

ECOMAP project

“Advanced common strategies for port cities”

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Abstract/Executive Summary

The following listed subjects have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the short-term implementation of the Stakeholder Cluster of those Italian and Croatian Smart Coastal and Port Cities interested in the themes of Blue Growth, environmental protection and sustainable development of coastal areas.

In detail, these the contents of the MoU:

- **the ECOMAP partners and stakeholders consider it important to develop an Italian-Croatian cross-border collaborative platform/cluster** that leads to:
 - define and recognize a "representative institutional model" of reference for the coordination of the various actors, stimulating and activating actions for the management & protection, in the system of intelligent port and coastal cities;
 - ensure the hydraulic protection of the areas from the risk of sea flooding and the contribution of sediments resulting from the action of the tides;
 - create a shared network of gauges for monitoring all the data necessary to define and know the current marine dynamics, in order to be able to plan and manage future interventions on an extended and integrated knowledge base;
 - define an operational program that takes into consideration all the components of the territorial systems involved, through an integrated approach capable of restoring local dynamics, guaranteeing and consolidating the protection, promotion and development of the territories relating to the areas of smart port cities;
 - consolidate and/or promote tools and actions for the protection and enhancement of the territories, as well as for the defence of habitats.
- **with the Memorandum of Understanding, the signatories underline the importance of developing a permanent system of information exchange and good practices, environmentally sustainable, in order to improve the quality of places and services, as these are essential prerequisites for the future economic growth of the cross-border regions of the Adriatic area.**

- **based on the results achieved in the ECOMAP project** and in the specific contamination and involvement activities of the Italian and Croatian territories envisaged in WP2 and WP5, **the signatories are well aware that the major fields of development in the Blue Growth sector in the immediate future are:**

- Marine Renewable Energy (MRE)
- Fishing & Aquaculture (F&A)
- Maritime Surveillance (MS)
- Blue Biotechnologies (BB)
- Coastal and Maritime Tourism (C&MT).

and therefore undertake:

- **to urge the competent institutions** at regional, national and European level to adopt all the necessary means to ensure the implementation of the already planned and future development measures for the development of policies that adopt a vision of the Adriatic-Ionian macro-area;
- **to establish promote a collaborative platform / cluster of good practices of smart port cities** in the topics of:
 - smart, innovative and inclusive tourism;
 - circular economy;
 - management of the small ports and marine environment;
 - climate change and environment;
 - management and use of open data (regarding chemical and biological status of the sea, and intermodal transport);
 - technical assistance projects for blue growth;
 - bathing Waters and blue flags;

at the service of those same signatories who need to access specific expertise, product & process innovations.

- **Without any financial commitment:**
 - the signatories will promote support the implementation of the Smart Port Cities Good Practice Collaborative Platform / Cluster "with their own good practices".
 - **the signatories** (in order to ensure the implementation of the development measures shared above) **agree on the regular provision of relevant data and good practices, in accordance with their own capabilities and policies.**

1. Cluster of Port Cities and adherents to the MoU

The following took part to the establishment of the cluster of port cities working group. In brackets the participants which also signed the MoU.

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA REGION

- 1) Upper Adriatic Technology Park of Pordenone (MoU)
- 2) OGS – National Institute Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (MoU)
- 3) Marevivo FVG Association (MoU)
- 4) Artist of PLASTICOCENE Elisabetta Milan (MoU)

VENETO REGION

Upper Adriatic Technology Park of Pordenone (MoU)

- 5) Venetian Cluster (MoU)
- 6) University of Ca' Foscari in Venice (MoU)
- 7) Contract of the Lagoon of Caorle (MoU)
- 8) Bibione Mare (MoU)
- 9) WIGWAM UNAGA (MoU)

EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION

- 10) University of Ferrara (MoU)
- 11) Future in Research Consortium (MoU)
- 12) Ferrara Fair Congressi (MoU)
- 13) National Federation of Divers (MoU)

MARCHE REGION

- 14) Municipality of Ancona (MoU)
- 15) Garbage Group (MoU)
- 16) Zona Soci COOP ALLEANZA 3.0 Ancona (MoU)
- 17) Halieus – Organizzazione di Cooperazione internazionale per lo sviluppo (MoU)

SPLIT COUNTY

- 18) Municipality of Podstrana (MoU)

- 19) Zdravi Grad (MoU)
- 20) Marina Spinut (MoU)
- 21) Marina Stozanac (MoU)
- 22) IOF (Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries in Split) (MoU)

2. The Blue Way Strategy

During the implementation of the Ecomap project moments of sharing of ideas and strategies, also through thematic Forum, between private and public entities lead to cross collaborations and integration of various projects and realities. This brought to the definition of “The Blue Way Strategy”. The Blue Way Strategy connects actors who decide to share common objectives defined in the MoU and to adhere to EU guidelines and missions related to the environmental and marine conservation and health. One above all the Starfish Mission, described below.

“Starfish 2030: Restore Our Ocean and Waters” is a mission of Horizon Europe proposed by the Mission Board Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters. Inspired by the shape of the starfish, the Mission has five overarching objectives for 2030: (i) Filling the knowledge and emotional gap, (ii) regenerating marine and freshwater ecosystems, (iii) zero pollution, (iv) decarbonising our ocean, and waters (v) revamping governance. These five objectives are mutually supportive and taken together, the Mission Starfish 2030 will enable the restoration of the water cycle as a whole. For each of the five objectives, a set of ambitious, concrete and measurable targets has been defined. They specifically address the actors, activities, tools and systems that all need to be called upon to reach each objective. These targets are considered the indispensable components of a holistic approach to systemic change.

3. ECOMAP Platform

An interactive platform <https://ecomap.tempestive.com/> has been developed to organize events and share and archive data, useful to collect informative material, territorial good practices and joint project ideas. In detail, the platform allows to manage

- meetings
- dissemination events / technology transfer
- document storage
- training

The platform in question for this last point allows the management of content and training to be carried out remotely. It allows front office lessons in E-Learning mode performed by competent experts in the field and with the subsequent insertion of the lessons - and of the training material and documentation that will be deemed necessary - within the same platform, to be available and accessible through access key. The platform is equipped with features capable of streamlining specific project flows relating to training courses and online events.

The digital platform is structured as follows:

- Archive on the home page of scheduled / concluded events / training courses
- Event page publication form (Title, subtitle, text; Date and place; Graphics)
- Cover and any multimedia attachments / partner brands and button to register for an entire event / single event on the agenda)
- System for sending recall via e-mail before the event (1 day / 1 week) Subscription to a single event with acceptance of the privacy policy and subscription to any newsletter (if required)
- User validation by the administrator for access (e-mail confirmation upon activation)
- Export to Excel of users registered for the event / training
- Ability to share the event / agenda page on any social networks (if required)
- Ability to publish links to the event registration uploaded to the repository associated with the archived event
- Repository of files (ex: ftp / dropbox) / video (ex: youtube etc.)

This tool is configured as flexible and lasting and allows to flood and develop the relationships between the various participants and users.

4. Good Practices

Concrete actions for the reduction of potential impact deriving from small ports and marinas to the marine ecosystem were performed with the Ecomap project, as detailed below.

Bibione Mare installed a series of beach showers implemented with a water recovery system. Tourist are already aware to not use soap in the beach showers, so recovered water can be directly used in the nearby for irrigation of the ornamental vegetation of the beach. A tank with

a pump is installed underneath the shower plate, the structure is positioned at the beginning of each touristic season.

Furthermore, in the marina a water treatment system has been installed, so to separate and recover oily fraction from waste water, with a mechanical filter, before sending water to the municipality sewer.

Ancona Marina Dorica distributed to boaters a kit for the collection of spilled oil and organized a portable tank for the collection of waste water from the boats, so to limit the emptying of boat tanks into the open sea.

Spinut and Strozanac marinas installed a water treatment system so to filter water derived by boat hull washing, in order to remove potential pollution source for the marine environment due to antifouling boat paints.

Also, informative actions for the public and the users have been undertaken, with informative panels and virtual tools, so to enhance their collaboration and sensibilization.

In detail, in the informative billboards, together with information about specific action undertaken, a QR code links to a short video about waste management good practices.