

Mr. Roberto Sartori

Deputy Mayor of Gorizia

This is the third edition of the DIAnet International School, a very important project designed by the University of Trieste in collaboration with other Universities, in particular the University of Novi Sad. Thanks to this project, Gorizia will host for 10 days 40 researchers from the overall Danube Region. They will meet and discuss with important international peers and prominent academics.

Participants are welcome in Gorizia, a little town on the open border between Italy and Slovenia, where the Germanic, Latin and Balkanic cultures live together. The result of this combination are its beautiful gardens, squares and boulevards.

Gorizia is looking towards the EU Policies. In 2011 a legal entity was founded in partnership with the towns of Gorizia, Nova Gorica and Šempeter -Vrtojba: the ECGT GO¹. The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation is a tool designed to overcome the difficulties encountered in implementing and managing projects in the field of territorial cooperation, which are subject to different legislation and procedures, and to facilitate the implementation of common tasks (not only economic). By joining the EGTC, the participating municipalities are legally organized in an independent cross-border body and, given their legal personality, they can directly interact with European institutions and third parties. Therefore, the EGTC is a useful tool for the development of territorial cross-border cooperation between local authorities. The future of the EGTC is closely connected with the new European 2014-2020 programming period, because it will play a central role in terms of strategic development, program implementation and disbursement of funds. The EGTC purpose is to

1 Link to <http://www.euro-go.eu/en>

provide a legal instrument that can simplify the management of cross-border funds and initiatives. Since its constitution, EGTC GO aimed at creating a “programming laboratory” in which the representatives of the three municipalities could discuss and draw up proposals to jointly solve the issues of the cross-border area.

The DIAnet School aims at capacity building and at providing networking to aid in the development of common research projects for a sustainable future of the Danube Region, through discussing and designing trans- and interdisciplinary projects. The EGTC Standing Committees play an essential role in creating content for the activities pursued by EGTC. Their task is to draw up concrete proposals for the benefit of the territory in the selected fields, both by applying to EU tenders and by including the proposals in the 2014-2020 operational programs. In this way, our projects are very similar.

Finally, I would like to thank the University of Trieste for choosing Gorizia as the host city of the DIAnet International School. The Town of Gorizia wishes all success to the organizers in building new editions of this project.