



**Project ECOSEA** "Protection, improvement and integrated management of the sea environment and of cross border natural resources" Codice Progetto: 2° ord/0236/0

COOPERATION PROGRAMME IPA Adriatic CbC 2007-2013

PRIORITY 2 Natural and Cultural Resources and Risk Prevention

MEASURES 2.1 - Protection and enhancement of the marine and coastal environment

DURATION: Start 10 /2012 -End 09/2015  
Total months 36

TOTAL BUDGET 3.757.555.00 €

LEAD PARTNER



REGIONE DEL VENETO

VENETO REGION (IT)

PARTNERSHIP



REGIONE AUTONOMA  
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

AUTONOMOUS REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA - Service for Hunting, Fish Resources and Biodiversity (IT)

**Regione Emilia Romagna** EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION (IT) – General Directorate for Agriculture, Fishing economy, Wildlife and Hunting Management. Development of Fishing economy and of Animal production Service



REGIONE  
MARCHE

MARCHE REGION - Management. Fishing and Wildlife and Hunting (IT)



REGIONE  
ABRUZZO

ABRUZZO REGION – GENERAL DIRECTORATE FOR AGRICULTURAL, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FORESTRY, FISHERY, HUNTING AND EMIGRATION POLICIES



APULIA REGION - Agro-food Resources Department - Hunting and Fishing Service (IT)



COUNTY OF PRIMORJE AND GORSKI KOTAR- Primorsko-goranska županija (HR)



ZADAR COUNTY - Zadarska Zupanija (HR)



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION (AL)

### *Project Summary – The framework: The sea as a bridge between shores*

*The Adriatic sea represents the environmental, social and cultural element bridging the eastern and western shores of the area. Nowadays, the richness of natural resources characterizing the Adriatic sea is endangered by man-made factors that are threatening the vitality of the ecosystems. Fishing and aquaculture activities are recognized among those mostly impacting on the sea ecosystems. Indiscriminate fishing and income-driven aquaculture led in recent times to a progressive reduction of marine stocks and destruction of natural habitats, causing also economic and social negative effects on coastal communities and other economic sectors (especially tourism).*

*EU fishery policy addresses these issues, however the solely national application of such policies and the contemporary sharing of common natural resources with non-EU countries did not allow to achieve the EU goals of environment protection. The project intends to provide long-lasting responses to such problems, promoting the improvement of the sea and coastal ecosystems by proposing models for a coordinated fishery management pairing with direct actions for improving fisheries sustainability and strengthening the marine biodiversity.*

*The project will trigger a virtuous process of sustainable development and competitiveness of the coastal communities depending from fishery, in a common cross-border framework of economic, social and territorial cohesion along the Adriatic sea. The partnership proposing ECO.SEA comes from those Adriatic countries (Italy, Croatia, Albania) in which fishery is most relevant, consequently with a higher potential of mitigating fishery effects. Partners are institutionally and technically competent in their countries for the implementation of project.*

### *Objectives: protection and enhancement of sea and coastal environment through responsible fishing*

*The general objective of the project consists in promoting the protection and enhancement of the sea and coastal environment, implementing an innovative approach to a coordinated management of fishery activities (institutional/policy level) pairing with a direct increase of the marine biodiversity (in-field pilot actions). This will allow to concretely improve the quality of the sea environment strengthening, at the same time, the sustainable development and competitiveness of the coastal communities depending from fishery. In other terms, for the first time the project intends to give a clear, direct and long-lasting response to the environmental negative effects related to the fishing and aquaculture activities. As a side effect, the project will directly strengthen the protection of the cultural heritage traditionally characterizing the fishery sector of the Adriatic sea, generating positive effects also on the promotion of a sustainable tourism less bound to the seasonality.*

*Complying with the Programme Priority 2.1, the project intends to pursue the following specific objectives:*

- Promotion of knowledge exchange and institutional capacity building addressed to the application of innovative models of environment and economic activities governance also with the support of specific ICT tools;*
- mitigation of the environment pressure determined by fishery sector through joint mechanisms for increasing the sustainability of fishing and aquaculture, applying the Common Fishery Policy addresses also in non-EU countries;*
- Strengthening of the institutional ability and competence to preserve and manage the Adriatic natural resources through the cooperation among cross-border regions in the common framework of the Common Fishery Policy;*
- Strengthening of the marine ecosystems and protection of the biodiversity, by means of direct interventions for reconstituting the Adriatic ichthyic resources, supported by “state of the art” scientific knowledge;*

- establishment of the framework conditions for the promotion of the economic and social sustainable development based on the protection of the sea resources with the bottom up involvement of the fishery operators;
- increase of the awareness among fishery operators and, more in general, in the public opinion, with particular attention to young, about the threats concerning the Adriatic and the importance of the sea environment.

ECO.SEA objectives will be reached through activities organized in 6 work packages (WP) strictly co-related each other, in which all partners are involved following a result-driven approach and in which all project target groups and stakeholders are directly addressed throughout the project implementation. The “bone” of ECO.SEA will be the “Adriatic Advisory Board” (WP3), which will create a cross-border common understanding and sharing of goals, pooling together knowledge and expertise which will steer all further project activities. The Advisory Board will see the participation not only of project partners, but also of the relevant target groups and stakeholders, namely national, regional and local policy makers of the fishery sector, enterprises through their Organization of Producers, scientific centres and universities). In this common framework, the project will then act in parallel by implementing direct pilot actions increasing the Adriatic biodiversity (WP4) and mitigating the negative effects on the environment deriving from fishery (WP5). A careful monitoring of the environment effects of project activities, in terms of ecosystems strengthening and biodiversity improvement will then be carried out (WP6). The mainstreaming of ECO.SEA experiences and approaches into national and regional policies will be promoted already within the project duration, creating a joint commitment of the involved actors beyond the partnership (WP6). All project activities will be supported by an adequate communication management (WP2) that will allow not only to comply with the obligatory publicity requirements, but also and especially will further increase the spreading of project results well beyond the cooperation area. Last, the project will be managed according to a rigorous set of actions (WP1) that will ensure its sound implementation, with the achievement of the expected outputs and results (in qualitative and quantitative terms) accompanied by the complete fulfilment of all legal/administrative obligations related to the management of IPA and Structural funds. An independent evaluation will measure such achievements.

#### Project background and the problems and/or challenges to be addressed

The Adriatic sea represents the environmental, social and cultural element bridging the eastern and western shores of the cooperation area. If the Adriatic sea, on one hand, is characterized by an invaluable richness of natural resources, on the other it is endangered by severe factors that are threatening the vitality of the ecosystems. A loss in environmental quality of the sea would fatally result also in a loss of social, economic and territorial cohesion and competitiveness for the whole area. Fishing and aquaculture sectors are recognized as human activities most impacting on the sea ecosystems (see also the Territorial, Social and Economic Context and the SWOT analysis of the IPA Adriatic OP). Indiscriminate fishing led in recent times to a progressive reduction of marine stocks and to the destruction of natural habitats. This is further worsened by the fact that lack of management of the sector brought to overfishing of products that were not accepted by the market, generating wastes. The environmental impoverishment of the sea is leading to a gradual economic and social decline for coastal communities, with direct negative effects also on other sectors (especially tourism). The negative effects of fishery are directly linked to the lack of coordination of fishery policies among the Countries and Regions facing the sea. EU Adriatic Countries and Regions pursued the goal of sustainable use and management of natural resources in the framework of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) [Reg. (EC) No. 2371/2002; Reg. (EC) No. 1967/2006], but the independent implementation of policies/strategies/action plans relegated the application of CFP in the Adriatic basin to a mere theoretical exercise. This is worsened by the fact that in the non-member States of the Adriatic sea the exploitation of the common environmental resources is carried out outside the framework of CFP. The problem can be better visualized by the fact that while the sea is interested by several administrative borders, natural resources “do not have borders and move from one to another area” along their lifecycle. The sustainable use of resources implies the execution of strategic choices as well as the implementation of practical actions, shared at cross-border level, allowing to stop the impoverishment of natural resources and the co-related economic and social decline of the coastal communities. The challenge of protecting and restoring the marine ecosystem can be effectively and efficiently tackled only with choices and interventions coordinated at cross-border level, according to a participative approach in which institutions act in coordination with- and with the involvement of- scientific bodies and economic/social actors. Such strategic choices and interventions addressed to a integrated management of the cross-border marine ecosystem can be effective only if they are shared with all countries of the Adriatic basin, going beyond borders and EU or non-EU member status.

LINKS :

ALTO ADRIATICO: [www.altoadriatico.com](http://www.altoadriatico.com)

ADRIATIC IPA CBC: [www.adriaticipacbc.org](http://www.adriaticipacbc.org)

VENETO REGION - [www.regione.veneto.it/web/programmi-comunitari/ipa-adriatico](http://www.regione.veneto.it/web/programmi-comunitari/ipa-adriatico)

AUTONOMOUS REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA - [www.regione.fvg.it](http://www.regione.fvg.it) > .. > [cooperazione territoriale europea](#)

ARPA FVG REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA- <http://mapserver.arpa.fvg.it/adriblu/map.phtml>

MARCHE REGION - [www.europa.marche.it/PoliticaRegionaleUnitaria/CTE.aspx](http://www.europa.marche.it/PoliticaRegionaleUnitaria/CTE.aspx)

ABRUZZO REGION - [www.regione.abruzzo.it/xeuropa/index.asp?...ipaAdriatico...](http://www.regione.abruzzo.it/xeuropa/index.asp?...ipaAdriatico...)

APULIA REGION [www.europuglia.it](http://www.europuglia.it) > COOPERAZIONE TERRITORIALE

PRIMORSKO-GORANSKA ŽUPANIJA (HR) - [www.pgz.hr/](http://www.pgz.hr/)

ZADAR COUNTY (HR) - [www.zadarska-zupanija.hr/](http://www.zadarska-zupanija.hr/)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION  
[www.moe.gov.al/](http://www.moe.gov.al/)