



Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

MPA NETWORKS

Support MPAs effectiveness through strong
and connected networks in the Mediterranean

ID card

- **Duration:** November 2019 to June 2022
- **Funding programme:** Interreg Med
- **Budget:** 2 664 000 €
- **Partners:** MedPAN (LP), Port Cros NP, Portofino MPA, Torre del Cerrano MPA, Torre Guaceto MPA, Brijuni NP, Zakynthos NMP, Strunjan Landscape park, INCA, Marilles Foundation
- **Countries involved:** Spain, France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Slovenia and Albania



Project description

Through strong, active and connected networks of MPA managers, the MPA NETWORKS project will help achieve effectively managed MPAs by providing sustainable solutions to challenges requiring a supra-MPA approach:

- management effectiveness,
- small scale fisheries management,
- mobile species conservation
- and sustainable financing.

The project will support testing and adaptation of tools and recommendations from previous projects to improve marine conservation on selected pilot sites and facilitate the transfer of lessons learnt and best practices to the MPA community around the Mediterranean.

Project description

Networks of MPA managers will be developed and reinforced at national, supra-national and Mediterranean levels, and a regular thematic capacity building programme will be set-up.

Networking activities will facilitate exchanges between MPA managers and other actors, capitalisation of good practices and increased knowledge. This approach will be amplified by connecting networks.

Through joined forces of networks and a dynamic bottom-up approach linking experience on the ground and decision-making processes, MPA voices will be coordinated and joined recommendations will support policy-making at international, European, and national level

Main activities planned

- Implementing **9 pilot actions** built upon existing outputs from previous EU projects and other Mediterranean projects on key topics: management effectiveness, SSF management, mobile species conservation and sustainable financing.
- Setting-up **Thematic working groups** which will bring together experts from the Mediterranean on each of the topics identified, enabling the processing of existing data and knowledge and the identification of good practices, needs and constraints to deliver appropriate recommendations.
- Initiating an **Innovative capacity building programme** with 3 MPAs acting as Training Centres which will be built upon pilot actions results and existing outputs from previous EU projects and other Mediterranean projects.
- Creating a **Toolbox** dedicated to MPAs topics which will use the existing outputs, will secure access to information on the long-term and will facilitate replication at larger scale.

Main activities planned

- Developing and reinforcing Mediterranean, supra-national and national networks and **connections between networks at different levels**: they will benefit from the sharing of experience and lessons learnt from other networks in terms of operation, financing, governance and communication. Connections between networks beyond the Mediterranean are also foreseen.
- Ensuring a leverage effect of MPA actions and voice at different scales to reach different targets to **support policy-making** and **target future fundings** to the most relevant MPA needs.



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