



1. NOSTRA project

NOSTRA (Network of STRAits) has been launched in 2012. This is an INTERREG IVC project that aims at cooperation and exchange of experiences between **16 partners from 8 different European straits** in order to implement more efficient and sustainable policies at the scale of a strait. The main objective of the project is the preservation of biodiversity and natural heritage.

The global budget for the project is EUR 2,36 millions, with EUR 1,79 millions of ERDF funding.

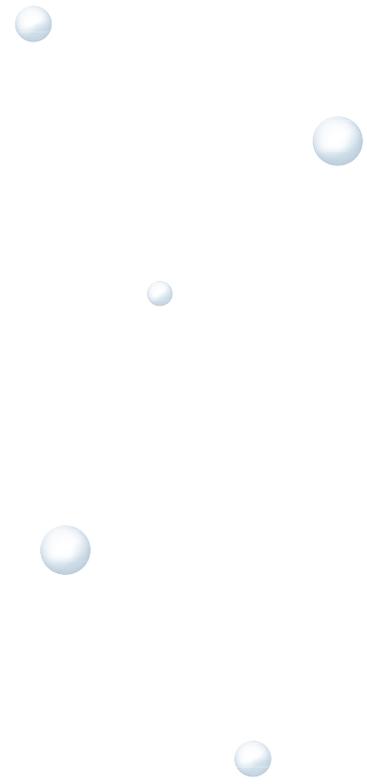
2012, first year of NOSTRA project, has been dedicated to « See and learn ». Two visits have been organised in the Strait of Kvarken and in the Strait of Bonifacio. It enabled the partners to question the ideal governance tool for straits, ranging from the Kvarken Council to the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation of the International Marine Park in the Strait of Bonifacio.

2013 focused on « Analyse and study », with four thematic workshops dedicated to exchange of good practices on:

- Seascape and marine spatial planning
- Tourism and cultural heritage
- Maritime safety and green traffic
- Coast and hinterland economy.

2014 is the final year of NOSTRA project: « Think and act ». Three cross-cutting seminars have been organised in order to better understand the link between the different subjects tackled within NOSTRA and their implication in terms of cross-border governance:

- February 2014, Reggio Calabria: link between the coast and the hinterland
- June 2014, Bonifacio: capitalisation on European projects
- September 2014, Tulcea: finalisation of the implementation plans



2. Cross-cutting seminar in Tulcea, September 2014

From 22 to 26 September 2014, the partners attended the final cross-cutting seminar of the project, in Tulcea (Romania). It was a unique opportunity for them to discover the richness of the Danube Delta, which is the best preserved delta on the continent and hosts 23 natural ecosystems and 7 anthropogenic ecosystems. This seminar was also a chance to understand the similarities existing in the management of deltas and straits.

The Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (DDNI), which was hosting this seminar, is the only NOSTRA partner that is not bordering a strait. It has been associated to the project in order to enrich the reflexion with its own experience as a member of the INTERREG IVC project DeltaNet (www.deltanet-project.eu) and to create a link between the two projects that have similar objectives. Indeed, like NOSTRA, DeltaNet aims at improving the regional development policies through exchanging best practices and defining and implementing policy recommendations in geographically sensitive areas. In DeltaNet, the focus was made on environmental risk prevention, specifically through the development of appropriate coordinated spatial planning measures.

This cross-cutting seminar was also a good opportunity for the partners to get aware of the final version of the good practices guide. Each partner also presented a draft version of its implementation plan. Finally, time was taken to prepare the final conference of the project, which will take place on 22 October in Brussels.

3. The good practices guide

The good practices guide will be the reference document of the project. It gathers the 50 good practices that have been identified all along the three years of NOSTRA project.

The first part of the good practices guide is dedicated to a presentation of NOSTRA project. Its origins with the European Straits Initiative are mentioned. The main objective of the project is detailed, along with the 3-year methodology that has been developed to reach this objective. The main results and recommendations of the baseline study at the scale of the partnership are stressed out. Finally, each of the 16 partners of the project is presented, as well as the main features of the strait they belong to.

The second part of the good practices guide is properly dedicated to the presentation of the 50 good practices, ordered in 7 categories:

- Joint governance – 6 good practices
- Seascape and marine spatial planning – 2 good practices
- Sustainable tourism – 7 good practices
- Sustainable transport – 9 good practices
- Maritime safety – 7 good practices
- Responsible economic development – 13 good practices
- Direct actions in favour of natural environment – 6 good practices

For each theme, the link is made with the main focus of the project, “preservation of biodiversity and the natural environment”, in order to explain why the partners chose to work on this thematic. The different good practices corresponding to the theme are presented shortly; the best practices, that is to say the practices that have raised the most of enthusiasm from the other partners, benefit from a full page.

The good practices guide is now finalised in English and will be ready in all the languages of the project for the final conference.



The final cross-cutting seminar of the project took place in Tulcea, on Danube delta



4. The implementation plans

During the seminar in Romania, each partner presented its draft implementation plan. The objective of an implementation plan is to consider transferring some of the 50 good practices from one strait to another. At least a part of each plan must be thought at a cross-strait (and most of the time cross-border) scale.

The implementation plans are currently being finalised by the partners and will be available for the final conference of the project in each partner's language, with a summary in English.

5. The final conference in Brussels

The final conference of NOSTRA project will take place on 22 October 2014, in Brussels. It will be an opportunity to present the main results of the project in presence of elected representatives of the local authorities involved in NOSTRA and of other organisations' representatives.

The afternoon of 22 October will be dedicated to the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding of the European Straits Initiative, in order to sustain this already fruitful cooperation.