

# CREATE

## Report on participation in a EUSAIR thematic steering group meeting

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Maria Letizia Vitelletti	CNR_ISMAR	21/08/2023	revision	V 03
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## 1. Introduction

This document reports on the participation of representatives of the CREATE project in the EUSAIR thematic steering group meeting during the Annual EUSAIR Forum held in Sarajevo on May 23rd - 25th 2023. This participation has been prepared with a first contact meeting held in January 2023 with a representative of the EUSAIR thematic Pillar 3 on Environmental quality and concretized in the participation of two project members in the EUSAIR Annual Forum held in Sarajevo in May 2023.

## 2. Preliminary contacts with the EUSAIR community

The CREATE project took contacts with the EUSAIR community in January 2023, holding a virtual meeting with Mr. Iztok Skerlic, representative of the EUSAIR thematic Pillar 3 on Environmental quality, to explore synergies and possible contributions by the CREATE project to the EUSAIR strategy. During this meeting, a series of key arguments have been identified where knowledge about climate change and about strategies for adaptation provided by CREATE could be relevant. In particular, needs for action on climate change adaptation and thus potential scope for contributions from the CREATE project were identified in the area of integrated coastal zone management and Maritime Spatial planning, with the dissemination on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) pilot cases and best practice examples with pilot actions to be shared.

Further areas of convergence were identified in relation to actions related to the pillar dedicated to Emergencies in the sea, where experiences for coordination, e.g. with coordination of equipment for emergency interventions and exchanges of knowledge actually being developed in relation to oil spills could be developed also for wildfires, considered that the issue of forest fires has been introduced into the draft of the new EUSAIR strategy.

In relation to the Sustainable tourism Pillar, convergencies regarding beach management and diversification of tourism have been discussed; further to the emerging issue of underwater noise. While beach management needs to be considered also under the aspect of climate change impacts such as erosion and protection from marine inundations, both beach management and underwater noise are both arguments to be treated also under a wider strategy for sustainable tourism management, being this sector one of the major sources of environmental pressure on the marine environment, which is able to enhance impacts from climate change on the coast in different ways and would need different strategies for specific monitoring. In particular ensuring sustainable strategies for monitoring of physical changes in the marine and coastal environments is seen, by the create project, as one of the future contributions needed for a sustainable development of the Adriatic-Ionian region.

During the meeting, several channels of communication have been identified, in particular the invitation to the EUSAIR community to participate in the Thematic Webinars organized by the CREATE project, the CREATE Web site and interaction on the knowledge platform ADRIADAPT.EU which will be further developed by the CREATE Project.

Mr. Skerlic suggested furthermore to participate in the EUSAIR Annual Forum held in May 2023 in Sarajevo, contributing to the thematic Session of the Pillar 3 focusing in particular on the potential of Maritime spatial planning in addressing future risks from Climate change.

### 3. Participation in the EUSAIR Pillar 3 Session

On May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, two members of the CREATE team, (Ms Maria Letizia Viteletti, CNR-ISMAR and Ms Margaretha Breil, CMCC), participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR annual Forum in Sarajevo. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Margaretha Breil presented, during the session organized by the Pillar 3 and dedicated to “Promoting Climate Change Adaptation And Disaster Risk Prevention Through RBM, ICZM AND MSP” results from the CREATE project, presenting MSP as an example for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into on-going planning and coordination policies (see agenda and presentation in annex).

During the session, integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning and holistic ecosystem approaches have been presented by the panellists as effective strategies for sustainable development. The panellists highlighted the joint efforts in the Adriatic-Ionian region to promote sustainable development, protect biodiversity, adapt to climate change, and improve waste management. These approaches take into account the interconnectedness of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and incorporate climate change planning to ensure a harmonious balance between economic development and environmental protection in line with the broader objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Barcelona Convention, which aim to halt biodiversity loss, restore degraded ecosystems and protect the marine and coastal environment. By actively participating in these frameworks and implementing sustainable practices, the region is helping to preserve the marine and coastal environment for present and future generations.

Four different projects have been presented by the panellists to exemplify such approaches: the Otranto Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) project which seeks to develop and implement a transboundary ICZM strategy in the Otranto Strait reinforcing sustainable development, integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) and marine spatial planning (MSP) across the South Adriatic to reduce and eliminate marine litter, prevent pollution on coast and sea and to strengthen biodiversity conservation. The project is based on the collaboration between the regions of Vlora (Albania) and Puglia (Italy) and is coordinated by PAP/RAC with the support of INFO/RAC and national project coordinators.

Daniela Addis, the national coordinator of the project for Italy, highlighted the usefulness of scientific data for the management of risks affecting the coastal zone, and for enhancing knowledge on the state, development, and impacts of climate change. In order to use and exchange information and activities of common interest, it is important that project builds upon the existing data management standards and processes, relevant for coastal and marine management, such as (but not limited to) those existing under Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP).

Ms Evangelia V. Avramidou, a Researcher at the Laboratory of Forest Genetics and Biotechnology, Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, Greece highlighted the importance of scientific knowledge for planning and management of protected areas, using the example of carnivores and their need for ecosystem connectivity.

She underlined the importance of preserving ecosystems and their genetic diversity to sustain specific habitats for the survival of carnivores which are crucial for the stability of food chains in terrestrial ecosystems, and in particular of biodiversity hotspots, which are regions with exceptionally high levels of plant diversity, often coincide with areas that support diverse carnivore communities. She presented insights into the research of genetic diversity as the primary evolutionary force that safeguards sustainability and resilience of ecosystems and in particular of forest genetic resources (FGR) which are an essential part of the adaptation and evolutionary processes of forest ecosystems. Therefore, the conservation and appropriate use of FGR have a crucial importance for sustainable forest management in the light of climatic change. She underlined the need for holistic approaches, which consider different parameters of biodiversity inside terrestrial habitats (genetic, epigenetic, biodiversity) in order to secure and propose future sustainable management practices for resilient plant and carnivore's existence.

Mr. Pierpaolo Campostrini (CORILA) illustrated the efforts made by the HATCH project, to create a homogeneous database of existing monitoring data regarding environmental dimensions.

The **presentation of the CREATE project** pointed to the need for specific knowledge for Resilience in the Adriatic area and illustrated the wealth of existing resources and guidance for integrating adaptation to climate change into maritime spatial planning. Maritime Spatial Planning was described as an important tool for an effective implementation of adaptation measures to climate change in the Adriatic area. This means is useful to the manifold of economic activities and ecosystem functions of the area, considering also the coastal zones that they sustain; indeed, to continue in supporting the economic, ecologic, and social challenges influenced by the changing conditions of climate in the region, it is mandatory to address effective measure and identify knowledge needs.

The presentation underlined in particular the importance of timely mainstreaming of climate change planning into maritime spatial planning and the availability of guidance instruments, while gaps were seen in the relation of actually low levels of implementation of existing plans and of tools developed in mainly in research projects, in the monitoring of relevant parameters and in legislative frameworks.

During the final discussion, panellists emphasized the importance of cooperation, knowledge sharing and integrated approaches to promote a sustainable and harmonious relationship between human activities and nature. Efforts in the Adriatic-Ionian region not only benefit the local environment, but also contribute to the global conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources.

## 4. Annexes

### 4.1. Annex 1: Session programme

# 8<sup>th</sup> EUSAIR Forum

23 – 25 May 2023

**Session programme:** 25th of May, 2023, 9:30 -11:00

**EUSAIR Pillar 3 Environmental Quality Session –**

**Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention through RBM, ICZM and MSP  
(Thematic Steering Group Pillar 3 - Environmental Quality)**

**Chairs:**

**Mitja Bricelj**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia

**Senad Oprašić**, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Panelists:**

**Daniela Addis**, Founder and Director of the Addis Law Firm “Environment&Sea, Italy.

Dr. Evangelia V. Avramidou, Researcher at Laboratory of Forest Genetics and Biotechnology, Institute of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, Greece.

**Margaretha Breil**, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change Foundation, Italy.

prof. dr. Azrudin Husika, University of Sarajevo, Mechanical Engineering Faculty, Bosna and Hercegovina.

**Sabina Susmel**, Ph.D - University of Udine - Department of Agri- food, Environmental and Animal Sciences, Italy

**Moderator:**

**Mitja Bricelj**, Ministry of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Slovenia

**Senad Oprašić**, Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUSAIR Pillar 3 Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Gaby Hagmüller - Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, Belgium



## 4.2. Annex 2: CREATE Presentation



**8th Forum**  
EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
Sarajevo 23 - 25 May 2023

**CREATE**  
Climate Responses for the Adriatic Region



EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**



## Who we are

**8 Partners**  
Start: 01/06/2022  
End: 31/06/2023



EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**




## Rationale of the project

- Analyse and distill knowledge for adaptation from past projects
- Make adaptation knowledge available for end users



EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**



## What we do

- Thursday CREATIVE Talks
- Knowledge inventory
- Adaptation Handbook
- Workshops on governance
- Adriatic Adaptation Award
- New Project ideas

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region  
**EUSAIR**



## Why MSP & Climate change?

The aim of MSP is to "analyse and human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives" (EU directive on MSP)

Climate change will affect the basic conditions for human activities in the sea (Fisheries, Energy generation, Blue economy, Ecology, etc.)



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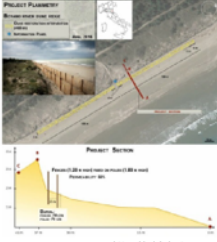
## What needs to be planned



- Increase the extension of Marine Protected Areas (MPA),
- Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM),
- Increase connectivity between protected areas,
- More efficient management of protected areas,
- Identification and planning for climate refugia,
- Restoration and preservation of degraded marine habitats,
- Restoration of blue carbon sinks (seagrass meadows)

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## Land - sea interactions



Coastal defence from erosion and marine flooding affect marine activities (tourism, aquaculture):

- Beach nourishment (including areas for sand extraction)
- Nature-based solutions (dune reconstruction and protection or cliff stabilisation with vegetation and other NBS techniques)

<https://adriadapt.eu>

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR

## Justice aspects

Climate change, mitigation and adaptation measures affect people in different ways make a proper analysis of those who get benefits and those who might be impacted by MSP provisions, including those related to climate changes.

- e.g. fisheries, aquaculture affected by warming sea water,
- mitigation measures (off-shore wind farms) affect landscape and tourism



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## How to deal with uncertainty

Adaptive approaches allow for successively correcting and adjusting plans: Adaptive plans rely on monitoring, assessing, reviewing and adapting the plan



<https://adriadapt.eu/adriadapt.eu>

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## How to deal with uncertainty (2)

Adaptive approaches allow for successively correcting and adjusting plans: Adaptive plans rely on monitoring, assessing, reviewing and adapting the plan




<http://ria.icmglobform.org>

EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region EUSAIR

## Gaps identified

- ✓ Low level of implementation of existing plans and of tools developed in projects
- ✓ Gaps in monitoring of relevant parameters
- ✓ Framework and legislative gaps



<http://ria.cleedatary.com>

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### 4.3. Annex 3: Photos



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(Credits: EUSAIR FORUM Sarajevo 2023)



(Credit ML Vit elletti 2023)



(Credit ML Vi telletti 2023)