

Report

Deliverable 2.4.3

Project Acronym: TOFOLA
Project number: ITHR0200352



Title: **BOAT LAUNCHING CEREMONY**

WP n°	2
Task n°	D. 2.4.3
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Italy – Croatia



Executive summary

Deliverable 2.4.3 documents the public boat launching ceremonies carried out in Italy and Croatia under TOFOLA Activity 2.4: the Porto Levante ceremony organised by LAGUNA S.N.C. (PP8) on 22 May 2026 and the Novigrad–Cittanova ceremony organised by MARSERVIS Ltd. (PP5) on 29 June 2026. In line with the Application Form, the ceremonies presented the boat prototypes to the partnership and the public and communicated their cultural value and intended future use within sustainable coastal tourism itineraries.

The Porto Levante event recorded 48 signed participants. The Italian pilot vessel is a restored traditional wooden bragozzo whose ownership remains with PP8 under the Partnership Agreement. The event was dedicated to the launch and inaugural navigation of the boat. The boat featured accessibility-oriented improvements including handrails and access geometry, supported seating, anti-slip flooring and visual marking of steps. The ceremony also provided a practical setting to explain the project's green-modernisation approach to historic craft.

The Novigrad event recorded 23 participants. It was dedicated to the launch of two batana delivered by MARSERVIS: a restored traditional wooden craft and a modern batana with electric propulsion, both registered with the Port of Umag–Novigrad. The event was dedicated to the launch and inaugural navigation of the boats. Each of the two batana has a four-person capacity. The modern batana also has accessibility features: tactile indicators and anti-slip flooring.

Key result

The two ceremonies featured the inaugural navigation of the TOFOLA pilot vessels and made them visible as cross-border cultural and tourism assets, directly supporting the project's objective of communicating their heritage value and intended future use within the TOFOLA new tourism itineraries to the public.



1. Purpose and project context

TOFOLA promotes a cross-border tourism model linking historical wooden boats, forest resources, lagoon landscapes and slow travel. Within WP2, the project combines restoration and reconstruction know-how with accessibility, digital documentation and low-impact engineering approaches, so that traditional craft can remain in active use and contribute to sustainable tourism in the Adriatic area.

D.2.4.3 records how the Italian and Croatian pilot boats were presented to the public and how their cultural value and intended tourism use were communicated. The report focuses on the ceremonies themselves, participation, communication evidence, accessibility and the link with future itineraries; technical approvals and vessel-specific certification remain within the dedicated deliverable.

Ceremonies' objectives	Description
Public presentation	Formal launch moments and inaugural navigation presented the prototypes to the partnership, stakeholders and the public.
Cultural communication	The events explained the heritage value of traditional Adriatic wooden boats and the continuity of boatbuilding and navigation knowledge.
Future tourism use	The ceremonies connected the vessels with the sustainable tourism itineraries and visitor experiences developed by the project.
Cross-border visibility	Comparable public events in Italy and Croatia demonstrated a shared Adriatic approach adapted to different local boat traditions.



Italy – Croatia



2. Italian boat launching ceremony — Porto Levante

2.1 Details of the ceremony

Details of the event	
Date	22 May 2026
Venue	Porto Levante (RO), Po Delta
Responsible partner	Laguna S.n.c. — PP8
Recorded participation	48 signed participants
Boat type	Restored traditional wooden bragozzo — Italian TOFOLA pilot vessel
Public outcome	Launch, technical presentation and inaugural navigation

2.2 Programme of the ceremony

Time	Agenda item	Location - purpose
10:30	Welcome and coffee	Rana Agile E-Bike Rent & Bike Caffè - reception and registration
11:00	Launch ceremony and technical presentation	Darsena Marina Nuova - presentation of restoration, accessibility and project objectives
11:30	Boarding and inaugural navigation	Il Pontile Il Ghebo - first public navigation towards Laguna S.n.c.
12:00	TOFOLA presentation and welcome drink	Laguna / Il Ghebo - cultural and tourism framing of the vessel
12:30	Networking lunch	Laguna / Il Ghebo - Exchange among partners, authorities, technical actors and local stakeholders
14:00	Closing	Closure of the public event



Italy – Croatia



The restored historic boat completed the inaugural navigation. The ceremony connected the physical vessel with the wider TOFOLA message: continuity of traditional knowledge, environmental care, functional accessibility and a new low-impact visitor experience.

2.3 Vessel technical aspects

Technical aspect	Description
Boat identity	Italian TOFOLA pilot vessel: restored traditional wooden bragozzo
Ownership	The Italian prototype remains with LAGUNA S.N.C. (PP8), in accordance with Article 16 of the Partnership Agreement.
Restoration and conservation	Functional restoration of the historic wooden craft was carried out through the Italian WP2 technical chain. The ceremony evidence confirms the restored vessel was launched and used for the inaugural navigation.
Accessibility	The documented package includes handrail/access geometry, supported seating with backrests, anti-slip flooring and high-contrast marking of steps. These measures support safer and more inclusive use.
Green-modernisation approach	TOFOLA develops a combination of life-extension, digital documentation/reverse-engineering, low-impact treatments and evaluation of low-impact propulsion, motor-propeller matching and energy-management solutions.

For PP8, the key value of the ceremony is therefore the bridge between heritage conservation and contemporary use: the restored hull and accessibility improvements are documented outcomes.



Italy – Croatia



2.4 Participation and stakeholder engagement

The signed register contains 48 participants. The following anonymised breakdown was compiled from self-reported organisation/role information; blank or generic “guest” entries were classified as citizens and invited guests.

Stakeholder category	Participants	Share
Project partners and project support	10	20.8%
Public authorities and park governance	4	8.3%
Forestry, wood and technical networks	3	6.3%
Research and higher education	2	4.2%
Tourism and other private operators	4	8.3%
Citizens and invited guests	25	52.1%
Total	48	100.0%

The attendance profile shows that the ceremony reached beyond the direct partnership. The presence of local and regional authorities, the Po Delta Park, research, forestry/wood actors, tourism operators and invited citizens created a practical setting for discussing how the boat can support territorial interpretation and small-group tourism.

2.5 Communication

Communication took place before, during and after the ceremonies. The invitations provided date, locations and programme information, while public posts confirmed the launch and inaugural navigation.

Public evidence links: [TOFOLA LinkedIn launch post](#) | [Interreg Italy–Croatia event invitation](#)





Italy – Croatia



2.6 Intended future tourism use

TOFOLA pilot itinerary – Tourism use details	
TOFOLA Tourism Itinerary	“Dunes, Salt Marshes and Shipyards”, within the Po Delta pilot itinerary
Core route	Bosco Nordio → Rosolina Mare → Porto Caleri Botanical Garden → lagoon embankments → Porto Levante, with the historic boat as the final water-based segment and the LAGUNA shipyard as the restoration/innovation interpretation point.
Modes and duration	Walking + e-bike + historic boat; approximately 36–42 km and 7–8 hours, with variants according to group profile, weather and tide.
Reference group	Small groups, with a pilot configuration of up to 15 participants. Actual on-board capacity remains subject to the vessel’s authorised operating limits.
Operational role of PP8	LAGUNA contributes with its boat, shipyard and tourism-service expertise to connect the vessel with the Po Delta itinerary.

3. Croatian boat launching ceremony — Novigrad-Cittanova

3.1 Details of the ceremony

Details of the event	
Date	29 June 2026
Venue	Harbour Mandrač, Novigrad-Cittanova, Croatia
Responsible partner	MARSERVIS d.o.o. — PP5; event delivered with the City of Novigrad-Cittanova



Italy – Croatia



Details of the event	
Recorded participation	23 participants
Boat type	2 traditional wooden batanas — Croatian TOFOLA pilot vessel: one restored and one newly built
Public outcome	Public presentation, launching and inaugural navigation of two boats: one restored historic craft and one newly built accessible prototype

3.2 Programme of the ceremony

Time	Agenda item	Description
10:30–10:45	Welcome and registration	Arrival and participant registration
10:45–11:05	Opening remarks	Speakers: Anteo Milos, Mayor of Novigrad–Cittanova; Boris Sabatti, Director of IDA
11:05–11:30	Batana restoration and construction	Speakers: Luciano Beg and Dinko Salopek, MARSERVIS
11:40–12:00	Ceremonial launching	Two batana launched in Harbour Mandrač
12:00–12:30	Inaugural navigation	Completed as scheduled
12:30–14:00	Networking lunch	Stakeholder exchange and project networking

MARSERVIS delivered the Croatian ceremony with the City of Novigrad–Cittanova at Harbour Mandrač. The event linked institutional welcome, technical interpretation and public demonstration: the City and IDA introduced the territorial and project context; MARSERVIS explained the restoration and construction processes; both batana were launched and the inaugural navigation was completed between 12:00 and 12:30. The format converted technical outputs into a visible cultural experience and positioned the vessels as practical tools for future interpretation of Novigrad's maritime heritage.



Italy – Croatia



3.3 Vessel technical aspects

Technical aspect	Description
Vessels	Two traditional batana of equal principal dimensions: one 33-year-old wooden hull restored by MARSERVIS and one newly built prototype produced from a digitised hull model
Dimensions	Length 5.46 m; width 1.985 m; height/depth 0.52 m for each batana
Digital and fabrication process	The traditional hull was documented by 3D scanning. The new prototype used a CNC-milled expanded-polystyrene plug, a mould and vacuum-infusion construction
New batana materials	Flax-fibre reinforcement with bio-epoxy resin; EPE foam core (40 kg/m ³), containing 30% recycled content and being fully recyclable
Restored batana materials and works	Oak structure and pine planking; damaged timber and coatings removed; oak frames, floors and deck beams renewed; pine deck rebuilt; fittings replicated; linseed-oil treatment, water-based paint, three-coat varnish and antifouling applied
Propulsion	New batana: small electric outboard with batteries. Restored batana: oar propulsion; obsolete engine, shaft and propeller removed
Accessibility	Modern electric batana: open deck/wide wheelchair-access configuration, stainless-steel rails, quay-mounted lifting davit, tactile indicators and anti-slip flooring. The restored wooden batana remains in its traditional, non-adapted configuration
Capacity	Four persons per vessel, eight persons in total
Registration	Both boats are registered within the Port of Umag–Novigrad



Italy – Croatia



3.4 Participation and stakeholder engagement

Personal names from attendance records, contact details and signatures are not reproduced in this public version. This report uses totals and anonymised stakeholder information only. Names of institutional speakers are retained because they are part of the published event programme and official public communication.

The signed register contains 23 completed rows. The anonymised evidence breakdown comprises project/delivery organisations (8), public authorities (4), heritage and cultural associations (3), communication/reporting support (2), one craft-sector professional, and five (5) further signed attendees.

Speakers were Anteo Milos (Mayor of Novigrad–Cittanova), Boris Sabatti (IDA), and Luciano Beg and Dinko Salopek (MARSERVIS).

3.5 Communication

Communication took place before, during and after the ceremonies. The invitations provided date, locations and programme information, while public posts confirmed the launch and inaugural navigation.

Public evidence links: [IDA official event article](#) | [City of Novigrad article](#) | [Glas Istre coverage](#) | [Pomorski Rijeka Facebook](#) | [Istra Terra Magica Facebook](#) | [PP5 original photo archive](#)

The complete original photographic archive is retained in the project files; this report reproduces only some images.

2.6 Intended future tourism use

For future use, the boats support the Novigrad Visitor Centre and are intended to be part of the coastal final part of the itinerary “Forest, Wine & Sea” within the pilot itinerary “From the Motovun Forest to the Sea”, with short, guided harbour experiences for small groups.



Italy – Croatia



4. Cross-border participation and added value

Boat Launching Ceremony	Porto Levante — Italy	Novigrad-Cittanova — Croatia
Date	22 May 2026	29 June 2026
Heritage craft	Restored wooden bragozzo	Restored wooden batana and newly built, digitally derived, modern batana
Engineering emphasis	Heritage life extension and documented accessibility adjustments	3D hull digitisation, CNC plug, bio-composite vacuum infusion, electric propulsion and accessible boarding configuration
Participation	48 participants (from Italy and Croatia)	23 participants (from Croatia and Italy)
TOFOLA Tourism itinerary	“Dunes, Salt Marshes and Shipyards” within the Po Delta itinerary	“Forest, Wine & Sea” within the pilot itinerary “From the Motovun Forest to the Sea”

The cross-border value lies in the shared method: traditional craft is documented and adapted for contemporary, low-impact use; the launch is treated as a public learning moment; and the boat becomes part of a wider territorial itinerary. The vessels remain locally specific, but the reporting structure creates comparable evidence for participation, accessibility, communication and future tourism operation.



5. Conclusions

Historic wooden boats embody knowledge that is difficult to communicate through static interpretation alone: timber selection, construction and repair, maintenance, shallow-water navigation and the relationship between craft and landscape. The ceremonies turned this knowledge into a shared experience by combining explanation with the physical launch and navigation of the vessels.

Within the TOFOLA new tourism co-designed itineraries, the boats are intended for small-group experiences combining navigation with landscape interpretation, cycling or walking, local culture and shipyard/restoration knowledge. In the Po Delta pilot itinerary, the Italian bragozzo is part of the “Dunes, Salt Marshes and Shipyards” itinerary. In Istria, the two batanas are linked to the Novigrad Visitor Centre and to the TOFOLA coastal tourism itinerary “Forest, Wine & Sea”, as part of the pilot itinerary “From the Motovun Forest to the Sea”, also referred to as the Batana Route. The proposed short harbour experience is a pilot offer.

The two launching ceremonies held in Porto Levante and Novigrad celebrated the boats renovation and construction related activities performed in WP2, and made the TOFOLA boats visible as shared cultural and tourism resources, fulfilling the core communication logic foreseen for Activity 2.4: public launch, cultural interpretation and presentation of future tourism use.



Italy – Croatia



Annex A. Invitations

Italian boat launching ceremony

Co-funded by
the European Union

PROJECT DURATION
30 months

ERDF
€ 1.518.992,00

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.898.740,00

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tofolat@centroconsorzi.it

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
SCAN THE QR CODE!
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INQUADRA IL QR CODE!

INVITO

CERIMONIA DI VARO

Imbarcazione storica recuperata e ammodernata in chiave *green*

Nell'ambito del progetto transfrontaliero ToFoLa, Laguna S.N.C. invita il Partenariato, gli stakeholder e la cittadinanza alla cerimonia di varo dell'imbarcazione storica restaurata per promuovere un turismo lento, accessibile e sostenibile, capace di valorizzare la bellezza naturale e culturale del Delta del Po.

QUANDO
22 Maggio 2026
Ore 10:30

DOVE
Porto Levante (RO)
Punto di imbarco per
Scanno Cavallari

PROGRAMMA DELLA GIORNATA

ORE 10:30 – ACCOGLIENZA E WELCOME COFFEE
Ritrovo presso Rana Agile F-Bike Rent & Bike Caffè, Porto Levante. Momento di incontro informale per il ritiro dei materiali informativi, i saluti iniziali e un caffè di benvenuto con i partner di progetto.

ORE 11:00 – CERIMONIA DI VARO
Presso Darsena Marina Nuova. Momento solenne del varo dell'imbarcazione. Seguirà un breve intervento tecnico dedicato al restauro, alle soluzioni di accessibilità implementate e agli interventi di ammodernamento in chiave sostenibile.

ORE 11:30 – NAVIGAZIONE INAUGURALE
Imbarco presso il Pontile Il Ghebo. Trasferimento verso la sede di Laguna S.N.C., con prima esperienza di navigazione inaugurale.

ORE 12:00 – PRESENTAZIONE TOFOLA & DRINK DI BENVENUTO
Presso la struttura di Laguna S.N.C. / Rifugio Il Ghebo. Apertura ufficiale con aperitivo di benvenuto e presentazione del valore progettuale dell'intervento.

ORE 12:30 – CATERING CONVIVIALE
Momento di networking e convivialità con buffet dedicato alle eccellenze gastronomiche del Delta del Po.

ORE 14:00 – SALUTI FINALI E CHIUSURA LAVORI

TRADIZIONE CHE INNOVA

Restauro funzionale, accessibilità, navigazione a basso impatto, valorizzazione del legno e tecnologie per una fruizione turistica inclusiva. Le ultime tecnologie di ingegnerizzazione per il recupero, la ristrutturazione e l'ammodernamento in chiave green delle imbarcazioni d'epoca della Serenissima.

SOSTENIBILE

ACCESSIBILE PER TUTTI

AUTENTICO

Il varo rappresenta una tappa strategica del progetto ToFoLa, orientato allo sviluppo di prodotti turistici sostenibili basati sulla memoria storica della cantieristica navale della Serenissima e sulla valorizzazione delle lagune dell'Alto Adriatico. Il progetto punta anche alla diversificazione dei flussi turistici, all'accessibilità del patrimonio culturale e alla connessione tra tradizione, innovazione e sostenibilità.

PROJECT PARTNERS

LAGUNA S.N.C. – PARTNER N. 8
Laguna S.N.C. – Partner n. 8 ha un ruolo operativo centrale: acquisizione e restauro dell'imbarcazione storica, coordinamento dei cantieri nautici del Delta del Po, sviluppo di soluzioni innovative e green e attenzione alle esigenze di anziani e persone con disabilità.

TRACCIABILITÀ DEL LEGNO

PER INFO: Cristian Azzalin Tel. 346/53.70.982 - Polesine Consulting Srl Tel. 0426/01.09.40

Co-funded by
the European Union

TOURISM IN THE FOREST AND
GREEN LAGOONS OF THE ADRIATIC
THROUGH HISTORICAL WOODEN BOATS

TOFOLA

PROJECT DURATION
30 months

EROF
€ 1,513,992.00

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1,398,740.00

CONTACT
Centro Consorzi
tofola@centroconsorzi.it

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
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WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
SCAN THE QR CODE!

INVITATION

LAUNCH CEREMONY

Historical boat restored and upgraded
with a *green* approach

Within the framework of the cross-border project ToFoLa, Laguna S.N.C. invites partners, stakeholders and citizens to the launch ceremony of the historic boat restored to promote slow, accessible and sustainable tourism, able to enhance the natural and cultural beauty of the Po Delta.

WHEN
May 22, 2026
10:30 AM

WHERE
Porto Levante (RO)
Boarding point for
Scanno Cavallari

PROGRAM OF THE DAY

10:30 AM – WELCOME AND COFFEE
Meeting at Rana Agile E-Bike Rent & Bike Caffè, Porto Levante. Brief informal meeting for the collection of information materials, initial greetings and welcome coffee with project partners.

11:00 AM – LAUNCH CEREMONY
At Darsena Marina Nuova. Solemn moment of the launch of the historic boat. A short technical intervention dedicated to the restoration, accessibility solutions implemented and modernization interventions in a sustainable key.

11:30 AM – INAUGURAL NAVIGATION
Boarding at Il Pontile Il Ghebo. Transfer to the headquarters of Laguna S.N.C., with a first experience of inaugural navigation.

12:00 PM – TOFOLA PRESENTATION & WELCOME DRINK
At the building of Laguna S.N.C. / Il Rifugio Il Ghebo. Official opening with a welcome aperitif and presentation of the project's value.

12:30 PM – NETWORKING LUNCH
Networking and social moment with a buffet dedicated to the gastronomic excellences of the Po Delta.

2:00 PM – FINAL GREETINGS AND CLOSURE
End of the event and closure of activities.

A TRADITION THAT INNOVATES

Functional restoration, accessibility, low-impact navigation, enhancement of wood and technologies for an inclusive tourist experience.
The latest engineering technologies for the recovery, restoration and upgrading of historic boats from the Serenissima era, in a green key.

SUSTAINABLE

ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL

AUTHENTIC

The launch represents a strategic milestone of the ToFoLa project, aimed at developing sustainable tourist products based on the historical memory of the Serenissima naval shipbuilding tradition and on the enhancement of the lagoons of the Upper Adriatic. The project also aims to diversify tourist flows, improve accessibility to cultural heritage and foster the connection between tradition, innovation and sustainability.

PROJECT PARTNERS

LAGUNA S.N.C. – PARTNER NO. 8
Laguna S.N.C. – Partner no. 8 has a central operational role: acquisition and restoration of historic boats, coordination of shipyards in the Po Delta, development of innovative and green solutions and attention to the needs of citizens and people with disabilities.

WOOD TRACEABILITY

FOR INFO: Cristian Azzalin Tel. 346/53.70.982 - Polesine Consulting Srl Tel. 0426/01.09.40

Italy – Croatia



Croatian boat launching ceremony

TOFOLA
TOurism in the FOrest and green Lagoons of the Adriatic through
historical wooden boats

INVITATION

Activity 2.4 Testing and evaluation of prototypes

D.2.4.3 Boat Launching Ceremony

" NOVIGRAD (CITTANOVA) - Harbour Mandrač"

LOCATION: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/kQQuSdwoLW62KViX6>

 **When:** Monday, 29 June 2026 – 10:30 AM

 **Where:** Novigrad (Harbour Mandrač), Istria, Croatia



PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

Time	Topic
10:30 – 10:45	Welcome
10:45 – 11:05	Opening remarks
11:05 – 11:30	Batana restoration
11:40 – 12:00	Launch Ceremony
12:00 – 12:30	Inaugural navigation
12:30 – 14:00	Networking lunch

Please confirm your attendance by 24 June 2026 by replying to this invitation.

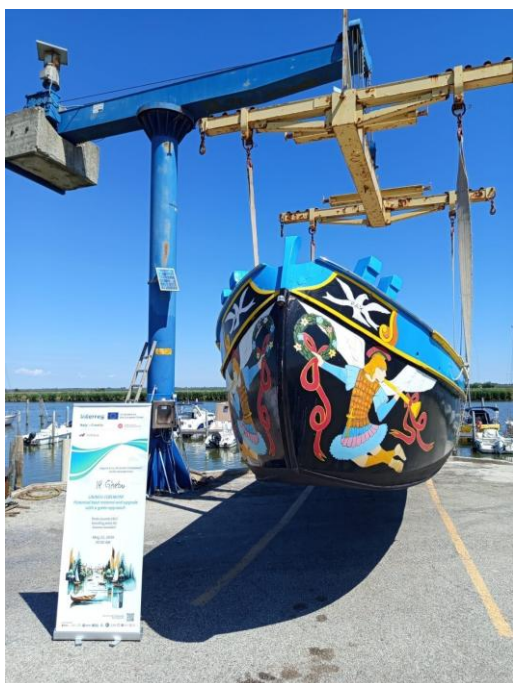
We look forward to welcoming you in Novigrad.



Annex B. Photos

Italian boat launching ceremony

The complete original photographic archive is retained in the project files; this report reproduces only some images.



Restored bragozzo at the lifting equipment before launching at Darsena Marina Nuova, Porto Levante



View of the restored boat at Porto Levante, showing the seating, central circulation area and stainless-steel handrails







Italy – Croatia



Croatian boat launching ceremony



Group photograph with the newly built batana

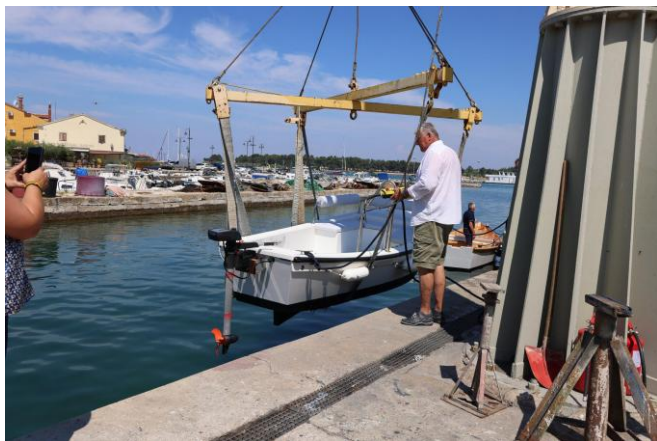


Opening remarks by City, IDA and Marservis representatives



The restored batana and newly built batana afloat after launching





Modern batana suspended during launching operations.



Restored wooden batana at Harbour Mandrač during operational preparation.



Modern batana afloat after crane handling; electric outboard visible.



Inaugural harbour navigation with passengers, original PP5 photographic evidence.



