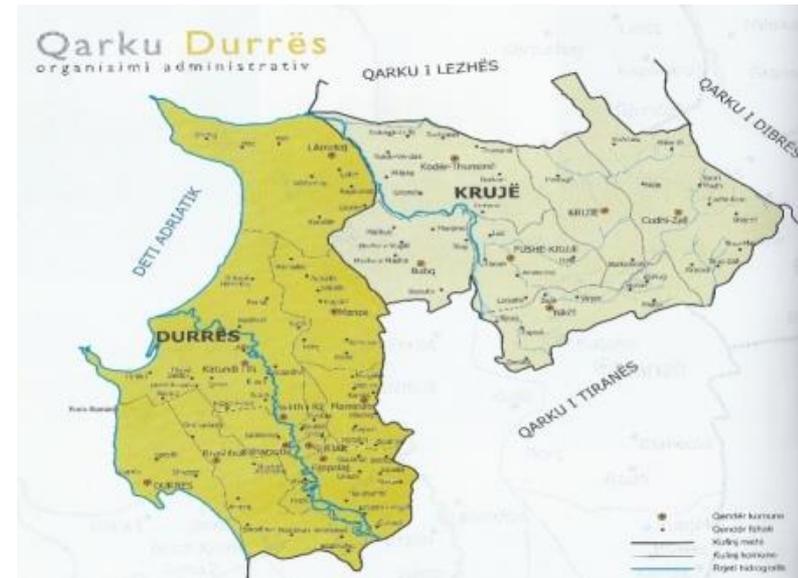




Regional Council of Durrës I-STORMS project - Kick off Meeting - Venice 1-2 March, 2018



Region of Durrës is one of the 12 Regions in Albania, with an area of 766 km². It has a population of 402,943 people and a coastline of 61.6 km. The district includes Municipalities of Durrës, Kruja and Shijak.



The Port of Durrës is located in the middle of the Adriatic Sea, South of the city, in the northern part of the Bay of Durrës. The Bay is about 18 km long from the north to south, with a coastline of about 7 km to the east and is well protected by the Durrës Cape.



Regional Council of Durrës, established in 2000, is a regional government institution in accordance with the European Charter of Local Autonomy.

It has the right and effective ability of local communities to regulate, lawfully, under their responsibilities in accordance to the best of their populations, a good part of public affairs.

Our main function is the building and implementation of Regional policies and their harmonization with the state policies on a regional level.

Some of the priorities are:

- Enhance the economic & social development oReduce unemployment
- Tourism and cultural heritage
- Education and health care
- Infrastructure and environment
- Local government
- Demographic development



We have participated in several EU Program, such as:

“Interreg MED – SYNGGI”, “IPA CBC Programme – DELMVET”, “STAR”, “ZERO WASTE”, “ADRION – I-STORMS”, “ISTEN”, etc.

Our motivation

Based on the strategy of the Regional Council of Durrës (2010-2020), one of the pillars of the policies of the Region is the provision of services to community and protection of the environment.

In cases of disasters or flows in the area, it is responsibility of the Council to exercise all the measures to record the losses and organize all the work to compensate those people, through coordination of work with other instances of local government, municipalities, departments of central government in the region.

Sea storms are proven to directly impact on the quality of life of citizens (especially in urban areas, like Durrës, where part of the inhabited areas are seldom covered by water) and they create damages to the important cultural heritage exposed to these phenomena. They also affect businesses (aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, beach facilities) and environment at large (coastal erosion, floods).

Why I-STORMS project?

Factors such as the lack of shared data and know-how, low data interoperability and insufficient macro-regional cooperation are believed to diminish the effectiveness of addressing the sea storm challenge.

Therefore, a key motivational factor for the RCD to join the I-STORMS project becomes imperative to enhance the capacity in transnationally tackling environmental vulnerability, fragmentation, and the safeguarding of ecosystem services in the Adriatic-Ionian area.

Our expectations

- Regional Council of Durrës will carry out a state of the art analysis of relevant challenges and procedures in the management of coastal disasters and set up a network of actors willing to cooperate in this field.
- Enhancement of transnational cooperation as the only way to achieve project objectives of improving the response to sea storm emergencies by means of shared know-how and tools like Living Lab & fostering the commitment for a stronger integration among the participating entities.
- Improvement of the capacity of the Regional Council of Durrës to react to sea storm events, in terms of early warning and civil protection procedures, in compliance with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- Enhanced skills of public and private actors on open source systems, data interoperability, sharing tool architecture and functioning.
- The Regional Council will take advantage from previous experiences on interoperable data management, at the same time, will contribute in creation of an infrastructure that will be the first attempt to harmonize and share in the ADRION area sea storms observational data and forecasts from different countries.
- Increased knowledge of technical officers on most effective procedures and practices of civil protection.
- Increase cooperation on civil protection issues at country level and at ADRION level thanks to the I-STORMS Network
- Reduced fragmentation of know-how and marine data allowing more effective and reliable forecasting and emergencies response services.
- Strengthened common understanding of current challenges (Sea Storm Atlas) and further needs for cooperation in the field of sea storm emergencies response.
- Increased awareness of citizens on coastal vulnerability to sea storms.

