

Project “Fit for Cooperation (Fit4Co)”

European Week of Regions and Cities (Brussels, 8-11 October 2018)

Mission report

A delegation of the project “Fit for Cooperation (Fit4Co)” undertook a 4-day mission to Brussels on 8-11 October 2018 to attend the Open Days of the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC). Fit4Co is an Interreg-funded project which aims at strengthening the quality and intensity of cross-border cooperation in the border regions between Italy and Austria by accompanying “collaborative tandems” of civil servants in the ideation and planning of well-designed cooperation projects (www.fit4co.eu). The mission offered the opportunity to present Fit4Co to key stakeholders, to network and exchange best practices with EU and regional officials, and to prepare the ground for the presentation of the project in future editions of the Open Days. The delegation included Matthias Fink (head), Paolo Chiocchetti, and Stefan Graziadei on behalf of the EGTC European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino and Esther Horner and Andrea Ballarin on behalf of the EGTC Euregio Senza Confini.



Monday 8. In the morning, the delegation briefly met with Carlo Fortuna, the director of the EGTC Euregio Senza Confini, and Slaven Klobučar, the coordinator of the EGTC Platform. It then attended the Annual Meeting of the EGTC Platform of the Committee of the Regions, where Matthias Fink officially requested an opportunity to present the Fit4Co project during the next annual meeting in 2019. In the afternoon, the delegation took part to the official

launch of the Open Days. The Opening Session offered a stimulating high-ranking debate on the future of EU Cohesion Policy (with Jean-Claude Juncker, Corina Crețu, Karl-Heinz Lambertz and Pavel Telička). The Opening Event, in turn, permitted to visit the stands of best-practice projects and key institutional actors in the field of regional policy and cross-border cooperation.

Tuesday 9. In the morning, the delegation attended the session “Addressing the challenges of the 21st century through innovative measures”, organized by the Veneto Region and other partners, where it also briefly met with Peter Kaiser, the President of Carinthia and of the EGTC Euregio Senza Confini. In the afternoon, it attended the session “Stories about the impact and added value of interregional cooperation” organised by the Interreg Programme and had an internal technical meeting. In the evening, the team visited the offices of the Common Representation of the European Region Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino in Rue de Pascale and briefly presented the project to two of its Directors, Richard Seeber for Tyrol and Vesna Caminades for South Tyrol.



Wednesday 10. In the morning, the delegation attended the session “Toward a European Territorial Reference Framework” organised by Spatial Foresight and presented Fit4Co at a meeting with the interim coordinator of the EGTC Platform Igor Caldeira. Mr Caldeira welcomes the request of presenting the Fit4Co project during the 2019 annual meeting of the EGTC Platform and supports the plan to showcase the final results of the project during a dedicated session of the 2020 Open Days. In the afternoon, the team visited the offices of the Representation of the Veneto Region (Ca’ Veneto) in Avenue de Tervuren, where it presented Fit4Co to Chiara Rossetto and other officials and received useful documents and tips on how to organise an Open Days session. It then attended the session “Idea lab on the future of transnational Interreg cooperation” organised by Interreg Central Europe. In the evening, it visited the offices of the Representation of the Carinthia Region in Rue du

Commerce, where it presented Fit4Co to the Director Martina Rattinger, her team, and other Carinthian guests (Herwig Seiser of the Committee of Regions and Thomas Pseiner of the Alps-Adriatic Alliance), and informally met with officials of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region.



Thursday 11. The delegation attended two sessions on new regional cooperation instruments (“Monitoring tools for EU supported integrated urban and territorial strategies”, organised by the European Commission, and “Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform”, organised by Interreg Europa) and took part in the Closing Session of the Open Days, where Corina Crețu, Karl-Heinz Lambertz, and Anthony Gardner pleaded for the fundamental role of regional policy in addressing the present and future challenges of the European Union.

Innsbruck, 15 November 2018

Paolo Chiocchetti