

EXPERT SESSIONS / STRUČNI PROGRAM

° MARLESS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE °

MEĐUNARODNA KONFERENCIJA PROJEKTA MARLESS

Lazareti Dubrovnik ≈ 18.05.2023. ≈ 09:00 – 16:00h

PANEL 1. Marine litter as a global problem with no administrative borders / „Otpad u moru kao globalni problem bez administrativnih granica “

Dubrovnik, Lazareti, 18.05.2023., 10:00 – 11:00h

- **Nikola Dobrosavić**, Dubrovnik-Neretva County Prefect / Župan Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije
- **Matteo Liziaer**, Veneto Region representative / predstavnik regije Veneto
- **Nevenko Herceg**, President of the Government of Herzegovina-Neretva County / predsjednik Vlade Hercegovačko-neretvanske županije /
- **Tamara Brajović**, Director of the Directorate for Nature, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro / direktorica Direktorata za prirodu, Ministarstvo ekologije, prostornog planiranja i urbanizma Crne Gore
- **Marco Abordi**, Consultant at the Regional agency for environmental protection and prevention of Veneto / konzultant pri Regionalnoj agenciji za zaštitu okoliša i prevenciju regije Veneto
- Moderator **Olga Sedioli**, representative of Emilia-Romagna Region in the EUSAIR / predstavnica regije Emilia-Romagna pri EUSAIR

The first panel of the MARLESS international conference brings together representatives of the neighbouring countries – Croatia, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro and unfolds dialogues on the topic of preserving the marine environment that we all share. Marine litter truly knows no administrative boundaries and requires synergic action as a response. This huge problem has numerous negative effects, from ecological, and economic to health issues through the threat of microplastics in food and the generally reduced quality of life of the local population. The main panel participants are the Prefect of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County as the host of the event, a representative of the Italian region of Veneto and their expert from the Regional environmental protection agency as representatives of the MARLESS leading partner, then the respected officials, the Prime Minister of the Herzegovina-Neretva County and the Director of the Directorate for Nature at the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro. The panel is moderated by the representative of the Emilia-Romagna region in the EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region (EUSAIR) initiative. EUSAIR platform provides a policy and cooperation framework, and can significantly facilitate the implementation and achievement of EU priorities and goals

Prvi panel MARLESS međunarodne konferencije okuplja predstavnike susjednih zemalja – Hrvatske, Italije, Bosne i Hercegovine i Crne Gore i otvara dijaloge na temu očuvanja morskog okoliša kojeg svi dijelimo. Otpad u moru uistinu ne poznaje administrativne granice i zahtjeva sinergijsku akciju kao odgovor. Ovaj golemi problem ima mnogobrojne negativne učinke, od ekoloških, ekonomskih preko zdravstvenih kroz prijetnje mikroplastike u hrani i općenito smanjenoj kvaliteti života lokalnog stanovništva. Na panelu sudjeluju župan Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije kao domaćin ovog događanja, predstavnik talijanske regije Veneto i njihov stručnjak iz regionalne agencije za zaštitu okoliša kao predstavnici vodećeg partnera MARLESS projekta, potom cijenjeni dužnosnici, predsjednik Vlade Hercegovačko-neretvanske županije i direktorica Direktorata za prirodu pri Ministarstvu ekologije, prostornog planiranja i urbanizma Crne Gore. Panel moderira predstavnica regije Emilia-Romagna pri inicijativi EU strategije za Jadransko-jonsku regiju (EUSAIR). EUSAIR kao platforma pruža okvir politike i suradnje te može značajno olakšati provedbu i dostizanje EU prioriteta i ciljeva.

PANEL 2. Adriatic Sea as a driver of development – focusing on marine litter issues / „Jadransko more kao pokretač razvoja – fokusiranje na pitanja otpada u moru “

Dubrovnik, Lazareti, 18.05.2023., 11:00 – 12:00h

- **Ivana Palunko**, Head of the Laboratory for Intelligent Autonomous Systems and an associate professor at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Dubrovnik / Voditeljica Laboratorija za inteligentne autonomne sustave i izvanredna profesorica na Odjelu za elektrotehniku i računarstvo Sveučilišta u Dubrovniku
- **Chiara Gualandi**, Research Fellow at University of Bologna / Znanstveni suradnik na Sveučilištu u Bologni
- **Vedran Dorušić**, President of the Association of diving tourism of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and director of diving centre FOKA / predsjednik Zajednice ronilačkog turizma Hrvatske gospodarske komore i direktor ronilačkog centra FOKA
- **Ivan Sekovski**, programme officer at Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) / Voditelj programa u Centru za regionalne aktivnosti Programa prioritarnih akcija (CRA/PPA)
- **Hrvoje Carić**, researcher at Croatian Tourism Institute / istraživač pri Institut za turizam
- Moderator **Vicko Dragojević**

The Adriatic Sea as a key ecological feature, with exceptional coastal surroundings, makes up the area that we locals call home, and plays perhaps the most important role in the development of the economy, cultural and social life in general. It is a semi-enclosed marine basin connected to the Ionian and Mediterranean Sea via Otranto Gate, which is only 75 km wide and identified as an area highly vulnerable to marine pollution. The second panel of the MARLESS International conference is hosting experts from Italy and Croatia and covers topics from innovative solutions for marine litter collection and treatment, such as fantastic solutions of robots collecting our garbage and pyrolysis waste treatment. We will also mention the fact that divers are still holding the number one place in removing litter from the seafloor and that most of these actions are voluntary. Besides the innovations and research, we will talk about the eco-tourism possibilities in using the marine environment as a natural capital and a driver of development, combining it all with integrated coastal zone management premises. When talking about development, the primary goal is sustainable development which lies on the basis of a feeling of empathy – empathy for the space we live in, the people around us, culture, nature, and thus to use technology and artificial intelligence possibilities to preserve all of it for future generations.

Jadransko more kao ključna ekološka značajka, s izuzetnim ljepotama obalnog područja, čini područje koje mi ovdje nazivamo domom i igra možda najvažniju ulogu u razvoju gospodarstva, kulturnog i društvenog života općenito. To je poluzatvoreni morski bazen povezan s Jonskim i Sredozemnim morem preko Otrantskih vrata koja su široka samo 75 km, čineći ga tako vrlo ranjivim na onečišćenje mora. Drugi panel Međunarodne konferencije projekta MARLESS ugošćuje stručnjake iz Italije i Hrvatske te pokriva teme od inovativnih rješenja za prikupljanje i obradu otpada iz mora, kao što su fantastični sustavi robota koji skupljaju naše smeće i tretman otpada postupkom pirolize. Spomenut ćemo i činjenicu da su ronionici još uvijek na prvom mjestu u uklanjanju otpada s morskog dna te da je većina tih akcija volonterska. Osim inovacija i istraživanja, govorit ćemo o eko-turističkim mogućnostima u korištenju morskog okoliša kao prirodnog kapitala i pokretača razvoja, kombinirajući sve to s postavkama integralnog upravljanja obalnim područjem. Kada govorimo o razvoju, primarni cilj je održivi razvoj koji se temelji na osjećaju empatije – empatije prema prostoru u kojem živimo, ljudima oko nas, kulturi, prirodi, a samim time i korištenju potencijala tehnologije i umjetne inteligencije da sve navedeno očuvamo za buduće generacije.

PANEL 3. Marine litter in fisheries and aquaculture sector – fishermen and shellfish farmers as guardians of the sea / „Otpad u moru u sektoru ribarstva - ribari i uzgajivači školjaka kao čuvari mora “

Dubrovnik, Lazareti, 18.05.2023., 13:30 – 14:30h

- **Pero Tutman**, scientific adviser with tenure, Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split / znanstveni savjetnik u trajnom zvanju, Institut za oceanografiju i ribarstvo, Split
- **Valentina Andrić**, Head of the Fisheries Advisory Support Service, Croatian Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries / voditeljica Službe za savjetodavnu podršku u ribarstvu, Ministarstvo poljoprivrede, Uprava ribarstva
- **Marijana Pećarević**, Vice rector for International Relations and Science of University of Dubrovnik / Prorektorica za međunarodnu suradnju i znanost Sveučilišta u Dubrovniku
- **Martina Monticelli**, representative of CETACEA Fondazione / predstavnica udruga CETACEA
- **Ivo Klaić**, Head of the Department for Entrepreneurship, Tourism and the Sea of Dubrovnik Neretva County / Pročelnik Upravnog odjela za poduzetništvo, turizam i more Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije
- Moderator **Božica Đurđević**

The fisheries and aquaculture sector covers the activities of fishing and the cultivation of marine organisms. It is especially highlighted at this conference because, unfortunately, marine litter has become a part of everyday life for fishermen and shellfish/fish farmers. It is interesting to note that about 20% of waste in the sea ends up as a result of irresponsible activities in maritime transport and fishing, so the problem of marine litter can hardly be separated from this branch. The idea is to use this connection in a positive direction, activating precisely the fishermen and shellfish/fish farmers, to become guardians of the sea. We will try to sensitize the public by explaining the devastating consequences of discarded fishing gear ("ghost nets"), which abandoned in the ocean, continues to carry out their initial purpose and hunt everything in their path, endangering all sea creatures. Scientists, eco-activists, but also decision-making representatives participate in this panel, where we open dialogues, explore the possibilities of new products in fisheries, and inspire the introduction of circular economy premises.

Ribarstvo je grana poljoprivrede koja obuhvaća aktivnosti ribolova i uzgoja morskih organizama. Posebno ga ističemo na ovoj konferenciji jer je upravo ribarima i uzgajivačima otpad u moru nažalost postao dio svakodnevnice. Zanimljiv je podatak da oko 20% otpada u moru završava kao rezultat neodgovornih aktivnosti u pomorskom prometu i ribarstvu, tako da se problem otpada u moru teško može odvojiti od ove gospodarske grane. Ideja je da ovu konekciju iskoristimo na pozitivan način, usmjeravajući upravo ribare i uzgajivače, školjkare, da se aktiviraju kao čuvari mora. Pokušat ćemo senzibilizirati javnost kroz pojašnjenje o devastirajućim posljedicama odbačenih ribolovnih alata („ghost nets“) koji napušteni u morskim dubinama, poput duhova, i dalje provode svoju inicijalnu svrhu i love sve što im se nađe na putu, ugrožavajući sva morska bića. Na ovom panelu sudjeluju znanstvenici, eko aktivisti ali i predstavnici donosioca odluka, gdje otvaramo dijaloge, istražujemo mogućnosti novih proizvoda u ribarstvu i inspiriramo na uvođenje postavki kružne ekonomije.

PANEL 4. Impact of marine litter on biodiversity / „Utjecaj otpada u moru na bioraznolikost “

Dubrovnik, Lazareti, 18.05.2023., 14:30 – 15:30h

- **Draško Holcer**, senior curator at the Croatian Natural History Museum and one of the founders of the Blue World Institute / viši kustos pri Hrvatskom prirodoslovnom muzeju i jedan od osnivača Instituta Plavi svijet
- **Marijana Miljas Đuračić**, Director of the Public Institution for Nature Protection of Dubrovnik Neretva County / ravnateljica Javne ustanove za zaštitu prirode Dubrovačko-neretvanske županije
- **Mirta Smodlaka Tanković**, scientific associate at the Ruđer Bošković Institute / znanstveni suradnik pri Institutu Ruđer Bošković
- **Kora Dvorski**, representative of WWF Adria / predstavnica WWF Adria
- **Anita Babačić Ajduk**, Director of the Public Institution for Nature Protection of Šibenik Knin County / Ravnateljica Javne ustanove za zaštitu prirode Šibensko - kninske županije
- Moderator **Ivana Brailo Drnas**

The final panel of the MARLESS international conference covers the topic of waste in the sea and biodiversity. Biodiversity, defined as the total diversity of all living organisms on Earth, is not something that can be separated from humans and human waste production. We are the only creatures whose waste cannot be processed by our planet on its own. Conservation of habitats and biodiversity is crucial in sustaining and nurturing life on Earth, including the life of our species. It is precisely the natural ecosystems that play a fundamental role in regulating the transmission and spread of infectious diseases, which we have all become aware of after the COVID-19 pandemic. In this panel, we will mention the problem of plastic waste as a fraction that, once it reaches the environment, never disappears, but is broken down into smaller and smaller pieces, which we call microplastics. The panellists will talk about the values and significance of protected natural areas, the general relation of man to nature, especially to wild animals such as dolphins, which pose a great interest to all of us since childhood. The goal of this panel topic corresponds to the goals of the European Green Deal, which was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and talks about bringing nature back into people's lives. Humans as conscious beings, should be reminded that we are an inseparable part of the ecosystem and thus, that we should take the role of greatest responsibility.

Zadnji panel MARLESS međunarodne konferencije, spominje se otpada u moru i bioraznolikosti. Bioraznolikost definirana kao ukupna raznolikost svih živih organizama na Zemlji, nije nešto što se može odvojiti od čovjeka i ljudske proizvodnje otpada. Mi smo jedina bića čiji otpad naša planeta ne može sama procesuirati. Očuvanje staništa i bioraznolikosti su ključni u održavanju i njegovanju života na Zemlji, uključujući život naše vrste. Upravo prirodni ekosustavi igraju temeljnu ulogu u reguliranju prenošenja i širenja zaraznih bolesti, čega smo svi postali svjesni posebno nakon pandemije COVID-19. Na ovom panelu ćemo se spomenuti problema plastičnog otpada kao frakcije koja kad jednom dospije u okoliš, nikada ne nestaje već se usitnjava u sve manje komadiće koje nazivamo mikroplastikom. Panelisti će govoriti o vrijednostima i značaju zaštićenih prirodnih područja, a dotaknut ćemo se i općenito o odnosu čovjeka prema prirodi, posebno prema divljim životinjama kao što su dupini, koji svima nama, još od malih nogu, bude veliki interes. Smisao teme ovog panela odgovara ciljevima Europskog zelenog plana, koji je nastao kao odgovor na pandemiju COVID-19 i govori o vraćanju prirode u ljudske živote. Čovjek kao svjesno biće se treba podsjetiti da je dio ekosustava i sukladno tome zauzeti i ulogu najveće odgovornosti.

Workshop on the Protocol for notification and action in case of finding dead, sick, or injured sea turtles / Radionica o Protokolu za dojavu i djelovanje u slučaju pronalaska uginulih, bolesnih ili ozlijeđenih morskih kornjača

Dubrovnik, Lazareti, 18.05.2023., 15:30 – 16:00h

- **Public institution for Nature protection of Dubrovnik Neretva County / Javna ustanova za upravljanje zaštićenim dijelovima prirode DNŽ**
- **CETACEA Fondazione / Udruga CETACEA**

One of the attractive additions to the conference is certainly the Workshop on the Protocol for notification and action in case of finding dead, sick, or injured sea turtles. In this workshop, customized for the general public, participants will get to know the basic guidelines on how to act in case of finding injured sea turtles. Work on the establishment of the Protocol began in 2008, and in 2011, the Croatian Environment and Nature Agency, together with the State Administration for Protection and Rescue, adopted this Protocol with the aim of centralizing reports on the discovery of dead, sick or injured individuals of strictly protected marine animals. In addition to the protocol itself, our county's Public Institution for Nature Protection will introduce the participants to interesting facts about sea turtles in Dubrovnik-Neretva County, where they can be most often encountered, and which injuries are the most common. Association CETACEA will also introduce itself and its hard work at the sea turtle recovery centre in the Italian city of Rimini, which currently cares for 20 marine turtle individuals.

Jedan od atraktivnih dodataka konferenciji je svakako Radionica o Protokolu za dojavu i djelovanje u slučaju pronalaska uginulih, bolesnih ili ozlijeđenih morskih kornjača. Na ovoj radionici prilagođenoj široj javnosti, dobit će se osnovne smjernice za svakog pojedinca kako reagirati i djelovati u slučaju pronalaska ozlijeđenih morskih kornjača. Rad na uspostavi Protokola započeo je još 2008., a Hrvatska agencija za okoliš i prirodu je 2011. godine s Državnom upravom za zaštitu i spašavanje donijela ovaj Protokol s ciljem centralizacije dojava o pronalasku uginulih, bolesnih ili ozlijeđenih jedinki strogo zaštićenih morskih životinja. Osim samog protokola postupanja, sudionici ove radionice će od naše županijske Javne ustanove za zaštitu prirode, čuti zanimljivosti o morskim kornjačama u Dubrovačko-neretvanskoj županiji, gdje ih najčešće susrećemo i koje ozlijede su najčešće. Predstavit će nam se i udruga CETACEA koja već dugi niz godina u talijanskom gradu Rimini vodi oporavište za morske kornjače i trenutno skrbi o čak 20 jedinki.