



WE GO COOP

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PRESS RELEASE

Gathering the Community of Practice and 1st Capacity Building.

Seville, Spain - October 2, 2024 – The **WE GO COOP** project took a crucial step forward in advancing sustainable wetland management in the Mediterranean with its first major event, “*Gathering the Community of Practice and 1st Capacity Building*”. Held on the 1st and 2nd of October, the event was hosted by the project partner **FAMP** (Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces) in Seville, Spain, and marked a significant milestone in establishing the **Community of Practice on Wetland Contracts**.

The two-day event brought together project partners and associate partners to collaborate in person for the first time, as well as offering online participation for those interested in joining the new Community of Practice. The first day focused on capacity building, transferring knowledge, and networking to support the future of **Wetland Contracts** across the Mediterranean region.

Day 1 featured an overview of the state of Wetland Contracts in the Mediterranean, providing valuable context for the creation of the Community of Practice. Discussions highlighted the evolution of key EU-funded projects, including **WETNET**, **COASTING**, **CREW**, and **TUNE UP**, setting the stage for WE GO COOP’s vision to connect stakeholders across the region. Additionally, case studies from Greece, Spain, Italy, and France showcased successful implementations of Wetland Contracts, sparking discussions on the benefits and challenges faced in different regions.

The second day shifted focus to **transferring Wetland Contracts** to three new pilot areas: **Vransko Jezero (Croatia)**, **Vjosa Narta Protected Area (Albania)**, and **Carvalho wetlands (Portugal)**. Participants engaged in collaborative working groups to outline key topics, stakeholders, and strategies for implementing Wetland Contracts in these locations. The productive session laid the foundation for advancing wetland sustainability and creating a participatory process tailored to each site.

The event concluded with the first in-person **Steering Committee** meeting of the WE GO COOP project, where the team outlined next steps, deliverables, and upcoming activities. These discussions reinforced the commitment of all partners to drive the project forward and ensure its successful outcomes.



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WE GO COOP is funded by the **Interreg Euro-MED Programme** and aims to develop a transnational framework for wetland governance in the Mediterranean, enhancing cooperation, innovation, and sustainable development. The establishment of the **Community of Practice on Wetland Contracts** will play a central role in transferring knowledge and fostering collaboration among stakeholders across the region.

This event in Seville marks the **beginning** of a dynamic journey to strengthen wetland management and address the pressing **environmental challenges** facing Mediterranean wetlands. By fostering transnational cooperation and sharing best practices, WE GO COOP will empower local communities to protect their natural resources and ensure the long-term **sustainability** of these vital ecosystems.

For more information, please visit <https://wegocoop.interreg-euro-med.eu/> or contact us at wegocoop@interreg-euro-med.eu.