

SOFTMOVE project: Innovation Opportunities For Sustainable and Smart Mobility Operations with unmanned Air VehicleEs and space assets

As cities evolve, the integration of drone technologies promises to redefine urban landscapes, offering innovative solutions for mobility and sustainability. This evolution can stimulate economic growth by creating new job opportunities and support eco-friendly initiatives, enhancing transportation efficiency and improving citizens' quality of life.

UAM is going to be an integral part of the future intermodal and intelligent mobility ecosystem as drone services can effectively integrate or complement existing transportation systems with a strong contribution to decarbonisation. Due to their low cost and ability to be fitted with onboard sensors, Unmanned Air Vehicles (UAV) can be seen as potential flying Internet-of-things (IoT) devices interconnecting with their environment. This interaction, in conjunction with space earth observation, makes UAV able to exploit a big amount of data shared across the city to monitor infrastructure, improve urban planning policies and traffic related issues, such as traffic congestion, user mobility, and general safety. On the other side, the drone technology ecosystem, together with the integrated ground infrastructure and the U-space services, is a complex system of regulatory measures.

SkEye project made the first step in how aerospace technologies can impact positively future smart cities in the Programme area.

SOFTMOVE now aims to foster this outcome by exploring how drone technical approach specifically focused on concept of operations and feasibility of services can meet target citizens' expectation. This formative step is crucial to fill the lack of knowledge and experience that the South Adriatic area has in using drone technologies to solve daily problems of transportation. Finally, the development of

UAV know-how will have a positive economic impact on local industry involving the active participation of a variety of diversified SMEs in drone businesses.

The SOFTMOVE project aims to harness the potential of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Innovative Aerial Services in the IPA area through capacity building, policy advocacy for sustainable mobility, knowledge sharing on Urban Air Mobility (UAM), and stakeholder engagement. In addition, it promotes the development of UAS expertise that benefits local industry and encourages the active participation of SMEs in the drone sector. The knowledge and experience of leading Apulian players will catalyze the creation of new local network favoring the development and diffusion of such technologies and services and benefiting of the growth of an innovative and sustainable industry.

The SOFTMOVE project partners are **DTA Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale** as lead partner, **NVU Digital Den**, a startup incubator based in Montenegro that acts as a catalyst for new entrepreneurial endeavors of the Balkan region, and **ASIG** (Albanian State Authority for Geospatial Information), a central public institution that implements and fosters the use of the National Infrastructure of Geospatial Information in Albania.