



Trans Adriatic
Pipeline

Social and Environmental Investment Programme 2018



Foreword

2018 was a dynamic year for the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP) project. More than 95% of our pipeline is in the ground, our safety record remains world-class, and we continue to make steady progress towards ensuring that the pipeline is ready for operations and the start of gas deliveries in 2020.

In line with Europe's energy objectives, TAP is creating key infrastructure that will ensure the safe and reliable transportation of a new source of affordable energy for decades to come. To the host communities living along our route through Greece, Albania and Italy, however, our project has an additional importance.

Consulting and cooperating with them, we have developed a robust Social and Environmental Investment (SEI) programme. Based on voluntary commitments, TAP's corporate values and the project's Corporate Social Responsibility policy, it promotes sustainable development and will create a lasting legacy for future generations.

In addition, we have built a strong network of implementation partners with extensive social and environmental experience in each host country.

Reflecting on the past year, we are delighted with our SEI progress. In 2018, TAP implemented or approved more than 200 projects. Since each of TAP's host countries has different development priorities, our tailored approach enables investments in projects which have the highest impact and bring the biggest benefits to local stakeholders.

Here are just a few examples of projects which positively affected thousands of people during 2018. In Greece, we donated more than 50 utility vehicles – ambulances, snow ploughs, waste collection vehicles – to local authorities, refurbished the Komotini paediatric clinic and set up the first human milk bank in Northern Greece. In Albania, we renovated several schools, rehabilitated the Mbrostar water supply system and ran the third edition of our internship programme. In Italy, we launched a master's course in hospitality management (Ho.Ma.), supported the Real Galatone football team and ran the second edition of our Master of Excellence in New Food programme (MENA).

We will continue to consistently deliver our SEI strategy, projects and partnerships with host communities in 2019, maintaining our focus on:

- Strengthening livelihoods within host communities;
- Supporting improved community quality of life;
- Enabling improved skills and abilities through education and training initiatives;
- Enhancing environmental management, including support for biodiversity.

As a strategic project for Europe's sustainable energy future, we believe that TAP has both the opportunity and responsibility to support host communities.

Businesses can only thrive if the communities around them also prosper. That is why, in line with our corporate values, we will continue to identify projects that solve real problems for our stakeholders. This approach supports our business objectives and the contribution which we make to broader European energy objectives. Just as importantly, it promotes the strong, healthy and sustainable communities of tomorrow.

Walter Peeraer

*TAP President and Chairman
of the SEI Decision Board*

Vugar Veysalov

TAP Head of External Affairs

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The goal of TAP's Social and Environment Investment (SEI) Programme is to improve, in a sustainable and inclusive way, the livelihoods and quality of life of local communities close to the pipeline.

The programme's overall objectives are to:

- Strengthen livelihoods within local communities.
- Support improved community quality of life along the pipeline route.
- Enable improved skills and abilities by supporting education and training initiatives.
- Enhance environmental management, including support for biodiversity.

These themes were selected following analysis of the project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and an evaluation of needs in our host countries. Areas were identified where SEI could support the management of social risks and generate value for both TAP and its host communities.

TAP has committed more than €55 million to SEI projects in Greece, Albania and Italy.

In-country SEI teams are actively engaged in their selection, development and implementation. To date, over 140 projects have already been implemented to the benefit of local communities.



SEI Programme in
GREECE



In Greece, TAP supports SEI projects that bring real benefits to local communities, aiming to be a good neighbour and a “pipeline of good energy” in all three of the northern regions through which it passes:

- Eastern Macedonia-Thrace
- Central Macedonia
- Western Macedonia

Discover some of TAP’s SEI projects in Greece.



Trans Adriatic
Pipeline

Pipeline of good energy
CSR PROJECTS



0.1 Donation of utility vehicles



DESTINATION, SAFETY

Donation of Utility Vehicles

Since its launch in June 2017, TAP's multi-million-euro **DESTINATION, SAFETY | Donation of Utility Vehicles** project has delivered 64 utility vehicles* to communities in Northern Greece.

As one of three trans-regional TAP initiatives implemented in Greece, the **DESTINATION, SAFETY** project represents a total investment of more than €10 million. In response to requests from stakeholders and representatives of host communities, each vehicle addresses specific local needs, from transporting hospital patients to collecting household waste and maintaining local roads.

Vehicles that have already reached their destinations are:

- **15 multi-purpose all-wheel-drive vehicles** that can plough snow, spread salt, mow lawns and prune branches, thus supporting the work of local authorities throughout the year. All have now been delivered to the beneficiaries: the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region, the Western Macedonia region, and the municipalities of Edessa, Oreokastro, Maroneia-Sapes, Nestos, and Topeiros.
- **32 ambulances** fitted with specialised medical equipment. Two of them were donated to Kilkis Hospital while another 30 to the National Emergency Aid Centre (EKAV), which distributed them to its branches in Northern Greece. An additional ambulance adapted to the specific needs of overweight patients is awaiting delivery.
- **17 waste collection vehicles** delivered to the municipalities of Alexandroupolis, Oraiokastro, Nestos, Komotini, Langadas, Amyntaio, Skydra, Eordaia, Pella, Serres and Kastoria.

Still to come during 2019:

- **3 road sweeping vehicles**
- **19 forestry/civil protection vehicles**
- **4 fire engines**

Their delivery will conclude a programme that has made a significant contribution to the improvement of healthcare, environmental management, cleaning and safety services for local communities in the three regions of Northern Greece.

*figures correct as of December 2018



0.2 Thriving Land project



THRIVING LAND
Supporting Agri-food Education



TAP's second trans-regional initiative, **THRIVING LAND | Supporting Agrifood Education** is being implemented across all three regions of Northern Greece. This agricultural project deals with educational and biotechnological activities, supporting the cultivation, marketing and sale of agrifood products produced locally along the pipeline route, including:

- Honey and other bee products in Drama, Pella and Kastoria.
- Olives and olive oil in Evros (Makri area).
- Medicinal and aromatic plants in Komotini, Thessaloniki and Kozani.
- Beans in Kastoria (Argos Orestiko area).
- Fruit in Pella and Kozani (Pyrgoi area).
- Petimezi (sugar cane molasses) in Xanthi (Genisea area).
- Peppers in Florina and Pella.
- Animal products (from goats, sheep, cattle) in Serres, Thessaloniki (Pentalofos area) and Florina.

These products were selected for their distinct local and competitive qualities, as well as their growth and marketing potential.

THRIVING LAND is monitored by the Bodossaki Foundation (TAP's partner in the delivery of a series of local community investments and one of the most significant and respected public-benefit organisations in Greece) and implemented by the American Farm School of Thessaloniki (AFS) and the Institute of Applied Biosciences (INAB) of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH).

Since the project began in December 2017, INAB has collected samples to identify the particular characteristics and qualities of selected agricultural products. The goal was to record their genetic identities to help promote their distinctive value both in Greece and abroad. In the case of peppers, for example, scientists are studying two specific cultivars, Karatzova and Florina, to identify, categorise and register their genetic and biochemical profiles.



The project has also an important educational aspect. Professors from the AFS have held more than 200 seminars for a total of 527 trainees* and conducted about 240 personal consultations on optimal cultivation methods, fertilisation and machinery. These numbers exceeded the programme's initial targets, demonstrating the great interest generated among local producers and end beneficiaries and confirming the many benefits brought to agricultural communities in Northern Greece, as the project:

- Fosters cooperation between producers and scientists;
- Features local products;
- Identifies their unique characteristics, records their genetic identity and facilitates authentication, certification and traceability;
- Makes all relevant scientific data available to interested parties.





0.3 Works of Inspiration project: playgrounds



WORKS OF INSPIRATION

Development of Local Infrastructure

Safe public spaces are essential for local communities, even more so when it comes to the wellbeing of children. When several communities in Northern Greece asked for support in constructing or reconstructing their municipal playgrounds, TAP was happy to help.

Part of the wider **WORKS OF INSPIRATION | Development of Local Infrastructure** SEI project, to date this initiative involves the construction or reconstruction of a total of 33 playgrounds* in the municipalities of Komotini (Eastern Macedonia and Thrace region) and Chalkidona (Central Macedonia region).

The highest domestic and EU safety standards were followed in construction, while the equipment installed was both certified and highly entertaining – judging by the enthusiastic feedback from the delighted end-users!

Work on more than half of the playgrounds is already complete and there is more to come. Renovation works are also planned for playgrounds in other communities along the route, providing children with safe and protected play areas.

This project has been most rewarding for everyone involved, being indeed a true "work of inspiration"; because few endeavours are nobler than putting a smile on children's faces, while keeping them safe.



*figures correct as of December 2018



0.4 Educational initiatives: free energy courses by the Eastern Macedonia and Thrace TEI



Funding a vocational training programme in natural gas technology is the latest example of TAP's continuing support for higher educational institutions and energy-related scientific training in Greece.

The course is offered by the Kavala-based Technological Educational Institute (TEI) of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, which hosts the only department for oil and gas studies in Greece.

Management support for the project is provided by the Bodossaki Foundation, TAP's partner in the delivery of a series of local community investments and one of the most significant and respected public-benefit organisations in Greece.

The programme is free of charge and available to both advanced students and beginners. It comprises five modules, combining theoretical and laboratory training in both basic and advanced technologies, including:

- General principles of natural gas technologies
- Operation of natural gas transmission systems
- Inspection of natural gas pipelines and facilities
- Maintenance of natural gas technologies
- Natural gas pipeline safety and protection of the environment

The entire course covers 500 hours of study per year. TAP has committed to supporting it for two academic years. The aim is to create a new generation of specialists, fully trained in the operation and safety of natural gas pipelines.

Launched in April 2018 and running since the start of the 2018-2019 academic year, 64 applicants have been accepted in the programme, 18 of whom are attending a preparatory course as novices in the subject.

During TAP's sponsorship, the course will help an estimated 150 people enter the job market after having received the necessary training. TAP is proud to support an initiative which cultivates vocational skills in the constantly developing energy sector, especially since the specialisation in this case is natural gas.



0.5 Upgrade of health care services: focus on children

Several of TAP's SEI initiatives address healthcare issues, especially those affecting the most vulnerable members of society such as children and the elderly. Related projects include donations of ambulances and equipment to the National Emergency Aid Centre (EKAV), nursing homes, NGOs and hospitals.

TAP made two significant donations to Sismanogleio General Hospital in Komotini and Hippokraton General Hospital, in Thessaloniki. The first, implemented in collaboration with the Network of Social Solidarity and Assistance - NSS, TAP's implementation partner, was used to fully refurbish and upgrade the hospital's paediatric clinic with new and specialist equipment.

The clinic treats infants and children up to 16 years of age from the entire Regional Unit of Rodopi, an area with more than 100,000 residents. The renovation has transformed the clinic into an attractive and child-friendly environment that can better serve the needs of its medical and nursing staff.

TAP's other donation in this category supports the work of the Greek NGO "Ilitominon" in establishing a Human Milk Bank in Thessaloniki - only the second such facility in the entire country. TAP's funding is providing a pasteuriser and a refrigerator, which are essential for the sterilisation and safe storage of donated milk.

Human milk banks are crucial to the well-being of premature or critically ill infants. They also support mothers experiencing difficulties in breastfeeding. The bank at the Hippokraton hospital will support the needs of the six neonatal intensive care units in Thessaloniki and Alexandroupolis, where more than 2,000 babies are admitted annually.





0.6 Supporting local organisations with grants and donations

Throughout 2018, TAP continued to offer grants and donations to several organisations that provide a variety of services to local communities – mostly environmental, charitable or educational. A few illustrative examples follow from the Western Macedonia region:

- Friends of the Environment Association (Kastoria): TAP supported the oldest and most significant environmental organisation in the city of Kastoria by donating lawnmowing and other equipment (including a ride-on lawn mower, grass trimmer, chainsaws, pumps, and bush cutters), for maintaining and landscaping the beautiful urban forest of Kastoria.
- Agios Georgios Naturalist and Cultural Youth Association (Mesopotamia): active in the mountain township of Mesopotamia, as well as the wider Kastoria region, the association organises forestation and other environmental activities, and maintains local parks and school courtyards. It is also solely responsible for the maintenance and operation of the beautiful forest of Mesopotamia, the most popular outdoor recreational area in Kastoria. TAP supported the association with a donation of forestry machinery and equipment (including grass cutting machines and a garden tractor).
- Environmental Education Centre (Kastoria): the oldest and most successful organisation of its kind in Greece, the centre was established in 1996 by the Greek Ministry of Education. It has since implemented many educational programmes, promoting sustainable initiatives and raising awareness of environmental issues among students and educators. Its activities are attended by more than 3,500 participants annually. TAP, in collaboration with implementation partner NSS, donated office equipment including computers, monitors, tablets, interactive boards for presentations and air-conditioning units.
- Association of Persons with Multiple Sclerosis (Eordaia): an organisation supporting patients with multiple sclerosis in the Kozani region. TAP funded the creation of a website for the association to enhance its outreach and allow MS patients and family members to access useful information.





0.7 Delivering forest management studies in Nestorio

The municipality of Nestorio is a community at the foot of Mount Grammos in the Regional Unit of Kastoria. Forestry is a primary activity there and logging supports the livelihoods of many residents who have formed about 20 local forest cooperatives.

To ensure sound environmental practice, ten-year Forest Management Studies have to be drafted and submitted to the relevant authorities. These studies defined the trees suitable for felling (subsequently marked to notify loggers), thus preserving the forest and assisting in its regeneration.

TAP funded the drafting of Management Studies for each of the five municipal forests in Nestorio, ensuring that people associated with logging in the area (tree fellers, carriers and lorry drivers) will continue their work in a sustainable fashion for at least 10 years.

The project was announced in June 2017 and the studies were officially delivered in October 2018 at an event attended by the heads of municipal and regional authorities. These included the Mayor of Nestorio and the Head of the Western Macedonia Region who highlighted the significance of the initiative for the area.

The funding of Forest Management Studies is a special project for TAP; because by enhancing livelihoods, promoting regional development and improving environmental management, these studies make a positive impact on the future sustainability of Nestorio's 3,000-strong community.





0.8 Upgrading sanitary services

TAP's investment in environmental activities also includes helping local authorities improve their waste management operations.

This support includes the donation of 20 waste collection vehicles and road sweepers, as well as other related equipment such as waste bins and specialised vehicles for their cleaning and maintenance.

In Central Macedonia, for example, the municipalities of Irakleia and Nea Zichni each received a bin washing vehicle. Four hundred large metallic bins were also donated to Irakleia, while Langadas and Oraikastro municipalities were given 1,100 and 950 plastic bins, respectively.

More than 270,000 people living and working in these areas will benefit from TAP's donations, their quality of life improved by the upgrading of local waste management services.





SEI Programme in
ALBANIA



TAP supports a wide range of projects in communities close to the pipeline's route through Albania.

The projects focus on four areas:

- Quality of life of local communities, with an emphasis on communal infrastructure such as schools;
- Capacity building in sectors relevant to TAP's primary stakeholder groups;
- Livelihoods, with an emphasis on initiatives in agriculture, natural resources, environment and tourism;
- Donations to address socio-economic needs.

TAP representatives are in continuous dialogue with local communities and all levels of government to develop mutually agreed SEI projects that support the communities' own development priorities.

Discover some of the SEI projects in Albania.



0.1 Cleaning the Osumi River

“We clean the Albania we love” was a campaign launched by the Albanian Ministry of Tourism and Environment in December 2017. Part of the campaign involved clearing debris from the Osumi River in Berat and deepening the river bed.

Supporting the government initiative, TAP provided ten excavators and heavy trucks to clear the riverbed between Gorica and the New Bridge. The main road connecting Ura Vajgurore with Berat was also cleared. Volunteers, school students, and the armed forces planted trees along the roadside.

Berat Prefecture, Berat and Ura Vajgurore municipalities and a number of private companies also participated in these activities.

Welcoming TAP's participation, Albania's Minister of Tourism and Environment, Blendi Klosi, said: “This help is necessary for the residents of Berat; it enables a healthy environment which promotes tourism and prevents future floods.”





0.2 Benches for Tirana's Skënderbej Square

Skënderbej Square is the largest and most important pedestrian area in Tirana. As part of its SEI programme, TAP decided to add some colour to this important landmark. In collaboration with Raiffeisen Bank, TAP donated 36 distinctive Vienna Benches to Tirana. Five additional benches were presented by the city of Vienna and the Austrian Embassy in Albania.

Originally produced to adorn the Museum Quarter in Vienna, these popular benches with their practical all-weather design, have become something of a cult throughout Europe and can now be found in many cities and gardens throughout Europe.

Now residents and visitors to Tirana have a comfortable place to catch their breath and admire the view while resting on a work of urban art!







0.3 One thousand trees for Tirana

Care for the environment is at the very heart of the TAP project. That's why, in March 2018, TAP decided to support Tirana city's tree planting initiative by providing 1,000 cypress trees for the capital's Artificial Lake Park.

The first trees were planted by TAP employees and the Mayor of Tirana, Erion Veliaj. The city's initiative aims to increase urban green space as well as enhancing the quality of life of the capital's residents.

More than 2.5 metres tall, the cypress trees were sourced from certified suppliers and will help create an 'Orbital Forest', a green belt around the capital.

Welcoming the investment, Mayor Veliaj said: "TAP is a fantastic example of what it means to be a responsible corporate citizen."





0.4 Furniture for Berat city library

Vexhi Buharaja is the main public library in the city of Berat, serving its residents since 1973.

Sadly, a lack of adequate furniture and fittings for its reading rooms and archive meant the library had to remain closed to the public after its refurbishment in 2016. Shelves were overflowing and many of the library's 35,000 books were being stored on the floor.

Now, thanks to a donation by TAP, visitors can once again use all three reading rooms and the archive has been equipped with sufficient shelving to store its many books.

TAP also equipped the library with a modern fire protection system and donated 400 books (all new titles) to further enrich the library's collection.

At a small ceremony in March 2018 to celebrate its re-opening, a group of students from Berat were the first to receive new membership cards.





0.5 Third round of internship programme

TAP completed the third round of its Albanian internship programme in September 2018. A total of 21 university graduates were given the opportunity to work for six months in one of TAP Albania's departments.

Matching work with their interests and abilities, interns received invaluable hands-on professional experience from national and international experts in Finance, Pipeline Delivery, Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), Stakeholder Management, Land Management, Procurement, Communications, and Social and Environmental Investment (SEI).

The internship programme in Albania has been a great success, generating high levels of interest from public and private universities. Hundreds of applications were received from students for all three rounds and most are now working full-time for a number of different organisations.

The programme's overall impact has been twofold. Interns have developed personally and professionally during their time with TAP. And they now understand the pipeline project's mission, objectives and strategic importance, making them enthusiastic ambassadors for TAP both in Albania and beyond.





0.6 Renovation of Mbrostar water supply

When host communities' vital water supply was in serious need of rehabilitation, TAP was there to help.

Mbrostar is a group of villages (Petove, Makaj, Verri, Kallm, Mojalli) in Albania's Fier municipality. Its ageing water system was no longer meeting the needs of the area's 10,500 residents.

TAP agreed to support its renovation. Albstar, an Albanian construction company was engaged to implement the project, supervised by Abkons, TAP's implementation partner for managing SEI infrastructure projects in Albania.

Over a six-month period, employing some 50 people, two new wells were opened and water tanks, service, disinfection and equipment rooms rebuilt. New high-density polyethylene pipework was installed to replace the deteriorated steel water supply line. The works were completed in March 2018.





0.7 Rehabilitation of Kuç-Bilisht Irrigation system

Even the best land needs efficient irrigation and drainage to make the most of its agricultural potential.

Farmers in the villages of Kuç and Bilisht, in southeast Albania, know this only too well. For the past 20 years they were unable to make best use of their fertile land, frustrated by an irrigation system being in a very poor condition.

Determined to help, TAP began detailed discussions with local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that its support was aligned with their own efforts to assist agriculture in the region.

Today, more than 2,000 people in 470 households are reaping the benefits of TAP's intervention. Two kilometres of new irrigation and drainage canals have been dug, improving the potential productivity of more than 130 hectares of arable land.

In July 2018, the irrigation system was handed over to the municipality of Devoll, which is now responsible for its maintenance.



BEFORE



AFTER



AFTER







0.8 TAP and NGO tackle litter together

TAP joined forces with a leading Albanian NGO to successfully tackle litter at five problem sites along the pipeline's route during the summer of 2018.

The initiative with Korpusi i Vullnetarëve, a member of the Free Thought Forum, targeted problem sites identified by local authorities. These included Semani beach, the Mbrostar Bridge, Berat Historical Neighbourhood and other parts of the Osumi River valley, in Ura Vajgurore and Poliçan.

More than 1,000 volunteers of all ages took part in the clean-ups during June and July, including local authority employees, TAP and NGO members. They removed more than 5,000 bags of waste, containing mostly plastic packaging, cans and textiles that had accumulated over many years.

In addition to the impressive amount of waste collected, the initiative helped raise environmental awareness among volunteers and residents of the affected areas.





0.9 Rehabilitation of Veterrik village school in Berat

When a village school became unfit for teaching young children, TAP worked with the local authority to renovate the building.

The Hasan Ngjela elementary school and kindergarten, with 180 pupils, lies in the centre of Veterrik village and at the heart of the local community. But the building was riddled with damp and in urgent need of renovation. The local municipality of Berat, in central Albania, had made this a high priority and asked for help.

TAP agreed to fund its rehabilitation and works started in May 2018. A new roof was constructed and thermal insulation applied to all outside walls. New toilets were installed and a well dug to supply the school with fresh water. External emergency exit stairs and a fire safety system were added. Outside, a perimeter fence was erected and the grounds and recreational areas landscaped.

The Albanian construction company Leon Konstruksion was engaged to implement the project, supervised by Abkons, TAP's implementation partner for managing SEI infrastructure projects in Albania. Work was completed just six months later and the newly refurbished building handed over to Berat local authority in October 2018.

Today, a smart, safe and modern Hasan Ngjela elementary school is once more at the heart of the Veterrik village community.





BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER





10 Facelift for village school in Pobrat, Ura Vajgurore

As the only school in the area, Tre Dëshmorët needed immediate attention to its building and grounds. The inside of the building was in good condition. But the facades and schoolyard needed urgent improvement. Following discussions with the local authority, TAP volunteered to fund the works.

Situated in the village of Pobrat in Ura Vajgurore municipality, central Albania, the twostorey school has nine classrooms teaching 150 pupils and two classrooms serving as a kindergarten for 37 children.

The rehabilitation project started in April 2018 and was carried out by a joint venture between two Albanian companies, Beis shpk and Pienvis shpk, a local firm. Work included the application of thermal insulation to all outside walls, installation of an external emergency staircase and fire extinguishers, and the repair of a damaged fence and its foundation.

An existing septic tank was also refurbished and new exterior electric lighting installed. Areas for football, basketball and volleyball and a playground were also constructed.

After this transformation, the Tre Dëshmorët school was handed back to the Ura Vajgurore local authority in September 2018.





BEFORE



BEFORE



AFTER





SEI Programme in
ITALY



Working closely with its local and regional stakeholders in Italy, TAP has designed an SEI programme that supports the sustainable development of Salento and Puglia.

Projects focus on:

- Livelihoods, with an emphasis on tourism, agriculture and fisheries.
- Environmental management, especially issues related to tourism, agriculture and the marine environment.
- Community quality of life, especially services and infrastructure.

Discover some of TAP's SEI projects in Italy.



TAP con il territorio

In Italy a specific logo was created to represent TAP Italy's approach to the different local projects supported by its SEI programme.

“Energie” means “energies” in English. Gas is a source of energy, but it is not the only energy TAP brings through construction of the pipeline. The project is also spreading positive energies to the host territory and communities – delivering long-lasting benefits; creating relationships based on respect.

“TAP con il territorio”, the Italian message that goes alongside the new logo, means TAP with the territory, TAP at the side of the territory, TAP and the territory together. One simple phrase in Italian, that has so many positive meanings.



0.1 TAP Start 2: grants for local organisations

The TAP Start initiative supports the aspirations and ideas of local communities in the province of Lecce. Following the success of its first phase, when seven projects received grants, TAP launched a second in 2017-2018, featuring new opportunities.

The second phase offered small grants to non-profit organisations implementing projects related to sports, culture, environment and social issues. Ten projects were supported in the province of Lecce, all carried out by local associations, including three from the town of Melendugno.

An independent external panel selected the projects following an open invitation for applications. Among those selected, two relate to tourism, three to social issues, one to environment and four to sports.

One of the financed projects supports the REAL Galatone Sports Association in promoting sport as a solution to social cohesion for disabled and disadvantaged young people. TAP donated equipment and a minibus, thanks to which 20 boys aged between 10 and 14 will be able to get to the football pitch and train.

The association's General Secretary Giuseppe Stapane commented: "We have worked in social programmes for years, but we were struggling to ensure transport for our athletes. Finally, we can provide this important service, helping to develop athletic and social skills."

This is just one example of TAP's commitment to supporting the best ideas from organisations rooted in the local community. Using this bottom-up approach, TAP aims to contribute in a tangible way to the social and economic growth of the area.

Find out more about this project at www.tapstart.it





0.2 MENA 2: training in restaurant management

The Master of Excellence in New Food programme (MENA) gives restaurant owners and managers in the Lecce area the opportunity to receive three months of high-level training in restaurant management, cooking techniques and food processing.

Sponsored and organised by TAP, the project brings together top-rated chefs and local restaurant owners and managers, ultimately supporting the local economy and tourism. MENA 2, its second edition, brought together several experts and teachers including Michelin-starred chefs from Apulia. Several applicants replied to TAP's call for participation in December 2017.

The training course kicked off in January 2018. Seventeen restaurant owners and managers in the Lecce region were selected and took part in the programme. The 18 training sessions included 144 hours of classroom lessons, workshops, and tours of orchards, olive groves and well-known taverns and vineyards.

At the end of the master class, a jury chose two winners: one in the restaurateurs' category and another for the most professional cook. Carmine, the manager of an inn located in the Leuca area, was awarded with a voucher to purchase equipment, furniture or cooking instruments to the value of €5,000.

Stefano, the winner of the professional cook accolade, did on-the-job training, spending a month in the kitchen of the Pashà, one of Apulia's first-class restaurants, working alongside leading Italian and international chefs.

"I recommend this experience because it was a great learning opportunity which broadened my horizons," delighted Carmine commented at the end of the master class.

Stefano added: "MENA is the starting point for promoting our territory. In addition to the beautiful Apulian landscape, we can also offer tourists our excellent, traditional and highquality cuisine."

MENA was designed to enhance the quality of service in the tourism and hospitality sectors. As part of this programme, TAP is supporting the food & beverage sector, a key element of Italy's attraction to tourists. Tourism is a major contributor to the local economy and TAP wants to have a positive impact by strengthening the livelihoods of local communities in a sustainable way, leveraging local assets and emphasising local heritage.

TAP promoted MENA through a communication campaign across Lecce province, including advertising in the local newspaper, websites and social media, as well as a dedicated website: www.mena-mastertap.it

MENA was designed in collaboration with RP Consulting, an Apulian communications and marketing agency specialising in food and beverage services.







0.3 HO.MA.

Master's degree in International Hospitality Management

MASTER

di alta formazione nel
settore del **TURISMO**

HO.MA.

INTERNATIONAL
HOSPITALITY
MANAGEMENT

.....
in collaborazione con SESEF

Ente leader nella formazione turistica
e socio ASFOR

Ho.Ma. is a free master's degree course in International Hospitality Management launched by TAP in February 2018.

The initiative was organised in partnership with the European Association for Services and Training (SESEF), a leader in the tourism sector and member of ASFOR (Italian Association for Management Training).

Aimed at students from Apulia, Ho.Ma seeks to promote the region through a training programme focused on tourism, one of Apulia's main economic pillars. TAP offered a total of 35 scholarships, covering fees, accommodation, food and relocation costs. The scholarship also met participants' expenses for a subsequent internship in the tourism sector.

The master's course lasted for 1,000 hours or about seven months training, including lessons, workshops, site trips to various companies in the tourism sector, as well as an internship in Italy, the UK, Spain or Portugal. Part of the master's programme was held in London, where students also had the opportunity to take English language classes. This highly specialised master's course prepared its participants for securing permanent employment, especially in reception facilities and tour operator companies.

The students' appreciation of this unique opportunity was vividly expressed by Tiziana, one of the young beneficiaries.

"I am in London to attend a master's course in international hospitality management. I am happy especially because I met many nice people and realized how we people from Apulia can spread Apulian beauties everywhere in the world, with its unique style, food, culture, innovation. The real Apulia is us".

"We, the people from Apulia, now have the opportunity to develop our skills and have our ideas appreciated, through new learnings and experiences.

"We had this opportunity thanks to SESEF and TAP, which supported the programme with 35 scholarships. We are living intense moments full of high-level training. This is one of those moments when you can share a dream with other people and hope something would change, being the driving force of this change".



0.4 NextEnergy: energy efficiency for schools

TAP's NextEnergy programme aims to improve energy efficiency and student comfort in schools while also reducing their carbon footprints. The goal of this project is to enhance local students' overall learning experience as it has been proven that a better lit, more comfortable and well-equipped school environment enhances concentration and student performance.

Developed in close cooperation with representatives of the province of Lecce, the programme was launched in July 2018. It focuses on four secondary schools with a total of around 4,000 students. Following an initial audit to assess the current status, safety and internal comfort levels of the buildings, a set of remedial actions were identified and proposed for implementation.

NextEnergy's implementation consists of two main steps:

- Production of an energy audit, identifying the needs of each school building by measuring its energy characteristics. On completion, TAP's implementation partner, a local certified Energy Service Company (ESCO), submitted a final report detailing each school's energy consumption and the condition of its buildings.
- Identification and selection of a set of measures, based on the findings of the ESCO energy audit and including recommended energy efficiencies and a simulation of the situation following their implementation. The main areas considered included:
 - Lighting
 - Heating
 - Cooling and ventilation
 - Replacement of building coatings
 - Consumption monitoring system
 - Automation
 - Waste management
 - Earthquake prevention

The project is currently underway and will conclude in early 2019. TAP might also consider supporting the installation and maintenance of certain efficiency measures in future SEI initiatives.



TAP ACADEMY

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0.5 TAP ACADEMY: free training for local communities

TAP Academy is a capacity building programme active in Italy since March 2017. It offers regular training opportunities during the year in different subjects.

To boost sought-after business skills, TAP supports free courses for local communities in Lecce area. By enrolling in academy courses, participants can enhance their knowledge of the English language and acquire the computer science and social media marketing techniques increasingly required in the local job market. Additionally, participants can take courses to become tourist guides, hotel receptionists or web developers.

By providing these specialised courses, TAP supports local economic development and improves participants' chances of securing employment in the Apulia region.

During 2018, TAP Academy's training programme included:

- Courses to become a tourist guide, a hotel receptionist or a web developer.
- ICT/computer science courses - basic and advanced modules, preparing participants for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) exams.
- Social media marketing course to improve participants' skills, a key element in helping local businesses increase their audience and customer base.
- English language courses, including basic English and English for the tourism industry (intermediate level).

Since 2017, 135 beneficiaries have taken part in various courses. Alena, one of the participants in the tourist guide course, commented: "Thanks to TAP, my dream to become a qualified tourist guide came true."





Trans Adriatic
Pipeline

Trans Adriatic Pipeline AG

Lindenstrasse 2

6340 Baar, Switzerland

T: +41 41 747 3400

F: +41 41 747 3401

E: enquiries@tap-ag.com

www.tap-ag.com

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