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BASHKIA VLORE

Wrecks4All 2.0

WRECKS4ALL 2.0 CONFERENCE

UWH4SDG

Underwater Heritage for Sustainable Development Goal

The Perspective of the Adriatic and Ionian Underwater Heritage to Promote a Diversified Tourist Offer

6 December 2024 at Hotel KRAAL, Vlore

Picture credits @AICS Tirana

"Capitalization by transferring to new territories the WRECKS4ALL model for the protection of underwater heritage through its digitalization and valorization as a novel touristic offer" - WRECKS4ALL 2.0 project has been co-funded by The Interreg IPA South Adriatic, a cross-border cooperation Programme co-funded by the European Union through the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III).

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Dear Colleagues,

The Municipality of Vlora is pleased to announce the call for abstracts in the framework of the WRECK4ALL 2.0 Conference “UWH4SDG - The Perspective of the Adriatic and Ionian Underwater Heritage to Promote a Diversified Tourist Offer”, which will take place on 6 December, 2024 in Vlora, Albania.

For the Adriatic Region, the tourism sector is an opportunity that should not be missed. It's becoming increasingly evident that the countries of Adriatic Region economy possesses natural advantage, which can become a crucial component in development of the Region. It is certain that tourism cannot reach its potential or contribute to sustainable development without clear institutional rules and plans, without keeping up with rapid innovations in technology and IT, appropriate investments and strong support from other sectors that provide support services to the sector.

The WRECK4ALL 2.0 conference aims to explore the value chain of tourism and culture for the creation of an innovative tourist offer in these territories, promoting it as an asset of regional economic sustainability.

The goal of the WRECK4ALL 2.0 conference is to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners, academics, stakeholders and researchers to discuss the best approaches for the promotion of cultural and natural underwater assets by combining innovation and technology with traditional elements.

- *Legal framework and policies for the discovery, preservation and management of underwater heritage.*
- *Cooperation approaches for the document,*
- *management and promotion of underwater cultural heritage.*
- *The value chain of tourism and underwater cultural heritage for the creation of an innovative tourist offer in the territories of the Adriatic and Ionian Region.*
- *The impact of technology and innovation for the promotion of natural and underwater tourism in the Adriatic Region.*
- *Underwater cultural heritage as an innovative offer for the diversification of the tourist package of the Adriatic and Jon Region.*
- *The underwater cultural heritage as an asset of the economic sustainability of the Adriatic and Ionian Region.*
- *Education and awareness in the service of discovery and preservation of underwater cultural heritage.*

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| 09.30 - 10.00 | Registration | |
| 10.00 – 10.50 | Welcome speeches | |
| 10.00 – 10.10 | Mr.Ermal Dredha ,Mayor, Municipality of Vlora | |
| 10.10-10.20 | Mr.Blendi Gonxhja, Minister,Ministry of Economy, Culture and Inovation TBC | |
| 10.20 – 10.30 | | |
| 10.30 – 10.40 | Mrs.Entela Sulka,Representative of EU Delegation to Albania | |
| 10.40 – 10.50 | Prof.Dr. Aurela Saliaj, Rector , University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” | |
| 11.00 – 11.45 | Keynote speakers | |
| 11.15 – 11. 30 | Mr.Ilir Capuri , Member of Parliament in Montenegro Contributor in underwater cultural heritage | |
| 11.30 – 11. 45 | Mr.Mariglen Meshini, Director,National Institute of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Economy, Culture and Inovation | |
| 11.45 – 14.00 | Presentations | |
| 11.45 – 12.00 | Prof.Fioralba Vela University of Vlora | Implementing innovation as a strategic tool for tourism development.Case of southern Albania |
| 12.00 – 12.15 | Ilir Kristo Ministry of Defence | Under water attraction, creative diving in the south of Albania, Underwater safety, medical care, the need for a hyperbaric chamber in the region |
| 12.15 – 12.30 | Marco Gemignani, Naval PhD, Naval Academy of Livorno | The main shipwrecks of the First and Second World Wars along the Albanian and Montenegrin coasts |
| 12.30 – 12.45 | Arlinda Tepelena | The strategy of Municipality of Vlora for tourism, underwater cultural heritage, an added value in the tourist offer |
| 12.45 – 13.00 | Darko Kovacevic, University of Montenegro | Wrecks4all project: Cross-Border Cooperation for diversifying Adriatic tourism through novel technologies |

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| 13.00 – 13.15 | PhD Artur Meçollari Captain ,Albanian Navy Ret | National consultant for baseline assessment of shipwrecks and their relevance for submarinetourism |
| 13.15 – 13.30 | Gerta Mehmeti PhD, Valeria Varracino, Celim Albania | Preserving the depths: unveiling the treasures of the Adriatic and Ionian Seas through natural and cultural heritage: the case of Naturalbania project |
| 13.30 – 13.45 | Kristofor Lapa, Ermal Xhelilaj, Ogerta Gjermani, Faculty of Technical and Natural Sciences, University of Vlora | Maritime Environment Protection and Management – A New Study Program of the University of Vlora |
| 13.45 – 14.00 | Ina Nasto PhD, University of Vlora | Karaburun Sazan National Park, the potential for a Nature 2000 area |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Lunch break | |
| 15.00 – 15.15 | Fabio Bruno, Emilia Brandi, Emanuele Messina, Macarena Marambio, Vasiliki Drouga, Fabio Figurella, Valeria Li Vigni, Fabiola Deliaj (online) | ART4SEA: Art to Promote Marine Ecosystem Conservation and Transform Islands and Coastal Areas into Beacons of Ocean Literacy |
| 15.15 – 15.30 | Prof. Rita Auriemma, Dept. of Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, Italy (online) | An innovative tool for the underwater cultural heritage: the Sailing the sea project |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | Tea Memushi | The BlueMed Plus Project: Roadmap uptaking in Vlora |
| 15.45 – 16.00 | Igli Pustina, President of the Diving Federation | Promotion of diving as an adventure sport in Albania, the challenges to put into a real tourist offer in coastal municipalities |
| 16.20 – 16.40 | Artjon Seferi, Regional Agency of protected Areas | The protected areas of the Vlora Region and challenges in their management, with a focus on the underwater cultural heritage values” |

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| 16.40 – 17.00 | Coffee break | |
| 17.00 – 18.00 | Panel discussion | Igli Pustina, Gerta Mehmeti, Valeria Parracino, Arlinda Tepelena, Artur Mecollari, others (TBC) |
| 18.30 – 19.30 | VR Showroom visit | Multimedia Vision Center |

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