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the European Union

Italy – Croatia

ITHR0500550

BRAVE

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Version 4.0

Form language: EN

Input language: EN

Currency: EUR

A - Project identification

A.1 Project identification

Project id (automatically created)	ITHR0500550
Name of the lead partner organisation	Regione del Veneto
Name of the lead partner organisation in English	Veneto Region
Project title	Building Resilience and Adaptive Vision for the Adriatic Sea Environment
Project acronym	BRAVE
Programme priority	Green and resilient shared environment
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 in months	36

A.2 Project summary

Please give a short overview of the project and describe:

- the common challenge(s) of the programme area you are jointly tackling in your project;
- the overall objective of the project and the expected change(s) your project will make to the current situation;
- the main outputs you will produce and those who will benefit from them;
- the approach you plan to take and why a cross-border approach is needed;
- what is new/original CB solution the project proposes.

The project aims to enhance species knowledge by ensuring ecosystemic functionality and tackling biodiversity loss in the Adriatic Sea (AS), through monitoring activities, creation of a smart digital platform and innovative planning in response to environmental change.

By addressing key challenges such as invasive alien species (IAS) spreading, biodiversity decline and data fragmentation, we will implement cross-border strategies to protect coastal, marine, lagoon and protected areas. The BRAVE project will provide useful data and effective tools to the AS users (operators, policymakers, citizens), also supporting small-scale coastal fishing and aquaculture activities, leading to a resilient Adriatic area.

Key Challenges:

Invasive Alien Species (IAS): The proliferation of non-native species poses a significant threat to ecosystems, human health, and economic viability

Biodiversity Loss: The AS is experiencing a decline in biodiversity due to IAS, climate and

environmental change, habitat degradation, pollution, and overexploitation

Data Fragmentation: Inconsistencies in existing databases hinder our ability to assess the overall health of the AS

Data Communication Gap: Difficulties in dissemination and use of environmental data by non-experts or those involved in monitoring and managing environmental data, increased by the challenging coordination between public bodies, research centres, business and citizens.

All these aspects can have strong environmental (competition for resources and substitution of native species), social (conversion of work activities and change in citizens' habits) and economic (fisheries and aquaculture sectors) impacts.

Proposed Solutions:

Data Collection and Harmonization:

Creating a shared digital platform for the AS to collect, share, and analyse environmental data. This will improve data accessibility, foster collaboration, and support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable marine management.

Innovative Integrated Monitoring:

Genetic analysis of environmental DNA to track biodiversity, particularly fish populations

Evaluation of aquaculture practices in lagoons and marine waters to identify key environmental parameters ensuring productivity and sustainability, and identifying more resilient management solutions

Integration of existing monitoring systems with technologies to enhance data collection and innovative analysis

Implementation of nature-based solutions, such as using species as bioindicators, to assess pollution and promote ecosystem health and functionality

Monitoring of biodiversity and habitat conditions, including the identification of areas for conservation and restoration

Development of ecosystem models to understand the complex interactions between different pressures and threats of the AS.

Different stakeholders (fishermen, fish farmers, policymakers, researchers, and citizens) will be involved in various stages: monitoring, data collection and submission to the platform, platform use.

Implementation of a smart digital platform for data collection, visualisation and analysis

Development of a responsive version of the platform to be used as an informative and effective tool for different stakeholders to visualise environmental data, propose management solution related to fisheries and aquaculture and to raise awareness.

Strategy and Activities:

WP1: Enhancing Ecosystem Understanding

Establishing a consolidated Adriatic advisory board (AAC) and common environmental data collection standard and protocols

Assessing the state-of-the-art of environmental data for the Adriatic Sea

Create a smart digital platform to facilitate the collection, sharing and analysis of environmental data

Definition of a Joint Action Plan (JAP) and of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

WP 2: Integrated Assessment techniques and monitoring

Characterisation of the main anthropogenic components that affect marine and coastal management

Implementation of pilot actions at specific test sites

Analyses of interconnection between biodiversity loss, IAS and environmental status of the AS

WP 3: Transnational Governance for sustainable management of coastal, marine and protected areas

Implementing feasible studies on biodiversity loss and IAS spreading

Promoting fisheries and aquaculture activities more resilient to environmental changes

Involvement of fisherman, aquaculture farmers, policy makers, scientists and citizens in dissemination activities to enhance awareness and shared knowledge

Expected Outcomes:

A deeper understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem dynamics in the AS, enhancing coastal resilience and economic practices related to fisheries and aquaculture

An up-scale of Smart Digital Platform, which will serve as a foundation for a broader monitoring network

A consolidated version of the Action Plan, annexed to the MoU, in order to formalize PPs commitment to establish a common framework for further uptake, deployment and mainstreaming of BRAVE results.

A.4 Project outputs and result overview

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Jointly developed solutions	3,00	solutions	Output 1.2	BRAVE Smart Digital Platform	3,00				
Participations in joint training schemes	68,00	participations	Output 3.1	Joint training schemes for digital platform users and Summer School	68,00				
Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects	3,00	pilot actions	Output 2.1	Cross border Pilot Actions for ecosystem based management of fisheries and aquaculture in Adriatic	3,00				

Programme Output Indicator	Aggregated value per Programme output indicator	Measurement Unit	Output	Output Title	Output target value	Programme result indicator	Baseline	Result indicator target value	Measurement unit
Strategies and action plans jointly developed	2,00	strategy /action plan	Output 1.1	BRAVE Joint Strategy and Action Plan	2,00				
						Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations	0,00	1,00	joint strategy /action plan
						Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations	0,00	3,00	solutions
						Completion of joint training schemes	0,00	40,00	participants

B - Project partners

Partners overview

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in english	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Associated organisations	Partner total eligible budget
1	Active	Veneto Region	Italia (IT)	VenReg	LP		829.625,60
2	Active	Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region	Italia (IT)	FVGRegion	PP		550.000,00
3	Active	Emilia Romagna Region	Italia (IT)	RER	PP		510.000,00
4	Active	Marche Region	Italia (IT)	RMAR	PP	PLATEFORME TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DE L'INNOVATION DE L' AQUACULTURE EUROPÉENNE (ASBL.)	500.000,00
5	Active	Puglia Region	Italia (IT)	RegionePuglia	PP		500.000,00
6	Active	Confcooperative Veneto Regional Union	Italia (IT)	Confcooperative	PP		500.000,00
7	Active	Region of Istria	Hrvatska (HR)	IstriaRegion	PP		510.000,00
8	Active	Primorje-Gorski Kotar County	Hrvatska (HR)	PGŽ/PGKC	PP		482.100,00
9	Active	Zadar County	Hrvatska (HR)	Zadar County	PP		498.000,00

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in english	Country	Organisation abbreviation	Partner role	Associated organisations	Partner total eligible budget
10	Active	Public Institution RERA SD for coordination and development od Split Dalmatia County	Hrvatska (HR)	RERA S.D	PP		533.250,00
11	Active	Josip Juraj Strossmayer Water Institute	Hrvatska (HR)	IZV-JJS	PP		469.961,40
12	Active	Public institution Development agency of Sibenik-Knin County	Hrvatska (HR)	PI DA SKC	PP	Razvojno inovacijski centar AluTech	515.000,00
13	Active	Dubrovnik-Neretva County	Hrvatska (HR)	DNR	PP		471.500,00

B.1 Lead partner	
Partner number	1
Partner role	LP
Name of the organisation in original language	Regione del Veneto
Name of the organisation in english	Veneto Region
Organisation abbreviation	VenReg
Department / unit / division	Special Projects for Venice Directorate
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Veneto (ITH3)
NUTS 3	Venezia (ITH35)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Dorsoduro 3901 30123 Venice
Homepage	https://www.regione.veneto.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Veneto (ITH3)
NUTS 3	Venezia (ITH35)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Cannaregio 99 30121 Venice
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	02392630279
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	80007580279
PEC address	progettispecialivenezia@pec.regione.veneto.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	882566141
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr. Luca Zaia
Contact person	Mr Matteo Lizier
Email	matteo.lizier@regione.veneto.it
Telephone no.	+390412794464
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
Special Project for Venice Directorate is the regional organization in charge of the management of national funds for the preservation of Venice (Special Safeguard Law for Venice), in order to ensure the implementation of safeguarding measures, as established by the Veneto Region with a specific "Master Plan" for the protection and depollution of the Venice Lagoon and its drainage basin, an area of about 2.068 km². The Directorate has been involved as Project Partner in several projects co-funded by European Union, as IPA Adriatic CBC Programme 2007-2013 Project "SHAPE - Shaping an Holistic Approach to Protect the Adriatic Environment between coast and sea", for the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) policies in the Adriatic basin; Interreg Central Europe 2014-2020 Project "GreenerSites - Environmental Rehabilitation of Brownfield Sites in central Europe", which developed and tested actions based on a sustainable, integrated approach to improve the environmental management of the brownfields located in their territories; LIFE 2016 Project "Lagoon Refresh - Coastal Lagoon habitat (1150*) and species recovery restoring the salt gradient by increasing fresh water input", which realized concrete actions along the margin of the SCI Northern Venetian Lagoon, at the interface between lagoon and mainland; Interreg V-A Italy-Croatia 2014-2020 Project "MARLESS - MARine Litter cross-border awarenESS and innovation actions", which puts into effect concrete actions of monitoring, management, prevention and removal of the marine litter without neglecting the normative aspect within which these actions are framed, through the proposition of innovative and experimental actions, aimed at treating plastic waste in a circular economy perspective. For the implementation of this project, in view of the complexity of the issues addressed and the role of Lead Partner, the active involvement of other regional structures was considered, especially for competences related to fisheries and aquaculture, as well as in relation to environmental aspects.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

In BRAVE project, Veneto Region takes on the role of Lead Partner, with the general tasks of project coordination and harmonization of the activities of the partners involved.

Given the transboundary nature of this Italian-Croatian cooperation project, focused on the pressing issues of biodiversity loss and invasive alien species in the Adriatic Sea, the coordination role is exceptionally challenging. The project's scope encompasses a wide range of interconnected themes with far-reaching consequences for the region.

The coordination role is primarily expressed in Action 1.1, with the identification of a coordinator for the Adriatic Advisory Committee, who will be responsible for managing the Committee's activities in close coordination with the Steering Committee.

Within the framework of Act. 1.3, Veneto Region will be responsible for one of the most complex actions: the implementation and management of the data platform, with the active support of all the partners and the AAC in defining the data that will be managed through the platform itself.

This Activity aims to create a comprehensive digital infrastructure for the Adriatic Sea region, facilitating the collection, sharing, and analysis of environmental data, in order to foster collaboration, promote data standardisation, and support evidence-based decision-making.

Within WP2, the Veneto Region will be responsible for implementing actions related to a series of innovative actions that combine advanced environmental monitoring, local community involvement, and cutting-edge diagnostic technologies, within an Agreement with "Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie". Project ideas are focused on the management and containment of alien species in the Adriatic Sea, with particular attention to the Venetian Lagoon, one of the most sensitive and vulnerable areas. The aim is to prevent damage to biodiversity and reduce the economic and social impact of these invasions through a dynamic and adaptable surveillance system.

In the WP3 framework, Veneto Region project involves several research institutions with complementary expertise, that already conduct monitoring activities in the Adriatic Sea for other purposes, such as assessing environmental health and fish populations, providing a solid foundation of knowledge and historical data. This interdisciplinary collaboration represents an example of effective synergy, optimizing resources and enhancing monitoring and management actions for alien species. Furthermore, the direct involvement of fishers, shellfish farmers, and recreational anglers in reporting invasive species through "citizen science" practices will help create a comprehensive and sustainable monitoring network, engaging the local community and strengthening the link between science and society.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	663.700,48	80,00%
FdR	165.925,12	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	829.625,60	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
VenReg	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total		
Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	NO
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	Veneto Region is a public Authority that can't make any profit from action financed by the project.
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	Veneto Region is a local public body, which cannot generate revenues from its activities, which are always carried out for public purposes.
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis	Fishery and aquaculture sector de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 2	
Partner number	2
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Regione autonoma Friuli-Venezia Giulia
Name of the organisation in english	Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region
Organisation abbreviation	FVGRegion
Department / unit / division	Central Directorate for Agri-food, Forestry and Fisheries - Hunting and Fishery Services
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Friuli-Venezia Giulia (ITH4)
NUTS 3	Trieste (ITH44)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Piazza Unità d'Italia 1 34121 Trieste
Homepage	www.regione.fvg.it
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Friuli-Venezia Giulia (ITH4)
NUTS 3	Udine (ITH42)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Sabbadini 31 33100 Udine
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	00526040324
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	80014930327
PEC address	agricoltura@certregione.fvg.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Massimiliano Fedriga
Contact person	Mr Alberto Fonzo
Email	alberto.fonzo@regione.fvg.it
Telephone no.	+390432555304
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
Service for Hunting and Fishing Resources is an articulation of the Regional Department of Agrifood, Forestry and Fishing Resources based in Udine and is composed of 42 officers. It is the regional authority responsible for administrative and regulatory functions concerning the management of fisheries and aquaculture sector. It is the Managing Authority for regional interventions within the EMFAF 2021-2027, in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy. The institutional activity in support of the fishery and aquaculture sector integrates with the multi-year strategy for interregional and cross-border cooperation and aims to ensure a sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture. There may also be the basis for the creation of a stable system of coordination and harmonization at the inter-regional and cross-border choices and strategies adopted by the States and Regions of the Adriatic Sea. Service for Hunting and Fishing Resources is competent for the management of fisheries and aquaculture activities within the Natura 2000 framework. Within the office organisation, a dedicated team of officers for the management of EU projects is permanently working since the year 2014, covering technical, management and financial competences. The officers involved in the project BRAVE have more than 20 years' experience in the management of the projects' activities and deliverables concerning the study of the dynamics between anthropic activities and threatened environments, species and habitats within protected areas. FVG staff will offer the capacity of dealing with the different environmental sectors' needs and expectations gained in several years of direct interaction with the stakeholders as well as research institutions, enterprises, industry, producers associations and public bodies. The Service has taken active part in the following successful cooperation projects in the Adriatic area within the whole period 2003-2022: ADRI.FISH, ADRI.BLU, FISH.LOG, CONNECT, ECOSEA, DORY, ADRI.SMARTFISH and ARGOS. All these projects and the experiences gained, successfully addressed a sustainable management of the biological resources in the Adriatic area, introducing the concept of the Adriatic Approach to fisheries and aquaculture as a novel cooperation strategy for the sustainable management of the Adriatic biological resources as well a common approach to shared fish stocks and biological resources, based on decisions taken by institutional, scientific and productive levels.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

The Service for Hunting and Fishing Resources will significantly contribute to the strategic objective of carrying out concrete actions for the sustainability of aquaculture within Natura 2000 network, recognising the ecological role of low-density, capture-based aquaculture sites for the valorisation of the land management, the conservation of the transitional coastal wetlands, the protection and even the increase of biodiversity. Namely, a pilot study in the Marano and Grado lagoon will define the area dedicated to low-density, capture-based aquaculture where the protection and even increase of biodiversity in terms of Natura 2000 species and habitats is concretely performed. Moreover, the beneficiary will coordinate the monitoring activity using innovative methodologies such as Environmental DNA approach for the characterisation of the spatial and temporal dynamics of the nekton biodiversity, here including the support of fishermen in biological data collection. Beneficiary will also manage an assessment of the benthic populations in the Marano lagoon, a key Natura 2000 site, as a base trophic layer for the consumers throughout the trophic chain, composed by protected and alien species too. More in general, the beneficiary will bring to the project its capacity in managing the role of aquaculture and small-scale fisheries operators in preserving the coastal environment acquired in several years of direct contact with the stakeholders of the sector as well as research institutions, companies, industry, associations and public bodies. Accordingly, the beneficiary holds the technical capacity and expertise to perform all activities foreseen in the project. Notably, the partner institutionally represents the regional level in the policy making for the fishery and aquaculture sector, ensuring the direct integration of the project results into relevant policies.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	440.000,00	80,00%
FdR	110.000,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	550.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
FVGRegion	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	Yes The PP will implement activities in the free market through the public procurement procedures according to national law (Codice degli appalti – Dec. Leg.vo 36/2023)
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No No
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No No, only public procurement procedure will be envisaged
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No No
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 3	
Partner number	3
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Regione Emilia Romagna
Name of the organisation in english	Emilia Romagna Region
Organisation abbreviation	RER
Department / unit / division	Direzione Agricoltura, Caccia e Pesca - Settore Attività Faunistico-Venatorie, Pesca e Acquacoltura
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)
NUTS 3	Bologna (ITH55)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Viale della Fiera 8 40127 Bologna
Homepage	https://agricoltura.regione.emilia-romagna.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Emilia-Romagna (ITH5)
NUTS 3	Bologna (ITH55)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Viale della Fiera 8 40127 Bologna
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	80062590379
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	80062590379
PEC address	territoriorurale@postacert.regione.emilia-romagna.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Valtiero Mazzotti
Contact person	Mr Piergiorgio Vasi
Email	piergiorgio.vasi@regione.emilia-romagna.it
Telephone no.	+390515275403
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

The Partner has specific competence in the sector of fisheries and aquaculture, running and managing all national and European funds dedicated to the development of economic activities in the Region.

Emilia-Romagna Region has experience gained in:

- managing the ichthyic regional economy also in partnership with other Regions (Italian, European and Non-EU), related to cooperation projects.
- protecting the marine resources for a compatible and research-oriented fishery to increment the sea abundance of fish, to guarantee employment and income to the sector.
- carrying out infrastructural interventions as artificial flooded barriers.

RER also coordinates the working group for the fishery Northern Adriatic District. The partner is fully equipped in terms of ICT, communication expertise, runs a specific site for the sector of fishing and aquaculture.

RER has more than a decade of experience in managing EU projects regarding blue economy; here below some of the recent projects that during the last 7 years period (2014-2020) participated /managed:

- PRIZEFISH (Piloting of Eco-Innovative Fishery Supply-Chains to Market added value Adriatic Fish Products) - Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020. A project about R&D in fishery, Certification Programme "ARFM", new fish-processed products, training for fishermen, etc. RER was a partner.
- DORY – Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020. A project about Maritime Spatial Planning, R&D on fishing practices and creation of a marine protected area called "Sole Sanctuary". RER was responsible for WP2.
- ADRI.SMARTFISH - Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020. A project about artisanal small-scale fishery sector. RER was responsible for WP2.
- ARGOS - Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020. A strategic project for the management and assessment of fish stocks in the Adriatic Sea. Action range in the frame of MSP to supply guidelines to stakeholders and policy makers
- RESISTANCE - Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020. A cluster project of capitalisation of previous projects. RER is capitalising the Project DORY
- CON.FLU.PO - Life/IT/188 (PP): Restoring connectivity in Po river basin opening migratory rout for *Acipenser naccarii* and 10 fish species in Annex II.
- LIFEEL – EU Life Biodiversity Project Life/19 Nat/IT/000851 Programme about safeguard of the eel as endangered specie
- ORIGINN – Interreg Europe 2021-27 – Project about peripheral and depauperated agricultural areas in Europe
- Additional projects, like Aqua-Renew (Interreg Euro-Med 2021-27), has been submitted and are actually under evaluation and others are planned to be submitted in the upcoming Interreg calls

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

Emilia-Romagna will participate in day to day project management, coordination and internal communication in order to perform smooth technical and financial implementation from project start.

Emilia-Romagna will participate in all project work package, in particular:

- the consolidation of the AAC (Adriatic Advisory Committee) tasked with identifying, evaluating, and addressing threats and challenges to the Adriatic sea's environment
- the state-of the art assessment: addressing biodiversity loss; invasive species and environmental changes in the Adriatic sea
- activities linked to the assessment and exploitation of esotic invasive species
- a framework for sustainable marine and coastal management in the Adriatic: a memorandum of understanding and durability plan
- unified Adriatic monitoring network: a digital infrastructure for shared data and knowledge
- data selection and dissemination of WP1 results
- Implementation of Pilot Actions for Sustainable Marine and Coastal Management
- data input training
- dissemination of WP2 results
- implementation of joint management sustainable solutions in coastal, marine and protected areas through the evaluation of environmental-socio-economic impacts on stakeholders and communities
- implementation of flexible and adaptable strategies to address environmental, social, and economic challenges in coastal and marine ecosystems - alien species
- data output and demo version of web-application designed to address specific environmental concerns in the Adriatic Sea
- awareness raising actions and Dissemination of the Project Results
- a social innovation pilot action on advanced aquaculture farming

Furthermore, Emilia-Romagna will be responsible to implement his own project communication activities (organisation of local events, engagement of stakeholders, organization of the thematic round table, capacity building, participation at external events and preparation the materials for replicability of results).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	408.000,00	80,00%
FdR	102.000,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	510.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
RER	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total		
Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	NO
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

B.1 Project Partner 4	
Partner number	4
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Regione Marche
Name of the organisation in english	Marche Region
Organisation abbreviation	RMAR
Department / unit / division	Department of Economic Development Sector of Tourism, European Territory Cooperation and development cooperation
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Marche (ITI3)
NUTS 3	Ancona (ITI32)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Gentile da Fabriano 9 60125 Ancona
Homepage	https://www.regione.marche.it/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Marche (ITI3)
NUTS 3	Ancona (ITI32)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Gentile da Fabriano 9 60125 Ancona
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	00481070423

Legal and financial information	
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	80008630420
PEC address	regione.marche.funzionectc@emarche.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	986340233
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr. Francesco Acquaroli
Contact person	Mrs Francesca Perretta
Email	francesca.perretta@regione.marche.it
Telephone no.	3390718063705
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
The Department of Economic Development is an organizational structure of the Marche Region Administration that has various tasks in the planning and implementation of policies and measures to support the socioeconomic development of the regional territory also at international level. It manages funds and regional operational programmes directly (certain measures of the ERDF and RRN) or acting as implementing body of the regional interventions (EMFAF, RDP). The Department deals with SMEs valorisation, S3, international cooperation, internationalization, fisheries and aquaculture, agri-food, liaising with national authorities and national and international networks. The sustainable blue economy and the circular economy are key issues horizontally addressed by the Department tasks. It also supports the cooperation between research and university and the regional enterprises for innovation and knowledge transfer. The Department is well-experienced in managing INTERREG projects as lead partner and partner and well equipped in terms of technical and administrative staff profiles able to ensure a sound implementation of the projects 'operations. With specific reference to the issues of Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone and of improvement and protection of the marine and coastal environments through sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture activities, the Department has been involved in the following ordinary and strategic projects: ECOSEA (Adriatic IPA Programme), DORY (INTERREG Italy–Croatia), ARIEL & ARIEL Plus (INTERREG ADRION), NEMO (INTERREG MED), AdriSmartFish (INTERREG Italy–Croatia), ARGOS and CASCADE (strategic projects, INTERREG Italy–Croatia). Moreover, the Department acted as partner in t is currently leading the EUSAIR strategic project StEP (INTERREG IPA ADRION).	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

RMAR has contributed to the BRAVE project since the design and submission phase, and it will give its full contribution to the project effective and efficient implementation both at technical and administrative level. The partner will be, in fact, highly involved in all the activities, capitalizing the stock of knowledge and results from previous successful projects and establishing a reliable and sound communication flow within the partnership and towards the local and cross-border stakeholders. In addition to its horizontal contribution to project steering and management, PP4 will implement both desk activities and pilot actions. Namely, within the WP1 PP4 will contribute to the AAC consolidation, data review and protocols definition/harmonization for the setting up of a cross-border monitoring network, stakeholders' engagement and mobilization. Furthermore, RMAR will be responsible for the Act.1.4 coordination and implementation, it will work to provide a Roadmap template and prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to be fill in in close cooperation with all the partners.

Within the WP2 and WP3, the partner will test:

- technological solutions in aquaculture farms at regional level to environmental, biological and productivity data collection using multi-parameters smart sensors;
- nature based solutions, using the Cuttlefish eggs as sentinel species for Good Environmental Status to monitor and detect the presence and quantify the presence of micro-plastics, heavy metals, POPs (persistent organic pollutants) and PFOA (perfluorinated alkylated substances).

RMAR will cooperate with the Polytechnic University of Marche to implement nature-based solutions, capitalizing and operationalizing results of the ARGOS activities targeting Cuttlefish at fishermen level. PP4 will be also responsible for the organization of the cross-border study visit in its territory, of the citizens engagement campaign and visibility events at local level, contributing to the achievement of the project communication objectives. PP4 will make available its experience in facilitating the engagement of quadruple helix stakeholder as well as it will make the best use of institutional tasks to support the BRAVE results transferability and durability within and beyond the project lifespan.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	400.000,00	80,00%
FdR	100.000,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	500.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
RMAR	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%

Total		
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%
State Aid		
State aid criteria self-check		
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?		
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	The project applicant will only perform public, institutional no-profit activities.
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No	The project applicant will only provide public, institutional no-profit support to Blue Economy stakeholders without market value
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?		
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No	The project applicant will only perform public, institutional no-profit activities for collective benefits
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No	The pilot testing will not have profit /economic purposes, but it will be used only for institutional and scientific. Target audience will only benefit from collective knowledge creation and sharing towards marine resource protection in respect to environmental changes
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid	
State aid relevant activities		
GBER scheme / de minimis		

B.1 Project Partner 5	
Partner number	5
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Regione Puglia
Name of the organisation in english	Puglia Region
Organisation abbreviation	RegionePuglia
Department / unit / division	Department of Environment, Landscape and Urban quality
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Bari (ITF47)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Lungomare Nazario Sauro 33 70121 Bari
Homepage	https://www.regione.puglia.it
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Puglia (ITF4)
NUTS 3	Bari (ITF47)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Giovanni Gentile 52 70126 Bari
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	01105250722
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	80017210727
PEC address	dipartimento.ambiente.territorio@pec.rupar.puglia.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	999523503
Contact	
Legal representative	Eng. Paolo Francesco Garofoli
Contact person	Mr Domenico Campanile
Email	d.campanile@regione.puglia.it
Telephone no.	080540507
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
Puglia Region pursues its environmental objectives through the Department of Environment, Landscape and Urban quality which represents the highest regional authority in the field of good environmental management practices, protection and preservation of environment and landscape. Puglia Region is responsible, by law n. 17/2006, of the monitoring of the Apulian coastal areas, including three Apulian Marine Protected Areas and 24 Sites of Community Importance (3 of which are exclusively marine). The Department of Environment, Landscape and Urban quality makes available data and knowledge on the environment for prompt actions aiming to environment and health protection and for mid-term and long-term policy decisions. Moreover, through the Department of Agriculture, Rural and Environmental Development, Puglia Region improves and sustains a coordinated regional development model aimed to join competitiveness of the sectors, with economic and environmental sustainability. Promote a coordinated agricultural, fishery and rural development of the regional territory, agri-tourism, environment, typical productions, nutritional education, professional training and, also, research and development. Puglia Region has been involved, in the last years, in various Interreg projects dealing with biodiversity and nature preservation as well as climate change and sustainable and shared management of Adriatic marine fishing resources. In particular, in the framework of the Italy-Croatia 2014-2020 Programme, it joined the following projects: · ARGOS (Shared Governance of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Activities as Leverage to Protect Marine Resources in the Adriatic Sea) · CASCADE (CoASTal and marine waters integrated monitoring systems for ecosystems protection and management) · MARLESS (MARine Litter cross-border awareness and innovation actions) · ADRIACLIM (Climate change information, monitoring and management tools for adaptation strategies in Adriatic coastal areas) · RESPONSE (Strategies to adapt to climate change in Adriatic regions)	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

Puglia Region will contribute to the creation and implementation of a shared platform for environmental data collection, capitalizing the results of previous projects, using databases available and also adding new data about climate change, alien species etc, thanks to new monitoring and modeling activities. Moreover, it will conduct monitoring of fishing resources, also involving fishermen, and guidelines for sustainable fishing in marine protected areas will be produced.

For sharing knowledge obtained within the project and consolidating long-lasting research capabilities in the field through a concrete dialogue with involved institutions, Puglia Region will organise public events for stakeholders from both public and private sectors, local institutions, researchers, associations and who can benefit from new information and data. Local events targeted to students, citizens and tourists will be planned for raising awareness and perception towards sustainability.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	400.000,00	80,00%
FdR	100.000,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	500.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
RegionePuglia	Public	0,00	0,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%

State Aid**State aid criteria self-check**

Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?

1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No	The activities implemented by the partner are part of the institutional duties of local authorities and monitoring agencies
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State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No The activities/goods/services implemented or developed in the project are part of the institutional duties of public bodies and don't have an economic value
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No The partner will not carry out any economic activity
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No There will be no economic activities in the project
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 6	
Partner number	6
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Confcooperative Unione Regionale del Veneto
Name of the organisation in english	Confcooperative Veneto Regional Union
Organisation abbreviation	Confcooperative
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Italia (IT)
NUTS 2	Veneto (ITH3)
NUTS 3	Padova (ITH36)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Via Savelli 128 35129 Padova
Homepage	www.veneto.confcooperative.it
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Business support organisation
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Private non-profit
Sector of activity at NACE group level	S.94.11
VAT number (if applicable)	80019480286
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	80019480286

Legal and financial information	
PEC address	veneto@pec.confcooperative.it
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	889055538
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Paolo Tiozzo Brasiola
Contact person	Mrs Daniela Galante
Email	galante.d@confcooperative.it
Telephone no.	00390498076052
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project? Confcooperative Veneto owns the needed competencies and an extensive experience required to participate effectively in the BRAVE project. Confcooperative Veneto, indeed, has a proven competences in representing and supporting operators and cooperatives across various economic sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture in Italian Adriatic regions. To enlarge its representativity, Confcooperative Veneto has signed agreements with all other preeminent trade associations in the field of fisheries and aquaculture to strengthen coordination within the sectors and foster sustainable practices. With a robust structure that includes regional and provincial offices, Confcooperative Veneto will also act as official representative for the national Alleanza delle Cooperative that includes all the major trade association in Italy. The PP6 has demonstrated project-specific experience, gained through the participation into the following projects: 1) Blue Crab project "Controllo, mitigazione e interventi per la gestione del granchio blu: un approccio transfrontaliero" – funded by INTERREG Italy-Slovenia 2021-2027 Programme; 2) ITACA project "Innovative Tools to increase Competitiveness and sustainability of small pelagic fisheries"—funded by the INTERREG Italy-Croatia 2014-2020 Programme, as partner; 3) BLUESLINKS "Blue Economy New Skills", funded by the INTERREG Italy-Croatia 2021-2027 Programme, as partner. Additionally, Confcooperative Veneto has substantial experience managing and implementing EU and regional fund projects, specifically through the EFF and EMFF, dedicated to the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Since the 2000-2006 programming period, it has also actively participated in Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAG), consistently supporting sustainable growth and the economic development of cooperative enterprises in these sectors. This extensive experience, combined with technical expertise in sustainable practices and advocacy at both national and European levels, positions Confcooperative Veneto as a highly qualified and reliable partner for this project.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

In the BRAVE project, Confcooperative Veneto plays a significant role in fostering collaboration across stakeholders of the targeted sectors. Confcooperative Veneto contribution centers on engaging local stakeholders and cooperatives, particularly within monitoring activities, by promoting scalable, sustainable models to assess the invasive species. By leveraging its extensive cooperative network and experience, Confcooperative Veneto facilitates data collection and knowledge exchange, enabling the integration of best practices and community-driven approaches in marine resources governance. Additionally, it provides expertise in coordinating workshops and training sessions to build capacity among project partners and stakeholders, aiming to empower local coastal communities and fisheries and aquaculture operators.

Specific activities to be conducted by PP6 include:

- 1) Monitoring alien species spreading (WP2, Act. 2.2): Confcooperative Veneto tests innovative protocols and techniques, based on the utilization of underwater survey probes, to detect marine parameters associated with alien species' presence and spread along the Adriatic coast. This includes collaboration with local fisheries operators across various pilot sites (Veneto, Emilia-Romagna, Marche, Abruzzo, Puglia) supporting the project's objective to curb biodiversity loss from invasive species.
- 2) Setting up of co-management labs with institutions (WP1, Act. 1.5): Confcooperative Veneto collaborates with PP3 to establish Blue Labs, a governance model that uses a 4-helix approach for addressing biodiversity loss and alien species spread, utilizing data from field operators.
- 3) Stakeholder Engagement and Capacity Building (along the whole project): PP6 actively engages with stakeholders by organizing workshops and seminars. These events aim to familiarize with data collection and empower local operators to contribute effectively to the project's monitoring network.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	400.000,00	80,00%
FdR	100.000,00	20,00%
Partner contribution	0,00	0,00%
Partner total eligible budget	500.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Confcooperative	Private	0,00	0,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	0,00	0,00%

State Aid	
State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No NO
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 7	
Partner number	7
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Istarska županija
Name of the organisation in english	Region of Istria
Organisation abbreviation	IstriaRegion
Department / unit / division	Administrative Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, Fisheries and Water Management
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Istarska županija (HR036)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Dršćevka 3 52000 Pazin
Homepage	www.istra-istria.hr
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Istarska županija (HR036)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	M.B. Rašan 2/1 52000 Pazin
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	90017522601
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	90017522601
PEC address	poljoprivreda@istra-istria.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Boris Miletić
Contact person	Dr. sc Ezio Pinzan
Email	poljoprivreda@istra-istria.hr
Telephone no.	0038552351649
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
Administrative Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, and Water Management of Region of Istria performs works of monitoring and analyzing legal regulative, situation analysis, and total trends in the field of agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, and water management in the Region, prepares decisions, individual and other acts and proposals, and reports from the meetings of the Assembly, the Government, and their work bodies. It also coordinates work with other departments and bodies in preparing the described activities, establishes regular communication and collaboration with authorized institutions and all other state and Region's organs, economy subjects in the area of the Region, and it performs other works in accordance with the law, acts of the Assembly and the Regional Government and their work bodies. It establishes partnerships with EU regions to work on planning and implementation International programs with the aim to develop interregional economic cooperation. Communication and supporting farmers, fishermen, and aquacultures in Istria, is daily work of the Administrative Department for Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting, and Water Management. The administrative department for agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishing, and water management of the Region of Istrian has gained significant experience in international projects aimed at promoting socio-economic development and sustainable management of fishing and aquaculture activities; such as ARGOS, ADRISMARTFISH, CONNECT, FISH.LOG, ADRI.BLU, ADRI.FISH. We participated also in the following successful international projects: ALTERENERGY (IPA Adriatic)- Alterenergy aimed to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy production across the Adriatic area. It was the first strategic project funded within the cross-border Cooperation Programme IPA-Adriatic 2007-2013, (IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme) MEDLAND – Design of a future common integral Land Management Scheme to protect natural resources in synergy with social and economic valorisation (Med Programme 2007-2013) FORET MODELE – Coordination of regional policies for the forest with the help of a new governance instrument the Model forest (Med Programme 2007-2013) Some of other completed projects in Region of Istria are: LIKE, MPA-ADAPT, NETCET, OSIPPPIT, APRO, ZOOb, ZOONE, PRO.V.I.C., DRINKADRIA, HOLISTIC, POPEYE, LIFE SEC ADAPT, BLUE KEP, LIFE SEC, GREEN4GREY, KUP, ŽIVO!, ADRIGOV, I-KEY, PROTECT, AMAMO, SEED, ECO-TURISM, I-LOG, S.I.M.P.L.E., METRIS PLUS, 4PILARS, UNDERGROUND ISTRIA, CREST, KAŠTELIR, etc	

Motivation**What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?**

Region of Istria will offer the project the capacity to address the needs and expectations of the fisheries and aquaculture sector acquired over several years of direct interaction with stakeholders, as well as research institutions, businesses, industry, producer associations, and public bodies. Accordingly, ROI has full technical and administrative capability and expertise to manage all project activities)

Our main activities in the project are:

- Bioindicators of the state of invasive species with an emphasis on blue crab, in the coastal area and in Natura 2000 areas in Istria Region
- Monitoring biodiversity of economically interesting species of shellfish, mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*), oysters (*Ostrea edulis*, scallops (*Pecten jacobaeus*), scallops (*Venus verrucosa*), mussels (*Arca noae*) and large crabs - grancigula (*Maja squinado*) and bivalve species listed in Annex IV of the Habitats Directive (*Lithophaga lithophaga* and *Pinna nobilis* and *Scyllarides latus*) in the area of Istrian Region with a special emphasis on natural habitats, in accordance with the EU Regulation on Nature Restoration (Regulation 2024/ 1991), from August 18, 2024
- Continuation of research from the ARGOS project - the possibility of keeping shellfish and crabs in recirculation with the aim of overcoming and mitigating the effects of climate change and developing technology for spawning economically important shellfish and crabs.

In addition to the above, Region of Istria will organize and participate in events for the dissemination of project activities and results, involve stakeholders in the project, create promotional materials.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	408.000,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	102.000,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	510.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
IstriaRegion	Public	102.000,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	102.000,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	102.000,00	20,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No NO
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 8	
Partner number	8
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Primorsko-goranska županija
Name of the organisation in english	Primorje-Gorski Kotar County
Organisation abbreviation	PGŽ/PGKC
Department / unit / division	Department for Tourism, Entrepreneurship, and Rural Development
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Primorsko-goranska županija (HR031)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Adamićeva 10 51000 Rijeka
Homepage	www.pgz.hr
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Primorsko-goranska županija (HR031)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Riva 10/III 51000 Rijeka
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	32420472134
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	32420472134
PEC address	iris.bruketa@pgz.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	928754728
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Ivica Lukanović
Contact person	Mr Mladen Brajan
Email	mladen.brajan@pgz.hr
Telephone no.	+385 51 351 266
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (PGKC) is a regional government authority responsible for initiating and co-financing of projects/activities in fields of agriculture, education, tourism, regional development, infrastructure, social welfare etc. The County is managed by the County Prefect, who oversees 11 departments with competences on regional issues, especially regarding spatial planning, economic development, infrastructure, development of a network of educational, health, social, cultural, and agriculture institutions. Among the Department for Tourism, Entrepreneurship and Rural development competences relevant to the project are: cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions and centres involved in the development of all forms of economic activity; monitoring the situation in agriculture, proposing and livestock farming, food production, especially of local products and fisheries; proposing and running projects of interest to the County and perform technical tasks related to the programmes of the European Union. PGKC Department for tourism, entrepreneurship and rural development also acted as a project partner in projects Adri.SmArtFish and ARGOS (Interreg Italy-Croatia Programme), on which experience and partnership of the proposed project is built upon. Primorje-Gorski Kotar County gained experience and competence in project management, public procurement procedures, infrastructure development and communication with international partners through participation in many projects which are implemented or still implementing. Some of the recent implemented projects: arTVision, HERA, HAZADR, ECOSEA, EA SEA WAY, ALTERENERGY, ADRIATinn (IPA ADRIATIC CBC PROGRAMME 2007-2013), MALA BARKA (INTERREG Slovenia – Croatia 2007 – 2013), REFRESH, Focus IN CD (INTERREG Central Europe 2014.-2020.), STAR, MALA BARKA 2, CARNIVORA DINARICA (INTERREG Slovenia – Croatia 2014 – 2020), BLUEISLAND (INTERREG Mediterranean 2014.-2020), ARCA ADRIATICA, ADRISMARTFISH, ARGOS (INTERREG Italy - Croatia 2014-2020)	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

Primorje-Gorski Kotar County will be involved in all three technical Work Packages by implementing research, analysis and pilot actions that will contribute to the overall and specific objectives of the present project. Additionally, PGKC will be involved in the networking and dissemination/raising awareness activities. The PGKC project team will cooperate with the LP and other PPs on daily basis for the purpose of smooth project implementation and successful achievement of all anticipated project results and outputs. Last but not least, PGKC will contribute to the fulfillment of reporting and other administrative and financial tasks on partner level, for the timely and correct reporting of project activities and expenditure progress on project level. The partner will engage external administrative help for the project and financial management, as well as technical external support for implementing technical activities.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	385.680,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	96.420,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	482.100,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
PGŽ/PGKC	Public	96.420,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	96.420,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	96.420,00	20,00%

State Aid**State aid criteria self-check**

Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?

1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No NO
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State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 9	
Partner number	9
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Zadarska županija
Name of the organisation in english	Zadar County
Organisation abbreviation	Zadar County
Department / unit / division	Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and EU funds
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Zadarska županija (HR033)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Božidara Petranovića 8 23000 Zadar
Homepage	https://www.zadarska-zupanija.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Zadarska županija (HR033)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Božidara Petranovića 8 23000 Zadar
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	56204655363
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	56204655363
PEC address	zupanija@zadarska-zupanija.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	961058347
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Josip Bilaver
Contact person	Mrs Katerina Skelin
Email	katerina.skelin@zadarska-zupanija.hr
Telephone no.	+38523350418
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

Zadar County is one of 21 regional authorities in Croatia and is responsible for affairs of regional importance on its territory including education, health, physical planning, development, economy, transport, environment, tourism, fisheries, agriculture etc. Zadar County is public body with own public financing. Zadar County has 230 employees, 139 highly educated and consists of 13 departments, one of which is Department for Agriculture, Fisheries and EU funds. The Department carries out tasks in the field of regional development, preparation and implementation of strategic documents of regional significance and implementation of the regional development policy program, as well as coordination and evaluation of applications for priority and development projects significant for Zadar County. It ensures the development and implementation of projects of county interest and links them to potential sources of funding, with a focus on the EU funds.

Zadar County will contribute with extensive experience on project management, public procurement procedures, infrastructure development and communication with international partners through participation in many projects.

Zadar County, as lead partner implemented the following projects: HERA (1/11/2013-31/12/2016) financed under the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme, total worth EUR 8.842.602,24; REACH-out (1/9/2013-30/4/2015) financed under the IPA IV Human Resources Development Programme, total worth EUR 213.442,74; Competent Stakeholders—a strong Partnership (1/10/2013-31/5/2015) financed under the IPA IV Human Resources Development, total worth EUR 42.347,39.

As a project partner Zadar County implemented the following projects: HOLISTIC (1/10/2013-31/12/2016) financed under the IPA Adriatic CBC Programme; Ecosea (1/10/2012-30/9/2016) financed under the IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Programme 2007.-2013; Bee Promoted (19/12/2014-19/12/2016) financed under the IPA Cross-Border Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007.-2013; ForBioEnergy (1/11/2016-30/6/2019) financed under the Interreg MED 2014.-2020; DORY (1/1/2021-30/6/2019) under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; Adri.SmArtFish (1/1/2019-31/3/2022) financed under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; PRIZEFISH (1/1/2019-31/12/2021) financed under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; ARGOS (1/4/2020-30/6/2023) financed under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; FIRESPIILL (1/4/2020-30/6/2023) financed under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; TECHERA (1/4/2022-30/6/2023) financed under the Interreg V-A Italy–Croatia 2014.-2020; CUHaCHA (15/8/2020-14/8/2022) financed under the Interreg IPA CBC Croatia–Bosnia and Herzegovina–Montenegro 2014. – 2020; SAFE (20/3/2023-30/3/2024) financed under the EEA and Norway Grants – Bilateral cooperation Fund.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

Zadar County project team will equally participate in all working packages, in day to day project management, coordination and internal communication for the purpose of facilitating and carrying out project activities within the given deadlines.

The main activities of Zadar County in the project will be within all work packages, and some of them are:

- Continuation of research started in the ARGOS project – Shellfish cultivation in recirculating aquaculture systems (solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change) and research of reproduction of Mediterranean scallop in captivity (solutions for restoration of species).
- Monitoring/mapping of economically interesting species of bivalve molluscs in the area of Zadar county with a special emphasis on protected areas,
- Monitoring of somatic indices and health status, as useful simple indicators of environmental status of selected species within Natura 2000 areas, within zones for aquaculture and near urban areas,
- Analysis of the impact of the legislative framework in fisheries (Croatia) on alien and locally absent species and assessment of the impact of the declaration of protected areas in the sea on the status of undesirable species (invasive) in the marine ecosystem
- Preliminary assessment of the impact of offshore fish farms on biodiversity and marine pollution in off shore allocated zones for aquaculture in Zadar County.

In addition to the above, Zadar County will organize and participate in events for the dissemination of project activities and results, involve stakeholders in the project, create promotional materials.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	398.400,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	99.600,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	498.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
Zadar County	Public	99.600,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	99.600,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	99.600,00	20,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	Yes Yes, the PP will implement activities in the free market through the public procurement procedures according to national law and PP rules
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No No, only public procurement procedure will be envisaged
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 10	
Partner number	10
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Javna Ustanova RERA SD za koordinaciju i razvoj Splitsko-dalmatinske županije
Name of the organisation in english	Public Institution RERA SD for coordination and development od Split Dalmatia County
Organisation abbreviation	RERA S.D
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Domovinskog rata 2 21100 Split
Homepage	www.rera.hr
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	40887282015
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	40887282015
PEC address	info@rera.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	891314280
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Jozo Sarač
Contact person	Mr Ivo Benzon
Email	ivo.benzon@rera.hr
Telephone no.	+38598264833
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

PI RERA S.D. is a regional development agency and an accredited regional coordinator and performs tasks of public interest, with the aim of effective coordination and stimulation of regional development in the area of Split-Dalmatia County. RERA SD is interdisciplinary institution established by Split-Dalmatia County for preparation and implementation of projects related to the regional development. organized into 5 departments , employs 39 persons. Our employees closely cooperate with Split Dalmatia County's departments on a daily basis, The employees are highly educated and have multidisciplinary knowledge and rich experience gained by working on numerous EU projects. Having prepared and implemented EU funded projects, RERA S.D. established strong database and network with stakeholders in SD County, good cooperation on University level (Faculty of Economics / Department for tourism,; Faculty of electrical engineering, mechanical and naval architecture, University Department of Marine Studies, etc.), Croatian Chamber of Economy, scientific institutions at national level (Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries Split), Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas in Split-Dalmatia County, SMEs, NGOs ...

PI RERA S.D. participated or still participating in more than 60 EU projects and has vaste experience in the fishery and aquaculture sector, having participated in many EU projects related to sustainable fishery and aquaculture, circular economy, marine litter management, climate change monitoring, sustainable tourism. Some of them are:

DORY - Capitalization actions for Adriatic marine environment protection and ecosystem based management.

www.italy-croatia.eu/web/dory

FISHNOWASTE - Waste reduction and management in fishing ports of the Adriatic Sea to promote sustainable fisheries.

<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/fishnowaste>

DEFISHGEAR – Derelict fishing gear management system in the ADRIATIC REGION. www.defishgear.net

ML–REPAIR (REducing and Preventing, an integrated Approach to Marine Litter Management in the Adriatic Sea).

www.italy-croatia.eu/web/ml-repair

ADRIREEF - Innovative exploitation of Adriatic Reefs in order to strengthen blue economy.

<https://www.italy-croatia.eu/web/adrireef>

ARIEL - Promoting small scale fisheries and aquaculture transnational networking in Adriatic-Ionian Macroregion.

www.ariel.adrioninterreg.eu

PRIZEFISH - Piloting of eco-innovative fishery supply-chains to market added-value Adriatic fish products.

www.italy-croatia.eu/web/prizefish

FAIRSEA - Fisheries in the Adriatic region a shared ecosystem approach.

www.italy-croatia.eu/web/fairsea

ARGOS - Shared Governance of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Activities as Leverage to Protect Marine

Resources in the Adriatic Sea.

www.italy-croatia.eu/web/argos

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

RERA SD project team will participate in day to day project management, coordination and internal communication to perform smooth technical and financial implementation from project start.

RERA S.D will participate in all project work package, starting from the desk analyses and field research, focusing on Monitoring of shellfish in Kaštela Bay - Species, areas, protection, hazard/risk assessment from invasive and allochthonous (non-native) species; Assessing the impact of mariculture on ichthyofaunal diversity in coastal Adriatic waters; Management of the special marine reserve (MPA) - Stupišće, monitoring of ichthyofauna and benthos Stupišće - biodiversity and non-native and locally absent species and

Development of a joint (IT-CRO) methodology for identifying, or proposing a marine protected area or zone of strict protection in the sea (NO TAKE zone) to the stakeholder's network creation, pilot testing and transferability of the project results. RERA SD will participate in the work of the Adriatic Advisory Committee.

Together with Zadar County and the Development Agency of Sibenik-Knin County, RERA SD will organise a Cross-border training lab and an exchange of experiences between Croatian and Italian operators. Croatia will also participate in cross-border study visit to Italy.

RERA S.D. will be responsible for implementing its project communication and visibility activities (e.g., organizing local events, engaging stakeholders, organizing the thematic round table, capacity-building workshops, participating at external events, and preparing the materials for the replicability of results).

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	426.600,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	106.650,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	533.250,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
RERA S.D	Public	106.650,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	106.650,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	106.650,00	20,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No NO
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 11	
Partner number	11
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Institut za vode Josip Juraj Strossmayer
Name of the organisation in english	Josip Juraj Strossmayer Water Institute
Organisation abbreviation	IZV-JJS
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Grad Zagreb (HR05)
NUTS 3	Grad Zagreb (HR050)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Ulica grada Vukovara 220 10000 Zagreb
Homepage	https://institutjjs.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	M.72.11
VAT number (if applicable)	04716643151
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No
Tax number	04716643151

Legal and financial information	
PEC address	institut@institutjjs.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Ph.D. Mario Šiljeg
Contact person	Ph.D. Igor Stanković
Email	Igor.stankovic@institutjjs.hr
Telephone no.	+385 1 6547 579
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
The Josip Juraj Strossmayer Water Institute is a public institution that carries out national water quality monitoring, including monitoring of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters (rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters) and groundwater. Water quality monitoring not only provides data for effective water management, but also data that can be used for nature conservation and environmental protection, as well as an overview of the condition of habitat. Water quality monitoring supports biodiversity by ensuring that aquatic ecosystems remain healthy and balanced. By tracking pollutants, nutrients, and oxygen levels, it helps prevent harmful conditions like eutrophication, which can disrupt species populations. Early detection of contaminants allows for timely interventions, protecting sensitive species from habitat degradation. Monitoring also provides data on ecosystem health, guiding conservation efforts and policy decisions. Ultimately, maintaining clean water fosters diverse and thriving aquatic life, supporting overall biodiversity. Priority substances in water are chemicals identified as posing significant risks to aquatic environments and human health. Monitoring these substances is crucial to prevent pollution that can harm ecosystems and contaminate drinking water sources. By regulating their levels, authorities can mitigate long-term environmental damage and ensure water quality standards are met. These substances, often including heavy metals, pesticides, and industrial chemicals, can accumulate in the food chain, threatening biodiversity. Addressing priority substances is essential for safeguarding water bodies and promoting sustainable environmental practices. Water Institute was established in 2022 and as an institution it has no experience, but its employees have experience in the implementation of projects financed from ERFF, LIFE program, Horizon 2020 and EU Twinning.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

Water quality monitoring supports biodiversity by ensuring that aquatic ecosystems remain healthy and balanced. By tracking pollutants, nutrients, and oxygen levels, it helps prevent harmful conditions like eutrophication, which can disrupt species populations. Early detection of contaminants allows for timely interventions, protecting sensitive species from habitat degradation. Monitoring also provides data on ecosystem health, guiding conservation efforts and policy decisions. Ultimately, maintaining clean water fosters diverse and thriving aquatic life, supporting overall biodiversity.

Priority substances in water are chemicals identified as posing significant risks to aquatic environments and human health. Monitoring these substances is crucial to prevent pollution that can harm ecosystems and contaminate drinking water sources. By regulating their levels, authorities can mitigate long-term environmental damage and ensure water quality standards are met. These substances, often including heavy metals, pesticides, and industrial chemicals, can accumulate in the food chain, threatening biodiversity. Addressing priority substances is essential for safeguarding water bodies and promoting sustainable environmental practices.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	375.969,12	80,00%
Partner contribution	93.992,28	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	469.961,40	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
IZV-JJS	Public	93.992,28	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	93.992,28	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	93.992,28	20,00%

State Aid**State aid criteria self-check**

Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?

1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?

No NO

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 12	
Partner number	12
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Javna ustanova Razvojna agencija Šibensko-kninske županije
Name of the organisation in english	Public institution Development agency of Sibenik-Knin County
Organisation abbreviation	PI DA SKC
Department / unit / division	
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Šibensko-kninska županija (HR034)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Narodnog preporoda 4 2200 Šibenik
Homepage	https://www.rra-sibenik.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	
NUTS 2	
NUTS 3	
Street, House number, Postal code, City	
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Sectoral agency
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	M.70.22
VAT number (if applicable)	21715496907
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	21715496907
PEC address	rra@rra-sibenik.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	911771483
Contact	
Legal representative	Mrs Biljana Gulin
Contact person	Mrs Katarina Golubić Pauk
Email	katarina.golubic-pauk@rra-sibenik.hr
Telephone no.	+38598410013
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	

Motivation

PI DA SKC is a regional coordinator with tremendous impact and more than 20 years of experience in the preparation and implementation/management of projects, especially Interreg, covering project topics regarding climate changes, sea protection and aquaculture, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources, employment and social inclusion, natural and cultural heritage and sustainable tourism. Currently, PI DA SKC implements more than eight projects and in the last couple of years, it has provided technical assistance in preparing and implementing over 70 projects worth over 60 million euros of other public institutions/public bodies in Šibenik-Knin County. PI DA SKC's competencies and expertise are therefore perfectly aligned with its role as a partner in this project. Overall, PI DA SKC's thematic and territorial competencies make it a valuable partner for the project, enabling it to contribute effectively to its implementation.

The PI DA SKC has significant experience in cross-border cooperation regarding EU countries and projects mostly funded by the EU (Interreg), experience in preparation and implementation of projects financed on a national level (projects regarding local public infrastructure for cities and municipalities) and also has experience with projects funded by EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

Agency expertise in EU/International projects - significant ones:

"Reconstruction and equipping of entrepreneurial business infrastructure - Adriatic Business Center - ABC", 2017.-2021., European Regional Development Fund, total budget 2.653.060,67 €;

"COMPETE PLAMET" - "Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs in metal and plastic sector through the development of knowledge NETWORK and common business infrastructure", 2018.-2021., INTERREG IPA CBC HR-BIH-CG, total budget 1.596.027,48 € (agency's budget 851.156,08 €);

"ARGOS - ShARed Governance of Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture activities as a leverage to protect marine resources in the Adriatic Sea", Interreg Italy - Croatia - strategic projects 2020.-2023., total budget 5.698.939,88 € (agency's budget 283.396,77 €);

"TAKE IT SLOW - Smart and slow tourism that supports the Adriatic heritage for tomorrow", Interreg Italy - Croatia - strategic projects 2020.-2023., total budget 3.747.457,41 € (agency's budget 286.164,64 €);

"FIRESPELL - Fostering Improved Reaction of cross-border Emergency Services and Prevention Increasing safety Level)", Interreg Italy - Croatia - strategic projects 2020.-2023., total budget 16,417,280 € (agency's budget 741,722.08 €).

The PI DA SKC cooperates with competent ministries, institutions, educational and scientific organizations at the national and regional level. The agency's competencies (project management and knowledge in the field of environmental protection, sea protection and aquaculture,) are therefore perfectly aligned with its role as a partner in this project.

What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?

Motivation

As a Project Partner, the PI DA SKC will be responsible for all the project main activities planned to be carried out in Šibenik-Knin County, the work will include, but will not be limited to:

monitoring biodiversity of defined species at the project pilot site;

environmental protection and sustainability of marine natural resources by implementation of pilot action regarding preservation of healthy ecosystem: i.e. specialized equipment for monitoring /maintenance and protection of marine biodiversity;

guidelines/studies/action plans for protection of marine diversity and sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture sector;

knowledge share (trainings/educational activities) with relevant stakeholders in Adriatic area;

organization and participation in events for the further dissemination of project activities and results (promotional activities).

The PI DA SKC pilot site activities within this project proposal are planned on the enclosed area of the Krka lake/Prokljan lake in Sibenik-Knin County, a location that includes an ecological network area significant for species and habitat types of the Krka Estuary. It is an area naturally rich in biodiversity: fishes and especially oysters are cultivated here, which makes it extremely important for the entire economy of this region. In addition to the already mentioned species, natural habitats of some other shellfish such as small scallops can be found.

Within this project, PI DA SKC will benefit by participating in solving common challenges through cross-border cooperation and by seeking joint solutions for protection of marine resources, which have positive effects on both environmental and socio-economic levels.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	412.000,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	103.000,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	515.000,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
PI DA SKC	Public	103.000,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	103.000,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	103.000,00	20,00%

State Aid

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?	No The project applicant will not implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which the market exists.
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No There are no activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with a view to making a profit.
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No The project applicant does not plan to carry out the economic activities on its own
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No The project applicant, as well as any other operator not included in the project as a project partner, or the target audience will not gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

B.1 Project Partner 13	
Partner number	13
Partner role	PP
Name of the organisation in original language	Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija
Name of the organisation in english	Dubrovnik-Neretva County
Organisation abbreviation	DNR
Department / unit / division	Department of entrepreneurship, tourism and maritime affairs
Partner main address	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija (HR037)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Pred Dvorom 1 20 000 Dubrovnik
Homepage	https://www.dnz.hr/
Address of department / unit / division (if applicable)	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Dubrovačko-neretvanska županija (HR037)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Pred Dvorom 1 20 000 Dubrovnik
Legal and financial information	
Type of partner	Regional public authority
Subtype of partner	
Legal status	Public
Sector of activity at NACE group level	0.84.11
VAT number (if applicable)	32082115313
Is your organisation entitled to recover VAT based on national legislation for the activities implemented in the project?	No

Legal and financial information	
Tax number	32082115313
PEC address	zupan@dubrovnik-neretva.hr
PIC (from EC Participant Register)	
Contact	
Legal representative	Mr Blaž Pezo
Contact person	Mr Ivo Klaić
Email	ivo.klaic@dubrovnik-neretva.hr
Telephone no.	0038520351463
Motivation	
Do you possess the necessary competencies and experience needed to participate in the project?	
The Dubrovnik region and Ston will significantly contribute to the implementation of the strategic goals for our region, which are environmental protection, biodiversity preservation and the promotion of fishing in a sustainable manner. Dubrovnik-Neretva County performs numerous activities in the capacity of a regional administrative institution. He participates in the work of tourist boards and is the founder of 4 port authorities, the Regional Development Agency Dunea doo and the Center for Entrepreneurship doo, through which EU funds are used for the implementation of projects and incentives for entrepreneurship. All project activities will be carried out by the Administration for Entrepreneurship, Tourism and Maritime Affairs. Our Department carries out the process of awarding concessions on the maritime property, and the aspect of aquaculture, biodiversity and species conservation is very important to us in order to preserve shellfish farming, which is a tradition in the Maloston Bay. Dubrovnik-Neretva County is the southernmost coastal county in Croatia, covering 1/4 of the national marine area, with more than 60% of the area under Natura 2000 and 40 natural protected areas. The county has rich experience in implementing European projects and has successfully implemented numerous projects in cooperation with the development agency. We have financial and human resources for the realization of projects. In the last period, the administrative department implemented six eu-projects: EA SEA-WAY, EA EASY CONNECTING, ALTER ECO PLUS, MIMOSA, ARGOS and CYROS as leading partners and partners.	
What is the role (contribution and main activities) of your organisation in the project?	

Motivation

The benefit of participating in the project would be solving common challenges through cross-border cooperation in order to achieve sustainable development and life quality in general by seeking joint solutions through institutional cooperation, protection of fish and marine resources in the program area, exchange of experiences and practices, implementing joint actions, improving policies and management with the aim of ensuring the territorial connectivity of the cross-border area. This will directly respond to the reduction of pressure from fisheries and aquaculture activities on the marine environment, preservation of biodiversity, preservation of domestic species and monitoring of invasive species. The project deals with the sustainability of fisheries and aquaculture, contributes to the preservation of the status of the Adriatic resources, which have positive effects spillover effect on both environmental and socio-economic levels.

Co-financing

Source	Amount	Percentage
ERDF	377.200,00	80,00%
Partner contribution	94.300,00	20,00%
Partner total eligible budget	471.500,00	100,00%

Origin of partner contribution

Source of contribution	Legal status of contribution	Amount	% of total partner budget
DNR	Public	94.300,00	20,00%

Total

Sub-total public contribution	94.300,00	20,00%
Sub-total automatic public contribution	0,00	0,00%
Sub-total private contribution	0,00	0,00%
Total	94.300,00	20,00%

State Aid**State aid criteria self-check**

Criterion I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?

1. Will the project applicant implement activities and/or offer goods/services for which a market exists?

No NO

State aid criteria self-check	
Criterium I: Is the partner involved in economic activities through the project?	
2. Are there activities/goods/services that could have been undertaken by an operator with the view to making profit (even if this is not the applicant's intention)?	No NO
Criterium II: Does the partner receive an undue advantage in the framework of the project?	
1. Does the project applicant plan to carry out the economic activities on its own i.e. not to select an external service provider via public procurement procedures for example?	No NO
2. Will the project applicant, any other operator not included in the project as a project partner or the target audience gain any benefits from its project economic activities, not received in the normal course of business (i.e. not received in the absence of funding granted through the project)?	No NO
Result of State aid criteria self-check:	No risk of state aid
State aid relevant activities	
GBER scheme / de minimis	

Associated organisations

Number	Status	Name of the organisation in original language	Name of the responsible project partner
1	Active	Razvojno inovacijski centar AluTech	PI DA SKC
2	Active	PLATEFORME TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DE L'INNOVATION DE L'AQUACULTURE EUROPÉENNE (ASBL.)	RMAR

Razvojno inovacijski centar AluTech A01	
Partner number	PP12
Name of the organisation in original language	Razvojno inovacijski centar AluTech
Name of the organisation in english	Innovation Development Center AluTech
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Šibensko-kninska županija (HR034)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	Velimira Skorpika 6 22000 Sibenik
Legal representative	Mr Zoran Belak
Contact person	Mr Zoran Belak
Email	zoran.belak@alutech.hr
Telephone no.	+38522200474
	Innovation Development Center – AluTech is a public institution specialised in supporting applied research, technological development, and stakeholder engagement in the fields of aquaculture and maritime innovation, a research centre established by Šibenik-Knin County, responsible for strengthening innovative research capacities for the development of industrial products with an emphasis on maritime activities, the light metal industry, and other related activities and products in Šibenik-Knin County. AluTech is also the managing body of the County's Mariculture Development Center. Since the PI DA SKC pilot area/site is located on the enclosed area of the Krka Lake

Razvojno inovacijski centar AluTech AO1	
Partner role	/Prokljan Lake in Sibenik-Knin County, a location that includes an ecological network area significant for species and habitat types of the Krka Estuary (fishes and especially oysters are cultivated here) the advisory and beneficiary and end-user role of the AluTech, as an associated partner within the project itself is very important. As an Associated Strategic Partner (ASP) to PP12, AluTech will play a key operational role in the capitalization and long-term transferability of BRAVE project results. Its contributions are focused on ensuring the applicability and re-use of outputs in the local and cross-border contexts. These include: - Validating tools and methodologies developed within WP2 (e.g. environmental monitoring indicators, technical protocols) based on local sector experience and needs; - Hosting and facilitating stakeholder consultations with mariculture actors and public institutions to assess the usability and transfer potential of project results; - Supporting alignment with regional strategies and EU macro-regional frameworks, including inputs to national aquaculture and environmental policy development; - Disseminating BRAVE outputs through established regional and institutional networks, and promoting their re-use in the Adriatic mariculture and environmental monitoring sectors; - Strengthening synergies with other EU-funded initiatives and programmes active in the area, by facilitating knowledge transfer and best practice exchange. Although AluTech will not receive any direct funding from the project, its experts will participate in BRAVE events and technical activities, particularly those related to aquaculture innovation and sustainability. All related travel and accommodation expenses will be incurred and paid by PP12 under the External expertise and services cost category, in line with applicable national rules. By engaging AluTech in this role, the BRAVE project ensures that its outputs are not only validated and promoted locally, but also effectively replicated and sustained beyond the project duration, reinforcing its contribution to the resilience of the Adriatic region.

PLATEFORME TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DE L'INNOVATION DE L'AQUACULTURE EUROPEENNE (ASBL.) AO2	
Partner number	PP4
Name of the organisation in original language	PLATEFORME TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DE L' INNOVATION DE L'AQUACULTURE EUROPEENNE (ASBL.)
Name of the organisation in english	European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform
Country	Belgique/België (BE)
NUTS 2	Prov. Liège (BE33)
NUTS 3	Arr. Liège (BE332)
Street, House number, Postal code, City	SQUARE DE LA PAIX 28 B-4031 LIÈGE (ANGLEUR)
Legal representative	Mr David Bassett
Contact person	Mr David Bassett
Email	david@eatip.eu
Telephone no.	+32 (0) 4 338 29 95
	EATiP is an international, non-profit, European Technology & Innovation Platform, dedicated to developing, supporting and promoting aquaculture (and especially and specifically technology and innovation in aquaculture in Europe). EATiP has been designed to include all members of the European aquaculture value chain, from suppliers through to producers to processors within the profession, accompanied by research groups, academia and key representative organisations and civil society groups. EATiP has a pan-European membership, including a network of regional or national Mirror Platform clusters. These clusters provide a total organisational reach of c. 850 members. Cluster members include the Baltic, North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea basins, alongside freshwater catchments. Given its mission and geographical coverage, EATiP can provide valuable insights for the implementation of BRAVE and the durability and transferability of results during the project lifetime and beyond, thanks to its 14 mirror platforms that act as intermediaries to

PLATEFORME TECHNOLOGIQUE ET DE L'INNOVATION DE L'AQUACULTURE EUROPÉENNE (ASBL.) AO2	
Partner role	gather knowledge on the converging opinions and priorities of stakeholders. EATiP will contribute to the data collection protocol for the aquaculture sector, the Joint Action Plan (WP1), the stakeholder engagement process (WP1,2,3) and the submission of the BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding (1.5). EATiP will also support the BRAVE communication and dissemination activities (WP1, WP2, WP3) through its channels. EATiP has been designed to include all members of the European aquaculture value chain, from suppliers through to producers to processors within the profession, accompanied by research groups, academia and key representative organisations and civil society groups. EATiP has a pan-European membership, including a network of regional or national Mirror Platform clusters. These clusters provide a total organisational reach of c. 850 members. Cluster members include the Baltic, North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea basins, alongside freshwater catchments. In addition to pan European project engagement (including EU Mission Ocean (Horizon Europe) funded projects looking at Marine Multi Use and low impact, zero carbon aquaculture) EATiP manages the TSSP Partnership for Circular Smart Aquaculture. This TSSP Partnership seeks to foster and promote networking and innovation transfer for circular aquaculture, including minimising environmental impacts, valorisation of side streams and by-products, nutrient recovery and consideration of ecosystem services.

C - Project description

C.1 Project overall objective

Below, you can see the Programme priority specific objective your project will contribute to (chosen in section A.1.).

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

Project overall objective

Now think about your main objective – what do you aim to achieve by the end of your project? Remember your project needs to contribute to the programme's objective.

Your objective should:

- be realistic and achievable by the end of the project, or shortly after;
- specify who needs project results and in which territory;
- be measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Protect the rich biodiversity in the programme area by promoting scientific knowledge, increasing the efficiency of monitoring and research, and implementing innovative management strategies to improve the governance system from a transboundary perspective. This will help to predict the effects of biodiversity' policies, better understand the impact of invasive species and promote sustainable marine, coastal and lagoon activities to ultimately ensure a resilient and thriving ecosystem.

C.2 Project relevance and context

C.2.1 What are the common territorial challenge(s) that will be tackled by the project?

The applicant should demonstrate the real need for the project in respect to the identified challenges taking into consideration the challenges reported in the IP 2021-2027 (chapter 2. Priorities and in the Programme Intervention Logic document). In case a SO has more than one identified challenge it is not obligatory to target all of them. The focus should be on the quality and the effectiveness of the intended impact of project activities on the challenge/s.

The Adriatic Sea faces several interconnected challenges that this project aims to address:

1. **Invasive Alien Species (IAS):** Non-native species are wreaking havoc on the Adriatic Sea. These intruders disrupt delicate ecosystems, outcompete native wildlife, and introduce harmful diseases. This not only harms marine biodiversity but also jeopardises the livelihoods of those who depend on the sea, such as fishermen and aquaculture businesses.
2. **Biodiversity Loss:** The Adriatic Sea's rich biodiversity is dwindling. A perfect storm of factors, including invasive species, climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, and overfishing, is driving countless species to the brink of extinction. This loss undermines the health of marine ecosystems and the services they provide, such as clean water, coastal protection, and food security.
3. **Climate Change Impacts:** As a hotspot for climate change, the Adriatic Sea is facing increasingly severe environmental challenges. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and more frequent extreme weather events are altering marine ecosystems and disrupting delicate ecological balances. These changes pose significant risks to coastal communities and economies.
4. **Data Fragmentation:** A lack of standardised data collection and management hinders our ability to understand and address the complex challenges facing the Adriatic Sea. Inconsistent data formats and fragmented databases make it difficult to track environmental trends and develop effective conservation strategies.
5. **Limited Public Awareness and Engagement:** The general public, including local communities, businesses, and government agencies, often lacks awareness of the environmental threats facing the Adriatic Sea. To effectively protect this valuable resource, it is essential to raise public awareness, foster a sense of stewardship, and engage stakeholders in conservation efforts.
6. **Regulatory Challenges:** Diverse national regulations and standards hinder cross-border cooperation and data sharing. This makes it difficult to establish a unified approach to monitoring, assessing, and managing the Adriatic Sea's environmental health.
7. **Balancing Competing Interests:** The Adriatic Sea faces a delicate balancing act between human activities and environmental conservation. Sustainable management requires finding practical solutions that address the needs of various stakeholders, including fishermen, tourists, and local communities, while preserving the sea's ecological integrity.

C.2.2 What is the new CB solution proposed by the project?

In this section applicant should describe which are the new cross-border solutions outlined by the proposal and explain why the solutions go beyond the existing practice in the sector/Programme area /participating Countries.

New solution that will be developed and existing solution that will be adopted, implemented and integrated during this project in order to foster innovative sustainable strategies for the Adriatic regions will concern:

1. Data Collection and Harmonization:

Comprehensive Data Gathering: We will systematically collect data from various sources, including past studies, ongoing monitoring programs, and funded projects, to create a comprehensive dataset on environmental parameters.

Data Standardization: This data will be standardised and harmonised to ensure consistency and comparability across different regions and time periods. This will facilitate cross-border analysis and the development of informed decision-making tools.

Beyond Existing Practices:

Lack of Integration: Previous projects often lack a holistic approach to data integration and analysis.

Limited Stakeholder Involvement: Policymakers, fisheries and aquaculture operators, researchers, and the general public are not always fully involved in data collection and decision-making processes.

Need for Open Access: A common, open-access platform is essential to share data and knowledge among all interested parties.

2. Integrated Monitoring Systems:

Environmental DNA (eDNA) Analysis: We will use advanced eDNA techniques to detect invasive species and monitor biodiversity changes in the Adriatic Sea.

Multi-Parameter Buoy Networks: A network of buoys equipped with sensors will continuously monitor key physicochemical parameters, providing real-time environmental data.

Remote Sensing: Satellite and ROV technology will be employed to monitor large-scale environmental indicators, such as water temperature, chlorophyll concentration, and species identification.

Citizen Science: By engaging the public, we will gather valuable data on coastal, lagoon and marine conditions, expanding the reach of our monitoring efforts.

Beyond Existing Practices:

Cross-Border Collaboration: The Advisory Adriatic Committee, composed of experts, scientists, policymakers, and sectoral fisheries and aquaculture representatives, will define common protocols for data collection and sharing.

Knowledge Sharing: Workshops and questionnaires will be used to disseminate knowledge and engage stakeholders in the development of sustainable management strategies.

3. Data Visualization and Web-Application User-Friendly Outputs:

Data Portal: A user-friendly digital platform will be developed to visualise and share the collected data, making it accessible to a wide range of users.

Web-Application: A web-application will be implemented to alert stakeholders about potential environmental risks, enabling timely interventions and promoting sustainable practices.

Beyond Existing Practices:

Targeted Data Dissemination: Data will be presented in different formats to suit the needs of various stakeholders, including experts and the general public.

Policy-Relevant Insights: The project will generate actionable insights and recommendations for policymakers, facilitating the implementation of sustainable management strategies in the Adriatic region, with the added value of develop similar solutions in other regions facing comparable issues and threads.

C.2.3 What added value does cross-border cooperation bring to your project?

The applicant should demonstrate: a) why cooperation between Italy and Croatia is important for the topic addressed; b) the result cannot (or only to some extent) be achieved without cooperation between Italy and Croatia; c) the effective CB nature of each activity proposed; d) the benefit deriving from cooperation for all PPs and for both side of the border.

Importance of Italy-Croatia Cooperation for the topic addressed:

1. Shared Environmental Challenges: Both Italy and Croatia face similar marine environmental threats, including biodiversity loss and the spread of invasive species, which are often linked to changes in key oceanographic parameters.
2. Regulatory Hurdles: Diverse national regulations and standards can hinder cross-border cooperation and data sharing, making it difficult to establish a unified approach to monitor, assess, and manage the Adriatic Sea's environmental health.

The project results can't be achieved without cooperation between Italy and Croatia, so we will set up cross-border activities based on:

1. Shared Protocols: By developing shared protocols for data definition, collection, and sharing, the two countries can ensure consistency and comparability of data across borders.
2. Digital Platform: A common digital platform will facilitate data exchange and analysis, enabling the development of joint strategies for addressing shared environmental challenges.
3. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: Organizing workshops and training sessions will promote knowledge sharing and capacity building among stakeholders from both countries, fostering a sense of collaboration and ownership.
4. Holistic Approach: By involving all relevant stakeholders, including policymakers, scientists, industry representatives, and the public, the project can adopt a holistic approach to marine environmental management.

Key to Sustainable Management:

Effective cross-border cooperation is essential for achieving sustainable management of the Adriatic Sea. By working together, Italy and Croatia can:

1. Enhance Monitoring and Assessment: Improve the monitoring of key environmental indicators and assess the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems.
2. Promote Innovative Solutions: Develop and implement innovative solutions, such as advanced monitoring technologies and sustainable management practices.
3. Strengthen Policy and Decision-Making: Inform policy decisions and promote the adoption of evidence-based measures to protect the marine environment.
4. Foster Public Awareness and Engagement: Raise public awareness about marine environmental issues and encourage citizen participation in conservation efforts.

C.2.4 Who will benefit from your project outputs?

Choose from the dropdown menu the target groups addressed by the proposal. In "specification" column (see "Point of Attention") applicant should: a) identify TG needs b) Indicate with details how the selected TG will benefit from a specific project activity c) quantify the target values (e.g. 50 schools, 20 NGOs). For TG "General public", individual people are counted while for other TGs the individual organisations are counted. Please avoid double counting: one organisation can be counted only once.

Target Group	Specification
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Target Group	Specification
Local public authority	Local authorities in this project are defined as the governmental bodies at the municipal level in Italy and Croatia that have jurisdiction over coastal areas and marine environments. These authorities are essential partners in the co-creation and implementation of a replicable model for the sustainable management of alien species in the Adriatic Sea and other vulnerable marine areas. By targeting local authorities, the project aims to: - Strengthen their capacity to address the challenges posed by invasive species. - Foster collaboration between different levels of government and stakeholders. - Promote the adoption of effective management practices. - Ensure the long-term sustainability of conservation efforts. In particular, local Authorities could take advantage of the Act. 1.4 "Memorandum of Understanding", which aims to establish a common understanding of the goals and priorities for marine and coastal protection in the Adriatic and consolidate the strategic steps towards an integrated and feasible strategy for collaborative and integrated marine and coastal management in the Adriatic regions within and beyond the project lifetime. During the project lifetime, the aim is to involve not less than 30 local authorities.
Regional public authority	Regional authorities play a key role in the complex planning process that integrates maritime spatial planning, environmental and biodiversity conservation, and fisheries management. As part of the project outputs, the organisation of significant cross-border events has been selected to facilitate discussions among regional authorities on identifying the most effective joint approaches to tackle these complex challenges. In addition to high-level cross-border events (Act 3.4), there are numerous other activities that will be organised to further engage regional authorities in the Adriatic Sea biodiversity project, as thematic workshops and seminars, focused on specific aspects of maritime spatial planning, biodiversity conservation, and fisheries management and study visits to marine protected areas, research centres and other relevant sites. During the project lifetime, we will engage a minimum of 11 regional authorities.

Target Group	Specification
National public authority	National Authorities potentially involved in this project include: - Environment Ministries: Responsible for environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and marine management. - Fisheries Ministries: Overseeing fisheries management and regulations, including small-scale coastal fishing and aquaculture. - Research Institutions: Conducting scientific research on marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and environmental change. - Coastal Zone Management Authorities: Responsible for managing coastal areas and addressing issues like pollution, erosion, and development. - Maritime Authorities: Involved in maritime safety, navigation, and marine spatial planning. During the project lifetime, the aim is to involve not less than 6 National Public Authority (Activities 1.4 - 3.4)
Sectoral agency	Sectoral agencies are organisations, institutions, or government departments that specialise in a specific field or industry. They play a crucial role in international cooperation projects by providing expertise, resources, and regulatory frameworks. In the context of the proposed project, relevant sectoral agencies might include: - Environmental Protection Agencies: Responsible for overseeing environmental regulations, monitoring pollution, and conserving natural resources. - Fisheries and Aquaculture Authorities: Manage fisheries and aquaculture activities, ensuring sustainable practices and protecting marine ecosystems. - Marine Research Institutes: Conduct scientific research on marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and climate change impacts. - Maritime Safety Agencies: Oversee maritime safety, navigation, and pollution prevention. - Coastal Zone Management Authorities: Manage coastal areas, addressing issues like erosion, pollution, and habitat loss. - Data Management and Sharing Platforms: Facilitate the collection, analysis, and dissemination of marine data. International Organisations: Promote international cooperation and coordinate efforts to address global environmental challenges. These agencies would collaborate to achieve the project's goals by sharing data, coordinating monitoring activities, developing joint strategies, and implementing policies to protect the Adriatic Sea's biodiversity and ecosystem health. During the project lifetime, the aim is to involve not less than 10 Sectoral Agencies (Activities: Act. 1.4 - Act. 1.5 - Act. 2.1 - Act. 2.2 - Act. 2.4 - Act. 3.1 - Act. 3.2 - Act. 3.4)

Target Group	Specification
Higher education and research organisations	The Activity 3.4 focuses on raising public awareness, promoting environmental education, and disseminating project results to a wide range of stakeholders. In particular, PP5 will organise Summer School for increasing the knowledge in environmental issues related to BRAVE project objectives, involving university students/PhD and policy makers. Furthermore, several PPs will produce education materials, manuals, and promotion materials. Within this Activity, the aim is to involve not less than 3 higher education and research organisations.
SME	SSMEs in fishing and aquaculture are small-scale businesses operating within the fishing and aquaculture industries. They typically employ a limited number of people and have a relatively small operational scale compared to larger corporations. These SMEs play a crucial role in local economies, particularly in coastal and rural areas, contributing to food security, job creation, and sustainable resource management. In the context of the BRAVE project, these SMEs could be involved in various activities (Act. 1.5 - Act. 2.3 - Act. 2.4 - Act. 3.3) Within this Activity, the aim is to involve no less than 10 SMEs. By engaging with these SMEs, our project can directly impact their operations and contribute to the overall sustainability of the Adriatic Sea ecosystem.
EGTC	The European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) Adriatic-Ionian Interregional Group and Cross-border Interregional Group are both organisations that facilitate cooperation between different regions and countries in the Adriatic-Ionian region. They could potentially be involved in the project BRAVE aiming to enhance species knowledge and protect biodiversity in the Adriatic Sea, as they have the capacity to coordinate cross-border efforts, share data, and implement innovative solutions. During the project lifetime, the aim is to involve not less than 2 EGCT (Activities 1.4 - 3.4).
General public	These are some of the activities that the general public can be involved in: 1. Citizen Science Initiatives 2. Educational Outreach and Awareness Campaigns: 3. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration: 4. Public Participation in Decision-Making: 5. Communication and Dissemination: By implementing these strategies, we can effectively engage the general public and build a strong sense of ownership and support for our cross-border cooperation project. This will help ensure the long-term success of efforts to protect the Adriatic Sea and its biodiversity. Activities: (1.5 - 2.3 - 2.4 - 3.4) - General Public: 5.000 persons.

C.2.5 How does the project contribute to wider strategies and policies?

a) Describe the contribution to specified EUSAIR macro-regional strategy pillar objectives and flagships, as specified in the ANNEX 1 - Thematic Descriptive Sheets (describe how you intend to involve the Pillar Coordinators & National Coordinators in a systematic way (e.g. meetings, info)). b) If applicable, describe the contribution to wider strategies on all three policy levels (EU/national /regional), especially as specified in the ANNEX 1 - Thematic Descriptive Sheets

Strategy	Contribution
EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region	BRAVE is aligned with: - Pillar 3 since it enhances species knowledge, supports ecosystemic functionality, and addresses biodiversity loss in the Adriatic Sea and Topic 3.1 since it's expected to design and implement common protocols for collecting novel data on key target species that characterise the whole project area's biodiversity and affect productive activities, to proceed to a step forward in the management of protected areas and of the unwanted effects on the whole Adriatic of major pollutants, alien and invasive species, overfishing on marine and lagoons ecosystems. Under a standardised approach, BRAVE will test and deploy technological and nature-based solutions to mitigate the climate change effects on environmental status while preserving the coastal communities' livelihood. These strategic and operational measures aim to protect the Adriatic wide biodiversity by valorising local diversities and sharing local capacities as transferable good practices within and outside the partnership area, and by pooling technical and practical knowledge. By addressing standardised monitoring, data collection, and innovative planning, BRAVE aligns with ICZM and MSP. By providing valuable data and transferable tools, BRAVE can support informed decision-making and sustainable development in coastal and marine areas also beyond the cooperation area. - Pillar 1, Topic 1.3: it foresees the development, sharing and uptake of data-driven insights in decision-making, contributing to an evidence-based governance in the Adriatic coastal and lagoons area. BRAVE partnership will support the sound implementation of conservation policies for a better marine environment management. BRAVE contributes to the EUSAIR horizontal topics, supporting the design and implementation of capacity building actions for the Adriatic key stakeholder and, thanks to its partnership composition, a quality and integrated governance of marine resources in the Adriatic area, overcoming the cross-border dimension.

Strategy	Contribution
European Green Deal	The BRAVE project aligns closely with the European Green Deal's goals of protecting biodiversity and promoting a sustainable blue economy in the Adriatic Sea. Our project is firmly rooted in the principles of the European Green Deal, with a particular focus on environmental and ocean priorities. By addressing the interconnected challenges of biodiversity loss and invasive species, we aim to foster sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems. Specifically, our project contributes to the Green Deal by: - Protecting biodiversity: Developing and sharing best practices for the sustainable management of coastal, marine, and protected areas, while also monitoring and addressing the delicate balance between biodiversity loss and invasive species proliferation. - Achieving clean and healthy oceans: Supporting the sustainability of traditional industries like fisheries and aquaculture by addressing environmental challenges such as climate change, invasive species, and biodiversity loss. - Fostering cross-border cooperation: Enhancing collaboration through data sharing and common monitoring approaches to tackle shared environmental challenges and build resilience. By addressing these key areas, BRAVE contributes to the overall goals of the European Green Deal, making the Adriatic Sea a more resilient, sustainable, and biodiverse marine environment.
Other	EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 Our project can significantly contribute to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 by addressing key challenges facing the Adriatic Sea, in particular with the following specific contributions: - Fisheries and Aquaculture Operators: By collaborating with local operators to enhance their practices, our project directly supports the strategy's goal of promoting sustainable food systems. Addressing biodiversity loss and the proliferation of invasive species through improved aquaculture methods aligns with the overall objective of halting biodiversity decline. - Coastal and Protected Area Restoration: our focus on restoring coastal and protected area ecosystems is crucial to achieving the strategy's target of restoring degraded ecosystems. By fostering cooperation between countries and implementing sustainable management practices, we will contribute to improving the overall ecological status of the Adriatic. Additionally, involving citizens and young people in these efforts is essential for building long-term support for biodiversity conservation.

C.2.6 Which synergies and complementarities with past or current EU and other projects or initiatives will the project make use of?

Project or Initiative	Synergy
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Project or Initiative	Synergy
ARGOS (IT-HR 2014-2020) Shared Governance of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Activities as Leverage to Protect Marine Resources in the Adriatic Sea	Our project will leverage the strong foundation laid by the ARGOS (IT-HR 2014-2020) project to further enhance the sustainable management of Adriatic marine resources. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Consolidating the Adriatic Advisory Committee (AAC): We will reinforce the AAC as a pivotal platform for coordinated action among Adriatic institutions involved in fisheries and aquaculture. 2. Fostering Institutional Dialogue: By strengthening institutional dialogue, we will promote a shared vision for sustainable and equitable management of Adriatic marine resources. 3. Promoting Sustainable Practices: We will support the development and adoption of environmentally friendly fishing and aquaculture techniques to minimise ecological impact. 4. Enhancing Knowledge Sharing: Through cross-border networks and capacity-building initiatives, we will facilitate the exchange of best practices and knowledge among sectoral operators. https://programming14-20.italy-croatia.eu/web/argos
MARLESS (IT-HR 2014-2020) MARine Litter cross-border awarenESS and innovation actions	Our project will build upon the valuable experiences and achievements of the MARLESS (IT-HR 2014-2020) project. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Advancing Monitoring and Prevention: We will continue the important work of monitoring marine pollution in coastal and protected areas, identifying pollution sources, and implementing effective prevention measures. 2. Developing Sustainable Solutions: We will explore innovative and sustainable solutions for managing marine pollution, including advanced monitoring technologies and community-based approaches. 3. Enhancing Citizen Awareness: We will build on MARLESS' success in raising public awareness about marine pollution and its impacts, empowering citizens to take action. 4. Encouraging Stakeholder Involvement: We will engage a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, policymakers, and industry representatives, to foster collaboration and drive sustainable change. https://programming14-20.italy-croatia.eu/web/marless

Project or Initiative	Synergy
BEST (IT-GR 2014-2020) Addressing joint Agro and Aqua-Biodiversity pressures Enhancing SuSTainable Rural Development	Our project will leverage the valuable insights and outcomes of the BEST (IT-GR 2014-2020) project to further promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable coastal and marine development. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Strengthening Community Engagement: We will continue to involve local stakeholders in cross-border initiatives, empowering them to actively participate in decision-making processes and contribute to sustainable solutions. 2. Promoting Innovative Technologies: We will explore and implement cutting-edge, low-impact technologies to enhance small fisheries and aquaculture practices, minimise environmental impact, and improve resource efficiency. 3. Enhancing Ecosystem Health: We will work to develop adaptable strategies to restore and preserve biodiversity in critical habitats, such as coastal areas, by implementing targeted conservation measures and habitat restoration projects. https://interregbest.eu/en/homepage/
CASCADE (IT-HR 2014-2020) CoASTal and marine waters integrated monitoring systems for ecosystems proteCtion AnD managemEnt	Our project will build upon the strong foundation established by the CASCADE (IT-HR 2014-2020) project to further advance the protection and sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Promoting Marine Literacy: We will continue to raise public awareness about the importance of marine ecosystems and the threats they face, fostering a sense of stewardship and responsibility. 2. Inspiring Cross-Border Collaboration: We will engage with local communities, policymakers, and stakeholders to promote cross-border cooperation and foster a shared vision for the future of the marine environment. 3. Strengthening Monitoring and Modelling Capabilities: We will enhance our capacity to monitor and model marine ecosystems, providing valuable insights into their health and dynamics. 4. Implementing Effective Management Strategies: We will apply integrated approaches, such as Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and Land-Sea Interaction (LSI), to ensure the sustainable use and protection of our coastal and marine resources. https://programming14-20.italy-croatia.eu/web/cascade

Project or Initiative	Synergy
ALIENA (IT-HR 2021-2027) ALLgning Efforts to control Non-indigenous species in the Adriatic sea	Our project will leverage the ongoing efforts of the ALIENA (IT-HR 2021-2027) project to further strengthen the protection of Adriatic marine biodiversity from invasive alien species. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Enhancing Invasive Species Monitoring and Response: We will collaborate with ALIENA to establish a comprehensive monitoring network to detect and track invasive alien species in the Adriatic Sea. 2. Prioritising Threat Assessment: By identifying high-risk alien species, we can focus our efforts on prevention, early detection, and rapid response. 3. Developing Alert Systems and Management Tools: We will contribute to the development of innovative web-application systems to alert stakeholders of potential invasions and facilitate response. 4. Informed Decision-Making: By providing decision-makers with up-to-date information and tools, we can support evidence-based management strategies. 5. Shared Protocols and Best Practices: We will work with ALIENA to refine and promote shared protocols for the detection, monitoring, and management of invasive alien species. 6. Raising Awareness and Capacity Building: We will collaborate to raise awareness among stakeholders, including fishermen, divers, and coastal managers, and to build their capacity to identify and report invasive species. https://www.italy-croatia.eu/it/web/aliena

Project or Initiative	Synergy
ADRIACLIM (IT-HR 2014-2020) Climate change information, monitoring and management tools for adaptation strategies in Adriatic coastal areas	Our project will build upon the valuable experiences and achievements of the ADRIACLIM (IT-HR 2014-2020) project to further advance environmental and climate change adaptation in the Adriatic region. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Strengthening Data Sharing and Interoperability: We will continue to promote the collection and sharing of high-quality, standardised climate data across the Adriatic region. 2. Interoperable Data Systems: We will work to enhance the interoperability of data systems, facilitating data exchange and analysis. 3. Enhanced Forecasting: We will work to improve environmental forecasting capabilities, providing timely and accurate information to support decision-making. 4. Informed Decision-Making: We will provide policymakers and stakeholders with up-to-date climate and environmental information to inform adaptation and mitigation strategies. 5. Resilient Coastal Communities: We will support the development of resilient coastal communities by identifying vulnerabilities and developing effective adaptation measures. https://programming14-20.italy-croatia.eu/web/adriacлим

Project or Initiative	Synergy
BLUECRAB (IT-SLO 2021-2027) Blue Crab Lifecycle Understanding and Ecosystem Management in Europe	Our project will build upon the ongoing efforts of the BLUECRAB (IT-SLO 2021-2027) project to address the challenges posed by the invasive blue crab in the Adriatic Sea. By capitalising on the following synergies, we aim to: 1. Protecting Marine Biodiversity and Supporting Sustainable Fisheries by Innovative Monitoring Systems: We will collaborate with BLUECRAB to develop and implement advanced monitoring systems to track the spread and impact of the blue crab. 2. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: We will work together to disseminate knowledge and best practices, empowering stakeholders to effectively help in managing alien species. 3. Ensuring Long-Term Socioeconomic Benefits by Supporting Fishing Communities: We will collaborate to identify and support sustainable fishing opportunities, mitigating the negative impacts of alien species on local livelihoods. 4. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships: We will continue to foster strong partnerships between public and private sector organisations, research institutions, and local communities to address the blue crab challenge. 5. Integrated Management Approaches: We will promote integrated management approaches that combine scientific knowledge, local expertise, and innovative technologies. https://www.ita-slo.eu/it/bluecrab

C.2.7 How does the project build on available knowledge?

Applicant should explain whether and how the project proposal is based on previous results already achieved and/or available knowledge, by specifying and describing exactly which outputs and available knowledge the proposal is based on. The latter need not necessarily derive from previous or other INTERREG projects but can also be related to external initiatives or other types of programmes/projects.

Since the design phase, PPs worked to collate and transfer institutional, scientific and practical knowledge to build up a sound workplan able to address the following challenges: mitigated effects of climate change and anthropic pressures on Protected, coastal and lagoons areas, an improved management of Natura 2000 areas, an improved role of fisheries and aquaculture operators towards ecosystem based approach in their activities. The project built on conceptual and operational review and integration of the existing methodologies and tools developed under national and international projects within and beyond the cooperation area. BRAVE integrates in WP1/WP2 the: E-DNA technique as non-invasive, highly sensitive and efficient early-warning method against aliens (Thomsen & Willerslev 2015; Yao et al., 2022) High-Frequency and Broad-Range tools (buoy and smart sensors). Starting points are the milestone are (Wu et al., 2013; Melesse et al., 2017) NBSs to monitor and detect the presence of several emerging pollutants of severe environmental concern in Adriatic (e.g seabeds, cuttlefish eggs, biofouling as sentinels of good environmental

status). Starting points are the studies about the organisms that can act as “sentinels” of anthropogenic, biotic or abiotic environmental stressors, providing warnings about negative impacts on marine ecosystems (Chemello et al., 2023)

ARGOS project’s guidelines for data collection in fisheries and aquaculture at local level will be a common base that will be finetuned and integrated into the WP1 protocols for a better understanding of the interconnectedness of biodiversity loss, IAS and environmental status in the Adriatic (WP1/2) and for putting in place adaptation strategies to enhance resilience of coastal communities. The recommendations from FAIRSEA and its Roadmap for an operational Ecosystem Approach to fisheries (EAF) management as well as the data-driven solutions arising from the cluster project TECHERA in Italy and Croatia will help addressing the development of the BRAVE web-applications so to take into account the economic and technical feasibility for potential users of decision support systems and application.

Based on local case studies, BRAVE will deliver a set of crossborder reports built with the contributions from each PP and under the technical-scientific supervision of the AAC that merge continuity with previous testing (e.g. off-land system to cuttlefish recovery, common guidelines for the improvement of unwanted effects of aquaculture facilities, integration of e-DNA indirect with specific monitoring activities) and innovation stemmed from promising techniques (e.g. metabolic state of common target species in WP2). The BRAVE workplan is stakeholder driven, foreseeing an interactive engagement of quadruple helix stakeholder of project area both in co-decision and co-management of the activities. Stakeholders will be involved in data collection and monitoring, in piloting technological and non-technological solutions, in training events and cross-border exchanges of experiences, in learning by doing and communication activities. The project’s participatory logic takes inspiration from successful experiences that have led to significant insights: the innovation brokering approach developed under the European Innovation Partnership and adapted to the fisheries context within the ARIEL project to boost the innovation exchange and uptake between different actors from different sectors (Tomasi et al., 2020) and also a step further in the knowledge of the coastal lagoons’ zooplankton dynamics thanks to e-DNA tool as early warning for IAS (Banchi et al. 2024), TECHERA knowledge co-production activities, the cooperation commitment between the Italian and Croatian associations, consortia and enterprises for the valorisation of small-scale fisheries sustainability delivered under the AdriSmArtFish project. AluTech, the Innovation Dev. Centre of Šibenik-Knin County, is a public institution specialised in supporting applied research, technological development, and stakeholder engagement in the fields of aquaculture and maritime innovation. As an Associated Strategic Partner to PP12, AluTech will play a key operational role in the capitalization and long-term transferability of BRAVE results. Its contributions are focused on ensuring the applicability and re-use of outputs in the local and cross-border contexts. EATiP is recognised by the EC as key actors in driving innovation, knowledge transfer and European competitiveness. It will make available its network and expertise on the aquaculture sector for supporting the definition of the data collection protocol, the Joint Action Plan implementation, the stakeholder engagement and the BRAVE dissemination. Given the EATiP 850 members and 14 Mirror Platform, the project will in fact exploit the AO multiplier effect both for dissemination and transferability of the project outputs beyond its duration and its cooperation area.

C.3 Project partnership

Describe the structure of your partnership and explain why these partners are needed to implement the project and to achieve project objectives. What is the contribution of each partner to the project?

The BRAVE project, a collaborative effort between Italy and Croatia, is designed to address the pressing issue of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation in the Adriatic Sea. By fostering a well-balanced partnership that leverages the unique strengths and expertise of both countries, the project aims to achieve its ambitious goals, with a harmonious blend of territorial coverage and complementary competences.

The partnership's strength lies in its comprehensive geographical coverage of the Adriatic Sea encompassing both coastal and marine ecosystems. This broad territorial scope enables the project to address a wide range of environmental challenges, from the impact of invasive species to the decline of critical habitats.

Furthermore, the diverse range of skills and knowledge within the partnership ensures a holistic approach to conservation efforts. This interdisciplinary approach is essential for developing innovative solutions and implementing effective conservation strategies.

The partnership of the BRAVE project stems primarily from the excellent experience of the ARGOS Interreg Italy-Croatia V-A Programme 2014-2020, a strategic project for the management and assessment of fish stocks in the Adriatic Sea. We therefore started from a consolidated partnership, but decided to further enhance the roles and skills of local authorities in the field of environment and biodiversity protection.

As for the partnership, the Veneto Region has taken on the role of lead partner and four other regions have been involved: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Emilia Romagna, Marche and Puglia, to ensure significant territorial coverage and to enhance the different skills that emerged during the project writing phase. The sixth Italian partner is represented by Confcooperative Unione Regionale del Veneto, the only private non-profit entity, established in 1970 to represent and protect the interests of the associated cooperatives at the regional level and in the new regional entities; this partner participates in the project as the sole representative of other associative entities for the territories of Emilia Romagna and Veneto.

The Croatian part of the partnership can count on 7 different actors: four counties (Region of Istria, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, Zadar County, Dubrovnik - Neretva Region) which provide important territorial coverage, two development agencies (RERA, founded in 2011 with the aim of effective coordination and encouragement of regional development in the area of Split-Dalmatia County, and Public institution Development agency of Šibenik-Knin County, which fulfils the same role for Šibenik and Knin County) and the Josip Juraj Strossmayer Institute for Water, which carries out key activities in the field of water quality monitoring, the establishment of scientific, study and analytical bases for water management, and international cooperation projects in the field of water resource management.

The centrepiece of the project is the establishment of the Adriatic Advisory Committee, which builds on the achievements of ARGOS. The main task of the AAC will be the technical-scientific coordination of the entire project, starting with the definition of common protocols for data collection resulting from the project itself.

The already extensive and representative partnership, encompassing both geographical coverage and expertise, will be further strengthened through collaboration with renowned institutions and research centres. Specific scientific agreements will be signed with these institutions, including: LP: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie; PP2: University of Udine; PP3: University of Bologna; PP4: DISVA - UNIVPM and Alutech (AO_2); PP5: CIHEAM Bari; PP9: University of Zadar; PP10: Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries and public institution More i krš (Sea and Karst); PP12: AluTech - future centre for mariculture (AO_1).

In addition, a public selection process will identify external experts to contribute to the project.

The project partners will also co-operate in the implementation of a Project Quality Monitoring System and all other project activities. The results of these efforts will be summarised in specific transboundary reports.

C.4 Project work plan

Number	Work package name
1	BEYOND A SHARED ADRIATIC PLATFORM: EMPOWERING CROSSBORDER ACTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE
2	INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES AND MONITORING
3	TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL, MARINE AND PROTECTED AREAS

Work package 1

Work package title

BEYOND A SHARED ADRIATIC PLATFORM: EMPOWERING CROSSBORDER ACTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

The main objective of this WP is to contribute to a deeper understanding of marine and lagoon ecosystems and their respective relevant habitats. This will be achieved through the definition of common protocols leading to the establishment of a shared smart digital platform for the collection and comparative analysis of environmental data. In addition, WP aims to develop guidelines and validate all project actions by utilising the expertise of a wide range of stakeholders, including scientists, policy makers and local communities.

An important role in realising the objectives of WP will be played by the Adriatic Advisory Committee, a group of experts (one per partner) that will in particular define common standards for collecting and analysing project data.

The WP includes the first SC, which will be held online, the first Project Meeting and the Kick-off Meeting, held in-person during Period 1, hosted by LP (Venice Area).

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

The WP1 communication objectives are:

Increase awareness among citizens in the Adriatic Regions on the Adriatic Sea's health, particularly in relation to biodiversity loss, invasive species and environmental change.

Foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among quadruple helix stakeholders (public administrations, policymakers, fisheries/aquaculture operators, higher education and research organisation, business support agencies and civil society) to promote the implementation of adaptation measures to environmental changes

Enhance the visibility of project activities through strategic communication efforts, highlighting success stories, and showcasing positive environmental impacts.

The first PM foresees the organisation and the establishment of effective communication channels and platforms to support and facilitate the ongoing engagement, dialogue and information exchange among stakeholders (Communication strategy, Workshops for Digital Platform users).

Activities

Activity 1.1	
Title	CONSOLIDATION OF THE AAC (ADRIATIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE) TASKED WITH IDENTIFYING, EVALUATING, AND ADDRESSING THREATS AND CHALLENGES TO THE ADRIATIC SEA'S ENVIRONMENT
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	The AAC will serve as a hub of technical and scientific expertise, providing guidance and support to the Adriatic regions for defining policies of protection of biodiversity. It will introduce harmonised standards for the assessment of environmental data to ensure comparability and accuracy across the region. In co-operation with the SC, the AAC will ensure coordination with regional /international policies such as the Common Fisheries Policy and the Water Framework Directive. The AAC functioning will operate within the framework of EU directives concerning the CFP, the Strategic Guidelines for EU aquaculture Regulatory and administrative framework and the Nature Restoration Law; it will be outlined in Rules of Procedures, prepared by LP and discussed/validated by SC. The AAC scientific members will be appointed by each partner, following best available scientific advice, in line with public procurement. Each expert will have skills in fisheries, aquaculture, Natura 2000. Starting from the evaluation of the current data collection methodologies and the existing management procedures of biological resources in the project area, AAC will work towards a step further in the integration of common data collection standards specifically defining new integrated protocols for each group of deliverables, taking in account the pros and cons of each methodology to be applied within each partners' coastal wetlands and marine waters. Adriatic's wide biodiversity indeed necessitates a holistic approach, aimed at valorising local diversities. In addition, the AAC will promote protocols and common data collection standards to reduce the effects of major human activities on the Adriatic ecosystem, including pollution, threats to

Activity 1.1	
	biodiversity and habitat destruction. It will support the development and implementation of sustainable management practices that harmonise environmental and socio-economic considerations. By supporting co-operation, promoting scientific excellence and implementing effective management measures, the AAC will help to ensure a healthy and prosperous future for the Adriatic region. To achieve its goals, the AAC will follow a quadruple helix approach involving policy makers, economic actors, research institutes and the general public. This model of cooperation ensures that the AAC's work is characterised by different perspectives and meets the needs of all stakeholders. PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader: LP - PP involved: ALL PPs + AOs To ensure the success of the project, the expertise of all PPs will be enhanced by the collaboration with external experts. All PPs will actively participate in this activity, contributing to the development of deliverables. Additionally, partners will involve external experts with specialised knowledge in relevant fields, such as marine biology, fisheries management, and environmental science. At least six technical AAC meetings will be organised during the Project lifetime.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.1	Adriatic Advisor Board Rules of procedures	The Deliverable consists in the AAC governing Document where tasks and working methodologies are outlined (LP responsible + All PPs support).	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.1.2	AAC meeting Report	The Deliverable consists of the 6 Summary Reports of the all AAC meetings. (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Deliverables 1.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.1.3	Data collection standard 1	Common data collection standard for the evaluation of the integrity of the components of the trophic chain and primary production in the project area (PP5 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1, 1 - 6
D.1.1.4	Data collection standard 2	Common data collection standard for the evaluation of the effects of major pollution inputs in the project area (PP11 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1, 1 - 6
D.1.1.5	Data collection standard 3	Common data collection standard for the evaluation of the effects of MSP within climate change processes in the project area (PP3 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1, 1 - 6
D.1.1.6	Data collection standard 4	Common data collection standard for alien species and their effects on biodiversity and traditional activities in the project area (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1, 1 - 6
D.1.1.7	Data collection standard 5	Common data collection standard for the evaluation of unwanted effects of target fish and mollusc species production in the project area with focus on mitigation (PP9 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1, 1 - 6

Activity 1.2	
Title	STATE-OF THE ART ASSESSMENT: ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY LOSS; INVASIVE SPECIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES IN THE ADRIATIC SEA
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 1.2	
Description	The aim of the activity is to provide a comprehensive overview of existing studies, projects and online platforms that collect and analyse marine environmental data for the Adriatic Sea which could be useful to reach BRAVE's results. By examining current research efforts and available data, the Project gains a deeper understanding of the state of the Adriatic Sea, particularly in relation to biodiversity loss, invasive species and environmental change. To achieve these goals, it will conduct a thorough review of existing research projects, studies and online platforms that focus on collecting and analysing environmental data in the Adriatic. BRAVE will assess the quality, reliability and completeness of the data collected by these initiatives and identify any gaps or inconsistencies. The analysis will cover a range of topics which will be defined by AAC, including biodiversity, invasive species, environmental change, data collection methods, data analysis and visualisation, and online platforms, as well as identify, disseminate and analyse the ecological impact of invasive species. It will also evaluate traditional and innovative data collection techniques, and analyse data analysis methods and visualisation tools used to interpret and communicate results. Finally, assessing the functionality, accessibility and usability of existing online platforms for sharing and analysing environmental data. The Activity is expected to provide a useful overview of the current state of knowledge regarding environmental issues in the Adriatic Sea. The Project also identifies areas where additional research is needed and proposes recommendations for improving data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Furthermore, our findings will have potential policy implications, informing efforts to protect and restore the Adriatic Sea's biodiversity. PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader: LP - PP involved: ALL PPs.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 1.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.2.1	Overview of the environmental changes on the Adriatic Sea	The Deliverable consists in a comprehensive desk analysis that gathers data and information from both sides of the Adriatic Sea. (PP11 responsible + AAC support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.1.2.2	1st Project Meeting (PM) and Steering Committee (SC) Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the 1st PM and SC serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: ongoing activities, results, potential changing management. A session will be dedicated to the Quality Plan (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 1 , 1 - 6

Activity 1.3	
Title	UNIFIED ADRIATIC MONITORING NETWORK: A SMART DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR SHARED DATA AND KNOWLEDGE
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24
	This activity aims to create a smart digital platform to facilitate the collection, sharing and analysis of environmental data. To foster collaboration, it will promote data standardisation and support evidence-based decision-making. To achieve these objectives, the Project develops a standardised framework for collecting and monitoring a minimum set of environmental parameters in the Adriatic Sea, defined by AAC, integrating data from existing sources with data emerging from the project pilots, ensuring data quality, accessibility and interoperability. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the digital platform, it will promote collaboration and appropriate governance mechanisms. Data governance does not only mean managing data once it has been identified, but also understanding the available data and anticipating the needs it might satisfy. The opening of public data, without restrictions on access and reuse, brings the PA closer to citizens

Activity 1.3	
Description	according to the Open Government doctrine. Data Collection and Integration The smart platform will collect data from project pilot actions, as well as from existing monitoring programs in the Adriatic Sea region. This will involve integrating data from various sources, such as government agencies, research institutions, monitoring activities promoted by fisheries and aquaculture operators, and citizen science initiatives. BRAVE will also implement quality control measures to ensure data accuracy and reliability and apply standardised data formats and metadata to facilitate data sharing and analysis. Joint Platform Development and Hosting The platform will be hosted by Veneto Region, in collaboration with Italian and Croatian partners, to ensure its long-term sustainability and accessibility. The platform will include features such as tools for creating maps, charts, and graphs to visualise environmental data and mechanisms for sharing data with stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, and the public. The platform will provide numerous benefits, including supporting evidence-based decision-making, fostering collaboration among stakeholders, increasing public awareness about environmental issues, supporting scientific research, and informing the development of effective environmental policies and management strategies. PPs role and responsibilities LP will be responsible for the implementation and managing of the Platform, with the active support of all PPs, AOs and AAC in the definition of data input, protocols and procedures. PP12 will co-manage the Platform and will define how to host the Croatian data after the end of the Project.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period

Deliverables 1.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.3.1	Database platform design and implementation	This document outlines the technical specifications for the design and implementation of the Platform. It covers the database architecture, technology stack, data modelling, data storage and retrieval, data security and privacy (LP responsible)	Period 2 , 7 - 12
D.1.3.2	Database Input Specifications	This document outlines the specific requirements and guidelines for data input into the Platform. It defines the Data Input Procedures, Acceptable Upload Formats, Data Download Formats to ensure data integrity, consistency, and efficient processing. (LP responsible)	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.1.3.3	Responsive version of smart digital platform development and integration	This document outlines the technical specifications for the development and integration of a responsive version of the smart digital platform that will visualise environmental data, propose management solutions and provide medium-term information. (LP responsible + All PPs and AAC support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Activity 1.4	
Title	A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT IN THE ADRIATIC: PROJECT QUALITY MONITORING SYSTEM AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
	The activity aims to establish a common understanding of the goals and priorities for marine and coastal protection in the Adriatic and consolidate the strategic and operational results of the actions jointly taken up for an integrated and feasible strategy in the Adriatic regions within and beyond the project lifetime. The Activity foresees the following milestones: the BRAVE Joint Strategy, the Joint Action Plan and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Joint Strategy will be prepared by LP in close cooperation with all the PPs and AOs and lays down the BRAVE guiding cross-border principles and shared vision for marine and coastal protection, such as sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem-based

Activity 1.4	
Description	management in the Adriatic. The Joint Strategy will find its operationalization into the Joint Action Plan, the agreed document summarizing: “Fit for purpose” strategic and operational actions to be taken up for protecting the wide Adriatic biodiversity by valorising local diversities common mechanisms for stakeholders’ cooperation and engagement the trajectories for durability, transferability and capitalization of the BRAVE outputs and results after the project end. A first draft of the Plan will be delivered by LP with all PPs and AOs contribution and approved by PSC in period 1 for its effective implementation during the project while the final version will be consolidated in period 6, following the completion of the pilot actions taken up by partners and collating all the insights and recommendations arisen from such a cross-border cooperation. The final version of the Plan will be annexed to the BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which consists in a document to be signed by internal and external organizations that formalize their commitment to establish a common framework for further uptake, deployment and mainstreaming of BRAVE operational and strategic results and the mainstreaming of milestones within and beyond the cooperation area. All partners will give their full contribution to the identification of leverage effects. The Mou will formalize not only the project partners and Associated Organizations commitments on future common lines of actions also to enlarge the approach and results uptake to other institutions and organizations. All the BRAVE PPs and AOs – according to their missions - will be highly involved in sharing and collecting the MoU adhesion at their level. To ensure that the project activities and outputs meet the Programme quality standards and align the expectations of the target group as well as to prevent bottlenecks, BRAVE foresees the establishment of a Quality Monitoring System led by LP, including a risk assessment tool. A Quality Plan will be developed by PP4 in close cooperation with LP, WP leaders and assistant-leaders PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader: LP - PP involved: ALL PPs

Activity 1.4**Partner(s) involved**

VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 1.4

Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.4.1	Kick-off Meeting Report	This document outlines the key outcomes of the project's kick-off meeting serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: Project Overview, Work /Communication Plan, Press Releases. (LP responsible + All PPs)	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.4.2	Joint Strategy	The Joint Strategy is shared document drafted by LP in close cooperation with all PPs and AOs, laying down the BRAVE cross-border guiding principles and shared vision for marine and coastal protection, such as sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem-based management in the Adriatic	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.4.3	BRAVE Joint Action Plan	Agreed document summarizing shared vision for marine and coastal protection, "Fit for purpose" strategic and operational actions to be taken up, common mechanisms for stakeholders' engagement, trajectories for durability, transferability and capitalization of the project. LP resp. + all PPs/AOs	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.1.4.4	BRAVE Quality Plan	Project Quality Plan is the implementation tool of the monitoring system. The Plan includes a set of operational procedures and tools to monitor and assess the project quality since the start. It included a Risk Management Matrix. PP4 will draft the Plan in close cooperation with WP1,2,3 leaders	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.4.5	BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) + Action Plan as annex	Document signed by internal/external organizations that formalize commitment to a common framework for further uptake, deployment and mainstreaming of BRAVE operational and strategic results + mainstreaming of BRAVE milestones within and beyond the cooperation area. LP draft MoU + All PPs /AOs	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Activity 1.5	
Title	TESTING PHASE I: DATA SELECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF WP1 RESULTS
Start period	Period 1, 1 - 6
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
Description	The activity aims to ensure the effective communication and dissemination of the results and milestones arising from WP1 to the quadruple helix stakeholder as well as to improve/create knowledge and skills at territorial level. To reach specific obligations regarding communication, capitalisation and evaluation foreseen for OSI project, the Communication Strategy, which will be prepared in the first period (PP12), will include as annexes the Communication Plan and Digital Editorial Plan, Capitalisation Plan and Evaluation Plan. The Strategy will be approved by the SC. The activity also includes the organization of different actions targeting the BRAVE stakeholder at local, national and cross-border level. The WP1 milestones such as the Joint Action Plan, the common standards for data collection, the smart digital platform will be presented in at least n. 3 side events that will be organized at the national /international fishing and aquaculture exhibitions (e. g. Aquafarm Pordenone, Crofish Poreč, European Maritime Day 2028 Crete GR). Moreover, the activity foresees the organization of training events for users at Italian level (min. 5 events, covering different areas, x 2 or more sessions each) of the newly developed digital platform with the double aim of empowering aquaculture and fisheries with new skills for data collection, input and analysis and collecting their feedback to refine the platform's functionality. The direct engagement of the stakeholder who will act as data collector will provide valuable insights for the enhancement of the platform's usability and durability. Furthermore, the activation of Blue Labs, involving stakeholders from the 4-helix model – institutions, researchers, industry, and the community – is proposed as an adaptive governance tool to address the spread of invasive species. These Blue Labs will

Activity 1.5	
	serve a dual function: establishing rapid indices to monitor biodiversity loss and invasive species spread, and activating response mechanisms in emergency situations. PP3 and PP6 will ensure institutional support and active field operator involvement, while best practices will guide regional regulatory improvements and contribute to WP1 - Activity 1.4. PPs role and responsibilities PP12 will be in charge of the coordination and supervision of the Communication and Dissemination activities, will define the Project Communication Strategy and related annexes with the support of all PPs. The partners involved in the organization of side events and training workshops will be responsible also for the press release. PP6 will be responsible for the organization of training events on smart digital platforms at Italian level in close cooperation with LP, who is responsible for the platform development. PP3 will be responsible for the organization of Blue Labs, in strict collaboration with PP6.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 1.5			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.5.1	Project Communication strategy	This document outlines the strategic framework to project communication: purpose, key messages, target audience, approach, evaluation and ANNEXES - 1st Communication Plan and Digital Editorial Plan, Capitalisation Plan, Evaluation Plan. The strategy will be approved by the SC (PP12 resp. + All PPs)	Period 1 , 1 - 6
D.1.5.2	Training events for smart digital platform users - Italian side	Planning, execution, outcomes of min.5 training events at Italian level (2 or + sessions each) designed to gather user feedback and insights for the responsive version of digital platform: organisation, minutes and questionnaires. 6 or more participants for each event expected (PP6 resp.+ LP and PP7)	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Deliverables 1.5			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.1.5.3	Blue Lab Activation	Planning, execution and outcomes of min.3 workshops (Blue Lab) involving stakeholders from the 4-helix model is proposed as an adaptive governance tool to address the spread of invasive species. 20 or more participants for each workshop are expected. (PP3 responsible + PP6 support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.1.5.4	Communication and Dissemination activities report	Report on all the dissemination of the WP 1 main results and output: min. 5 training events; min. 3 workshops (Blue Lab), min. 1 press conference (KOM); min. 5 press releases (PP12 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Outputs

Output 1.1	
Output Title	BRAVE Joint Strategy and Action Plan
Programme Output Indicator	RCO83_2.2: Strategies and action plans jointly developed
Measurement Unit	strategy/action plan
Target Value	2,00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Output Description	1st period: BRAVE Joint Strategy, drafted by LP with all the PPs/AOs, laying down the BRAVE cross-border guiding principles and shared vision for marine and coastal protection. The Strategy will find its operationalization into the Joint Action Plan. 6th period: JOINT ACTION PLAN, consolidated after the completion of Pilot Actions, in a perspective of durability, transferability and capitalization of the BRAVE approach within and beyond the cooperation area.
Output 1.2	
Output Title	BRAVE Smart Digital Platform
Programme Output Indicator	RCO116_2.2: Jointly developed solutions
Measurement Unit	solutions
Target Value	3,00

Output 1.2	
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Output Description	Implementation of a Smart Digital Platform (Act 1.3) to facilitate collection, sharing, analysis of environmental data, within a standardised framework of environmental parameters (Act 1.1), to reduce the effects of major human activities in the Adriatic ecosystem. Data collected through pilot actions (Act. 2.1, Act. 2.2, Act. 3.1, Act. 3.2) will be used to implement the Platform and for the evaluation of unwanted effects in fisheries and aquaculture sectors, to test joint sustainable solutions.

Investments

Work package 2

Work package title

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES AND MONITORING

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

Bridging data and models to elaborate scenarios of our potential consequences of critical present-day trends: biodiversity loss and invasive species on the rise in relation to environmental change effects.

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

The WP2 communication objectives are:

1. Inclusive Communication: Provide training materials and user interfaces in multiple languages. Design materials and interfaces to accommodate users with disabilities.
2. Continuous Learning: Provide regular training and support through webinars and online resources. Establish dedicated help desks to address user inquiries and provide technical assistance.
3. Knowledge Dissemination: Prepare comprehensive technical reports to document project findings. Publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals. Disseminate information through accessible channels, including websites, social media, and public events. Participate in international conferences and workshops to share knowledge and build partnerships.
4. Stakeholder Engagement: Organise study visits to engage with local stakeholders and promote sustainable practices. Foster collaboration between project partners and local stakeholders.

Activities

Activity 2.1	
Title	PURSUIING A SUSTAINABLE MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT
Start period	Period 2, 7 - 12
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
	This activity includes the characterisation of the

Activity 2.1	
Description	main anthropogenic components of the partnership area that affect marine and coastal management and the implementation of pilot actions at specific test sites to experiment with state-of-the-art protocols and monitor key environmental parameters in novel ways using existing technologies. The aim is to jointly develop and implement innovative solutions to maintain the health of the Adriatic ecosystem. Key actions: 1 - Mitigation measures for the effects of major human activities: a. Analysis of the seabed near ports for pollutants and their effect on aquatic ecosystems (biocenological transects by scientific scuba divers and underwater ROV) to set the condition of the habitat and analysis of waste disposal and pollution sources with feasible study on waste management methods, tested through a pilot project (PP8) b. Screening and analyses of mainly priority substances at locations in rivers, coastal and transitional waters to detect trends in transport of pollutants from land to sea, to understand the interconnectedness of Adriatic threats (PP11) c. Implementation of NBS using cuttlefish eggs as sentinel species for Good Environmental Status and implementation of innovative on-land system for a sustainable management and protection of cuttlefish (PP4) d. Identification and assessment of natural and human-induced threats, along with related risks impacting marine biodiversity and ecosystem services, and implementation of a strategic action plan to mitigate these impacts in the Otranto-Leuca area (PP5) 2 - Interplay between positive and unwanted effects on the MSP process in the project areas a. Monitoring and mapping biodiversity of economically interesting species of shellfish, mussels, oysters, scallops, large crabs and bivalve species (PP7) b. Monitoring of the state of strictly protected species and Habitat mapping activities up to the 5th level of complexity - according to the Regulation (EU) 2024 /1991 on Nature Restoration - in the Marine Protected Area of Stupišće - Vis Islands, developing a joint methodology for identifying a marine protected area or zone of strict protection in the Adriatic region (PP10)

Activity 2.1	
	c. Review of existing spatial plans, land use regulations and policies affecting mariculture and condition of marine ecosystems (PP8) d. Assessment of economically interesting species of bivalve molluscs in the area of Zadar county with a special emphasis on protected areas, and habitats listed in the Regulation (EU) 2024 /1991 (PP9) Assessment of the impact of spatial planning and scientific research on the aquaculture sector in Sibenik - Knin County: preserving adaptive solutions and developing a permanent monitoring and systematic collection of data, establishing a monitoring center for developing a long-term socio-economic strategy (PP12) PPs role and responsibilities PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader: PP10 PPs Involved: All PPs + AOs
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 2.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.1.1	Crossborder report n. 1 (mitigation measures)	Crossborder report on the mitigation measures for the effects of major human activities affecting the biodiversity in the project area's coastal and transitional waters. (PP11 responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.2.1.2	Crossborder report n. 2 (interplay)	Crossborder report on the interplay between positive (new protected marine areas) and unwanted effects (new aquaculture areas) on the MSP process in the project areas' coastal and transitional waters. (PP9 responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.2.1.3	2nd Project Meeting (PM) and Steering Committee (SC) Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the 2nd PM and SC serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: ongoing activities, results, potential changing management. A session will be dedicated to the Quality Plan (LP responsible + All PPs support	Period 2 , 7 - 12

Activity 2.2

Activity 2.2	
Title	UNDERSTANDING THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS, ALIEN SPECIES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS IN THE ADRIATIC
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 18
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	This activity aims to apply a common data collection standard for the characterisation of the ecological and biological components lying at the base of coastal and lagoon ecosystems functioning. BRAVE aims to build a common monitoring system to improve biodiversity protection against non-indigenous species, including the use of environmental DNA techniques Each PP will be responsible for the planning, management, realisation of its specific case study, in order to enable a cross-border comparison Key actions 1. Integrity of the ecological indicators of the food web and the primary production, comparison between: -Testing innovative technologies, such as Environmental DNA Analysis, to monitor biodiversity and to evaluate the integrity of the trophic chain as a basis for the analysis of the status of protected species and for the identification of invasive and non-native species. Pilot sites: Venice lagoon (LP), Marano and Grado lagoon (PP2), Otranto-Leuca coastline (PP5), Split-Dalmatia County (PP10), Mali Ston Bay (PP13) -Monitoring of environment data changes and invasive species inflow, in connection with climate change and anthropogenic pollution. Pilot sites: Krka estuary (PP12), Mali Ston bay (PP13), within Natura 2000 areas, zones for aquaculture and near urban areas in Zadar County (PP9) -Aquaculture Assessment: addressing the ecological impact, identifying the main environmental parameters that ensure productivity and identifying sustainable alternatives and resilient management solutions. Pilot site: Mali Stone Bay (PP13) -Ecosystem Modelling: Developing dynamic ecosystem models (DEMO) expanded by hydrodynamics and spatiotemporal distribution of the data (PP13) 2. Common framework for the improvement of biodiversity protection against alien species:

Activity 2.2	-Interplay between alien and local mollusc species as a basis for the sustainable management of target mollusc populations of economic interest inside protected areas (Marano lagoon) (PP2) -Study on environmental drivers triggering alien species diffusion, with an emphasis on blue crab, analyse how the presence and distribution of these species are influenced by key environmental conditions (PP3). Use of specific underwater surveys probes or remote sensing and satellite data for the detection of marine parameters linked to the diffusion of alien species along the Adriatic coasts (PP6), involving local fishers and aquaculture operators, and in Istria sites (PP7) -Feasibility studies, market research and logistical planning to assess integrating alien species into the value chain (PP3) and analysis of the impact of the legislative framework in fisheries on alien and locally absent species (PP9) -Feasibility study on real-time monitoring equipment for invasive species detection (PP12) -Measures of mitigation of spread of IAS bivalve pathogens with aquaculture and habitat restoration related activities (PP13) PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader PP13 All PPs involved + AO1
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 2.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.1	Crossborder report n. 3 (integrity)	Crossborder report on the integrity of the ecological indicators of the food web and the primary production maintaining both biodiversity and traditional activities in the project area's coastal and transitional waters (PP5 responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.2.2.2	Crossborder report n. 4 (common framework)	Crossborder report on the common framework for the improvement of biodiversity protection against alien species in the project area's coastal and transitional waters, included feasibility studies results (LP responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Deliverables 2.2			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.2.3	Mid-Term Quality Report	This document, as a part of the Mid-Term Review, is a comprehensive evaluation that is carried out halfway through a project. It assesses the progress, effectiveness and relevance of the project so that any necessary adjustments can be made. (LP responsible + PP4)	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Activity 2.3	
Title	TESTING PHASE II: DATA INPUT TRAINING
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24
End period	Period 4, 19 - 24
	This activity is crucial for empowering users to effectively input data into the smart digital platform. By providing comprehensive technical workshops and cultivating a culture of data quality and consistency, we aim to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of our network. To achieve this, the activity foresees the organisation of joint training events for users (4 events, covering different areas, x 2 or more sessions each) linked to pilot sites areas in Croatian side. These events will feature hands-on workshops that teach users how to navigate the platform, follow best practices for data entry, adhere to data quality standards and guidelines, and troubleshoot common issues and errors, empowering aquaculture and fisheries with new skills for data collection. In addition to these formative activities, it will develop and distribute clear and concise data collection protocols. These protocols will ensure consistency in data format, terminology, and measurement units, and provide clear instructions on how to handle missing data, outliers, and anomalies. These protocols will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect evolving needs and best practices. To maintain high data quality, it will implement robust quality control measures. This includes automated checks to identify and flag potential errors or inconsistencies in data input, regular data

Activity 2.3	
Description	quality audits to assess overall data accuracy and completeness, a system for timely data validation and correction, and a culture of data quality awareness and responsibility among users. To further enhance user engagement and ownership, it will establish feedback mechanisms. It will actively solicit input on training materials, data collection protocols, and user experience through multiple channels. By analysing feedback and implementing necessary changes, we aim to foster a collaborative and supportive environment where user voices are valued and heard. To ensure inclusivity, the Project provides training materials and user interface in multiple languages and offers language support during training sessions and through dedicated help desks. It will also design training materials and user interfaces to be accessible to users with disabilities, and provide accommodations and support to ensure equal participation and understanding. To support continuous learning and growth, it will offer ongoing training and support through webinars, online resources, and dedicated help desks. By implementing these strategies, we can empower users to become active contributors to our data-driven network, ensuring the collection of high-quality, consistent, and reliable data. PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader PP7 (in collaboration with PP6) All PPs involved
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 2.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.3.1	Workshops for users Package - Data input	The Deliverable consists in 1 toolkit for the Data Platform users (PP3 responsible + all PPs support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Deliverables 2.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.3.2	Training events for smart digital platform users - Croatian side	Planning, execution and outcomes of min. 4 training events at Croatian side (2 or + sessions each) designed to gather user feedback and insights for the responsive version of platform: organisation, minutes and questionnaires. 6 or + participants for each event expected. (PP7 resp. + LP/PP6 supp)	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Activity 2.4	
Title	DISSEMINATION OF WP2 RESULTS
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 18
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
	This activity is dedicated to sharing the valuable findings and outcomes of the WP2. By disseminating knowledge and experiences, we aim to foster collaboration, promote best practices, and raise awareness of the pressing environmental challenges facing the Adriatic Sea. To achieve these objectives, it will prepare comprehensive technical reports. Scientific papers will be published in peer-reviewed journals to share findings with the broader scientific community. These outputs will be made accessible to a wide audience, including policymakers, researchers, and the general public. A high-level conference will be organised in the 5th period in Split on Adriatic fisheries and aquaculture resources as well as with focus on the protection and the increase of marine biodiversity. Main Adriatic research centres (i.e. IOF for Croatia, CNR for Italy), Adriatic Institutions and Ministries policy makers, Operators and their associations and other environmental stakeholders will be invited. In line with the toolbox for communicating OSI in 2021-2027 and in compliance with art. 36 of Interreg Reg. (EU) 2021/1059, to ensure higher visibility to the Project, the Conference will involve the EU Commission and the Managing Authority. The communication objectives of the event will align with the project's overall goals and aim to raise awareness, disseminate knowledge, and foster

Activity 2.4	
Description	behavioral change among described target specific audiences. The active participation of representatives from the EU Commission and the MA will be highlighted in promotional materials. The event will include Q&A sessions, workshops, panel discussions, or interactive demonstrations, to encourage engagement and dialogue with other researchers and practitioners, network with experts from around the world, and build collaborations to exchange ideas. A consistent multi-channel promotion will be activated, as well as follow-up and dissemination activities related to the Post-Event Content and tracking of media coverage, to demonstrate reach and impact. Study visits to 3-4 selected test sites in each participating country will be conducted. The visit will be attended by Croatian and Italian partners and representatives of fishermen and aquaculture farmers. It is planned to visit pilot areas of the project, shellfish farms and other various locations. By engaging with local stakeholders, including policymakers, NGOs, and community members, these visits will raise awareness of environmental issues and promote sustainable practices. Additionally, they will foster collaboration between PPs and local stakeholders, identifying potential future partnerships and initiatives. PPs role and responsibilities PP2 (Task Leader) will be responsible for the organisation of the Italian side of the study visit (Period 4), in collaboration with PP3, PP4 and PP6. PP10 will be responsible for the Croatian side (Period 5), and for the high-level conference's organization, in collaboration with PP9 and PP12.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 2.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period

Deliverables 2.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.2.4.1	Project Communication strategy - Updates	This document outlines the updates of the Communication Strategy, Capitalisation Plan and Evaluation Plan (if any) and ANNEX - 2nd Communication Plan and Digital Editorial Plan: monitoring, potential adjustments, stakeholders involvement (PP12 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 3 , 13 - 18
D.2.4.2	Joint report on study – visit in Italy	This document outlines the planning, execution and outcomes of Italian study visits designed to facilitate knowledge exchange between PPs and local stakeholders: organisation, planning and stakeholders involved. (PP2 responsible, + PP3, PP4 and PP6 support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24
D.2.4.3	Joint report on study – visit in Croatia	This document outlines the planning, execution and outcomes of Croatian study visits designed to facilitate knowledge exchange between PPs and local stakeholders: organisation, planning and stakeholders involved. (PP10 responsible, + PP9 and PP12 support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.2.4.4	High-level event Reports	This document outlines the planning, execution and outcomes of high-level events hosted in Split, designed to increase knowledge and awareness on the Project main objectives: organisation, planning and stakeholders involved. (PP10 + PP3 support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.2.4.5	Communication and Dissemination activities report	Report on all the dissemination of the WorkPackage 2 main results and output: min. 6 technical workshops, 3 press releases, Split International Conference proceedings (PP3 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.2.4.6	3rd Project Meeting (PM) and Steering Committee (SC) Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the 3rd PM and SC serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: ongoing activities, results, potential changing management. A session will be dedicated to the Quality Plan (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 3 , 13 - 18

Outputs

Output 2.1	
Output Title	Cross border Pilot Actions for ecosystem based management of fisheries and aquaculture in Adriatic
Programme Output Indicator	RC084_2.2: Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects
Measurement Unit	pilot actions

Output 2.1	
Target Value	3,00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Output Description	Implementation of pilot actions to: mitigate effects of human activities(Act2.1), evaluate interplay between positive/unwanted effects on the MSP process(Act2.1), establish a framework for improvement of biodiversity protection against IAS (Act2.2), assess integrity of the ecological indicators of the food web and primary production(Act2.2), pursue sustainable fisheries and aquaculture production procedures(Act3.1), monitor and mitigate effects of IAS on sustainable molluscs production(Act3.2)

Investments

Investment 2.1

Title

Monitoring of the MPA Stupišće - Vis island

Expected delivery period

Period 2, 7 - 12

Justification

Describe the investment (eg. type of equipment/works/services, summary of specifications, quantities, etc.).

The location of Stupišće on the island of Vis has long been recognized as an extremely valuable and sensitive area concerning the biodiversity of marine organisms that inhabit it. Likewise, the local community has shown great interest in preserving this area, which is located in the area of the Natura 2000 ecological network.

One of the most important benefits of these areas relates to their ability to preserve and recover economically important fishing species, through an increase in their number, biomass, size and reproductive power of individuals. These effects of protection go beyond the borders of the protected area, and through the further distribution of eggs and fry of marine organisms to the surrounding areas via sea currents. This protection model was also supported by the European Commission through the EU Biodiversity Strategy until 2030.

For monitoring purposes and due to the attractive diving sites within the special marine reserve (MPA Cape Stupišće) and ecological network area of the Island of Vis underwater (coral reefs, flooded or partially flooded sea caves, and archaeological sites), we consider placing buoys for diving boats at these locations. Drilled anchors for the rocky substrate in such a way that the anchor line is raised from the bottom by 1/3 of the depth to protect the ridges (Natura code: 1170). Helix screw and/or Manta Ray® and/or similar devices for the moving surface in such a way that the anchor line is raised from the bottom by one-third of the depth to protect large shallow coves and bays (Natura code: 1160), a boat with a reinforced hull (Rigid inflatable boat) and an outboard motor, which is required for monitoring the selected MPA/NO TAKE zone - a vessel for the management, surveillance and monitoring of the Stupišće protected area on the island of Vis.

Explain why this investment is needed.

Bearing in mind the above, it is of key importance to collect the necessary additional data and then establish monitoring of the biological diversity of this area. The activities would include a detailed description of the current state of biological diversity, especially the ichthyofauna of this area, and monitoring the state of strictly protected species and species from Annex1 of the Directive on the conservation of natural habitats... and habitats from the list of the Decree on Nature Restoration. When determining methods for monitoring species, include citizen science. Habitat mapping activities up to the 5th level of National Habitat Classification, according to the obligations of the Decree on Nature Restoration. Special attention would be paid to invasive and non-native species and their impact on the local ecosystem and indirectly on local fisheries.

The emphasis is on the use of technical and technological solutions for ecological permanent anchorages adapted to various types of habitats within the Natura 2000 ecological network when developing standard solutions for anchorages in the Split-Dalmatia County Spatial Plan, or when creating conceptual designs by investors. Within the Natura 2000 ecological network area, such technical and technological solutions for ecological permanent anchorages should completely replace the outdated solution of concrete blocks.

Describe clearly the cross-border relevance (effective for Italy and Croatia) of the investment.

The project partners, development agencies, and regions will establish a cross-border contact database of institutions from their respective areas that are active in the project's topics. Throughout the project, a cross-border exchange of experience regarding pilot actions will be organized, which will serve as a foundation for developing the project's cross-border strategies. In the Adriatic region, numerous professional and scientific institutions have many years of experience in implementing similar activities, and their lessons learned can be applied to careful planning and successful execution of the pilot actions of the Interreg BRAVE project. The exchange of experience across borders will be conducted within existing international congresses dedicated to project issues, which are regularly held in Croatia and Italy.

International examples of good practice prove that humans and human activities can derive significant and long-term benefits from the establishment of effective strict protection zones, and this method of protection and management also contributes to the achievement of the goals of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030.

Explain in detail in which way the investment is compliant with the "do not significantly harm" (DNSH) principle

1. Climate Change Mitigation: Minimal energy consumption through highly efficient energy consumption for surveillance cameras attached to renewable energy (solar panels), replacement of the outdated concrete block system with a technical and technological solution of ecological permanent anchorages, energy energy-efficient boat for monitoring and surveillance
2. Climate Change Adaptation: Actively contributes to marine ecosystem resilience by preventing contamination that exacerbates climate-related ecosystem vulnerabilities.
3. Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources: Prevents unauthorized anchoring and activities in the area MPA, marine pollution in vulnerable marine waters, and directly protects water quality and ecosystem services.
4. Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Non-invasive installation and operation fully coordinated with environmental authorities; supports biodiversity protection by mitigating direct pollution threats to sensitive habitats.
5. Pollution Prevention and Control: 24-hour daily monitoring and strict surveillance, active presence of the guard, will significantly reduce emissions of pollutants into air, water and land minimum

Location of the physical investment	
Country	Hrvatska (HR)
NUTS 2	Jadranska Hrvatska (HR03)
NUTS 3	Splitsko-dalmatinska županija (HR035)
Street House number, Postal code, City	Port of Komiža 1, 21485, Komiža

Risk associated with the investment

Describe the risk associated with the investment, go/no-go decisions, etc. (if any).

Risk :Procurement Delays

Description: Complex procurement procedures may delay installation.

Mitigation Measures: Early preparation of tender documentation, expert procurement support, clear technical specifications, and a predefined procurement schedule.

Risk : Technical Integration Challenges

Description: Difficulties in the installation of the buoys and camera sensors with the monitoring data platform.

Mitigation Measures: Close technical coordination with the Public institution Krš i more, the Port authority and Plovput Llc, 100% owned by the Republic of Croatia, related to safety of navigation, and expert involvement during equipment commissioning..

Investment documentation

Please list all technical requirements and permissions (e.g. building permits) required for the investment according to the respective national legislation. If these are already available, attach them to this application form, otherwise indicate when you expect them to be available.

On May 2, 2025, the Regulation on the Proclamation of the Special Reserve "Cape Stupišće" on the island of Vis entered into force, giving the Republic of Croatia a new protected area.

According to Art.5 of the Regulation (Decree), the special reserve is managed by the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas of Nature in the Split-Dalmatia County "Sea and Karst".

By Arti.145 of the Nature Protection Act:

- 1.A legal and natural person intending to conduct scientific and/or professional research in a protected area shall obtain a permit;
- 2.The application for the issuance of a permit (ref. §1) shall contain information on the research contractor, the location of the research, the purpose of the research, the duration and time of the research, the method of conducting the research, the equipment, tools, machinery, etc. used.
- 3.The competent authority shall issue a permit if it determines that the intended research will not change the characteristics for which the area is protected.
- 4.The permit (ref. §1) shall be issued for a period of up to five years.
- 5.The permit (ref. §1) shall contain the conditions for nature protection, the period for which it is issued and a notice on the need to submit a report or research results.
- 6.The Ministry may, by the permit (ref. §1), determine the obligation to submit a report or reporting results if it assesses that this is in the interest of nature protection.

RERA SD, with the assistance of the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas of Nature in the Split-Dalmatia County "Sea and Karst" will obtain the required Permission in due time, before the start of the implementation of the activities and investments in the MPA zone.

Given that the Public Institution MIK is the institution that, by the Nature Protection Act and by-laws, manages the special reserve Rt. Stupišće (MPA Management body), no special building permits are required.

For investments in infrastructure with an expected lifespan of at least five years, please indicate whether an assessment of expected impacts of climate change has been carried out. Should it be necessary, you must be ready to submit this documentation to the relevant programme body/ies.

RERA SD has already contacted one of the official experts regarding the climate approval for the planned investment. Should it be necessary to prepare a climate assessment, RERA SD will submit this documentation to the relevant programme body/ies in due time.

Ownership

Who owns the site where the investment is located and who owns the investment itself?

The recently declared marine special reserve Cape Stupišće is managed by a public institution for the management of protected areas at regional or local governmental level. In Split-Dalmatia County, protected areas and ecological network areas are managed by the Public Institution for the Management of Protected Areas "More i krš#". The area is entirely within the borders of the City of Komiža in the Split-Dalmatia County and is property of the Republic of Croatia.

According to the Programme regulations, for the first 5 years, RERA SD owns the investment.

The Cooperation Agreement between the two County Institutions will regulate all aspects of the use and maintenance of the equipment during and after the project. The vessel will be used by a local guard from JU MIK (located on the island of Vis) for the purpose of monitoring the area from the sea. A 360° surveillance camera will also be installed, which will use the power supply from the lighthouse on Cape Stupišće. The camera will be connected to the existing protected area monitoring system of JU MIK. During the project, the equipment will be maintained by JU Rera SD, and after the project by JU MIK. In due course, the equipment will be transferred to the protected area management authority, JU MIK.

Who will retain ownership of the investment at the end of the project?

According to the Programme regulations, after the 5 years, Javna ustanova "Krš i more" (Public institution Karst and Sea) will retain the ownership of the investment.

The investment fulfills Programme eligibility criteria for SO2.2 as a non-commercial, publicly owned, fully accessible monitoring and surveillance infrastructure, serving public interest and environmental protection purposes. All procurement and ownership documentation will be maintained for audit compliance.

Who will take care of the maintenance of the investment? How will this be done? Has the involved partners the necessary financial resources and mechanism to cover operation and maintenance cost?

To implement the pilot activities within the special reserve, Rt. Stupišće, the Public Institution Rera SD will cooperate with its sister institution, also founded by the Split-Dalmatia County, the Public Institution More i karst. Public Institution MIK is the institution that, in accordance with the Nature Protection Act and by-laws, manages the special reserve Rt. Stupišće (MPA Management body). The cooperation will be shaped by an Agreement (Cooperation Agreement) that the institutions will sign at the beginning of the project implementation. The same agreement will define all aspects of the use and maintenance of the equipment during and after the project. The agreement will define the professional contribution of Public Institution MIK in the design and implementation of the monitoring protocols that the institution is obliged to implement based on the obligations assumed by the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EC Habitats Directive). Given that the project will implement a series of monitoring protocols, at the beginning of the project, Public Institution Rera SD and Public Institution MIK will identify all potential external collaborators for the provision of services.

Work package 3

Work package title

TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL, MARINE AND PROTECTED AREAS

Objectives

Your objectives should be:

- realistic and achievable by the end of the project;
- specific (who needs project outputs delivered in this work package, and in which territory);
- measurable – indicate the change you are aiming for.

Define one project specific objective that will be achieved when all activities in this work package are implemented and outputs delivered.

Implementation of joint management sustainable solutions in coastal, marine and protected areas through the evaluation of environmental-socio-economic impacts on stakeholders and communities

Think about the communication objective that will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective. Communication objectives aim at changes in a target audience's behaviour, knowledge or belief.

The WP3 communication objectives are:

1. Awareness Campaigns: Organise public events, exhibitions, workshops, and film screenings, to engage the public and inspire action
2. Youth Engagement: Develop educational programs tailored to different age groups (e.g. Summer School)
3. Citizen Science Initiatives: Develop projects that involve data collection on environmental issues. Provide training and support to citizens to ensure data quality and facilitate data collection and sharing
4. Stakeholder Engagement: Organise meetings and workshops to discuss project progress, challenges, and opportunities with fishermen, aquaculture producers, policymakers, NGOs, etc.
5. Dissemination of Project: Present research findings at international conferences. Create multimedia content (e.g., videos, infographics) to share with the public
6. Policy Recommendations: influence decision-making to promote sustainable marine management developing evidence-based recommendations based on project findings

Activities

Activity 3.1	
Title	PURSUIING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION IN THE ADRIATIC IN THE FACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES
Start period	Period 4, 19 - 24

Activity 3.1	
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Description	Italy and Croatia share target fish stocks (i.e. seabream and seabass) within different life stages, which can be considered as generally representative of the main fish communities' dynamics operating mostly within the coastal Adriatic partnership area. Nonetheless, they are key-reared species on both sides of the Adriatic, strongly influencing the socio-economic aspects in managing the fish resources. In the partnership area, the management of these fish resources occur within Natura 2000 areas, finally affecting the balancing of the fishing pressure towards the different fish, and mollusc, and crustacean, stocks as well as the pressure towards protected habitats due to aquaculture production. This is also true for the major mollusc species characterising both the Italian and the Croatian coastal fisheries (i.e. cuttlefish) and aquaculture production (oysters and mussels). Standards for sustainable production will serve as a common basis towards an Adriatic approach for a further decisive increase in the sustainability of ichthyic and mollusc production within the project area, with particular reference to Natura 2000 marine network. Key activities include: 1. Climate Change Adaptation and Innovation: Early detection of environmental anomalies and threats (LP), and researching recirculation aquaculture systems to mitigate the impacts of climate change, mapping of marine habitats and pressures that have the potential to preserve species in conditions of climate change (PP7) 2. Aquaculture, Ecosystem Assessment and Socio-Economic Impacts: Testing of social aquafarming model to assess the effectiveness of this approach in terms of environmental and social sustainability (PP3), characterisation of the ecological role of low-intensity aquaculture area for biodiversity protection (PP2), Implementation of cultivation technology for the indigenous Species Striped prawn (<i>Melicertus Kerathurus</i>) affected by overfishing and IAS (PP8), feasibility study to determine the impact of the cultivation of different marine species in natural ichthyo populations in the vicinity of breeding installations (PP10). PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader PP8 - LP, PP2, PP3, PP7, PP8, PP10 will be responsible for the planning, management,

Activity 3.1	
	realisation of its specific case study, as well as the drafting of crossborder reports. All PPS will be involved in the 4th Project Meeting.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 3.1			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.1.1	Crossborder report n. 5 (sustainable fish production procedures)	Crossborder report on integrated sustainable fish production procedures aimed at a decisive improvement in the managing procedures establishing a healthy and biodiverse Adriatic coastal marine ecosystem (PP7 responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.3.1.2	4th Project Meeting (PM) and Steering Committee (SC) Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the 4th PM and SC serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: ongoing activities, results, potential changing management. A session will be dedicated to the Quality Plan (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 4 , 19 - 24

Activity 3.2	
Title	MONITORING AND MITIGATING EFFECTS OF INVASIVE SPECIES ON SUSTAINABLE MOLLUSCS PRODUCTION IN THE ADRIATIC
Start period	Period 3, 13 - 18
End period	Period 5, 25 - 30
	This activity focuses on implementing a crossborder report on integrated sustainable mollusc production procedures aimed at a decisive improvement in the managing procedures establishing a healthy and biodiverse Adriatic coastal marine ecosystem, through adaptable strategies in order to address the challenges posed by invasive alien species (IAS) in the Adriatic Sea. By understanding the biology, ecology, and pathways of introduction of IAS, we aim to develop effective strategies to prevent their introduction,

Activity 3.2	
Description	control their spread, and minimise their impacts on native biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Key activities include: 1. Pilot testing applied in 1 or 2 aquaculture farms: environmental data collection through the use of multi-parameters smart sensors; biological and productivity data collection through the use of an ad hoc collection data protocol; bioinformatic elaboration of all data collected to correlate environmental changes with the farms productivity (PP4) 2. Assessment of monitoring and mapping biodiversity of economically interesting species of shellfish, mussels, oysters, scallops, large crabs and bivalve species, keeping shellfish and crabs in recirculation to overcome and mitigate the effects of climate change and developing technology for spawning economically important shellfish and crabs (Feasibility studies - PP7) 3. Assessment of areas that have the potential to preserve species (shellfish), and identification of the area of habitat protection that needs to be restored and feasibility study on environmental change effects mitigation on shellfish cultivation in recirculating aquaculture systems and solutions for restoration by reproduction of Mediterranean scallop in captivity (Feasibility studies - PP9) 4. Assessment of the condition of economically important shellfish in Kaštela Bay, analysing the value for local communities, and identifying critical areas for conservation and sustainable exploitation (in-situ research and stakeholder interviews for preserving biodiversity) (PP10) 5. Identification of interaction of farmed bivalve species with abiotic/biotic environmental conditions to inform operators on current/emerging risk factors. Assessment of bivalve biomass+condition, qualitative and quantitative composition of biofouling organisms with focus on invasive species (PP13) PPs role and responsibilities Task Leader: PP9 PP4, PP7, PP9, PP10, PP13 will be responsible for the planning, management, realisation of its specific case study, as well as the drafting of crossborder reports. All PPS will be involved in the 5th Project Meeting.

Activity 3.2**Partner(s) involved**

VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 3.2

Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.2.1	Crossborder report n. 6 (sustainable mollusc production procedures)	Crossborder report on integrated sustainable mollusc production procedures aimed at a decisive improvement in the managing procedures establishing a healthy and biodiverse Adriatic coastal marine ecosystem (PP13 responsible)	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.3.2.2	5th Project Meeting (PM) and Steering Committee (SC) Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the 5th PM and SC serving as a reference document for project planning, monitoring, and evaluation: ongoing activities, results, potential changing management. A session will be dedicated to the Quality Plan (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30

Activity 3.3

Title	TESTING PHASE III: DATA OUTPUT AND DEMO VERSION OF SMART DIGITAL PLATFORM DESIGNED TO ADDRESS SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA
Start period	Period 5, 25 - 30
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36
	This activity will focus on engaging with key stakeholders for the data output of the digital platform and web application. It foresaw the organization of min. 6 webinars (3 for each Countries) to showcase the functionalities of the digital platform, as well as to present the initial data analysis and findings. This action is crucial for translating the collected data and platform functionalities into actionable insights. This phase involves engaging with key stakeholders to: 1. Showcase the Digital Platform: a) Organise webinars to demonstrate the platform's

Activity 3.3	
Description	capabilities and its potential to address specific environmental concerns in the Adriatic Sea. b) Highlight the user-friendly interface and the ease of data input and output. c) Explain how the platform can be used to monitor marine ecosystems, track invasive species, assess water quality, and predict potential environmental impacts. 2. Present Initial Data Analysis and Findings: a) Share the initial results obtained from the collected data, focusing on key insights and trends. b) Use data visualisation techniques (e.g., charts, graphs, maps) to present complex information in a clear and concise manner. c) Discuss the implications of the findings for environmental management, policymaking, and sustainable practices. 3. Tailor Output to Different Target Audiences: a) Technical Audience (e.g. scientists, researchers, public administration and private sector technical staff): Provide detailed technical reports, data tables, and statistical analyses; Share the underlying methodologies and algorithms used for data processing and modelling - e.g. for implementing models in other locations; Discuss the potential for further research and development - e.g. future collaborations between PPs and universities /research institutes. b) General Public (e.g. citizens, students, beach and marine protected areas users): Create engaging infographics, videos, and interactive presentations; Use simple language and avoid technical jargon to make the information accessible to a wider audience; Highlight the importance of the project for marine conservation and sustainable development. c) Interested Stakeholder (e.g. fishermen and aquaculture farmers and operators, policy makers, public administration staff, regional and national authorities): Organise targeted webinars to address specific concerns and needs - e.g. information to guide timing and methodologies of productive activities related to fisheries and aquaculture; Provide tailored information and recommendations based on their expertise and interests - e.g. temperature and salinity variations; Encourage feedback and suggestions to improve the platform and its applications. PPs role and responsibilities Task leader: PP3. All involved PPs will participate in

Activity 3.3	
	defining the most effective outputs to display on the digital platform, focusing on the target users they have already engaged in Activities 1.5 and 2.4.
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 3.3			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.3.1	Digital - platform output reports	This document outlines the different types of outputs that the digital platform offers (LP + All PPs support)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.3.3.2	Webinars for Digital platform users - Data Output	This document outlines the planning, execution and outcomes of min. 6 webinars designed to guarantee to user knowledge on the digital platform: organisation, minutes and satisfaction questionnaire (PP3 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Activity 3.4	
Title	AWARENESS RAISING ACTIONS AND DISSEMINATION OF THE PROJECT RESULTS
Start period	Period 5, 25 - 30
End period	Period 6, 31 - 36

Activity 3.4**Description**

This activity focuses on raising public awareness, promoting environmental education, and disseminating project results to a wide range of stakeholders. By engaging the public, policymakers, and industry representatives, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the Adriatic Sea and inspire action to protect its marine ecosystems.

This activity will focus on broader dissemination of project results and knowledge transfer to a wider audience. This will involve organising workshops, summer school, and conferences to share insights and best practices.

Additionally, it will produce a range of promotional materials, such as videos, brochures, and online resources, to raise public awareness about the project and its impact. These materials will be distributed through various channels, including social media, websites, and traditional media.

To engage a wider audience, it will utilise innovative approaches, such as gamification activities, citizen science initiatives, and interactive workshops. These activities will encourage public participation, foster a sense of ownership, and inspire action to protect the Adriatic Sea.

By effectively disseminating the results, the project can contribute to a deeper understanding of the Adriatic Sea's ecosystem and the impact of human activities. This knowledge can inform evidence-based recommendations to policymakers and decision-makers, supporting sustainable management practices. Furthermore, it can inspire the replication and scaling up of successful pilot actions in other regions.

PPs role and responsibilities

PP5 task leader. PP12 will create professional promotional materials with special emphasis on educating the younger generations. Professional promotional video made during the project implementation which will be presented during the final conference. Specialised workshops will be organised that would have an educational character for the participants and would be based on the Quadruple helix approach. PP12 and PP3 will organise workshops in Period 6 to raise awareness of project results and propose future activities and strategies. PP5 is responsible for Summer School. AOs will be involved in the final meeting

Activity 3.4	
Partner(s) involved	VenReg, FVGRegion, RER, RMAR, RegionePuglia, Confcooperative, IstriaRegion, PGŽ/PGKC, Zadar County, RERA S.D, IZV-JJS, PI DA SKC, DNR

Deliverables 3.4			
Running number	Deliverable title	Description	Delivery period
D.3.4.1	Project Communication strategy - Updates. ANNEX: 3rd Communication Plan and Digital Editorial Plan	This document outlines the updates of the Communication Strategy, Capitalisation Plan and Evaluation Plan (if any); ANNEX - 3rd Communication Plan and Digital Editorial Plan: monitoring, potential adjustments, stakeholders involvement (PP12 responsible + all PPs support)	Period 5 , 25 - 30
D.3.4.2	Training Event - Summer School Report	This document outlines the planning, execution and outcomes of the BRAVE Summer School (min. 14 participants) (PP5 responsible)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.3.4.3	Dissemination activities report	Report on all the dissemination of the WorkPackage 3 main results and output: min. 6 webinars, min. 6 press releases, min. 1 press conference, min. 2 professional videos (PP12 responsible + All PPs support)	Period 6 , 31 - 36
D.3.4.4	Final Conference and Steering Committee Minutes	This document outlines the key outcomes of the Final Conference and SC serving as a reference document for project monitoring and evaluation: Project actions, results, outputs (LP responsible + All PPs support)	Period 6 , 31 - 36

Outputs

Output 3.1	
Output Title	Joint training schemes for digital platform users and Summer School
Programme Output Indicator	RC085_2.2: Participations in joint training schemes
Measurement Unit	participations
Target Value	68,00
Delivery period	Period 5, 25 - 30

Output 3.1**Output Description**

Joint Training Events for users of Smart Digital Platform, for empowering aquaculture and fisheries with new skills for data collection, input and analysis: 5 events for the Italian side (Act1.5) + 4 for the Croatian side (Act2.3), each one open to 6 part. and organised in two or more sessions.

Organization of a Summer School (Act3.4) aimed at disseminating key results of BRAVE, open to 14 participants, including university students, PhD candidates, and policy makers (in/out Programme Area)

Investments

C.5 Project Results

What do you expect to change because of the activities you plan to implement and the outputs you plan to deliver? Please take a look at the programme result indicators and select those that you will contribute to.

Result 1	
Programme result indicator	RCR79_2.2: Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations
Measurement unit	joint strategy/action plan
Baseline	0,00
Target value	1,00
Delivery period	Period After project implementation
Result description	The consolidated version of the BRAVE Action Plan will be annexed to the BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding (D 1.4.5), which consists in a document to be signed by internal and external organizations, that formalize their commitment to establish a common framework for further uptake, deployment and mainstreaming of BRAVE operational and strategic results and the mainstreaming of BRAVE milestones within and beyond the cooperation area. The MoU is conceived to enlarge the approach and results uptake to other institutions and organizations.
Result 2	
Programme result indicator	RCR104_2.2: Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations
Measurement unit	solutions
Baseline	0,00
Target value	3,00
Delivery period	Period After project implementation

Result 2	
Result description	The up-scale of Smart Digital Platform is the foreseen result, capitalizing a standardised framework of environmental parameters, defined by AAC (Act.1.1), integrating data from existing sources with data emerging from the project pilots (Act.2.1, Act.2.2, Act.3.1, Act.3.2). The platform will be developed at least at regional level through the 'Veneto Data Platform' project. Two other solutions will be achieved through the consolidation of results obtained from the development of Pilot Actions within fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the Adriatic area. Described results could offer several opportunities, using the Platform to access a standardized framework of environmental parameters, formally adopted as guidelines, providing a shared space for data and insights, leading to new research partnerships and projects, provides data-driven insights into the status of marine habitats and species, informing policy development related to sustainable resource management in the Adriatic Sea.
Result 3	
Programme result indicator	RCR81_2.2: Completion of joint training schemes
Measurement unit	participants
Baseline	0,00
Target value	40,00
Delivery period	Period 6, 31 - 36
Result description	This indicator counts the number of participants completing the Joint Training Events for users of the Smart Digital Platform foreseen during the project, jointly organized in both Countries for fishermen and aquaculture operators (Act. 1.5 + Act. 2.3), with the aim of empowering aquaculture and fisheries sectors with new skills for data collection, input and analysis, and the number of participants completing the Summer School (Act. 3.4). The completion of the Joint Training Events for users and of the Summer School should be documented by the training organisers either through a record of the confirmed completions or by issuing certificates of completion of the training.

C.6 Project Time Plan

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	After End
WP1 BEYOND A SHARED ADRIATIC PLATFORM: EMPOWERING THE ADRIATIC COAST							
A1.1 CONSOLIDATION OF THE AAC (ADRIATIC ...	D1.1.1					D1.1.2	
	D1.1.3						
	D1.1.4						
	D1.1.5						
	D1.1.6						
	D1.1.7						
A1.2 STATE-OF THE ART ASSESSMENT: ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE ADRIATIC COAST	D1.2.2				D1.2.1		
A1.3 UNIFIED ADRIATIC MONITORING NETWORK...		D1.3.1	D1.3.2	D1.3.3			
A1.4 A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE MARINE ...	D1.4.1					D1.4.3	
	D1.4.2					D1.4.5	
	D1.4.4						
A1.5 TESTING PHASE I: DATA SELECTION AND ANALYSIS	D1.5.1				D1.5.2	D1.5.4	
					D1.5.3		
RCO116_2.2						O1.2	
RCO83_2.2						O1.1	
WP2 INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUES AND MONITORING							
A2.1 PURSUING A SUSTAINABLE MARINE AND COASTAL DEVELOPMENT		D2.1.3				D2.1.1	
						D2.1.2	
A2.2 UNDERSTANDING THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF THE ADRIATIC COAST			D2.2.3			D2.2.1	
						D2.2.2	
A2.3 TESTING PHASE II: DATA INPUT TRAINING AND VALIDATION				D2.3.1			

				D2.3.2		
A2.4 DISSEMINATION OF WP2 RESULTS			D2.4.1	D2.4.2	D2.4.3	
			D2.4.6		D2.4.4	
					D2.4.5	
RCO84_2.2						O2.1
WP3 TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE...						
A3.1 PURSUING SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES AND ...				D3.1.2		D3.1.1
A3.2 MONITORING AND MITIGATING EFFECTS O...					D3.2.1	
					D3.2.2	
A3.3 TESTING PHASE III: DATA OUTPUT AND ...						D3.3.1
						D3.3.2
A3.4 AWARENESS RAISING ACTIONS AND DISSE...					D3.4.1	D3.4.2
						D3.4.3
						D3.4.4
RCO85_2.2					O3.1	
Result indicator						
RCR104_2.2						R2
RCR79_2.2						R1
RCR81_2.2						R3

C.7 Project management

In addition to the thematic work you will do in your project, you will need time and resources for coordination and internal communication. Please describe below how you plan to organise yourself to ensure the project work runs smoothly.

C.7.1 How will you coordinate your project?

a) Describe the management procedures, structures and internal coordination. b) Describe the financial management of the project and reporting procedures. c) Demonstrate to possess the capacity to coordinate, manage and monitor the project implementation, including financial management.

To ensure the successful implementation of our interregional project, involving 13 partners from Italy and Croatia over 36 months, we have established a robust management structure and a comprehensive project plan. Our Project Management Team, composed of key personnel from our organisation and representatives from partner organisations, will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the project.

Key responsibilities of the Project Management Team include:

1. Developing a clear project vision, mission, and goals, and creating a detailed work plan outlining specific tasks, timelines, and responsibilities for each partner.
2. Assigning tasks to individual partners, ensuring a clear division of work and coordinating their efforts to achieve project objectives.
3. Tracking project progress through regular monitoring and evaluation activities, identifying potential risks and challenges, and implementing corrective actions as needed.
4. Overseeing the project budget, ensuring funds are utilised efficiently and in accordance with financial regulations. Regular financial reports will be generated to monitor expenditure and identify any potential issues.
5. Facilitating effective communication and collaboration among all project partners through regular meetings, email, and other communication channels.

To ensure the financial sustainability and accountability of the project, we have implemented rigorous financial management procedures. These procedures include:

1. Developing a detailed budget plan, allocating funds to specific activities and partners, and ensuring that the budget is aligned with the project's overall objectives.
2. Preparing regular financial reports, including expenditure reports, to monitor budget utilisation and identify any potential overspending or underspending.
3. Regularly reviewing financial records to ensure that funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with the approved budget.
4. Adhering to all relevant financial regulations and guidelines, including those related to procurement, contracting, and auditing.
5. Conducting regular audits to ensure financial accountability and compliance with financial regulations.

To demonstrate our capacity to coordinate, manage, and monitor the project implementation, we will leverage the following strategies:

1. Establishing clear and effective communication channels, such as regular meetings, email, and project management tools, to facilitate timely information sharing and decision-making.
2. Encouraging open and transparent communication among all project partners, fostering a collaborative decision-making process, and respecting the expertise and input of all stakeholders.
3. Identifying potential risks and developing mitigation strategies to minimise their impact on the

project.

4. Implementing quality control measures to ensure the high quality of project deliverables and outputs.

5. Providing training and support to project partners to enhance their capacity to deliver project activities and achieve project goals.

6. Being flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances, and adjusting the project plan as needed to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities.

By effectively implementing these strategies, we are confident in our ability to deliver a successful and impactful interregional project that meets the needs of our target beneficiaries and contributes to the overall goals of the initiative.

C.7.2 Which measures will you take to ensure quality in your project?

Describe the set-up and functioning of management structures that guarantee the proper implementation of the project (such as Steering Committee, PMU), but also the provision of a risks (including risks associated with investments) management plan including mitigation measures to address possible project's modifications, and an evaluation plan taking into account project's monitoring and assessment to determine its success and effectiveness.

All the BRAVE project partners will be highly involved and committed to ensure the project quality from project start. In addition to the Project Steering Committee, a Project Quality Plan (Deliverable 1.4.3 - Project Quality Monitoring System) will be developed by the Lead Partner Management Team in close cooperation with the WP leaders and assistant-leaders to ensure that the project activities and outputs meet the Programme quality standards and align the expectations of the target group. The Plan will include a set of operational procedures and tools to monitor and assess the project quality since the start such as a detailed checklist of activities, deliverable, deadlines, partners roles and responsibilities, AAC tasks in technical deliverables validation, qualitative standard of Deliverables in terms of clarity, coherence, relevance and impact before public use, feed-back indicators for external stakeholder.

To prevent bottlenecks in project implementation, the Plan also includes a risk assessment matrix laying down foreseen (underestimation of time for producing deliverables, low involvement/lack of interest of stakeholders, tender procedures failing) and unforeseen risks (partner withdrawal, pandemic outbreak, legal dispute, closure of partner organization, loss of equipment, bankrupt) at internal and external level, the risk description, the level of exposure and the mitigation measures proposed.

Given the relevance for the project reporting phase and with the purpose of early intervention with corrective measures, the status quo of the risk matrix will be updated on a 6 months basis by the MT leader with the information collected at partner level.

The Plan draft will be presented at the 1st Steering Committee (1st period, LP responsible) and updated during the project implementation, the monitoring results will be merged into a Mid Term Report.

A Quality Manager (QM) (PP4 + LP) will be appointed with the following tasks:

- supervise the monitoring process
- to interface with the WP leaders who are responsible to coordinate, follow and report to the QM the activities progresses and the deliverable preparation in close cooperation with the partner in charge
- to interface with the AAC for the validation of the technical Deliverables.
- to present and discuss the monitoring results during the ad hoc sessions of the Steering Committee meetings
- to prepare the Mid -Term Quality Report (Deliverable D.2.2.3).

C.7.3 What will be the general approach you will follow to communicate about your project?

The present text box must not contain additional communication activities since they must all be contained in the thematic WPs: only a summary of the communication approach, including how the communication function is used to transfer project results.

The general approach to project communication will be grounded in the roles and responsibilities designated during the project planning phase. Task leaders and coordinators will be entrusted with the ongoing management of specific activities, including communication, study visits, and event

organisation, with the supervision of the Quality Manager.

The Project Communication Strategy, which outlines the strategic framework of project communication and includes Communication Plan and the Digital Editorial Plan, will be developed under Act. 1.5 (D.1.5.1), will be updated during the project lifetime (Act. 2.4, D. 2.4.1 + Act. 3.4, D. 3.4.1).

According to this, as Lead Partners, we will adhere to the following activities to communicate our Project:

1. Task Leader Communication

Encouraging frequent, structured communication between task leaders, such as weekly or bi-weekly meetings.

Utilising collaborative tools like project management software (e.g. Miro, Trello) or shared document platforms (e.g., Google Drive) to centralise information and facilitate teamwork.

Establishing clear communication channels (e.g., email, phone, video conferencing) for specific tasks and decisions.

Developing a mechanism for resolving conflicts or disagreements that may arise among task leaders.

2. Regular Updates

Maintaining an up-to-date project website with information about the project, partners, objectives, activities, and results, publishing regularly content on the project website and on project-specific social media channels.

Producing at least one video telling the story of the project

To include in the semi-annual reports a file listing: the publication date and the link to the published content, as proof of the action taken.

Leveraging social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) to share project updates, news, and multimedia content.

Preparing detailed Communication Strategy reports at specific intervals (3 reports, Periods 1,3,5) to track project activities and performance.

3. Publicity and Outreach

Building relationships with journalists and media outlets to secure press coverage for project launches, key events, and significant findings.

Developing a public relations strategy to target specific audiences, such as policymakers, academics, fisheries and aquaculture operators, and the general public.

Creating marketing materials (e.g., brochures, flyers, posters) to promote the project and its outcomes.

Organising public events, such as open days, workshops, side workshops during conferences, high-level events only for the C&D to showcase project results and engage with the public.

4. Event Organisation

Developing detailed event plans, including agendas, timelines, budgets, and logistics.

Planning activities and discussions that encourage active participation from attendees.

Using various channels (e.g., email, social media, website) to promote events and attract attendees.

Conducting post-events evaluations to assess the effectiveness of events and identify areas for improvement. In line with the toolbox for communicating OSI in 2021-2027, to ensure higher visibility and in compliance with art. 36 of Interreg Reg. (EU) 2021/1059, it will organise a communication event involving the EU Commission and the Managing Authority.

5. Transferring Project Results

Organising workshops, seminars, and conferences to share knowledge, project findings and best practices with a wider audience.

Publishing research papers, articles, and books to disseminate project results in academic and professional circles.

Developing policy recommendations based on project findings and advocate for their implementation.

Providing training and capacity-building opportunities for project partners and other stakeholders.

Utilising online platforms (e.g., research repositories, open-access journals) to make project results accessible to a global audience.

C.7.4 Do the actions proposed aim to achieve the environmental sustainability objectives of the area?

Before filling this text-box consult the detailed guidelines of the document "SEA extract for beneficiaries" in the programme website which will provide you with a numbers of suggestions related to the cultural and environmental sphere divided into types of interventions.

As part of the framework of the interventions related to environmental and marine protection, BRAVE project promotes:

- Interventions that contribute to the enrichment of marine and terrestrial biodiversity, to the preservation of natural marine-coastal ecosystems, analysis and periodic monitoring and mapping of the state of conservation of habitats and to boost the knowledge on coastal and marine ecosystem services (Act. 2.1 + Act. 3.1 + Act. 3.2)
- Interventions and actions aimed at increasing awareness of the value of protected areas as a whole, rather than the individual naturalistic emergencies that comprise them, as well as landscape protection and cultural heritage (Act. 3.4).

As part of the framework of the interventions against climate change, BRAVE project promotes:

- Interventions on "Integrated Coastal Zone Management" (ICZM), aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change: we will support the development of resilient coastal communities by identifying vulnerabilities and developing effective adaptation measures. (Act. 3.1 and 3.2). Furthermore, we will work to improve environmental forecasting capabilities, providing timely and accurate information to support decision-making. (Act. 3.3 - web application data output).

As part of the framework of the interventions related to protected areas, BRAVE project promotes:

- Interventions aimed at increasing understanding of the value of protected areas as a whole, rather than the individual naturalistic emergencies (Act. 2.1, specifically D.2.1.5 + D.2.1.9 + D.2.1.12 + D.2.1.15);
- Interventions in accordance with the conservation measures and management plans of the sites potentially affected and actions that provide for the constant monitoring of habitats and species present, in order to ensure their effective conservation (Act. 2.1, specifically D.2.1.5 + D.2.1.9 + D.2.1.12 + D.2.1.15 + Act. 2.4, related to involvement of Citizens/Fischering and Aquaculture operators as sensors for citizens science activities + Act. 3.4)

C.7.5 Cooperation criteria

Please select all cooperation criteria that apply to your project and describe how you will fulfil them.

Cooperation criteria	Description
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Cooperation criteria	Description
Joint development	The BRAVE Project exemplifies the "Joint Development" cooperation criterion by fostering collaboration and shared ownership among all project partners. This is achieved through the following strategies: 1. Integrated Project Development: - Shared Vision: All partners actively participate in the development of the project's overall vision, mission, and goals (starting from the Project Preparation phase) - Collaborative Planning: Partners work together to define project priorities, identify key activities, and develop a comprehensive work plan (see Adriatic Advisory Committee, working in synergy with Steering Committee) - Mutual Learning: Through regular communication and knowledge sharing, partners learn from each other and contribute to the project's collective intelligence (through communications on a weekly/monthly base) 2. Collaborative Decision-Making: - Shared Decision-Making: The Adriatic Advisory Committee, composed of representatives from all partner organisations, plays a crucial role in shaping the project's direction. The committee is responsible for defining key objectives, identifying data needs, developing strategies, and determining target groups. - Consensus-Based Approach: Decisions are made through consensus, ensuring that all partners' perspectives are considered.

Cooperation criteria	Description
Joint implementation	The BRAVE Project exemplifies the "Joint Implementation" cooperation criterion by fostering collaboration and coordinated effort among all project partners. This is achieved through the following strategies: 1. Collaborative Activity Implementation: - Shared Responsibility: All partners actively participate in the implementation of project activities, ensuring a collective effort. - Coordinated Approach: The lead partner coordinates the overall project implementation, while other partners contribute their specific expertise and resources. - Clear Links and Synergies: Project activities are designed to be interconnected, maximising the impact of the project as a whole. 2. Proactive Planning and Coordination: - Detailed Work Plan: A comprehensive work plan outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of each partner, ensuring clarity and efficiency. - Synergy Identification: The project partners have identified opportunities for synergy and collaboration, such as joint data collection, analysis, and dissemination. - Effective Communication: Regular communication and coordination among partners are essential to ensure smooth implementation and timely delivery of deliverables. By adhering to these principles, the BRAVE Project demonstrates a strong commitment to joint implementation, ensuring that the project's objectives are achieved through effective collaboration and shared responsibility.
Joint staffing	"Joint staffing" is a collaborative approach where personnel from different organisations, in this case, from both Italy and Croatia, work together on a shared project. It's a strategic way to pool expertise, resources, and efforts to achieve common goals more efficiently and effectively. The Adriatic Advisory Committee (Act. 1.1.) is the perfect sample of implementation of a collaborative work environment, in order to foster knowledge exchange and innovation, leading to novel solutions. Furthermore, joint staffing promotes cultural understanding and builds stronger relationships between the two countries.
Joint financing	"Joint financing" is a synergistic funding method where a Partnership pools their resources to support a common project. In the context of our cross-border project between Italy and Croatia, this would involve both countries contributing financial resources to achieve the shared goal of enhancing species knowledge and protecting biodiversity in the Adriatic Sea. All PPS in both countries would allocate specific funds to support the project's activities. The allocation could be based on factors like the size of their respective coastal areas, the extent of their marine biodiversity, or their capacity to contribute.

C.7.6 Horizontal principles

Please indicate which type of contribution to horizontal principles applies to the project, and justify your choice.

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Sustainable development	positive effects	Our project directly contributes to the horizontal principles of sustainable development, leading to positive environmental and societal impacts: 1. Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Health Direct Alignment: Our project's objectives and activities are designed to address issues related to biodiversity loss and invasive species. Positive Impact: By implementing effective management and monitoring solutions, we will help protect vulnerable ecosystems and mitigate threats posed by alien species. 2. UN Sustainable Development Goals Our project supports multiple SDGs, including: SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being: By promoting sustainable marine ecosystems. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Our focus on water quality and pollution control aligns with this goal. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: By promoting sustainable practices. SDG 13: Climate Action: Our project addresses environmental change impacts on marine ecosystems, contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. SDG 14: Life Below Water: Our direct focus on marine biodiversity conservation and ecosystem health aligns with this goal. 3. Environmental Sustainability Minimising Our Footprint: We prioritise environmental sustainability by employing carbon footprint calculators to assess the environmental impact of our events and workshops, by optimising event formats (in-person or virtual) and reducing travel. 4. Data-Driven Conservation Informed Decision-Making: The data collected through our project will provide valuable insights into the health of marine ecosystems and the impact of human activities. Effective Management: By using data-driven approaches, we can implement flexible and sustainable conservation strategies, improving marine resource management. Mitigating Negative Impacts: Our project will help to reduce the negative impacts of human activities on coastal environments, promoting a more sustainable future.

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Equal opportunities and non-discrimination	positive effects	The BRAVE Project is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, ensuring that no one is left behind. We will achieve this by adopting the following strategies: 1. Equity in Design To ensure that our project benefits everyone, we will involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including: Community Members: We will engage with local communities to understand their specific needs and priorities, ensuring that the digital platform and web application are designed to address their concerns. Sectoral Operators: We will collaborate with fisheries and aquaculture operators to identify data requirements and ensure that the platform is user-friendly and relevant to their needs. Academic Institutions: We will partner with research institutions to incorporate cutting-edge knowledge and expertise into the project. By adopting a quadruple helix approach, we will create a truly inclusive and equitable project design. 2. Inclusive Implementation We will strive to make our project accessible to all by: Direct Stakeholder Involvement: We will actively involve target groups in various project activities, such as awareness-raising campaigns, training workshops, and data collection efforts. Targeted Outreach: We will employ targeted outreach strategies to reach underrepresented groups, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate. Accessibility: We will design the digital platform and web application to be accessible to people with disabilities, ensuring that everyone can benefit from the project's resources. 3. Monitoring and Evaluation To measure the impact of our project, we will implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework: Needs Assessments: regular assessments to understand the evolving needs of our target groups. Feedback Mechanisms: feedback channels to gather input from stakeholders and users of the platform. Impact Evaluation: evaluating the project's impact on biodiversity conservation, ecosystem health, social equity.

Horizontal principles	Type of contribution	Description of contribution
Equality between men and women	positive effects	The BRAVE Project is committed to promoting gender equality and empowering men and women in all aspects of the project. We will achieve this by: 1. Gender-Balanced Teams: Ensuring that our project teams, including researchers, administrative staff, and technical personnel, are composed of individuals from diverse genders and backgrounds. 2. Equal Opportunities: Providing equal opportunities for all project participants, regardless of gender. 3. Inclusive Work Environment: Fostering a respectful and inclusive work environment where all team members are valued and empowered.
		We will also strive to have a positive impact on gender equality among our target groups by: 1. Empowering Women: Encouraging women's participation in project activities, such as workshops, training sessions, and decision-making processes. 2. Addressing Gender-Based Disparities: Identifying and addressing gender-specific challenges and barriers that may hinder women's involvement in environmental conservation and sustainable development. 3. Promoting Gender-Sensitive Approaches: Incorporating gender-sensitive perspectives into all project activities, from data collection and analysis to policy recommendations. By promoting gender equality, the BRAVE Project will contribute to a more just and equitable society.

C.8 Long-term plans

As a programme, we would like to support projects that have a long-lasting effect in the territory and those who will benefit from them. Please describe below what you will do to ensure this.

C.8.1 Ownership

Please describe who will ensure the financial and institutional support for the outputs/deliverables developed by the project (e.g., tools), and explain how these outputs/deliverables will be integrated in the work of the institutions.

To ensure financial and institutional support for project outputs and to set a clear ownership, during the project preparation phase, as described in the Application Form, we have explicitly defined the roles and responsibilities of each project partner.

This includes:

1. Ownership of tasks and deliverables: each partner is assigned specific tasks and deliverables, ensuring clear accountability
2. Financial and institutional Support: the responsible partner for each output is identified, along with the supporting partners who will contribute to its development and implementation.
3. BRAVE foresees the establishment of a Quality Monitoring System, also includes a risk assessment tool. A matrix laying down foreseen (underestimation of time for producing deliverables, low involvement/lack of interest of stakeholders, partner withdrawal, tender procedures failing) and unforeseen risks (pandemic outbreak, legal dispute, closure of partner organization, loss of equipment, bankrupt) at internal and external level, the risk description, the level of exposure and the mitigation measures proposed. The matrix will be updated during the implementation with the contribution of all the partners.

To ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of our project outputs, we have carefully considered their integration into the work of participating institutions.

For example:

1. Smart Digital Platform: LP will develop the smart digital platform, with the support of all partners in data collection, analysis, and sharing. This platform will be integrated into the existing workflows and systems of participating institutions, enabling them to access and utilise the data for their own research and decision-making.
2. Memorandum of Understanding: this document, developed collaboratively by all partners, will be endorsed by relevant institutions and organisations. It will serve as a guiding framework for future actions and collaborations, ensuring the sustainability of the project's impact.
3. Study Visits: The study visits will be organised by specific partners, with the support of others. These visits will be designed to foster knowledge exchange and capacity building among participants, and the lessons learned will be integrated into the work of participating institutions. By clearly defining ownership, responsibilities, and integration strategies, we aim to ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of our project outputs. This approach will contribute to the ongoing efforts of our partner institutions to address environmental challenges and promote sustainable development in the Adriatic Sea region.

C.8.2 Durability

Some outputs/deliverables should be used by relevant groups (project partners or others) after the project's lifetime, in order to have a lasting effect on the territory and the population. For example, new practices in urban transport need to be used by local authorities to have cleaner air in the city, and the whole population will benefit from this. Please describe how your outputs/deliverables will be used after the project ends and by whom.

A pre-approach to the BRAVE durability is ensured both at strategic and operational level by the partnership composition which includes regional and national authorities, sectoral associations and organizations able to directly uptake and mainstream the project milestones into the ordinary activities. Partners and AOs will ensure that the tools and the approaches developed and tested under the BRAVE project continue to deliver value long after their completion. The collaborative approach and the direct engagement of quadruple helix stakeholders in the implementation of the Joint Action Plan will foster a sense of ownership and shared responsibility, making the proposed mitigation measures more likely to be maintained and reinforced over the long term. The standardisation of protocols for data collection on pollutions, biodiversity threats, habitats degradation (WP1) is expected to be embedded into regional data collection methodologies by the public administrations, the smart digital platform is conceived as living tool to be updated and maintained also after the project end thanks to the cooperation mechanisms between researchers, policy makers, entrepreneurs.

The digital platform will be further developed at least at regional level through the 'Veneto Data Platform' project, with an expected lifespan of at least five years under the responsibility of LP. Leveraging the Smart Digital Platform, developed through the BRAVE Project offers several opportunities after the project ends, especially given its connection to the Veneto Data Platform and its focus on marine environmental data offers several opportunities, using the Platform to access a standardized framework of environmental parameters for the Adriatic Sea, formally adopted as guidelines, facilitating collaboration by providing a shared space for data and insights, potentially leading to new research partnerships and projects within the Adriatic region, provides data-driven insights into the status of marine habitats and species, which can directly inform policy development related to marine conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable resource management in the Adriatic Sea.

Feasibility studies and pilot testing will help to identify integrated and long-lasting mitigation measures for the Adriatic communities. The AAC valuable advice will feed a science-based governance of the Adriatic area. Study visits and exchange of fisheries and aquaculture operators will be replicated into the BRAVE project since they have already proven their effectiveness towards a durable socio-economic cooperation between the Italian and Croatian sides. To anchor the BRAVE outputs into durable results, the project will explore its leverage effects on investments and initiatives (funded by national, EU, NRRP instruments for environmental protection, sustainable management of sea resources, fisheries and aquaculture) already initiated individually by partners at local, regional, national level. The BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding (Act.1.5) will serve as a tool to ensure durability, transferability and capitalization of the BRAVE outputs. It will be jointly defined by project partners and associated partners to collect and formalize the commitment of internal and external organizations to establish a common framework for the uptake, deployment and mainstreaming of BRAVE operational and strategic results within and beyond the project lifespan. Given its 850 members and 14 Mirror Platform, EATiP will act as a multiplier of the BRAVE findings.

C.8.3 Transferability

Describe whether and through which concrete actions the project intends to contribute to the effective transferability of results and promote the re-use of the produced outputs towards new and additional target groups/territories, including, if applicable, through the involvement of Associated Partners (who can facilitate this process, for example, by serving as potential re-users during or after the project).

Together with durability, transferability is one of the governing principles which underpins the BRAVE activities and outputs which are also built upon successful approaches from previous projects. As for the durability, the transferability will be ensured by the partners composition, tools and approaches and sound cooperation with the quadruple helix stakeholders of the Adriatic Area. As far as concerns the partners and associated partner roles in transferability:

- Public authorities directly will transfer the BRAVE findings into policies and legislation dealing with environment protection, fisheries and aquaculture sustainability for a better and science-based governance at regional, national and cross-border level.

- Fisheries cooperative (PP6), Alu tech and EATiP (AOs) will transfer the protocols (WP1) and sustainable alternatives and resilient management solutions to integrate sea resources protection and socio-economic viability (WP2, WP3) towards the enterprises, associations and relevant regional, cross-borders and EU networks. EATiP network and its 14 Mirror Platform will act as a multiplier of the BRAVE results also beyond its duration and its geographical coverage.

With regards to the participatory methodologies, the collaborative approach with Academia and research in the AAC and in the WPs testing phases will ensure the transfer of the BRAVE findings to scientific networks.

Pooling practical knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture operators with the scientific knowledge, which arises from data collection to on-site testing, will contribute to strengthening the cooperation after the project ends, helping to bridge the gap between laboratory and practices. In terms of project milestones, the BRAVE Joint Action Plan lays down strategic and operational measures to protect the Adriatic wide biodiversity by valorising local diversities and has a great transferable value which ranges from standardized protocols for data collection and smart digital platform, training material to organizational and technological solutions tested in pilot areas. The AAC serves as a hub for technical and scientific expertise, providing guidance and support to Adriatic regions. By working in conjunction with the Steering Committee, the AAC ensures alignment with regional and international policies, such as the Common Fisheries Policy and the Water Framework Directive. The smart digital platform, based on data collected from pilot sites, will serve as a foundation for a broader monitoring network. By leveraging this platform, it will be possible to expand data collection efforts to a wider geographic area and a greater number of stakeholders. This will enable to gain deeper insights into the environmental conditions of the Adriatic Sea and inform evidence-based decision-making. The Action Plan implementation will deliver and consolidate the set of transferable tools for marine environment protection to be effectively transferred within and beyond the cooperation area. The capitalization and transferring potential will be translated in the BRAVE Memorandum of Understanding where organizations inside and outside the project area will commit themselves to optimize resource allocation, improve data management practices, and enhance the overall effectiveness of environmental monitoring and analysis according to their mission and competences beyond the project life and borders.