

D 3.2.5 SUMMARY REPORT ON RSG MEETINGS

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RSG (Regional Stakeholder Group) meetings dates during project lifetime

RSG 1	PP3 Kastela Municipality	Kastela	15/01/2020
RSG 2	LP ERPAC FVG	Online	28/10/2020
RSG 3	PP1 UNIVE Ca' Foscari	Online	14/12/2020
RSG 4	PP4 Regione Puglia	Lecce & Brindisi	24-25/09/2021
RSG 5	LP ERPAC FVG	Aquileia	25/11/2021
RSG 6	PP2 RERA Split	Split	28/04-25/05/2022

The activity, coordinated by WP3 responsible PP1 University Ca' Foscari Venice, implied the organisation of a RSG meeting by each project partner, during the project lifeframe (see the table above). RSGs were instituted in each region of reference (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Puglia, Split-Dalmatia).

These groups were composed by local/regional stakeholders representing public/private bodies as are public administration, tourist, cultural, environmental protection boards, universities and research institutes, musea, SMEs, development agencies, diving clubs and other NGOs that gravitate in the world of cultural heritage conservation and more specifically in underwater archaeology. Representatives from national administration (Ministries of Culture and its regional offices for Italy SABAP - Soprintendenza Archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio/Superintendence Archaeology, fine arts and landscape, in charge of the conservation and protection of cultural archaeological heritage) were also invited to the meetings. (See D.3.2.1 for the composition)

These groups were called to contribute to the analysis of underwater cultural heritage management on territorial level, of the state of the art and the identification of problems

requesting for change in terms of sustainable economic valorisation of underwater archaeological heritage sites as experience-based tourist attractions for diving or snorkeling and their accessibility for those categories of potential visitors.

The development of a sustainable tourist offer based on the available archaeological resources (demand survey) were evaluated by regional stakeholders by means of a questionnaire in which they gave providing inputs in the form of information or data and specification based on their experience and knowledge of the territory.

Acquired results were synthesized and gaps uncovered in each region of reference (in D 3.2.2 Regional Status Quo Analysis Report), in order to allow to project partners to create a set of tools to be applied in pilot action tasks and to be used for action planning.

Moreover, to determine shared objectives, a final RSG meeting was held in Split (HR) in May 2022 to finalise the joint adopted methodology.

RSG meetings, as much of the project activity due to a long frozen period of activities lasted almost entire 2019 due to the need to apply for a major change including a re-organisation of the partnership, begun only in 2020.

Starting from the initial RSG meeting of Kastela (on **15/01/2020**), after the introduction of the project features and goals made by the project scientific coordinator prof. Rita Auriemma together by a brief introduction of the state of the art of the situation of the underwater heritage, the WP3 responsible prof. Carlo Beltrame presented the role of the regional stakeholders and submitted to the partners the methodology to be used for the stakeholders selection. Stakeholders from each region of reference will be from public/private bodies as are public administration, tourist, cultural, environmental protection boards, universities and research institutes, musea, SMEs, development agencies, diving clubs and other NGOs that gravitate in the world of cultural heritage conservation and more specifically in underwater archaeology in the Adriatic basin. Representatives from national administration will also be involved. Each partner will collect the name of the stakeholders and share the list with PP1.

Ms. Auriemma then introduced the activities of the project related to the analysis and necessary inputs for the preparation of the action plan, in which stakeholders will be involved. She presented a questionnaire that will be shared to stakeholders and used for the preparation of the analysis of the underwater cultural heritage in each territory.

The next RSG meeting (held online on **28/10/2020**, due to the lockdown consequence of sanitary crisis COVID 19), saw the partners' presentation of their finalized RSG list based on methodology chosen in previous RSG. Ms. Auriemma, in its presentation, empathized the project objectives, the pilot actions works and the relationship with the communities and the territory. She also anticipated that the questionnaire's administered to stakeholders preliminary results will be presented in next meeting, in December. With the occasion, Elisa Costa from PP1 presents to stakeholders some examples of what can be achieved with digital techniques and photogrammetry using 3D models and virtual reality, and introduces the role of the WEB GIS portal to be shared to partners in musea and workstations. Introducing SABAP FVG director during the roundtable, LP ERPAC representative clarifies some bureaucratic administrative aspects to be dealt with (authorisations, licences, permits, etc., to be obtain from different public bodies – with differences between Italy and Croatia) in order to proceed with pilot actions in full respect of national law, noting that SABAP is the regional ministerial office in charge of conservation and protection of cultural heritage and is the main board to collaborate with for a successful implementation of the excavation activities. A discussion arises also on the management of collected data for the future portal; while in Italy an agreement with regional SABAP is sufficient, but different geoportal exists, in Croatia the Ministry manages everything. During the discussion, was dealt with the possibility of placing in the Grado museum an interactive workstation with the support of the Municipality, while Ms. Auriemma suggested the hope that a worktable involving the various regional actors (public authorities, diving clubs, tourist boards) to manage the opportunity of valorize the underwater heritage would be set up, as already done in Puglia.

Third RSG was also held online (on **14/12/2020**), persisting the sanitary breakdown. In the meeting were presented the results of the questionnaire sent to RSGs and introduced the Training experience workshop that PP1 provided to stakeholders, based on the analysis and study on underwater sites and the valorisation and dissemination on cultural heritage, and on some methodology applied in the UM project (photogrammetry, WEB GIS). Then the project scientific coordinator introduced the draft action plans to stakeholders, sharing main point charactering the regional APs. During the roundtable, emerged the availability of the contribution of local community and the need to take care of the increasing tourist attention to cultural heritage, not always corresponding to a correct conservation. For such a reason, it is suggested the relevance of the heritage management and of a wide scientific information and increased heritage awareness to public. Closing the meeting, Ms. Auriemma renews the need to reach specific operative protocols, mased on common methodology, with

regional SABAPs to ensure a correct management and use of underwater archaeological sites.

In RSG4 (Lecce/Brindisi, **24-25/09/2021**) were presented and discussed with local experts, operators and citizens first results deriving from the pilot actions for the enhancement of cultural heritage. Ms. Auriemma presented to the audience the institution of ESAC, the Euromediterranean Seascapes Archaeology Center for the Archaeology of Coastal and Underwater Landscapes, for the research and enhancement of the underwater cultural heritage of Puglia. The Centre is managed in a shared way by Regione Puglia, National Superintendence for Underwater Cultural Heritage, University of Salento, University of Foggia and University of Bari. On the second day, the Torre Santa Sabina excavation site was opened, widening the public target from Apulia. With the occasion, stakeholders and local people, with great attention to youngster, had the opportunity to discover the shipwreck through snorkelling activities accompanied by archaeologists from Apulian universities and experts and to observe the underwater archaeologists while working.

The RSG5 (Aquileia, **25/11/2021**) was the occasion to present and discuss with the RSG from Friuli Venezia Giulia the finalised results deriving from the pilot actions in Torre Santa Sabina and Grado and the closing activities related to Resnik/Siculi site. During the roundtable, the discussion also addressed topics related to the durability of project results for the territory (as is the case of possibility of public visits to the sites both through real-physical visits, with the creation of submerged and virtual museum parks and paths, and virtual 3D representation in musea, by means of interactive workstations. Ms. Auriemma evidenced that the complex intervention to refurbish the site and the creation of innovative virtual fruition tools were shown as an example of how the cultural and tourist enhancement of an archaeological site can contribute to the intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth of a territory. To this end, it was highlighted that widespread awareness-raising and involvement actions were carried out with local actors, such as the involvement of representatives of regional diver clubs during the excavation, with guided tours of the site. The RSG meeting was also the occasion to organise an opening visit to the Archaeological Museum in Aquileia and to the archaeological areas of Domus and Palazzo Episcopale, Domus of Tito Macro. To maximalise the dissemination effect of the event, the visit was also opened to general public by invitation, limited due to imposed sanitary restrictions. 23 people were accepted, while the request of 13 other people that asked to take part to the morning visit was alas refused consequently to the restrict of presence in the museum area.

Finally, in RSG6 held in Split in two distinguished sessions (**28 April-25 May 2022**); during the first session was presented the finalised regional Regional Action Plan for Split-Dalmatia County to stakeholders and key regional experts in the field of the archaeology and discussed about the protection and valorisation of underwater cultural heritage in the Kaštela Bay, also facing the key problems and obstacles that historians/biologists/site managers/archaeologists encounter in order to protect the underwater cultural heritage, especially if in the light of other recent underwater archaeological finds. In this sense, stakeholders expressed their interest in supporting an innovative tourism by developing forms of eco-musea and its valorisation using digital technologies, and again approved the need for further educational workshops and excursions on underwater sites for students. In the second session, the Regional Action Plan for Split-Dalmatia County was presented to county institutions, highlighting its institutional, regulatory and strategic framework of the underwater cultural heritage, state-of-the-art analysis of the underwater cultural heritage in SDC, an overview of the international trends in the valorisation of underwater cultural heritage including the good practice examples and funding opportunities in 2021 – 2027 programming period. In the discussion, with the appraisal of the acquired results and in the light of new underwater archaeological finds, emerged the relevance to enforce the project durability by improving cooperation with local diving centres and clubs that are usually the first finders of the new sites and very important factor in the organization of educational activities, expanding coordination between relevant institutions and cooperation with the universities, thus creating necessary resources (institutional, human, etc.) for underwater archaeology development.

In the light of the number of signatures in the Participant Lists in the RSG meetings held during the project lifetime (excluding the PP representatives), altogether participated **272** people.

Here below the repartition, by meeting:

RSG 1	RSG 2	RSG 3	RSG 4	RSG 5	RSG 6
25	12	50	41+60	34	50