

<b>Title of the initiative</b>
VRE for regional Interdisciplinary communities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean (VI-SEEM project)
<b>Idea origin (country)</b> The name of the country where the inspired practice came from
Greece
<b>Idea origin (institution)</b> The name of the institution where the inspired practice came from
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IN GREECE
<b>Brief description</b>
The VI-SEEM project established a unified Virtual Research Environment (VRE) to support scientific collaboration in Climatology, Life Sciences, and Cultural Heritage across Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.
<b>Idea focus</b> The focus of the inspired practice was on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ research infrastructures</li> <li>○ research methodology</li> </ul>
<b>Why is it considered an Inspiring Practice?</b>
It provided e-Infrastructure resources, training, and support, helping to bridge the digital divide and reduce brain drain. The initiative's success lies in its cross-border collaboration, sustainability through partnerships, and adaptability to other scientific fields.
<b>Relevance of the initiative in its specific context</b> (why was it developed, why is it important in its specific context, what type of change it generated for the target group, relevance at local / national / international)
The VI-SEEM initiative was developed to address the lack of access to research infrastructure in Southeast Europe (SEE) and the Eastern Mediterranean (EM) regions facing digital divides and brain drain. By connecting 14 SEE countries and 6 EM states, it enabled cross-border collaboration in climatology, life sciences, and cultural heritage. The project empowered researchers with resources and tools to conduct advanced studies, producing new knowledge and fostering innovation. Its impact spans local, national, and international levels, driving regional scientific progress.
<b>Target Group of the practice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Administrative staff</li> <li>○ Academic staff</li> </ul>
<b>Impact</b> How the initiative produced an impact in its context and beyond
The initiative significantly improved research capabilities in Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean by providing e-infrastructure resources, fostering collaboration, and supporting scientific communities in climatology,

life sciences, and cultural heritage. It reduced regional disparities in research access, facilitated large-scale simulations, and enhanced knowledge sharing. Beyond its immediate context, it contributed to bridging the digital divide, strengthening scientific networks, and aligning regional research with broader European and global standards.

#### **Transferability of the initiative**

Which elements can be adapted and transferred to other contexts/fields

The project core elements—integrated e-infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaboration, and digital resource-sharing—can be adapted to other regions and research fields. Its model of unifying computing, data, and visualization services can benefit disciplines such as environmental science, biomedical research, and engineering. The framework for regional cooperation can also be applied to other underserved areas seeking to strengthen scientific capabilities.

#### **Sustainability of the initiative**

The factors favoring the success of the initiative over time

Its sustainability is ensured by strong institutional partnerships, long-term integration of e-infrastructures, and ongoing support for scientific communities. Its collaborative model fosters knowledge sharing, while its adaptable framework allows for future technological advancements. By aligning with European research priorities, the initiative secures continued relevance and funding opportunities.

#### **Contact and references**

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/675121/fr>