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Call for proposal 2019 Strategic

## MARLESS (MARine Litter cross-border awarenESS and innovation actions)

Priority Axis: Environment and cultural heritage; Specific objective: 3.3 - Improve the environmental quality conditions of the sea and coastal area by use of sustainable and innovative technologies and approaches

### 4.3.3. Declaration of Intent of Coast agreement to promote Coast agreement in Veneto Region

4.3 Coast agreement

WP 4

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## PROJECT MARLESS

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<b>Activity:</b>	<b>4.3. Coast agreement</b>
<b>WP Leader:</b>	<b>PP10 Apulia Region</b>
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## 1. Introduction

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the 10 Municipalities of the Veneto Coast signed a Declaration of Intent entitled "Sustainability Charter. Strategies, projects, initiatives aimed at environmental, social and economic sustainability", at the end of a shared pathway structured in 10 thematic tables, referring to ten Strategic Guidelines:

- Tav. 1 PORTO VIRO: Creation of general guidelines for the conception, organisation and management of events and public initiatives in respect of all environmental parameters (Strategic Line TRAINING AND COMPETENCE);
- Tav. 2. JESOLO: Enhancement of cycling in the entire territory of the Venetian Coast (Strategic Line DIVERSIFICATION);
- TABLE 3. ERACLEA: Environmental protection activities in coastal areas: collection of best practices, smoke-free beach, nature trails in the pinewoods and other experiences in the municipalities (Strategic Line IDENTITY AND DISTINCTION);
- Table 4. VENICE: Transport and energy from renewable sources for mobility (Strategic Line INCLUSION);
- TABLE 5. PORTO TOLLE: Social and health security (Strategic Line PRODUCTIVITY);
- TABLE 6. SAN MICHELE AL TAGLIAMENTO - BIBIONE: relationship between tourism, tertiary sector and logistics (Strategic Line. ATTRACTIVITY);
- TABLE 7. CAORLE: Coastal infrastructures and services (Strategic Line HEALTH AND WELL-BEING);
- Table 8. CHIOGGIA: Blue economy and management of marine and "beached" waste - MARLESS project pilot action (Strategic Line ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES).
- Table 9. ROSOLINA: hydraulic defence, safety and maritime spatial planning - MARLESS project pilot action (Strategic Line DEFENCE AND SAFETY);
- Table 10. CAVALLINO TREPORTI: employment and social justice (Strategic Line EQUITATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE)

The common priorities that have been shared are the following:

- promote inter-institutional governance in order to facilitate the implementation of European, national and regional policies in the Veneto coastline area, regarding in particular the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of ONU Agenda.
- complete the participating process aimed at signing the "Veneto Coastal Contract", through the drafting of a specific Action Programme, as a common operational tool of the Conference of Mayors of the Veneto Coastal area;
- renew annually, through the event "Summit of the Sea", the discussion, strategies and implementation of some pilot actions, including:
  1. actions to safeguard woods and dunes;
  2. social sustainability actions aimed at improving the quality of life and ensuring equally distributed welfare conditions;
  3. actions to improve the adaptation and connection of cycle infrastructures, for the safe use of the environmental and landscape heritage;
  4. actions to improve the accessibility of the Veneto Coast;
  5. actions for the active and responsible involvement of young people and schools.

## 2. ANNEX

The Declaration of Intent entitled “*Sustainability Charter. Strategies, projects, initiatives aimed at environmental, social and economic sustainability*” is attached.

### 3. Introduction - Istria Region

The Coast Agreements is a governance tool to facilitate implementation at the local scale of community, national and regional policies on environmental protection, hydraulic defence, adaptation to the effects of climate change, management of integrated coastal territories, management of waste and prevention marine litter, in addition to the enhancement and promotion of local development.

After discussions with multiple actors (List D.4.3.2) a draft of “Declaration of Intent of Coast agreement to promote coast agreements in Istrian Region” was developed. Documents is voluntary Declaration that can be adjusted according to signatory needs and possibilities. Declarations were not signed during project MARLESS duration, but PP7 and PP9 will continue to promote problematic of marine litter and discus with various stress the need of better planning. Declaration will be shared with regional/local public authorities with the intention of future development of Coastal agreement of Region of Istria or multiple local agreements.

### 4. Declaration of Intent for development of Coast agreement in Istrian Region

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Adress: \_\_\_\_\_

Coutry: \_\_\_\_\_

# MARLESS (MARine Litter cross-border awarenESS and innovation actions)

## Declaration of Intent for development of Coast agreement in Istrian Region

(draft – can be modified by signatory)

### Article 1

I, \_\_\_\_\_, by signing of this Declaration of Intent, I commit to give effort to implement marine litter prevention measures and to plan future development of Coastal agreement for area\_\_\_\_\_.

### Article 2.

Declaration of Intent is in line with the national Act on Sustainable Waste Management, the National Strategy and Waste management plan and by-laws in the field of waste management. It is also in line with the EU Waste Framework Directive (2008/98 / EC) which is based on a recycling-oriented society and sets priorities such as:

- waste prevention,
- preparation for re-use,
- recycling,
- reuse (recovery), e.g. energy use, etc.,
- disposal of residual waste.

### Article 3.

In the area of \_\_\_\_\_ the waste management system is organized in accordance with the regulations of the Republic of Croatia and the EU aiming to the prevention and reduction



of waste generation, increasing the utilization of useful properties of waste (material and energy recovery), as well as preventing its harmful impact on the environment.

Prerequisites for the effective functioning of a comprehensive waste management system are the existence of a good legal and efficient institutional framework, as well as technical prerequisites and economic instruments, ie financing and construction of necessary capacities and facilities for waste collection, transport and recovery or disposal, as well as “polluter pays” billing scheme. An important element also is the involvement and information of the public about the waste management.

As the main problem of the area of Region of Istra in terms of waste management we can identify the low rate of collected separate waste, lack of disposal capacities for biowaste, inability to recover separately collected waste and the lack of public awareness on waste issues, primarily related to plastics and packaging waste.

To tackle the above-mentioned problems, the proposed actions in this document will aim to reach the following goals:

- Increase of the waste flow control
- Waste avoidance and reduction measures
- Improving the integrated waste management system
- Education and communication with the public
- Development of a system of separate collection "by approaching the place of origin, especially for municipal waste"
- Increasing the share of separately collected waste
- Improving waste recycling and recovery
- Treatment of residual waste before final disposal
- Reducing the share of biodegradable waste that should be disposed of
- Self-sustainable financing of the municipal waste management system

Article 4.

For the area of \_\_\_\_\_, possible measures would be (can be edited) :

- a) Creation of a model to encourage business entities to stop using single-use plastics in their business
- b) Instalment of addition bins for marine waste in marines and ports
- c) Propose the installation of green islands in the small/micro port areas
- d) Encourage boaters to separate collection and reduce waste generation
- e) Carry out the activity of waste fishing and adequate disposal of waste in ports and marinas
- f) Establishment of reuse centers
- g) Encourage the use of bioplastics
- h) Sharing is caring – a swap fair intended for the exchange of items.
- i) Financing and promotion of clean up actions (undersea, beaches, land environment)
- j) Disseminate examples of good practice in reducing waste generation and its reuse
- k) Limit the use of single-use plastic only to necessary and irreplaceable products in city institutions and public companies; use of green public procurement when purchasing certain items of office material, use of plastic cups when using the water dispenser etc.
- l) Implementation of educational and informative activities on sustainable waste management (schools, general public etc.)
- m) Implementation of awareness activities and campaigns (general public, touristic sector, tourists)
- n) other

Article 5.

This is voluntary document that shows awareness of signatory regarding waste management and marine litter problem, and highlights intention to plan and implement appropriate measures for its territory that will result to reduction of pollution in coastal areas.

Place and date:

Signatory:

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## WP 4 Activity

### 4.3 Coast Agreement

#### D.4.3.2 Creation of 6 discussion tables in the 6 regions involved in the project

#### D4.3.3 Declaration of intent/Preliminary draft of Coast agreement to promote coast agreement in at least 4 regions

#### **PP2 - Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region contribution:**

The Wetland Contract for the Marano Lagoon (*Contratto di Area Umida della Laguna di Marano*) refers to a negotiated governance tool which enhance strategic planning and coordinated management within the Marano Lagoon Area (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy). Through negotiated planning, therefore, local authorities and other stakeholders operating in the area pursue local development objectives. The Wetland contract has been elaborated within the Interreg Italy-Croatia project “*Coordinated Wetland Management in Italy-Croatia Cross Border Region*” and it is still in its foundation phase.

Considering that costal lagoons are exposed area to litter accumulation, directly affecting the marine environment, the Wetland Contract for the Marano Lagoon has been identified as a valuable strategic tool for strengthening coordination for waste management and boosting future collaborations for exchanging good practices and cooperation in joint actions to prevent marine litter.

Specifically, the consultation process involving RAFVG and the representatives of the Wetland Contract for the Marano Lagoon led to the formal commitment of the Wetland Contract for the Marano Lagoon to identify and add in its operational document useful measures for the prevention, management and disposal of plastic waste in the area of operation of the contract and the implementation of joint projects for the management of waste along the coasts and in lagoons, in line with what promoted within the MARLESS project.

To follow, the minutes from the meetings of 18.11.2021(annex 1), 03.05.2023 (annex 2) with the list of participants (annex 3) and the letter of intent sent by RAFVG to the representatives of the Wetland Contract for the Marano Lagoon (annex 4).

## Minutes

### **Coordination Meeting – MARLESS – River Cormor Contract Agreement – Marano Lagunare Wet Area Contract**

held on the **18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, 9:00 - 10:30**  
on **Microsoft Teams**

#### **Summary**

**Marco Abordi (River Cormor Contract Agreement Coordinator)** opened the meeting at 9.00, providing a quick introduction on the reasons why it was being held.

The discussion is targeted to the possibility to cooperate and to establish links among Marless Project, Cormor River Contract, Marano Lagunare Wet Area Contract, in order to set up joint actions.

The idea is to deliver tools and methodologies aimed at preserving the environment and at testing in the wide area involved, some pilot actions already realised within each of the specific initiatives' participating to the meeting.

Below is the list of participants:

Marco Abordi	Coordinatore Contratto di Fiume Cormor
Elisa Tammaro	Assessore all'ambiente del comune di Mortegliano
Luca Di Giusto	Consigliere comunale del comune di Tricesimo, con delega al Contratto di fiume
Mauro Popesso	Sindaco di Marano Lagunare e Vice Presidente della Comunità Riviera Friulana
Donatella Serafino	Comunità Riviera Friulana
Tudorov Nicolo'	Regione Autonoma FVG
Marilanda Bianchini	Regione Autonoma FVG

Further updates, mostly on future common activities, are planned for mid-January 2023. The meeting ended at 10.30.

## MARLESS

### Opportunities for collaboration with the River Contract of Cormor and Contract of Area Umida of Merano Lagoon Marano

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, 3:30 - 5:30 PM

RAFVG Regional Office of Piazza Patriarcato-Udine

On Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, a meeting between some of the representatives of **the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia – RAFVG (PP2)**, and some of the representatives of the **River Contract of Cormor and Contract Area Umida of Marano Lagoon** was held at the ARFVG regional office in Udine.

The meeting had the purpose of discussing future partnerships between the stakeholders, in the aftermath of the **project MARLESS** scheduled for **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**.

- *To follow, some of the speeches of the participants:*

**Flavio Gabrielcig** (RAFVG - *Director of the Service for discipline management waste and polluted sites*) has inaugurated the meeting remembering that the encounter aimed at consolidating future collaborations for the prevention of litter dispersion from the rivers into the sea.

**Nicolò Tudorov** (*RAFVG - Organizational Position Community programming and sustainable development*) presented to the participants the strategic project MARLESS.

He offered a general overview of the work packages implemented by the project, which include communication activities, monitoring actions, citizens' engagement activities, and awareness-raising in schools, along with **identifying operative measures functional to a future innovative application of the river agreements**, and legislative analysis.

To follow, **Marilanda Bianchini** (*RAFVG- Collaborator external project MARLESS*), has emphasised newly that the encounter aimed at creating future opportunities both for the River Contract of Cormor and for the Contract of Area Umida of Marano Lagoon, adding that the previous meetings within MARLESS have sparked fruitful discussions on several issues, that can be addressed through coordinated actions in the future.

Notably, these actions can be included in a **specific document** that **would represent both the continuation of a dialogue initiated in MARLESS** and a **functional tool** for the implementation of **activities, initiatives, or projects** delivering the prevention of litter dispersion from rivers to seas and lagoons.

**Marco Abordi** (*Coordinator of the River Contract of Cormor*) has emphasized as the present collaboration could be bureaucratically developed by adding in the Contract of River and in its action plan (*Technical Annex*) the actions planned and the respective leaders of the actions.



According to Abordi, considering that the River Contract is a governance tool that allows both public and private parties to coordinate, structural and less-structural actions can be included to deal with the macro-problem of waste in the water.

**Flavio Gabrielcig** encouraged then the stakeholders to approach the issue of litter dispersion holistically, considering other significant issues, such as those concerning water quality in relation to the problem of micro plastics.

**Donatella Serafino** (*Comunità Riviera Friulana, representing the Contract Area Umida of Marano Lagoon*) presented to the participants this Contract, conceived from Interreg Italy-Croatia in 2017, underlining how the involvement and the coordination of several stakeholders were necessary to achieve concrete actions.

By discussing the experience of the Lagoon System, **Giovanni Corso** (*City Council Member of Marano Lagunare, Comunità Riviera Friulana*) has articulated what was anticipated by Mrs. Serafino, focusing on the importance of the involvement of various stakeholders in these activities.

**Marco Abordi** then has drawn participants' attention to how to proceed for the accomplishment of the agreement.

Abordi clarified that the Contracts have a **technical annex** (*Action Plan*) and a **strategic plan** (*Programming Document*), arguing that it would be significant for the stakeholders to **add the actions in these documents**, as this would capitalise on what was achieved with the MARLESS

project. He also argued that it is necessary to plan and **add the actions despite the lack of initial funds.**

In addition, **these actions require a leader** followed by the parties involved (signatories). Therefore, Marco Abordi asked **how RAFVG positions itself in this action, whether as a leader or not.**

**Flavio Gabrielcig** agreed on the importance of scheduling structured actions despite the lack of initial funding, because at a later stage, the funds may be available. However, regarding the positioning of the RAFVG, he has declared not to be able to answer as the decision pertains to the competent Assessor.

However, recalling the example of the position that the Region has carved out with the project AmareFVG, he assumed for RAFVG a **coordinating role**, which would become a trial for the Region itself.

**Luca Di Giusto** (*Municipal Councillor of Tricesimo*) suggested the potential for partnerships with bodies that could offer both a service to the community in the field of waste management and could draw benefit from cooperation.

Mr. Di Giusto then mentioned the problem of microplastics and the new European directive on the periodic maintenance of purification plants, stressing the need for joint action covering not only the Cormor River but all waters.

**Cristian Romanini** (*Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Campoformido*) contributed to the discussion, focusing on the theme of prevention. Mr. Romanini discussed the positive impact of

educational activities within schools, as demonstrated in the experience of MARLESS, and proposed educational activities targeting adults.

**Elisa Tamarro** (*Municipal Councillor of Mortegliano*) underlined the contribution of the MARLESS project within the framework of prevention. The students involved in WP4 activities have given positive feedback and she encouraged further prevention activities. Elisa Tamarro then focused on the importance of investing in the education of youth, also considering the multi-ethnic character of the new generations that brings with it different values and attitudes toward this topic.

**Marco Abordi** has proposed to extend the awareness actions also in the framework of the River Contracts, proposing to add a commitment to good practices within some protocols.

The discussion was then directed to the importance of partnerships and coordination in regard to the implementation of good practices, with **Flavio Gabrielcig** and **Elisa Tamarro** giving insights on the topic.

**Eleonora Meloni** (*Councillor for the Environment Municipality of Udine*) conveyed the greetings of the newly elected mayor and expressed the willingness of the administration to collaborate in this initiative. To follow, she brought to the table some examples of good practices that could be implemented beginning with greater coordination.

**Marilanda Bianchini** has invited participants to agree on how to proceed at the end of the project MARLESS.

**Marco Abordi** indicated this process:

- **Preparation of the meeting minutes to be signed.**
- **MARLESS project proposal for capitalization within the process.**
- **Signature of the contract by the RAFVG along with the evaluation by RAFVG of the actions is followed.**

Nicolò Tudorov asked to **draft the proposal in May.**