

# Working Group 4

## Guidelines for the Working Group on Economic-Cultural Cooperations

1. Ancona Declaration highlights the importance of maritime and land transport for an integrated and sustainable development of the Adriatic–Ionian region, fundamental step to achieve stability and security in the region itself. Furthermore, Ancona Declaration underlines that “co-operation among universities will contribute to strengthen the cultural dimension of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative and contemporarily to foster a sustainable economic development”.
2. The modern concept of “sustainable development” implies a strict interaction between territory and Institutions, particularly Universities. The same principle has to be extended to all the Universities in the basin that should face with the territorial aspects of the respective countries. UNIADRION could contribute to the territorial development of the entire region by promoting the identification and the realisation of common projects based on scientifically justified proposals, as well as by providing technical support in implementing such projects.
3. With respect to infrastructures and transport networks, UNIADRION could contribute as follows:
  - a) to disseminate, according to the principles of scientific rigour, the contents and state of play of numerous projects particularly significant for the region;
  - b) to check the environmental compatibility, service competitiveness and user safety of transport infrastructures and vehicles, by promoting, supporting and performing projects and evaluations, characterised by a mostly scientific content;
  - c) To foster research and development projects in transport and logistics, aiming at the most proper collocation of the region development plans within the context of a global sustainable development.

All these activities could significantly assist public decision-makers, both national and local, and furthermore, will constitute an important heritage for scientific as well as wide-public dissemination as well.

4. UNIADRION and the Research Centres concerned should contribute to identify and define models of development for the region, and to select the related project alternatives by carrying out studies and evaluations, mostly concentrated on environmental and economic aspects. To this respect, the exploitation of modern simulation techniques and decision-making support systems is highly recommended. Specific research projects concerning infrastructure and transport, could identify solutions environmentally compatible and economically viable. In this sense, an interesting exercise could be the assessment of cultural and rural tourism impacts within the economic framework of the region.
5. Furthermore, the adequacy of infrastructure and transport networks in relation to the requirements of the enlargement process will be investigated. It could be mentioned the impact of the increasing of the traffic going from South Eastern Europe and Turkey to the Adriatic–Ionian coasts, once “Via Ignazia” highway, linking these areas with the Adriatic Sea through Northern Greece, will be completed.
6. Studies and evaluations on alternative model of infrastructure development, e.g. railway network, to be carried out through multilateral and cross-border co-operations within the widest

perspectives of European integration, could be also included among the most general tasks of UNIADRION, still consistent with Ancona Conference directives.