



Straits LAB

RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
CITIES AND LANDSCAPE OF THE EUROPEAN STRAITS





PROPOSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN ERASMUS PLUS - ACTION KA2

Cooperation for Innovation and the exchange of good practice: Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education”

The Action supported Strategic Partnerships in the field of education, this Action are expected to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participating organisations, on the policy systems in which such Actions are framed as well as on the persons directly or indirectly involved in the organised activities.

This Key Action is expected to result in the development, transfer and/or implementation of innovative practices at organisational, local, regional, national or European levels.

The action involves a three-year project.

The funding provided by the EU is:

- Maximum annual contribution: € 150,000 (€ 12,500 per month)
- All costs are funded at 100%

Deadline: On 31 March 2015

The Program Guide is on the website:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm.

Department dArTe responsible

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PROPOSED THEME:

Straits LAB_ RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CITIES AND LANDSCAPE OF THE EUROPEAN STRAITS FOR A TRAVELLING WORKSHOP

The Straits draw a constellation in the European geography, they are peculiar places where the sea takes a size small enough to lose its nature of “space that separates” and become a binder between shores of countries and foreign nations.

From natural ones (Gulf of Finland, Dover, Gibraltar, Bonifacio, Sicily, Messina, Dardanelles, Bosphorus, etc.) to those created by man, the Straits define a human space for meeting and relationship and, at the same time, they are border and boundary between countries and civilizations that define a peculiar condition of belonging, of inside and outside perception, of the finite and infinite.

These separated territories were, the oldest in history, too often places of conflict and conquest, and then they went through inevitable hybridization. Borders close geographically, not always peaceful, with huge cultural differences. Symmetric places made of layers of cultures and marked by unstable



social equilibrium. As frontier spaces, the sea of the Straits recognizes the presence of otherness and plays a crucial role in affirming the identity of places.

The Straits are a distinguishing characteristic, increasingly aware of its specificity by the creation, in 2010, of the network *ESI -European Straits Initiative-* that aggregates fifteen local authorities whose territories are on the shores of the Straits, with the objective to recognize the identity of the "European Strait" in the EU and national policies and to include this peculiarity in the Structural Funds planning for 2014-2020.

The Europeans Straits become places for research and discussion, on which the dArTe Department of Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria proposes to set up a university network as an itinerant laboratory to develop certain topics:

- The **City of the Straits**: integrated urban reality in which the two sides build a space of sharing.
- The **Sea of the Straits**: the sea as the local infrastructure and the European corridor, space of the collective dimension.

GULF OF FINLAND

Country: Finland

City: Helsinki

Country: Estonia

City: Tallinn

GULF OF BOTNIA

Country: Sweden

Country: Finland

NORTH CHANNEL

Country: Scotland

City: Glasgow

Country: Ireland

City: Belfast

DOVER STRAIT

Country: England

City: Dover

Country: France

City: Calais



THE FEHMARN BELT

Country: Denmark
City: Copenhagen
Lolland Municipality
Country: Germany
City: Lubeck

STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR

Country: Spain
City: Sevilla
Country: Morocco
City: Tangier

STRAIT OF BONIFACIO

Country: Italy
City: Santa Teresa
Country: France - Corsica
City: Bonifacio

STRAIT OF SICILY

Country: Italy
City: Trapani
Country: Tunisia
City: Tunis

STRAIT OF MESSINA

Country: Italy
City: Reggio Calabria
City: Messina

STRAIT OF OTRANTO

Country: Italy
City: Lecce
Country: Albania
City: Vlore

DARDANELLES STRAIT

Country: Turkey
City: Istanbul