and new possibilities. The use of virtual conferencing meant that the advantages of the important informal communications of physical meetings were lost – but at the same time, it reduced bureaucratic red-tape with respect to travel and personnel costs. Furthermore, the digital format proved to be very efficient time-saving tool.

All in all, this new form showed itself to be an interesting option. Simultaneously, in the course of the online workshops, it was also evident that physical meetings are essential for project success. Communication in digital space enabled the tandems to acquaint themselves with new, flexible options for cross-border cooperation.

In the summer months, the groups therefore met one more time to conclude the third phase. During these meetings, the last touches were put on the projects to prepare for the final event, taking place at Stams Abbey.



The first physical workshop was conducted right after the border was re-opened on June 17, 2020. Here, Gernot Memmer, director of Kohl and Partner Destination Management, presents ways the Via Claudia Augusta could be made fit for the future.

## 2. Fit4Co Project extension: Joining forces to overcome cross-border obstacles

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In early August of 2020, the administrative entity in charge of the Interreg-Italy program approved a prolongation of the Fit4Co project till the end of June of 2021. In the extended phase, selected tandems continue receiving support from Fit4Co in implementing their projects. Furthermore, a scientific study will be carried out in both EGTCs for the purpose of analyzing the competences of the Euregio regions with respect to legislative possibilities with a view towards eliminating cross-border obstacles.

After project conclusion, feedback from the participants and the coaches will be collected and analyzed together with experts in the framework of a workshop. The goal of this is to identify barriers to cross-border cooperation and to develop possible solutions and proposals to overcome them.

Fit4Co's objective is to overcome barriers of all kinds. The cooperation tandems represent an attempt to overcome borders from below, on the basis of concrete joint projects. In contrast, the study on legislative competences and the workshop on cross-border obstacles are intended to fulfill the prerequisites for eliminating barriers from above; in this way, it should be possible to fully exploit the potential of cross-border cooperation.

The project is intended to finish where it began. After the kick-off meeting in Trieste, in early summer of 2021, a Fit4Co closing event is to be held in this port city with a unique role in connecting Austria and Italy. This closing event will simultaneously serve as a starting signal for more-intensive cooperation between the two Euregios.



The Fit4Co project team of the two EGTCs at a partner conference in Trieste – here at a viewing of the Miramare Castle.

### 3. Making the project and its added value more visible

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Fit4Co offers an innovative approach for cross-border project management and was therefore presented to other European partners as a best-practice project. In early 2019, the Euregio governors Arno Kompatscher (in office as EGTC-president until October of 2019) and Peter Kaiser appealed to Karlheinz Lambertz, (then) president of the Committee of Regions (CoR), for permission to present the project at the EGTC platform meeting in Palma. Secretary General Matthias Fink reported to representatives of the CoR, of the E.U. Commission, and of the other regions about the Fit4Co approach and the initial results of the project groups.

One year later – after conclusion of the work in the project groups – Fit4Co’s findings were presented at the European Week of Regions and Cities in the framework of the “EGTCs boosting Cross-Border Cooperation” workshop. On October 13, 2020, the governors Fugatti, Kompatscher, Kaiser, and Barbara Zilli, regional minister of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region in charge of European programs, elucidated the political potential of enhanced cooperation in and between the two EGTCs. During the subsequent discussion session between EGTC Euregio Senza Confini director Sandra Sodini and Matthias Fink (General Secretary of the European Region Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino) the importance of Fit4Co for increased cross-border cooperation in the program area stood in the foreground.

Because of the significance of Fit4Co for cross-border cooperation in Europe, it was possible to gain the Committee of Regions as a joint partner for the event.

Intense PR work was also conducted in the Euroregion. Local media and TV journals have reported on the Fit4Co program and its individual projects. The private television network TirolTV was assigned the task of making short videos to inform the citizens about the work of the individual tandems. The project website was desig-



Fit4Co project lead and EGTC General Secretary Matthias Fink with CoR Vice President Markku Markkula at the EGTC platform meeting in Palma in September of 2019 where Fit4Co was presented (shown holding Eurac brochures).



From left to right: At the 2017 Open Days in Brussels: Governor P. Kaiser (Carinthia), Governor G. Platter (Tyrol), and Governor A. Kompatscher (South Tyrol). ©Hans Westerling

TirolTV reports on a hike undertaken by the Ragnar Fit4Co tandem, in which the Ragnar risk management tool was presented to agencies responsible for the maintenance of trails.

ned as a portal so that it is possible to access all the information, videos, and news about the program and the cooperation tandems with just a click: [www.fit4co.eu](http://www.fit4co.eu)

## 4. Introduction of the Fit4Co Tandem of the European Region Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino

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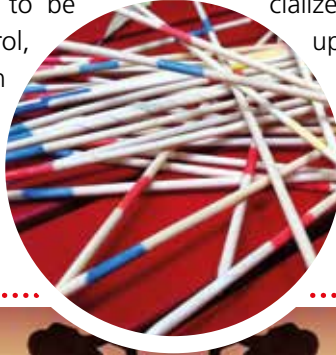
**With Fit4Co, institutional cooperation was shaped in the following areas:**

1. **Risk prevention and civil protection**
  - Cross-border cooperation in civil protection in the Alpine Region
  - Precipitation radar
  - R.A.G.N.A.R.
2. **Community partnerships**
  - The Prägraten-Prettau community partnership
3. **New concepts and services to enhance the profile of cooperation between administrative entities**
  - Personnel development
4. **Tourism development in the Alpine Region**
  - The E5 Long-distance hiking trail
  - Europe Hut
  - Via Claudia Augusta
5. **Cultural heritage in the Euroregion**
  - EureCHA Euregio Cultural Heritage Archive
  - Sproch-Inn
6. **Migration**
  - Zwischen.Kommunikation (Communication)
7. **Environmental protection / sustainability**
  - Clean air
8. **Regional planning**
  - b.b.r. brenner.basis.raum
9. **Health / Senior care**
  - Communities caring for senior citizens

# Cross-border cooperation in civil protection in the Alpine Region

The goal of this project is to strengthen the effectiveness of cross-border civil protection by providing a university-level educational program to be offered in northern Tyrol, eastern Tyrol, and South Tyrol. Social, economic, and institutional as well

as infrastructural conditions have a big impact on civil protection and necessitate the imparting of basic and specialized knowledge (depending upon the kind of disaster) combined with the need for cross-border cooperation in the Alpine Region.





**“Catastrophes don’t stop at political boundaries.  
Close cooperation a cross borders is thus indispensable  
and vital in dealing with disasters.”**

*Margit Raich*



From left to right: M. Fink (European Region Tyrol - South Tyrol - Trentino), M. Raich (UMIT Tyrol), J. Bernhart (EURAC Research), S. Delle Karth (Coach)

• **Project lead:**

Margit Raich, UMIT – Tyrolean private university (Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Susanne Delle Karth

**Project partners:**

1. UMIT – UMIT Tyrolean private university (Tyrol)
2. EURAC Research (South Tyrol)

**Results**

- Finalization of the project application, including the analysis of needs and acceptance for a university-level continuing education program entitled “Cross-border cooperation in civil protection in the Alpine Region.”

**Challenges**

- Identification of relevant themes in cross-border cooperation
- Agreeing to different basic conditions
- Definition of target groups



- Evaluation of funding possibilities
- Definition of contents

## Perspectives

- The detail design of the pilot course will be based on the analysis of needs and acceptance
- Determination of detailed contents (curriculum) and form of learning environment
- Preparation for possible accreditation

### Profile

Cross-border cooperation  
in civil protection in the  
Alpine Region

- **Partners:** 2
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** large
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (german)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# Precipitation radar

The precipitation radar coverage in parts of Tyrol, South Tyrol, and the state of Vorarlberg is insufficient. As a consequence, heavy precipitation events, incl. unusual weather phenomena expected to increase in frequency due to climate change, cannot be properly observed. This project builds

on broad political support, e.g., the Resolution on the establishment of a Euregio radar network passed by the 2019

joint meeting of regional assemblies of Euregio territories.

In the framework of Fit4Co, the project "RaDoLive" was elaborated and approved for financing by the CLLD Dolomiti Live.

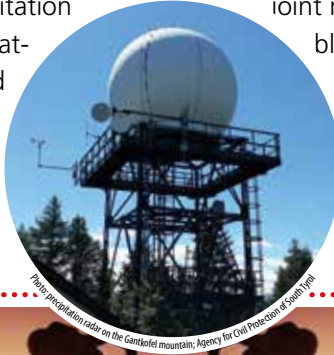


Photo: precipitation radar on the Gantkofel mountain, Agency for Civil Protection of South Tyrol



**”In our area of activities, cross-border cooperation is of immense importance. The weather doesn’t care about administrative boundaries.“**

*Marcel Innerkofler*



From left to right: **G. Streit** (Regional Management of eastern Tyrol), **I. Hitthaler** (Local Action Group Pustertal Valley), **S. Delle Karth** (Project coach), **M. Bauer** (Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics ZAMG), **M. Innerkofler** (Project coordinator, Dept. of Civil and Disaster Protection), **G. Geier** (Agency for Meteorology and Avalanche Warning)

**• Project lead:**

Marcel Innerkofler, ZivKat (Tirol)

**• Coach:**

Susanne Delle Karth

**Project partners:**

- 1.** Dept. For Civil and Disaster Protection (Tyrol)
- 2.** Agency for Civil Protection (South Tyrol)
- 3.** Central Institute for Meteorology and Geodynamics ZAMG (Tyrol)

**Results**

Project application for “Dolomiti Live” was elaborated and submitted under the title “RaDoLive” with the following project contents:

- Evaluation of ten possible sites for precipitation radar stations
- Selection and detail analysis of two of the sites with the best evaluation
- Cost-estimate for these two sites (construction, procurement, and operation)
- Preparation of a draft contract for construction, procurement, and operation

## Challenges

- Reaching agreement (in view of different basic conditions of the various regions and partners)

## Perspectives

- The RaDoLive project fits into the strategies of the Euregio project area and will be conducted in the framework of Interreg V-A (CLLD Dolomiti Live).
- On the basis of the result of the RaDo-Live project, it will then be possible to conduct a tendering process, procurement, construction, and operation of the precipitation radar station.

### Profile

Cross-border cooperation  
in civil protection in the  
Alpine Region

- **Partners:** 3
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (german)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# R.A.G.N.A.R.

## Tools for analyzing the risk of natural hazards on alpine paths

Long-distance hiking in the Alpine region is booming. Rockslides don't care about administrative boundaries. Entities responsible for watching over and maintaining footpaths are thus faced with major challenges – especially in view of Climate Change.. RAGNAR is a low-threshold and practical tool for

evaluating risks on alpine pathways. It offers a reliable basis for decision-making to determine if and what measures must be taken.



In the context of Fit4Co, this analytical tool is under discussion as a possible uniform approach for use within this Euregio.



“R.A.G.N.A.R is an analytical tool for evaluating the risks of natural hazards on mountain trails. It is also intended to combat the inflationary posting of warning signs. Trails will be closed down if the risk is no longer acceptable. The hikers’ responsibility for his own welfare is emphasized.” *Günther Zimmermann*



From left to right: **K. Pietersteiner** (Office for Landscape Services), **G. Zimmermann** (Project lead; Office for Landscape Services), **F. Larentis** (SAT), **L. Fuchs** (Project coach), **L. Biasi** (SAT), **A. Bertò** (Tourism and Sport Services – Office for Technical Measures in the Area of Alpine and Thermal Heritage)

#### • Project lead:

Günther Zimmermann &  
Klaus Pietersteiner,  
Dept. for Forest Protection (Tyrol)

#### • Coach:

Liebgard Fuchs

#### Project partners:

1. Dept. for Forest Protection,  
Office for Landscape Service (Tyrol)
2. Tourism and Sport Services -  
Office for Technical Measures in the  
Area of Alpine and Thermal Heritage  
(Trentino)

#### Mitglieder Arbeitsgruppe:

1. Forestry Service of South Tyrol (South Tyrol)
2. ÖAV – Austrian Tourism Association (Tyrol)
3. AVS – Alpine Association of South Tyrol (South Tyrol)
4. SAT – Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini (Trentino)

## Results

- RAGNAR was presented to the numerous people in positions of authority in the area of alpine trails as a low-threshold risk management tool.
- A broad discussion about an individual's responsibility for himself in the area of hiking and mountain-climbing was initiated.
- Publications in professional journals stimulated media interest.
- The awareness of persons in the justice branch for the problems faced by trail management agencies was enhanced.
- Commitment to further cooperation in the form of a Euregio project.

## Challenges

- The differing (legal) basic conditions in the various states and provinces.
- Language barrier.

## Perspectives

- R.A.G.N.A.R. as a Euregio project
- Continued exchange of experience among the project partners
- Expansion of the focus to include the topic of "personal responsibility" among hikers and mountaineers.

## Profile

### R.A.G.N.A.R

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 2                  |
| • Already acquainted:                  | no                 |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no                 |
| • Project size (budget):               | small              |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 2 (german/italian) |
| • Working language:                    | 2 (german/italian) |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                |

# Twinning of Prägraten-Pretttau

The project of the communities of Prägraten and Pretttau aims to pursue new approaches in the area of cross-border cooperation on the community level. The tandem plans to refurbish old mountain trails like the "High Tauern Trail" and to possibly connect it to other hiking

trails. This creates significant added value for the local populace and is at the same time a new offer for European tourism networks. Furthermore, concrete projects of the respective local associations and the populace are invited to share their experience.



Photo: High Tauern Trail





**“Our goal is to bring people together and to show life in cross-border communities. What better way than with a hiking trail connecting our communities?”**

*Robert Alexander Steger*



From left to right: **R. Steger** (Mayor of the the municipality of Prettau), **M. Bockhorni** (Project coach), **A. Steiner** (Mayor of the municipality of Prägraten)

• **Project lead:**

Robert Alexander Steger,  
Mayor of the municipality of Prettau  
(South Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Michael Bockhorni

**Project partners:**

1. Municipality of Prettau (South Tyrol)
2. Municipality of Prägraten (Tyrol)

**Results**

- The “High Tauern Trail” project was successfully submitted to “Dolomiti.Live” (Interreg)
- Increased contact between the clubs and associations of the two communities
- Successful inclusion of the tourism agencies

## Challenges

- Definition of project goals
- Coordination and agreement in a timely manner of joint tasks

## Perspectives

- Further contact between the clubs and associations
- The populaces of the two communities are growing together
- Implementation of the "High Tauern Trail"

## Profile

### Partnership of the communities of Prägraten - Prettau

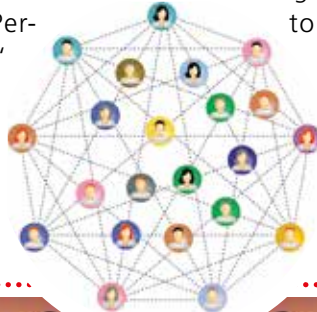
- Partners: 2
- Already acquainted: yes
- Previous experience (project): yes
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 1 (german)
- Working language: 1 (german)
- Project implementation: yes

# Personnel development

Cross-border cooperation on the institutional level relies heavily upon a cooperation between the respective administrative entities. For this reason, the “Personnel development” project creates spaces for exchange and networking. This includes joint training initiatives, internship, “work

shadowing,” and the sharing of effective administrative methods.

The goal of all these efforts is to create a Euregio administrative culture based on the sharing of experience, as well as the mutual acquisition of competency and gaining knowledge.



**“Competent, committed, healthy, and efficient coworkers are important factors for success in public administrations and for the quality of services provided to citizens. Cross-border cooperation, the sharing of experience, and good administrative practices enable us to tap energies, to learn, and to promote development and innovation.”**

*Günter Sölva*



From left to right: **L. Pezzato** (tsm – Trentino School of Management), **B. Wengler** (Internal Auditing Section), **Margit Laimer** (Personnel Development Agency), **P. Borz** (tsm – Trentino School of Management), **G. Sölva** (Personnel Development Agency), not depicted: **S. Allegretti** (Personnel Development and Organization Agency)

• **Project lead:**

Günter Sölva,  
Personnel Development Agency  
(Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano)

• **Coach:**

Ilse Egger

**Project partners:**

1. Personnel Development Agency  
(Autonomous Province of  
Bozen/Bolzano)
2. Internal Auditing Section (State of Tyrol)
3. Personnel Development and  
Organization Agency  
(Autonomous Province of Trentino)
4. tsm-Trentino School of Management  
(Trentino)

## Results

- Fortifying the transboundary network
- Sharing experience by participating in management conferences in the Euregio area
- Evaluation of Euregio Master has been initiated
- Additional joint personnel development initiatives are planned, e.g., work-shadowing in administrations, study trips in Brussels, network conferences on personnel development

## Challenges

- Differing basic conditions and administrative structures
- Overcoming language barriers

## Perspectives

- By means of the Fit4Co project, the project partners were able to sustainably strengthen and expand their cooperation. The planned joint initiatives will be implemented in the framework of institutional activities of the responsible agencies for personnel development in the three provincial administrations with the goal of attaining continuous exchange and really “living” Euregio administrative culture.

## Profile

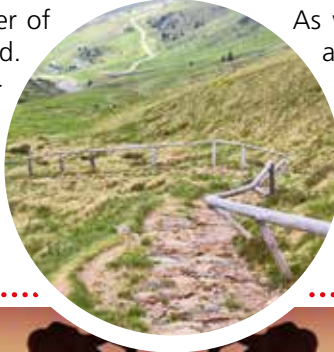
### Personnel development

- **Partners:** 4
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** small
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (german/italian)
- **Working language:** 2 (german/italian)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# E5 long-distance hiking trail

The E5 is one of twelve European long-distance hiking trails and was inaugurated in 1972. While the segment from Oberstdorf to Meran/Merano is very well known, the remainder of the trail is only seldom used. The Fit4Co-project tandem targets the revitalization and upgrading of this long-distance hiking trail. The focus is on, e.g.

measures to improve and maintain the trail, the creation and installation of panorama boards, and other signage elements and panoramic panels. As well, innovative marketing and advertising measures are under consideration to boost the trail's popularity, particularly on its Southern segment.



**“As Confucius said: The journey is the reward. This is especially true of crossing the Alps. That’s because the goal isn’t Venice – but rather all the beautiful views, the lonely valleys, and the rustic huts in the Alps along the way.”** *Hubert Ungerer*



From left to right: **J. Mair** (Local Action Group Sarn Valley Alps), **M. Kohler** (Tourist Assoc. Lech Valley), **L. Fuchs** (Coach), **T. Neuner** (Tourist Assoc. Pitz Valley), **N. Reichhold** (external consulting), **P. Rizzoli** (Local Action Group Trentino Centrale), **H. Ungerer** (project coordinator), **D. Nöckler** (Tyrol West Vacation Region), **G. Mussnig** (external consulting), **S. Endrizzi**, **R. Lazzeri** (Municipality of Salurn / Salorno), **M. Bassetto** (Local Action Group Trentino Orientale), **G. Stocchetti** (Local Action Group Val di Sole)

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• **Project lead:**

Hubert Ungerer,  
Local Action Group South Tyrol  
Border Area (South Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Liebgard Fuchs

**Project partners:**

1. Local Action Group South Tyrol Border Area (South Tyrol)
  2. Tyrol West Vacation Region (Tyrol)
  3. Local Action Group Sarn Valley Alps (South Tyrol)
  4. Tourist Assoc. Pitz Valley (Tyrol)
  5. Local Action Group Trentino Centrale (Trentino)
  6. Local Action Group Trentino Orientale (Trentino)
  7. Municipality of Salurn / Salorno (South Tyrol)
  8. Tourist Assoc. Lech Valley (Tyrol)
  9. IDM South Tyrol (South Tyrol)
-

## Results

- Cross-border network
- Joint concept on revitalizing the long-distance hiking trail

## Challenges

- Finding a common denominator
- Clear definition of goal
- Delineation from other projects

## Perspectives

- Search for appropriate funding channels
- Implementation of the project within the coming five years
- Stabilization and fortification of the networks

### Profile

#### The E5 Long-distance hiking trail

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 9                  |
| • Already acquainted:                  | no                 |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no                 |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium             |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 2 (german/italian) |
| • Working language:                    | 1 (german)         |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                |



# Europe Hut

The "Landshut" Europe Hut represents a special symbol of cross-border cooperation between Italy and Austria in a united Europe. For 100 years, the national border between these two countries has passed right through this hut.

Since 1989, the hut has been jointly managed by the DAV Section Landshut and the CAI Vipiteno.



Photo: Italian Alpine Club (CAI) - Vipiteno section

The differing administrative structures and government requirements as well as the thawing of the permafrost due to climate change have led to various challenges. In the framework of the Fit4Co tandem, and with the participation of relevant decision-makers, the goal is to find solutions to these challenges.



“With this project, we intend to lay the cornerstone for making the Europe Hut a sustainable meeting place for the coming hundred years.“

Sabine Richter



From left to right: S. Gufler (Pfitsch/Val di Vizze), Ch. v. Ach (Euregio), A. Zanella and A. Barbari (CAI Vipiteno), S. Richter (Regional management of the Wipptal), M. Fink (Euregio), B. Tsochner and G. Grösch (DAV Landshut), H. Gassebner (Interreg Council of the Wipptal), Ch. Fuchsbrugger (Coach)

• **Project lead:**

Sabine Richter,  
Regionalmanagement of the Wipptal (Tirol)

• **Coach:**

Christoph Fuchsbrugger

• **Mediation of political decision-makers:**

Christoph von Ach – European Region  
Tyrol – South Tyrol – Trentino

**Project partners:**

- Regional management Wipptal (Tyrol)
- Municipality of Pfitsch / Val di Vizze (South Tyrol)
- German Alpine Assoc., Landshut Section (Germany)
- C.A.I. Vipiteno Section (South Tyrol)
- Interreg Council of Wipptal / Alta Valle Isarco (Tyrol, South Tyrol)
- GRW Wipptal / Alta Valle Isarco (South Tyrol)

**Results**

- Clarification and regulation of property rights
- Formation of a network of involved parties
- Formation of a transboundary foundation
- Decision to construct a building to replace the original hut

## Challenges

- Reaching agreement among different organizations and coming to terms with different basic conditions in the various countries.

## Perspectives

- Formation of a transboundary foundation
- Additional contact with local, regional, and national level
- Initiation of the construction of a replacement building
- New alignment of European cooperation at 2,700 meters above sea-level

## Profile

### Europe Hut

- **Partners:** 6
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** large
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (german/italian)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# Via Claudia Augusta

The Via Claudia Augusta connects the Danube and the Adriatic Sea / the Po plains and is thus by its very nature a European project. The potential of this ancient Roman road must be better exploited. The cooperation tandem aims to bring together cultural, historic, and touristic aspects defining

the road. New synergies will be promoted. It also plans to establish itself as a coordination point for future joint products of this sector and to strengthen communication between the partners. Only upon this broad basis can the Via Claudia Augusta be further developed.



Photo: Via Claudia Augusta Transnational



**“This European connection axis offers a unique opportunity to showcase the special characteristics and identities of those countries through which it passes. Our cooperation tandem intends to now to deliver on this potential.”**

*Cristoph Tschaikner*



From left to right: U. Pfeifhofer and K. Unterthurner (IDM), M. Fink (Euregio), M. Hahn (Roman Museum of Augsburg), C. Tschaikner (Via Claudia Augusta Transnational), C. Fuchsbrugger (Coach)

**• Project leads:**

Ronald Petrini, Tourist Assoc. of the Reutte Nature Park Region, and Christoph Tschaikner, Via Claudia Augusta Transnational

**• Coach:**

Christoph Fuchsbrugger

**Project partners:**

1. Tourist Assoc. of the Reutte Nature Park Region (Tyrol)
2. Via Claudia Augusta Transnational (Germany)
3. IDM (South Tyrol)
4. Roman Museum – City of Augsburg (Bavaria)
5. Burgenwelt Ehrenberg (Tyrol)

**Results**

- Bringing joint model into better focus
- Agreement on path to goal
- Optimizing organizational structures

## Challenges

- Inclusion of all important stakeholders
- Sufficient resources

## Perspectives

- Continued work on joint project
- Gain involvement of stakeholders for entire process
- Jointly developing resources

## Profile

Via Claudia Augusta

- Partners: 5
- Already acquainted: yes
- Previous experience (project): yes
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 2 (german/italian)
- Working language: 1 (german)
- Project implementation: yes

# EureCHA Euregio Cultural Heritage Archive

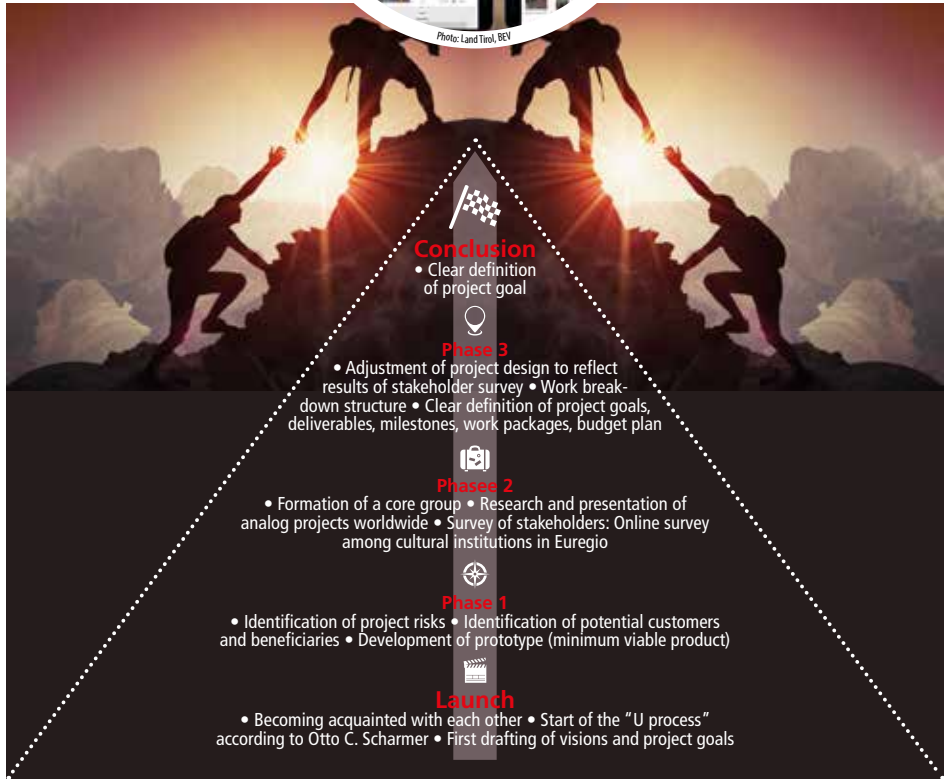
## Project for creating transboundary participatory platform for digitalized cultural heritage

EureCHA is an online portal and an application to provide the public and interested citizens access to the digitalized archives of the most-important cultural institutions (e.g., monument protection agencies, museums, libraries) in the Euregio. The innovative thing about EureCHA is the option of im-

plementing crowd-sourcing campaigns in order to promote citizen participation. Further, users will be given the opportunity to interact creatively with the collections and add to them. In this way, cultural institutions and citizens can come together to create a great cultural heritage portal.



Photo: Land Tirol, BVL





**“The EureCHA project exploits the potential harbored by digitalization and crowd-sourcing to make the traditional archives fit for the future and accessible to all citizens.”** *Emanuel Valentin*



From left, clockwise: **G. Preschern** (Cultural Activities Service Trentino), **N. Paulus** and **B. Barzaghi** (Superintendent for Cultural Affairs Trentino), **A. Basso** (UNIBZ), **E. Piva** (Cultural Activities Service Trentino), **E. Valentin** (Ladin Educational and Cultural Directorate), **W. Kofler Engl** (Free University of Bozen / Bolzano), **L. Gabrielli** (Superintendence for Cultural Affairs Trentino), **A. Brodsky** (University of Trento), **M. Toss** (Foundation of History Museums of Trentino), **J. Andresen** (Dr. F. Teßmann Provincial Library), **A. Luigini** (UNIBZ), **G. Senoner** (Coach)

• **Project lead:**

Emanuel Valentin, Ladin Educational and Cultural Directorate (South Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Georg Senoner

**Project partners:**

**South Tyrol**

1. Ladin Educational and Cultural Directorate
2. Dr. F. Teßmann Prov. Library (Dept. of German Culture)
3. Prov. Museums
4. Faculty for Educational Studies and Platform for Cultural Heritage and Cultural Production (Free University of Bozen / Bolzano)

**Tyrol**

5. Ferdinandeum Library (Tyrolean State Museums)
6. Institute for Historical Studies and European Ethnology (University of Innsbruck)

**Trentino**

7. Service for Cultural Activities and Provincial Monument Protection Agency (Dept. for Education and Culture)
8. Foundation for Historical Museums of Trentino
9. Department for Sociology and Social Research (University of Trento)
10. Center for Information and Communication Technology (Bruno Kessler Foundation)



## Results

- Inclusion of important stakeholders in area of cultural heritage with online survey
- Presentation on best-practice examples worldwide

## Challenges

- Weighing ideas in the project concept stage
- Project tandem with numerous partners
- Expansion on existent structures

## Perspectives

- Submission of project to funding channels
- Further cooperation between project partners
- Expansion of transboundary network

## Profile

### EureCHA

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 10                       |
| • Already acquainted:                  | partially                |
| • Previous experience (project):       | partially                |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium                   |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 3 (german/italian/ladin) |
| • Working language:                    | 2 (german/italian)       |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                      |

# SPROCH-INN

## The story of a language

58

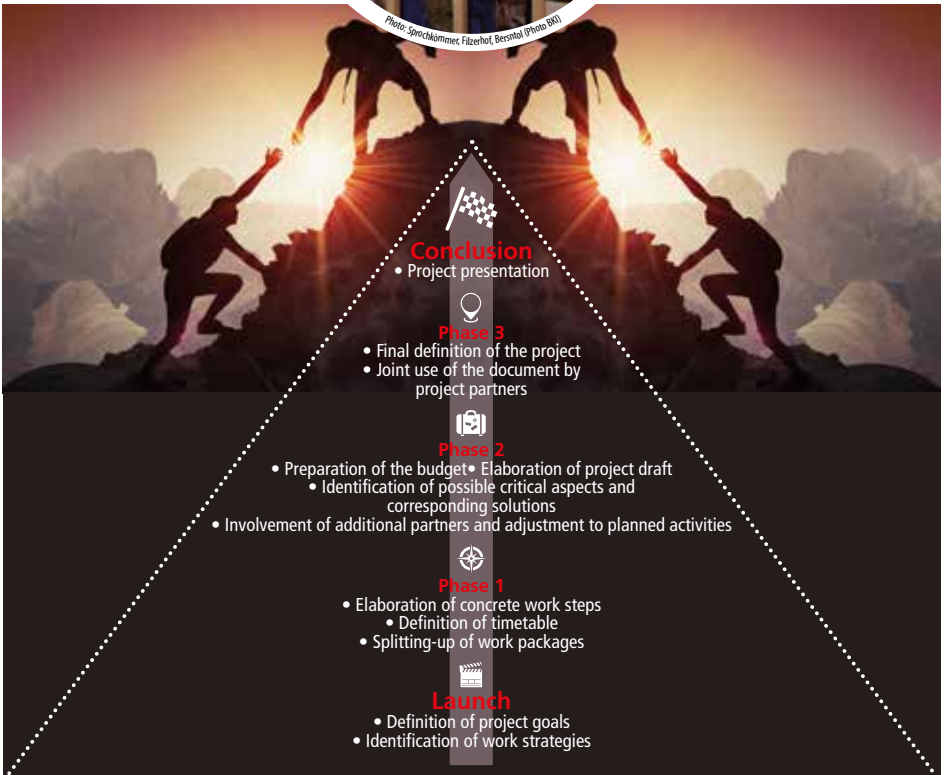
The Bersntol language group in Trentino share many characteristics with the Tyrolean populace. But there are a number of distinguishing elements that have formed during its development over the centuries.

The goal of this project is to identify and analyze these distinct characteristics so as to be able to describe them in detail.

We wish in particular to promote and disseminate knowledge about them.



Photo: Sprachkammer, Filzerhof, Bersntol (Photo: SRO)



**”In the Euregio of Tyrol, the ability to speak multiple different languages is especially prevalent south of the Brenner Pass and is taken for granted there.“**

*Claudia Marchesoni*



From left to right: **G. Senoner** (Coach), **A. Engl** (Tyrolean Folk Art Museum), **C. Marchesoni** (Bersntol Cultural Institute), **L. Toller** (Bersntol Cultural Institute)

• **Project lead:**

Claudia Marchesoni,  
Bersntol Cultural Institute (Trentino)

• **Coach:**

Georg Senoner

**Project partners:**

1. Bersntol Cultural Institute (Trentino)
2. Tyrolean Folk Art Museum (Tyrol)
3. Eurac Research (South Tyrol)

**Results**

- Demonstration of different linguistic levels: Bersntol dialect, Italian, German, Trentino dialect, and individual variations
- Examination of languages and dialects
- Common roots in the Euregio

**Challenges**

- Definition of concrete goals

## Perspectives

- Video interviews in the Bersntol dialect
- Exhibition at the Tyrolean Folk Art Museum
- Festival [title still undecided] in the Bersn Valley
- Series of events at the Tyrolean Folk Art Museum
- Events in Bozen / Bolzano
- Workshops in South Tyrolean schools

## Profile

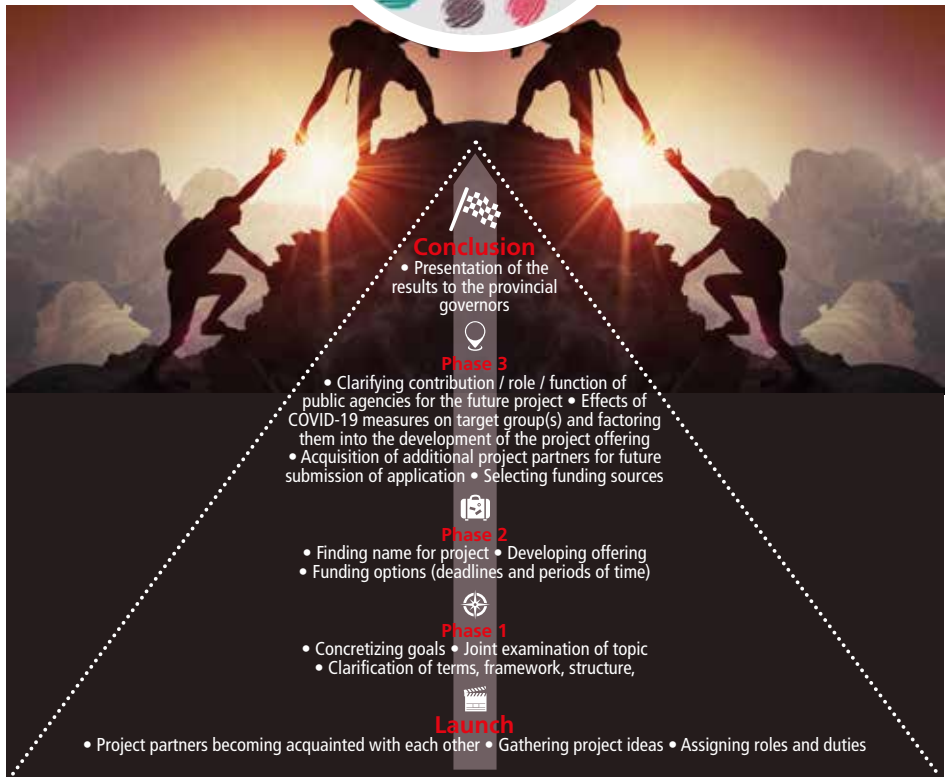
### SPROCH-INN

- **Partners:** 3
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** small
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (german)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# Zwischen.Kommunikation

This project focuses on communication between women with a migration background and public agencies. It enables the women to identify the correct agencies to which they should address their issues. Further, together with public institutions,

its goal is to work together with public agencies to develop new forms and channels of communication in order to reach this target group. The tandem will thus enhance communication and the relationship between these two groups.



**“A crisis gives one time to re-order one’s assumptions.  
It is important to not simply lean back and lapse  
into lethargy. One must never stop working.”**

*Julia Kuppelwieser*



From left to right: **A. Desnica** (State of Tyrol, Dept. of Society and Labor), **M. Andreatta** (BZG Burggrafenamt), **S. Karbon** (Coach), **K. Ortner** (Women of All Countries), **S. Ortner** (Women of All Countries), **J. Kuppelwieser** (“Spirit” Social Cooperative), **J. Gstir** (State of Tyrol, Dept. of Society and Labor)

• **Project lead:**

Margret Andreatta,  
District Community of Burggrafenamt /  
Burggraviato (South Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Sonja Karbon

**Project partners:**

1. District Community of Burggrafenamt / Burggraviato (South Tyrol)
2. State of Tyrol, Dept. of Society and Labor – Integration Section (Tyrol)
3. “Spirit” Social Cooperative (South Tyrol)
4. Assoc. “Women of All Countries” (Tyrol)

## Results

- Project name is "Zwischen.Kommunikation"
- Network of public agencies with relevant private associations
- Elaboration of a concept for a subsequent project

## Challenges

- COVID19
- Differing structures of the two countries (comparability)
- Delay in submitting Interreg applications till 2022

## Perspectives

- "Right" choice of funding possibilities
- Continued cooperation and submission of projectg

## Profile

### Zwischen.Kommunikation

- **Partners:** 4
- **Already acquainted:** yes
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** small
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (german)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# Clean air

A transnational work group is to be set up on the topic of "air." It will focus on air pollution along the Inn Valley and Brenner highways, with the goal of developing regional measures. In doing so, the work group does not pursue any particular political objectives. Rather, the committee should be politically independent. The joint goal is to motivate and initiate

sustainable measures to ameliorate the situation on the regional level. To achieve this goal, an empirical study on the causal factors and large-scale effects of air pollution is to be commissioned. The causal chain between emissions and immissions are to be combined with existent findings in order to identify gaps which can serve as a basis for further measures.





“Traffic and profits are increasing on the Inn Valley and Brenner highway – pollution, too. This impacts the health of the populace. This can’t be allowed to continue.”



From left to right: A. Pichler (Coach), J. Hausberger (ATM), A. Egger (ATM), M. Wex (ATM), R. Zankel, C. Turin (District Community of Wipptal), A. Silberberger (LEADERregion Kufstein and Vicinity), S. Richter (project coordinator)

• **Project lead:**

Alfred Egger,  
Abfallwirtschaft Tirol Mitte GmbH –  
solid waste management company (Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Annelies Pichler

**Project partners:**

1. District Community of Wipptal / Alta Valle Isarco (South Tyrol)
2. Regional management Wipptal (Tyrol)
3. LEADERregion Kufstein and Vicinity - Untere Schranne – Kaiserwinkl (Kuusk) (Tyrol)
4. Region of Kitzbühel Alps (Tyrol)
5. Region of Schwaz-Achen Valley (Tyrol)

**Experts:**

1. Christian Nagl, Federal Environmental Protection Agency (Austria)
2. Thomas Karl, University of Innsbruck, Institute of Atmospheric and Cryospheric Sciences (Tyrol)
3. Walter Egger, State Forestry Directorate (Tyrol)
4. Ekkehard Allinger-Csollich, Tyrolean State Government Agency, Traffic Planning Section (Tyrol)
5. Heinz Fuchsig, Austrian Medical Chamber, Environmental Medicine (Austria)

## Results

- Creation of a highly professional scientific network
- Permanent work group on air pollution from Kufstein to Bozen / Bolzano
- Pilot project for initiation of first regional measures

## Challenges

- Acquisition of as many scientific experts as possible
- Multi-disciplinary perspective
- Science vs. politics

## Perspectives

- Long-term scientific project
- Stabilization and expansion of the work group
- Inclusion of political decision-makers

## Profile

### Clean Air

- **Partners:** 6
- **Already acquainted:** no
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** small
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (german)
- **Working language:** 1 (german)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# b.b.r. brenner.basis.raum

The “b.b.r – brenner. basis.raum” project tandem is preparing the comprehensive presentation of effects with an impact on spatial planning of the “Brenner Basis Tunnel” large-scale project. The “b.b.r.” project focuses on land use, living situation, accessibility, services and passenger

flows to achieve a flexible concept. The topic will define the spatial scale of the scope.

The goal is to be prepared for the spatial effects of the BBT so that we can pro-actively plan rather than merely react.



Photo: Land Tiro, BEV



**“To be flexible means to be prepared. The rest is improvisation.”**

*Christian Drechsler*



From left to right: **Ch. Drechsler** (Dept. of Spatial Planning and Statistics), **F. Weber** (Spatial Planning and Landscape), **Ch. Obermair** (Spatial Planning and Cartography), **R. Ortner** (Spatial Planning and Statistics, facing away), **K. Lindner** (Project coach)

• **Project lead:**

Christian Drechsler,  
Dept. of Spatial Planning  
and Statistics, (Tyrol)

• **Coach:**

Karin Lindner

**Projektpartner:**

1. Dept. of Spatial Planning and Statistics/ Section for Mid-Level Spatial Planning (Tyrol)
2. Section for Spatial Planning, Landscape, and Monument Protection/ Agency for Spatial Planning and Cartography (South Tyrol)

**Results**

- Defining issues relating to spatial planning and investigatory scope
- Determining current state of research / literature list (BBT and benchmarks)
- Creation of relevant network in administration and research
- Establishment of basis for future political decision-making
- Cooperation established on level of bureaucratic clerks and civil servants

## Challenges

- Examination of ideas in project concept phase
- Definition of "relevance to spatial planning" and thematic delineation
- Definition of areas of investigation
- Positioning of Fit4Co "between E.U. funding cycles"
- Preservation of regular communication during the pandemic

## Perspectives

- Strengthening of professional cooperation in all areas of Alpine spatial planning
- Joint agreement and treatment of topics
- "Stay in regular contact – thematically, spatially, and personally"

## Profile

b.b.r. brenner.basis.raum

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| • Partners:                            | 2          |
| • Already acquainted:                  | yes        |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no         |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium     |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 1 (german) |
| • Working language:                    | 1 (german) |
| • Project implementation:              | yes        |

# Senior\* citizens

## Caring communities

This trans-EGTC project (Trentino, South Tyrol, Carinthia) aims to increase awareness on a broad basis for dignified living in old age and to work on the establishment of participatory networks. Up until now, it has been difficult for those suffering from dementia or depression

to participate in social life. For this reason, meeting places for intergenerational exchange should be created in the communities, and age-friendly reality promoted.

In particular, continuous network work and coordination should be established.



Photo: Carinthian march against dementia



**”We want to raise awareness for a society in which people care for each other. We want to create - on a transboundary level - meeting places in communities, to strengthen neighborhoods, and especially to make the needs of senior citizens more visible.“** *Gabriele Hagendorfer-Jauk*



From left to right: **H. Kogler** (FH Carinthia), **I. Unterhofer** (Fit4Co tandem on gender medicine), **S. Graziadei** (Fit4Co Team), **Ch. Marchesotti**, **L. Cattani**, **L. Flor** (all APSP Santa Maria Cles), **A. Dunst** (Action for Dementia, Moosburg), **S. Telch** (Griesfeld Ö.B.P.B. Senior Home), **G. Hagendorfer** (FH Carinthia)

**• Project lead:**

Norbert Bertignoll,  
Griesfeld Ö.B.P.B. Senior Home  
(South Tyrol),

**• Coach:**

Friederike Gruber

**Project partners:**

1. Griesfeld Ö.B.P.B. Senior Home  
(South Tyrol)
2. IARA Gerontological Research Center,  
Carinthia Polytechnic, Moosburg  
Market Community, Assoc. for Action  
for Dementia of Moosburg (Carinthia)
3. APSP Santa Maria, Cles (Trentino)

**Results**

- Formation of a new and stable transboundary network
- Transboundary option for exploiting synergies and learning experiences;  
concept as foundation for submitting tender when invitations are opened on  
various funding channels

## Challenges

- Examination of ideas in the project concept phase
- The CoViD-19 crisis hit senior homes especially hard; for a longer period, project partners were able to meet only digitally

## Perspectives

- Submission of concept to funding channels
- Further cooperation and constructive exchange between project partners
- Expansion of a cross-border learning network

### Profile

Senior\*citizens

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 3                  |
| • Already acquainted:                  | no                 |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no                 |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium             |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 2 (german/italian) |
| • Working language:                    | 2 (german/italian) |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                |



## 5. Introduction of the Euregio Senza Confini m. b. H.

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On the following pages:

Presentation of the 12 Fit4Co tandem of the **Euregio Senza Confini** with the following scope:

1. **2WB** - Water Without Borders
2. **3R** - Riuso – Riqualfico – Riconnetto
3. Participatory approached for the creation of a local tourism offering on the basis of the re-discovery of a common identity - **APRIC**
4. **Bi&Key** - Creation of integrated services for “slow” tourism
5. **iAGE** - innovation Actions Generational Empowerment
6. Drafting and implementation of water risk models for the monitoring and evaluation of hydro-geological closing of waterworks in smaller waterways
7. **Mus&Nat** - Transboundary digital museum for rivers and nature protection with citizen participation.
8. **NATURE FIRST** - Sustainable enhancement of nature protection areas
9. **PERSEVAL** - **SENSORISCHE PFADE** - To upgrade local resources
10. Rivers as an opportunity for the growth and development of new tourism products
11. **TrainTour** - Increasing tourism-related skills for cross-border job opportunities
12. Integrated services for active aging and the general well-being of people over 65 years of age

# 2WB - Water Without Borders

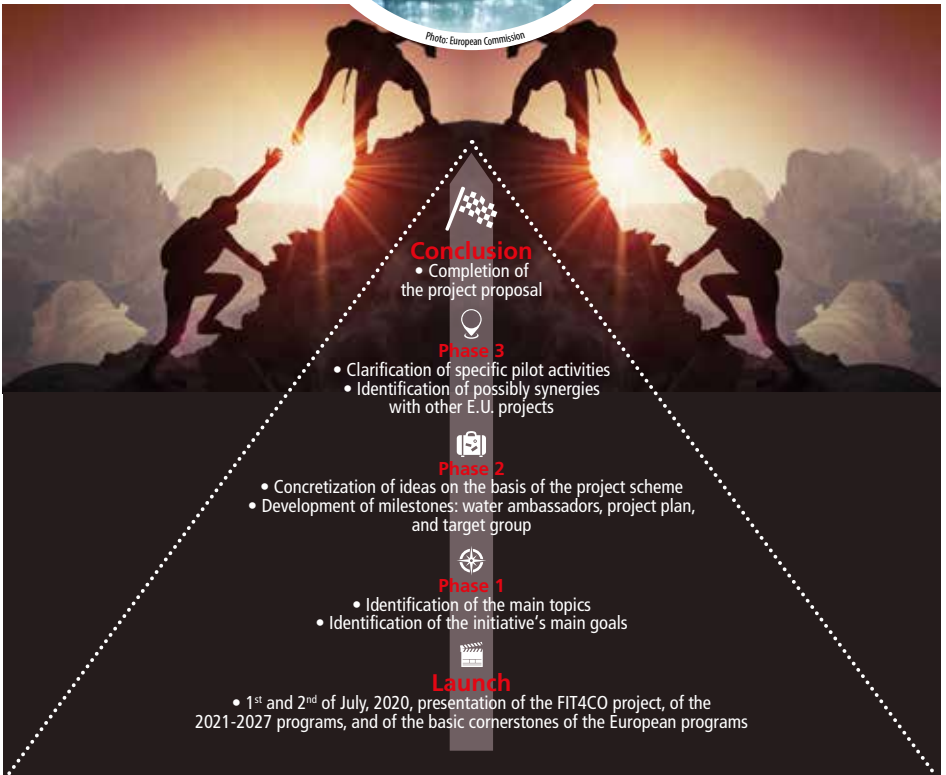
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Against the backdrop of the water resources (springs, glaciers, lakes, rivers, and the sea itself) located in the Alpine and Adriatic region, the “Water without borders” project will contribute to raising awareness for the fundamental role of water as a natural and economic resource. Water is a precious commodity and represents the common theme of this initiative supported

by “water ambassadors” and experts who are providing information and training about the importance of water – not only as a pure natural resource, but also as a cultural and economic value.



In the context of Fit4Co, this proposal was worked out with a view to possibly submitting it in the context of the Interreg V-A Italy-Austria program and LIFE.



# ”Water knows no boundaries.“

Günter Zeilinger

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From left to right, from top to bottom: **A. Ballarin** (Coach), **G. Zeilinger** (Carinthian State Federation of “Vacationing Down on the Farm”), **W. Steiner** (Land Carinthia), **G. Orsinger** (Community of Valsugana and Tesino). Not depicted: **St. Soldan** (Project coordinator and mayor of the community of Pieve di Soligo) and **K. Himmel** (Land Carinthia).

## • Project coordinator:

Community of Pieve di Soligo

## • Coach:

Andrea Ballarin  
(EGTC Euregio Ohne Grenzen m.b.H.)

## Project partners:

1. State of Carinthia (Carinthia)
2. Community of Valsugana and Tesino (Veneto)
3. Community of Pieve di Soligo (Veneto)
4. Carinthian State Federation of “Vacationing Down on the Farm” (Carinthia)

## Results

- Raising awareness for the importance of water
- Water as a driving force for territorial development
- Promotion of transnational resource management strategies and planning
- Definition of strategic training paths for the competent administration of resources

## Challenges

- Promotion of a change in behavior for a more-respectful attitude towards water

## Perspectives

- Expansion of the network of stakeholders to be included so as to boost the efficiency of the project's approach
- Application of the guidelines and proposals derived from the project activities in other areas

### Profile

- Partners: 4
- Already acquainted: yes
- Previous experience (project): yes
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 2 (german/italian)
- Working language: 1 (german)
- Project implementation: yes

# 3R - Riuso – Riqualfifico – Riconnetto

## (Reuse – Recycle – Reconnection)

The 3R project results from the clear demand for the efficient and sustainable management of areas in the so-called “third-country” landscapes / “lost places” which, over the course of time, have become less and less accessible.

These areas represent potentially attractive places, the (cultural and/or natural) resources could be upgraded. In this context, joint efforts in various different areas

(and with a transfrontier scope) could be an excellent opportunity to join forces to face these challenges and develop pathways / approaches to emphasize their unique characteristics.

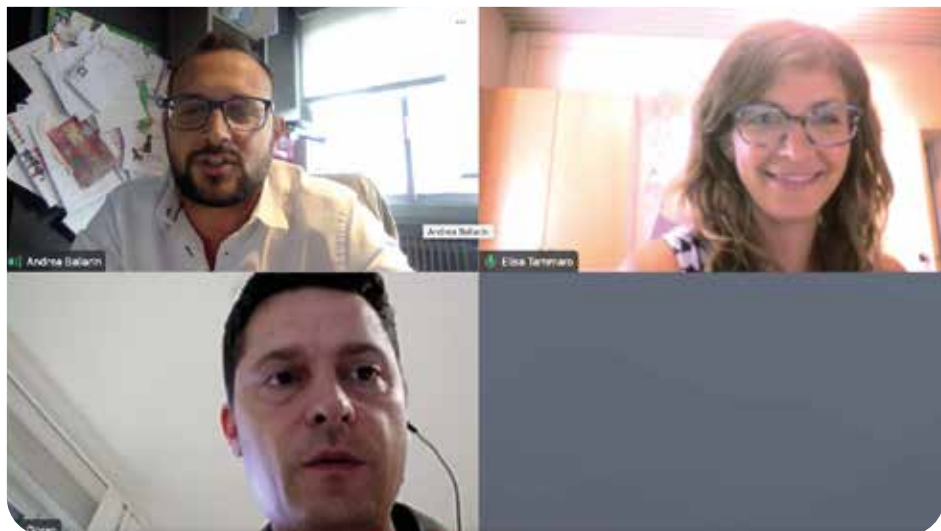


In the context of Fit4Co, this proposal was developed for the purpose of possibly submitting it to the Interreg Central Europe and Interreg Alpine Space programs.



**”It is indispensable that the concept of reuse and recycling be applied in our areas, too.“**

*Elisa Tammaro*



From left to right, from top to bottom: **A. Ballarin** (Coach), **E. Tammaro** (Community of Mortegliano), **G. Cuk** (Project coordinator, Community of San Dorligo della Valle). Not depicted: **A. Grom** (San Dorligo della Valle).

- 
- **Project coordinator:**  
Community of San Dorligo della Valle
  - **Coach:**  
Andrea Ballarin  
(EGTC Euregio Ohne Grenzen m.b.H.)

- **Project partners:**
  1. Community of Mortegliano  
(Friuli Venezia Giulia)
  2. Community of San Dorligo della Valle  
(Friuli Venezia Giulia)
  3. A community located in Carinthia (tbc)

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## Results

- Creation of an integrative and easily-transferred approach for the upgrading of areas and habitats
- Disseminating knowledge and boosting the attractiveness of otherwise unknown areas for the local citizenry, too

- Special forms of upgrading intended to encourage a greater appreciation of the historical, cultural, and ecological value of places of interest
- Revitalization of abandoned places located in the project areas

## Challenges

- The implementation of the “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” approach in actual practice in a context other than the one for which it was originally designed
- Beautification and upgrading of areas which are otherwise inaccessible and unusable

## Perspectives

- Supporting the effective handing-down of the natural and cultural heritage of various different areas to future generations
- Setting an example for more possibilities of recovering – including the bottom-up inclusion of stakeholders

## Profile

- **Partners:** 3
- **Already acquainted:** partially
- **Previous experience (project):** partially
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 1 (italian)
- **Working language:** 1 (italian)
- **Project implementation:** yes

## Participatory approach for the creation of a local tourist offering on the basis of the rediscovery of a common identity - APRIC

The project covers an area with an abundance of natural and cultural value whose potential is currently only partially realized with respect to tourism. This is because the local communities have an on-lylimited appreciation of the actual value of these sites. It is thus imperative

that a greater understanding be acquired and that the common identity of the local communities be highlighted. The ultimate goal of this is to promote our cultural heritage in a sustainable fashion – by means of local and near-area tourism.



Photo: Puno / Resaggitico Regionale FVG - participatory event in Valli del Nonano





## ”We must promote a rediscover of identity in local communities.“

### • **Project coordinator:**

Federation of Communities of Marca Occidentale (Specialist: M. Lorenzin)

### • **Coach:**

Valentina Zambetti

### **Project partners:**

1. Federation of Communities of Marca Occidentale (Specialist: M. Lorenzin) (Veneto)
2. Community of Stregna (Specialist: L. Postregna) (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
3. Tourism Advertising for Friuli Venezia Giulia (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
4. A Chamber of Commerce in Austria (tbc)
5. An Austrian university (tbc)

## Results

- Participatory approaches including the local communities (individual persons, associations, and schools) with the goal of defining travel routes and transboundary identity-strengthening initiatives for upgrading natural and historical / cultural heritage.
- Touristic / cultural offering dedicated to the local populace and local tourism, with special consideration of the various different possible uses of natural and cultural resources and with the integration of local networks of cultural heritage, natural resources, and “slow” mobility.

## Challenges

- Raising the awareness of the local populace for the immaterial value of their area and of their cultural heritage on the transboundary level as well as for the touristic value of the participating areas
- Creation of a favorable environment for promoting a coordinated tourism offering that can be marketed as a unique product for the entire program area

## Perspectives

- Initiation of the joint management of the tourism offering on the basis of participatory processes, with the inclusion of the local populace and the local communities.
- Improved integration of the tourism sector with other sectors which currently use natural and cultural resources as a basis for inclusion into the local program plans.

## Profile

- Partners: 2
- Already acquainted: no
- Previous experience (project): limited
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 1 (italian)
- Working language: 1 (italian)
- Project implementation: yes

# Bi&Key

## Creation of integrated services for "slow" tourism

Carrying-out of a joint advertising campaign for the creation of a network between Italian and Austrian institutions and museums for the purpose of upgrading existent natural and cultural resources – including material and immaterial heritage – and offering integrated services to support "slow" tourism (electro-biking and cycling tourism) For tourists

wishing to familiarize themselves with this border area. The aim is a follow-up to the EMOTIONWay project, the goal of which was the creation of a bicycle and hiking network.



In the context of Fit4Co, this electro-touring and cycling project was prepared for submission to the Interreg V-A Italy-Austria program.



**”It is important to promote networking between small villages so as to enable sustainable tourism development.“**

*Silvia Cestaro*



From left to right, from top to bottom: **Ch. Fabbro** (EGTC Euregio Ohne Grenzen m.b.H.), **M. Marinuzzi** (Coach), **S. Cestaro** (Mayor of the Community of Selva di Cadore), **N. Moretti** (Community of Treppo Grande)

**• Project coordinator:**

Silvia Cestaro, Community of Selva di Cadore (Veneto)

**• Coach:**

Marco Marinuzzi

**Project partners:**

**1.** Nelly Moretti, Community of Treppo Grande (Friuli Venezia Giulia)

**2.** Winfried Steiner, State of Carinthia (Carinthia)

**3.** Stefanie Egger, MTG - Millstätter See Tourismus GmbH (Carinthia)

**Results**

- Definition of the material and immaterial offering in the area of cultural tourism
- Elaboration of a community map to present the area in an innovative fashion

- Raising awareness for citizenry and citizenship
- Identification of thematic routes (archeology, museums, rivers / brooks, protected areas / NATURE2020, dining and drinking wine, traditions and local culture)
- Courses for hospitality and local culture both for operators and schools – also with respect to alleviating outmigration
- Creation of an e-commerce portal and organization of electro-biking services and support of cycling tourism
- Elaboration of tourism packages

## Challenges

- Strengthening of transboundary tourism between small villages

## Perspectives

- Innovative offering of products and services for tourists

## Profile

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 4                    |
| • Already acquainted:                  | partially            |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no                   |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium               |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 2 (italian/ english) |
| • Working language:                    | 1 (english)          |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                  |

# iAGE

## innovation Actions Generational Empowerment

The goal of this project is to develop instruments and services (currently not in widespread use) to improve the quality of life, with a focus on “older citizens.”

The project concentrates especially on the definition of models and pro-

ocols for “social living” based on a cooperation between the public and the private sectors for the purpose of promoting active and participatory aging, as well as the creation of “laboratories” to support inter-generational exchange.

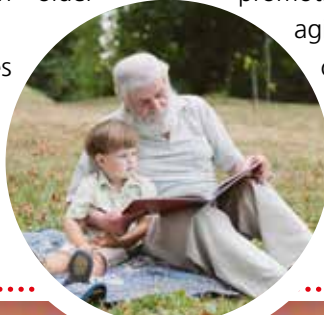


Photo: The New Economy



**A project to strengthen the leading role of older people in society. Demographic changes, an aging population, declining birth rates, and the increasing influx of migrants require that spatial planning policies be adapted to a new approach for the general welfare.**



From left to right: **V. Zambetti** (Coach); **P. Moro** (Community of Monastier), **L. Casagrande** (ONLUS - Foundation of the Communities on the Left Side of the Piave), **F. Covre** (ONLUS - Foundation of the Communities on the Left Side of the Piave), **D. Favot** (Community of Prata di Pordenone, ANCI Friuli Venezia Giulia).

• **Project coordinator:**

ONLUS - Foundation of the Communities on the Left Side of the Piave

• **Coach:**

Valentina Zambetti

**Project partners:**

1. Community of Monastier (Specialist: Mayor Paola Moro (Veneto))
2. Community of Prata di Pordenone (Specialist: Mayor Dorino Favot (Friuli Venezia Giulia))
3. ANCI Friuli Venezia Giulia (Specialist: Chairman Dorino Favot (Friuli Venezia Giulia))
4. AGE Platform Europe (tbc)
5. An Austrian university (tbc)
6. Social areas of eastern Tirol (tbc)

## Results

- Determination of models and protocols for developing initiatives in the area of the construction of subsidized housing based on a cooperation between the public and private sectors

- The creation of “laboratories” for the promotion of inter-generational exchange by means of innovative instruments and
- Strengthening and expanding service offerings in the area of care for older citizens

## Challenges

- Creation of a joint scenario on the level of the program area for social housing services.
- Transfer of the models and protocols defined by this project to higher governmental levels.

## Perspectives

- Improving the well-being and quality of life of the “older” segment of the populace
- Strengthening awareness of the populace for their social role

## Profile

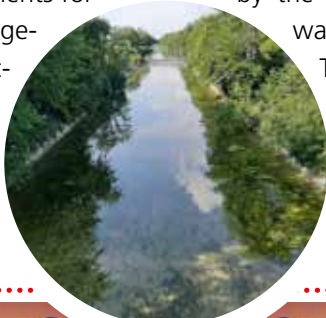
- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • Partners:                            | 4           |
| • Already acquainted:                  | no          |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no          |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium      |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 1 (italian) |
| • Working language:                    | 1 (italian) |
| • Project implementation:              | yes         |



## Drafting and implementation of water risk models for the monitoring and evaluation of the hydrological closure of waterworks in smaller flowing bodies of water

With respect to strengthening resistance and adaptability to climatic risks and natural disasters, this project proposes the introduction of instruments for the monitoring and management of hydraulic structures in smaller water courses in this Euregio. The main goal is namely to prevent dangers to the populace by extreme

events – also through the monitoring of a possible deterioration of conditions in which the “most sensitive” areas and by the establishment of real-time warning systems.



The “Mo.Idra” project, was prepared in the context of Fit4Co with a view of submitting it to the Interreg Italy-Austria program.



**The cooperation's added value is to be seen in the need of the partners to address and solve projects related to hydrological risks – problems which can be optimally solved only if they are developed in a cooperative framework exceeding administrative and territorial boundaries and which make use of the strengths and experience of the various different partners.**

.....

- **Project coordinator:**

Ivan Minella, Community of Santa Giustina (Veneto)

- **Coach:**

Claudia Forzan

**Project partners:**

1. Elena Ponte, Community of Talmassons (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
  2. Marco Mazzilis, Community of Comeglians (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
  3. Matthias Themessl, ZAMG – Dept. for Research and Innovation (Vienna, Austria)
- .....

## Results

- Strengthening of institutional cooperation in the area of hydro-geological risk prevention;
- Realization of a geo-referenced and multi-temporal transboundary open-source database on smaller water courses and the related hydraulic works;
- Orthographic photos and three-dimensional mapping of the cooperation area;
- transfrontier hydraulic risk models, including warning systems for the populace and evaluation systems for the hydro-geological sealing of structures (bridges, weirs, etc.)

## Challenges

- The necessity of lessening the risk to the transboundary populace posed by negative hydro-geological events triggered by Climate Change;
- The necessity of boosting the resistance of transfrontier areas to larger hydro-geological events.

## Perspectives

- Alleviating hydro-geological risks to the populace in the case of extreme events through the development of monitoring and warning instruments.

### Profile

- Partners: 4
- Already acquainted: partially
- Previous experience (project): little
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 1 (italian)
- Working language: 1 (italian)
- Project implementation: yes

# Mus&Nat

**Transboundary digital museum for rivers and nature protection with citizen participation.**

This project aims to create a network capable of providing – with the help of the local populace – a tourism offering tailored to the rising demand for “slow” tourism. This network will consist of places

of touristic / natural interest and will center around a transboundary, digital museum. This museum will enhance the value of the territory and especially of the rivers in this area (the Sile, Isonzo, and Drau).

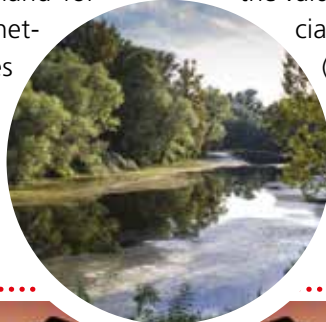


Photo: The New Economy



**“We must find innovative solutions to increase awareness for and preserve our natural heritage, especially for the younger generations.”**

*Daniele Rostirolla, Mayor of the Community of Morgano*



From left to right, from top to bottom: **M. Marinuzzi** (Coach), **E. Fontanini** (Project manager of the Community of Gorizia) and **D. Rostirolla** (Mayor of the Community of Morgano)

- 
- **Project coordinator:**  
Elena Fontanini – Community of Gorizia
  - **Coach:**  
Marco Marinuzzi

- Project partners:**
1. Daniele Rostirolla, Community of Morgano (Veneto)
  2. Hartmut Prasch, Museum for Folk Culture (Carinthia)
  3. Winfried Steiner, State of Carinthia (Carinthia)

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## Results

- Joint participatory planning methodology and raising awareness for natural heritage in schools and local clubs
- Carrying out seminars together with schools

- Establishment of a transboundary digital museum
- Elaboration of flat-rate tourist offerings, travel routes, and joint tourist advertising

## Challenges

- Protection and promotion of the natural heritage in a respectful and sustainable fashion

## Perspectives

- Promotion of new tourist travel routes apart from existing main routes

## Profile

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| • Partners:                            | 3                    |
| • Already acquainted:                  | partially            |
| • Previous experience (project):       | no                   |
| • Project size (budget):               | medium               |
| • Languages (of the project partners): | 2 (italian/ english) |
| • Working language:                    | 1 (english)          |
| • Project implementation:              | yes                  |

# NATURE FIRST

## Enhancing the touristic value of nature protection areas

The project Nature First was prepared during Fit4Co with a view of submitting it to the Interreg V-A Italy-Austria program. It focuses on the nature reserves at the mouth of the

Socser River and Lake Ossia as a key component for establishing initiatives for the ecological and sustainable development and creation of tourist routes for bird-watching.



Photo: Photo by Gabriele Agrillo on Unsplash



**”Every new way of doing or work well can be learned.“**

*Gianni Giuricich*

**• Project coordinator:**

Gianni Giuricich,  
Community of Staranzano

**Project partners:**

**1.** Gianni Giuricich,  
Community of Staranzano  
(Friuli Venezia Giulia)

**• Coach:**

Marilanda Bianchini

**1.** Winfried Steiner and Katharina Himmel,  
State of Carinthia (tbc)

**Results**

- Thanks to the cooperation of the two participants, the tandem is expanded to include additional topics.

**Challenges**

- The project is still in the definition phase; a few organizational problems have prevented a quick start, but the participants are interested in continuing their cooperation.

**Perspectives**

- In the coming months, additional potential partners will be included in the project idea so as to expand the project size and to strengthen the stakeholder basis with qualified expertise in the area of the protection of nature protection areas and boosting bird-watching as a new form of sustainable tourism.



## Profile

- **Partners:** 2 then 4
- **Already acquainted:** no
- **Previous experience (project):** yes, some
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (italian/ english)
- **Working language:** 2 (english/ english)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# PERSEVAL - SENSORY TRAILS

To enhance the value of local resources

PERSEVAL assumes that some areas could be unattractive to tourists even though they are rich in natural and cultural resources. For this reason, this project aims to establish sensory trails along water courses with the goal of promoting their appeal. The joint and transnational cooperation will promote the exchange of experience and best practices, per-

mitting existent resources to be enhanced and at the same time integrative and environmentally more-compatible tourism strategies to be developed.



Photo: Società Cooperativa Majella a.r.l.

In the framework of FIT4CO, this proposal was developed for possible application in the context of the Interreg Central Europe and Interreg Alpine Space programs.



**”It is important to focus on the well-being and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle on the basis of motor activities.“**

*Monica Padovan*

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From left to right, from top to bottom: **A. Ballarin** (Coach), **M. Padovan** (Community of Azzano Decimo), **M. Lorenzin** (Project coordinator, Community of Vedelago)

• **Project coordinator:**  
Community of Vedelago

• **Coach:**  
Andrea Ballarin  
(EVTZ Euregio Ohne Grenzen m.b.H.)

**Project partners:**

1. Community of Vedelago (Veneto)
2. Community of Azzano Decimo (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
3. Another community in Carinthia (tbc)

## Results

- Greater attractiveness of the areas participating in the initiatives
- Greater awareness for the territory's resources and their potential
- Activation of sensory trails of different kinds and intensity with different goals for different territories
- Promotion of new forms of inclusive tourism

## Challenges

- Stimulating a behavior change aiming to rediscover the essential connection between Man and Nature by enhancing the territory

## Perspectives

- Expansion of the network of stakeholders who are to be included in order to boost the approach proposed by the project
- "Sustainable" enhancement of areas which are rich in ecological and cultural resources.

## Profile

- Partners: 2
- Already acquainted: partially
- Previous experience (project): partially
- Project size (budget): medium
- Languages (of the project partners): 1 (italian)
- Working language: 1 (english)
- Project implementation: yes

# The river as an opportunity for growth and the development of new touristic products

In the context of Fit4Co, the project “River MOVE” was prepared for the Interreg V-A programs. It provides for the enhancement of the rivers (Sile, Natisone, and Drau) traversing the areas as an element of the connection between the past and the future – with respect to the development of ecologically sustainable

economic activities, e.g., “slow” tourism and especially the tourist cycle. The focus is on the creation of networks between service providers and the carrying-out of study visits and training courses dedicated to the acquisition of tools to promote and enhance the offered services, both online and offline.

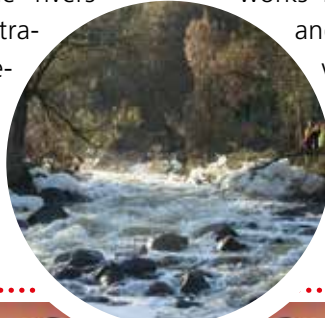


Photo by Steve Dalg on Unsplash



**”With Fit4Co, you’re doing excellent work.“**

*Winfried Steiner*



From left to right: **Marilanda Bianchini** (Coach), **Rossella Cendron** (Mayor of the Community of Silea), **Steiner Winfried und Kataharina Himmel** (Agency of the State Government of Carinthia), **Cesare Pinatto** (Vice Mayor of the Community of S. Pietro al Natisone), **Sigrid Goldberger** (Outdoorpark Oberdrau Valley), **Claudia Pollano** (Community Council of S. Pietro al Natisone)

**• Project coordinator:**

Claudia Pollano,  
Community of S. Pietro al Natisoneo

**• Coach:**

Marilanda Bianchini

**Project partners:**

1. Rossella Cendron, Community of Silea (Veneto)
1. Claudia Pollano, Community of S. Pietro al Natisone (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
1. Winfried Steiner, State of Carinthia (Carinthia)
1. Sigrid Goldberger, Outdoorpark Oberdrau Valley (Carinthia)

## Results

- Initially, the tandem consisted of only two partners - Silea and S. Pietro al Natisone – but was expanded, thanks to the efforts of Winfried Steiner of the State of Carinthia, to include the State of Carinthia itself and also an additional Austrian partner interested in the project
- The promotion of local tourism has revealed itself to be a necessity for all participating areas

## Challenges

- The project coordinator has not yet been determined since the participating partners do not yet have the necessary personnel and organizational resources to be able to assume this role

## Perspectives

- In the coming months, additional partners will be included in the project idea in order to expand the project size and strengthen the base with representatives of interested parties having specialized qualifications in the tourism and management sector

## Profile

- **Partners:** 4
- **Already acquainted:** no
- **Previous experience (project):** yes (some)
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (italian/ english)
- **Working language:** 1 (english)
- **Project implementation:** yes

# TrainTour

## Increasing tourism-related skills for cross-border job opportunities

104 This project aims to strengthen skills and knowledge in the area of cultural heritage and culture/tourism-related professions with the goal of improving cross-border cooperation and vocational mobility between Italy, Austria, and Slovenia. The students should pos-

sess knowledge of practical importance in tourism and for the enhancement of the cultural heritage of their own country and of the partner countries.



Within Fit4Co, this project was prepared for ERASMUS PLUS.





**”It is important that one work on strengthening those abilities for which there is a demand on the labor market – especially with respect to transboundary perspectives.“** *Marco Calìo*

**”We must work on understanding and networking local and transboundary cultural heritage.“** *Luca Di Giusto*



From left to right, from top to bottom: **Chiara Fabbro** (GECT Euregio Senza Confini), **Marco Marinuzzi** (Coach), **Marco Calìo** (CPIA Treviso), **Luca Di Giusto** (Community of Tricesimo)

• **Project coordinator:**

Marco Calìo – CPIA di Treviso

• **Coach:**

Marco Marinuzzi

**Project partners:**

1. Luca Di Giusto, Community of Tricesimo (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
2. Maria Zanon, ISIS Magrini Marchetti (Friuli Venezia Giulia)
3. Concetta Preiml, Warmbad Tourism School (Carinthia)
4. A Slovenian community (tbc)
5. A Slovenian vocational institute (tbc)

## Results

- Development of a joint methodology for the course of studies and presentation of the cultural heritage
- Training of instructors of tourism schools
- Participatory creation of a portal for marketing tourism
- Improved skills in cultural professions such as creative writing, photography, audio post-production, website design and development, graphic arts, history, art history, and English
- Mobility of the students

## Challenges

- Promotion of cross-border work mobility

## Perspectives

- The cross-border cooperation can be strengthened through an expansion to include Slovenia

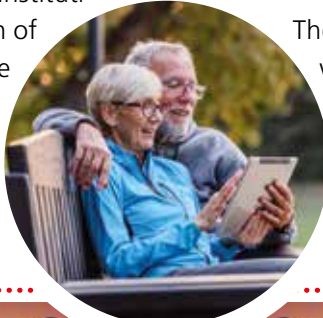
### Profile

- **Partners:** 6
- **Already acquainted:** partially
- **Previous experience (project):** no
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (italian/english)
- **Working language:** 1 (italian)
- **Project implementation:** yes

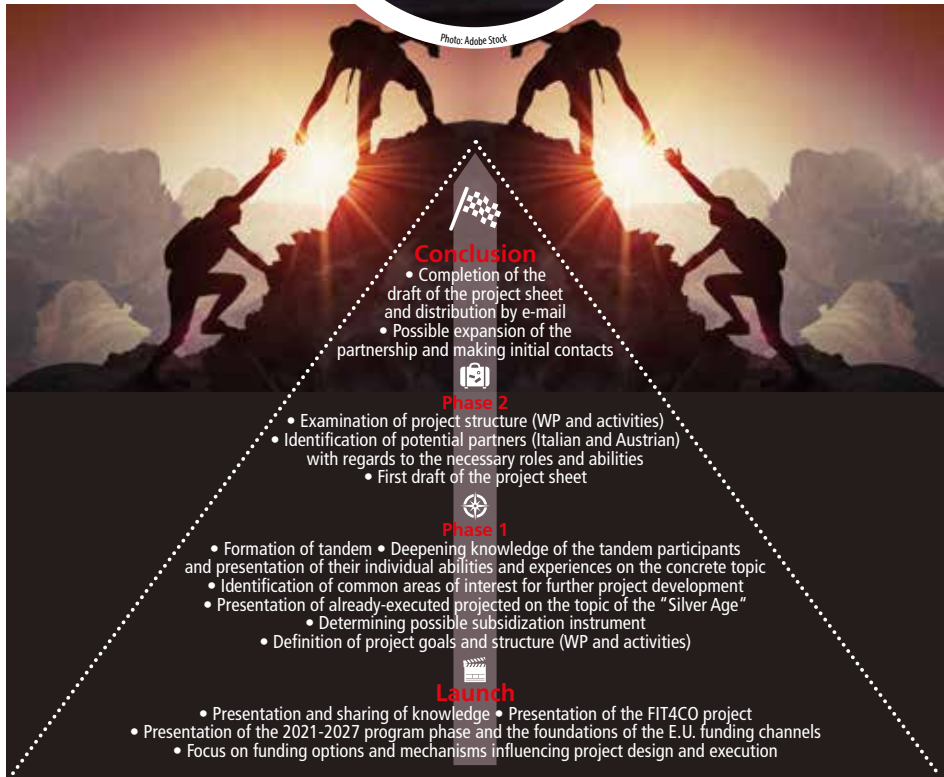
# Integrated services for active aging and general wellbeing of people over 65 years of age

The goal of this project is to create models of integrated transboundary services developed in cooperation between public and private institutions. The gradual transition of segments of the populace into the "Silver Age" and the general well-being of people over 65 years of

age (i.e., their psychological, cognitive, relational, and physical health) is to be promoted and guaranteed.



The project "WellOver65." was prepared in the context of Fit4Co for the Interreg Italy-Austria program.



Although many older people enjoy good health, aging often leads to restrictions in access by older citizens to goods and services and limits their ability to live life independently.

• **Project coordinator:**

Anna Ulian,  
Comune di Pordenone (PN) - IT

• **Coach:**

Claudia Forzan

**Project partners:**

1. Luana Silveri,  
Fondazione Comelico-Dolomiti Centro Studi Transfrontaliero (BL) – IT
2. Several companies domiciled in Villach (tbc)
3. Community in Virgen (tbc)
4. Additional community in Austria (tbc)

**Results**

- Three innovative service models serving to improve the quality of life of older people
- Shortening the annual hospitalization stays of people over 65 years of age
- Boosting the well-being of people over 65 years of age and of their family members
- Guidelines for implementing innovative services

**Challenges**

- Health systems and long-term care systems are in danger of becoming financially unsupportable since a shrinking population may not be capable of fulfilling the needs of a growing number of aging people
- It is indispensable that autonomy and independence be maintained in old age so as to delay for as long as possible the hospitalization of older people – both for the benefit of the older people, themselves, and also to preserve the financial sustainability of the systems
- Promotion of active aging through the use of health care systems focusing on promoting health, preventing disease, and providing access to high-quality and long-term primary health services both in large cities with large numbers of older people and in remote and inaccessible areas (e.g., mountainous areas)

## Perspectives

Promoting the provision of services for individuals by the public and private sectors in harmony with quality standards,

- Which attempt to prevent the deterioration in health, well-being, and self-sufficiency of older persons and – as far as possible – to contribute to the restoration of their health,
- Which guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of older persons, their families, and their care-givers,
- Which react quickly and flexibly to the changing needs of each individual while fully respecting his personal integrity and so to enhance his quality of life,
- Which are easily accessible.

### Profile

- **Partners:** 2
- **Already acquainted:** no
- **Previous experience (project):** yes
- **Project size (budget):** medium
- **Languages (of the project partners):** 2 (italian/german)
- **Working language:** 1 (italian)
- **Project implementation:** yes





*1 Program*

*2 Euroregions*

*6 States / provinces*

*26 project tandems more than*

*300 participants*

***Thank you!***

# Programm area

