

RESISTANCE

Raising awareness of Maritime Spatial planning importance

Online thematic event

“The involvement of citizens in the
conservation of marine environment”

The 4th of April 2023

Deliverable number – D.2.1.3.
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Project Acronym	RESISTANCE
Project ID Number	10419754
Project Title	Raising Awareness of Maritime Spatial Planning Importance
Priority Axis	Environmental and cultural heritage
Specific objective	3.3
Work Package Number	2
Work Package Title	Communication activities
Activity Number	2.1
Activity Title	Online and offline events
Partner in Charge	Cetacea Foundation
Partner Involved	All
Status	Final
Distribution	Public

INTRODUCTION

The second project thematic event was organized by the Cetacea Foundation in collaboration with RESISTANCE project partners. The theme was identified more than two months earlier and the speakers were subsequently identified: the partners of the Cà Foscari University also helped by suggesting one of the speakers. The other project partners participated in the promotion and publicity of the event. In the previous month the online event was promoted:

- through the social channels (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) of the project with posts and events;
- through the project newsletters (over TOT of addresses): Cetacea Foundation sent 2 newsletters through the Resistance channels;
- through the channels of the partner institutions: Cetacea Foundation promoted through its Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn profiles, sending invitations via email to its contacts and using the WhatsApp groups aimed at its members, volunteers, and sympathizers.

The theme chosen by Cetacea Foundation was “The involvement of citizens in the conservation of marine environment” to create a debate on citizen science activities used in some projects to protect marine biodiversity.

During the afternoon some experts belonging to Universities, NGO’s and Research Bodies told their experience in collecting data samples using the efforts of citizens. The projects described were as different as the methods used to collect the data, but the scope was the same: collecting the most accurate data possible, reducing the cost of research and at the same time making the public aware of the environmental issues that were being investigated.

In order to accurately count participants and gather additional information about each attendee, the Cetacea Foundation created an online form. The invitation and agenda were then widely circulated through email, social media, newsletter, and WhatsApp.

Through this form, Cetacea Foundation was able to collect information such as name, surname, emails, and their respective target group. A total of 82 individuals completed this form. However,

thanks to the dissemination of the event, a total of 131 persons have been actively engaged in the conference.

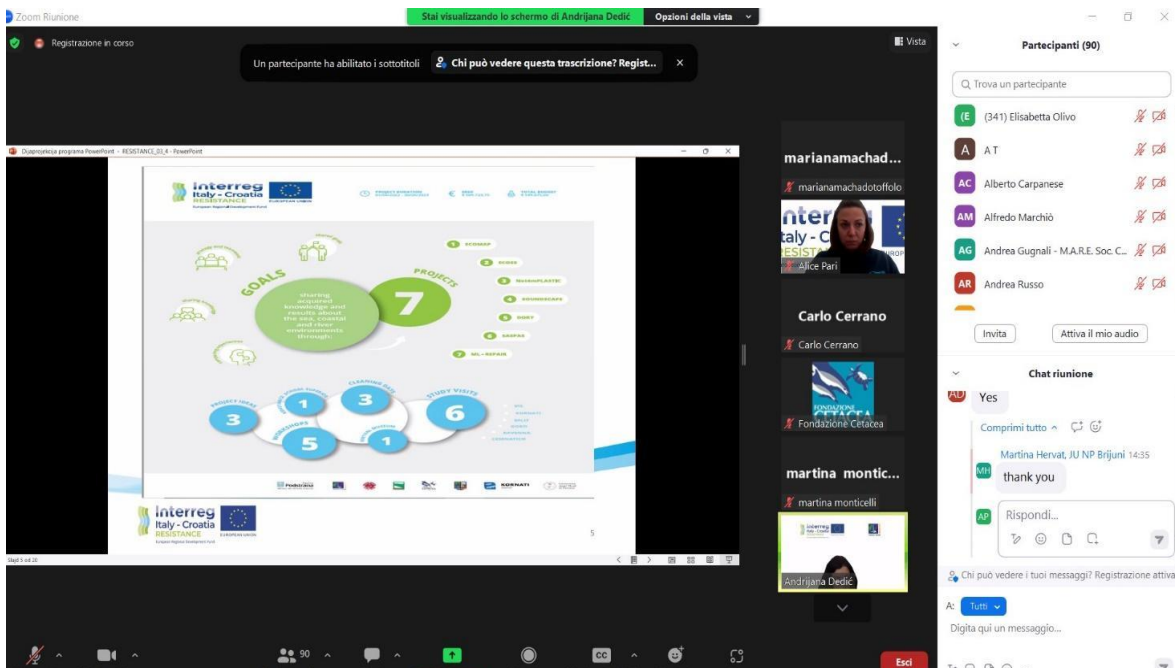
Based on the response obtained through the google form, we categorized participants as follows:

- Education and training organizations as well as universities and research institutes: 31 participants;
- Local, regional, and national public authorities: 18 participants;
- NGOs: 16 participants;
- General Public: 12 participants;
- Associations, innovation, and environmental agencies: 9 participants;
- Regional and local development agencies: 1 participant;

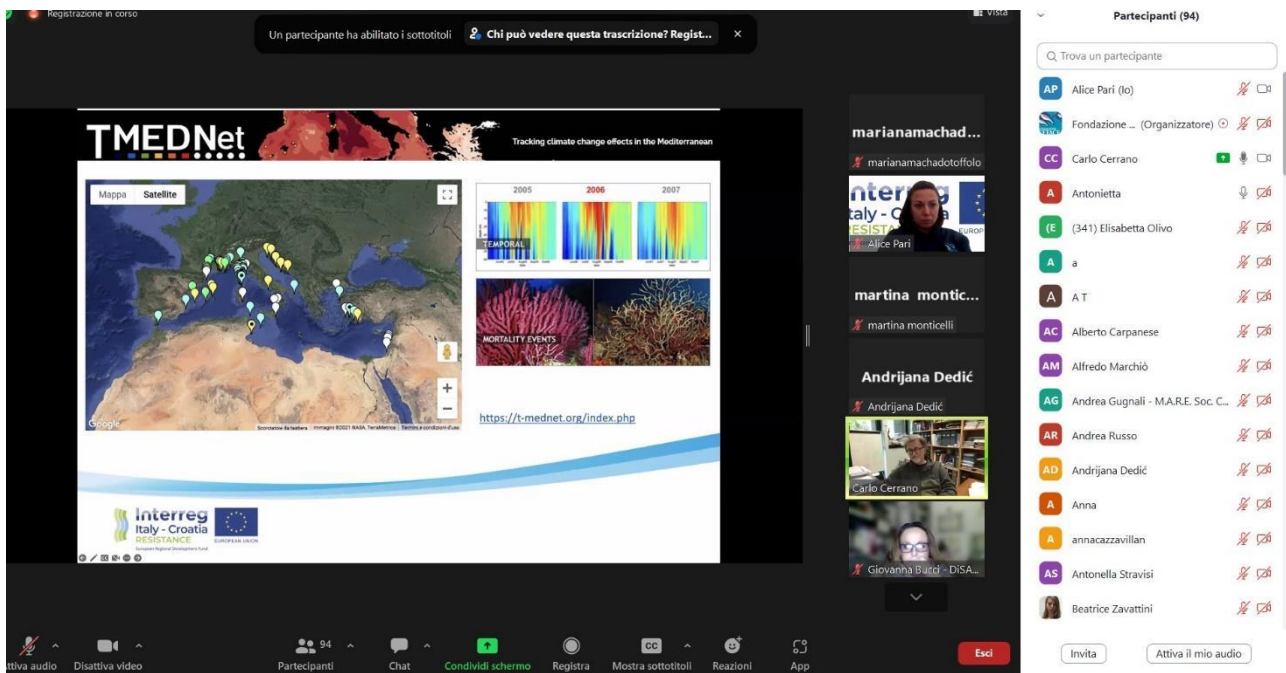
MINUTE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference commenced promptly at 2.30 pm with Alice Pari of Cetacea Foundation delivering an introductory presentation. Alice outlined the conference’s focus on citizen science, emphasizing its growing prominence in European projects for data collection and citizens engagement, thereby enhancing public awareness of environmental issues. She noted that several projects within the cluster had effectively harnessed citizen science tools to engage both the general public and specific stakeholders. Example of such projects had been highlighted during the Midterm event in Rimini. She then introduced the forthcoming presentations, expressing the hope that they would serve as a source of inspiration for proposals in the upcoming Interreg Italy Croatia Programme.

Following this presentation, Andrijana Dedić, the project coordinator from Lead Partner Municipality of Podstrana provided a comprehensive overview of the Resistance project and the main results achieved in terms of communication and dissemination activities.



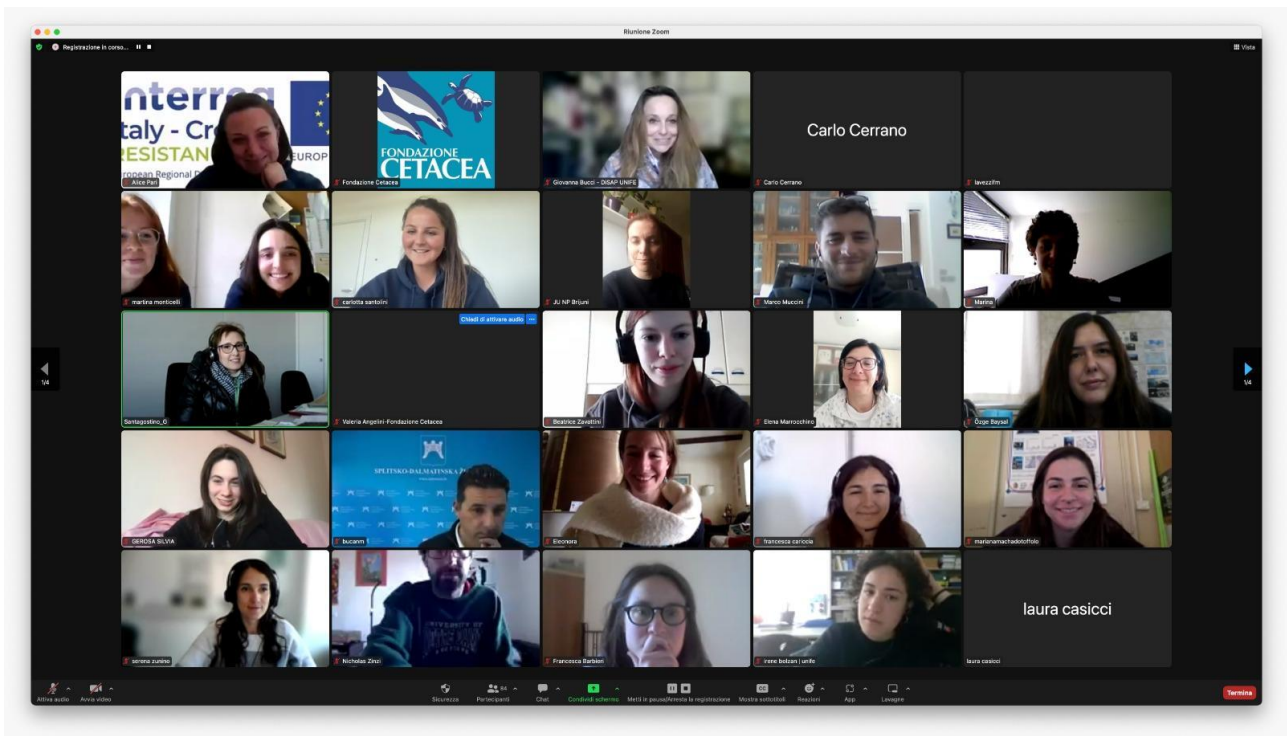
Following this brief introduction, Dr. Mariana Machado Toffolo, a Ph.D researcher from the University of Bologna presented the topic “Reliability of data collected in a citizen science project”. She provided a general overview of citizen science and illustrated the concept with specific examples for her doctoral research, which centered on the application of citizen science in the field of marine sciences.



Carlo Cerrano, a professor at the Polytechnic University of Marche, president of the Reef Check Mediterranean NGO, and coordinator of Interreg Med MPA Engage, introduced the theme of "Harnessing Citizen Science to Bridge Knowledge Gaps in Marine Biodiversity Distribution and Abundance." Unfortunately, Luigi Bundone from Archipelagos-ambiente e sviluppo Italia, who was invited by Università Cà Foscari, couldn't attend in person but thoughtfully sent a pre-recorded presentation on "Science and Public Participation: Enhancing Information on Mediterranean Monk Seal Sightings and Evaluating Data Quality." Given the monk seal's critically endangered status and elusive nature, involving citizens is crucial to gather extensive sighting data, aiding in the identification of their presence in the Mediterranean and the development of conservation initiatives.

Martina Monticelli and Kamyla Lombardi Moraes, both colleagues from the Cetacea Foundation, shared insights into citizen science activities within the Interreg Italy Croatia projects MARLESS and LIFE MEDTURTLES, in which Cetacea plays a pivotal role as a partner. Carlotta Santolini, a collaborator of Cetacea and a Ph.D. student at IUSS Pavia affiliated with Mariscadoras Srl, provided a detailed account of her participation in the Fondazione Cetacea-coordinated project "Sailing for Blue Life" during the summer of 2021, focusing on "Engaging Sailing Tourists in Citizen Science Activities: The Sailing for Blue Life Experience."

Following the presentations by all the speakers, a brief discussion ensued, and Alice Pari wrapped up the conference by expressing gratitude to all the participants and speakers.



Link to the recording of the online thematic event <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ad-7wJ2jme0>

INVITATION



ONLINE EVENT



CETACEA FOUNDATION

is pleased to invite you to the:

Online event “The involvement of citizens in the conservation of marine environment”.

 **WHEN**
4th April 2023, 2.30 - 4.00 pm.

 **WHERE**
online

THE RESISTANCE CLUSTER IS PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO ITS SECOND ONLINE MEETING ON THE SUBJECT OF CITIZEN SCIENCE. PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO THE GOOGLE FORM TO RECEIVE THE LINK TO THE EVENT.

For online registration form [CLICK HERE](#)

European Regional Development Fund        

AGENDA



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April 4th, 2023

Agenda

Wednesday, the 4th of April From 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

- 2:30** **Opening and introduction.**
Alice Pari, Cetacea Foundation.
- 2:35** **RESISTANCE project – general overview.**
Andrijana Dedić, Project coordinator Municipality of Podstrana.
- 2:40** **Reliability of data collected in a citizen science project.**
Mariana Machado Toffolo, University of Bologna.
- 2:55** **The opportunity of Citizen Science to fill knowledge gaps on marine biodiversity distribution and abundance.**
Carlo Cerrano, Polytechnic University of Marche.
- 3:10** **Science and public participation: increase information on Mediterranean Monk Seal sightings and assess data quality.**
Luigi Bundone, Archipelagos-ambiente e sviluppo Italia
- 3:25** **Citizen science activities within the Interreg Italy Croatia MARLESS and LIFE MEDTURTLES.**
Martina Monticelli and Kamyla Lombardi Moraes, Cetacea Foundation.
- 3:40** **The involvement of sailing tourists on citizen science activities: Sailing for blue life experience.**
Carlotta Santolini, PhD student IUSS Pavia - Mariscadoras srl benefit.
- 3:55** **Discussion and conclusion.**

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