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## ***ERIAFF Agroecology Working Group***

### ***[Regional Development Agency Dubrovnik-Neretva County - DUNEА] profile***

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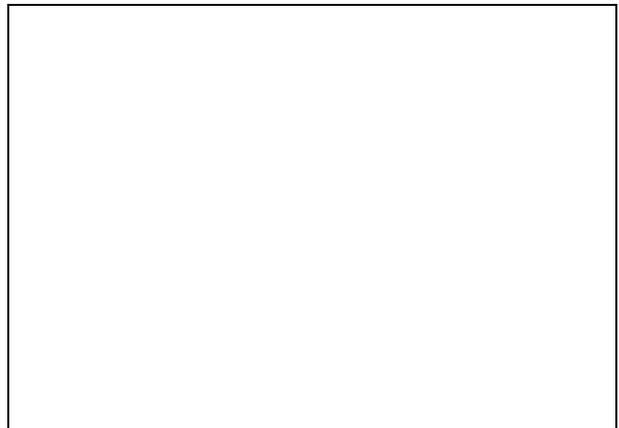
#### Main information:

- Country:  
➔ Croatia
  
- Regional capital:  
➔ Dubrovnik
  
- Population:  
➔ 115.862
  
- Contact(s)<sup>1</sup>:
  - Antonija Odak
  - Senior expert associate for the preparation and implementation of EU projects
  - aodak@dunea.hr



#### Agricultural features:

- What are the main agricultural sectors in your region?  
➔ The key agricultural activities in Dubrovnik Neretva County are fruit growing, viticulture and winemaking, olive growing, mariculture and fishing. With more than 2.1 million citrus trees (mostly mandarins), the county records more than 90% of the total number of these trees in Croatia. Dubrovnik Neretva County is on the third place in the Republic of Croatia according to the number of trees and the production of olive oil. Through the



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<sup>1</sup> Not to be published in ERIAFF Website



long tradition of these activities, a number of recognizable local products have been created over the years (eg Dingač, Neretva Mandarin, Ston Oyster, Korčula Olive Oil, etc.)

- What are the main issues farmers are facing in your territory?
  - ➔ The main issues farmers are facing are fragmentation of agricultural land, dependence on intermediaries in the sales chain, poor organization and association of agricultural producers, lack of irrigation systems and underdeveloped organic agriculture. Also, one of the main problems is the high percentage of the elderly population engaged in agriculture and the low percentage of young people who are interested in agriculture.
  
- Can you present 1 or 2 agroecological good practices led in your region?
  - ➔ In the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, trainings for farmers on the advantages of organic agriculture in relation to conventional agriculture are actively conducted.
  - ➔ Also, in the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, the innovative EU project GECCO2 (Green Economy and CO2) is being implemented, where farmers sequester CO2 into the soil by using sustainable agricultural practices, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. The ultimate goal of the project is to establish a voluntary carbon market in agriculture where farmers as sellers will benefit from the sale of carbon credits and companies in the county that will reduce their carbon footprint by purchasing carbon credits.

