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Call for proposal 2019 Strategic

MARLESS (MARine Litter cross-border awareN ESS 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 2.4.1 Regional info days

2.4 Regional communication

WP2

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| Activity: | 2.4 Regional communication |
| WP Leader: | PP9 IRENA – ISTRIAN REGIONAL ENERGY AGENCY L.T.D. |
| Deliverable: | D 2.4.1 Regional info days |

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1. Introduction

Partnership predicted at least two regional info days (RID) per region, but some region organized even more RIDs to better disseminate project results to various target groups. Together, 18 info events were organized.

RIDs were used to involve stakeholder's and citizens as well present project deliverables and discuss possible ML measures. RIDs format was in two types: closed events for targeting specific stakeholders and open events focused on general public.

In further chapters, each event is described and photos are provided.

2. Region of Veneto

2.1. RID - Rosolina

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| Project Partner: | LP – ARPAV |
| Name of event: | First Regional Info Day |
| Date: | 12/04/2022 |
| Venue: | Rosolina, Italy |
| Short description of event: | During this first Regional info day, ARPAV team highlighted the preliminary results of the first season of beach clean up with the beach concessionaries. The target group reached by this event were the beach concessionaries of the region that could add an added value to the project reaching more tourist and an higher coverage of the coastline |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Matteo Lizier from PP11 introduced the project and the activities on regional scale. Andrea Torresan on behalf of the LP explained the specific activity and the preliminary results of the first season |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organizer, speaker. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Beach concessionaries of the Veneto Region |

Photos:



2.2. RID - Venice

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| Project Partner: | LP – ARPAV, PP111 – Region of Veneto |
| Name of event: | Second Regional Info Day |
| Date: | 20/04/2022 |
| Venue: | Veneto Region Palace - Venice, Italy |
| Short description of event: | <p>During this second regional info day, ARPAV presented the Coast Agreement plan for the Veneto region. The ARPAV General director presented the MARLESS project to the regional stakeholder and the major of the coastal municipalities while the chief of the environmental department of the Veneto region highlighted the main connection between coast agreements and river agreements and the importance for the regional context.</p> <p>After this first introduction section, the President of the “conferenza dei sindaci del litorale del Veneto” presented the structure of the coast agreement in Veneto and the discussion table that will be created.</p> <p>The event ended with a round table representing the needs of the stakeholders and the major of the coast.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | <p>Matteo Lizier from PP11 introduced the project and the activities on regional scale.</p> <p>Andrea Torresan on behalf of the LP explained the specific activity and the preliminary results of the first season</p> |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organizer, speaker. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Mayors of the coastline and stakeholder of the maritime sector and touristic sector |

Photos:



2.3. RID - Marine Litter and Circular Economy

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| Project Partner: | LP – ARPAV, PP111 – Region of Veneto |
| Name of event: | Workshop: Marine Litter and Circular Economy |
| Date: | 26/10/2022 |
| Venue: | Don Orione Artigianelli Cultural Centre, Venice |
| Short description of event: | The Venice Workshop was divided into three distinct phases, addressing the issue of marine litter in different ways: monitoring, governance actions and innovative technologies for the removal of marine litter. In the first part, ISPRA presented the guidelines of the Marine Strategy, while two project partners (Institut Ruder Boskovic and ARPAFCVG) explained how ML is monitored both on the seabed and via satellite images. The governance actions were addressed by various partners and, in particular, by Silvia Bartolini, Head of Unit Marine Environment & Clean Water Services (EU COMMISSION). The intervention of a representative of the EU COMMISSION gave value to the event Marless. In the last part, the Workshop hosted some experts from the University of Bologna, Dubrovnik and CNR who exposed to the public in the room the latest updates about the innovative technologies that have been tested in the marine litter collection. |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | During the event, several project partners and also external experts, such as scientific research centres and a representative of the European Commission, contributed in different ways to the workshop. The public, after being informed on the national actions (Salvamare Law) and European (Dr. Silvia Bartolini) has been able to appreciate the closing of the workshop through the last technological innovations that operate, in practical way, on the problem of marine litter. |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organizer, speaker. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Environmental experts, Basin Authority, general public |

Photos:



3. Region of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia

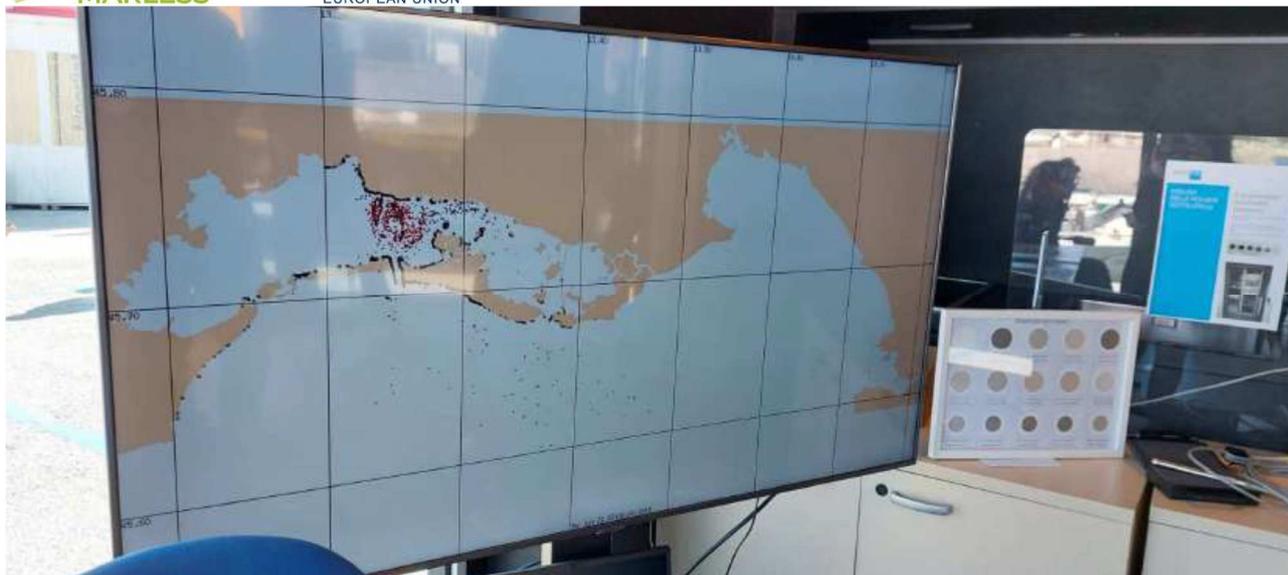
3.1. RID - Barcolana Village

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| Project Partner: | PP2 - FVG |
| Name of event: | Barcolana Village |
| Date: | 07/10/2022 |
| Venue: | Barcolana Village - FVG AR stand – Trieste, Italy |
| Short description of event: | <p>Barcolana is the largest sailing race in the world. During the Barcolana week on Trieste waterfront the Barcolana Village was set up, hosting stands and activities for public. Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region stand was open to the public for three days, on 7th, 8th and 9th of October.</p> <p>On 7th of October, Claudia Farris was available to provide information on the project and in particular about the research conducted in the WP3 context, on the marine litter hot spots identification. She used 4 posters and a video running on a screen to present the topic. There were project flyers available for the general public to take away.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Employees of FVG were available to citizen regarding any information's connected to marine litter and marine pollution. |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organizer, speaker, guest. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Environmental experts, Basin Authority, general public |

Photos:







3.2. RID - Bioma of Miramare

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| Project Partner: | PP2 - FVG |
| Name of event: | MARLESS: UN MARE ADRIATICO PULITO PER LE FUTURE GENERAZIONI |
| Date: | 27/05/2023 |
| Venue: | Bioma of Miramare, Trieste, Italy |
| Short description of event: | <p>On the 27th of May, the second and final regional Infoday and exhibition event organised by Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia was held at Bioma of Miramare, Trieste.</p> <p>The event included the following activities: A comprehensive presentation to the public of MARLESS, an exposition dedicated to the works of the students who participated in the educational activities of WP4, a cleaning action within the Marina Riserva of Miramare and an analysis of microplastics within the Bioma laboratory specifically designed for the students who attended the Infoday.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Nicolò Tudorov (RAFVG), as the main speaker for the event, provided a general overview to the participants about the work packages, the final objectives, and the achievements of the project |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | The PP2 provided insights about MARLESS objectives, work packages and the results achieved. |

Type of audience/target groups involved:

The target group involved in the activities was diverse, including students who participated in the educational activities of WP4 in FVG along with teachers, representatives of the Contract of Area Umida of Marano, representatives of municipalities involved in other actions and the general public.

Photos:



4. Region of Emilia-Romagna

4.1 RID - Rimini

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| Project Partner: | PP5 – University of Bologna |
| Name of event: | First Info Day - Rimini |
| Date: | 11/06/2021 |
| Venue: | Rimini, Italy |
| Short description of event: | <p>MARLESS INFO DAY Emilia-Romagna took place last Friday, June 11, in Rimini, Italy. Partners of the project from the region of Emilia-Romagna as well as local administration of the Municipality of Rimini got together to showcase marine litter reduction and collection approaches and initiatives.</p> <p>Aimed at students, the information day addressed the complexity of the marine litter issue by digging deeper and explaining the various processes related to collection and processing of the various types of plastics in the era of circular economy. Professors Andrea Contin and Alfredo Liverani presented plastic pyrolysis and plastic pick-up technologies addressed by the MARLESS project, while prof. Ivano Vassura discussed the problems presented by the various types of existing plastics and how they are affected in water.</p> <p>The Municipality of Rimini representative Anna Montini, on the other hand, presented the already-existing successful initiatives that help reduce single-use plastics in the Rimini area. The event was closed by Sauro Pari, director of the Cetacea Foundation, who also showcased the successful activities taken up by the organisation to combat marine litter and raise awareness about the issue in the community.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Anna Montini, Assesore all'ambiente Comune di Rimini</p> <p>Sauro Pari, Direttore Fondazione Cetacea</p> <p>Prof Alerssio Bonaldo</p> <p>Prof. ing. Alfredo liverani</p> <p>Prof. Ivano Vassura</p> <p>Prof. Andrea Contin</p> |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organisation of event. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | <p>Participants:</p> <p>n.44 of persons registered total</p> <p>n. 38 of Research centers and Universities representatives</p> <p>n.1 of policy makers</p> |

Photos:



4.2 RID – Cesena

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| Project Partner: | PP5 – University of Bologna, PP4 - CETACEA |
| Name of event: | MARLESS infoday and exhibition event |
| Date: | 1/11/2021 |
| Venue: | Cesena, Italy |
| Short description of event: | The information day addressed the issue of marine litter in the ecological and aesthetic field. During this event, an exhibition of artworks made of marine litter was held |

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| <p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p> | <p>Dott.ssa Greta Giedraitytė introduced the MARLESS project and its aims. Dott.ssa Ejdi Xhebraj presented plastic pyrolysis technologies addressed by the MARLESS project, while Dott.ssa Laura Aiudi discussed the problems presented by marine litter and how they affected fishing activities, introducing some good practices to remove them from the marine ecosystem. The designer Chiara De Concilio described the theme of circular economy and sustainable fashion. Dott.ssa Simona Clo concluded the issue of marine litter, presenting the Clean Sea Life project activities.</p> |
| <p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p> | <p>Showcase marine litter reduction and collection approaches and initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Type of audience/target groups involved:</p> | <p>University students, professors, general public.</p> |

Photos:



5. Region of Puglia

5.1 RID – Gallipoli, Italy

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| Project Partner: | PP10 – Regione Puglia |
| Name of event: | First Info Day |
| Date: | 20/09/2022 |
| Venue: | Eco Resort Le Sirené – Caroli Hotels of Gallipoli, Italy |
| Short description of event: | Description of Marless project and interventions related to the problem of marine pollution. Discussion on the use of new technologies and sustainable approaches to address the impact of marine litter. |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Speakers: They intervened for the technical interventions: dott. Matteo Fumarola (Regione Puglia); dott. Danilo di Nardi (Regione Puglia); ing. Nicola Rutigliano (sole administrator of Bisceglie Approdi SPA – Marina Resort); dott. Nicola Ungaro (Director of UOC Ambienti Naturali, UOS Biologia Mare e Coste/Centro Regionale Mare); dott.ssa Martina Monticelli (Fondazione Cetacea). |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Event organizer (Regione Puglia); speaker (Regione Puglia – Fondazione Cetacea). |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Participants: Environmental associations; public administrations; tourism sector operators; citizenship. |

Photos:



5.2 RID – Pescoluse, Italy

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| Project Partner: | PP10 – Regione Puglia |
| Name of event: | Second Info Day |
| Date: | 21/09/2022 |
| Venue: | Le Maldive del Salento of Pescoluse, Italy |
| Short description of event: | Description of Marless project and interventions related to the problem of marine pollution. Discussion on the use of new technologies and sustainable approaches to address the impact of marine litter. |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Speakers: They intervened for the technical interventions: dott. Matteo Fumarola (Regione Puglia); dott. Danilo di Nardi (Regione Puglia); ing. Nicola Rutigliano (sole administrator of Bisceglie Approdi SPA – Marina Resort); dott. Nicola Ungaro (Director of UOC Ambienti Naturali, UOS Biologia Mare e Coste/Centro Regionale Mare); dott. Nicola Pertuso (sole administrator of Villaggio Lido Nettuno and Lido La Conchiglia); dott. Matteo Lizier (Regione Veneto). |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Event organizer (Regione Puglia); speaker (Regione Puglia – Regione Veneto). |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Participants: Environmental associations; public administrations; tourism sector operators; citizenship. |

Photos:



6. Dubrovnik-neretva County

6.1 RID – Bistrina

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| Project Partner: | PP3 – DUNEA |
| Name of event: | BLUE EVENT |
| Date: | 17/06/2021 |
| Venue: | University of Dubrovnik premises on Bistrina, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | <p>On June 17th 2021, in Regional Agency DUNEA and the University of Dubrovnik collaboration, a manifestation called the BLUE EVENT has been held, where three EU projects were presented: MARLESS, BLUEfasma and SeaClear. These three projects are funded through three different programs, and the link is the topic of blue growth - marine environment as driver of sustainable development, focusing on the circular economy and the problem of marine litter, with goals that include innovative environmental solutions in marine litter monitoring, collection and management. The event was held at University of Dubrovnik premises at Bistrina, accompanied by "zero waste" catering, without generating additional waste, and because of the COVID-19 measures, it could only be attended with invitations. Altogether 25 stakeholders participated, representatives of relevant county institutions, from the tourism sector, port authorities, environment and nature protection institutions, to local government units that have access to Mali Ston Bay, which is one of the pilot areas of the SeaClear project. One of the key reasons for the event is the formation of the Community of Practice for the marine litter problem in Dubrovnik Neretva County. The dissemination and knowledge exchange plan for Dubrovnik Neretva area, through MARLESS project is focused on the creation of the Community of Practice, which, together with the Regional agency DUNEA as a coordinator, represents a group of citizens from various sectors related by the same goal, including public bodies, experts, NGOs, tourism industry, shellfish, divers, activists, artists and the like. On this occasion, the concept of the Community of Practice was presented, with a brief overview of the problem of marine litter in the region, in order to motivate the participants to join the community. This event is just the beginning of "building" this community for cooperation and exchange of ideas, as part of both SeaClear and MARLESS activities, with the aim of raising awareness about the huge global marine litter problem, and the responsibility of each individual to act for the reduction of the amount of waste we produce.</p> |

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| <p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p> | <p>Speakers: Mr Stjepan Rezo from Regional agency DUNEA, gave a brief presentation on BLUEfasma project goals and results, Ms Iva Pozniak presented projects MARLESS and SeaClear, with special presentation on the concept of Community of practice. Presenting the marine litter problems, participants were invited to fill out the Community of practice forms and join as members. At the event, participants had an opportunity to listen also to lecture led by assoc. prof. dr. sc. Marijana Pećarević from University of Dubrovnik, on the idea of circular economy from the BLUEfasma project, which offers solutions for the reuse of marine litter, specifically from mariculture industry. Participants also attended an interactive workshop where Pećarević presented the cycle of Mali Ston oysters, from a product ready for consumption, to a completely new product generated from shell waste: oysters used for consumption, a sample of cooked shell, a sample of chopped shells, shells in a mixture for modelling, working specimens of jewellery and souvenirs from a mixture of crushed oysters. This is just one small example of what marine litter can be used for. The conclusion of this lecture is that, as nature itself moves in circular cycles, so can man behave in the economy – in a circular way, using waste as a raw material. Although the items made from the oyster shell powder thus obtained, are still being worked out, Pećarević pointed out that the uses are numerous and there are already some plans for its implementation.</p> |
| <p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p> | <p>Regional agency DUNEA was the event host and organiser.</p> |
| <p>Type of audience/target groups involved:</p> | <p>Participants: Local, regional and national public authorities</p> |

Photos:



6.2 RID – Bistrina_2

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| Project Partner: | PP3 – DUNEA, PP6 - UNIDU |
| Name of event: | 2 nd BLUE EVENT |
| Date: | 29/04/2022 |
| Venue: | University of Dubrovnik premises on Bistrina, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | <p>The second Blue Event was held in Bistrina in cooperation with the Regional agency DUNEA and the University of Dubrovnik. The gathering was part of the three-day "Roadshow" event of the Innovamare project, joined by the SeaClear and MARLESS projects with their activities. The aim was to achieve networking actions through dialogue and knowledge transfer. As part of the event, the coordination of the Community of Practice for the problem of marine litter in the Dubrovnik-Neretva County was held. Participants had the opportunity to attend three interactive workshops led by representatives of the Laboratory for Intelligent Autonomous Systems of the University of Dubrovnik - LARIAT and the Laboratory for Underwater Systems and Technologies of the University of Zagreb - LABUST. Underwater robotics solutions for monitoring the marine environment and collecting waste from the sea were demonstrated, while experts from Lithuania presented a system for monitoring aquaculture products.</p> <p>The Blue events have been followed by a promotional campaign under the slogan "Start your day with a change", designed as one of the DUNEAs main roles from the MARLESS project, where we try to invoke each individual to think about the selection of products we use in everyday life ("It's only one straw said 8 billion people"). The idea is to raise awareness of the collective responsibility and role of each individual who can try to reduce the carbon footprint and the amount of waste on this planet and thus be an example to children and future generations. The main tool for this action is an art video and specific promotional material that we distribute further to the people, offering concrete solutions of sustainable products in everyday human activities.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | <p>Speakers:</p> <p>Ms Iva Pozniak gave a coordination presentation of the state of the art of MARLESS project, along with an overview of SeaClear project progress, since the CoP is formatted in collaboration of these two projects. The MARLESS promotional art video has been premiered at the event. Scientists from LARIAT and LABUST held presentations of AI achievements in their work, while LARIAT from UNIDU, premiered the autonomous robotic net for surface litter collection, which is part of WP6, Act 6.5 pilot action.</p> |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Regional agency DUNEA and University of Dubrovnik were co-hosts of the event. |

Type of audience/target groups involved:

Targeted audience was Community of practice for marine litter problematics of Dubrovnik Neretva County area, 20 members, from public bodies, municipalities, port authorities, to environmental NGOs. The CoP is a "living body" and anybody can become a member, or leave the membership at any point. This group of people serves as a basis for all project dissemination activities, through which the results can be disseminated even further (using their institutional website canals, municipal protocols, etc.). We are looking forward to growing the community with participants from various sectors. Currently, the majority of the members belong to relevant county institutions and decision-makers. CoP coordinator, from DUNEA, is Ms. Pavica Peruško, who makes sure that the members are informed of the project results and progress altogether. By now we had 2 Regional info days - we like to call them Blue events and we collaborated with 3 EU projects with the same or similar thematic, to make sure that the events are interesting and that we will reach the widest possible dissemination. At the 2nd Blue Event, altogether approx. 35 people participated from different countries, the majority from Croatia and Italy, from decision-makers, and scientists, to the business sector, all under blue growth topic.

Photos:





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| Project Partner: | PP3 – DUNEA |
| Name of event: | Clean-up action Bistrina 1 |
| Date: | 14/06/2022 |
| Venue: | Bistrina bay, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | Regional agency DUNEA organized a clean-up action, collection, and analysis of waste from the seabed in the waters of the Bistrina Bay. Six divers from Diving club Dubrovnik collected more than 200 kilos of waste, originating mainly from mariculture activities in the area. After collection, a waste analysis was carried out by University of Dubrovnik, all for the purpose of monitoring the amount of waste in the sea and reviewing the types of fractions that can be found depending on the locations itself and the activities on the coast and the sea. The action was also supported by Natural History Museum of Dubrovnik. |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Clean-up actions serve as the best way to raise awareness on huge amounts of waste in our seas. |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Regional agency DUNEA participated as a panellist. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Audience involved were the Diving club Dubrovnik divers, representatives of DUNEA and representative of Natural History Museum of Dubrovnik. |

Photos:





6.4 RID – Maškarić-Sige

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| Project Partner: | PP3 – DUNEA |
| Name of event: | Clean-up action Maškarić-Sige |
| Date: | 24/11/2022 |
| Venue: | Shellfish farm Maškarić-Sige, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | Regional agency DUNEA organized a clean-up action, collection, and analysis of waste from the seabed in the waters of the Malostonski Bay, specifically along the shores of Mali Ston. The waste was collected with the support of Maškarić-Siga shellfish farm, who gave up the area of their concession. The action was supported by the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas of Nature of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County, the Municipality of Ston and the Natural History Museum in Dubrovnik, while five divers from the Dubrovnik Diving Club collected more than 200 kilograms of waste in an hour, originating mainly from mariculture activities in the area. After collection, a waste analysis was carried out, all for the purpose of monitoring the amount of waste in the sea and reviewing the types of fractions that can be found depending on the location itself and the activities on the coast and the sea.. |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Clean-up actions serve as the best way to raise awareness on huge amounts of waste in our seas. |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Regional agency DUNEA participated as a panellist. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Audience involved were the municipality Ston, Diving club Dubrovnik divers, Public institution for nature protection, Nature history Museum of Dubrovnik and shellfish farm Maškarić-Sige. After this event, we have 3 new CoP members. |

Photos:



7. Region of Istria

7.1 RID – Pula

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| Project Partner: | PP9 - IRENA |
| Name of event: | MARLESS Info Day - Pula |
| Date: | 14/06/2021 |
| Venue: | City of Pula, Aquarium Pula, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | <p>"Sailing for Blue Life" is a civic science project launched in early 2021 by the nonprofit organization Aganoor APS aimed at combining environmental protection and solidarity projects with maritime navigation. The project brings together associations of different profiles, but with common goals motivated by concern for people and the environment. These associations are the AICS Department for the Environment of the Italian region Emilia Romagna, AICS Travel, Parole Diverse APS and Cetacea ONLUS with more than thirty years of experience in projects caring for turtle and whale populations, environmental education and marine research. From June to October 2021, the "Sailing for Blue Life" expedition will travel along the Mediterranean (coast of the Italian, Slovenian, Croatian and Montenegrin Adriatic, Sicily, Malta and Tunisia) visiting ecologically important points such as sea turtle recovery centers, marine protected areas and nature reserves. Conservation and research activities will be organized at each stage, as well as meetings with public administrations, environmental associations and development agencies. The activities of the expedition take place within the concept of civic science - citizens, coordinated by professional scientists, actively contribute to scientific research, in this case on the conservation of marine habitats and biodiversity, most often through data collection. The crew of the sailboat consists of six members, two representatives of Aganoor APS in charge of navigation, a biologist from Cetacea ONLUS who is in charge of coordinating scientific activities, two scientists from the University of Bologna who take samples of the sea during the voyage and analyze its composition. a representative of the media partner Radar Magazine, which records activities aimed at disseminating knowledge. The expedition "Sailing for Blue Life" started on June 12, 2021 from Rimini and its first point was the city of Pula, where, two days after departure, it met with representatives of IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency. As part of the meeting, the Info Day of the MARLESS project was held, where the representatives of the expedition discussed the importance of marine conservation, the issue of marine litter and its impact on marine life. During the meeting, a visit was organized to Aquarium Pula, the largest</p> |

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| | <p>aquarium in Croatia, located in the 130-year-old fortress Verudela and which today, on an area of 2,570 m², inhabits hundreds of fish species from the northern and southern Adriatic, species from tropical seas and a small number of them Croatian rivers and lakes. For many years, the employees of the aquarium have been participating in the activities of preserving the Adriatic ecosystem and in the implementation of various educational activities. During the meeting, they presented their experiences and the biggest problems that the Adriatic is facing today.</p> <p>After Pula, the expedition "Sailing for a Blue Life" continues its journey by visiting Mali Lošinj and Zadar. This is the beginning of this civic science project and its organizers are planning a large number of trips around the Adriatic and the Mediterranean with the aim of collecting as much data as possible, meeting with as many stakeholders and spreading knowledge in as large an area as possible.</p> <p>The project plans another visit to Istria, and a meeting with IRENA will be organized again, during which the members of the expedition will present analyzes of data collected during the trip and share best practices from other meetings.</p> |
| <p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p> | <p>Speakers: Aquarium Pula IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency University of Bologna</p> |
| <p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p> | <p>Organisation of event.</p> |
| <p>Type of audience/target groups involved:</p> | <p>Participants: IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency Aganoor Cetacea ONLUS University of Bologna Radar Magazine Aquarium of Pula General public, students</p> |

Photos:



7.2. RID – Rovinj

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| Project Partner: | PP9 – IRENA, PP7 - CIM |
| Name of event: | MARLESS – Rovinj "CLEAN ADRIATIC SEA FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS" |
| Date: | 04/06/2022 |
| Venue: | Port of Rovinj, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | <p>Eco action of cleaning the seabed of the Port of Rovinj was held on Saturday, June 4, 2022 in the Port of Rovinj. It started with the arrival of divers among the citizens and their jump from Mali Mol. The organizers say that with this symbolic gesture they wanted to attract the attention of citizens and tourists in order to draw their attention not only to this eco action, but also to the growing amounts of waste that are a burning problem.</p> <p>As part of event a MARLESS info day was organized with various stands and other activities.</p> |
| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | <p>Organized by the Club for Underwater Activities Rovinj, more than 140 participants took part in the eco action. Included are 70 divers in the sea, more than 20 participants for the reception of waste from divers, 3 large ships, 4 small ships, 1 raft for waste collection, employees of the Center for Marine Research Ruđer Bošković led the classification and categorization of waste that collected more out of 20 participants, 30 participants of the Red Cross participated in the cleaning of the coast, and employees of the Rovinj Public Fire Brigade and the Rovinj Port Authority who provided the waterway. The main action took place in the Port of Rovinj where divers collected waste, while at another location, Porton Biondi beach was cleaned by about thirty participants from the Rovinj Red Cross, the scout detachment "Tino Lorenzetto", Rovinj Children's City Council and High School "Zvane Črnja" from Rovinj.</p> <p>The eco action collected more than 5,500 different items weighing more than one ton, which was then sorted by the Center for Marine Research Rovinj. Most of the plastics were found, followed by glass and metal, but there was no shortage of rubber and textiles. Most of the plastic was plastic bottles, glasses on wrappers, while glass was dominated by glass bottles. You could also find children's toys, plastic tables and tables, building materials, fishing nets and ropes, and even electronics such as cell phones and drones. It should be emphasized that in this action, approximately the same weight was collected as in previous years, but it required twice as many items.</p> <p>The organization of the rich program called "Clean Adriatic Sea for future generations" that accompanied this eco-action was taken over by IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency. The program was co-financed through the MARLESS project, Interreg Italy-Croatia, and it included numerous activities for children and adults.</p> |

There were also stands where several IRENA and CIM projects were presented, where passers-by could get various information on marine litter and other environmental issues, and a Red Cross stand where citizens could measure pressure. At the stands, passersby could contribute by filling out the MARLESS project survey, which determines the level of knowledge and interest of citizens about marine litter and the support they are willing to show for the introduction of preventive measures against marine litter pollution, and participate in a short quiz. All participants were awarded symbolic prizes.

The FARO Association from Rijeka showed how waste can be used and made into various jewelry. They used a part of the waste taken out of the sea and made very interesting specimens out of it, which at first glance no one would even notice was once waste. At the end of the program, participants had the opportunity to participate in a quiz on marine biodiversity, organized by FARO 11, where participants won special prizes. The program on Marshal Tito Square ended at 13:00, after which the gathered participants continued to socialize in front of the Rovinj Underwater Activities Club.

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| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | Organisation of event. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Participants: Citizens, students, tourists, divers, experts etc. |

Photos:





7.3. RID – Clean-up action Rovinj

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| Project Partner: | PP9 – IRENA, PP7 - CIM |
| Name of event: | Clean-up action Rovinj and RID |
| Date: | 03/09/2022 |
| Venue: | Port Rovinj, Region of Istria, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | IRENA - Istrian Regional Energy Agency continues with campaign "Clean Adriatic Sea for future generations". The first in a series of actions to be held in |

September has been completed with the action of cleaning the undersea in Rovinj - 03/09/2022. As a reminder, the campaign "Clean Adriatic Sea for Future Generations" by IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency is carried out as part of the Interreg MARLESS project, during which underwater cleaning actions are carried out during June in cooperation with the Ruđer Bošković Sea Research Center (CIM) and Istrian diving clubs. repeat at the same locations during September this year.

The beginning and end of the tourist season were chosen as time periods in which the analysis of the collected marine waste tries to determine the causative factors and, based on the collected data, in cooperation with partners and associates, devise adequate measures aimed at reducing underwater pollution. Precisely for this reason, three different locations were chosen that differ from each other in terms of purpose, all in order to be able to determine as wide a range of possible pollutants as possible, which, by introducing measures, would encourage a change in behavior, i.e. thinking in accordance with environmental protection.

On Saturday, September 3, 2022, the first underwater cleaning operation of the Rovinj port was repeated, in which a little less than forty divers participated under the leadership of KPA Rovinj. The sorting and listing of the collected waste was carried out by the CIM, from which Mirta Smodlaka Tanković reports that on that occasion slightly more than 4,000 items were collected, with a total weight of 503 kg. Almost 70% of collected waste is plastic, 11% glass and 10% metal. There were mostly small plastic objects. Plastic cups and packaging for groceries and food prevailed. Of the other materials, glass and metal, beverage cans and glass bottles prevailed. It is also interesting to find some daily newspapers from June this year, which were found in the sea only a few days after the action carried out in June. Taking into account that the divers spent an hour under the sea in June and September and that in June almost twice as many divers recovered a little more than a ton of waste, it can unfortunately be concluded that the waste recovered was only a drop in the sea and that more active preventive measures are needed act to protect the environment.

JU Natura Histrica, which supports such actions, agrees with the above. According to the director of Natura Histrica, Silvia Buttogini, "without environmental protection, there is no nature protection. We should ask bathers, fishermen, beach users to pick up waste after them. The fact that it is not visible under the surface of the sea does not mean that garbage does not affect marine ecosystems." . With the joint forces of IRENA, CIM, diving clubs and Nature Histrica, and under the leadership of the Centar Diving Club from Medulin, the next action to clean the seabed of Guvnine uvala is scheduled for Sunday, September 11. The start of the action is planned at 1:00 p.m. at Ribarski Molo Štraminjoni. It is estimated that about thirty divers will respond to the action, who will be deployed to the location with the help of six vessels. An additional twenty participants are expected to help with the extraction, sorting and listing of waste. The results we expect? Of course, we hope to collect smaller amounts of waste, but we will know the true situation only after the first inspections.

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| Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion: | Clean-up actions serve as the best way to raise awareness on huge amounts of waste in our seas. |
| Role of MARLESS partner in the event: | IRENA was organizer of event. |
| Type of audience/target groups involved: | Representatives of IRENA and CIM, JU Natura Histrica, KPA Rovinj and other divers, general public, tourists etc. |

Photos:





7.4. RID – Clean-up action Medulin

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| Project Partner: | PP9 – IRENA, PP7 - CIM |
| Name of event: | Clean-up action Medulin and RID |
| Date: | 03/09/2022 |
| Venue: | Medulin – Guvnina Bay , Region of Istria, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | IRENA and CIM completed the second in a series of underwater clean-up actions scheduled for September this year. With the action held this Sunday, September 11, 2022, an area of 6,500 m2 was affected, and with the coordinated work of a little more than 50 participants, Guvnina uvala on Premantura was cleaned. |

This action is the fifth in a series of underwater clean-up actions that were carried out this year under the leadership of IRENA and in cooperation with CIM and Istrian diving clubs in the territory of the Istrian County.

Performed actions are distinguished using a new approach, which was introduced for the first time. Namely, three different locations were chosen for the underwater cleaning operations, which differ from each other in terms of the purpose of the area itself and thus the assumed sources of pollution. In order to determine the different impacts of waste accumulation, areas of different purposes were strategically selected for the execution of the actions - the ferry port, the marina and the tourist center. The second segment, i.e. the novelty introduced by the approach, is the repetition of cleaning during the year on two occasions, in the spring and after the tourist season, along with the analysis of the collected waste. The intention is to act preventively, that is, on the basis of the data collected during the undersea cleaning, to establish the sources of pollution and to propose measures that would contribute to the suppression of pollution in the analyzed area, and hopefully also in the areas of the analyzed type, say IRENA and CIM.

According to the action coordinator Lucio Lorencin from the Diving Club CENTAR – MEDULIN, "the very preparation of the action in Guvna uvala was extremely intense. For the first time, we encountered this kind of strategic approach to the analysis of marine debris, which we want to welcome. According to the divers, everything they encountered was cleaned by the divers. Everything found was removed from the affected area. Out of a total of about 20 registered divers, two were experienced scuba divers. We dived for about an hour at a depth of 1m to 4m. Divers struggled with turbidity that reduced visibility, understandably due to the southern weather. Since the spring, the area has been demarcated by a physical barrier, which was placed by order of the captain's office, because the municipality named the beach as a beach, so we cleaned it over the winter from wild anchorages and in the spring from laughter."

Three diving clubs from the Medulin area participated in the action: Diving Club CENTAR, Association for Marine Ecology EKO MORE and Diving Sports Club MLADOST. Due to the specificity of the location, which is far from the place where waste was sorted and listed, 10 vessels were included in the action. Of these, two boats for the transport of divers and equipment, six smaller boats (pasaras and batanas) with barcars that took waste from divers, and two boats that provided an area for the divers to work unhindered.

After processing the collected waste, Ph.D. Mirta Smodlaka Tanković from CIM reports that "285 kg of various discarded marine waste was collected through the eco-action carried out this Sunday. A total of 713 objects were found and analyzed, of which 47% were plastic, while 38% were made of glass. The most common objects made of glass are bottles and jars. Plastic pieces larger than 2.5 cm dominated, and a large number of shoes and beach props were also found". This time, the Public Institution Natura Histrica joined the action on the ground,

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| | <p>where they emphasize that "without environmental protection, there is no nature protection".</p> <p>The collected data of the campaign from the spring of this year, in which 966 objects weighing 530 kg were collected, and the data of the collected waste from the campaign carried out this Sunday are included in the analysis, the goal of which is to detect the sources of pollution and propose preventive action measures to reduce sea pollution from marine pollution waste. In order for the proposed measures to be effective, the plan is to include as wide a range of participants as possible in their creation. The goal is to suppress pollution not only of the analyzed area, but also of the same type of area in the County of Istria. In this way, IRENA thanks all the participants of the action who, with their participation, contributed to another small but very important step forward in the fight against sea pollution with marine waste.</p> <p>"As part of the Clean Adriatic Sea for Future Generations campaign, we have one more action to clean the seabed at the location of the Brestova ferry port, planned for the coming Sunday, September 18, 2022. We hope that time will serve us, as it has so far, and due to the careful planning and active involvement of the participants, we believe that it will be a success just like all the events held so far", stressed the MARLESS project manager, Nikola Petrić from IRENA.</p> |
| <p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p> | <p>Clean-up actions serve as the best way to raise awareness on huge amounts of waste in our seas.</p> |
| <p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p> | <p>IRENA was organizer of event.</p> |
| <p>Type of audience/target groups involved:</p> | <p>Representatives of IRENA and CIM, Diving Club CENTAR, Association for Marine Ecology EKO MORE and Diving Sports Club MLADOST, general public, tourists.</p> |

Photos:



7.5. RID – Clean-up action Brestova

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| Project Partner: | PP9 – IRENA, PP7 - CIM |
| Name of event: | Clean-up action Medulin and RID |
| Date: | 18/09/2022 |
| Venue: | Ferry port Brestova, Region of Istria, Croatia |
| Short description of event: | <p>It is the answer that surprises readers, but unfortunately not experienced divers and connoisseurs of the bay of Brestova. Namely, those more knowledgeable will know that the action of cleaning the seabed has already resulted in tires as the main catch of the season on several occasions. Not even after the third consecutive cleaning of this bay, a coordinated team of divers was able to clean the seabed at that location from this type of waste. Manuel Marković, head of the diving club DPA Rabac, which is coordinating a cleaning operation at that location for the third time in these two years, estimates that "for the number of tires remaining in the sea, the organization of at least one more sea cleaning operation is certainly necessary. Although a smaller number of divers participated in the last operation, held this Sunday, September 18, the number of tires removed was far greater than the number removed in the previous one, and divers' observations indicate that there are certainly at least as many more. "If we take into account that, on average, 25 tires were removed per action covering 4,500 m², the sizes of which vary from car tires to tires with a diameter of even two meters, we arrive at the data that there is one tire for every 45m². It is the data that is worrying", emphasizes project leader Nikola Petrić from IRENA - e - Istrian Regional Energy Agency, which together with the Center for Marine Research Ruđer Bošković - CIM, is trying to influence the reduction of marine waste through the EU MARLESS project. In the EU project MARLESS - MARine Litter cross-border awareness and innovation actions, financed through the Italy-Croatia cross-border cooperation program 2014-2020, IRENA and CIM work in a coordinated manner in cooperation with Istrian diving clubs, in order to reduce the amount of marine litter through cleaning actions and at the same time by sorting and listing the waste, they determined the sources of pollution that need to be affected by preventive measures. Therefore, three different types of locations from the area of Istria County were included in the analysis - a ferry port, a tourist center and a marina, all so that the data on marine waste collected at these locations in the cleaning actions carried out before and after the season would give an overview of the various sources of pollution.</p> <p>Due to a closer analysis of various sources of pollution, the action to clean up the seabed at the Brestova location, held last Sunday, September 18, was divided into two parts. One group of divers was cleaning the seabed from tires, while the other was focused on collecting small debris. dr. sc. Mirta Smodlaka Tanković from CIM reports that "35 tires with a total weight of 5,140 kg were collected</p> |

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| | <p>during the campaign, while the amount of small waste with an approximate weight of 30 kg is negligible, consisting mostly of glass bottles." The action to clean the seabed of the Brestova bay, held last Sunday, is the last in a series of six actions that IRENA and CIM, with the support of the Istrian diving clubs, carried out in the area of Istrian County in order to collect data on sources of pollution as part of the "Clean Adriatic Sea for Future Generations" campaign. In the next phases of the project, IRENA and CIM will devote themselves to the analysis of possible preventive measures to reduce marine waste. "It is a significant step forward because the goal is not only to clean up behind the polluters, but to act preventively in order to suppress further pollution as much as possible," points out Nikola Petrić from IRENA.</p> |
| <p>Speakers speeches brief summary and conclusion:</p> | <p>Clean-up actions serve as the best way to raise awareness on huge amounts of waste in our seas.</p> |
| <p>Role of MARLESS partner in the event:</p> | <p>IRENA was organizer of event.</p> |
| <p>Type of audience/target groups involved:</p> | <p>Representatives of IRENA and CIM, DPA Rabac and other divers, general public, tourists, etc.</p> |

Photos:

