

Croatia

Workshops

Krk

The workshop on Krk considered renewable energy sources and how they could be implemented in practice. The principal point made by the members of the focus group was that there is quite a difference between the state regulations and laws and how this looks “on paper”, and how these regulations and laws work in practice.

Opatija

There were two workshops in Opatija. The main question of the first workshop that was discussed in this concerned how children, their parents and wider families respond to and work on environmentally sustainable projects and issues.

The second workshop concentrated on the question of urbanisation in Opatija and how this could be developed in a sustainable way. The biggest problem is that people feel disempowered when thinking about how to make changes at a broader level. In terms of proposed future activities, a campaign is planned that will raise awareness about the importance of this topic, and also to animate the local community into becoming active in public decisions and public decision-making.

Group scenario interviews

In the first interview we discussed the role of the city’s green policies on the local population. The interlocuter said that green policies are in their infancy, and appear to be done mainly to acquire political points (i.e. just before an election or similar).

In the second interview we discussed the question of how sustainable and locally grown food could be brought into Rijeka, to be consumed at institutions, such as the University, schools and hospitals. The interviewee said that whilst there was a will and interest for locally grown food to be served in these institutions, actually working out how to implement this in practice is a major issue

Local workshops

Lisina

The participants of the workshops discussed the challenges they felt were present in developing sustainable ecological practices. They said that these challenges were the disinterest of decision-makers in green policies, their short-term focus and interests, and the absence of proper environmental studies being carried out. The participants determined priority areas to be improving the dialogue with decision-makers, forming a citizens' assembly, public empowerment and localization, the organisation of activities regarding trees, children, and vulnerable groups of citizens since these are topics that the wider public are sensitive to. The meeting concluded with a discussion about the potential of the Green Network, where participants discussed what resources they felt were already available and what further work needs to be done.



Opatija

The main point that came from the workshop was the need to coordinate the different interested parties. Different agencies and groups should work in a coordinated way, in order to ensure the sustainable development of the region. By doing this, then all the interests (of humans/animals and plant life) can be accounted for. Whilst the members of the hiking association will continue their work to create hiking paths in the local area, particularly on the hills surrounding the mountain of Učka.

Ika

The main topic of the workshop was about what sustainable tourism actually is, and how it might be developed/encouraged in the County of Primorsko Goranska. One of the central points that was made during the workshop was that whilst in principle people were interested in developing sustainable tourism, very often their interests in profit-making were stronger. A further point that came out during the workshop was how people working at the faculty noted quite a stark intergenerational difference in terms of interests in sustainable tourism. Those attending the workshop said that whilst the younger generations/younger people were very interested in the Green Transition, they are mainly interested in working in those areas where they see personal benefit/gain (e.g. financial rewards). The conclusion was offered that it needs to be explored how and why there is this intergenerational difference.

