



Contract no. 030145

Co-ordinating Regional Primary Sector Policies for Boosting Innovation

CoRin

Co-ordination Action

Support for the coherent development of policies
Regions of Knowledge 2

D12 - DESCRIPTION OF CO-ORDINATION PILOT ACTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This deliverable describes in detail the trans-regional Pilot Action activities.

Such activities regarded on one hand an Information Technology tool – the database of research projects – and, on the other hand, various initiatives carried out by partners at trans-regional level and aiming at stimulating networking and exchange of know how between subjects involved in ichthyic sector and in innovation promotion in the different regions.

The following chapters will present both the features and the results obtained by these two instruments.

As for the IT tool, chapter 1 presents some statistics of use of the website, the technical solutions adopted and the information contained in the common database.

As for non-IT trans-regional activities, chapter 2 presents: the results of a trans-national working group among project partners on strategies and opportunities for a better and more efficient use of Public Funds for ichthyic sector and RTD investments (paragraph 2.1) and activities carried out at policy-makers level to increase networking and cooperation (paragraph 2.2).

Objectives (and Methodology) overview

The database of research projects on fishery, aquaculture and related issues, is addressed to policy-makers, researchers and final users in order to upgrade competences of primary sector policy-makers towards increasing research investment.

It is at the same time a tool to support mutual learning among partners and a Pilot Action; in fact it supports sharing experiences and knowledge, in order to upgrade competences of primary sector policy-makers towards increasing research investment.

The database was set up with the employ of specific IT competences and applications and its structure and functions were considerably improved thanks to the comments and contributions of all partners.

The description of its characteristics is based on the information collected during its setting up and with the help of dedicated software. Further data were collected relating to web site usage and the content of the database (number of projects, institutions, publications, etc.). The elaborations presented below were obtained with the help of a spreadsheet.

The trans-regional working table was aimed at discussing regional initiatives in the fisheries and to share experiences of different regions in the common perspective to boost innovation and research in the fishery sector.

The working table was implemented among CoRIn Partners with a permanent communication throughout the whole project duration, a frequent exchange of documents and periodical meetings.

In parallel, CoRIn partners implemented specific awareness and networking activities addressed to policy-makers, aiming at reinforcing and/or creating relations between different regions at policy level on fishery and aquaculture. These activities drove to:

- the production and subscription of a “Protocol of intents” between Emilia-Romagna Region (IT), Veneto Region (IT), Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT), Istria Region (HR), Primorsko-goranska County (HR) for cooperation in the field of Fishery and

Acquaculture. The protocol refers also to “the promotion of a coordinated application of the Common fishery Policy of the European Union and of related community funds for an homogeneous growth of fishery and aquaculture sectors, as development components for the ichthyic economy”;

- the institution, through a decree of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policy, of a Working Group for the creation of the Northern Adriatic fishery District. The working Group is made up by the chairpersons of Fishery directorates of Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia Regions, plus Ministry delegates and five experts. It will define the strategic working document for the creation of a trans-regional and trans-national fishery District, which shall consider also the Slovenian and Croatian part of the northern Adriatic sea.

1 IT TRANS-REGIONAL PILOT ACTIONS: THE DATABASE OF RESEARCH PROJECTS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

The aim of the current chapter is to describe the architectural structure of CoRIn database of research projects (paragraph 1.1) and then to give evidence of the results obtained (paragraph 1.2).

1.1 General description and technical solutions

The IT tools have been developed ensuring data integrity and security by hardware and software choices; the access to private areas is verified by a password and different levels of users and accesses have been planned.

1.1.1 Database structure

In order to construct, manage and maintain the database we need a software called DBMS (database management system); many applications are suitable for this scope, with different features. Emilia Romagna has been already involved in many projects (regional, transregional, transnational..) with the task to construct and maintain a database. In these experiences it was identified the software more suitable to collect information in a simply and secure way.

The DataBase Management System (DBMS) chosen is MySQL; this choice is justified by the following factors:

- MySQL is Free
- MySQL is an Open Source Standard Query Language (SQL) database
- It is fast, reliable, easy to use, and suitable for applications of any size
- MySQL offers a comprehensive range of certified software, support, training and consulting
- MySQL can easily be integrated into many interfacing modules
- It was created for the network
- It is able to take many database simultaneously
- It is considered a server containing many database to which we can access with a password
- It is a protected system: each user has a password and different access level.

Database tables

The information collected could be managed in four main tables:

1. Projects
2. Research institutions
3. Research areas
4. Publications

Each table has some attributes that identify a record.

1. PROJECT ATTRIBUTES are:

- Title
- Period
- Program
- Objectives
- Region

- Outputs
 - Funds
 - Partners involved
 - Leader
 - Research area
 - Sub-area
 - Status
2. RESEARCH AREA attributes are:
- Area
 - Sub-area
3. RESEARCH INSTITUTION attributes are:
- Name
 - Address
 - Country
 - Telephone
 - E-mail
 - Referent
4. PUBLICATION attributes are:
- Title
 - Authors
 - Project related
 - Year
 - Publisher

When we are talking about research areas we refer to two main macroareas:

- fishing
- aquaculture

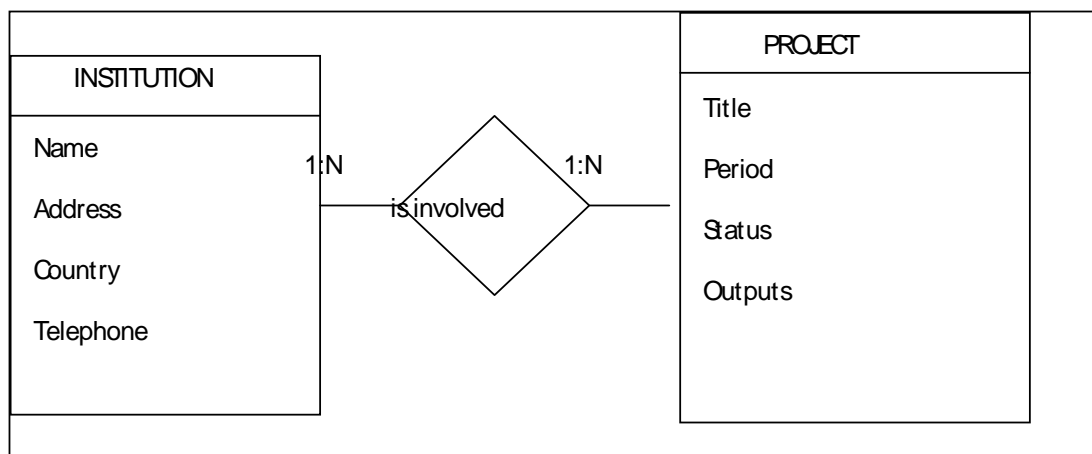
and four sub-areas:

- physiological study
- socio-economic study
- pathological study
- technical study (feeding, ..)

Tables relationship

Tables are connected by relationships among them. Next figure shows the relationship between research institutions and projects: a research institution is involved in one or more projects and a project involves one or more partners.

Figure 1 - Relationship between institutions and projects



Similarly, the figure 2 shows relationship between research areas and projects: a project is related to one or more research areas and a research area concerns one or more projects.

Figure 2 - Relationship between research areas and projects

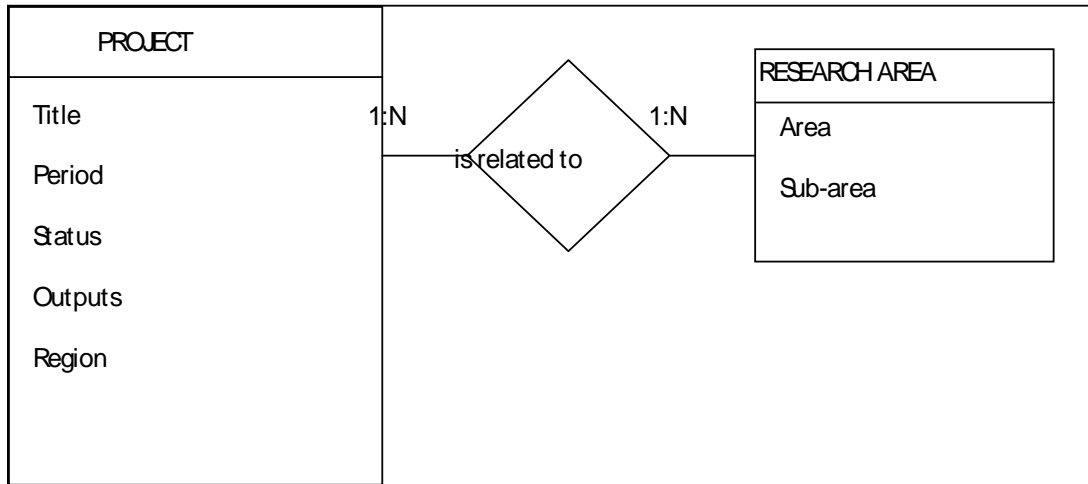
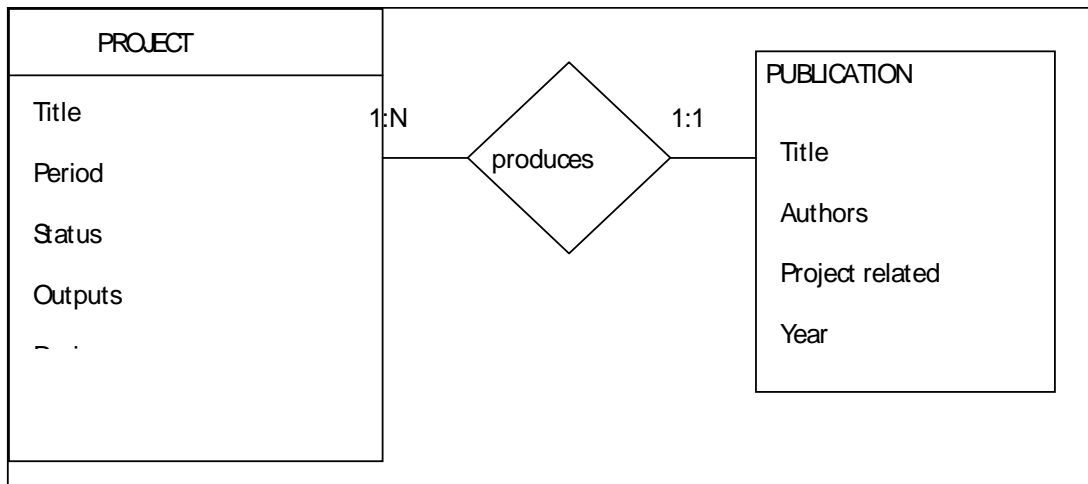


Figure 3 shows the relationship between publications and projects: a project produces one or more publications and a publication is related to one project.

Figure 3 - Relationship between publications and projects



1.1.2 Partner Contributions and information upload

The database information has been uploaded in a two-step process.

As a starting point, each partner collected the information available for its Region relating to R&D institutions, research project, publications, etc.

Then the database administrator uploaded the basic information on the database, on the basis of the data sent by partners.

As a second step, each partner identified one-two persons responsible for this task, who continued to upload information through CoRin website. Each partner will have an username and a password given by the database administrator to insert information.

Periodically, or when a new project will be approved or finished, CoRin partners should upload the information related.

1.1.3 Database access and query

CoRin web site is hosted by “AltoAdriatico” portal (www.altoadriatico.com).

CoRin area includes various sections, such as the *Project presentation*, *Partners description*, *Document warehouse* (reports – deliverables / pilot actions / informative material / events & press) and the *Research projects database access*.

The following screenshots show how to access and use the database.

Figure 4 – CoRin web site and research projects database home page



Any user that intends to access the database should be authenticated.

There are three levels to access to the database:

Administrator, who can:

- insert, modify and delete information about R&D Institutions, projects, research area and publications
- create, modify and delete users
- research a project

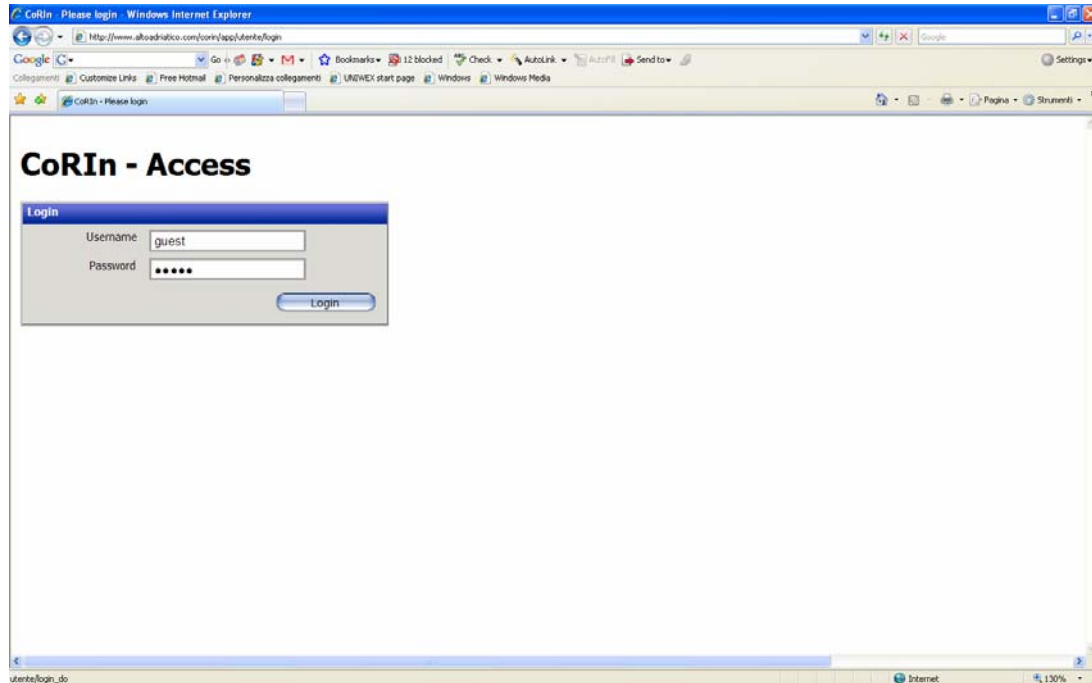
Person responsible for a partner, who can:

- insert, modify but not delete information about R&D Institutions, Projects and Publications
- research a project

Internet guest, who can:

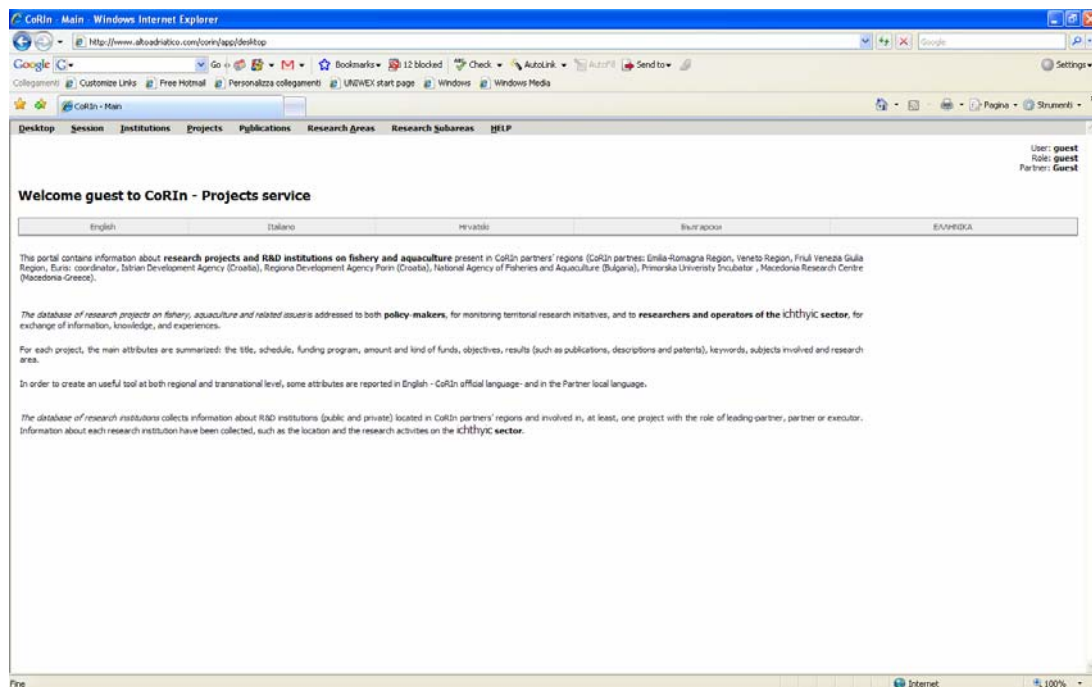
- view information about R&D Institutions, Projects, and Publications
- research a project

Figure 5 – CoRin database access: Login



After entering the Username and Password, a welcome page (available in each of the 5 languages of the CoRin partners Regions) presents the database and its usage.

Figure 6 – Welcome page (5 languages)

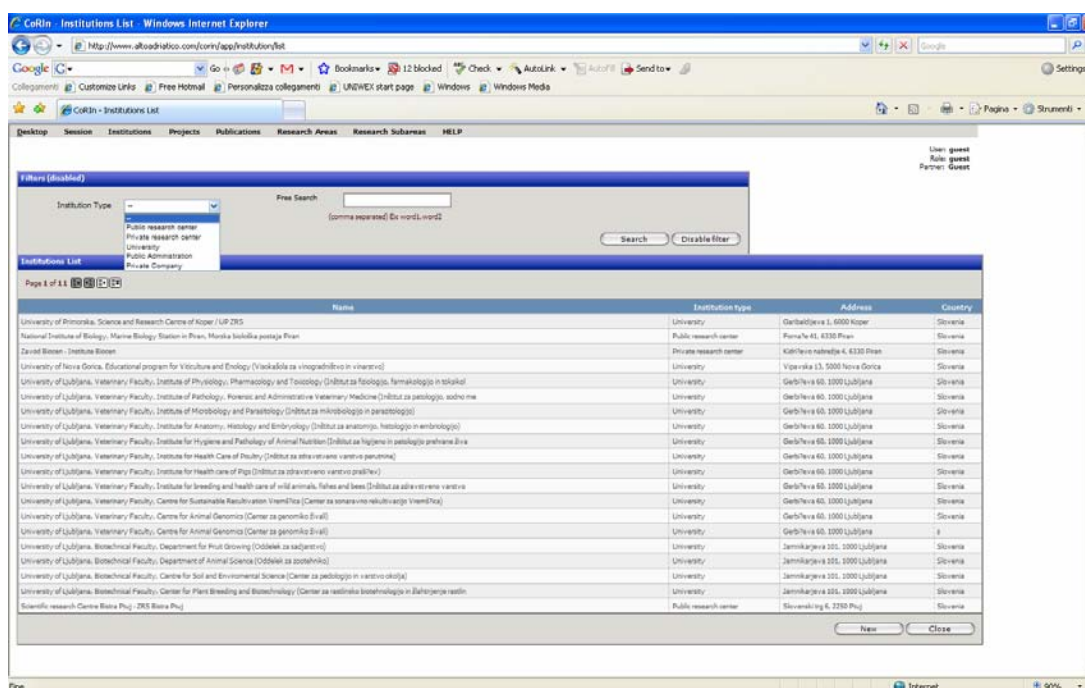


Each user who accesses the database can investigate information about research project in the primary sector, simply listing the information available, or by filtering them by means of the proper fields.

Authorized users have the possibility to modify such information, in particular they can insert a new publication or institution or project.

Clicking on “Institutions/List” a form containing the list of institutions contained in the database will be displayed. In the same way a guest can list projects and publications information contained in the database.

Figure 7 – Institutions list

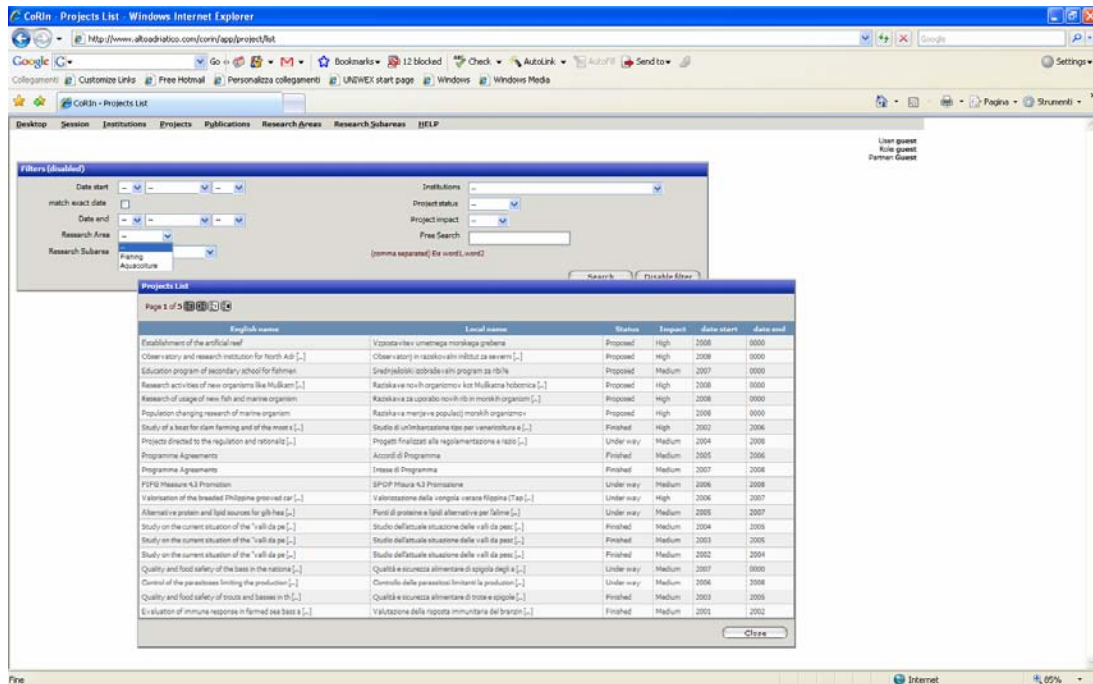


When consulting the projects, users can point out some parameters (as institutions involved, research area, year, etc.) and construct a dynamic report that filters information on the basis of these choices.

As shown in the figures, some fields are combo box or multiple choices: some attributes have to be chosen in a set of attributes, instead other attributes could be plain inserted by the user. This solution should avoid common errors caused by registering information already available.

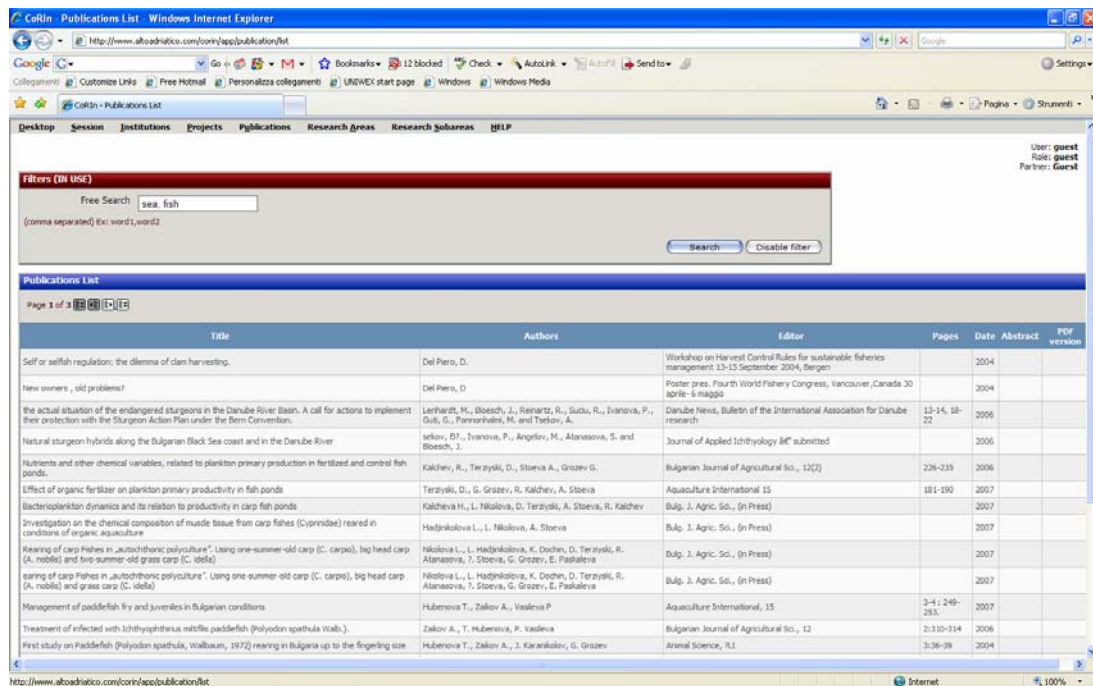
The report generated shows links to all related available documents.

Figure 8 – Filtering information



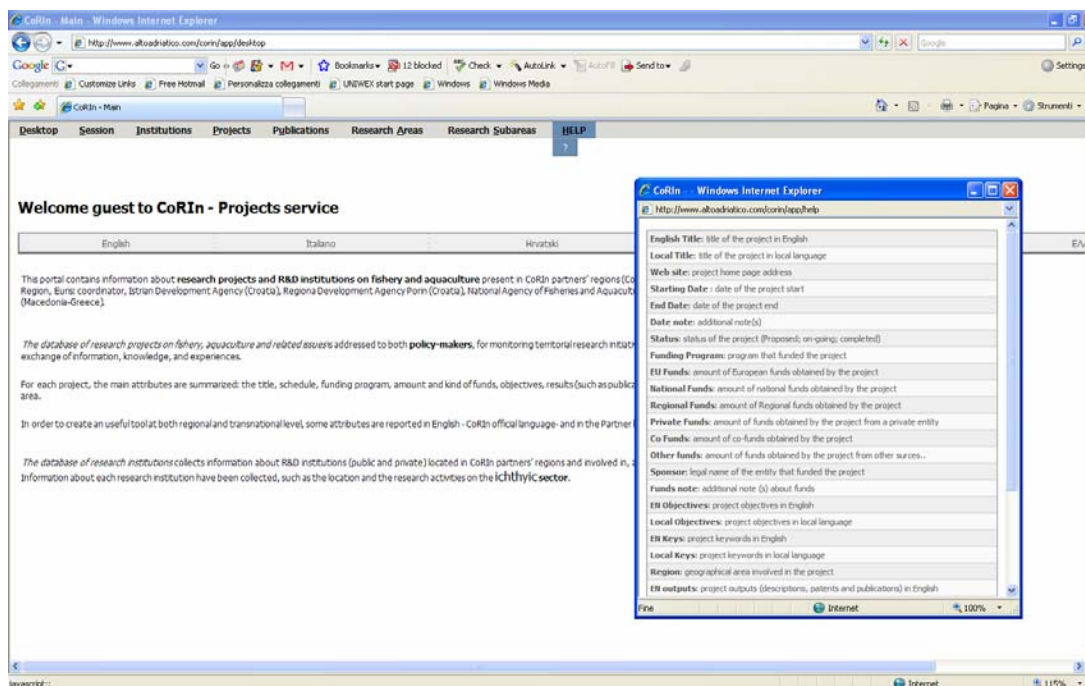
Another option is to look for all the information that relates to specific words, through the “free search” field.

Figure 9 – Free search form



Finally, in order to facilitate the database usage, a Help section is provided.

Figure 10 – Help section



1.2 Results obtained

The results obtained with the IT tools created are consistent with the objectives pursued with this activity.

Thanks to CoRin website and research project database we provided effective tools capable of improving the dissemination and management of information related to funding opportunities and research projects already carried out or planned.

CoRin website is an IT platform, accessible via internet, for document management and remote communication, able to support collaboration among partners, share documents and experiences and disseminate developed recommendations and best practices;

The database of research projects on fishery, aquaculture and related issues is an new and valuable support for mutual learning among partners, in order to upgrade competences of primary sector policy-makers towards increasing research investment.

In order to evaluate the global performance of the IT tools created in the following paragraphs we will present the results obtained in terms of information provided by the database (paragraph 2.2.1) and in terms of actual access to such information by internet users (paragraph 2.2.2).

1.2.1 Database content

The most significant information delivered by the database can be classified in the following elements uploaded in the database by CoRin partners:

- research institutions,
- research projects and
- related publications.

Any internet user can access the information related to these aspects, both looking for them separately and performing a multiple variables query, as described in the paragraph 2.1.3 “Database access and query”.

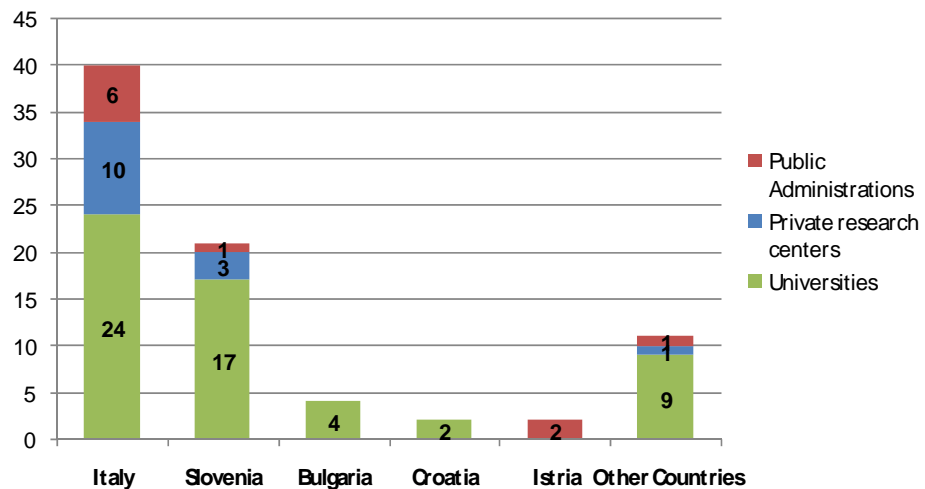
As far as research institutions are concerned, the database collects 80 records to date (see next figure). For each institutions the data available relate to:

- address,
- country,
- phone number,
- fax number,
- e-mail,
- web site,
- a referent person and
- research areas of interest.

Out of the 80 institutions registered, 56 are Universities (70%), 14 are Private Research Centres (18%) and 10 are Public Administrations bodies (13%).

The Country with the largest number of records is Italy (40 institutions, 50% of the total), followed by Slovenia (21 institutions, 26%), Bulgaria (4 institutions, 5%), Croatia and Istria (with 2 institutions, 3%).

**Figure 11 - CoRin database of research projects:
number of institutions registered per Country**



At present, the research projects contained in the database are 101.

Research projects description contains many useful details accessible to any internet user:

- title
- web site
- starting date
- end date
- status (finished, under way or proposed)
- impact produced on primary sector (high, medium or low)
- funding program
- objectives
- keywords
- region of implementation
- outputs produced
- contact person
- contact person coordinates

- private involvement
- area and subarea of study
- institutions involved
- publications related

In the following table the projects are classified according to their status and the impact produced on primary sector.

The table shows that the majority of projects uploaded in the database are finished already (43 out of 101), 34 are still under way and 24 proposed.

The impact produced on primary sector (fishery and aquaculture) is considered to be high in the 48% of projects, with a little lower percentage for finished and under way projects (37-38%).

A medium impact is estimated for 49% of projects, with a higher percentage for finished and under way projects (58-59%).

Finally, only 4% of projects are considered to be little effective.

**Table 1 - CoRIn database of research projects:
number of projects registered per status and impact**

	TOTAL		Impact					
	(n.)	(%)	High		Medium		Low	
	(n.)	(%)	(n.)	(%)	(n.)	(%)	(n.)	(%)
TOTAL	101	100%	48	48%	49	49%	4	4%
Finished	43	100%	16	37%	25	58%	2	5%
Under way	34	100%	13	38%	20	59%	1	3%
Proposed	24	100%	19	79%	4	17%	1	4%

Further interesting considerations can be done considering the areas and subareas of study of the projects recorded.

The following table classifies the projects according to the areas and subareas of study. Since a single project may refer to more than one area, the total number of records is higher than the total number of projects contained in the database.

The area with the largest number of projects is aquaculture (96 projects), while fishery is the subject of 53 projects.

Biological studies present the highest frequency (37 projects: 20 in aquaculture and 17 in fishery), followed by fish breeding and farming (32 projects related to aquaculture), socio economy (30 projects) and resource management (27 projects).

Lower frequency is observed for pathology, technical fishery, physiology and other subjects (23 projects).

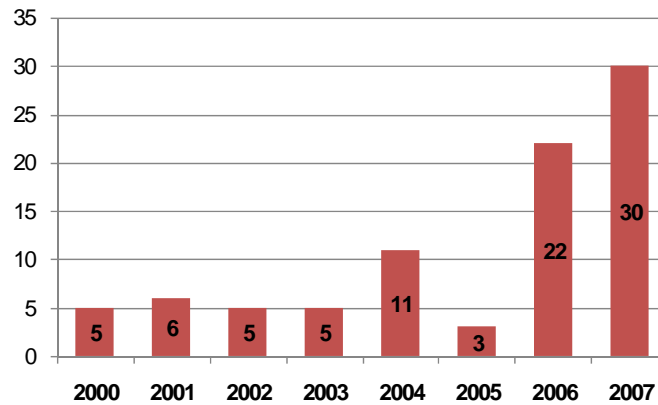
**Table 2 - CoRIn database of research projects:
number of projects registered per area and subarea**

	Biological study	Fish breeding and farming	Socio-economy	Resource management	Pathology	Technical fishery	Physiology	Others	TOTAL
TOTAL PROJECTS	37	32	30	27	8	5	3	7	149
Fishery	17		14	13		3	2	4	53
Aquaculture	20	32	16	14	8	2	1	3	96

Finally it is important to assess the number of project-related publications detailed in the database. In fact, publications represent the mean of diffusion of the knowledge generated in each project.

The total number of publication contained in the database is 87. Fifty-two of them were edited in the last two years considered (22 in 2006 and 30 in 2007), while in the previous years we observe an average of 5-6 publications per year.

Figure 12 – CoRIn database of research projects: number of publications registered per year



1.2.2 **Access statistics**

Both CoRIn web site and the Database of research projects are hosted in the AltoAdriatico portal (www.altoadriatico.com) and are consistent with its graphics and contents.

In order to better evaluate the significance of the results obtained with the IT tools created, it is important to verify their availability and their usage by a large number of primary sector stakeholders.

In order to verify the level of diffusion of such instruments it is possible to check the statistics obtained by means of a special application, available at www.altoadriatico.com/bbclone.

Such application provides information related to the total number of accesses registered over time, their origin, the type of connection used by the visitors (see next figures).

There are various elements that can be considered to evaluate the performance of the IT tools created.

Three of them are most relevant and relate to the following aspects:

- global number of visits to the web site,
- their trend over time
- and the origin of the incoming connections.

As a matter of fact, each one of them provides evidence of the considerable performance of the tools.

In fact, the total number of visits to the web site from its creations has been of 63.826, and 3.401 in the past month.

As for the trend of the visits over time, we register an important improvement from the time the database has been available online: actually from December 2007 to March 2008 the traffic increased from 4,2K to 6,0K, that is +42%.

Finally it is important to notice that the connections to web site and the database originated from various Countries, and not only those involved in CoRIn project, such as USA (31,91%), Italy (14,14%), Sweden (2,53%), Croatia (1,35%), Germany (0,99%), Canada (0,59%) and Bulgaria (0,46%).

Further it is interesting to observe that a significant amount of visits originated from commercial extensions, most likely private sector firms or research centers.

Figure 13 – Web site access global statistics

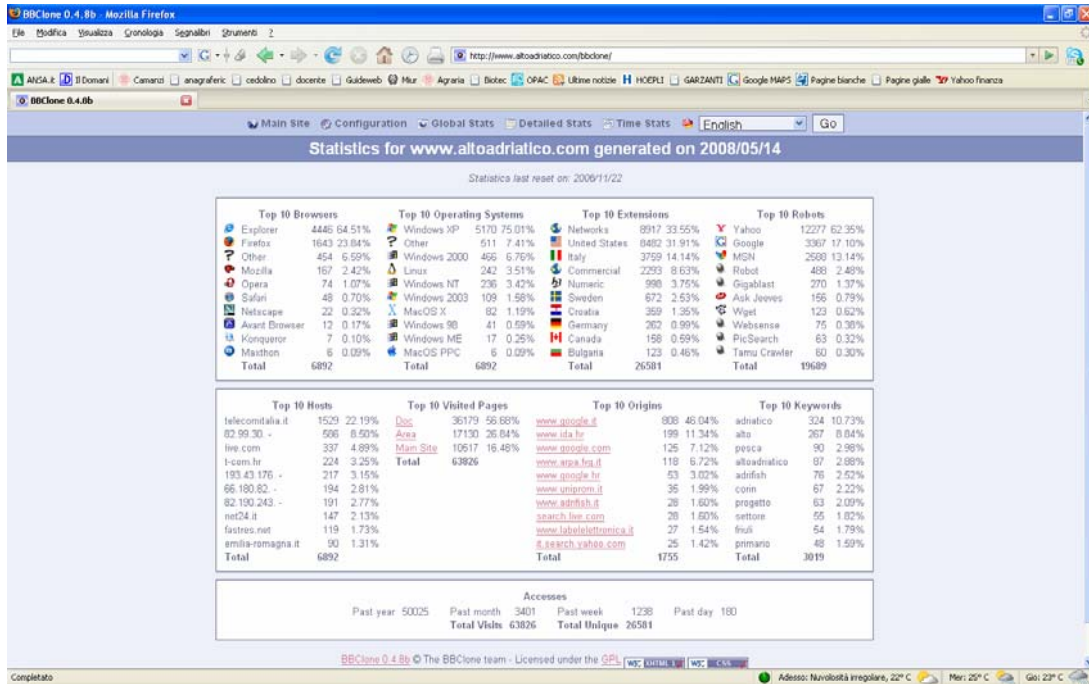
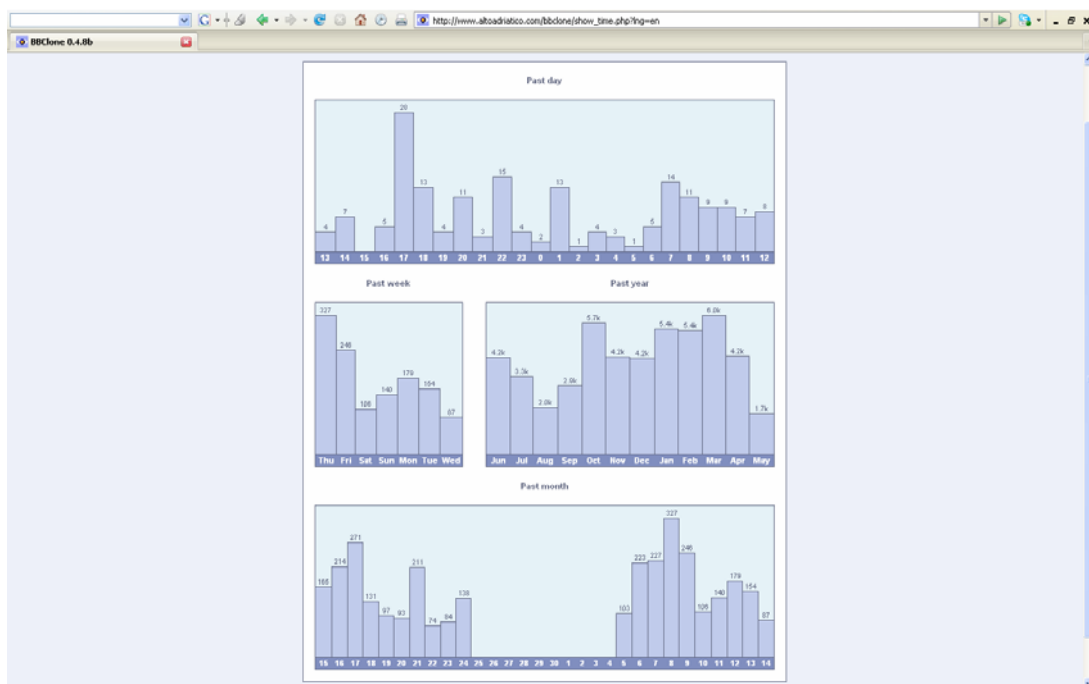


Figure 14 – Web site access time statistics



2 NON-IT TRANS-REGIONAL PILOT ACTIONS

2.1 Working table among project partners on the use of public funds for promoting RTD in fishery sector

CoRIn partners set-up a trans-national working group on strategies and opportunities for a better and more efficient use of Public funds (including new Structural Funds for fishery period 2007/2013) in supporting RTD investments.

The working group was composed by representing persons of each partner, and met in occasion of project official meetings. In addition, specific restricted meeting have been organised among some partners (namely, the Italian partners).

Table 3 -list of working group meeting dates.

Date	Place
PLENARY MEETINGS (ALL PARTNERS)	
8 June 07	Rimini (I)
12 October 07	Kozani (Gr)
7 March 08	Sofia (Bg)
RESTRICTED MEETINGS (ITALIAN PARTNERS)	
22 January 07	Mestre (I)
16 February 07	Mestre (I)
18 April 07	Mestre (I)
11 June 07	Mestre (I)
13 July 07	Mestre (I)
8 January 08	Mestre (I)
29 January 08	Bologna (I)
3 March 08	Mestre (I)

Partners had also the intention to involve external experts of fishery sector to their working group by organising a dedicated transnational event in the second part of the project. However, at the moment of organising this event, it resulted it would have been a duplication of the Focus Tables already organised at regional level by each partner in the framework of regional Pilot Actions.

It was thus decided that single partners would have referred to other the results of their regional consultations, as a way to take into account stakeholders' advices.

The working group discussed and exchanged information on strategies adopted in the different regions, evaluating strength and weakness points of the different approaches. Concerning the new Structural Funds for the period 2007/2013, and specifically the European Fisheries Fund – EFF, the instrument of “collective actions” has been indicated as the most appropriate for promoting RTD activities within the EFF framework.

Anyway, at the moment of discussing many regions were already well beyond in the programming process, while other ones (Croatia regions) don't have this instrument. For this reason, partners evaluations and considerations took into consideration Public Funds in general, and not only Structural Funds.

Activities of this working group were expected to result in a strategic document addressed to policy-makers at regional level. One of the indications of the working group has been the need to coordinate the different outputs of the project in a single communication, avoiding confusion and duplications.

It was thus decided to produce a single final document addressed to policy makers, merging the recommendations for Primary Sector Policy and Coordination (WP4) with the considerations emerged from the working group (WP3). This report constitutes the deliverable D14+D15.

2.2 Trans-regional networking system between policy-makers on fishery and aquaculture

The second part of Non-IT Pilot Action was focused on strengthening the transnational networking system between regional policy-makers on fishery and aquaculture topics, by promoting the creation of institutional places and instruments for transnational cooperation among Regions.

The global framework for these activities was provided by the "Northern Adriatic Pilot Project" initiative.

Starting from year 2003, in a changing environment where market globalisation demands innovative choices, the Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia Regions considered the opportunity to establish a dialogue in order to identify shared argumentations on which development strategies and objectives for the coastal areas could be based. This "informal network" was extended to the border countries, Slovenia and Croatia, to search for a common interest for the development of an intersectorial cooperation.

The inspiring principles of this cooperation are:

- the need of a specificity for the Mediterranean and the Northern Adriatic sea in the application of the Common Fishery Policy, in consideration of the ecological and environmental specificities of the area and according to the socio-economic characteristics of the coastal communities;
- the coordination of the regional planning activities for the fishery, according to the European codes and to the principles informing at National level, for the establishment of an interregional cooperation able to really and effectively improve the sector.

In the past years, this cooperation has been characterized by an increasing institutional commitment, through the signature of the following acts:

- the Protocol of intent among the three Italian Regions Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna, subscribed in Rimini the 24th of February 2003, which establish a collaboration for the development of a programme of common initiatives in the fields of fishing and aquaculture in the Northern Adriatic sea, according to the concerning addresses of the European Community and the Italian Government;
- the Protocol of intent subscribed in Rovigno the 4th of August 2003 which extends the previous protocol to the Croatian Regions of Istarska and Primorsko Goranska Zupanja;

- the “Institutional Agreement” among the Italian Ministry Agriculture and Forestry and the Regions Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, and Emilia-Romagna, occurred in Venice on 23rd of September 2005, which recognizes the undertaken course and the cooperation and governance experiences undertaken by the Northern Adriatic Partnership.

Starting from these activities, **partners decided to exploit the CoRIn opportunity to give a further impulse to the cooperation process in the Northern Adriatic area, toward the setting up of an unique body for management of the ichthyic sector.**

Based on previous agreements, the governance body that has been proposed to this end was a “District”. This has its framework, at Italian level, in the art. 4 of the Legislative Decree n. 226/2001 establishing the principle that a District is not only an economic-productive aggregate, but an institute of public law identified in a geographical ambit defined as “identified and delimited homogeneous maritime area”, where are set up uniform management methods. Therefore, the District becomes a governmental place for the institutions, in collaboration with the social and productive parts, in order to apply the community and national regulations for a joint and rational management of the sustainable development of the whole activities related to the ichthyic economy.

During the CoRIn period, various contacts had been organized between the involved regions and the related Ministries, with the technical support of Euris. These activities lead to (see fog. 15):

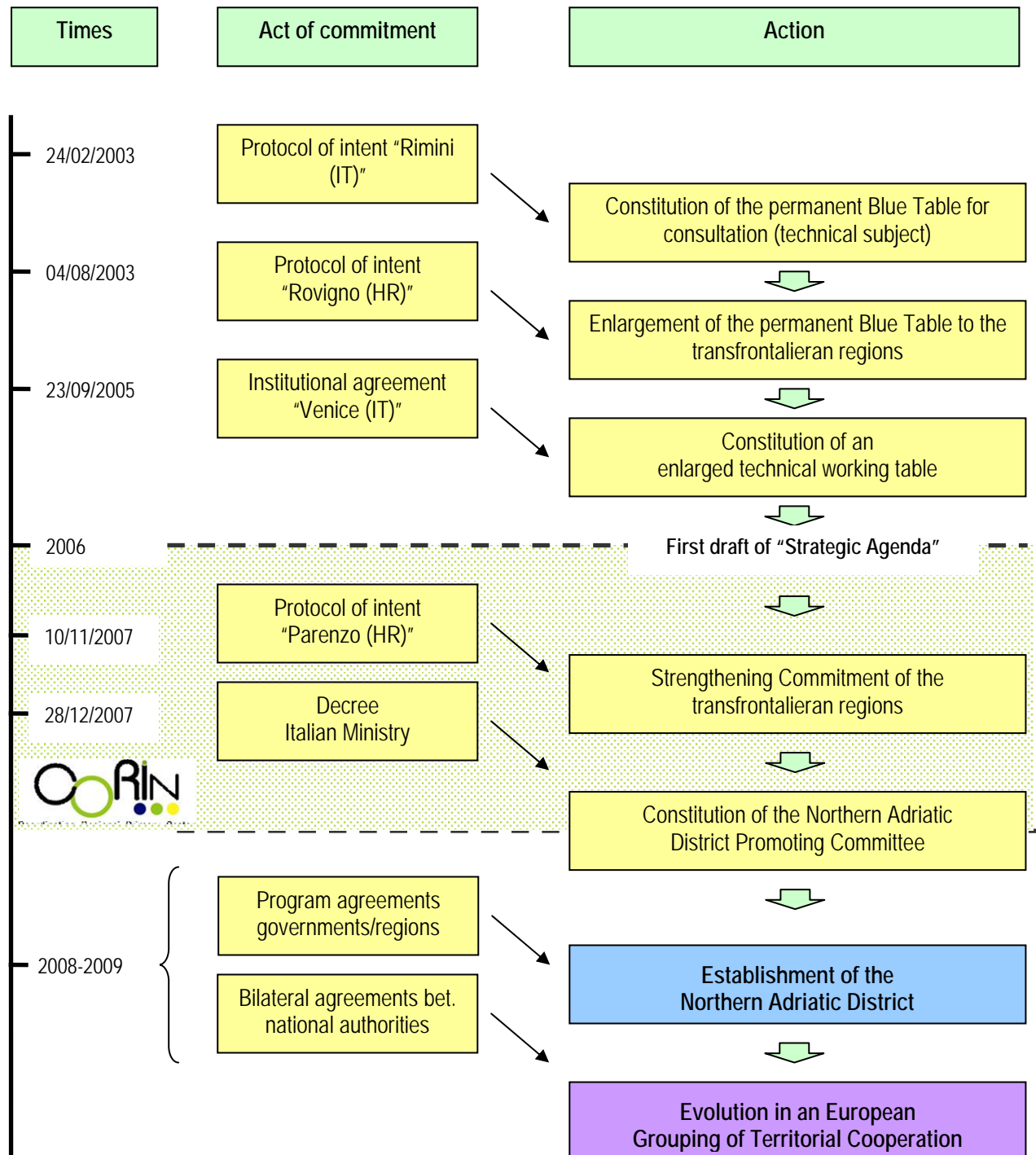
- the production and subscription of a new, more specific, “Protocol of intents” for cooperation in the field of Fishery and Acquacolture, subscribed in Parenzo the 10th of November 2007 between Emilia-Romagna Region, Veneto Region, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Istria Region, and Primorsko-goranska County. The protocol refers also to “the promotion of a coordinated application of the Common fishery Policy of the European Union and of related community funds for an homogeneous growth of fishery and acquacolture sectors, as development components for the ichthyic economy”;
- the institution, through a decree of the Italian Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry Policy of 28th December 2008, of a Working Group for the creation of the Northern Adriatic fishery District. The working Group is made up by the chairpersons of Fishery directorates of Emilia-Romagna, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia Regions, plus Ministry delegates and five experts.

Another contribution of the CoRIn project to this process has been provided towards the analysis conducted in WP1-Task 1.2, about existing governance instruments and opportunities at international, national, and regional level for trans-regional cooperation in Primary Sector. The proposed instrument of a fishery District as common governance body for the Northern Adriatic area is indeed applicable only to the Italian territories. The District institution is governed by the Italian law and do not apply to trans-border territories.

The analysis conducted in the WP1 evaluated all available instruments, at EU level, for transnational cooperation and co-ordination between Regional Administrations (see Deliverable D2). It identified the instrument of the “European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation” (EGTC)¹ as the possible legal framework for the creation of a common, transnational governance body promoted by sub-national agencies. This opportunity will be included in future activities for the formalization of the Northern Adriatic collaboration.

¹ Regulation (EC) n. 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council, of the 5 July 2006 and related national legislation of implementation.

Figure 15 – The institutional collaboration process among Northern Adriatic Regions and CoRin contribution



Finally, concerning the project, it should be highlighted that the decision to focus activities in the Northern Adriatic area was justified by the already existing agreements among these regions. Other CoRin partners not directly included in this action (MARC and NAFA) have been anyway involved though constant information and knowledge sharing. The possibility to transfer the same experience also in other areas with similar needs (i.e. the Black sea and the Aegean sea) was also discussed.