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PRESS RELEASE

# 1<sup>st</sup> Thematic Seminar: Framing the Community of Practice.

**Rome, Italy - January 29, 2025** – The **WE GO COOP** project took a crucial step forward in advancing sustainable wetland management in the Mediterranean with its first thematic seminar, "*Framing the Community of Practice*". Held on the 28th and 29th of January, the event was hosted by the project partner **Department of Architecture of Roma Tre University** in Rome, Italy, and marked a significant milestone in discussing and establishing the **Community of Practice on Wetland Contracts**.

The two-day event brought together project partners and associate partners to engage in plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, and interactive workshops. Key topics included the legal recognition of Wetland Contracts, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and funding strategies for environmental governance.

**Day 1** featured institutional welcomes from representatives of the Department of Architecture of Roma Tre University and Anatoliki, followed by an overview of the event, the presentation of the virtual and collaborative platform for the WE GO COOP Community of Practice, and a review of Wetland Contracts in the Mediterranean.

A key highlight of the first day was the roundtable discussion on Collaborative Networks for Wetland Governance, which brought together experts from organizations such as the International Office for Water, the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, MedPAN, Interreg Euro-MED Natural Heritage Mission, MedWet, and the Union for the Mediterranean.

During the first day participants also worked on the definition of the objectives for the WE GO COOP Community of Practice. Through a world café interactive session participants explored issues like: legal acknowledgment and advocacy, knowledge sharing and capacity building, and finance for governance and action.

**Day 2** shifted focus on shaping a policy paper addressing the challenges and opportunities for Wetland Contracts. Experts presented insights on nature restoration, biodiversity protection, climate change adaptation, and the socio-cultural aspects of wetlands. In the second part of the morning, participants worked in thematic groups to outline key messages for the policy paper.

The event concluded with the **Steering Committee** meeting of the WE GO COOP project, where the team outlined next steps, deliverables, and upcoming



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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](mailto:wegocoop@interreg-euro-med.eu).