

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are crucial for safeguarding marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. Yet, in the Adriatic Sea, many MPAs are ineffective and lack ecological connectivity. Overfishing and exploitation threaten the Adriatic's rich biodiversity. Croatia and Italy, with their extensive coastlines, must address these common challenges collaboratively. Our project focuses on three key areas within the Natura 2000 network, representing diverse habitats like rocky reefs, estuaries, and seagrass meadows. By implementing effective solutions, we aim to create true MPAs that benefit both the region and the EU.

The goal is to strengthen the protection status of existing Natura 2000 sites in Croatia around Island of Silba and in Italy in the marine area around Parco del Conero and Foce Trigno. Higher protection status, achieved in active collaboration with local communities, will enhance protection and preservation of nature and biodiversity that supports regeneration of marine resources with the preservation of local livelihoods.

Capacity-building and awareness-raising activities conducted through joint workshops and trainings will encourage active citizenship and make them ambassadors of MAPAs. Through establishments of Local Cooperation Councils (LCCs) the local community will promote the preservation of biodiversity. The promotion of economic activities that have a minimal negative impact on the environment will be organized through a pilot action. Joint interactive MAPA platform will be established to assess the status of marine habitats and species and involve local communities in conducting monitoring activities.

PROJECT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. Higher efficiency of monitoring and research on marine habitats and effective management of MAPAs
2. Build capacity of the members of the target groups in supporting effective management and to conduct citizen science programmes and be ambassadors for marine nature protection
3. Build the capacity of local key-players and promote community-based initiatives that combine the regeneration of marine resources with the preservation of local livelihoods

Programme priority specific objective

2.2: Enhancing protection and preservation of nature, biodiversity and green infrastructure, including in urban areas, and reducing all forms of pollution.



PROJECT DURATION 02/2024 - 07/2026



TOTAL BUDGET 1.402.920,00 €



EU FUNDING 1.122.336,00 €

Contact

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Interreg



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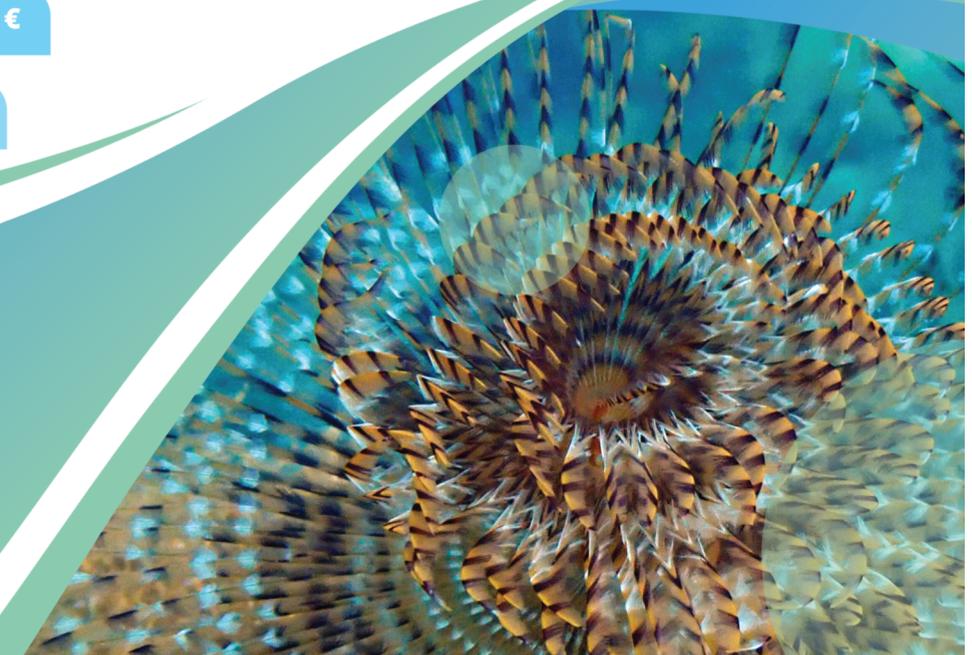
Italy – Croatia



PROJECT PARTNERS



UNIVERSITÀ
POLITECNICA
DELLE MARCHE



PROJECT AREAS

CROATIA

HR400025 Silbanski grebeni **HR300053 Silba - podmorje**

Area around the island of Silba encompassed by the complex of MPAs Silba has safeguarded marine habitats and species of high importance to the region and the EU for many years.

The emphasis being on marine habitats 1120 *Posidonia oceanica* beds and 1170 Reefs. Its potential to be a connecting point to other MPAs has been researched for decades and supported by the local community, scientific research and NGOs working on the area.

This MPA complex has now become the first co-managed protected area in form of a public - civil society with 20000 Leagues getting the guardianship over the area from the Public Institution Natura Jadera.

ITALY

IT5320015 Monte Conero **IT5320005 Costa tra Ancona e Portonovo** **IT5320006 Portonovo e falesia calcarea a mare**

Parco del Conero is currently a land protected area with long tradition in efforts to expand it to nearby sea.

The coast of Monte Conero is considered an area where it is possible to establish a MPA based on scientific studies which highlighted the value of the marine ecosystem, flora and fauna but threatened by human use without adequate regulation.

Part of the area is in Natura 2000 site IT5320006 Portonovo e falesia calcarea a mare recognized as Special Area of Conservation. Area is managed by Regional Parco del Conero with strong involvement of UNIVPM with goal to establish a first expansion of land protected territory to effectively protected both land and the sea around Conero.

IT7228221 **Foce Trigno**

The complex habitat type of estuaries is the predominant feature of the area and its role as the "nurseries of the sea" needs to be preserved as numerous animal species rely on estuaries for nesting and breeding.

Dune habitats need to be protected from the high anthropogenic pressure associated with the exploitation of the coast. Its high potential as a nesting for potential birds and nursery for marine species has not yet resulted in effective management of the area.

