

# Southern European Report

with Stefano Valianti

The evolution of mediumwave radio in north-eastern Italy is a little complicated. 1503 kHz was the frequency of RDE-Radio Diffusione Europea in Trieste, which landed here on 11 January 2023 from its original frequency of 1584. Then, this summer, RDE left abruptly the airwaves and became a web-only station (now, some of its programmes are relayed by a local FM station). Some of its programmes are also still networked over some MW stations, including MRC-Media Radio Castellana on 711/1098 and Power 927. The 1503 frequency was taken over by Radio Metropolis, which stayed here for a very little time, giving way on September 12th to Radio Calcio FVG (standing for Friuli Venezia Giulia), a sports station which deals with all regional football events, from Serie A to amateurs. In October, Radio Metropolis reappeared on 819 kHz, a historic Trieste frequency which had been used by RAI Radio 1 FVG and later by RDE as a parallel frequency to 1584.



And now comes the bad news. A **Radio Capodistria** programme announced on the air that, due to the need to make reductions in expenses, both mediumwave frequencies 549 (Slovenian) and 1170 (Italian) are in jeopardy and might leave the air sometime in 2024. Koper and Capodistria are now also on DAB in the mux SLO DAB+R2W, channel 12C, which is heard in some parts of Veneto, for instance on the A27 highway around Treviso. (The fact that this Slovenian mux operates on the internationally assigned channel 12C is the reason why the Italian mux DAB Italia, originally transmitting throughout Italy on the same channel, has now changed the frequencies of almost all its stations to the new channel 7D). And they are also on FM, Capodistria being heard across the border on 103.1 MHz from Mount Nanos.

By a strange and evil coincidence, both Capodistria/Koper frequencies 549 and 1170 went off the air immediately after the news of their possible closure spread, this causing some concern among DXers and listeners. However, the outage was caused by a fault, and at 1540 local on 14 December I noticed both frequencies on the air regularly. But again, on 20 December, it was RTV Slovenia itself that announced that the fate of medium waves is sealed and that they will gradually be put out of service.



Radio Capodistria on 1170 kHz is the last survivor of the great peripheral stations that made radio great in the 50s, 60s and 70s: Luxembourg in French, German and English, Europe 1 in French, Andorra in French and Spanish, Monte Carlo in French and Italian

- not to mention the British and Dutch pirates and the Mexican border blasters. Which is to say that cross-border radio has always had a particular charm and impact.

Since the end of World War II, Radio Koper Capodistria has broadcast on 1169, originally in Italian, Slovenian and Croatian, and later in Italian and Slovenian until August 1972, when the frequency changed to 1079, leaving 1169 kHz to repeat the Ljubljana 1 programme whose main frequency was 917 kHz, and from 1973 the 2nd programme "Koper 2". 1079 was a very good frequency and had daytime coverage as far as Tuscany beyond the Apennines and Apulia on the Adriatic Sea. In December 1978 the frequency was reverted to 1170 kHz, with 1080 remaining in parallel until December 1979, when Radio Koper Capodistria was split into two stations: Capodistria in Italian on 1170 and Koper in Slovenian on new 549. From August to October 1997, Radio Capodistria broadcast on a new parallel frequency, 630 kHz, which was much stronger than 1170 especially in Central Italy, but this transmission, despite good reception, was soon discontinued.