



UniAdrion:

the University association of the
Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion

WHERE DO WE STAND?

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Originated **in 2000** as a “network of universities” established with the purpose of creating a permanent connection among universities and research centres in the Adriatic-Ionian region

UniAdrion



Promotes cooperation among universities and research centres through the implementation of joint research and teaching activities

The Political Framework

- **2000:** Adriatic-Ionian Initiative (8 countries Central Governments). Origin of UNIADRION and of two other *Fora* (Cities & Chambers of Commerce)
- **2008:** A.I.I. (Adriatic & Ionian Initiative) permanent secretariat in Ancona
- **2013:** Formal constitution of UNIADRION as Association
- **2013:** Medjugorje Agreement between the three *Fora* for Integrated Secretariat and Actions
- **2014:** Approval of EUSAIR and Action Plan → UNIADRION cited in the Strategy as best practice of academic cooperation in the area
- **2015:** new Secretary General
- **2016:** Changes in the Statute

Why the change from network to association?

- ✓ The change was requested and agreed upon by the Uniadrion members participating to the meetings in Ancona (2010), Koper (2013) and Sarajevo (2015)
- ✓ As an association with a juridical status can apply for grants and manage funds deriving from successful projects
- ✓ Thanks to the new status, Uniadrion can also sign any possible formal deed necessary to include the association in EUSAIR implementation activities

The original network, born in 2000,
comprised 38 universities from 8 countries

Albania

- 5 Universities

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- 5 Universities

Croatia

- 4 Universities

Greece

- 3 Universities

Italy

- 11 Universities

Serbia

- 5 Universities

Slovenia

- 3 Universities

Montenegro

- 2 Universities

It is in the interest of Uniadrion that it comprises as many institutions as possible and that all members **contribute actively** to the association

Formal requirements for the association to Uniadrion:



1. Request signed by the legal representative of each university
2. Approval by the assembly
3. Payment of the association fee, presently 100 euro per year (except members with no right to vote)

A dedicated **bank account** has been opened by Uniadrion Secretariat

UNIADRION organization - Presidency

Rotating Presidency synchronized with the Presidency of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative



Current President:

2015/2016 → Croatia

Rector of University of Zadar

Future Presidents (to be elected in tomorrow's assembly):

2016/2017 → Greece

2017/2018 → Italy

UNIADRION organization – Governing Board



The Governing Board is composed by:

- ✓ One member per each EUSAIR country (elected for 3 years)
- ✓ President
- ✓ Former President (as Vice-President)
- ✓ Future President (as Vice-President)
- ✓ Secretary General

All elective members will be selected in tomorrow's general assembly

UNIADRION organization – Secretariat



The **Permanent Secretariat** is located in Ancona (Italy) and is coordinated by Università Politecnica delle Marche

The **Secretary General** is a professor belonging to Università Politecnica delle Marche appointed by the Rector

UNIADRION organization – Assembly



The **General Assembly** comprises the Rectors (or their formal delegates) of all EUSAIR member institutions

Notice:

Non-EUSAIR institutions are welcome to participate to the General Assembly and UNIADRION activities but have no right to vote or to be elected in the governing bodies.

They have no obligation to pay the association fee.

UNIADRION organization – Finances



In order to allow the survival of UNIADRION, Università Politecnica delle Marche has, so far, been covering all management costs:

- ✓ Human resources (presently 2 units from the international relation office take care of Uniadrion)
- ✓ Payment of notary's deeds and similar
- ✓ Promotional material, stationary, management of the website, etc.
- ✓ Opening and management of the bank account

In the future, these expenses will have to be covered by the association, through the **association fees and externally funded projects**

In an ideal world...



The secretariat should take care of all current affairs and long term actions (e.g. projects) of Uniadrion.

In its **minimal** configuration, it should be staffed with:

- ✓ 1 full time administrative unit
- ✓ 1 full time unit for support in fund raising, project preparation and management (this unit, at steady state, should support itself from project revenues)

Tomorrow's assembly will discuss ways to initiate the trajectory leading to this structure of the secretariat or alternatives

Uniadrion Strategic Objectives

1. Producing new knowledge = RESEARCH
(we are intensively searching for suitable calls within Horizon 2020 and other funding sources – help from all partners is needed)
2. Disseminating knowledge = TEACHING (we have succeeded in procuring an Erasmus Mundus project and funding within the new Erasmus+ programme
(as above, we need to look for new calls)
3. Economic exploitation of knowledge = EXPLOIT THE POTENTIAL OF UNIVERSITIES AS ECONOMIC PARTNERS for the territorial development
(we are working with our partnership and the Fora of the Cities and of the Chambers of Commerce for this)

UNIADRION research objectives follow the EU STRATEGY FOR THE ADRIATIC AND IONIAN REGION

Art. 1 Uniadrion Statutes

EUSAIR Action Plan

- Protection, Cataloguing and Promotion of Cultural Heritage
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Cultural Tourism and Development
- Economy, Communication, Ports and Economic Relations

- Blue Growth
- Connecting the Region
- Environmental quality
- Sustainable tourism
-
- Capacity Building
- Research, innovation and SMEs development

What research projects have already been developed by UNIADRION members within the pillars identified by EUSAIR?



In preparation of the Assembly, UNIADRION Secretariat asked partners to send information on «European research projects each university is involved in, with particular reference to projects on topics covered by the four pillars of the EUSAIR»

The results are provided in the printouts that were distributed

In February 2014, Università Politecnica delle Marche coordinated the work of the Italian Universities in the Adriatic-Ionian region for the collection of research ideas to be developed within each of the EUSAIR pillars. Interest of the convenors mostly focused on:

Blue Growth (pillar 1):

Supporting sustainable development of maritime and marine system

Sustainable tourism (pillar 4):

Promotion and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage

Capacity Building (transversal pillar):

Connecting competences and knowledge

All the ideas proposed exploit the international collaborations already in place with Adriatic-Ionian Universities

What projects is Uniadrion participating to, since the constitution of the association?

1. Sunbeam
2. Adrionet (submitted)

To both projects Uniadrion is participating as associate member

Project ADRIONet – Towards the network of marine and coastal protected areas in the Adriatic–Ionian Region



- ✓ Programme → ADRION
- ✓ Priority axis → PA 2 SUSTAINABLE REGION
- ✓ Lead Partner → Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto (Italy)
- ✓ Overall objective → enhancing the capacity of marine and coastal protected areas to act as a policy driver by:
 - supporting the understanding of the current dynamics threatening the marine and coastal resources
 - Highlighting on the policy–making level the importance of ecosystem services provided by the protected areas to the surrounding territories
 - Promoting in the Adrion region the implementation of coherent safeguarding/development strategies and strengthening the capacity of cooperating to face common challenges

Project submitted in February 2016, currently under evaluation, UNIADRION as Associate partner

TEACHING

S.U.N.B.E.A.M.



Erasmus
Mundus

Structured UNiversity mobility between the Balkans and Europe for
the Adriatic-ionian Macroregion

main objectives:

Creation of a network
of higher education
institutions for the
Adriatic-Ionian Macro-
region

Creation of a
platform for
sharing best
practices and joint
educational paths

Exchange of expertise and
identification of research areas
of common interest to create a
scientific background for the
Macro-region

Total Grant: € 2.996.125

What strategies should UNIADRION choose for the implementation of its objectives (i.e. research, teaching, link to the territory) ?



Constraints:

Pillars defined in EUSAIR action plan



Information available at this stage:

1. The existing and past research projects by Uniadrion members
2. 6 (consensual) project ideas produced by the Italian partners, one for each of the EUSAIR pillars



How do we proceed?

These initiatives may provide the basis for discussion of strategical directions by thematic panels (to be discussed by the assembly)

In brief:

The conversion of the network into an association (2013) and the agreement among member states that instituted the adriatic–ionian macroregion (2014) constitute a new starting point for UNIADRION.

These events, we trust, will take UNIADRION to a leading role in research and education in the Adriatic–Ionian Macroregion, in close interaction with the other Fora and the Adriatic Ionian Initiative.

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