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## 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

D6.1.2: Creation of a discussion table involving municipalities and stakeholders for at least n. 2 river basins

Activity 6.1

WP 6

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## PROJECT MARLESS

<b>Work Package:</b>	WP6- Pilot Actions to prevent, recover, process marine litter, including Stakeholders Toolbox
<b>Activity:</b>	Activity 6.1 River agreements to reduce plastic discharge into the sea
<b>WP Leader:</b>	PP6 ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITA' DI BOLOGNA
<b>Deliverable:</b>	D6.1.2: Creation of a discussion table involving municipalities and stakeholders for at least n. 2 river basins

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## CONTENT:

In 2018, 25 Municipalities in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region signed the declaration of intent to form The Cormor River Agreement. The river agreement is a negotiated governance tool that allows both public and private parties to coordinate structural and less-structural actions along the river, strengthening cooperation for developing a resilient planning approach in fluvial territories.

As a great amount of marine litter is generated from rivers, the Cormor River Agreement in Friuli Venezia Giulia (still in its foundation phase), was identified by the project MARLESS as a strategic tool to strengthen coordination for waste management among the rivers. In this framework, the project MARLESS intended to promote future collaborations for exchanging good practices or boosting potential joint actions for waste management in rivers to prevent marine litter.

In order to accomplish this objective several meetings have been organised.

A first meeting was organised online on 28.06.2022 (link to the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eL28H42iUZU> ). During this meeting representatives from the Region presented the project Marless to the participants of the Cormor River Agreement and explained the importance of the involvement of this area in the project.

On 19.04.2023 a second meeting was held, during which parties discussed how the project Marless proposals could be integrated in the Cormor River Agreement.

In the last meeting, held in Udine on 03.05.2023, was agreed to insert, in both the Strategic and Action Plan of the Cormor River agreement, the identification of measures for prevention, management, and disposal of plastic waste in the Cormor River area, exchange of good practices and the realization of joint projects for the management of waste among rivers and lagoon also with partners from other parts of the Adriatic.

To impact and sensitize the territory and the overall civil society during the project Marless, Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region identified some schools from the Cormor River agreement area to be involved in the clean-up actions part of WP4, Activity number 1. This type of involvement in the area has been very beneficial since the feedback from the students has been very positive and the municipalities recognized the importance of involving the young generation to spread awareness about such problems.

To follow, the minutes from the meeting of 19.04.2023 and 03.05.2023.

## MARLESS

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

April 19th, 2023

Microsoft Team

The coordination meeting held within the MARLESS project and aimed at establishing a future collaborative relationship between the Municipalities of the "Cormor River Contract and the Central Environmental Protection Directorate of the Friuli Venezia-Giulia Autonomous Region was held online on 19/04/2023.

The parties present, as well as Gabrielcig Flavio, Director of Service Discipline management of waste and polluted sites, Garbino Isabella, Organizational position Planning and authorization of waste treatment plants, Nicolò Tudorov, Organizational position Community planning and for sustainable development, Christian Romanini, Municipal Councilor Municipality of Campofornido, Di Giusto Luca, Municipal Councilor of the Municipality of Tricesimo, Elisa Tammaro, Municipal Councilor of the Municipality of Mortegliano and Marilanda Bianchini, External Consultant of the Autonomous Region of FVG, discussed the request for a non-binding joint declaration of intent aimed at promoting a relationship of collaboration that pursues what is set by the MARLESS project, i.e. the identification of operational measures useful for the future application of the governance instrument of the "River Contract" and an exchange of good practices and joint projects for waste management in rivers throughout the Adriatic area.

The meeting was also attended by Corrado Campobasso, Informest Analyst, and Chiara Volponi, Interreg Volunteer for the MARLESS project.

Following a brief introduction regarding the objectives of the meeting by the representatives of the FVG Autonomous Region, the representatives of the municipalities present expressed the willingness of the municipalities to proceed with collaboration, however, focusing on some points. Luca Di Giusto pointed out that the request for an action sheet rather than a Declaration of Intent, i.e. the formalization of this agreement within the River Contract, would be more functional and would facilitate the process and participation of a greater number of actors involved directly or otherwise in the sector.

The parties agreed regarding the proposal of the municipal councilor of the Municipality of Tricesimo.

## 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** (*RAFGV- 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.**