

# CHANGE WE CARE KICK-OFF MEETING

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Final Version of 31/04/2019

Deliverable Number D.2.1.1.

Project Acronym	CHANGE WE CARE
Project ID Number	10043385
Project Title	Climate cHallenges on coAstal and traNsitional chanGing arEas: WEaving a Cross-Adriatic REsponse
Priority Axis	2
Specific objective	2.1
Work Package Number	2
Work Package Title	Communication activities
Activity Number	2.1
Activity Title	Start-up activities
Partner in Charge	CNR-ISMAR
Partners involved	All
Status	Final
Distribution	Public

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## FOREWORD

This document has been produced in the framework of the INTERREG Italy – Croatia CHANGE WE CARE Project. CHANGE WE CARE fosters concerted and coordinated climate adaptation actions at transboundary level, tested in specific and representative pilot sites, exploring climate risks faced by coastal and transitional areas contributing to a better understanding of the impact of climate variability and change on water regimes, salt intrusion, tourism, biodiversity and agro-ecosystems affecting the cooperation area. The main goal of the Project is to deliver integrated, ecosystem-based and shared planning options for different problems related to climate change (CC), together with adaptation measures for vulnerable areas, to decision makers and coastal communities. Additional information and updates on the CHANGE WE CARE can be found at <https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/changewecare>.

## SUMMARY

The Kick-off meeting of CHANGE WE CARE project was held in Venice, at the ISMAR premises, from April 16<sup>th</sup> to April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The aim of the event was to present the Partnership and the planned technical and administrative activities in order to ensure all partners are ready to start the implementation work. During the meeting Partners had the opportunity to know each other, prepare detailed work plans and decide on administrative procedures. A total of 42 persons from all Partners participated on the first day and 39 on the second day.

## DAY1

The meeting was chaired by the project Coordinator Mr. Davide Bonaldo who welcomed participants on behalf of the CNR-ISMAR Director, who could not bring her own personal greeting due to urgent commitments. The Coordinator illustrated the agenda providing also information on the history of the buildings that host the CNR-ISMAR headquarters. Mr. Bonaldo provided the audience with a presentation aimed at giving to the newcomers an overview of project objectives, activities, outcomes, deliverables and expected results.



*Figure 1: Project Coordinator Mr Davide Bonaldo welcomed participants to CHANGE WE CARE Kick-off meeting*

DAY 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019		
Hour		Description
9:15	:	9:45
		Registration of participants
9:45	:	10:00
		Welcome from the CNR-ISMAR Director and Project Coordinator
10:00	:	10:15
		Project Overview (CNR)
10:15	:	10:45
		PP presentation and activities overview (all PPs, 10' each), Pt. 1
10:45	:	11:15
		Coffe break
11:15	:	12:35
		PP presentation and activities overview (all PPs, 10' each), Pt. 2
12:35	:	13:00
		Discussion
13:00	:	14:00
		Lunch
14:00	:	14:30
		Project implementation guidelines (JS, Matilde Cassin)
14:30	:	15:15
		LP communications and workplan (CNR)
15:15	:	15:45
		Administrative issues (CNR)
15:45	:	16:15
		Coffe break
16:15	:	16:45
		Steering Committee set up
19:30		CHANGE WE CARE DINNER

Figure 2: CHANGE WE CARE Kick-off meeting agenda first day

## Partner presentation and activities overview

### CNR-ISMAR

The Coordinator explained the structure of CNR and ISMAR institutes, the mission, the observing systems and the numerical modelling adopted in ISMAR and held the first presentation of this group. He highlighted the innovative elements of the project such as the methodological approach, based on a coordinated knowledge build-up and sharing among scientific and policy actors, unprecedented in the cooperation area. Another innovative element is the definition, based on the experiences from the paradigmatic Pilot Sites, of flexible and transferable adaptation measures addressing the variability of the coastal landscape features in the cooperation area. Then he described the activities of the institute within the CHANGE WE CARE project.

### RER

Mr. Montanari presented an overview of the institutional tasks of the Emilia Romagna Region providing some territorial data and highlighting the Regional ICZM Strategy (DCR n. 645/2005) and ICZM guidelines adopted by 14 coastal municipalities and 4 provinces as well as the Regional strategy for mitigation and

adaptation to Climate Change (DAL n. 187/2018). He explained the Regional role of the DSCB Service that including the Regional Policy and Strategy for Coastal Protection, the Planning and Programming of Management & Coastal Works, the Knowledge Instruments Supporting Littoral Management, the National Commitments (Ministerial Boards On Coastal Erosion, Flood Risks, Msp, Marine Strategy) and the European Commitments (Cpmr-lmc, EU Projects and Initiatives as the Bologna Charter, Bluemed Sr&I Agenda, Medcoast4bluegrowth Ufm Labeled Initiative.

Finally, he explained the RER role and activities in CHANGE WE CARE project.

### POPARK

Mrs. Pagliarusco presented the Regional Delta Po Park (Emilia Romagna side) which includes 2 Provinces and 9 municipalities. The park comprises 11 Ramsar zones, 18 sites of Community interest, 17 zones of special protection, 40 kilometers of coast. A large portion of the Park has been designated as Biosphere Reserve (MAB programme). Then she showed the EU projects carried out by POPARK and the activities to be developed in the frame of the CHANGE WE CARE Project. In particular, the first Info-day will be held in Goro at the end of April. The initiative is primarily finalized to involve the widest range of local stakeholders, from Institutions, Monitoring Authorities, Fishermen's and fish farmers' Associations, tourism operators and naturalistic Associations.

### ISPRA

Mrs. Nicoletti and Mrs. Giusta presented their institution and the project team. ISPRA's field of activities concerns the protection of waters, air, soil, subsoil, marine and terrestrial biodiversity. Since 2018 ISPRA coordinates the National System of Environment Protection Agencies (SNPA). ISPRA has a dedicated Unit - National Centre (CN-COS) for Coastal Zone Protection and Characterization, Marine Climatology and Operational Oceanography. This Centre focuses its activities on anthropic impacts on coastal waters and areas, on lagoons and transitional waters, developing innovative methods, tools and operational procedures of integrated coastal zone management. The presentation ended with Mrs. Giusta who illustrated the work done up to now within the CHANGE WE CARE project and the future activities.

### RAFVG

Mr. Bratus presented the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region enumerating some territorial and administrative data. He pointed out that RAFVG is institutionally responsible for topics related to coastal management and, through its Central Directorate for Environment, has the right skills and experience for its implementation. He explained that an agreement with the University of Trieste for activities to be carried out in WP3, 4 and 5 has been signed. Finally, he outlined the activities to be carried out by RAFVG.



## RDV

Mrs. Aurighi explained the structure of the Veneto Region and the responsibilities of the Land Protection and Development Area that is divided into several Directorates, two of them involved in the CHANGE WE CARE project. The involved ones are:

- Soil (Land) Protection (Water Protection Unit)
- Operational Directorate (Civil engineering Unit of Rovigo)

She then illustrated some previous experiences of the Water Protection Unit in International Projects and the Civil Engineering Offices main responsibilities. After a short presentation of the Pilot Area she enumerated the activities of the Veneto Region within the project.

## UNIZAG

Mr Dapo opened the presentation by illustrating the University of Zagreb which has 32 Faculties, 3 Academies, 72000 students, and 7900 employees. The Faculty of Geodesy is independent since 1962 (University since 1669 (350yrs), it has 14 chairs organized in three Institutes + Hvar Observatory and 100 employees. The Faculty can perform the most complex project tasks in the area of:

- hydrography
- engineering geodesy
- geomatics and remote sensing.

After having illustrated the services provided by the University he enumerates the activities that will be carried out by the Faculty within the project.

## PIDNC

The presentation was held by Mrs. Polzer who explained that the main activities of Public Institution for the Management of Protected Natural Areas of Dubrovnik-Neretva County are the protection, maintenance and promotion of protected natural areas with the aim of protecting and preserving nature's origin, ensuring the undisturbed progress of natural processes and sustainable use of natural resources. PIDNC manages 33 protected areas, 68 NATURA 2000 areas important for wild taxa and habitats (SCI) and 2 internationally important areas for birds (SPA) in Dubrovnik Neretva County. Finally, she explained the activities of PIDNC in the project.

## IOF

Mr. Vilibic presented its institute established in 1930 in Split. The Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries employs about 130 employees (55 of whom are scientists) it has valuable modern equipment, carries out

scientific, professional, educational and advisory activities, and cooperates in many international programmes and initiatives and has participated in numerous EU projects. The final part of the presentation was dedicated to the activities in WP3 and 4 that will be carried out by IOF.

### RERA

Mr. Novak provided the audience with some territorial information on Split Dalmatia County and about its institution established in 2008 with the mission to be a link between the public, private and civil sectors in building strategic partnerships in the preparation and implementation of projects that contribute to raising the living standards in the SD County. He listed the numerous projects with the Public Institution RERA SD for coordination and development of Split Dalmatia County as partner and listed the activities to be developed in CHANGE WE CARE.

### VRANPARK

Ms. Denona presented her institution established in 1999 for protecting, maintaining and promoting natural and cultural values. The Nature Park Vransko Jezero is a Special ornithological reserve, a Natura 2000 site, an IBA - Important Bird Area and a Ramsar site. VRANPARK has 5 organizational units with 23 employees. She then specified the activities of the institution within CHANGE WE CARE Project.

### Project implementation guidelines

Ms. Alfarè (CNR-ISMAR), illustrated the project implementation guidelines on behalf of the JS Programme Manager Ms. Diana Petrovic, who was not able to attend the KoM.

The first part of the presentation illustrated the Programme structure focusing on the Priority Axis and Specific Objectives, followed by information on the number of approved projects during the first two calls dedicated to Standard+ and Standard projects, continuing with the upcoming call for strategic call for proposals and the post-2020 scenario for the cross-border cooperation. The second part of the presentation focused on project implementation and in particular on the explanation of the Budget Lines and on the project modifications, explaining the difference between minor and major modifications. The last part concerned the availability of project communication documents and general recommendations.

### Administrative issues

Ms. Alfarè (CNR-ISMAR) explained that she is acting as a temporary financial manager until the selection process is completed and then she will be replaced by the project FM. She also added that her presentation is complementary to the previous one prepared by the Programme Manager.

The first part of the presentation focused on the eligibility of the expenditures and the First Level Control systems adopted by Italy and Croatia, the process for the selection of the FLC at country level, the role and responsibility of the FLC. She highlighted the public procurement importance and the common procurement finding. The second part focused on the audit trail and the Owncloud repository set up by CNR-ISMAR (<https://owncloud.ve.ismar.cnr.it/owncloud>). She mentioned that CHANGE WE CARE official templates with the project logo have been prepared and inserted in the Owncloud. The third part of the presentation focused on financial aspects and on the quarterly financial monitoring system applied by the project.

### Communication and workplan

The Coordinator illustrated step by step the story of the project (from the submission up to the approval), the project core team, the role of the Steering Committee and the SC Internal Regulations that will be discussed during the SC meeting in detail. Coming to the Partnership Agreement he explained the rules for transferring funds to partners. He showed the work plan that will be discussed in depth the next day and read the horizontal principles to be respected. Concerning the internal communication, he declared that a different mailing list has been created in order to facilitate the communication. Then the presentation focused on the quality system to be followed Deliverables delivery to assure the quality of project results.

The first day of the Kick off meeting ended with the Steering Committee set up.

## DAY2

The second day of CHANGE WE CARE kick-off meeting was chaired by the Project Manager Mr. Davide Bonaldo, who opened the event by illustrating the agenda.

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019		
Hour		Description
9:00	: 9:50	Pilot sites pres. (PIDNC, RERA, VRANPARK, RAFVG, POPARK, 10' each)
9:50	: 10:00	Discussion
10:00	: 10:30	Communication training session (RERA)
10:30	: 11:00	Coffee break
11:00	: 11:40	WP3 presentation + discussion (IOF)
11:40	: 12:05	WP4 presentation + discussion (ISPRA)
12:05	: 12:30	WP5 presentation + discussion (RER)
12:30	: 13:00	Upcoming Deadlines and Events (CNR)
13:00	: 14:00	Lunch
14:00	: 15:30	Working groups meetings
15:30	: 16:00	Any other business
16:00	: 16:15	Conclusions and end of works

Figure 3: CHANGE WE CARE Kick-off meeting agenda second day

## Pilot sites presentation

### NERETVA RIVER DELTA

Mrs. Margariza Polzer (PIDNC) introduced the general features of this Pilot Site. Neretva is a 218-km long river mostly flowing off the Croatian borders. The Delta has a total area of 20000 ha and is surrounded by karst hills giving rise to a pattern of springs, streams and wetlands with high environmental value. The main pressure factors acting on these systems are the modifications to freshwater and sediment transport regimes due to hydropower systems construction in its mountain watersheds, the loss of ichthyofauna due to illegal land reclamation and fishing, and the settlement of invasive species associated with climate change. The adaptation plan envisaged by the Project will address the definition of sustainable human uses for this site with an emphasis on the fisheries management plan for watercourses.

### JADRO RIVER AND KAŠTELA BAY

Mr. Mili Novak (RERA) described the Jadro River and Kastela Bay System, located on the central Eastern Adriatic coast between Split and Trogir. The climatic pressures on the system are associated with the increase of average air temperature, the modification of precipitation regimes towards an increase in extreme floods and long-lasting dry periods, and sea-level rise. Furthermore, the intensity of urbanization

represents a potential threat for water quality at the source of the Jadro River, where the absence of a competent management institution determines a lack of responsiveness with respect to this problem.

### NATURE PARK VRANSKO JEZERO

Mrs. Maja Cuze Denona (VRANPARK) presented the Vran Lake, highlighting its role as a home for 65% of the total number of bird species in Croatia and more than 50% of bird species endangered on the global, European or National level. As a coastal lake separated from the Adriatic Sea only by a narrow karst ridge, its hydrological regime is governed by a dynamic balance between water levels in the lake and in the sea. Such balance has been disturbed by human interventions since the late 18th Century, and the adaptation plan to be developed within CHANGE WE CARE will address in particular the problems associated with long-lasting drought periods characterized by low water levels, salinization and eutrophication of the system and the water management issues in this context.

### BANCO DELLA MULA DI MUGGIA

Mr. Antonio Bratus (RAFVG) described the Banco della Mula di Muggia Pilot Site, a barrier island system of relict sand banks extending up to 2 km seawards of the Grado Beach. Due to its morphological and ecological configuration, the Mula di Muggia is a protected area, and conflicts arise with the touristic uses of the adjacent beaches. The Adaptation/management Plan for the Banco di Mula di Muggia Pilot Site aims to harmonization of tourism development and the protection of coastal geomorphological features and Special Areas of Conservation.

### PO DELTA

Mrs. Anna Gavioli (POPARK) described the Po Delta, pointing out that, concerning the part encompassed within the Veneto region, all the Delta area will be considered as a Pilot Site, and detailed studies and interventions will be carried out only after a thorough large-scale characterization of the site. To this aim, candidate sites are presently the Sacca di Canarin and the Sacca di Scardovari lagoons, whereas the pilot site under the Emilia Romagna Region jurisdiction is the Sacca di Goro lagoon. Possible synergies have been highlighted between the activities envisaged in the Pilot Site proper and to be undertaken in other coastal systems.

### Communication training

The Communication Training, held by Mili Novak (Communication Manager) with contributions by Nicoletta Nesto (Web and Social Media Manager), has illustrated to the Partners the communication requirements committed by the Programme and the strategy for their fulfillment within the Project. The main scopes of the project communication have been recalled and the workflow of the envisaged

communication activities has been illustrated. The training has tackled the elements of internal and external communication, describing the objectives, the targets and the strategies for each activity, and clarified the roles of the responsables for communication and web site/social media. Indications have been given about the minimum required activities and deliverables. Focused discussion has been dedicated to some specific communication activities, such as press release production, organization of events, and use and of social media. Emphasis has been put on the importance of using the official Project Communication Toolkit and a draft example of Project Leaflet has been presented. The session has been concluded with instructions about the compilation of the Project Communication Report.

## Work Packages presentation and discussion

### WP3 (Knowledge base improvement: status and recent trends of coastal and transitional system processes)

Ivica Vilibic (IOF) provided an outline of the activities to be undertaken within the WP3. For each activity, it was asked to identify the responsible person and the contributors from the participating partners. He also proposed to start framing a structure and a work plan for the first deliverables.

### WP4 (Evolution dynamics in Pilot sites and Northern/Central Adriatic under Climate Change)

Luisa Nicoletti and Alessandra Feola (ISPRA) provided an overview of WP4 activities, emphasizing the overall goals and expected output and the timetable of envisaged activities and deliverables. Then for each activity, the responsible and participating partners were identified. Special attention was dedicated to the relationship between the different activities foreseen in WP4 and among these and the ones to be carried out in WP3.

### WP5 (Pilot Sites: adaptation strategies and measures for increasing resilience to Climate Change)

Roberto Montanari (RER) illustrated the plan for the implementation of WP5 activities, emphasizing how WP5 will capitalize on the outcomes of the work performed in the framework of WPs 3 and 4. The involvement and responsibilities of the different partners were assessed as well as the expected deliverables. Besides the specific Adaptation Plans for the Pilot Sites, anticipations were given in particular for the activities overarching the local planning activities, namely the Stakeholder mapping of the Coordination Plan, and Workshops to be organized in the Pilot Sites. The partners involved in the

definition of the Adaptation Plans were suggested to rely on the guidance of a professional facilitator throughout the participatory processes.

### Upcoming deadlines and events

After a brief overview of the Project work plan, with particular reference to the activities and deliverables scheduled for the first reporting period, the discussion (chaired by Mr. Davide Bonaldo) focused mainly on the info-days in the Pilot Site and on the organization of the next Meeting.

### Working group meetings

To conclude the second day of the CHANGE WE CARE kickoff meeting, two working groups were organized in parallel sessions:

1. The working group meeting on PO DELTA, chaired by Roberto Montanari (RER), was aimed at starting the discussion on the organization of the Info-Day on the Po Delta, the data availability survey in the Po Delta area and the WP5 action strategy.
2. The working group on Activities 3.1 (Hydrological, thermohaline physical and meteo-marine climate setting) and 4.1 (Evolution of key hydrological and physical quantities and fluxes) were dedicated to the identification of the possible contributions by CNR in the framework of the planned activities.





*Figure 4: The CHANGE WE CARE Kick-off meeting participants in front of the CNR ISMAR premises in Venice*