Interreg ADRION ADRIATIC-IONIAN
EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund - Instrument for Pre-Accession II Fund

ADRISEISMIC

REPORTS ON STUDY VISITS IN SEMESTER III: STUDY VISIT IN GJIROKASTER (ALBANIA)

WPT2 – Establishing the ADRISEISMIC methodology for the reduction of seismic vulnerability

Version: V1.0

Lead contributor: UNIBO

Date: 30/09/2021

Nature: Report | *Diss. level:* PU (Public)

This project is supported by the Interreg ADRION Programme funded under the European Regional Development Fund and IPA II fund.

INTERREG V B – Adriatic Ionian
ADRION PROGRAMME – SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PRIORITY AXIS 2 – Sustainable Region

Project duration: from 01/03/2020 to 31/08/2022

LEADER
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM – University of Bologna – Department of Architecture (IT)

PARTNERS
Institute for Vocational Training of Construction Workers in the province of Bologna – I.I.P.L.E. (IT)
City of Kaštela (HR)
Municipality of Gjirokaster (AL)
Regional development agency Backa (RS)
Slovenian national building and civil engineering institute (SI)
University of Crete (GR)
Region of Crete (GR)

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Document Information

Project Acronym	ADRISEISMIC
Full title	New approaches for seismic improvement and renovation of Adriatic and Ionian historic urban centres
Project URL	https://adriseismic.adrioninterreg.eu/

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Deliverable number: T.2.2.5	Title	Reports on Study Visits in semester III
Work package number: T2	Title	Establishing the ADRISEISMIC methodology for the reduction of seismic vulnerability

Delivery date	30/09/2021	
Status	Version: 1.0	Draft □ Final ☑
Type	Internal Deliverable □ Official Deliverable ☑	
Nature	Report ☑ Other (please specify) □	
Dissemination Level	Public ☑ Confidential (Consortium) □	

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Description of the deliverable (3-5 lines)	The deliverable details the activities carried out on July 15th, 2021, on the occasion of the Albanian Study Visit
Key words	Study visit, Gjirokaster, historic centres, built heritage

Document history

NAME	DATE	VERSION	DESCRIPTION
1st draft	18/09/2021	0.1	First draft
Final version	30/09/2021	1.0	Final version of the deliverable

Definitions & Acronyms

Acronym	Full name
CA	Consortium Agreement
PP	Project Partner
LP	Lead Partner
WPT	Technical Work Package

1 Introduction

The Adriseismic Project aims to reduce the seismic risk of the countries involved through the systematization of practices and local knowledge. The activities are aimed at improving the processes of intervention before and after the earthquake with particular attention to the areas of historic centres, understood as the true identity core of the cities. The partnership involves various organizations and associations from six different countries (Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Albania and Greece).

Within WPT2, ADRISEISMIC foresees 6 Study visits, developed at project level. The aim of the Study Visits is twofold: on the one hand they will allow to organize in situ observations with other Project Partners, Associated Partners and other relevant stakeholders to show the characteristics of cultural heritage-built environment and methods in use for seismic vulnerability retrofitting. On the other hand, Italy, Kastela and Greece will organise their Study Visits to share their work on the pilot activities, thus showing how the methods for seismic vulnerability retrofitting and assessment are put in place. Each country, alternatively, hosts the partners of the other nations, thus having the opportunity to illustrate the typical practices of the place, enriching the discussion and the shared technical knowledge.

Unfortunately, due to the continuation of the recent health emergency related to Covid-19, the consortium decided to organise three study visits remotely but trying to keep in presence the three in those Countries where pilot cases are located.
In this regards, Serbia, Slovenia and Albania will run their study visit online and Italy, Croatia and Greece will organise them in presence if pandemic situation allows PPs to travel and meet.
This report describes the main takeaways of the second ADRISEISMIC's Study Visit, organized by the Municipality of Gjirokaster (PP4), Albania, and held on July 15, 2021.

After a first insight where the methodology adopted for the online version of the study visit has been explained, the following chapters will describe in detail the activities that were carried out.

2 On-line study visits methodology

As the aim of the on-line study visit remains the same of the in-presence ones, the hosting partner should select and consider some meaningful buildings and the context in which they are located, in order to make the visiting partners able to understand the construction methods used in the country and the intervention technique currently applied by technicians and designer.
These features and characteristics are shown to the visiting partners during a **webinar** through **one or more videos.** The videos simulate as much as possible a standard site visit in which PPs are accompanied by the hosting partner to visits the sites, while experts usually explain the technical details and the characteristic of the different places. As for local experts, they can be selected among universities, research centres or practitioners working in the construction sectors, but generally people that can contribute from a technical point of view in the explanation of the construction methods and the retrofitting techniques can be interviewed. During the webinar, all the visiting partners can make their questions and requests for clarification to the hosting partner.

3 Event Description

As abovementioned, the event was organized by the Municipality of Gjirokaster (PP4), in Albania on July 15th, 2021. It was held remotely and, as with previous study visits, the aim was to provide an overview of local

construction and intervention techniques. Two of Gjirokaster's symbolic buildings (the mosque and the ethnographic museum) were used to explore the topics discussed.
The first part of the event was dedicated to the presentation of the host city, both from a historical and architectural point of view. The second part of the event was more specific and focused on the two case studies and their technical characteristics.
During the event, the organisers shared the most common intervention and construction techniques in the area, also involving external figures as experts.

The event was attended by 24 people from all the partner's countries. Specifically, the presences were distributed as follows:

Institutions	**Attendees**
Living Prospects Ltd	1
Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (Slovenia)	1
Region of Crete (Greece)	3
University of Crete (Greece)	2
Regional Development Agency Bačka Novi Sad (Serbia)	2
UNIBO (Italy)	4
IIPLE BOLOGNA (Italy)	3
Urbanex d.o.o. (Croatia)	1
Rizomedia (Italy)	1
Municipality of Gjirokastra (Albania)	4
City of Kaštela (Croatia)	2

Table 1: Event participants

3.1 Useful links

The Study Visit can be consulted in its full form both on the official Adriseismic website and on the dedicated You tube channel:

https://adriseismic.adrioninterreg.eu/news/adriseismic-albanian-study-visit-online-meeting-15-july-2021
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR_1ZR60MNOylREXmxX_jAw/playlists

The Report produced by PP4 after the event is attached for convenience at the end of this deliverable. Specific links for each part of the Study Visit will be included in the next chapters of this document.

3.2 Agenda of the event

The event took place from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 15th 2021 and included the following activities:

09h45	**Registration of participants**
10h00	**Welcome Speech** Representative of the municipality of Gjirokastra and Unibo
10h15	**General facts about Gjirokastra** Blerina Duka from the Municipality of Gjirokastra
10h30	**Video Case Study 1: The Ethnographic Museum** Open discussion
11h00	**Short Break**

11h15	**Video Case Study 2: Gjirokastra Mosque** Open discussion
11h45	**Q&A session with participants**
12h15	**Conclusions** Gjirokastra and Unibo

Table 2: Timetable

3.3 Detail of activities

3.3.1 Welcome Speech

1. Start of the meeting: the Study Visit is introduced by Pavlos Filippidis, as external expert of the Municipality of Gjirokastra, who welcomes the guests and briefly describes the activities that will take place during the event. Kostantina Tsoparka, for the municipality of Gjirokastra, also joins in the greeting.

2. Welcome from the University of Bologna: Giulia Marzani from UNIBO (LP) welcomes the participants to the online Study Visit and explains the general objectives of the study visit and of the project in general.

The video about the "Welcome speech" is available at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avtyeILBIk8&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd

3.3.2 General facts about Gjirokastra

The presentation is illustrated by Blerina Duka, engineer for the Municipality of Gjirokastra, and touches on several issues: from the city to the national seismic context. In the first part, the typical city tower house is described, both from a typological and construction-historical point of view; then, more general considerations are given, regarding the Albanian seismic context and the historical normative evolution.

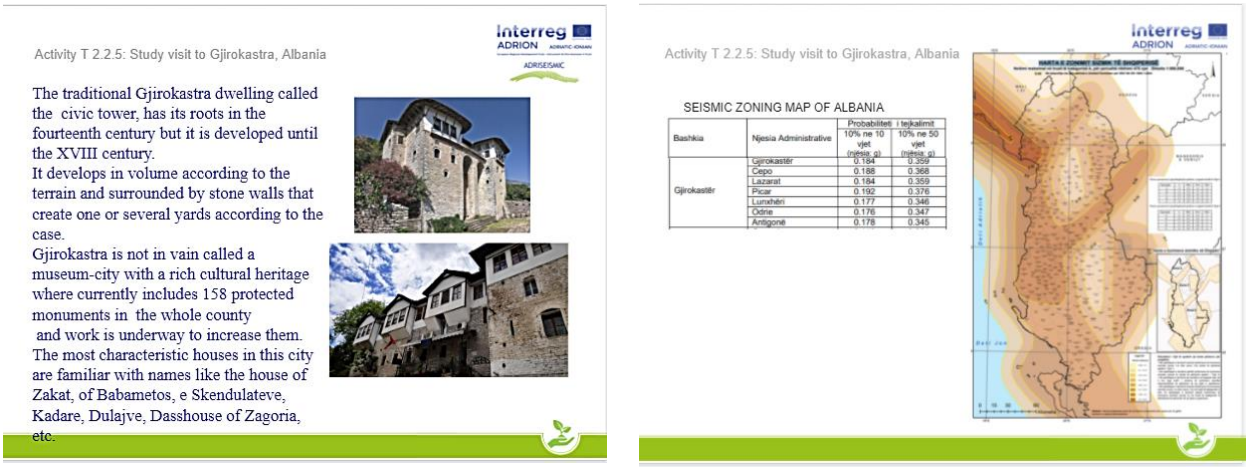


Figure 1: excerpt from the presentation

The video is available at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAqRoakTCdw&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd&index=2

3.3.3 Case Study Video

A video is shown introducing the history of Gjirokastra and a general architectural overview of the city. The two buildings chosen as case studies are then described in detail: the mosque and the ethnographic museum. The video shows the main architectural features, dimensions and internal distribution choices of the two constructions.

Figure 2: left the mosque, right the ethnographic museum

The video is available at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQf2nNbyC2Y&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd&index=3

3.3.4 Open discussion

Following the video, a time slot was set aside to answer questions and explore certain aspects in more detail. The discussion focused on the city, its construction techniques and how the aggregate has evolved over time. The moderator, Eraldo Breshani, at this stage reports and translates the guests' questions to Blerina Duka, who answers the more technical queries.

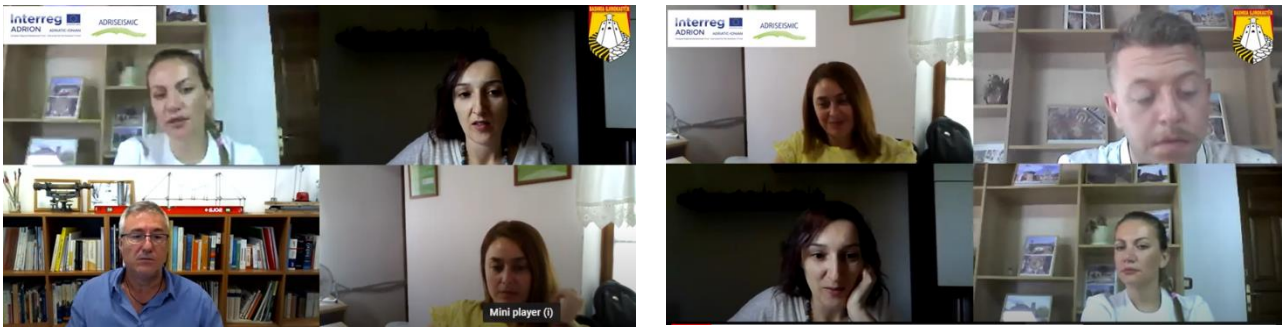


Figure 3: moments of the discussion

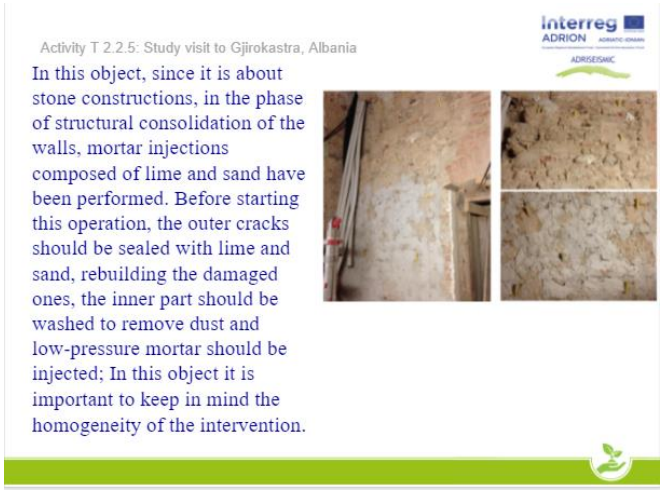
The video is available at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kri4OozaAOY&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd&index=4

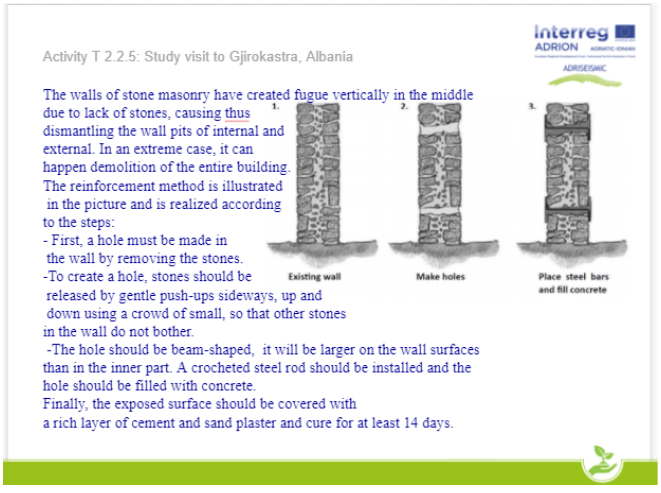
3.3.5 The Ethnographic Museum

The case study is presented by Blerina Duka, an engineer of the Municipality of Gjirokastra. During the presentation, architectural drawings necessary to illustrate the project (plans, sections and elevations) are given. The current configuration of the building is then described and how it relates to the surrounding historical context.

Figure 4: slides from the presentation

Then it is illustrated how the structural interventions are conceived in Albania and what is considered the correct way to operate. This introduction is necessary for the description of the interventions carried out on the case study, which specifically are the reinforcement of the existing inconsistent masonry, the stiffening of the existing floors and the connection between the various structural elements.





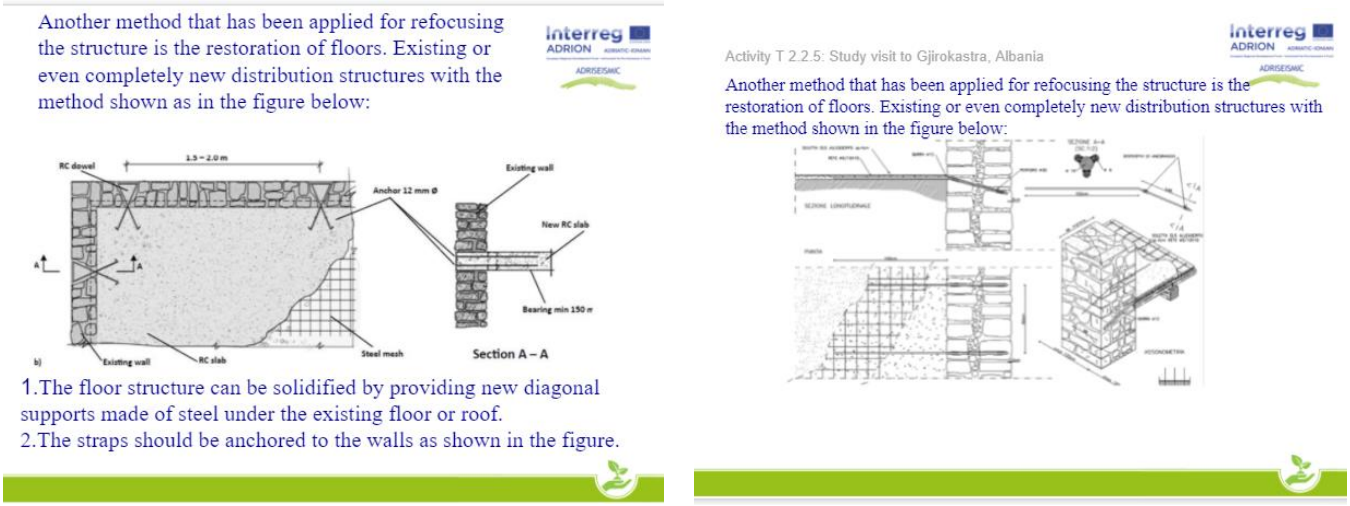


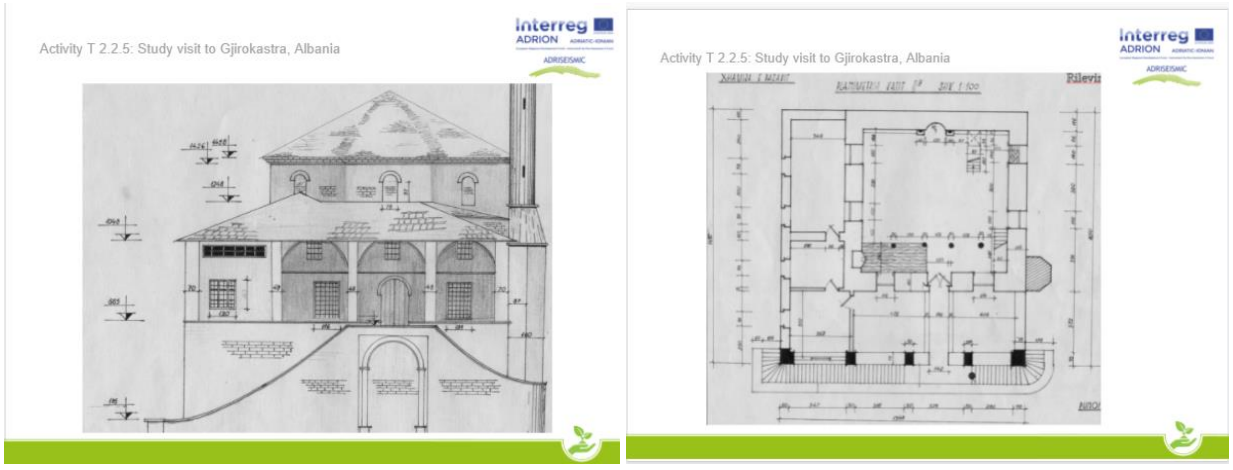
Figure 5: slides from the presentation

At the end of the presentation some time is dedicated to questions from the guests, and the moderator, Eraldo Breshani, reports and translates various questions to Blerina Duka, who answers the more technical queries.

The video can be viewed in full at the following address:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odI0Ad1Q_18&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd&index=5

3.3.6 The Mosque

The case study is presented by Blerina Duka, an engineer of the Municipality of Gjirokastra. In this case too, the building is first represented by means of technical drawings, the elevations, the plans and the stratigraphy of the main elements are shown. In-depth investigations on the degradation of the main materials were carried out on the building and the results obtained are described during the presentation both in tabular and graphic form.



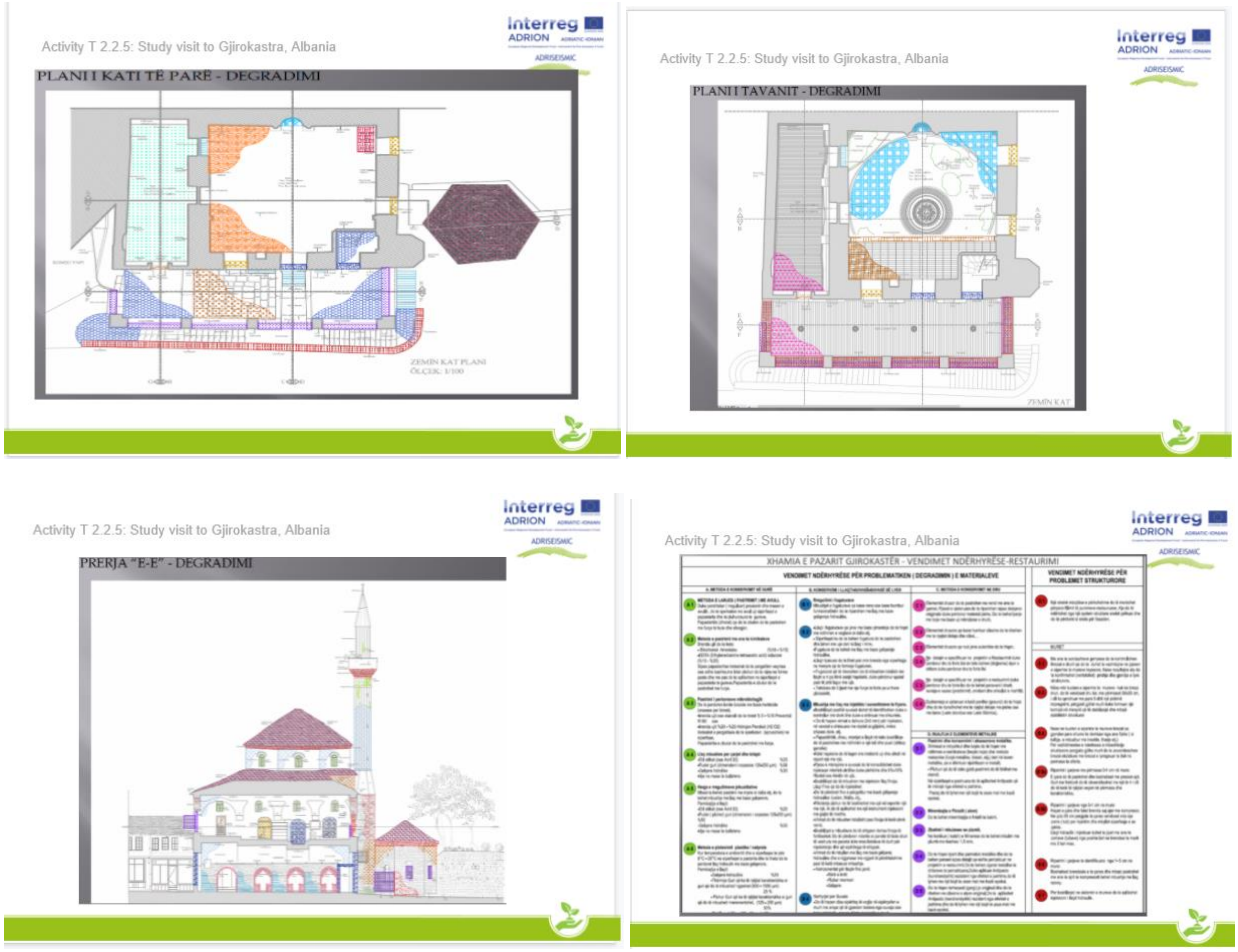


Figure 6: slides from the presentation

The second part of the presentation deals with the interventions necessary to restore the building to the safety levels required by current regulations. The most suitable techniques are described. In this case the problem is the resistance in the plane of the main baffles and the project foresees their consolidation.

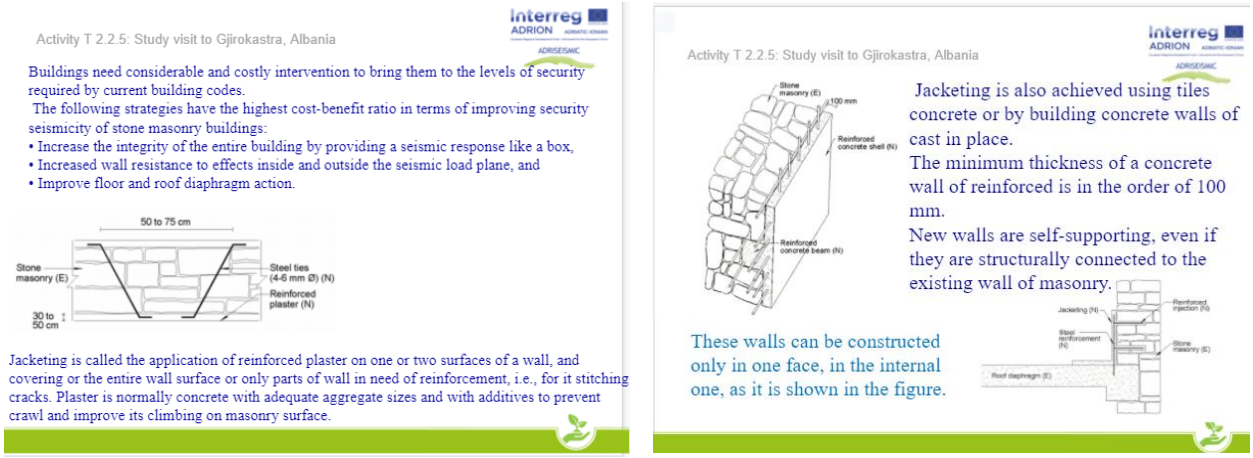


Figure 7: slides from the presentation

At the end of the presentation, the questions section was opened. The discussion focused on the Albanian standards and in particular on regulated interventions. it turned out that the country does not specifically prohibit any practice but provides, through guidelines, advice on "good construction". It was also pointed out that the amount of work required by the state is different from the amount required by the private sector.

The study visit ended with greetings from the municipality of Gjirokastra and from Giulia Marzani for UNIBO.

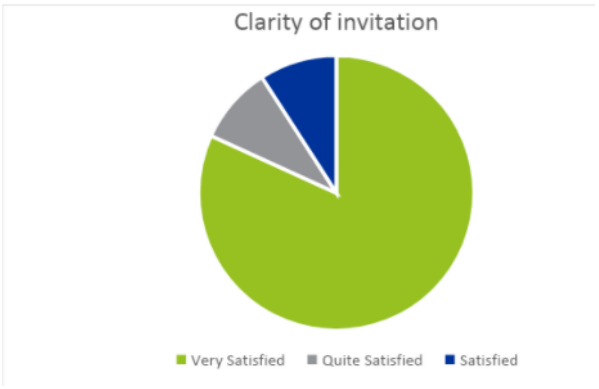
The video is available at the following link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRUEGSGxKfo&list=PLlf87Jv5jEwBQD1dRU2qnEkqNkihvSAUd&index=6

4 Conclusion

The event lasted about two and a half hours and focused, as mentioned, on the typical construction and intervention techniques of the partner country that hosted the Study Visit (Gjirokastra). During the event, part of the city's history was presented and two iconic buildings were used as case studies, the mosque and the ethnographic museum.
The event was conducted in a clear manner, using external staff to explain the more technical parts of the presentations. During the study visit, videos of the city were shown and the architectural customs of the place were studied in depth. The questionnaire showed a good degree of satisfaction with the event and the efforts made to make the event in line with the objectives of the Adriseismic project were appreciated.

1. How satisfied are you of the event organised?

3. Clarity of the invitation and contents of the event?



5 Annex: Albanian Study visit Report

The report prepared by the Albanian partner organising the Study Visit is attached.

Interreg ADRION ADRIATIC-IONIAN
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ADRISEISMIC

EVENT REPORT
ALBANIAN STUDY VISIT
15TH JULY 2021

This project is supported by the Interreg ADRION Programme funded under the European Regional Development Fund and IPA II fund.

INTERREG V B – Adriatic Ionan
ADRION PROGRAMME – SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PRIORITY AXIS 2 – Sustainable Region

Project duration: from 01/03/2020 to 31/08/2022

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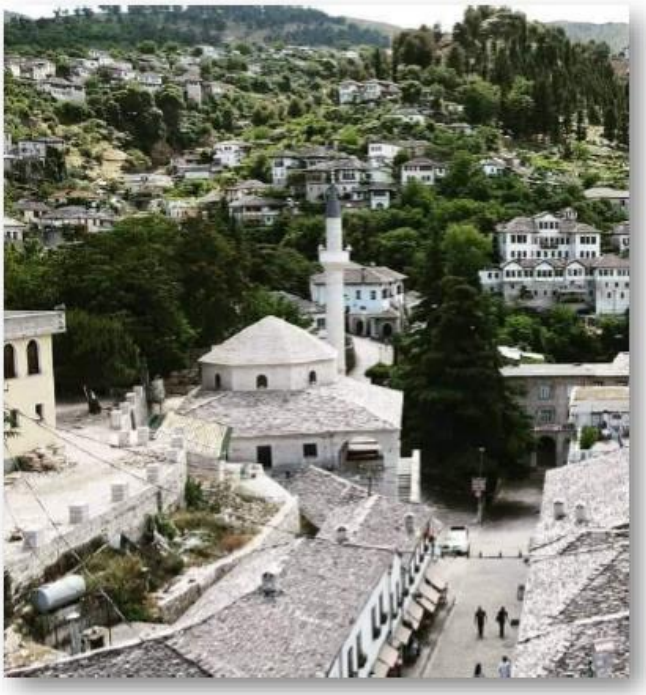
Regional development agency Backa (RS)
Slovenian national building and civil engineering institute (SI)
University of Crete (GR)
Region of Crete (GR)

1. Event Report

[Name of the organisation in charge of the event]

Venue	Online event – Microsoft Teams platform
Date	15th July 2021
Duration	2h30min – from 9:45 to 12:15
Type and number of stakeholders involved and role in the event	▪ Living Prospects Ltd (1) ▪ Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (1) ▪ Region of Crete (3) ▪ University of Crete, Greece (2) ▪ Regional Development Agency Bačka Novi Sad (2) ▪ UNIBO (4) ▪ IIPLE BOLOGNA (3) ▪ Urbanex d.o.o. (1) ▪ Rizomedia (1) ▪ Municipality of Gjirokastra (4) ▪ City of Kaštela (2)
Total number of participants	24
Number of female participants (indicative)	15
Number of male participants (indicative)	9

1.1. Agenda of the event



New approaches for seismic improvement and renovation of Adriatic and Ionian historic urban centres

Online study visit – Municipality of Gjirokaster

July 15th 2021, start time 10:00 CET

Event link: Online Study Visit in Gjirokastra

09:45 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Speech / Greetings Representative of the Municipality of Gjirokaster
10:15 – 10:30	General facts about the city of Gjirokastra & highlights of Architecture
10:30 – 11:00	Video Case Study 1: Gjirokastra Ethnographic Museum Open discussion
11:00-11:15	Short break - Stretch your legs
11:15 – 11:45	Video Case Study 2: Gjirokastra Mosque Open discussion
11:45 – 12:15	Q&A session with the participants

1.2. Photos of the event

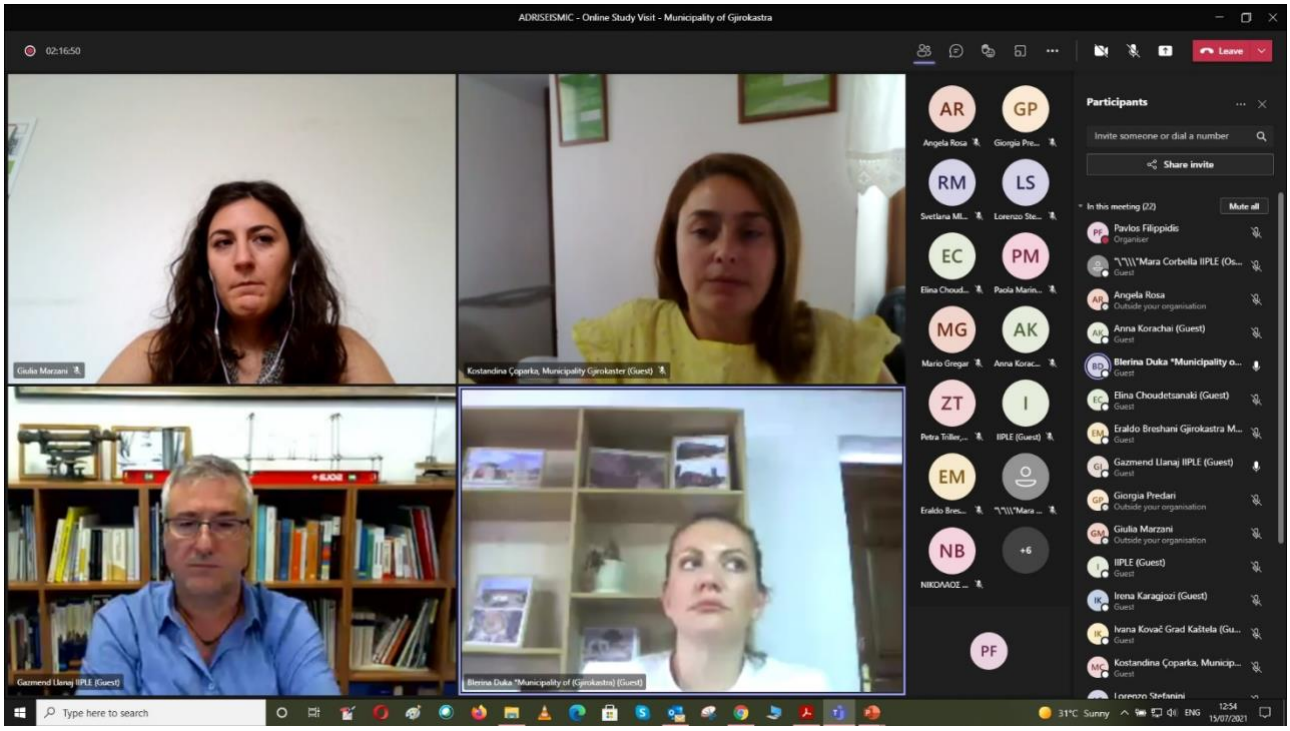


Figure 1: Albanian study visit participants

Figure 2: Slovenian study visit discussion

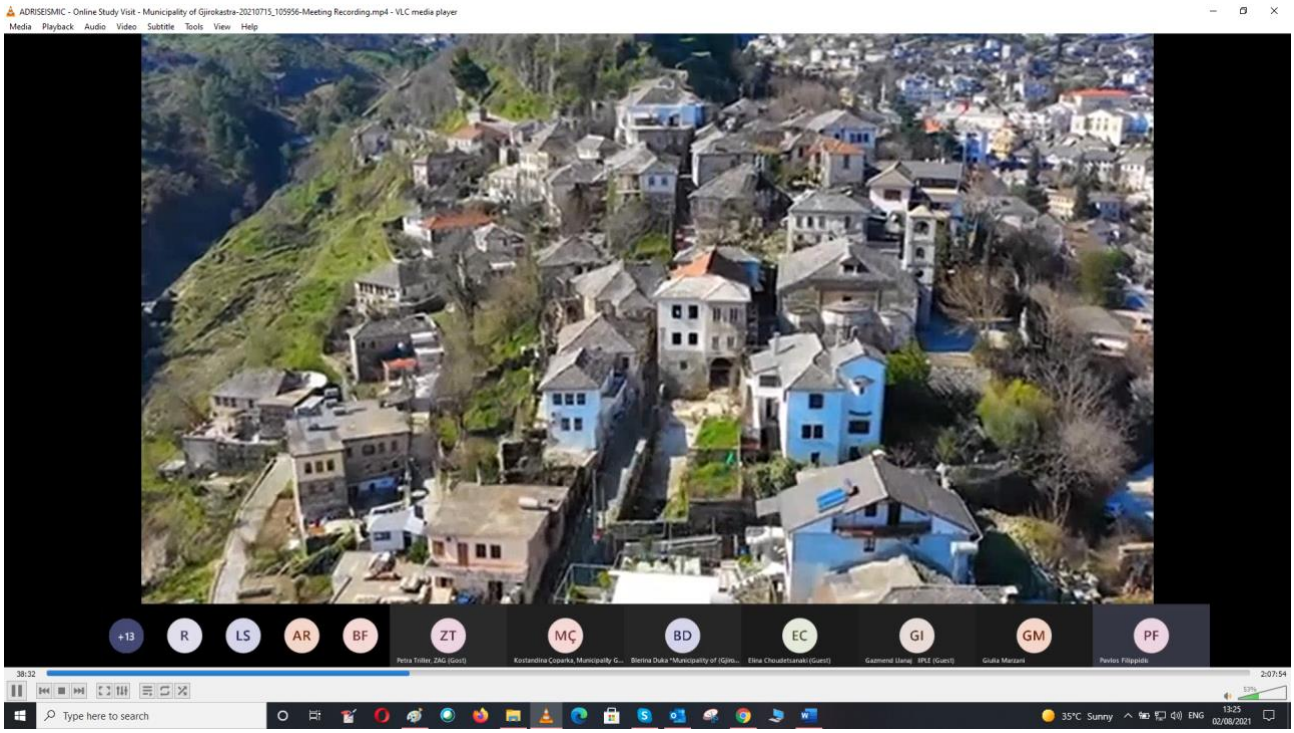


Figure 3: The city of Gjirokastra

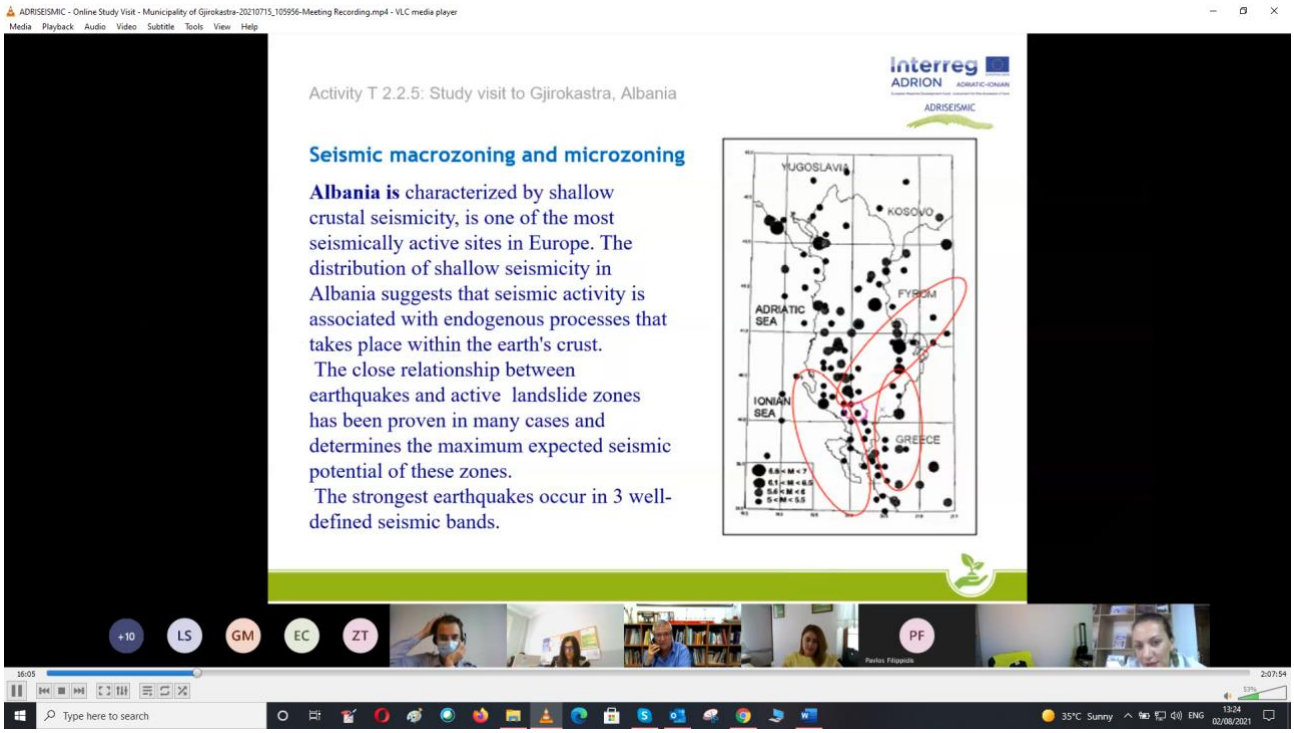


Figure 4: Seismic microzoning and microzoning in Albnia

1.3. Event assessment

Overall how would you rate the success of this specific event? (*mark only one option*)

☒ Very successful
☐ Fairly successful
☐ Not too successful
☐ Not successful at all

Description of the event

Construction methods, intervention techniques and expeditious assessment methods addressed during the study visit. Specific comments and questions made by participants.

The event was held online on July 15th 2021, and organized by the municipality of Gjirokastra. The Albanian project partner offered to the numerous participants an overview of the studies about the building construction in Gjirokastra, with a particular focus over two buildings: the Mosque and the Ethnographic Museum. During the first part, the Albanian partner presented a) General facts about the city of Gjirokastra, b) Highlights of architectures. Then, a video was displayed to the participants, presenting:

1. **Overview of the city: Main Architecture features, history, typology and morphology of the buildings.**
2. **Case study 1: Gjirokastra Mosque**
3. **Case Study 2: Ethnographic museum**

1. Overview of the city: The old town of Gjorkastra is one of the most important historical, cultural and architectural assets of the country. At the top of the city stands the proud castle of the city which, together with the historic center of the city are part of the fund of protected monuments of Albania, as well as part of UNESCO. No wonder it is called a museum - city with a rich cultural heritage which currently includes 158 protected monuments throughout the county and work is underway to increase them. The traditional Gjirokastra dwelling called the civic tower has its roots in the 14th century but was developed until the 18th century. It develops in volume according to the terrain and is surrounded by stone walls that create one or several yards according to the case. Distinctive elements of these dwellings are large windows covered with architraves and contoured with wooden bandages, the use of several arches and plastering the facade. and the two-winged variant, are mostly 3-story. Some of the most representative environments of these types are guest room, living room, cellar. The most characteristic houses in this city are known by names such as the house of Zakat, Babameto, Skendulatëve, Kadare, Dulaj, Dosshouse of Zagoria, etc. The traditional Gjirokastra dwelling called the civic tower, has its roots in the fourteenth century but it is developed until the XVIII century. It develops in volume according to the terrain and surrounded by stone walls that create one or several yards according to the case. Gjirokastra is not in vain called a museum-city with a rich cultural heritage

where currently includes 158 protected monuments in the whole county and work is underway to increase them. The most characteristic houses in this city are familiar with names like the house of Zakat, of Babametos, e Skendulateve, Kadare, Dulajve, Dasshouse of Zagoria,

Seismic macrozoning and microzoning

Albania is characterized by shallow crustal seismicity, is one of the most seismically active sites in Europe. The distribution of shallow seismicity in Albania suggests that seismic activity is associated with endogenous processes that takes place within the earth's crust. The close relationship between earthquakes and active landslide zones has been proven in many cases and determines the maximum expected seismic potential of these zones. The strongest earthquakes occur in 3 well-defined seismic bands.

Active slips

Albania, characterized by seismicity of shallow crust, is one of the most active seismic places in Europe. Distribution of shallow seismicity in Albania suggests that seismic activity is regarding endogenous processes that takes place inside the earth's crust. Close relationship between earthquakes and landslide zones active has been proven in many cases and determines the maximum seismic potential of expected of these areas The strongest earthquakes occur in 3 generations seismic well-defined.

SEISMIC CALCULATIONS

All technical conditions developed in different countries of the world, are designed in order to achieve three main objectives: to avoid losses in human life, limit damage to ordinary buildings as much as possible buildings of special importance should remain in the operational phase. The seismicity of a given region is determined by the magnitude of the earthquakes (magnitude, intensity, seismic moment, etc.) as well as the frequency of their repetition (period or frequency of their occurrence). Albania lies in the Mediterranean alpine seismic belt, which includes the contact area between the lithosphere plates of Africa and Eurasia, which extends from the Azores up to the eastern boundary of the Mediterranean basin. In this region, characterized by the fall of an earthquake with Ms. ≥ 6.5 frequency almost annually, there are: Greece, Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia, Southern Bulgaria and Western Turkey. Activity T 2.2.5: Study visit to Gjirokastra.

The first seismic rules, which accompanied the first seismic zoning map of Albania, were approved in 1952.

From the 1963 revision the requirements for seismic appearances, while the 1978 revision did not bring significant improvements.

KTP-N.2-89 The technical design condition published in 1989, was the last update of approved by law of our technical design codes, which was accompanied by the relevant seismic map. The seismic requirements provided in KTP-N.2-89 to be applied are mainly given for construction sites with seismic intensities above VI front KTP-89 recommends that works be conceived with structural regularity in the plan and in height in terms of compactness and symmetry providing

for this purpose:

- ✓ Such distribution of measures should not vary much in height.
- ✓ Not very pronounced fractures in plan and height.
- ✓ Not very pronounced eccentricity between the center of mass and the center of rigidity.

When fractures in the plan or height of a building are pronounced, as well as when adjacent parts of buildings have intersections with different levels, it is recommended ant seismic joint separation in order to ensure structural regularity.

When anti seismic joints should be realized even in cases when the structure has a length of large, regardless of whether they have structural regularity or not. It is recommended to use light construction materials, to reduce the weight of construction (and consequently the seismic force acting on the structure). It is intended to ensure the spatial work of the supporting structures during operation seismic, as well as to create the conditions for the development of plastic deformations, etc.

But, in KTP-N.2-89, although the design spectra is used 19 in the analysis seismic, the values of the spectral accelerations predicted in them are very low in comparison analysis today. If we were to present in a coordinate system the spectra of condition design Technical Report KTP-N.2-78, KTP-N.2-89 and Eurocode 8 according to the map of 200420 the large differences between these codes would be clearly visible.

Hence, effort individual and institutionalized have become e continue to be made for updating our technical conditions.

2. Case study 1: Gjirokastra Mosque:

The building needs considerable and costly intervention to bring them to the levels of security required by current building codes. The following strategies have the highest cost-benefit ratio in terms of improving security seismicity of stone masonry buildings such as this of the Gjirokastra Mosque:

• Increase the integrity of the entire building by providing a seismic response like a box,

• Increased wall resistance to effects inside and outside the seismic load plane, and

• Improve floor and roof diaphragm action

Jacketing is called the application of reinforced plaster on one or two surfaces of a wall, and

covering or the entire wall surface or only parts of wall in need of reinforcement, i.e., for it stitching cracks. Plaster is normally concrete with adequate aggregate sizes and with additives to prevent crawl and improve its climbing on masonry surface.

3. **Case Study 2: Ethnographic museum:**

Seismic safety is certainly a fundamental aspect in any intervention recovery of a civic center or

within a regulatory plan.

In order to protect without de-naturalizing each building in their architectural structure, and to preserve the typical historical, artistic and cultural value of "Historic center" implied as the community of buildings, monuments and roads. It is not just a matter of applying specific construction techniques ant seismic but integrate these techniques, where necessary, in a structure to be preserved in its architectural features and in constituent materials. So even in the case of this object, whoever the methodology of intervention ant seismic to be deemed necessary, must be calibrated for each building, to totally respect its architectural features, of respect the original building materials on the other hand, as it is highlighted in the research so far, have responded in the best way to the interventions of nature and the vicissitudes of time.

In this object, since it is about stone constructions, in the phase of structural consolidation of the walls, mortar injections composed of lime and sand have been performed. Before starting this operation, the outer cracks should be sealed with lime and sand, rebuilding the damaged ones, the inner part should be washed to remove dust and low-pressure mortar should be injected; In this object it is important to keep in mind the homogeneity of the intervention.

The walls of stone masonry have created fugue vertically in the middle due to lack of stones, causing thus dismantling the wall pits of internal and external. In an extreme case, it can happen demolition of the entire building.

The reinforcement method is illustrated in the picture and is realized according to the steps:

- First, a hole must be made in the wall by removing the stones.

-To create a hole, stones should be released by gentle push-ups sideways, up and down using a crowd of small, so that other stones in the wall do not bother.

-The hole should be beam-shaped, it will be larger on the wall surfaces than in the inner part. A crocheted steel rod should be installed, and the hole should be filled with concrete.

Finally, the exposed surface should be covered with a rich layer of cement and sand plaster and cure for at least 14 days.

Another method that has been applied for refocusing the structure is the restoration of floors. Existing or even completely new distribution structures.

1.The floor structure can be solidified by providing new diagonal supports made of steel under the existing floor or roof.

2.The straps should be anchored to the walls as shown in the figure.

Another method that has been applied for refocusing the structure is the restoration of floors.

Is there anything you would change about the event? If so, what?

The organization of the Albanian study visit was held virtually as planned and due to Covid-19 and restricted measures. The use of local language and simultaneous translations affected a bit the effectiveness of the event.

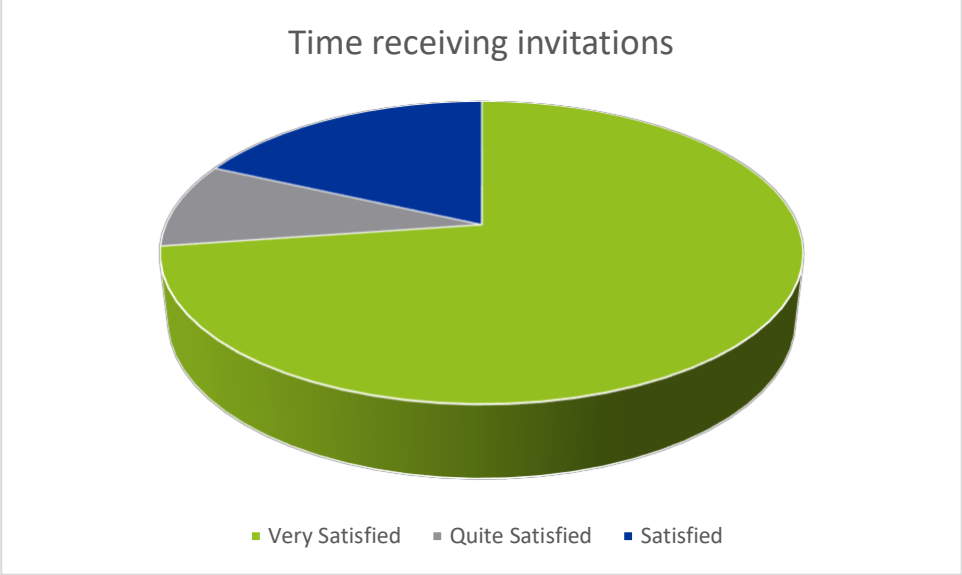
2. Evaluation questionnaire

A feedback questionnaire has been shared with the participants. An online form has been prepared, as the whole event was held online.

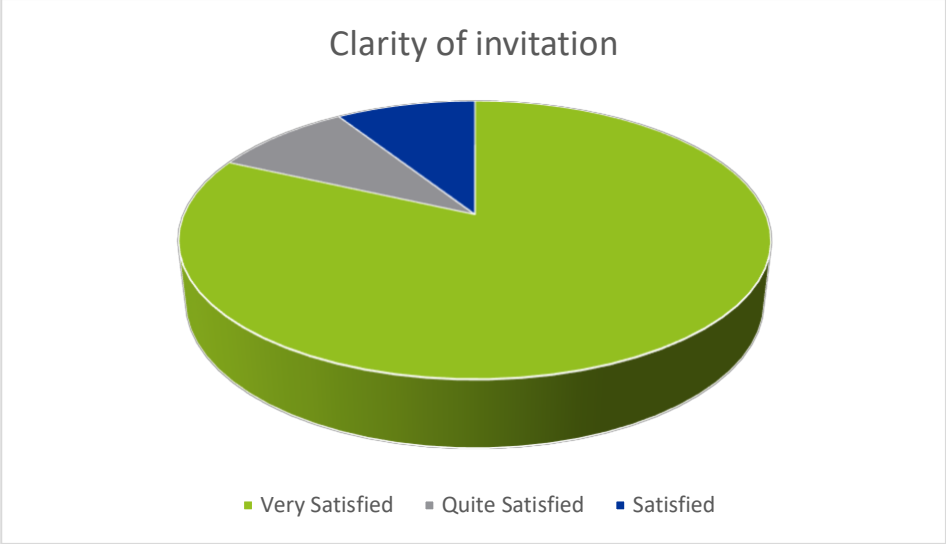
16 responses have been collected. The summary of the results is shown below:

1. How satisfied are you of the event organised?

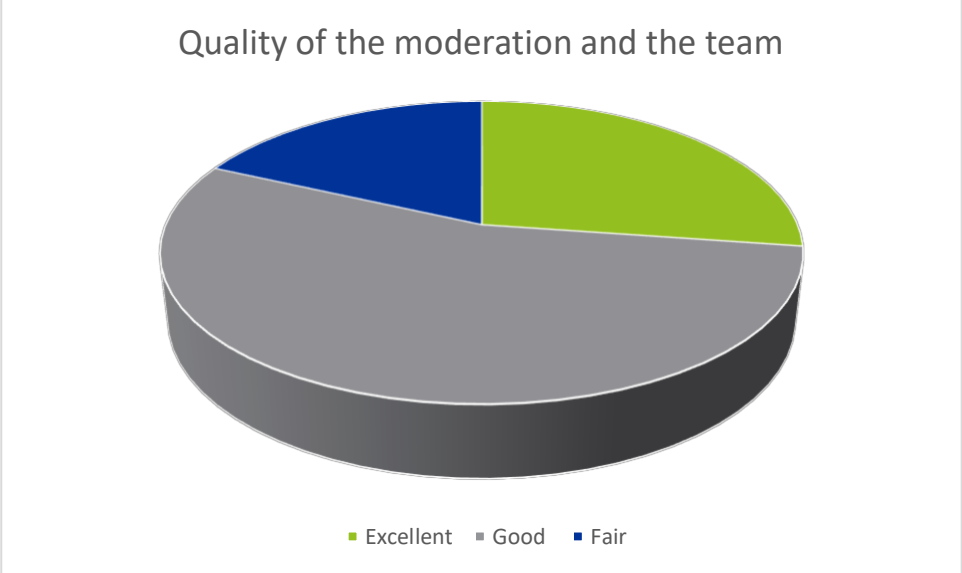
2. Timing in which you received the invitation?



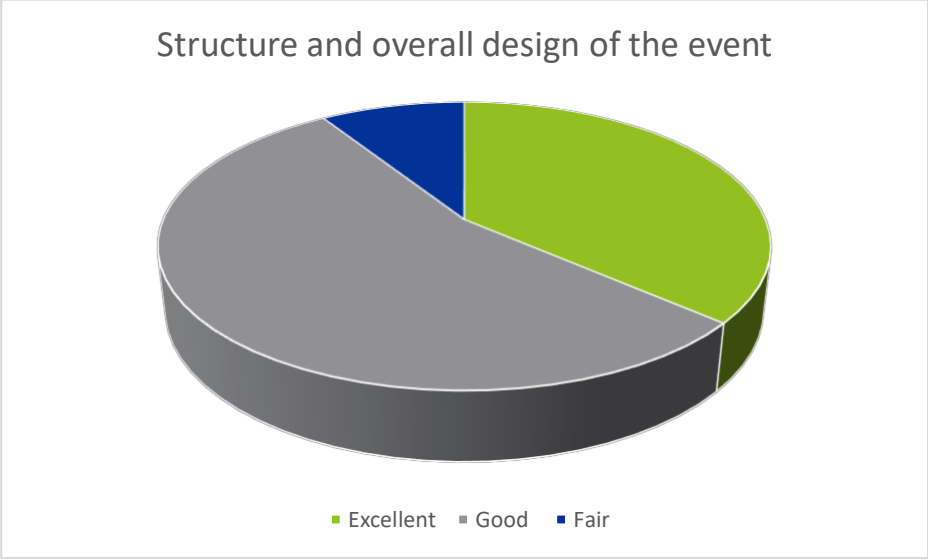
3. Clarity of the invitation and contents of the event?



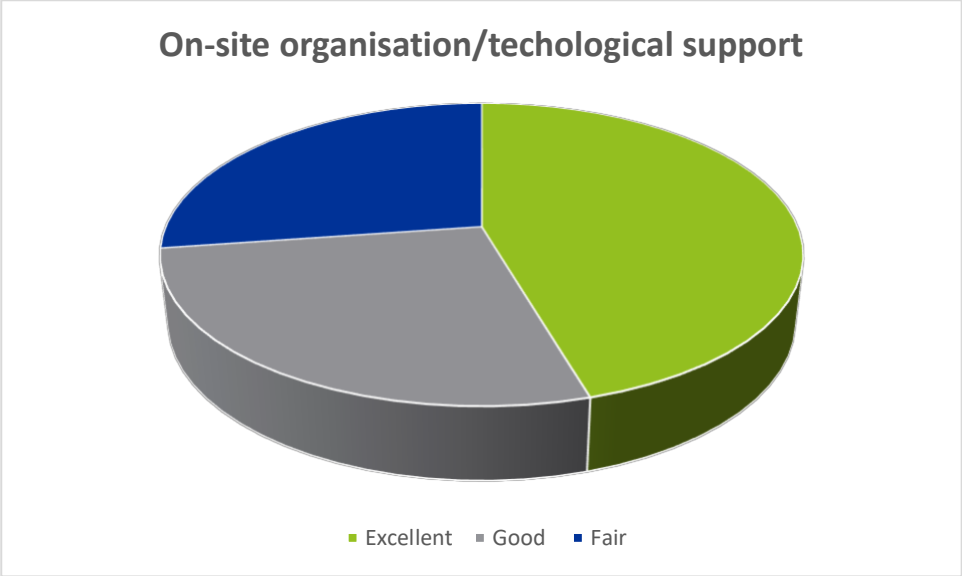
4. Quality of the moderation and the team?



5. Structure and overall design of the event?



6. On-site organisation/techological support ?



7. What did you most appreciate during the event?

1. The chosen case studies
2. Timing
3. Nice videos, and interesting presentations
4. Technical information about local architecture
5. The case studies were interesting even if the simultaneous translation made us lose some passages
6. Timetable schedule.
7. The videos
8. The videos of case studies
9. Technical intervention

8. Do you have any recommendation for the improvement of the organisation of the next study visit?

1. no
2. No
3. The use of local language and simultaneous translations affected a bit the effectiveness of the event, but however the contents were very interesting
4. Avoid simultaneous translation
5. A better translation of the contents displayed in the mother tongue
6. I don't have any recommendation about the event now.
7. to be more synchronize
8. It would be useful to have the presentation straight in English.
9. No
10. All the event in English