



**WE GO COOP**

**Interreg  
Euro-MED**



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# improving WETland GOVERNance through a COMMUNITY OF Practice



DIPARTIMENTO  
DI  
ARCHITETTURA



**VRANSKO  
JEZERO** Park prirode  
Nature Park

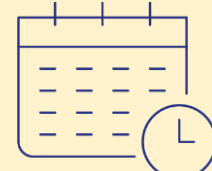


Wetlands are globally endangered. In the Mediterranean, the intensification of agriculture, poor water management, and pollution, and increasing urbanization are among the most pressing threats. These challenges intertwine scientific-environmental aspects and governance concerns. Wetland management can be effectively faced only by overcoming sectoral and administrative borders, looking at the Mediterranean ecosystems as a whole. As a transfer project, WE GO COOP, started in January 2024, has the goal to assuring higher coordination between wetland preservation and local development but also to enhance cultural heritage and its values, working at two different levels. The first one is the creation of a Community of Practice at the Mediterranean level among actors engaged in Environmental Contracts at the Mediterranean level, capitalizing on the outcomes of previous

projects, sharing challenges and solutions. Furthermore, WE GO COOP will work on the creation of a virtual and collaborative platform for this Community of Practice, where experiences, practices, agent mappings, lists of useful indicators in wetland management, etc. will be uploaded and shared. The second one is the reinforcement of the tool of Wetland Contract at a local level in countries that have already tested it (Italy, Greece, Spain) , and the transferring of the tool in new EU nations (Croatia, Portugal, and Albania) and in the South and the Middle East Med region. Transnational cooperation becomes the tool through which WE GO COOP forms the Community of Practice uniting diverse perspectives facing similar challenges, enabling the project to meet the needs of wetlands on a large scale, ensuring the transferability of its results.



**Total budget**  
€ 999,784.00



**Project duration**  
27 months



**Interreg Funds**  
€ 799,827.20

## PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ANATOLIKI S.A. (EL) (Lead Partner), MedWet (FR), Department of Architecture, Roma Tre University (IT), Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), Public institution Nature Park Vransko Jazero (HR), Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania (AL), RCDI – Development and Innovation Network (PT)



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## Interreg Med WETNET - Coordinated Management and Networking of Mediterranean Wetlands

### D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The WETNET Project was co-funded by the MED programme and was developed from November 2016 to December 2019. It tackled the implementation of multilevel governance for MED wetlands to improve their ecosystems and surrounding landscapes. The project aimed at ensuring higher coordination between different levels of spatial planning and the stakeholders involved in site management, while limiting conflicts between conservation issues and economic activities. The project analysed, tested and disseminated new forms of institutional collaboration, including participatory tools to engage the local stakeholders, with a focus on the promotion of Wetland Contracts. It took different forms and

designations to be adapted to the local contexts and regulations in each of the participant countries, being defined as an agreement between public and private parties, implying real commitment by the signatories. Nine Wetland Contracts were outlined and subscribed by the local stakeholders, based on governance Action Plans, encompassing a total of 67,061 hectares of protected areas: Italy – Caorle Lagoon (Veneto) and Vercelli Lowplain (Piedmont); Slovenia – Ljubljansko barje Nature Park (Central Slovenia); Spain – Odiel Marshes (Huelva), Albufera de Valencia (Comunitat Valenciana) and Cañizar Lagoon (Aragon); France – Verdier Marshes (Rhône Delta); Portugal – Melides Lagoon (Alentejo); Malta – Gozo Island.



WETNET Partnership during the Final Conference



WETNET Pilot areas

### PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Veneto Region - Strategic Territorial Planning and Cartography (IT) (Lead Partner), Province of Vercelli (IT), ZRC SAZU - Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SL), FAMP - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), SEO/BirdLife - Spanish Ornithological Society (ES), CIRF - Italian Center for River Restoration (IT), SARGA - Government of Aragon (ES), RCDI - Development and Innovation Network (PT), GDA - Gozo Development Agency - Gozo Regional Committee (MT), TDV - Tour du Valat Foundation (FR)



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Interreg  
Mediterranean  
COASTING

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## Interreg Med COASTING - Coastal Integrated Governance for Sustainable Tourism

### D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Med COASTING project, is a transnational cooperation project based on the ICZM principles application, aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of a multilevel governance tool capitalizing the Coast Contract based on the *Contrat de Baie* experience, focusing it specifically on tourism sustainability and qualification. COASTING started on February 2018 and ended on January 2020. COASTING partners organized Roadshow events in 8 pilot areas (in Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Malta) engaging local target groups, both public and private key stakeholders, in a multi-agent participatory process to develop strategies for coastal integrated governance for sustainable tourism. The Roadshow is a

participatory process that aims at engaging all target groups (policy makers at local and regional level, environmental and tourism agencies, organisations, enterprises and general public) to accelerate the mainstreaming of the Coast Contract tool. Key stakeholders participate in the events discussing criticalities, objectives, and sharing good practices to specific problems with the final aim of enhancing their abilities to take action in the focused processes. The Roadshows resulted in a number of strategies or action plan developed by each partner jointly with their local stakeholders aiming at enhancing qualification and use of natural resources and creating social accountability through a participation process.



COASTING partnership



COASTING pilot areas

### PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

FAMP - Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES) (Lead Partner), Lazio Region - Regional Directorate for housing policies and territorial, landscape and urban planning (IT), Gozo Regional Committee (MT), Aix Marseille Provence Metropolis (FR), Dubrovnik Neretva Regional Development Agency DUNEА (HR), Region of Epirus - Regional Unit of Thesprotia (EL), Sicilian Region - Department of Cultural Heritage and of Sicilian Identity (IT), Sapienza University of Rome - PDTA Department (IT).



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Interreg  
Italy - Croatia  
CREW



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## Interreg Italy-Croatia CREW - Coordinated Wetland management in Italy-Croatia cross border region

### D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Italy-Croatia CREW implemented, from December 2018 to August 2021, the Wetland Contract in order to achieve overall effects on coastal wetlands ecosystems by overcoming fragmentations that are often jeopardizing the sustainable development and preservation of fragile wetland areas. It ensured higher coordination between different level of spatial planning and authorities in charge for wetlands management, whilst limiting conflicts between preservation issues and economic activities. Also, a cross border Observatory was set up in order to monitor best practices and data on Italian and Croatian coastal wetlands. A coordinated methodology Wetland Contract was implemented at the

mouth of the Ofanto river, the natural reserve of Sentina, the north lagoon of Venice, the lagoon of Marano, the ornithological reserve Palud, the island of Pag and the mouth of the Neretva river. It assured higher coordination among stakeholders and decision makers, limiting and absorbing raising conflicts between preservation issues and economic activities (farming, aquaculture, tourism) and enhanced the achievement of sustainable long-term results. The awareness of the wetland ecosystems value among policy makers, managers, professionals, and general public was raised while their active engagement in territorial governance was strengthened.



Interreg IT-HR Partnership



Pilot areas: 1) Ofanto River, 2) Sentina Nature Reserve, 3) Venezia Lagoon, 4) Marano Lagoon, 5) Palud Palù, 6) Malo i Veliko Blato, 7) Neretva River Delta

### PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

IUAV - University of Venice (IT) (Lead Partner), University of Camerino (IT), Inter-municipal Territorial Union of the Riviera - Bassa Friulana (IT), Municipality of San Benedetto del Tronto (IT), Patto Territoriale Nord Barese Ofantino (IT), Natura Histrica – Pula (HR), Natura Jadera – Zadar (HR), Zastita Prirode – Dubrovnik (HR).



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## Interreg Med TUNE UP - Promoting Multilevel governance for Tuning up biodiversity protection in marine areas

### D.1.1.2 - EXHIBITION ON WETLAND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE

The Interreg Med TUNE UP project aimed at tackling the need for a strategic and collaborative approach for an effective management of the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). TUNE UP started in November 2019 and ended in June 2022. The core idea of the project was to exploit the feasibility and flexibility of the Environmental Contract methodology in Med MPAs. The project was developed in 10 MPAs in 7 Mediterranean nations, where 10 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed, incepting the formal phase calling for public-private partnerships in binding arrangements in terms of liability, financing and timing. Indeed, the project ensured higher coordination among

stakeholders and decision makers, limiting raising conflicts between preservation and economic issues, and will enhance the goal of biodiversity protection. Thus, the project achieved the following results: (i) stronger, coordinated and proactive involvement of key stakeholders in MPAs management; (ii) improved effectiveness of MPAs management by integrating multilevel governance tools into national and regional policy instruments; (iii) more intensive transnational cooperation and networking between Med MPAs. The partnership involved different types of actors operating in MPAs management, thus allowing TUNE UP to ensure high transferability of main outputs to Med Countries.



TUNE UP partnership



TUNE UP pilot areas

### PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

ANATOLIKI SA (EL) (Lead Partner), Andalusian Federation of Towns and Provinces (ES), Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (FR), Mediterranean Sea and Coast Foundation (IT), Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SL), Tour du Valat Foundation (FR), Amvrakikos Gulf – Lefkada Management Agency (EL), Department of Architecture, Roma Tre University (IT), AQUAPROGRAM srl (IT), Spanish Ornithological Society (ES), Ministry of Tourism and Environment (AL), University of Montenegro - Institute for marine biology (ME)



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