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# All Together for a Cleaner Adriatic



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EUROPEAN UNION

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## **ML-REPAIR**

REducing and Preventing, an integrated Approach to Marine Litter Management in the Adriatic Sea

# ALL TOGETHER FOR A CLEANER ADRIATIC



DID YOU KNOW? The Adriatic Sea hosts more than 7,000 species including many unique, rare, and endangered ones

#### THE CONTEXT

Marine Litter, any solid, manufactured or processed solid material lost or discharged into the marine environment, represents an increasing threat to marine and coastal ecosystems with several - and mostly unquantified negative impacts on commercial fishing, tourism activities and economy of coastal communities.

The Adriatic Sea is a semi-closed basin with a coastal population that exceeds 3.5 million people. It is a popular touristic destination, with over 200 million overnight stays per year, and intense maritime transport for both commercial and tourism purposes.

Marine litter may travel long distances, regardless of the administrative boundaries of the countries, thus a common approach of different countries and their joint efforts to find proper solutions are required.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

As a citizen, you can act as responsible consumer day by day to reduce the amount of waste and properly dispose of it.

If you are a tourist, please enjoy the marine and coastal wonders of the Adriatic Sea responsibly, reducing the environmental impacts of recreational activities.

If you are a fisherman, you can properly dispose on land derelict fishing gear and the waste you catch in the nets during your daily work. Please contact us to have more info about this possibility, called "Fishing for Litter".

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The fishery sector has a great potential in the process of removing marine litter from the seafloor, 80% of which come from inland



#### THE PROJECT

The Marine Litter Repair project (ML-REPAIR) aims at contributing to the solution of the marine litter issue by strengthening joint actions on marine litter in Italy and Croatia, fostering the adoption of good practices and raising awareness among local communities, tourists, and the fishery sector.



### WHAT THE PROJECT DOES

Investigate new educational tools to encourage positive change in attitudes and behaviour towards marine litter among the younger population

Raise awareness of tourists in coastal areas, thus stimulating the sustainable growth of the tourism sector

Provide data and innovative tools to decision-makers (public administration bodies) to launch more comprehensive cross-border initiatives towards a better marine litter management system

Remove marine litter through a participatory approach with the fishery sector, improving cooperation between science and fishery-related organizations, including the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs)

Consolidate cross-border co-operation, exchanging knowledge and reducing the gap between different approaches to marine litter issues

Survey the presence of marine litter and its impacts in several protected marine areas (Natura 2000 sites) in Italy and Croatia