

2014 - 2020 Interreg V-A  
Italy - Croatia CBC Programme  
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

D.5.2.1 Legislative gaps identified in the previous activity are put on the agenda of a discussion of an institutional

ACT. 5.2

WP 5

Version: FINAL  
Distribution: PUBLIC  
Date: 31/10/2022

## PROJECT MARLESS

<b>Work Package:</b>	<b>WP5 – Cross-boundary management plan</b>
<b>Activity:</b>	<b>ACT. 5.2 – Advocacy actions in EU institutions</b>
<b>WP Leader:</b>	Croatian Ministry of environment and energetics
<b>Deliverable:</b>	D.5.2.1 Legislative gaps identified in the previous activity are put on the agenda of a discussion of an institutional

<b>Version:</b>	<b>Final 1.0</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>31/10/2022</b>
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Report</b>		
<b>Availability:</b>	Public		
<b>Responsible Partner:</b>	Regional agency DUNEA		
<b>Involved Partner</b>	/		
<b>Editor:</b>	Luka Bošković		
<b>Contributors:</b>	/		

<b>Work Package:</b>	5. Cross-boundary management plan
<b>Activity:</b>	Act. 5.2 – Advocacy actions in EU institutions

European Regional Development Fund

[www.italy-croatia.eu/marless](http://www.italy-croatia.eu/marless)  
<http://www.italy-croatia.eu/>

<b>Project Partner:</b>	Regional agency DUNEA
<b>Name of event:</b>	Study trip to Brussels
<b>Date:</b>	11–14/10/2022
<b>Venue:</b>	Brussels institutions
<b>Short description of event:</b>	<p><i>The event took place in Brussels, following the events of the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels as the biggest annual Brussels-based event dedicated to cohesion policy and has grown to become a unique communication and networking platform, bringing together regions and cities from all over Europe, including politicians, administrators, experts and academics and we believed it was the perfect opportunity for advocacy actions of MARLESS project. The idea for ACT 5.2 implementation was to organise a study trip for decision makers from the area of Dubrovnik-Neretva County. Altogether, 25 stakeholders participated, mayors of the cities and municipalities, along with relevant county institutions and main regional decision-makers. Following the events of the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels, this event was under the strong support of the prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva, Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić, who is also the vice-president of the Bureau of the Committee of the Regions. On this occasion, at the 151st plenary session of European Committee of the Regions, the Prefect presented the Opinion “Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean” which was successfully adopted and gave a strong comment on the marine litter problem. The event agenda was divided into 5 sections:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the EU Irena Andrassy and Diplomatic Counsellor for Environment at Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU Bojan Lalić - Overview of the mission of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Croatia regarding environmental problems with a focus on the marine environment.</i></li> <li><i>2. Meeting with MEP Sunčana Glavak and MEP Karlo Ressler - dialogue on problems in the marine environment, goals of the MARLESS project.</i></li> <li><i>3. European Commission - meeting with Commissioner Dubravka Šuica - overview of environmental issues in DNC</i></li> <li><i>4. Presentation of the MARLESS project to representatives of public law bodies DNC in the COR</i></li> </ol>

	<p>5. Conference "The Mediterranean - why we need a macro-regional strategy"</p>
<p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p>	<p><i>The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is an EU advisory body composed of locally and regionally elected representatives coming from all 27 Member States. In the CoR premises, DUNEA, Ms Iva Pozniak held a presentation on the ML issues in Dubrovnik Neretva County and all the details on the MARLESS project, along with concept of the Community of Practice. On this occasion, the participants were invited to join the Dubrovnik Neretva Community of Practice, and we already have 3 new institutions as members.</i></p> <p><i>Advocacy Actions as actions used to connect with decision-makers, have been formatted through the idea of study travel for relevant stakeholders that could visit high-level delegates and open dialogs on MARLESS topics, focusing on marine environment problems and marine litter as one of the main issues. Through the European CoR as the EU assembly of local and regional representatives that provides sub-national authorities a direct voice within the EU's institutional framework, Dubrovnik Neretva Prefect as the vice-president of the Bureau of the CoR, was the main leader for these advocacy actions and we received a strong support for the project visiting topmost EU institutions, from European Parliament and MEP to European Commission and its vice president. High impact in advocacy actions was achieved through the conference "The Mediterranean - why we need a macro-regional strategy". Main message from the conference was that the problems in the Mediterranean are known and visible, but the implementation of solutions is still missing. Protection and sustainable use of the Mediterranean Sea is not possible without strategically planned research projects and monitoring programs with strong collaboration between Mediterranean countries and the implementation of obtained results and recommendations. One of the examples of projects that could contribute to above mentioned is for sure project MARLESS, with its goal to act as an environmental synergic action and to obtain visible results that will be available for application in future legislation and management practices. Main impact achieved with these activities is seeded through the Dubrovnik Neretva Prefects successfully adopted opinion - "Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean" – this is the first step towards the Macro-regional strategy for the Mediterranean itself, and the main idea is for the MARLESS conclusions, that will be reached by the end of the project, to be formatted into this strategy.</i></p>
<p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p>	<p>Regional agency DUNEA was event organiser.</p>

<p><b>Type of audience/target groups involved:</b></p>	<p>Main audience targeted were 25 stakeholders from Dubrovnik Neretva County, decision makers, from municipality mayors, to high level CEOs from relevant county institutions. The stakeholders involved were also EU high level delegates, all together 38 participants on events list of participants. Besides this main group of people, targeted audience followed the European Week of Regions and Cities as an annual four-day event during which cities and regions showcase their capacity to create growth and jobs, implement European Union cohesion policy, and prove the importance of the local and regional level for good European governance. The conference "The Mediterranean - why we need a macro-regional strategy" was held as a hybrid workshop, where people all over EU had the possibility to participate. In the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities it was an event following 151st plenary session of European Committee of the Regions, where Dubrovnik Neretva County Prefect, Mr Nikola Dobroslavić, presented the Opinion "Towards a macro-regional strategy in the Mediterranean" and give a strong comment on the marine litter problem and the importance of cohesion of marine environment as basis for all Mediterranean countries.</p>
<p><b>Photos from event:</b></p>	 



## Annexes:

Annex no.1 – Agenda of the event

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

Studijsko putovanje – agenda

Brussels 11.-14. listopada 2022.

Utorak, 11. listopada 2022.	
06:15 – 13:55	DBV – ZAG – FRA – BRU
14:45 – 15:30	Transfer do hotela Grand Place Arenberg <i>Rue d'Assaut 15, 1000 Brussels</i>
15:30 – 19:00	Slobodno vrijeme
19:00 – 21:00	Zajednička večera - restoran Brussels Grill Grand Place <i>Rue du Marche Aux Herbes 89, 1000 Brussels</i>

### Srijeda, 12. listopada 2022.

08:00 – 08:30	Transfer od hotela do Stalnog predstavništva Republike Hrvatske pri EU
08:30 – 09:30	Sastanak s veleposlanicom RH pri EU Irenom Andrassy - Osvrt misije Stalnog predstavništva RH vezano za probleme okoliša s fokusom na morski okoliš <i>Rue d'Arlon 108, 1000 Brussels</i>
10:00 – 11:30	Posjet Huawei Cyber Security Transparency Center <i>Rue Guimard 9</i>
11:30 – 12:50	Pauza za ručak (u vlastitom aranžmanu)
12:50 – 14:30	Sastanak sa zastupnicom Sunčanom Glavak - dijalog na temu problema u morskom okolišu, zaključci projekta MARLESS <i>Europski parlament, Rue Wiertz 60</i>
14:30 – 15:30	Posjet Parlametarijumu – posjetiteljskom centru Europskog parlamenta i Muzeju Europske povijesti
15:30 – 16:45	Europska komisija – sastanak s povjerenicom Dubravkom Šuicom <i>Berlaymont, Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels</i>
16:45 – 20:00	Slobodno vrijeme
20:00 – 22:00	Zajednička večera – restoran Ricotta & Parmesan <i>Rue de l'Acuyer 31, 1000 Brussels</i>

### Četvrtak, 13. listopada 2022.

09:00 – 09:30	Transfer od hotela do Europskog odbora regija
09:45 – 10:00	Registracija u Europskom odboru regija <i>Rue Belliard 99/101, 1040 Brussels</i>



10:00 – 10:30	Osvrt na rad Europskog odbora regija i doprinos Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije <i>Europski odbor regija, soba JDE 3253</i>
10:30 – 11:00	Prezentacija projekta MARLESS
11:00 – 13:00	<a href="#"><u>Konferencija "The Mediterranean-why we need a macro-regional strategy"</u></a> <i>Europski odbor regija, soba JDE 63</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Ručak u Europskom odboru regija (opcionalno)
14:00 – 19:00	Slobodno vrijeme
19:00 – 21:00	Zajednička večera – restoran Brussels Grill Debrouckere <i>Pl. De Brouckere 19, 1000 Brussels</i>

**Petak, 14. listopada 2022.**

07:15 – 08:00	Transfer iz hotela do ZL Zaventem
09:55 – 14:10	BRU – ZRH – DBV