

# D.5.2.5 - STAKEHOLDER MEETING RELATED TO ACTION PLAN FINALIZATION

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## 1. Introduction

According to the AF Activity 5.2 “Action planning and transnational ToolKit on underwater cultural heritage valorization - policies”, specifically D.5.2.5 “Stakeholder meeting related to action plan finalization”, project team of the Public institution RERA SD had to prepare summary reports following the RSG meeting held. Reports have to include points discussed and agreed on related to the regional action plan and largely developed in the Transnational Toolkit.

Summary reports are based on events with key experts from the field of archaeology, cultural heritage enhancement and cultural tourism, which were held in the framework of the Regional Stakeholders Group Meetings:

- Puglia, Brindisi, Ribezzo Museum – 24 September 2021
- Friuli Venezia Giulia, Aquileia (Ud) – 25 November 2021
- Split Dalmatia County, Castel Vitturi, Kaštel Lukšić - 28 April 2022 and during a 25.2.2022 May (where, among other things, a draft regional action plan was presented by an external expert in the field of cultural heritage).

Key regional stakeholders in the field of cultural heritage participated in the various events regarding the action planning. The target groups were public institutions (development agencies, museums, universities, decision-makers, and others), entrepreneurs (hotels, tourist agencies) and other organizations that are in contact with cultural heritage (associations, LAGs, diving centers/ clubs and similar).

## 2. Split Dalmatia County Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting Summary report

During the event held in April, key regional experts in the field of the archaeology participated and presented main activities in Split Dalmatia County necessary for protection and valorisation of underwater cultural heritage in the Kaštela Bay. Presentations of the experts also covered the key problems and obstacles that historians / biologists / site managers / archaeologists encounter in order to protect the underwater cultural heritage. Key experts in the field of the archaeology were representatives of the Croatian Maritime Museum Split, Department of Archaeology, University of Zadar, Department for Tourism and Maritime Affairs of the Split-Dalmatia County and Trogir City Museum.

The representative of the Museum of the City of Trogir presented the site Pantan which is currently a natural protected area and very important site for birds but also an archaeological site, she pointed out that in the future Pantan should be transformed as an eco-museum. Following, the representative of the Croatian Maritime Museum in Split has presented the future aspects of the underwater cultural heritage valorisation in SDC using digital technologies on their own example. Hence, the Museum has implemented a digital board with interactive content to explore underwater sites in SDC. The project Wrecks4All aims to create an innovative tourism offer based on the underwater cultural heritage of the Eastern Adriatic region was also mentioned. Finally, the representative mentioned a newly discovered site by NGO UPA Rostrum and emphasized that the project of the reconnaissance of the site has been presented to the Ministry of Culture and Media.

The representative of the Museum of the City of Kaštela has mentioned that they have, in collaboration with the Croatian Maritime Museum in Split, conducted educational workshops and excursions on underwater sites for elementary and high school students to raise awareness and teach students about the importance of underwater cultural heritage protection. Moving on, the representative of the University of Zadar, represented the site Trstenik where exploratory research has begun in 2003 and is still ongoing. She pointed out that concerning the history of life and trade in the Bay, with the systematic and comprehensive research of the entire shore, numerous more sites could be found. However, the main challenges identified are

lack of funding, especially for deep-water research, unresolved property legal relations and urbanization accompanied by rapid tourism development.

As Trstenik is believed to be the suburbs of the ancient city of Salona, the floor took over the representative of the Archaeological Museum in Split. He discussed the Salona site, including the port of Salona which is still not systematically researched. Moreover, the necessity for the expansion of the protection zone, prevention of further industrial development and devastation in that area was pointed out.

Other significant sites in the Bay that were mentioned are Barbarinac and Špinut. Concerning the future valorisation of all aforementioned sites for truistic purposes in the broader sense of overall tourism development of the SDC was elaborated by the representative of the SDC. He pointed out that for the past few years the SDC is working on the paradigm shift towards the development of archaeological- historical tourism. In this sense, SDC considers that Resnik-Sikuli is one of the utmost important locations for the development of projects in that direction, followed by the Salona site.

The conclusions of the event became very important inputs for the development of the Split-Dalmatia County Action Plan for the increased accessibility and valorisation of underwater cultural heritage. More specifically for the development of its vision, objectives and measures. Draft of the Action Plan (AP) included also 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.

Upon drafting the AP, the meeting with the regional stakeholders was organized in May. Among others, main purpose of the meeting was to present the draft Action Plan of the Split-Dalmatia County for increasing accessibility and valorization of underwater cultural heritage to relevant stakeholders (target groups) in the field of cultural heritage, more specifically underwater cultural heritage. The aim was to collect their insights and suggestions for finalization of the Action Plan.

The event was opened with a few introductory words by Mr. Marjan Dumanić, in front of the project partner PI RERA SD. Then the floor was taken over by prof. Željko Peković, external expert in the field of cultural heritage. Prof. Peković presented the draft of the Action Plan covered topics: the legislative context (legislative, strategic, and institutional framework), analysis of the state of underwater cultural heritage in Split Dalmatia County (history and most important sites), SWOT analysis (vision, goals and measures), examples of good practice in the valorization of underwater cultural heritage in the Republic of Croatia, international trends in the valorization of underwater cultural heritage and financing possibilities from the new program period.

At the end of the presentation, there was a stakeholder discussion, moderated by prof. Peković. During the discussion, participants were invited to comment on the presented draft of the Action Plan, especially the goals and measures, considering the financing possibilities in the new financial period.

The discussion resulted in several conclusions i.e. it is important to continue and improve cooperation with local diving centers and clubs that are usually the first finders of the new sites and very important factor in the organization of educational activities, additional systematic and comprehensive underwater research are necessary. Also, very important is to improve coordination between relevant institutions, continue further cooperation with the University of Zadar and creation of necessary resources (institutional, human, etc.) for underwater archaeology development. Finally, the development of new projects on this subject and further project funding development are key for ensuring the sustainability of current and future activities. During the interaction, additional comments and suggestions were collected, which will be implemented in the final version of the Action Plan.

In conclusion, the held event made it possible to adapt the final version of the Action Plan to the target groups. Also, the participants were informed that they will receive the presented materials and the final version of the Action Plan to their e-mail addresses after its creation.

Finally, the inputs both from the roundtable and regional stakeholder meeting facilitated the development of the concept of Resnik operational & Management draft that was presented in transnational Toolkit prepared within UnderwaterMuse project.

Considering the management of the underwater sites in Split Dalmatia County, the main conclusions drafted from the stakeholders' statements are:

- the Management Body for the Kaštela Bay area should be established in a form of an advisory body for the Kaštela Bay area consisting of one representative of each relevant stakeholder listed below.
- Ministry of Culture and Media as the main responsible public authority for the issue of preservation and protection of cultural heritage in Croatia
- Croatian Conservation Institute –Split Department for Conservation (branch department) conducts protection and supervision of underwater heritage
- SDC - Administrative Department for Education, Culture, Technical Culture and Sports that performs administrative and professional tasks in the field of education, culture, technical culture and sports and prepares reports, proposals and draft documents within the scope of the administrative body in order to develop these activities in the SDC
- Local municipalities – City of Split, City of Trogir, City of Solin and City of Kaštela that perform activities of local importance including culture
- Scientific and research institutions - Centre for Underwater Archaeology and the University of Split that prepare research plans, site enhancement plans, conduct scientific research and perform scientific activities
- Museums and other institutions – Museum of the City of Kaštela, Archaeological Museum in Split, Museum of Croatian archaeological monuments, Croatian Maritime Museum in Split, Trogir City Museum, Public institution in culture Zvonimir Solin
- Coast Guard/SDC Harbour Master's Office - responsible for general provisions for navigation in the area and the subsequent surveillance activities/responsible for the construction, maintenance, management, protection and improvement of maritime assets that represent the port area and etc.
- Other relevant stakeholders – local heritage associations, local tourist communities and diving clubs.

The role of the Management Body should be versatile. It should be a central body for the preparation and implementation of future projects for the further protection and

valorisation of the underwater cultural heritage. Also, it should represent a key body for communication between regional and local stakeholders and the Ministry. Thus, ensuring easier management of the underwater cultural heritage and easier performance of all research and protection activities. Together with the relevant stakeholders, the Body should devise the best ways for the tourist valorization and development of the sites. Moreover, for any kind of future activities on maritime assets that include cultural heritage, the advisory Body should be inquired whether the activities can or cannot be performed and/or what protective activities must be performed. Also, the public authorities should be consulted with the Body regarding the development of new spatial and development plans and strategies.

Besides the Management Body, the vision is to establish the Museum of the City of Kaštela as the regional Centre for underwater cultural heritage. As such the Museum can organize and perform diving training and education courses, and certify future divers in collaboration with diving clubs. Moreover, as a Centre, it will be responsible for arranging blue trails in diving sites and it could perform tourist diving tours to those sites during the tourist season. For that purpose, the Museum would acquire a boat for tourist transportation and necessary diving equipment and/or glass-bottom boats for monitoring the seabed from above. The sites where diving is not allowed will be represented in the Museum using AR/VR technologies (virtual dives, on-land exhibitions). The activities will be versatile (day diving tours, snorkeling for children, night diving experience, etc.) and adapted to a wide range of visitors (students, kids, people with disabilities, etc.) with adjustable prices/fees. To perform aforementioned activities new employees should be employed i.e., diving instructors, skippers (or another person that navigates the boat), and diving tour guides. Correspondingly, the staff will be responsible for the following:

- organizing education and performing diving training courses
- issuing diving certificates
- diving with the tourists in situ as a guide through the site i.e. navigating the tourist through the set blue trails
- maintenance of the diving equipment and the blue trails
- guiding tourists through the VR/AR experience



Thus, the Museum will be a leading institution in the implementation of the projects on the topic of the underwater cultural heritage of Kaštela Bay and the SDC region prepared and advocated by the Management Body.

Diving centers/clubs play also an important role, given that they are often the first to discover new sites and report to the higher institutions. Currently, the clubs must have concession over cultural goods for commercialization purposes or license for diving in such sites for their own purposes. Once the Museum is established as the regional center, the diving clubs would have to sign diving agreement contracts with an annual fee that will enable them the diving permit for the sites. Additionally, all diving activities would have to be reported to the Museum so that the number of dives, attendance at the site, diving schedules and likewise activities can be monitored in real-time and consequently maintenance activities planned. Also, it would be mandatory to take Museum's diving tour guide. This way, better control and management will be established upon underwater cultural sites that will enhance their preservation and enable the development of their full tourist potential.

Correspondingly, for increased visibility and promotion of the Kaštela Bay underwater heritage and Museum as an established regional center, it is important to develop a marketing plan. Such a plan should include market analysis, target groups, development of marketing goals, and promotion through different media channels, especially social networks. Also, a public campaign should be launched in cooperation with local and regional tourist communities, tourist agencies, sailing charters and other possible actors.

### **3. Puglia Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting Summary report**

Puglia Region – Department of Tourism, Economy of Culture and Valorization of Territory organized its Regional Stakeholders Meeting called “Underwater heritage and the valorization challenge: the UnderwaterMuse project in Puglia”. The event was held on 24 and 25 September 2021 between Brindisi and Torre Santa Sabina. The aim of the two-days initiative was to allow experts and local people to deepen the topics linked to the regional underwater heritage and discover it firsthand.

On Friday 24 September afternoon, at the Auditorium of F. Ribezzo Museum in Brindisi, the participatory meeting “Underwater heritage and the valorization challenge: the UnderwaterMuse project in Puglia” was held with Apulian experts, operators and citizens, aimed at a comparison

on actions and good practices for the enhancement of our underwater cultural heritage, and a deepening of the results achieved by the project UnderwaterMuse. Particularly, the last part foresaw a roundtable called “The valorization of underwater heritage: key actors and a shared operative agenda”, moderated by the Journalist P. Spinelli and involving regional stakeholders and actors including Puglia Region, National Superintendence for the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the three Apulian universities, namely University of Bari, University of Foggia and University of Salento.

In general, the complex intervention of the pilot site of Torre Santa Sabina and the creation of innovative virtual fruition tools (realization of 3D models and virtual “clones” of the wreck and the original ship, with animations and stories capable of allowing the widest use of this precious common good) were shown as a great example of valorization of an archaeological site in terms of cultural and tourist enhancement and in terms of sustainable and inclusive growth the territory. It was also highlighted how the cooperation among relevant institutions and parties results fundamental for a sustainable and long-lasting development of underwater archaeological in the region. The discussion, comments and suggestions raised during the participatory meeting were very important in order to draft the Puglia Region Action Plan.

About 50 people attended the event and signed the Attendance Sheet prepared by Puglia Region. After the conference, a light dinner for participants was organized within the Museum itself. The event ended with the show "Mediterranea" (Teatro le Forche), organized as part of *ArcheoLive. La Storia tra due mari. Festival Strade di sabbia*, always within the museum.

On Saturday 25 September morning, the excavation site where Santa Sabina 1 shipwreck is located, at the Camerini Bay of Torre S. Sabina (Carovigno), was open for the first time to the public. During this unique event, local people, from children to elderly people, had the opportunity to discover one of the most interesting Roman shipwrecks of the Mediterranean, through snorkeling activities accompanied by archaeologists and technicians. The uniqueness and unrepeatability of the underwater visit was extremely appreciated by the participants.

60 people of all ages participated in the event according to the signed Attendance Sheet. From 9:00 am to 01:00 pm five different shifts were organized, each of ten people divided into two subgroups. Security measures were taken in this concern and participants signed two forms: the Covid-19 self- declaration and the disclaimer of liability.

Each group was guided in snorkeling by archaeologists of the research team. Visitors were gathered into an area of the beach lined with picture panels, photo albums and tables.

Participants were shown the numerous archaeological remains and the exceptional findings of the bay and that of the Roman boat, illustrating the principles and techniques of ancient shipbuilding. Finally, during the visit to the wreck bordered by buoys, visitors were able to observe the underwater archaeologists while working.

### 3a. Puglia Region Action Plans

Considering the case study of the underwater site of Torre S. Sabina and the results of the related pilot action, the main conclusions drafted from the stakeholders' assessments and on the basis of the national and regional regulations concerning the underwater cultural heritage can be summarized in the following way.

For the implementation of the site's operational and management framework, the involved parties must put in place a participatory process through a series of Thematic Tables and Services Conferences; during the process, they share the various roles and duties and establish a roadmap according to the following steps.

1. Signing of a Programmatic Agreement between all the involved parties
  - Superintendency ABAP Brindisi Lecce and National Superintendency for the UCH, both on behalf of Ministry of Culture, are responsible for the protection of UCH, the permission for the set-up of "blue archaeological trails", the permission of guided diving and snorkeling tours.
  - Carovigno Municipality undertakes to collaborate with the other parties for the upgrade of Dentice di Frasso Castle Museum and archaeological sites of the territory at uniform levels of quality for the enhancement of museums and places of culture of public belonging, adopted with D.M. of 21 February 2018, for the recognition/accreditation in the National Museum System of museums of regional relevance. Furthermore, it undertakes to make available a light and removable structure as logistic base on the beach for the tourists, briefing and de-briefing and diving equipment, as well as reserved parkings for the visitors' cars.
  - Libraries&Museums Hubs – Apulia Region is the entity in charge for the establishment and development of Regional Museum and Place of Culture System and for the regional policies of integrated valorization. It undertakes to put concrete measures and human and financial resources, according to the Regional Planning, at disposal for the Operational and Managing Framework.

- University of Salento – Department of Cultural Heritage undertakes to give its scientific consulting for:
  - the scientific plan of site enhancement;
  - the scientific direction of the Museum;
  - the scientific direction of communication and editorial projects on the site (catalogs, guides, brochures, etc.), as well as of scientific works;
  - the archaeological scientific supervision of the project to enhance the waterfront of Torre S. Sabina, as regards sustainability and compatibility with the archaeological evidence on land, submerged and semi-submerged ones.
  - scientific research activities in the municipal area of Carovigno, to continue the already started path of systematic knowledge and enhancement of the heritage historical-archaeological of the territory itself.
- Coast Guard/Brindisi Harbour Master’s Office undertakes to guarantee the granting of general provisions for navigation in the Bay and the subsequent surveillance activities; it must also authorize the presence of a light and removable structure on the beach as a logistics base for the tours. The nautical activities must be limited, except those necessary for scientific research and underwater visits, expressly authorized by the Superintendency, and reported in the regulations (see below).
- Pugliapromozione, non-economic public body which works for the implementation of the policies of the Puglia Region in the field of tourism promotion, could give its consulting to the Managing Authority for the design of the Marketing Plan and the dissemination of the UCH through the info-points that coordinates.
- Relevant stakeholders – cultural/environmental heritage associations, diving clubs, territorial bodies such as Torre Guaceto MPA, etc.

The Programmatic Agreement should be aimed at:

- developing a relationship of broad collaboration on issues of mutual interest in the field of research and enhancement of cultural heritage in compliance with the specific skills;
- promoting and encouraging research, enhancement and integrated management of local cultural heritage and in particular of the Dentice di Frasso Castle Museum and the archaeological evidence present in Torre Santa Sabina both on land and under water;

- establishing Torre S. Sabina Managing Authority and its duties, the entity which seems to better respond to this role is the ESAC, for its own institutional mandate. The Euro-Mediterranean Center has, between its own finalities, "the creation and setting up of parks and/or ecomuseums underwater aimed at the "Blue growth", even with remote use through direct shooting systems, to respond to the challenges that the places of culture have to face to become alive and inclusive places, of learning, mediation, welcoming, in the name of heritage as a common good".
- establishing the management framework guidelines.

Each part appoints its internal representative for the Management Committee, supporting the Managing Authority and approving the Site Regulations and future Management Plan.

### 3b. Management Framework guidelines

Following the principles of the UNESCO's Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (Paris 2001), and the Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005), as well as the European Union guidelines promoting Blue Growth, the management framework of Torre S. Sabina UCH must be aimed at ensuring the development of the site in according with the following guidelines:

- re-appropriation of a common good, capable to raise the quality of the life of the local community (cultural, social and economic);
- raising awareness;
- dissemination of the knowledge through concrete measures and communication to visitors the specific and unique characteristics of the area;
- responsible and sustainable tourism as well as experience tourism, capable to satisfy a wide range of personal needs, from pleasure to a search for meaning, and to boost the network of the community resources, exploiting the existing assets and creating new opportunities in the reference area of Torre S. Sabina (Brindisi, Carovigno, Regional Reserve and MPA T. Guaceto, San Vito dei Normanni) for the local economy;
- proactive and inclusive protection for the UCH, acted by all the chain of actors involved in management of the site and assured by shared regulations, to counteract also reckless and high-impact tourism;
- monitoring of tourist flows, directing them towards a reduction in negative impacts.

Managing Authority assures the development of the site in accordance with the Management framework Guidelines and deals with the “heritage chain”, from preservation to enhancement, communication, and tourist enjoyment.

Notably, its staff must contribute to the scientific plan of the site enhancement, curated by the University of Salento (2nd step), to the participatory design of blue trails (3rd step) and to the participatory writing of the site regulations (4th step); furthermore, it is in charge of the implementation of the blue trails with diversified solutions including traditional and innovative tools for experiencing the underwater and coastal trails (signage, archaeological materials replicas, booklets, underwater devices/tablets, monitoring buoys provided of sensors, etc.).

The staff must provide the maintenance of the trails equipment, the archaeological testimonies’ surveillance, and monitoring, through the archaeological guides, the interaction with involved actors constant over time.

It must implement an integrated communication plan, including visual identity, website, social networks (Facebook and Instagram), reservation portal for booking guided visits (see below) and special tours/events.

Furthermore, it should hopefully also deal with the permanent exhibition in Carovigno Castle Museum, enriching it and providing it with contents, laboratories and services aimed at emphasizing the strict connection with the Blue Trails experience.

Finally, it can train and accredit underwater archaeologists and biologists as diving guides for the site, who will be able to support diving clubs and centers regarding the naturalistic-archaeological aspects, including the respect of the rules in diving.

The writing of Site Regulations should be acted also in a participatory way, through Working Tables, under the guidance of ESAC and then submitted to the Managing Committee for the approval.

The **regulations** should foresee the type of authorization, granted by the Superintendency, the subjects recipients of the diving authorization, the opening period, opening hour, number of visitors, free and/or guided visits, access modalities, guided tours for people with disabilities; snorkeling and diving can be equally practicable; in the first case, a self-declaration of good health - which exempts the organization from responsibility – is sufficient, in the second case it is also necessary the diving license.

Regulations also report the general provisions for navigation in the Bay as defined by the **Coast Guard/Brindisi Harbour Master's Office**, in charge of surveillance activities managing; the nautical activities must be limited, except those necessary for scientific research and underwater visits, expressly authorized by the Superintendency. The boats for diving guides must be equipped with passenger traffic license for guided tours, rental or enabled for navigation for private use or in own account.

However, the underwater guided tours are supposed to start mostly from the beach, where is available a logistic base for visitors meeting, briefing and de-briefing and diving equipment, or for glass-bottomed/transparent canoes/kayaks/sups (stand-up paddles). Actually, local diving infrastructure is also crucial factor to consider when establishing a diver trail and there isn't either in Carovigno and in Torre S. Sabina. So, it's important to guarantee to the nearby Tourist and Diving Centers a facility on the site.

The regulation must individuate the recipients of diving authorization, among which:

- a) no profit diving clubs and associations, whose purposes provide for teaching activity according to national structures standards;
- b) diving and commercial enterprises, whose company object includes entrepreneurial activity of underwater tourism.

The autonomous visitors with diver license, not related to diving or clubs don't need any permission.

The diving or tourist centers which intend to carry out guided tours will have submit instance to the Superintendency, specifying the type of visit (scuba diving or snorkeling or kayaking, for example); the instance must be accompanied by certificate of the Chamber of Commerce requested by current legislation, documents of the physical subjects, statute and constitutive act for legal entities, documents relating to the used boats and the engaged crew, name and Dive master license of diving guides, all information about personnel involved in visits, on the used materials and facilities.

The subjects authorized to carry out visits should pay an annual fee to Managing Authority by the regional authorized diving centers as contribution to the expenses of management and maintenance. The regulations will establish the maximum prices for services and the corresponding fee to the Managing Authority (for example, scuba diving visits € 40, fee € 5); the costs and the fees may be reduced by 50% for particular categories: people with disabilities, students, minors under the age of 18, teachers or operators in the cultural field.

The Tourist, Clubs and Diving Centers must book the dive on the specific reservation platform on the website of Managing Authority (see above), and report, for each dive or guided tour: the date, the place of the dive, the details of the participants and of the related licenses, the names of diving responsables.

Besides the underwater tours, the diving clubs and centers can organize also diving training courses and special visits: night underwater tours, sea-watching snorkeling for kids, guided visits for people with disabilities, headed by dive masters with specific license, etc.

The diving clubs and centers will be flanked and supported in diving by underwater archaeologists or biologists, accredited and trained by ESAC, as naturalistic-archaeological guides. They won't be responsible for immersion safety, but respond to violations concerning the rules, issued by the Superintendency, on the protection of the archaeological assets; the guides will however have to provide all the information available regarding aspects biological-naturalistic, landscape and archaeological of the seabed, and prepare a pre-immersion breathing indicating the biological, geomorphological and archaeological peculiarities of the itinerary as well as the behavioral rules to follow in immersion.

The visits can be carried out by respecting a guide-sub ratio, to be defined also in the regulations (not less more than 1:8).

The regulations should also include the enjoyment of the Carovigno Castle Museum: only one ticket including underwater tours and Museum guided visits; the Museum must offer specific enjoyment experiences linked to underwater environment: immersive/VR/AR application usable with Oculus devices or dedicated screens, specific laboratories and activities particularly dedicated to the kids, etc.

#### *5. Implementation of the blue trails*

The Managing Authority, once designed the Blue Trails participatory project, provides its setting-up. The implementation of Blue Trails in Torre S. Sabina is a **real challenge**, more than other underwater sites, because it's a pluristratified site, with very different evidence, some of them really fragile and vulnerable and hardly readable; in primis, some **wooden remains** of various shipwrecks, first of all the TSS 1 beached wreck; these wooden remains obviously can't be left without protection, exposed to the environmental elements. Secondly, the dense **stratigraphical sequence**, constituted by the overlapping of various cargos of the ships crushed against the reef and sunken, alternating with natural sediments and materials dumped as part of normal everyday activity of the landing place. Therefore, since basic options of *in situ* preservation (metallic cages or simple exposition) cannot be exploited, different solutions must be put in place and applied in a complementary way.

The trails start from a 'point zero' and link Point of Interest represented by replicas of scattered cargos' materials (amphoras, pottery, etc.) and decontextualized finds, quarries' blocks, Bronze Age settlement' postholes or other traces. Given the necessity to communicate the pluri-stratified character of the site, in the Carovigno Castle Museum the permanent exhibition shows a replica of the stratigraphical section of the Torre S. Sabina sea-bottom with all the distinguished layers and the included archaeological original materials representing the sunken and overlapped cargos. The same **diorama** can be place, of course in non-invasive way, also under water, on the sea-bottom at the foot of the reef, with specific materials.

Nevertheless, trails can include also *in situ* stratigraphic deposits' materials to be exposed during the visits under particular conditions of surveillance, today allowed by technological innovations, such as,



for example, the NOUS Undersea Vision Surveillance System (successfully implemented in the Greek Underwater Museum of Peristera shipwreck): submarine units fully equipped with cameras and windshield wipers fitted to the camera lenses. The underwater operation is controlled by multitasking computing units. The network of underwater cameras is powered by a cable reaching to the nearby shore, connected to a purpose-built solar power station.

For the well-preserved Torre S. Sabina 1 wreck and the other wooden remains in the bay the best solution could be 3D models to enjoy with underwater tablets in situ and visors/Oculus in the land Museum. In parallel, the recovery and the restoration of the ship could be studied and planned, as well as the ship's physical replica construction (see feasibility study).

Trails may or may not be materialized/marked out with guide cables or 'Ariadne's threads' of fluorescent color. The Poi can be signaled on the sea-bottom by labels or tag. The use of environmentally friendly material for the underwater signage is required.

The trails can be enjoyed with both simple/plain but efficient means and technologically advanced tools, depending on the budget.

Option A: an underwater information booklet and some "diver stations/Point of Interest" established along the trail to aid diver navigation. The diver stations can be numbered with a small ball float. As visitors reach each diver station, they are encouraged to read the text on the appropriate page of the underwater booklet.

Option B: underwater visualization in augmented reality (like in the Archaeological Submerged Park of Baia or in the Underwater cultural trails of the Sea Superintendence of Sicily – UCH Fruition Interactive System UG3K): an innovative underwater localization system which allows divers to view their position on the map of the archaeological site via an underwater tablet, to receive contextualized information with respect to their position and to enjoy the 3D reconstruction that shows the visitor how the archaeological remains have looked in their heyday.

The tablets could be provided free of charge by Managing Authority to diving clubs and centers that will request them, by specific agreements.

#### **4. Friuli Venezia Giulia Regional Stakeholder Group Meeting Summary report**

On November 25, 2021, was organized in Aquileia by LP ERPAC FVG, a 1-day local event opened to public with the aim of promoting and disseminate at local and regional level of the

activities during the summer linked to the pilot action for LP ERPAC in the underwater site of

Grado 2, on the wreck of a Roman ship. In the occasion, beside the project partners, were invited the regional stakeholders already selected and involved in previous activities (WP3),

since the demand survey realised in 2020, that already participated in previous RSG meeting held in October 2020.

To present the cultural historical and archaeological heritage of the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, the daily Agenda foresaw an opening visit to the Archaeological Museum in Aquileia, personally hosted by the director, Ms. Marta Novello, and to the archaeological areas of Domus and Palazzo Episcopale, Domus of Tito Macro (led by the director of Fondazione Aquileia, Mr. Cristiano Tiussi).

To maximise the dissemination effect of the event, the visit was also opened to general public by invitation, limited due to imposed sanitary restrictions. Therefore, two visiting groups were composed, overall involving 48 persons (of which 25 partners and stakeholders, 23 public); the request of 13 other people that asked to take part to the morning visit was also refused consequently to the restriction of presence in the museum area. The afternoon session event, opened by a press conference (D221), foresaw the presentation of results of the activities of the pilot action works just concluded and performed in Grado 2 archaeological underwater site, focused on conservation, protection and artefacts cataloguing of the site aiming at the valorisation in situ of the Roman wreck.

Archaeologists from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Salento, as well as from University of Udine took part in the underwater works. A video prepared for the occasion was presented by LP ERPAC, while experts from Ca' Foscari University also presented the state of the art of the implementation of the UnderwaterMuse portal and of the Digital reconstruction of the shipwreck in situ and of the original shape by means of 3D models and virtual reality tools.

The session was followed by a roundtable addressed to regional stakeholders with the participation of the participants in the works and the attendance of the director of SABAP FVG Ms. Simonetta Bonomi, which made the works possible.

It emerged that the initiatives planned by UnderwaterMuse for the near future see the possibility of public visits to the sites through the creation of a "submerged" museum and a digital one, which would make Grado 2 the first wreck in Italy that can be visited in complete safety both through underwater visits and in augmented virtual reality mode.

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.

For those who will not be able to dive, they will be given the opportunity to experience a virtual reality, thanks to the photogrammetric survey of the wreck that has allowed the creation of a 3D model of the site.

#### 4a. FVG Region Action Plans

Considering the case study of the underwater site of Grado 2 and the results of the related pilot action, the main conclusions drafted from the stakeholders' assessments and on the basis of the national and regional regulations concerning the underwater cultural heritage can be summarized in the following way.

The involved parties must put in place a participatory process through a series of Thematic Tables and Services Conferences; during the process, they share the various roles and duties and establish a roadmap according to the following steps.

##### 1. Signing of a Programmatic Agreement

For the implementation of the Site Operational Framework, a second Programmatic Agreement should be signed between the involved actors:

- ERPAC, which assumes the role of Managing Authority, by reason of its institutional mandate and the enhancement activity carried out on the site;
- Superintendency ABAP FVG and National Superintendency for the Underwater Cultural Heritage, both on behalf of Ministry of Culture, responsible for the protection of UCH;
- PromoTurismoFVG, which is the regional body dealing with the strategy, operational management and promotion of tourism in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, planning and

organizing the offer through specific tourism products and welcoming guests as "temporary citizens". It will undertake to implement tourist offers with the involvement of diving centers, including the Grado 2 and other regional submerged sites.

- Coast Guard/Grado Harbour Master's Office, responsible for general provisions for navigation in the area and the subsequent surveillance activities.
- Regional Museums Direction, in charge of the management of National Museum of Underwater Archaeology of Grado, where a computer station for "virtual" diving on the wreck will be available.
- Relevant stakeholders – local heritage/environmental associations, diving clubs, etc.

Each part appoints its internal representative for the Management Committee, supporting the Managing Authority and approving the Site Regulations and future Management Plan.

The Programmatic Agreement will be aimed at the following:

- developing a broad collaboration on issues of mutual interest in the field of research and enhancement of UCH in compliance with the specific skills;
- promoting and encouraging enhancement and integrated management of regional underwater heritage;
- defining roles and duties of the parties;
- establishing modalities of involvement of the local community through participatory processes.

Managing Authority assures the development of the site in accordance with the Management framework Guidelines and deals with the "heritage chain", from preservation to enhancement, communication, and tourist enjoyment.

Notably, it takes care of the following:

- site maintenance: monitoring and cleaning of the metallic grids and the signage;
- site protection: set-up of surveillance system through technologically innovative tools, such as, for example, the NOUS Undersea Vision Surveillance System (see above);

- site dissemination: it must implement an integrated communication plan, including visual identity, website, social networks (Facebook and Instagram), reservation portal for booking guided visits (see above) and special tours/events.

Furthermore, it should hopefully also collaborate with the National Museum of Underwater Archaeology of Grado, curating the digital devices and the scientific contents dedicated to experiencing the virtual diving on the wreck by all visitors and non-divers.

Finally, it can train and accredit underwater archaeologists as diving guides for the site, who will be able to support diving clubs and centers regarding the naturalistic-archaeological aspects, including the respect of the rules in diving.

## 2. Participatory writing of the site regulations

The writing of Site Regulations should be acted also in a participatory way, inside Working Tables, under the guidance of ERPAC and then submitted to the Managing Committee for the approval.

The regulations must foresee the type of authorization, granted by the Superintendency, the recipients of the diving authorization, the opening period, opening hours, number of visitors, free and/or guided visits, access modalities, guided tours for people with disabilities.

Regulations also report the general provisions for navigation in the area as defined by the Coast Guard/Grado Harbour Master's Office, in charge of surveillance activities managing; the nautical activities must be limited, except those due to scientific research and underwater visits. The boats for diving guides must be equipped with passenger traffic license for guided tours, rental or enabled for navigation for private use or in own account.

The regulation must individuate the recipients of diving authorization:

- no profit diving clubs and associations, whose social object provides for teaching activity according to national structures standards;
- b) diving and commercial enterprises, whose social object includes entrepreneurial activity of underwater tourism;
- c) autonomous visitors with diver license.

The diving centers which intend to carry out guided tours will have to submit instance or simply communicate the diving.

The subjects authorized to carry out visits should pay an annual fee to Managing Authority by the regional authorized diving centers as contribution to the expenses of management and maintenance. The regulations will establish the maximum prices for services and the corresponding fee to the Managing Authority; the costs and the fees may be reduced by 50% for particular categories: people with disabilities, students, minors under the age of 18, teachers or operators in the cultural field.

The Clubs and Diving Centers must book the dive on the specific reservation platform on the website of Managing Authority (see above), and report, for each dive: the date, the place of the dive, the details of the participants and of the related licenses, the names of diving responsables.

The diving clubs and centers will be flanked and supported in diving by underwater archaeologists or biologists, accredited by ERPAC, as naturalistic-archaeological guides. They won't be responsible for immersion safety, but respond to violations concerning the rules, issued by the Superintendency, on the protection of the archaeological assets; the guides will however have to provide all the information available regarding aspects biological-naturalistic, landscape and archaeological of the seabed, and prepare a pre-immersion breathing indicating the biological, geomorphological and archaeological peculiarities of the itinerary as well as the behavioral rules to follow in immersion.

The visits should have to respect a guide-sub ratio, to be defined also in the regulations (not more than 1:8).

The regulations could also include the enjoyment of the land Grado Museum: only one ticket including underwater tour and Museum guided visit; the Museum could offer specific enjoyment experiences linked to underwater environment: immersive/VR/AR application usable with Oculus devices or dedicated screens, specific laboratories and activities particularly dedicated to the kids, etc.